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## Message from the LPSS Chair

*Jeremy Darrington, Princeton University*



As I write this, spring has come at long last to the Northeast, and the roadsides of my commute have erupted in a glorious riot of yellow and white daffodils. Our winter was brutal, with bitter cold, mountains of snow—Bostonians, you have my deepest sympathies—treacherous ice, interminable darkness, and the twin plagues of respiratory illness and gastrointestinal viruses. Fortunately, the hope of spring sustains us with its promise of a renewal of light, warmth, and life.

Hope is essential, but true hope impels us to do something to make it a reality. I'm increasingly convinced of the power of believing in our capacity to grow and improve through our individual effort and struggle. Only after straining to burst free of the chrysalis's rigid shell does the monarch begin to experience the new wonder of flight. Likewise, to gain the freedom to begin exploring new vistas in our personal and professional lives requires hard work and persisting through challenges and failure to achieve new growth. Perhaps most importantly, it requires us to strain against the confining chrysalis of others'—and our own—beliefs about what we can achieve or learn or become. It requires a growth mindset that sees struggle and failure not as referenda on our personal worth, but as roadmaps pointing

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## Communication Survey Open

The LPSS Communications and Publications Committee would like to hear from you! Please help us understand how you use the various LPSS communication platforms, and how we can make them better by completing our short survey online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FYR7LVD>.

Responses will be collected over the next 2 months and results will be reported to the LPSS membership this summer. Thank you for contributing!

For questions contact: [Sara Arnold-Garza](#).

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## Member To Know - By Lynda Kellam

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### Chad Kahl

This issue's member to know is Chad Kahl from Illinois State University and chair emeritus of LPSS. Chad is from the Peoria, Illinois area and received his MLIS from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Chad originally had very different plans for his career goals. He attended the University of Illinois for an undergraduate degree in aeronautical engineering, but realized he was more interested in the social sciences and history. Eventually he made his way into a political science Ph.D. program, but discovered librarianship by way of another colleague who had made the transition. He decided to try out the program and graduated from library school in 1998.

In his first years out of library school, he served as a coordinator of library instruction. He moved into political science librarianship while at Cal State L.A. and became a Social Sciences Librarian at ISU, his current institution. He is now Interim Associate Dean for Public Services and Information Technology, but retains his law support duties.

A day in the life of Chad involves lots of meetings. Apparently lots and lots meetings. His favorite part of the job is that he is in a position to have a positive impact on the library and his colleagues. He says that "[the] library has experienced a considerable amount of administrative change in last four to five years and is at a point where we can look forward to better meeting the needs of the faculty and staff on campus." He is excited to be part of that change as a leader. The only drawback to this new position is that he does not have the opportunity to work as much with students, especially with all of those meetings.

Chad became active in LPSS because it best fit his interests and educational background. He appreciates that we have a small section and are friendly to newcomers. The section helped make his transition to a full-time subject librarian seem less overwhelming, especially because he knew that he had a network to call on for help.

In his spare time Chad is a sports fan especially of the University of Illinois Fighting Illini and the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. He also enjoys dystopian fiction and is currently reading the final book in the *Last Survivors* series. For nonfiction he recommends *Red Notice* by William Browder about the death of Sergei Magnitsky.



*Is there an LPSS member whom you'd like to know better through a profile in the LPSS News?  
Is there a member you could profile in 500-600 words who would interest the rest of the section?*

*Email your suggestions to the editors at*

[merrill.stein@villanova.edu](mailto:merrill.stein@villanova.edu) or [dennis.lambert@villanova.edu](mailto:dennis.lambert@villanova.edu).

