



FOOTNOTES

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A quarterly newsletter of the American Library Association New Members Round Table

NMRT President's Column

Sally Gibson, 2004-2005 NMRT President

This issue of Footnotes contains conference tips, program announcements, and information about the 2005 Annual conference in Chicago. NMRT committees have put together a wonderful array of programs on topics such as career planning and leadership institutes. First-time conference attendees should consider signing up for the conference mentoring and attending the Orientation on Saturday morning. Both programs offer advice for navigating the sessions, exhibits, and the Chicago area. They also provide an opportunity to meet others who are new to the ALA conference.

NMRT events begin on Friday night at the Meet & Greet. The NMRT conference hotel is the Homewood Suites and the Meet & Greet will be held there. The fun continues on Saturday night at the 3M/NMRT Social. The Student Reception will take place an hour before and is located in the same hotel. NMRT members will have no trouble attending both functions. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Conference, and I hope you enjoy Chicago.

This issue also contains a supplement on scholarship and publishing. The Scholarship & Research committee has written articles about how to get published, alternative publishing options, and advice from an experienced author. Publishing is an area of interest for many NMRT members and I know the supplement will prove very useful.

Finally, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as the 2004-2005 NMRT President. It has been an experience that I have enjoyed and the hard work of the committee members made the job manageable. Thank you for your continued support of NMRT.

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The Roughneck Librarian's Guide to the ALA Annual Exhibit Hall

by Amanda Yesilbas

Ask any dignified librarian why they attend the ALA Annual Conference and they will answer "Networking!" "Sharing ideas!" or "Education!" Sometimes you'll even find the overzealous librarian with the slightly fanatical look in her eye that might answer, "The celebration of librarianship as a profession!" Don't let them fool you. Beneath the veneer of professionalism is the real reason every librarian wants to go to ALA: Freebies! I don't mean to imply avarice, but what librarian can say no to the sweet seduction of free books? What librarian doesn't feel their heart beat a little faster when seeing brightly colored office supplies free for the taking? Who can so easily turn their backs on sheets of glossy posters?

The conference neophyte might be asking, "Where is this cornucopia of librarian catnip?"

It is in a vast and mysterious place called the Exhibits Hall. Everything is there for your taking with a little proper knowledge and savvy. Here are some tips for navigating your way through:

Tip 1: Be Prepared - Bring something you can easily stuff goodies into. You'll note the most seasoned conference pros bring something on wheels be it a piece of luggage or a milk crate strapped to a dolly. I've yet to figure out how to pack that myself. You can opt for something like a book bag but make sure you schedule time to go drop it off at your room, or you're going to get a back ache from lugging it around all day.

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Places To Eat & Things To Do In Chicago

By Nanette Wargo Donohue

Chicago is a big city, but it's a city of neighborhoods, each with its own flavor. It's not difficult to get around, which is good news for anyone attending this year's ALA Annual Conference. You'll soon realize that the area surrounding McCormick Place isn't exactly happening in terms of restaurants and nightlife, and the nearby Loop is a ghost town on the weekends. My advice: get out and explore! You'll find an abundance of places to eat and sights to see. Here are a few of my favorites:

Lou Mitchell's
565 W. Jackson Blvd., 312-939-3111 (West Loop)

Be ready to wait a while for breakfast at this Chicago institution, but they'll ply you with free donut holes and Milk Duds (yes, Milk Duds at breakfast-time) while you wait. Portions are big and not necessarily healthy, but if you want a big, hearty breakfast at a reasonable price, Lou Mitchell's is a good spot. Bonus: It's in the West Loop, a brief cab ride from most of the hotels, and it's open on weekends, unlike most places in the Loop.

Backstage Bistro
180 N. Wabash Ave., 312-475-6920 (Loop)

Want some haute cuisine at not-so-haute prices? Try this student-run restaurant in the heart of the Loop. There aren't many tables, but they do take reservations for lunch and dinner. When you go, tip the wait staff well. The tips are divided among all the students who work at the restaurant during the term.

Flat Top Grill
1000 W. Washington St., 312-829-4800 (West Loop)

Flat Top Grill was a perennial favorite when we had out-of-town visitors. It's a noisy, bustling,

crowded build-your-own-stir-fry place with a little something for everyone. Diners choose noodles or rice, then add veggies, meat or tofu, and sauces. I've made some pretty vile concoctions at Flat Top Grill when I deviated from the "suggested mixtures," but it's all you can eat, so you can always go back and get something else. Hint: call ahead, especially if you're going for dinner with a large group, and get your name on the list. Otherwise, prepare for a lengthy wait at the overpriced bar.

River Kwai Seafood II
1650 W. Belmont Ave., 773-472-1013 (Lakeview)

The River Kwai either has lots of ambiance or absolutely no ambiance, depending on your definition of ambiance. It's a grimy little hole-in-the-wall that's only open from about 10 PM until about 6 AM, depending on when the owners show up, and if you're lucky enough to find the place open, you might have to wait up to two hours for your food. So why bother? It's some of the absolute best Thai food in all of Chicago, with immense portions for a low price. If you like Thai iced coffee or Thai iced tea, the River Kwai will seem like heaven to you—they're served in those large containers that Chinese restaurants use for soup, and there's free refills while you sit and wait for your food. By the way, don't plan on making any special orders: a sign on the wall reads "This is not Burger King, you cannot have it your way."

