

CLS FALL NEWSLETTER

College Libraries Section Newsletter

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October 2013

Words from the President

College libraries are nimble organizations focused on teaching and student learning. The membership of the College Libraries Section is a direct reflection of this. At the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, the CLS Executive Board spoke to several members about their expectations for the section. Many college librarians view the section as a place to develop a network of colleagues who face similar challenges. Collib-I is mentioned as a great resource for sound advice from the non ARL voice. In general the membership is seeking practical advice on a variety of topics and looks to the section to provide opportunities to explore those issues. College librarians need to solve their current problem and move on to the next one. Members would like the section to focus on the work of libraries and not get bogged down focusing on the work of the section.



Sally Gibson

Head of Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Processing
Illinois State University

"The CLS Executive Board voted to eliminate the in person all committee meeting which is held at the annual conference. Committee work can be accomplished virtually so conference attendance is no longer required."

In This Issue

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The CLS Executive Board will spend the Fall of 2013 creating a strategic plan, and looking at the section's committee structure. We are seeking to ensure that our



Words from the President cont...

committee structure meets the current needs of our membership. The work will be completed at the 2014 Midwinter Meeting, so that the structure will be in place before the 2014-2015 committee appointments begin. In other words, the work of the section will be completed quickly so that the section can focus on the work of libraries. The Board is also aware that many members would enjoy participating on a committee, but cannot commit to annual conference attendance. ALA no longer lists conference attendance as a requirement for committee involvement. Thus the CLS Executive Board voted to eliminate the in person all committee meeting which is held at the annual conference. Committee work can be accomplished virtually so conference attendance is no longer required. We hope this provides an opportunity for more members to become involved with the work of the College Libraries Section. The committee volunteer form will be available December 1, 2013 to February 15, 2014. Please consider volunteering for a CLS committee. Erin Smith, CLS Vice-Chair, will begin making committee appointments after February 15th.

Hopefully I will have the opportunity to see some of you at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. CLS will be hosting two discussion groups. The Medium-Sized Academic Libraries Discussion Group talks about matters of importance to medium-sized libraries. The Leadership and Management Issues in College Libraries Discussion Group is for people interested in leadership and management issues. Details about the day, time, and topic of each discussion group will be available shortly before the conference.

If you have any suggestions for improving the committee structure of CLS or any questions about the section in general, feel free to contact me at sally-gibson18@gmail.com.

Member Updates

Denise A. Garofalo, Assistant Librarian for Systems and Catalog Services at Mount Saint Mary College (Newburgh, NY), published the chapter "Empires of the Future: libraries, technology, and the academic environment," in *Robots in Academic Libraries: Advancements in Library Automation*, edited by Edward Iglesias.

Denise Garofalo

Systems and Catalog Services Librarian

Curtin Memorial Library



Emerging Leaders Reflect



“We fostered nationwide relationships with other new library professionals.”

The four of us were honored to participate in the American Library Association’s (ALA) Emerging Leader program. The program spans a six-month period, beginning during Mid-winter conference and culminating in a poster session at Annual conference. During the program, we listened to the ALA president, chief executive officer, board, and other ALA

VIPs describe our professional organization, frequently suggesting ways to become more involved. Our facilitator, Kathryn Deiss, shared insights about the traits of leadership and leaders. Equally important, we fostered nationwide relationships with other new library professionals. The Emerging Leaders program was a rewarding experience, on the whole. We especially appreciated the opportunity to learn the importance of leadership and collaboration through applied practice.

Our project goal was to develop recruitment tools that communicate the benefits of college librarianship and CLS membership. To gain an understanding of our target groups, our group administered two brief informational surveys for college librarians and recent graduates, respectively.

Emerging Leaders Reflect Cont...

These surveys garnered a wide array of perspectives, the majority of which expressed interest in and support of college librarianship. Our group used the survey responses to create a video, brochures, elevator pitch, and poster espousing the benefits of college librarianship. While researching our project, our group noticed a lack of scholarly and trade literature focused upon college librarians. We plan to further investigate this topic and publish an article sharing our discoveries.

Our survey results show that college librarianship is an excellent place to both begin and continue a library career. Those graduate MLIS/MLS students who have not already focused upon another specialization were very receptive to the idea of working within a college library. Many respondents spoke of a transformative experience while in college that led them to pursue librarianship, while others cited work-related reasons like the population served, environment, and focus. Responses from college librarians were primarily positive—even when asked to report challenges they encounter—highlighting the many enjoyable, exciting activities taking place in higher education.