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to new opportunities for learning.<sup>1</sup>

In that spirit, I invite each of you to tackle some new challenge to grow your professional skills over the next few months. Maybe it's becoming more comfortable with providing reference and instruction on working with numerical datasets (and if it is, the Professional Development Committee's upcoming online discussion forum on this topic is a great opportunity to start, so keep an eye on the listserv for details). Or maybe it's writing a paper for publication (hey, maybe even for *LPSS News!*) or submitting a paper or poster proposal for a conference. Maybe it's reaching out to serve your community or a disadvantaged group (in this vein, I hope you'll come to our program at Annual, Libraries Behind Bars: Education and Outreach to Prisoners, on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-2:30 pm). Or maybe it's just pushing yourself to talk to three people you don't know at your liaison department's annual reception (one of my recent victories).

Whatever it is, judge your success by your effort and perseverance and growth, rather than by comparing yourself to someone else's real, or more often perceived performance. As one of the faculty in my department recently shared, he went and got a masters in statistics, precisely *because* he wasn't that good at statistics. He struggled to get B's in his classes, but eventually his hard work and perseverance paid off. He's still not a whiz at statistics, but he now feels a freedom to explore and understand political phenomena in ways that he previously couldn't.

Making time to help lead the section this year has been challenging for me, but that challenge has made me appreciate even more the value of my membership in LPSS and the contributions you all make to its continued success. I've enjoyed interacting with many of you on conference calls and on the listserv, but as valuable as those outlets are, they can't replace being together in person to talk, discuss, brainstorm, and laugh. So, I hope you'll make time to join us at our meetings at Annual in San Francisco: the all-committees meeting is on Saturday June 27, 8:30-10:00 am with the general membership meeting immediately following from 10:30-11:30 am. And don't miss the SAGE-CQ Press/ LPSS Anniversary Celebration, held in lieu of the Marta Lange luncheon. We're celebrating 40 years of LPSS, 50 for SAGE and 20 for our collaboration with CQ Press on the Marta Lange award! The reception will be the evening of Friday June 26 (more details to come soon). I look forward to seeing many of you there and hope you'll share with me your stories of struggle and growth.

Warmly,

Jeremy Darrington, Princeton University, Chair LPSS

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<sup>1</sup> For an illuminating discussion of the psychology and neuroscience behind the importance of mindset in growing our intelligence and other capacities, see Dweck, Carol (2006). *Mindset*, New York: Random House.

### ACRL Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award – Reminder

The award recognizes exemplary academic or law librarians. It honors the late Marta Lange, LPSS chair in 1990-1991, whose spirit of collegiality and professionalism inspired many others.

While the award had been made continuously from 1996 to 2014, this year no award will be made. Hopefully, a suitable recipient can be identified for 2016. See the LPSS website for more information on the award and details on how to submit nominations.

Here are the past five who were selected for the award:

2014 - Brian Coutts

2013 - Kathi Carlisle Fountain

2012 - John Eaton

2011 - Stephen Atkins

2010 - Bruce Pencek



When you see the next call for nominations, consider nominating an academic or law librarian who through, research, service to the profession or other creative activity, makes distinguished contributions to bibliography or information service in law or political science. More information about the ACRL Marta Lange / SAGE-CQ Press Award can be found at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/martalangecq>.

### ALA-LPSS 2015 Annual Conference Schedule

Meeting	Day/Date	Time	Location
Anniversary celebrations of ACRL LPSS and LPSS & SAGE-CQ Press collaboration	Friday, June 26	TBA	TBA
All-Committees Meeting	Saturday, June 27	8:30-10:00 am	HIL—Union Square 03 & 04
General Membership Meeting	Saturday, June 27	10:30-11:30 am	HIL— Golden Gate 5
Section sponsored program: <i>Libraries Behind Bars</i>	Saturday, June 27	1:00-2:30 pm	MCC—2008 (W)

### ACRL preconferences @ 2015 ALA Annual Conference

ACRL is offering four preconferences in conjunction with the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco on Friday, June 26, 2015. Complete details, including descriptions, learning outcomes, and registration materials, are [online](#).