Art of Pizza
3303 N. Ashland Ave., 773-327-5600

My husband (and fellow librarian!) Tim describes his favorite Chicago pizza joint as follows: Their Chicago-style pizza has been rated number one in the city multiple times, but I prefer the thin crust. The big attraction is that they sell pizza by the slice. You can eat in, but there's not a whole lot of space, so delivery is recommended if you're near the area.

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NMRT EVENTS @ ALA ANNUAL 2005

Preliminary Schedule

Event locations occasionally change, so please check conference program for final room assignments.

Conference Planning Groups

Friday 6/24/2005 3:00 - 5:00 pm
MAR Denver/Houston

NMRT Meet & Greet

Friday 6/24/05 7:30-8:30 pm
NMRT Hotel-Homewood Suites

NMRT Conference Orientation

Saturday 6/25/2005 9:00 - 11:00 am
MAR Chicago D

Planning The Next Step In Your Library Career: Strategies For Keeping Pace With The Changing Library Environ- ment

Saturday 6/25/2005 1:30 - 3:30 pm
SHER Sheraton BR III

Membership Meeting

Saturday 6/25/2005 3:30 - 4:00 pm
SHER Sheraton BR III

NMRT Student Reception

Saturday 6/25/2005 6:00 - 08:00 pm
MAR Chicago BR A-C

3M/NMRT Social

Saturday 6/25/2005 7:30 - 10:30 pm
Marriott BR D/E

All Committee Meeting

Sunday 6/26/2005 1:00 - 3:00 pm
MAR Chicago D

Step Up to Leadership: The Leadership Institute Experience Revealed

Monday 6/27/2005 8:00 - 10:00 am
MCP N427a

Executive Board Meeting

Monday 6/27/2005 12:30 - 2:30 pm
MAR Chicago G-H

New Chair/New Board Orientation

Monday 6/27/2005 2:30 - 4:00 pm
MAR Chicago G-H

Indiana University Bloomington SLIS ALA Student Chapter wins 2005 ALA Student Chapter of the Year Award

By Courtney L. Young

The New Members Round Table (NMRT) and the American Library Association (ALA) Membership Committee wish to congratulate the Indiana University Bloomington School of Library and Information Science ALA Student Chapter as the winner of the 2005 ALA Student Chapter of the Year Award. The runner-up of this year's award is the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ALA Student Chapter.

The Student Chapter of the Year Award is presented in recognition of a chapter's outstanding contributions to ALA, its school, and the profession. The purpose of the award is to increase student involvement in ALA through student chapters and to recognize its leaders. Official ALA Student Chapters are organizations formed by students at schools offering accredited programs of library and information studies. The winning student chapter receives a \$1,000 travel grant to help with the cost of conference attendance.

This year's Student Chapter of the Year Award committee members note the Indiana University Bloomington ALA Student Chapter for its balance and strength of professional programming and social activities, membership recruitment and retention efforts, and demonstrated leadership in creating a dialogue and collaborating with IUPUI and developing a mentor program for new School of Library and Information Science students and Student Chapter members. Indiana Bloomington revamped their Web site and added an electronic bulletin board, efforts which improved communication among chapter members and school attendees. These accomplishments are impressive and commendable.

According to Thomas E. Nisonger, Associate Professor, "It has become increasingly apparent over the course of the last year that the leadership and general members of the Indiana ALA SC are by far the most enthusiastic, energetic, and successful as any in my tenure as faculty co-advisor." Mary Pagliero Popp, Public Services Librarian for Information Technology and co-chair, adds "The chapter has been growing both in participation and levels of creativity and activity over the past several years that I have served as co-advisor, but this year has been a truly breakout year." Popp added, "The leaders have increased the membership dramatically, set up a series of activities that bring the students in the chapter, as well as the students in the school together, and have developed a program that can inspire the next group of leaders."

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Don't forget to visit the New Members Round Table Booth (# 5022) at the Annual Conference in Chicago!

Roughneck Guide continued from page 1

Tip 2: It's Big - I remember at my first Annual Conference rounding a corner to see the mighty vista below me. The glassed walkway crossed over the width of the vendor room and on all sides I was surrounded by booths as far as my eye could see. I made a pledge to conquer this terrain. However, it will conquer you without planning. It's quite possible to wander aimlessly through the vendor hall the entire conference and not accomplish a single thing. First take care of the stuff you really need to do. If you'd like to put a face to your customer service rep, trot over to their booth. If you need to see a demo of the new ILS, take out the handy map and forge your way over. While doing your required duty, take note of the cool giveaways. It will forever chafe knowing you missed out on that complimentary Inu Yasha canvas tote. Look carefully over your program guide and see if there are any authors you want autographs from and plan. While the bright lights and smiles of Elsevier reps are dazzling stay focused. Schedule your time or you're never going to make it to a single conference meeting.

Tip 3: Free stuff! (Or what everyone is here for)

While my favorite things from ALA annual were a pirate tattoo and sock monkey buttons, I have to admit I swooned at the sight of the free books. There are many items for the taking, including but not limited to:

Books – The majority of free books you are going to find are galley editions. It's exciting to know you're getting your hot little hands on something before the general public. Lots of bragging rights to be had here.

Roughneck note: NOT ALL BOOKS ARE FREE! A good tip off that something is not free is if you see a receipt book lying nearby. If you plan to buy, make sure to ask for conference prices.

Posters – ALA is the place to be if you're looking to decorate your office or library. Almost every upcoming children's book is offering a promotional poster.

Roughneck note: Last year ALA offered all participants a choice of either a bag to carry loot in or a poster tube to stash your glossy treasures. All you needed to do was find the booth and present your badge. I chose the poster tube because it's not usually something you think to pack.