A Day in the Life of a College Librarian

Based on a recent survey* of 90 college librarians, the following duties were reported as being a part of daily life as a college librarian:

- Supporting faculty research and student learning through reference consultations
- Collection development
- Instruction and grading
- Creating educational resources
- Meetings: staff, committee
- Keeping statistics and writing reports
- Professional development
- Troubleshooting technology and access issues
- Program development
- Administrative work
- Academic advising
- Cataloging
- Circulation duties
- Supporting academic initiatives
- Social media
- Technical services duties
- Curriculum development
- Vendor relations
- Archives and special collections
- Outreach and marketing

Please visit the College Libraries Section of ALA for more information:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/directoryoffices/sections/clis/ciswebpage>

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COLLEGE LIBRARIANSHIP AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANSHIP?

College libraries are those primarily in “baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.”

Size: Universities are usually larger and colleges tend to be smaller

Focus: Universities may be more focused on research while colleges could be more focused on teaching, learning, and curriculum

Scope: Universities tend to have more specialized collections and services while colleges could have a wider range of variation

Many aspects of working in university and college libraries are the same.

DID YOU KNOW?

Based on a recent survey* of 123 graduate students in library and information science programs...

72% of graduate library students state that they would be interested in a college librarian job

Some of the reasons indicated as interest in college librarianship are:

- Atmosphere
- Teaching opportunities
- Growth and advancement
- Opportunities to build research and reference skills
- Enjoyment of working with undergraduate students
- Involvement in decision making

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participate in the listserv
Collib-1@ala.org

*The survey for library and information science students was comprised of five open-ended questions. It was distributed to 21 Information/Libraries Schools and three ALA libraries. It gathered responses of 123 students. Questions asked were designed to gauge their interests and reasons for entering library and information science librarianship and assess the perceived differences between college and university library librarianship.
**The survey for college librarians included six open-ended questions. It was distributed to three ALA libraries (NABT, CLS, and ULS) and through Twitter. Questions were focused upon their work, statements of the changing landscape of college libraries, what a "day in the life" of college librarians entails, challenges that college librarians currently face, and the difference between a college and university library.

We presented our project results at the Emerging Leaders poster session during this year's ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Thanks to effective session marketing our event was well attended by librarians from all over the country. All reactions and conversations were positive. Many people we interacted with asked questions and expressed interest in CLS.



Emerging Leaders Reflect Cont...

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to CLS and especially to our liaison, Sally Gibson! Sally took her position seriously, her continued contact and advice was invaluable. When our project was nearing completion, she served as a conduit for communication with the CLS board. Also impressive was the open and inviting nature of CLS. Our group was lucky enough to join the CLS Friday Night Feast, by invitation. We greatly enjoyed the meal and excellent company!

Recruitment Tools for College Librarianship

Emerging Leaders Team C:
Julie Judkins, Kathleen Monks, Brittney Thomas, and Marci Zane

Products:

Elevator Pitch: "The College Libraries Section (CLS) is focused on providing support and resources tailored to college librarians. We are the only section within ALA and ACRL exclusively committed to college librarians' needs. Given our focus, members can profit from strong relationships and support formed by shared expertise."

Brochures: "What's Life Like As A College Librarian?" and "Why Should I Become A College Librarian?"

"Day In The Life" profiles: Hour-by-hour recap of a college librarian's working day

Wordle: Image of common words found in college library job descriptions

Video: Online recruitment tool for new and recent library grad students identifying the positive aspects of college librarianship

Conclusions:

• 72% of students surveyed said they're considering a career as a college librarian.

• Working college librarians reported a wide variety of job duties, high job satisfaction, and indicated many areas where college librarianship is changing.

• Students not interested in college librarianship gave the following reasons: pursuing another area of librarianship, no interest in publishing or tenure, not able/willing to re-locate, fear of budget cuts or lack of jobs, disinterest in an additional subject degree, disinterest in the work environment/type of work.