[Reflective Teaching: Self-evaluation to Assess and Improve Your Teaching Practice](#)

[Data Visualization: Tools, Techniques, and Practice](#)

[Storytelling 101: Craft Narratives to Engage and Persuade](#)

[Writing Data Management Plans Across the Curriculum](#)

**LPSS Executive Committee:**

Jeremy Darrington (Chair, exp. June 30, 2015)  
 Rosalind Tedford (Vice-Chair, exp. June 30, 2015)  
 Lynda Kellam (Past-Chairperson, exp. June 30, 2015)  
 Jodi Shepherd (Secretary, exp. June 30, 2015)  
 Sarah Hogan (Member-at-Large, exp. June 30, 2016)  
 Elizabeth Lynn White (Member-at-Large, exp. June 30, 2015)  
 Sara Arnold-Garza (Social Media Coordinator, exp. June 30, 2015)  
 Jennifer Schwartz (Webmaster, exp. June 30, 2015)  
 Loretta R. Parham (Board Liaison, exp. June 30, 2015)  
 Megan R. Griffin (Staff Liaison, exp. June 30, 2015)

**LPSS Committee Chairs:**

Communication and Publications - Chair: Emily Ford, exp. 2015  
 Conference Program Planning Committee, San Francisco, 2015 - Co-Chairs: Sara Hogan, exp. 2015; Orlando 2016 - Co-Chairs: Linda K. Colding & Brian Coutts, exp. 2016  
 Professional Development/Library Instruction Committee - Chair: Lynn Marie Thitchener, exp. 2015  
 Marta Lange/SAGE-CQ Press Award Committee - Chair: Mary Oberlies, exp. 2015  
 Membership Committee - Chair: Elizabeth Lynn White, exp. 2015  
 Nominating Committee - Chair: Chad Kahl, exp. 2015; Chair: LeRoy LaFleur, exp. 2016  
 Review and Planning Committee - Chair: Leroy LaFleur, exp. 2015  
 Vendor/Publisher Liaison & Review Committee - Chair: Annelise Sklar, exp. 2015

**Guidelines for Contributors**

The deadline for the next edition of the *LPSS News*, subject to decisions by ACRL, will be announced on the LPSS Discussion List.

Email articles, illustrations, and correspondence to: [merrill.stein@villanova.edu](mailto:merrill.stein@villanova.edu) and [dennis.lambert@villanova.edu](mailto:dennis.lambert@villanova.edu)

Length: 1–2 pages.

Write in short paragraphs. Use the most direct, energetic style you can muster. Have a point, and don't be reluctant to have a point of view, too. Write as an analyst or critic, or at least as a journalist, not a booster.

Write to be useful to the membership. The format and publication frequency make features the strength of the newsletter. The LPSS listserv is the best place to post, discover, and comment on breaking events. The [LPSS website](#) is the official repository of official reports and meeting minutes. - [Newsletter Archives](#) -

**Connect with other Law and Political Science Librarians -- Join the LPSS Discussion List**

To subscribe send an e-mail to:

[listserv@listserv.kent.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.kent.edu)

**Note:** The subject line should be empty and the body of the message MUST only contain:

Subscribe lpss-l Firstname Lastname

**Did you know that LPSS-L has a searchable archive?**

Archives of LPSS-L are maintained at Kent State University and updated every week. Messages are arranged by date, and searchable by keyword, with archives dating back to August 2007. To access the LPSS-L archives, point your Web browser to <http://listserv.kent.edu/archives/lpss-l.html>.

**The LPSS-L Archives are available only to subscribers to the LPSS-L list.** The first time you access this URL, you will be prompted for your email address (as your account ID) and a password of your choice. You will need to reply to the email to confirm access. Add the LPSS-L archives to your knowledge base. You never know when you might need it!