Bags – In the grand old days many publishers offered canvas totes. Unfortunately in this age, most bags being offered are plastic. There are a few canvas bags still out there to be had, but you must be a shrewd and crafty hunter to obtain these. They are the true treasure and sign of status. Proudly display it if you are clever enough to get one. Run for the Baker and Taylor bags even if they aren't canvas. The cute cats will get you stares of envy.

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Tips & Trips: Driving away in the job of your dreams! (Or, How to Negotiate a Fair Salary)

By Terri L. Holtze, *Footnotes* Assistant Editor

Do you like haggling with a salesperson over the price of a car? If you do, you're in luck. Salary negotiations should be a breeze for you. If you're like me, you'd rather drop a bowling ball on your foot than talk to a car salesman. It can be a tense situation. A lot of money is riding on it. And somehow the mere act of either getting a great deal or getting ripped off impacts your self-esteem. So, in honor of all those newly-minted graduates, this month's column focuses on negotiating a fair salary.

Know the market.

In buying a car, you want to pay as little as possible, but you know that there is a break even point for the dealership. And the dealer will not sell the vehicle for less. Librarians interviewing for job positions know that library budgets can be tight and may feel intimidated about asking for more money, but remember that this is a negotiation. Knowing the market is essential. Consider these questions:

What does this position earn at similar libraries? Check around, but make sure you're comparing positions that are really similar. *Library Journal* studies starting salaries in its Placements and Salaries survey.¹ While the average starting position in Interlibrary Loan paid \$26,714 in 2003; the average starting position in Web Services paid \$62,500. Similarly, starting salaries for public librarians in 2003 averaged \$34,901 while school librarians averaged \$40,574.

What is the cost of living? While the numbers in the Placements survey provide a good starting point, remember that averages include positions from Kentucky to California. The Salary Calculator² shows that a salary of \$30,000 in Louisville, Ky., is equivalent to a \$51,400 salary in Los Angeles. Calculators give a good comparative

perspective, but look at the cost of apartments or houses to get a real sense of how much money you would need to live in that area.

What is the library's financial situation? Does money come from the city, the company, the university? Check out the newspapers to see if any financial concerns have surfaced.

Which fiscal calendar does the library use? Many universities use a fiscal calendar of July-June. Financial pressures should be lower in August when the library is still flush, but fiscal managers will be feeling stingier in May.

What is the size of the library? According to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the larger the library, the higher the salaries.³ What ranking system does the library use? You need to know if the salaries are set for each rank according to experience. Also find out how raises are assessed and what the requirements and benefits of promotion would be.

Consider the add-ons.

While satellite radio may be an unnecessary accessory when choosing a car, health insurance is a vital accessory when choosing a job. When considering the pay for a job, remember that your income is more than your salary. Take a close look at the benefits offered before you interview. Usually, part of the interview will be reserved for discussing the package and this would be a good time to get answers to any questions you still have.

What kind of health insurance is available and how much does the library cover and how much would you need to put in? How much would the employer contribute to retirement accounts, what types of retirement accounts

are available and what restrictions are there?

Does the state participate in social security, and how does that impact your retirement benefits if you work there for a while and then leave the state? Does the institution pay tuition for you, your spouse or children? How many vacation days and holidays do employees get? What is the policy on sick leave or other types of leave? Are there any other special benefits (ex. sabbatical)?

Know what your trade-in is worth.

When you prepared your résumé, you highlighted the education, experiences, and skills that you could bring to the job. In the interview, you demonstrated your communication skills, your understanding of important issues, and your ability to respond under pressure. When it's time to negotiate, don't forget your assets. According to the ARL Salary Survey, salaries of women continue to lag behind those of their male counterparts. Several sources point to women's unwillingness to negotiate as part of the problem. One theory is that women do mental negotiations in which they ask for what they want, but then think, "Oh, they'll never pay me that" and only verbalize a lower salary than they originally wanted.

Be prepared to walk away.

All the advice for buying a car tells you to figure out how much car you can afford and don't let the salesman convince you to pay more than your cut-off. The same idea applies to salaries. Figure out in advance how much money you need to live on and how much money your experience and skills warrant. If the final offer comes in below that number, tell the library's representative in a reasonable tone that you cannot accept those terms. While you don't really want to look for another job, can you really afford to take a position that can't support you?

continued on the next page

3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant Awarded to Three Individuals

Annis Lee Adams, **Michal S. Strutin**, and **Philip Anthony Homan** have been selected as the 2005 recipients of the 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant. This grant, sponsored by 3M Library Systems, covers round-trip airfare, lodging, and conference registration fees for attendance at the American Library Association Annual Conference. It is awarded annually to individuals based on their potential contributions to ALA and NMRT, as well as the potential benefit of conference attendance to their personal careers, home institutions, and state/regional/local associations.

Annis Lee Adams is Assistant Librarian at the John A. Burns School of Medicine Library at the University of Hawaii. She plans to use the conference to assist her institution and her state library association by making contacts, enhancing her skills, and learning how different libraries are dealing with issues, including online reference services, electronic resource management, and consortiums for purchasing electronic resources. As president of the Hawaii Library Association, she plans to share what she learns with the Hawaiian library community, and hopes to find potential speakers for the HLA state conference and regional meetings.

