Letter from the Chair

Hi everyone!

My name is Sara Harrington and I’m the Arts Section Chair this year. Yen Tran is the Vice Chair, and Michael Wray Pearce is the Secretary. I look forward to working with everyone. I also want to extend my thanks to past Chairs Alessia Zanin-Yost and Claudia T. Covert for all of their efforts and for sharing their knowledge of the Section and its work.

At the ALA Annual 2013 conference, the ACRL Leadership Council asked Section leaders to consider how the Sections might function as communities of practice. Etienne Wenger-Trayner and Beverly Wenger-Trayner shared their expertise about communities of practice and how they function: [http://wenger-trayner.com/theory/](http://wenger-trayner.com/theory/)

When I think of ways that the Arts Section has enriched my own work, I am struck by how much I have learned from Arts Section colleagues about successfully working with students, about the practices of artists, and about how the arts can inform interdisciplinary research. As libraries continue to face fiscal stress, I am keen to learn from arts colleagues about the ways in which they have demonstrated their value to the institutions in which they work.

I invite Arts Section members to consider and share how the Arts Section might serve to support their work and inform their practice as arts information professionals in the context of a community of practice. Because many cannot attend ALA Midwinter and Annual Conferences, it’s also important to consider how the Section’s work can be advanced and sustained outside of face-to-face meetings, in addition to the value we gain at in-person conferences. This is a conversation that I hope can take place across the course of the year. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to join the Arts Section listserv: [http://wwwALA.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/arts/artswebsite/listserv/](http://wwwALA.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/arts/artswebsite/listserv/)

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful fall.

Sincerely,

Sara Harrington
harrings@ohio.edu
2014 ALA ACRL Arts Program

The proposed Arts Section program for ALA Annual 2014 is “ARTSVEGAS” - everything you wanted to know, and more, about the vibrant Las Vegas arts scene. The proposed program consists of a panel discussion moderated by Diane Kachmar with resident artists, gallerists and librarians about the arts in Las Vegas. Stay tuned for more information!

Bring the ACRL Standards Workshop to You

Bring the one-day workshop, “Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action,” to your campus or consortia. The workshop is led by one or two expert presenters at locations across the country upon request. Libraries in higher education are increasingly required to demonstrate their value and document their contributions to overall institutional effectiveness. The Standards for Libraries in Higher Education is a framework for library planning and assessment that can be used for a variety of circumstances including annual planning, program review, and accreditation self-study. Through presentation, discussion, and group activities, learn how to use the Standards to communicate your library’s impact. Contact Margot Conahan, Manager of Professional Development, at mconahan@ala.org 312-280-2522, to discuss dates and locations, pricing, and for complete workshop details.

ACRL Arts Member News

PUBLICATIONS


**PRESENTATIONS**

At the 2013 annual meeting of the Alabama Library Association, Eric A. Kidwell, Director of the Library/Professor at Huntingdon College, served as moderator and panelist for a session titled “Library Advocacy: Personal Reflections from the Academy”, sponsored by the Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries Government Relations Committee, which Kidwell chairs. He also presented “A LibGuide Alternative to the Traditional Student Research Requirement,” as part of the Best Practices session sponsored by the College, University, & Special Libraries Division of the Alabama Library Association. In May, Kidwell expanded upon this presentation for Springshare’s SpringyCamp virtual conference. This virtual conference included over 1500 attendees and presenters from 21 countries. Kidwell presented during the first day general session, which focused on innovation with Springshare products. He discussed how he and a colleague, Dr. Maureen Murphy, Professor of Chemistry at Huntingdon, used LibGuides as an alternative student research assignment in an Australia travel seminar/trip they led in spring 2012. He shared with conference attendees a number of the LibGuides created by their students.

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**University of Maryland iSchool and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival**

This August, eight students from the University of Maryland’s Master of Library Science program followed the world’s largest arts festival, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in the capital of Scotland. As part of the course “Follow the Fringe: Documentation and Preservation of Cultural Movements in Media,” (INST729F) students and professor Dr. Mary Choquette along with CalArts Librarian, Kathy Carbone, researched and attended Fringe performances from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) Theater Program. Acting as both audience and archivists, students aimed to document and preserve the performances, putting archival principles such as documentation strategy and metadata creation into practice. The course challenged students to rethink the role libraries, archives, and other information institutions play in recording and sharing the history of arts and culture.

“Being in the moment at a festival event that contains thousands of pieces of performance to select from and engage with can be overwhelming and exhausting,” said Dr. Edsall Choquette. “Students met this challenge with curiosity, energy, and commitment. I am very proud of their hard work and dedication to the spirit of the project.”

In addition to documenting CalArts performances, students visited local libraries and archives and attended tours and lectures by archivists. Throughout the course, students also shared their reactions and experiences on the Follow the Fringe blog (http://followthefringe.umd.edu), and tweeted with the hashtags #MLSFringe and #EdFringe. Media and data collected and created as part of the course will be added to the University of Maryland archives and the CalArts Institute Archives.