## Review of the IMF eLibrary, OECD iLibrary, and World Bank eLibrary

By [Nadine Hoffman](#), [Catherine Morse](#), and [Annelise Sklar](#) (Chair) on behalf of the 2014-2015 LPSS Vendor/Publisher Liaison & Review Committee

In the past few years, several intergovernmental organizations have launched online collections of their documents and data. For the most recent installment in our review series, the Vendor/Publisher Liaison and Review Committee reviews three major full text databases from IGOs who collect and disseminate information on a variety of economic and social policy issues (see pages following).

Overall, the **IMF eLibrary** is a useful collection for libraries with a large number of economic and political economy researchers, and it is a worthy replacement to current print subscriptions. As a bonus, the January 2015 launch of the free data portal brought with it a significant decrease (by about two thirds) to the subscription price. The new free data portal is visually stunning, but accessing and using query-based searching was not as intuitive as I hoped it would be. However, the IMF provides extensive help screens and a broad and regularly amended library of instructional videos on their YouTube channel that will help users through the learning curve.

The **OECD iLibrary** platform is a well-organized source for books and data. Content can be searched or browsed by theme or country. The Statistics portion of the iLibrary is particularly valuable, allowing users to click on a particular indicator, explore a thematic database and, most importantly, to search across statistical sources. The statlink feature allow tables from books to be easily downloaded into Excel. And the new charting tool allows users to create charts.

The **Commonwealth iLibrary** was developed as a partnership between the Commonwealth Secretariat and OECD Publishing. In the future, the OECD iLibrary platform may be used to host content from additional organizations.

A mix of deeper statistics (or data) and publications from the 1990s, the **World Bank eLibrary** is a comprehensive collection of books, reviews, working papers, and other publications relating to issues in the developing and developed world. Although many current publications and data are available on the World Bank's website, they are available faster and for longer with the subscription eLibrary with an intuitive interface.

With different content emphases, these databases are more complementary tools than competitors. All three are highly useful resources for libraries who serve social sciences researchers, especially those who research policy, globalization, international relations, and economics.

## Vendor Publisher/Liaison and Review Committee review (cont.)

Platform/vendor	IMF eLibrary	OECD & Commonwealth iLibrary	World Bank eLibrary
<b>For more info:</b>	<a href="http://www.elibrary.imf.org/">http://www.elibrary.imf.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/">http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/</a> <a href="http://www.thecommonwealth-ilibrary.org/">http://www.thecommonwealth-ilibrary.org/</a>	<a href="http://elibrary.worldbank.org/">http://elibrary.worldbank.org/</a> ; contact: onlineresources@worldbank.org or 202-473-8597 for any questions
<b>Major Areas of Coverage</b>	"macroeconomics, globalization, development, trade and aid, technical assistance, demographics, emerging markets, policy advice, poverty reduction, and so much more."	economic, environmental and social issues	economic development and poverty reduction
<b>Geographic coverage (strengths)</b>	"The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 188 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world."	OECD iLibrary content most often covers OECD member countries which include countries in Europe as well as Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico and USA.  Commonwealth iLibrary content mainly covers members of the Commonwealth, 53 countries from across the globe that have historical ties to the British Empire.	developing countries
<b>Dates of coverage</b>	Annual reports start 1946; staff papers start 1950; additional series start in the 1960s; bulk of content dates from the 2000s	earliest reports go back to 1954; economic surveys begin in 1961; comprehensive coverage begins in 1998	current with complete backlist (from 1990s) in most areas. Books since the 1990s; all World Bank Economic Review (WBER) and World Bank Research Observer (WBRO) since 1996; all Development Outreach issues; all Policy Research Working Papers since 1995
<b>Update frequency</b>	daily	daily	content available immediately upon release