Michal S. Strutin attends the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Information Sciences, and will graduate this spring. She plans to use her time at the conference to network, gain insights into new technology and librarianship, gather ideas for articles, and meet with the NMRT Publicity and Research and Scholarship Committees to discuss plans for the coming year. Having published numerous books and articles, she hopes to write about her experience in order to share what she learns with other librarians who cannot attend the conference.

Philip Anthony Homan is Reference/Cataloging Librarian at the Eli M. Oboler Library at Idaho State University. He plans to use his time at the conference to enhance skills that would help him take on more responsibility in teaching, training, and policy development in his current position. Also, as the current Vice Chair/Chair-Elect of the Idaho Library Association's Academic and Special Libraries Division, he hopes to gain skills and exposure to opportunities that will help him to be a more effective advocate for libraries and librarians at his university and the state of Idaho.

3M Library Systems markets materials-flow management products to libraries to prevent unauthorized borrowing and to streamline the circulation of library materials. Since its inception, almost 100 NMRT members have benefited from this grant. The committee would like to congratulate the recipients of the 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant, as well as thank 3M for its continued support of NMRT and its programs.

Further information about the 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant, including award criteria and a list of past recipients, is available at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/applyforfunds/applyfunds.htm>

Tips & Tricks continued from previous page

Conclusion.

By the time the director is talking to you about salary, the library has invested a significant amount of effort and money in the process. They want you. They don't really want to start over any more than you do. While I usually think of car buying as a win-lose situation, the hiring of a new librarian is really a win-win situation if you negotiate effectively and respectfully.

¹ Stephanie Maata, "Placements and Salaries 2003: Jobs! (Eventually)," <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA471018>.

² Salary Calculator, <http://www.homefair.com/homefair/calc/salcalc.html>.

³ Association of Research Libraries, "Salary Survey Trends 2003-2004," <http://www.arl.org/stats/salary/2003-04/intro.html>.

Tips & Tricks Recommended Reading

Kolb, Deborah M. and Ann C. Schaffner. "Negotiating what you're worth" *Library Journal* 126, 17 (October 15, 2001): 52-3.

Roughneck continued from page 3

Roughneck note – Obtaining bags is a great way to carry around all your free books and pens. They are also a great tool to help decide when enough is enough. If you can't cram anymore into a bag or it's too heavy to carry, it's time to stop.

Tip 4: Bring business cards – Yes, these are great to hand out to vendors and other business contacts, but the real reason you are going to want these is for fabulous prize drawings. Every high budget booth is going to have a great giveaway. Make sure you get your card in the drawing.

Lesson 5: Take a break – Even the strongest hunter tires. Never fear! The vendors are here and they brought comfy chairs. Take a load off, put up your feet and watch a glossy presentation of whatever is the most exciting, upcoming, you-can't-live-without product. Look for database vendors. They have the most frequent presentations and the best incentives. You'll usually be rewarded with a fabulous prize drawing. Warning: you will have to fill out a questionnaire, but it's a small price to pay for an oasis.

Lesson 6: When enough is enough (knowing when to stop) - The best advice I can give here is know your own physical and space limitations. If your bag is too heavy, it's time to stop. If nothing else can possible fit in your luggage, it's time to stop. If you're hallucinating from fatigue, it's time to stop. I know it's hard to turn down a free book but ask, "Am I really going to read this?" If you hate mysteries, don't pick one up no matter how pretty the cover is. I'm still tripping over bags of book I haven't read from last year.

Be brave. With planning and the right tools, the Exhibits Hall can be a treasure trove!

HEADLINERS

NMRT MEMBER NEWS

Column Name Contest Winner

Congratulations to Denise Sharp for submitting the winning entry, *Headliners!*

Appointments

Shelly McCoy, current NMRT Leadership Development Director, has been promoted from Senior Assistant Librarian to Associate Librarian at the University of Delaware Library where she is Head of the Digital User Services Department. The promotion takes effect July 1, 2005.

Tracey Reed accepted the position of Resource Sharing Coordinator at the Tampa Bay Library Consortium (TBLC). In this position, Tracey will be coordinating the operation and promotion of TBLC's user initiated Interlibrary Loan System, Alleycat/iBorrow. Tracey comes to TBLC from the Clearwater Public Library where she worked as trainer, webmaster, and systems analyst.

Anne Robert accepted a position with the Jacksonville Public Library as a children's librarian.

Committee Appointments

Lara Rudolph was recently appointed to the Intellectual Freedom Committee for ALA. She would like to thank Dora Ho (for the encouragement to become involved with the Committee on Committees for ALA Council) and the contacts she has made through NMRT.

Publications

Sue Anderson recently published an article titled, "Electronic Journals in Aggregated Collections: Providing Access through the Catalog and a Cold Fusion Database" in *The Acquisitions Librarian*, No. 33/44, 2005, pp. 121-131.

Chrissie Anderson Peters contributed in researching information for Sharyn McCrumb's new book, *St. Dale*, a fictional story about Dale Earnhardt and stock car racing. Look for her name in the list of thank-yous under "Author Note" at the end of the book! Chrissie also recently received the North-east State Volunteer of the Year Award for the Administrative/Professional Staff Category.

Family News

Steve Brantley (NMRT Web Committee Chair) became engaged Feb. 2nd. He and his fiancée, Elizabeth, will marry in Evanston, Illinois on September 10.

Student Chapter Award continued from page 3

The runner-up of this year's award, the ALA Student Chapter of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is honored for its breadth and variety of committees, programming opportunities for chapter members, and chapter involvement on the State and National level.