• Top 5 factors affecting new librarians' decision:

- Available jobs (29)
- Work environment (24)
- Salary (22)
- Location (19)
- Population served (19)
- Employment/Education benefits (15)

Research Topic:

Purpose: To develop recruitment tools which the ACRL College Libraries Section can utilize to attract library school school students and new librarians to college librarianship. Many new librarians do not see the benefit to working in a college library and often decide it is not the best fit for them. College librarians often have difficulty explaining the difference and the benefits. This project will assist with the recruitment of new librarians to college librarianship.

Expected Goals & Outcomes: Identify new librarians' perceptions of college libraries and college librarianship. Determine if those perceptions are a realistic representation of college librarianship. Create recruitment tools such as an elevator speech, video, etc. which can assist college librarians in recruiting potential employees.



Methodology:

We created two non-probability surveys, tailored for current library students/recent graduates and current college librarians, respectively. Both short surveys were comprised of open ended questions and were made available for a period of 50 days, from February 24th - April 15, 2013. Responses were collected via Google Drive's survey function. All identifying information was excluded during survey analysis.

Both surveys were sent to three relevant ALA listservs (NMRT, CLS, and ULS) and shared across three Twitter accounts (@thatclickitcat, @1918fluArchive, and @HiringLib). The student survey was also distributed to 21 Information/Library Schools via listservs.

The student survey received a total of 123 responses and the college librarian survey received a total of 90 responses.

Survey Questions:

Survey for Library and Information Science Students

- Would you consider working as a college librarian? Why or why not?
- What factors might lead you to pursue college librarianship as a career?
- What factors might lead you to pursue another area of librarianship (such as: special, school, public, etc.)?
- In your opinion, what is the difference between working in a college library and a university library?
- Do you have any questions about college librarianship?

Survey for College Librarians

- What do you enjoy most about your job?
- What are positive duties or aspects of college librarianship that you'd like to share with recent graduates?
- How is the landscape of college librarianship changing?
- Describe a "day in the life" of a college librarian.
- What are the challenges that a college librarian may face in his/her job?
- In your opinion, what is the difference between working in a college library and a university library?

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Member Updates

Eric Kidwell
Library Director
Huntingdon College

At this past spring's 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. Additionally, he 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 an international "SpringyCamp" virtual conference sponsored by Springshare. This virtual conference included over 1500 attendees and presenters from 21 countries. Kidwell was one of five presenters for the first day general session, which focused on innovation with Springshare products. In his presentation he discussed how he and a colleague, Dr. Maureen Murphy, Professor of Chemistry at Huntingdon, had used LibGuides as an alternative student research assignment in an Australia travel seminar/trip they led in spring 2012. As part of his presentation, he shared with conference attendees a number of the LibGuides created by their students.

Contact Us

ACRL/CLS invites you to submit an article for the Spring 2014 CLS newsletter! This is a great way to inform our membership about upcoming conferences and events and to showcase the amazing things you are doing at your library!

Please submit articles via email to Brittney Thomas at BrittThom@gmail.com

As the ACRL Liaison to the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), I will be attending CIC's Chief Academic and Chief Student Affairs Officers Institute, to be held in Pittsburgh, PA, November 2-5. I will give a presentation on "The Evolving Academic Library" and highlight current and emerging factors that impact academic libraries, the broader context in which our libraries operate, and related implications for library resources, services, and personnel. I will reference ACRL's 2013 Environmental Scan. I will also highlight opportunities for academic libraries to collaborate with student affairs offices.



Lisabeth Chabot
College Librarian
Ithaca College



15th Annual Friday Night Feast a Success!

The College Library Section's Annual Friday Night Feast was held in Chicago at Brazzaz, an authentic Brazilian Steakhouse. The CLS diners experienced a gourmet salad bar, and were continuously served 18 of the finest fire roasted selections of Angus beef, lamb, poultry, pork and jumbo shrimp all prepared in the delicious, artful, culinary style of the Gaucho.

Thanks to the very generous support from EBSCO Information Services, 55 attendees were able to enjoy this delicious meal for a low cost. Steve O'Dell and Steve Strother represented EBSCO Information Services and joined in the evening's feast. The event is always an enjoyable and relaxing way to network with your colleagues. Everyone who attended went away with their culinary appetites satisfied. Watch for information about the upcoming 16th Annual College Library Section's Friday Night Feast to be held at ALA in Las Vegas in the spring 2014 CLS Newsletter!