## Vendor Publisher/Liaison and Review Committee review (cont.)

Platform/vendor	IMF eLibrary	OECD & Commonwealth iLibrary	World Bank eLibrary
<b>Types of materials included</b>	IMF statistics, books, analytical papers, periodicals, reports	books, papers, statistics	"the complete backlist of all books, working papers, and journal articles published by the World Bank since the 1990s"
<b>Number of titles</b>	15,620 books (including analytical papers and reports) and journals as of 4/12/2015	OECD iLibrary: 9,900 ebook titles, 4 370 articles, 4 370 articles, 4,490 working papers, 5 billion data points across 42 databases.  Commonwealth iLibrary: 177 ebook titles and 125 working papers. A digitization project of the back catalogue is underway.	6100 working papers; 2 journals
<b>Data included</b>	Free dissemination of data through <a href="http://data.imf.org/">http://data.imf.org/</a> launched January 12, 2015	yes, although International Energy Agency data is available for an additional fee	links to free data on World Bank website
<b>Materials accessible for free</b>	Academic, non-profit, and governmental institutions in developing countries can subscribe, free-of-charge, to statistical databases and publications through the IMF eLibrary.	Most of the OECD iLibrary is available by subscription (as a package or by theme). The titles available for free on OECD iLibrary include the Factbook, OECD Working Papers, OECD Key Tables.  The IEA statistics and the Commonwealth iLibrary are available for an additional subscription fee. Also there are reports and statistics available free on oecd.org.	"Open Knowledge Repository (OKR) is the World Bank's open access repository for its research and knowledge products. It is intended to be a simple, low-bandwidth, 'grab and go' site for the general public to access World Bank open access content since 2000, with some embargoes."

## Vendor Publisher/Liaison and Review Committee review (cont.)

Platform/vendor	IMF eLibrary	OECD & Commonwealth iLibrary	World Bank eLibrary
<b>Yes/No options</b>			
<b>Search within full text</b>	yes	yes	no, but can filter results
<b>Advanced search</b>	yes	yes	yes
<b>Limit results by publication dates</b>	yes	yes	yes
<b>Limit results by document type</b>	yes: books and journals; chapters and articles. Papers and reports are categorized as books or journals, depending on the series.	yes	yes
<b>Relevance sorting</b>	yes	yes	yes, or by date or title
<b>Save searches</b>	yes - with IMF eLibrary login, or sharing static search url	no	yes, with account. Alerts are also possible with free account.
<b>Export citations</b>	yes - look for the quotation icon	yes	yes
<b>Included in discovery systems</b>	Bowker, Ebsco A-Z, Ebsco Discovery, Ex Libris Primo, ProQuest Serials Solutions and Summon	ProQuest Summon, WorldCat Discovery	OCLCs WorldCat, ExLibris Primo and SFX, Proquests Summon and Serials Solutions
<b>COUNTER-compliant usage stats</b>	yes	yes	yes
<b>Perpetual access options</b>	yes (Those who cancel will be provided DVD or flash drive with all content available during the subscription period.)	yes to subscribed content (excluding dynamic databases)	no (However, anything downloaded during term of subscription can be downloaded and kept in perpetuity and it uses a Creative Commons License for re-use of materials.)
<b>MARC records available</b>	yes	yes	yes
<b>PURL availability</b>	yes, DOI	yes, DOI	yes, DOI
<b>Mobile Friendly</b>	content downloadable in PDF, pub, and mob	yes	yes

## Recent LPSS Member Publications



### **Publications -**

*Emily Ford (Portland State University) -*

- Ford, E., Izumi, B., Lottes, J., Richardson, D. (2015). Badge it! A Collaborative Learning Outcomes Based Approach to Integrating Information Literacy Badges within Disciplinary Curriculum. *Reference Services Review*, 43(1), 31-44.