The SCOTYA committee members, the ALA Membership Committee, and NMRT extend their appreciation to all the ALA student chapters for their time and effort in submitting nominations for 2005. Keep up the good work!

Mannix Receives 2005 NMRT Shirley Olofson Memorial Award

Mary Mannix is the 2005 recipient of the New Members Round Table (NMRT) **Shirley Olofson Memorial Award**. This award, named in honor of the late NMRT President Shirley Olofson, is given annually to a member of the American Library Association (ALA) NMRT in order to defray the costs of attending the ALA Annual Conference. Criteria for the award include membership in ALA and NMRT, promise or activity in the area of professional development and financial need. The award will be presented at the 2005 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois, as part of the NMRT President's Program on Saturday, June 25, 2005.

Ms. Mannix is currently the Maryland Room Manager at the C. Burr Artz Library (Frederick County Libraries) in Frederick, Maryland. Her previous work experience has included serving as Library Director of the Howard County Historical Society, Independent Contractor for Public Health Research at the Center for the Advancement of Health in Washington, D.C., and Reference Librarian at the Lilienfeld Library of the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. She has a BA from Hood College, an MA from the University of Delaware, and an MLS from the University of Maryland. She also has certifications in Consumer Health Information from the Medical Library Association and as a Professional Public Librarian from the Maryland Department of Education.

Ms. Mannix is a member of the American Library Association, the Maryland Library Association, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, National Council on Public History, and Society of American Archivists. She is a past winner of the 3M/NMRT Professional Development Grant and the Outstanding Service Award from the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Mannix has numerous publications and presentations to her credit, covering such topics as family history and genealogy, maps and image collections, and archival information. She has served on many professional committees, including the Reference and User Services Association Professional Development Committee, the Genealogical Publishing Company Award Committee, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference Committee. She has also served as an owner and moderator of several professional listservs.

The committee would like to thank all who applied for this year's Shirley Olofson Memorial Award. More information about this award is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/applyforfunds/shirleyolofson.htm>
A list of past recipients of the Shirley Olofson Memorial Award is available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/applyforfunds/shirleyolofsonpast.htm>

ANNOUNCEMENT

Anna Ferris and Bill Armstrong would like to announce the publication of an article they co-authored tracing the development and implementation of the NMRT Archives Database. The title of the piece is "The Evolution of a Documents Digitization Project within the American Library Association's New Members Round Table," and it is available in the March 2005 issue of *Library and Information Science Research Electronic Journal (LIBRES)*, Vol. 15, Issue 1 (<http://libres.curtin.edu.au/>).

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Penny's Noodles

3400 N. Sheffield Ave., 773-281-8222
(Lakeview)

950 W. Diversey Pky., 773-281-8448
(Lincoln Park)

1542 N. Damen Ave., 773-394-0100
(Wicker Park)

Penny's is an inexpensive and very popular noodle shop, featuring soups and stir-frys. Like most Asian restaurants, Penny's is vegetarian-friendly. My recommendation: for easiest parking and the shortest wait for a table, try the Diversey location.

Gandhi India

2601 W. Devon Ave., 773-761-8714

There's a stretch of Devon Avenue near Western Avenue that's home to a bustling Indian neighborhood, including numerous amazing Indian restaurants. For the most part, you can't go wrong with any of the restaurants along this stretch, but two of my favorites are Hema's Kitchen and the Gandhi India. Eating at Hema's is like going to someone's house for dinner: it's fairly casual, and Hema will almost always come out and visit with you.

Things to Do

Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind at the Neo-Futurarium

5153 N. Ashland Ave. (Andersonville)

TMLMTBGB is a Chicago institution. It's been running for 16 years, and for good reason: it's tremendous fun. The Neo-Futurists attempt to perform thirty plays (please don't call them skits) in sixty minutes. Even if they're not successful, the show is still witty and thought-provoking.

Improv Olympic

3541 N. Clark St. (Wrigleyville)

Chicago is known as the center of the improv world, and the Improv Olympic is a top-notch theatre. There are nightly performances, and the prices are reasonable. There are even some opportunities for audience participation, if that's your thing. Take the El if you can. Parking in Wrigleyville is pretty much nonexistent, especially when the Cubs are in town. The Addison stop on the Red Line will get you there.

Taste of Chicago

Grant Park (Downtown)

This is the twenty-fifth year for Taste, and it's as great as ever. You buy a strip of tickets (\$7 for a strip of 11) and you eat your way through some of the best food Chicago has to offer. Most restaurants offer Taste portions, which only cost two or three tickets. I always get plantains from Vee-Vee's African Cuisine and a Rainbow Cone.

Published Author Shares Research Views and Experiences

Suzanne Araas Vesely

Copyright/Reference Librarian, Fort Hays State University

"Your proposal won't be accepted. Mine wasn't," was the gruff comment from my world-famous thesis advisor when I was in a doctoral program. I thought of withdrawing the proposal, but I waited, and the session that I proposed for the Modern Language Association (MLA) was accepted and enthusiastically attended by a group of 75. Why? Perhaps it was because I had a "sexy" title in an area of current interest and a solid descriptive abstract. Later, I chaired another MLA session after getting my doctorate. I also published a lead article in an important literary journal without that mentor's blessings. All of my publishing successes so far have been based on enjoying the writing process — no matter what. I do not let fear stop me, at least not for too long.

