

## **Committee Final Report**

NOTE: \*\* = Required Field

**\*\*Type of report being submitted: Final Report**

**\*\*Date: July 4, 2015**

**\*\*Committee Name:** Online Discussion Forum

**\*\*Supervising Board Member:**

Kate Kosturski

**\*\*Chair, Co-Chairs, Assistant Chairs:**

Margaret Cusick, (Chair, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

**\*\*Committee members:**

Margaret Cusick, (Chair, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

Lauren Bourdages, (Member, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

Leigh Miller, (Member, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

Kelly Quaye, (Member, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

Hillary Richardson, (Member, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

Teresa Schultz, (Member, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

Christie Smith, (Member, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

Rachel Wightman, (Member, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

**\*\*Goals, Objectives, Projects completed (including, but not limited to, any procedures, tip sheets, checklists, etc. created during the reporting year):**

This year we completed 8 email chats and 4 live chats (one repeated due to technical difficulties).

We ran our email chats on the list-serv at the start of every month from October to May. The topics ranged from gaining business or management skills, to serving international patrons, the pros and cons of volunteering, alternative careers for information professionals, and making the most of online learning. A full list of the planned (and executed) topics is available on the 2014-2015 Online Discussion Forum Committee Planning Report. The email chats that received the most discussion participants were November: Reaching out to International Patrons (4 participants beyond the moderator), January: Pros and Cons of Volunteering (5), and March: Alternative Careers for Information Professionals (9). Chat moderators would send out a summary of the chats to the list-serv after the chat.

This year we also focused on doing live chats. We did 3: January: Workload and Time Management (ALA Connect), March: Conference Proposals and Scholarships (Twitter), May: Library Advocacy (Twitter). We repeated the January chat about Workload and Time Management in April, again on ALA Connect, because we had technical difficulties in January. Despite testing, the committee member moderator, again, had issues with ALA Connect and we transitioned to the list-serv where 5 different people beyond the moderator contributed. All live-chat moderators sent out some sort of summary, whether it was narrative on the list-serv or through Storify.

We had one live chat planned, November (Challenges in the workplace, what do do when beginning a new job, navigating generational gaps, and job titles), that did not run because the committee member dropped out. The email chat for which this member had been responsible was taken up by another committee member.

**\*\*Action Items/Issues To Be Resolved – What plans/projects remain which will be carried over or postponed until next year? Have there been any substantial changes in plans requiring a reconsideration or cancellation of projects? Information regarding such will be helpful for future chairs and planners.**

Nothing was postponed for next year, nor have there been any substantial changes in plans. The only advice I would give regarding the live chats would be to be sure to discuss live chat venue and logistical details with live chat moderators the month before they are designated to moderate the chat to ensure ample time for promotion of events and troubleshooting of any problems.

**Financial Report Section:**

<b>Your budget appropriation (see budget)</b>	a. \$0
<b>Amount which you have spent this year</b>	b. n/a
<b>Difference between budgeted amount and amount spent (a-b)</b>	c. n/a

**\*\*Report submitted by:** Margaret Cusick

**\*\*Email address:** [cusick.maggie@gmail.com](mailto:cusick.maggie@gmail.com)