## Contributions from our members follow:

[Canadian Stenographer](#)

[Political Cartoonist ~ Xavier Bonilla \("Bonil"\) at WKU](#)

[The Floating Librarian: A Political Science Librarian at Sea](#)

[Visiting and Presenting in the University of Yangon in Myanmar/Burma](#)

### **Preserving Party Politics: [Canadian Stenographer](#) and the grassroots effort to preserve born-digital correspondences**

*Submitted by Emily Zheng, University of Alberta*

What are political parties saying to their supporters? *Canadian Stenographer* aims to answer this question. A nonpartisan correspondence archive, this new web service aims to provide a public record of external communications from registered Canadian political parties. A few weeks after its initial launch, the archive contains almost one thousand e-mails sent through subscription-based listservs.

The interface is intuitive and streamlined, but lacks sophisticated finding aids. Like popular social media platforms, users can browse the emails one tag at a time. Users can also help tag emails by selecting controlled-vocabulary terms from a list. However, this option to contribute user-generated metadata is only semi-open; it requires no log-in, but is restricted to those privy to the URL. A keyword search tool -- hopefully with many more filters -- may be introduced soon. In the meantime, a few tricks on Google will probably yield decent results. The archive is open access, and fairly mobile-friendly.

As a tiny new media initiative working out of Montréal, *Canadian Stenographer* currently operates with no institutional support or financial model. It relies on expert volunteers and donations, which can even be made in BitCoin! However, its scope is expansive. Motivated by a frustration at the lack of accountability at the party level, founder AJ West wants to archive all forms of correspondences, from all time periods, and across all jurisdictions. These correspondences were never intended to be permanent, nor available to non-supporters; by making them so, AJ hopes to encourage closer scrutiny into or political processes.

*Canadian Stenographer* certainly has the potential to reveal fascinating trends in political communications, although the current collection is simply not big enough to support comprehensive analysis. It has Big Data potential, but its long-term value can only be realized with more support on all sides.

<http://canadianstenographer.ca/>

## Contributions from our members (cont.)

### Political Cartoonist ~ Xavier Bonilla ("Bonil") at WKU

Submitted by Brian Coutts and Christopher McConnell (a student research assistant at Western Kentucky University)



*Ecuador's most famous "caricaturist" Xavier Bonilla, also known as "Bonil," spoke in the Western Kentucky University Libraries-sponsored "Far Away Places" speaker series off campus at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Bowling Green on March 26, 2015.*

Only days after the tragedy at the office of Charlie Hebdo, Xavier Bonilla was scheduled to appear in court on January 12, 2015 for violating Ecuador's controversial Law on Communication. The Ecuadorian government postponed the case in lieu of drawing more international criticism to Ecuador's current president Rafael Correa and his personal conflict with the political cartoonist. Later, Bonilla was sanctioned for his controversial cartoons published in the country's main newspaper *El Universo* which mocked an Assemblyman Agustin "Tin" Delgado not for his humble origins but for his excessive governmental salary. This was the second time *El Universo* was sanctioned for using humor to provide a unique perspective on governmental issues. The newspaper was fined \$93,000 in January, 2014 for a cartoon about a heavy handed police raid on the home of an opposition journalist /advisor. These incidents have vaulted "Bonil" onto the international stage and he was a featured speaker in Washington, D.C. at the Center for Investigative Journalism in the Americas on Wednesday, March 18, 2015.



[Continued on page 12](#)

## Contributions from our members (cont.)

*Bonil continued ...*

His eighth book *Bonil Cartoons* (2014) is a compilation of his works selected from hundreds originally published in various print media over the past three decades. The book is organized under six major themes: social media, romance, reading and writing, money, protests of ideology and ironically (and appropriately) ends with death. His target audience ranges from young adults to senior citizens as his motifs are universal ideologies which touch on commonplace situations. While some of his cartoons have Spanish dialogue, many are bilingual, use plain English or just don't have any dialogue at all which makes them easy to understand. Many of his themes are international and universal in nature, which allow the viewer or reader to quickly pick out the details and understand the context and the joke. Although Bonilla is from Ecuador and highly involved in journalism issues of that country, most of his book is not specific to any country.