I have discovered that presenting at conferences is good for generating publishable pieces: I get experts to comment on my work and I learn from other presenters. Recently I collaborated with a fellow staffer who is definitely not a writer, but she has specialized knowledge related to distance education. I am strongly committed to being a compassionate critic after my Ph.D. experience, and we got along well. Our first presentation was at Brick & Click, a regional conference in Missouri. Brick & Click will include presentations written as full articles in their proceedings, which are annually published as an ERIC document. This is an easy way to publish.

Another recent collaboration was a JavaScript online tutorial quiz. I prepared the content and worked with a student helper who

knew JavaScript better than I did; see http://www.fhsu.edu/forsyth_lib/copyright/basics.shtml for the result. Shortly afterwards, I had an opportunity to submit it to an e-publication, which underscores that significant publishing need not be restricted to articles or to conventional scholarly journals. Another such instance is self-publishing online: I received the College and University Libraries Sector (Kansas Library Association) Beginning Professional Award for the website that I prepared on copyright (I am the copyright librarian for Fort Hays State University). The link above is part of that site, which also includes many more original writings that are not in journals, such as my copyright handbook of about 20 pages, a permissions form that I prepared in collaboration with the uni-

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A note from the Scholarship and Research Committee

We hope you find this special supplement to the May 2005 issue of *Footnotes* useful. Our goal was to write articles and collect information which would be useful to those librarians who want or need to publish. Enjoy!

Ad Hoc Scholarship and Research Committee (2005-2006)

Jill E. Grogg, Chair
Brandon Dudley
Sarah Green
Karen Kohn
Michal Strutin
Suzanne Vesely

How to Get Published: Some Practical Advice

Michal Strutin

Graduate Student, University of Tennessee

Every article begins with a good idea. Sometimes good ideas seem handed to you on a silver platter.

Most of the time, however, you have to work at it. Keep a collection of ideas in a file, and gather background on the most promising.

Sometimes you come across the germ of an idea in a listserv, sometimes at a conference, sometimes it's something a friend at another library mentions in passing.

When you are ready to plant this seed in a query letter to an editor, make sure the idea fits the publication, says *Tennessee Librarian* editor Marie Jones, who addressed the topic of "how to get published" at the 2004 Tennessee Library Association conference (<http://www.lib.utk.edu/~tla/TL/v54n2/PAB.htm>).

Look at what the publication you are interested in has published in the recent past. And make sure it has not already published on the same topic recently. If they have, a new angle or critical new information might make the editor amenable to your query. Look not only at content, but also at the "voice" you find in the writing. Scholarly publications prefer a formal voice. Publications that aim at a more general audience use writing that is less formal and linear.

Match the voice in your query letter and in your article to the general tone of the publication. Also, always check to see if the publication has writers' guidelines.

Compare the guidelines for *American Libraries*, which calls for an "informal, but informative" style (<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/submittingal/Default604.htm>) to that

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How to Get Published: Some Practical Advice

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of the peer-reviewed publication, *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* (<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jabout/76501873/ForAuthors.html>). In publishing, they say, “know your audience.” Your ultimate audience is the readers of the periodical. But your first audience — the gatekeeper you must impress — is the editor. Some editors receive dozens of queries every week and have little time to ponder each one. In some cases, you may have as little as a minute to make your case. Your job is to write a query letter at least as compelling as the article you will write.

To give your query stature, add copies of a couple of your published articles or URL links to them. A track record is something editors like because they see you have follow-through. Haven’t written any articles yet? One of the best places to start is a local or a state library association publication.

Library-related publications — and many other venues — are open to book reviewers. For example, “action figure” librarian Nancy Pearl reviews books on air for National Public Radio. H-Net Reviews is one of many places to consider (<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/>). AcqWeb lists H-Net and plenty of other library and non-library publications that publish book reviews (<http://acqweb.library.vanderbilt.edu/bookrev.html>). Caveat: most large, general periodicals publish reviews by their own writers, but may accept outside reviews as well.

Many publications, library-related or not, have sections of short articles. Placing an article in one of these sections is usually less competitive than trying for a feature. Calls for Papers (CFP) are another way of finding a publication match. CFPs show up on listservs or at sites such as “Calls for Papers in English & American Literature” (<http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/cfp.html>), which includes a broader topic base than the name implies. Encyclopedias need entries. Query some that match your fields of interest or expertise.

Other venues are local and community newspapers. The editors may be happy to place reviews, a column on information technology, or information on what your library has to offer. In the last case, you would be

accomplishing two objectives: getting published and promoting a good “product.”

We know we have robust information-seeking skills. It never hurts to communicate that to the wider world, while providing enticing information to publications outside the library community. For instance, you might suggest to a teachers’ publication a piece on how to teach students to judge a good website. (Information literacy is a good choice of subject for lots of publications.) If you are a nature-lover, you might suggest to an environmental organization an article on how and where to find the best environmental research on the Web. Or, if your interest is art, you might suggest to an art magazine or newsletter an article on the top ten virtual art museums and what makes these websites work so well. The possibilities are endless.

The query

The query should be a mini-version of the article you propose, but more densely packed with fascinating facts, provocative data or ideas, vivid description, why it is timely or important, whatever it takes to convey, succinctly, what the article is about.

I usually start with a short, catchy headline. The size of the query should be proportionate to the size of the article. So, a query for a feature might run as much as a page, while a query for a review or brief article might be only a short paragraph or two.

For non-scholarly publications it sometimes helps to propose more than one idea, but not more than three. If an editor is not attracted to one, she or he may like another. Though scholarly means serious, detail-oriented, and written in logical progression, it does not mean dull. Look at scholarly articles by Carol Tenopir and Michael Gorman: clear, well-organized, and...not dull.