*Translated Caption: "It was better when he would just bring the newspaper."*

## Contributions from our members (cont.)

### The Floating Librarian: A Political Science Librarian at Sea by Catherine Shreve, Duke University



Last fall I went on a self-imposed sabbatical—traveling the Atlantic ([itinerary](#)) as an assistant librarian on a ship. The Semester at Sea program has been described as a floating college: undergraduates take a full load of credit courses from many disciplines while sailing the world. Or, as one of my colleagues put it: Imagine you are at a small college of about 600 students, and everyone—students, faculty, and staff—lives in the same dorm and eats in the same dining hall. I might add—and goes on cool field trips together.

There was a full-service library on the ship, with 7000 books (later weeded by 20%), two large cabinets of videos, travel guides for each country we were visiting, and two computers and a printer for public use. We had access to the University of Virginia's online databases for finding journal articles, and a staffed computer lab across the deck. The complexities of internet access on such a voyage necessitated allowing plenty of time to search the databases and download articles. We learned to be flexible and creative, working without the high level of electronic connectivity we were used to, and rediscovering the joy of browsing print books to identify relevant chapters.

I was at the Reference Desk for four hours every afternoon, and managed the eight student assistants. The head librarian and I also conducted library instruction and orientation, helped professors locate and upload materials for their syllabi, and planned and implemented the last-minute weeding project. And of course, before arrival in each port, we fielded a rush to borrow our travel guides.

There were several political science courses, covering democratization, religious freedom, political violence, international relations, international law, energy, and global security. Courses in other disciplines also intersected politics and policy in many areas.

Most courses included some focus on the Middle Passage of slaves from Africa to Brazil, and when we had to cancel our African stops due to the Ebola scare, the ship community rallied to ensure that the content was covered in a profoundly moving way, especially as we were crossing the Atlantic on that same route. One memorable evening students, faculty and staff dressed in black and read from slave narratives in the dim light of the auditorium as the ocean rocked our ship.



**MV Explorer**

[Continued on page 14](#)

## Contributions from our members (cont.)

*Floating Librarian continued ...*

We learned international relations best, though, through firsthand contact with the people, cultures and governments of other countries. Classes visited concentration camps, memorials, embassies, universities, the ICJ, NATO and the UN. I visited a Russian family at their dacha, where one woman quietly told me, "Look, I don't agree with what Putin's doing, but what can I do?" I saw a Moroccan women's co-operative in action; participated in a candomble (indigenous religious) ceremony in Brazil; spoke to Cubans on the street and toured a public library in Havana; and everywhere observed portrayals of historical and current politics, often in the form of graffiti.

While the library work was nothing new – in fact it forced me to revisit the foundations of librarianship with fewer resources – the experiential learning provided a unique depth of understanding that informs and enriches my work as Duke's librarian for political science and public policy.



*Cuban anti-American graffiti in Havana*



*Solidarnost monument, Gdansk, Poland*

**Itinerary:** England, Russia, Poland, Germany, Belgium, France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Morocco, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Barbados, Cuba, United States

**For more info:**

Catherine will be on the IRRT International Connections Committee (ICC)'s "Leaning International" panel at ALA Annual in San Francisco on Sunday, June 28th at 1 pm.

The Floating Librarian's blog: <http://floatinglibrariansas.blogspot.com/>

## Contributions from our members (cont.)

### **Visiting and Presenting in the University of Yangon in Myanmar/Burma**

*Raymond Pun, Reference and Research Services Librarian at NYU Shanghai, took the opportunity to meet with academic librarians in Myanmar's former capital, at the University of Yangon, from April 1 to 4, 2015. (Myanmar is also known as Burma).*

*Story and pictures are by Raymond Pun who can be contacted at [ray.pun@nyu.edu](mailto:ray.pun@nyu.edu).*



Left: The Swedagon Pagoda / Middle: Government Building / Right: A street in Yangon

Many attendees came from other smaller universities. I spoke to them about open access tools, particularly G.I.S. resources such as NYPL's Map Warper site (<http://maps.nypl.org/warper/>) and WorldMap Warp from Harvard University (<http://warp.worldmap.harvard.edu/>) – The librarians were very interested in learning how one can create, digitize, build and maintain these online repositories.