If you get the go-ahead, make sure you know the deadline and ask if the editor has any particular requirements for the piece besides length: citation style, for example, if citations are required. Check your facts and be ready to back them up. If you have a word count, stick to it. And don’t miss deadlines. Editors love dependable writers nearly as much as they love good writing.

The article

I don’t know if K-12 teachers still teach outlining. Outlining works. If you are writing a short piece, say 500 words or less, an outline is probably not necessary. For anything longer, however, an outline helps keep you focused on the subject at hand. I’m not talking about a formal structure with three levels of hierarchies and Roman numerals; just something to keep you on track.

An old saw about writing says, “Tell them what you’re going to tell them. Tell them. Then tell them what you told them.” That’s not bad advice. Before you start the opening who-what-why-how explication, consider adding a riveting lead to grab readers’ attention.

The lead could be a powerful or enigmatic quote, a human-interest example, or some dynamite data. In general, use active rather than passive construction throughout. Passive construction is for diplomats who need deniability. Telling details, examples, and specificity rather than vague generalities help drive your story forward.

When you have finished writing and have cleaned up typographical and grammatical mistakes as much as possible, put your article aside for a day or two. Then read it again, deleting extraneous wording to make the article tighter, crisper. Proofread it again and have someone else look at it. Having worked on hundreds of articles from the editor’s seat, I know you can never have too many eyes on a piece.

After you turn in your article, the editor may ask you to make editorial changes: add material, elaborate, fix wording, and the like. Editors are usually on a tight deadline at this point, so do not delay.

If the changes requested are minor or if they enhance your article, go ahead and make the changes. If editorial fixes change the meaning to something you disagree with, nicely but firmly explain why the change would hurt the piece. Although writing seems like “lonely” activity, it is actually a collaborative act and a good editor can help make your prose shine. Establishing good relations with an editor makes it easier to place your next piece. And, when you’re thinking of where to place a piece, think of

Footnotes.

Finding the Perfect Place to Publish Your Article

Brandon Dudley

Systems Librarian, Innovative Interfaces, Inc.

Finished writing a paper and wondering what to do with it? Writing the piece is hard enough without having to decide where to send it. Unlike some fields, publication in any number of library-related publications isn't based on previous publication records, age, or experience. If you have something to say, and know how to say it, there's a journal, website or magazine out there for you. The list below is by no means comprehensive, but will serve to give the author an idea of where to start looking for a home for their product.

Peer-review

Peer-reviewed publications typically seek articles of a scholarly or academic bent. The tone of submitted articles tends to be more formal than those found in non peer-reviewed journals and magazines, with a focus on research projects or analysis rather than opinion-based writing. Following is a brief selection of peer-review publications.

- ***Cataloging and Classification Quarterly***, <http://www.catalogingandclassificationquarterly.com/>
CCQ is an international journal, published quarterly, focusing on research issues and articles of interest covering the full spectrum of bibliographic organization. Discussions of a theoretical or practical nature are both covered. Submissions are usually 15 to 20 pages in length.
- ***The American Archivist***, <http://www.archivists.org/periodicals/aa.asp>
The American Archivist is the semi-annual journal of the Society of American Archivists. Submissions can take the forms of informational, analytical or research-based articles, but must be of relevance to the archival community. Length depends on the type of work but generally runs from 3000 to 7000 words in length.
- ***Library Hi Tech***, <http://titania.emeraldinsight.com/vl=2466234/cl=14/nw=1/rpsv/lht.htm>
Library Hi Tech is a scholarly quarterly concerning library computing and technology and their applications in librarianship. Work concerning "cutting-edge" technology is encouraged. Articles must be between 4000 and 8000 words in length.
- ***Journal of Digital Information***, <http://jodi.ecs.soton.ac.uk/>
JoDI is a Web-based publication "about the management, presentation and uses of information in digital environments." It is both interdisciplinary and international in scope, with an appeal to both theoreticians and practitioners of information science. The organization of *JoDI* is unique in that it is "published" quarterly but also interlinked by topic across issues. Submission length varies but averages around 7000 words in length.
- ***College and Research Libraries***, <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crljournal/collegeresearch.htm>
C&RL, the monthly research publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), accepts scholarly articles on subjects of scholarly interest to academic and research librarians. Submissions are typically 3000 to 6000 words in length and may be narrative or research-based in nature.

Non peer-reviewed

Most, if not all, publications that do not use traditional peer-review use some variety of evaluative method. Typically performed by an editor or editorial board, such methods are used in the decision to accept or reject a submission. Following are examples of non peer-reviewed publications.

- ***American Libraries***, <http://www.ala.org/online/>
American Libraries is the monthly American Library Association (ALA) publication. Writing style is "informal, yet informative" and length is between 600 and 1500 words. Given the diverse nature of readership, topics typically run the gamut but should be of interest to librarianship in general.
- ***D-Lib Magazine***, <http://www.dlib.org/>
D-Lib Magazine is a highly-respected e-journal, published monthly, with an interdisciplinary focus on issues in digital libraries and librarianship. Work that appeals to a broad audience is particularly desired, as are articles about completed research or projects. Articles are typically 1500 to 3000 words in length with a maximum of 5000 words.
- ***Info Career Trends***, <http://www.lisjobs.com/newsletter/>
A bi-monthly email newsletter, *Info Career Trends* publishes articles concerning career development issues for information professionals. Each issue is theme-based, with upcoming themes announced at least four issues (eight months) before publication. Submissions are therefore matched against upcoming themes for the best fit.
- ***Public Libraries***, <http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plapubs/publiclibraries>
Public Libraries is published six times a year by the Public Library Association (PLA), covering practical and applied topics of interest to public library staff and administrators. The PLA Publications Committee has developed a comprehensive list of

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Helpful Websites for Researchers and Writers

Karen Kohn

Assistant Librarian, Polisher Research Institute

Beyond the Job, <http://librarycareers.blogspot.com/>

Sarah Johnson and Rachel Singer Gordon, who call themselves "The Library Job People," have made their niche in helping librarians with professional development. The blog has calls for papers or posters, information about conferences and seminars, and postings about internships or residency programs.