We also spent some time discussing digital scholarship programs and data tools such as R programming language, Omeka and WordPress. It's becoming much more important for librarians to have some knowledge in these areas, particularly in the social sciences. Many of the librarians are unfamiliar with open access resources. It has been a challenge for them to manage their e-book subscriptions due to cost and faculty and students prefer printed books than online ones. We also discussed faculty liaison and they do have such service but they don't have subject specialists like most Western universities.

The main challenge in teaching these tools is the slow speed of the Internet. Because of the country's developing infrastructure, getting better Internet connection can be tricky. Luckily, I saved some of the webpages for offline access, which you can read more here (<http://lifehacker.com/5957617/how-to-save-web-pages-for-offline-access-later>). The other main question I received was about building consortium model for sharing resources. This is very new and exciting for them and many of them would like to provide resource sharing to their neighboring institutions. I discussed how they could establish a series of shared protocols, visions and service philosophies and assessments so that they can create a consortium that is effective and helpful for all.

I am not an expert in access services, however, working in a startup university such as NYU Shanghai has given me a good grasp of resource sharing policies and services. I explained how we provide that kind of service in a new university such as NYU Shanghai. They were impressed to hear that we receive books from NYU in NY as well as from other selected lending institutions via inter-library loan and e-z borrow services.

After the presentation, a librarian gave me a tour of the academic library and that was very interesting to see how they store their newspapers and archives. It's a small library but popular among the students during critical exam periods like anywhere else.



Left: The Academic Library / Middle: The Stacks of Newspapers / Right: Bound Volumes of Journals

Overall, the trip was short but very productive as I had a glimpse of the academic life in Myanmar! I would recommend anyone to visit the country and read up on its fascinating political history from colonial times to the present. You can also find more pictures of my trip here: <http://raypun101.tumblr.com/tagged/myanmar>.

## Host ACRL Standards, Scholarly Communication Workshops in 2015

Today's academic and research librarians increasingly act as change agents in the higher education community while being called on to demonstrate their value on campus. ACRL's one-day scholarly communication and Standards for Libraries in Higher Education workshops help you achieve those goals through learning more about these important topics at your campus, chapter, or consortia. Facilitated by our team of expert presenters, both workshops provide a framework for libraries to grow, innovate, lead, and succeed.



### ACRL Workshop

Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement

#### Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement

To help empower our community in accelerating the transformation of the scholarly communication system, ACRL is pleased to offer the day-long workshop, "Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement." The workshop helps participants in very practical ways, such as preparing for library staff or faculty outreach, contextualizing collection development decisions to internal and external stakeholders, and initiating or supporting new models for scholarly communication. Details are available on the ACRL website at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/issues/scholcomm/roadshow>.

*"The workshop helped me connect complex issues like the relationship between the open movement, copyright, and economics in a coherent way. It is good to have this conceptual framework moving forward." – Scholarly Communication Workshop Participant*



#### Standards for Libraries in Higher Education Training Workshops

The ACRL Standards for Libraries in Higher Education provide a framework for planning and assessment that can be adapted for a variety of circumstances including strategic planning, program review, and accreditation self-study. ACRL's "Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action" workshop provides information on using the standards and other foundational documents as a framework to develop benchmarks, evaluate quality and performance, and demonstrate value. Details are available on the ACRL website at [www.ala.org/acrl/standardsworkshop](http://www.ala.org/acrl/standardsworkshop).

*"In this workshop, the assessment process was presented in a clear, understandable way. Great job on difficult material!" – Standards Workshop Participant*

Hosts are responsible for the full cost of both workshops and may choose to recover costs through registration fees.

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