A Library Writer's Blog, <http://librarywriting.blogspot.com>

This blog by Corey Seeman, Assistant Dean for Resource & Systems Management at the University of Toledo, lists calls for papers, presentations, or reviews. There is surprisingly little overlap with the Beyond the Job blog.

LISCareer, <http://www.liscareer.com/publishing.htm>

This site, run by Priscilla Shontz and Rich Murray, offers practical advice on professional development for librarians and those considering librarianship as a profession. Articles tend to be very anecdotal.

Publish, Don't Perish! <http://ceres.emeraldinsight.com/vl=664987/cl=90/nw=1/rpsv/librarylink/published/perish.htm>

Rachel Singer Gordon, of the Beyond the Job blog and author of the *Librarian's Guide to Writing for Publication*, also writes a column for Emerald on getting published. This online-only column comes out monthly, beginning in September 2004. Topics are: overcoming self-imposed obstacles, fear of rejection, finding ideas, choosing (or not choosing) a niche, and publishing online.

The Researching Librarian, <http://www.researchinglibrarian.com>

This site is an annotated list of many links. Resources include: freely available databases (both in LIS and other subjects), sites with information on obtaining grants (both ways to find grants and how to write proposals), links to open access journals (mostly in LIS), statistics, list of current awareness sites, some links to conference proceedings.

The Web Center for Social Research Methods, <http://socialresearchmethods.net>

This site is run by William Trochim, a professor of policy analysis at Cornell University. It includes an online textbook introduction to social research, also published as *The Research Methods Knowledge Base*, by Atomic Dog Press. The book covers the entire process of completing a research study: from formulating a question to designing the study to writing up the results. The website also has tutorials written by Trochim's graduate students and tools for designing studies.

Published Author, *Continued from Page 8*

versity counsel, a piece on plagiarism that I edited, which was written by one of our administrators, a collection of real-life copyright questions with answers: "Ripping images from foreign sites is OK, right?" "Is plagiarism against the law?" and other jaw-droppers.

I also write a wide range of articles for a review service and for a general reference encyclopedia company. The encyclopedia approached me last month on an emergency basis asking me to write a long article on literature; the original submission hadn't been acceptable. I was also recently asked for an article by a refereed online journal,

which was attracted to one of my online abstracts on the Brick & Click site. Sometimes I am also asked to present as a fee-based consultant on copyright and related issues. Opportunities are starting to come to me instead of my having to seek them out. I may now be more in a position to choose the direction of writing that I want. People are usually advised to stick with one area, but real life has its own rules, especially librarians' real lives!

The current drive to specialization has its value, but if we want to be read, it should be tempered with breadth of experience and a sense of fun.

Place to Publish, *Continued from Page 10*

criteria used for submissions to any of their publications and will accept many different types of work.

Feature articles are usually 10 to 20 pages in length, with opinion pieces no greater than six pages.

This publication does use informal review in evaluating submissions.

- **Library Trends**, [http://](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/puboff/catalog/trends/toc.html)

www.lis.uiuc.edu/puboff/catalog/trends/toc.html

The quarterly *Library Trends* seeks formal articles exploring trends within librarianship. Such explorations may take the form of research-based analysis, literature reviews, or narrative analysis. Like *Info Career Trends*, issues of *Library Trends* are theme-based. Unlike most of the publications listed in this section, *Library Trends* offerings are critically reviewed by the editors of the issue for which the article is being considered.

Other Publications

- **Regional/State Library Association**

(e.g., *Michigan Libraries*, *California Library Association Newsletter*)

Often, local library associations or chapters are aching to publish work of relevance to their specific constituency. Further, they often need volunteers to help with various aspects of publication if more general experience is desired.

- **Field-specific Journals** (e.g.,

NOTES: Journal of the Music Library Association)

It goes without saying that pieces written about topics of interest to a particular subset of librarianship are best placed in publications which serve that audience. Most associations and divisions have publications directly serving their members and actively seek material of interest to their membership.

The Internet

Blogs and websites are a nice place to consider for publishing. Participation in these burgeoning communities is a great way to share your thoughts, receive feedback on ideas and even post your finished product for the massive Internet populace to read.



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Footnotes is the official newsletter of the New Members Round Table (NMRT) of the American Library Association. *Footnotes* is published four times per year in August, November, February, and May. All issues except the May issue are delivered electronically (<http://www.ala.org/ala/nmrt/footnotes/>); the May issue is delivered in print. It is free to NMRT members and is not available through regular subscription services.

The purpose of *Footnotes* is to disseminate information and news to NMRT members; to alert members to developments of interest in ALA and in the library world; and to inform members of NMRT Board actions, state and regional events, and NMRT conference programs and committee activities. News notices and articles to be considered for inclusion in *Footnotes* should be sent to :

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