



Instruction

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Section

NEWSLETTER

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Information Literacy Best Practices

In 2003, the ACRL board approved the document, “Characteristics of Programs of Information Literacy that Illustrate Best Practices: A Guideline.” An extensive revision and update to the “Characteristics” was approved and posted in 2012 after years of work of many ILBP Committee members. The “Characteristics” (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/characteristics>) identifies the following ten categories for consideration when planning or evaluating the success of an information literacy program: Mission; Goals and Objectives; Planning; Administrative and Institutional Support; Articulation (program sequence) within the Curriculum; Collaboration; Pedagogy; Staffing; Outreach; and Assessment/Evaluation.

Since completing the “Characteristics” revision, the ILBP Committee has been working diligently to formalize a process for identifying information literacy programs that exemplify best practices. The ILBP Committee has developed a rubric based on the “Characteristics” to evaluate exemplary IL programs at colleges and universities. Soon we will distribute a survey to seek submissions from information literacy programs that exemplify one or more of the categories in the “Characteristics.” Stay tuned for more information or contact committee chair, Jessame Ferguson (jferguson@mcdaniel.edu) with any questions.

From the desk of the Instruction Section Chair

Spring has sprung! In the spring spirit of growth and renewal, the Instruction Section is continuing to work toward meeting the needs of its membership by transitioning to a more virtual experience. By removing conference attendance requirements and offering more virtual participation opportunities, broader involvement from IS members will now be possible. The recent survey sent out by the Committee Assessment Task Force will gather more information on how the Instruction Section can better serve its membership in terms of committee projects and documents that support our classroom teaching and instruction programs. Thank you for your participation in this important survey.

The ALA Annual Conference in Chicago this June is just around the corner. The IS Program Planning Committee has put together an outstanding and timely program: “All the News That’s Fit to Teach: News Literacy Instruction,” addressing the need to educate young adults in news literacy – the ability to think critically about print, broadcast, and online news. The program will begin with a 45-minute talk on current research and national initiatives in news literacy,



presented by Dr. Stephanie Craft, Associate Professor in the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. Three librarians will follow this presentation with brief talks highlighting successful news literacy instructional programs in academic libraries. The recipients of the Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award, the IS Innovation Award, and the Ilene F. Rockman Publication of the Year Award will be recognized at the start of the program.

If you are planning to travel to the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago this June, I invite you to attend the events that the Instruction Section will host during this conference:

- Friday, June 28, our social event, the IS Soirée, will take place from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Columbia College Library.
- Saturday, June 29, the IS Current Topics Discussion “Preparing Students for the Day After Graduation: How We Succeed and How We Struggle” will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 PM.
- Sunday, June 30, the IS Annual Program “All the News That’s Fit to Teach: News Literacy Instruction” will be held from 1:00 to 2:30 PM.

Further details on these events and programs are found in this newsletter. You can also check the [IS website](#) for specific locations for these events as we get closer to the conference date.

Once again, thank you all for generously volunteering to spend your time and expertise working with the Instruction Section. Looking back over what we have accomplished already this year I am struck by the huge amount of effort and quality our completed projects, documents, and programs represent. In this case, it takes a Section!

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

Susan Miller, Chair
Instruction Section
2012-2013



IS Soirée at ALA Annual

The ACRL Instruction Section invites you to mingle, chow and imbibe at the annual IS Soirée!

Date: Friday, June 28, 2013

Time: 5:30pm - 7:00 PM

Place: Columbia College Chicago Library,

Address: 624 S. Michigan Avenue (steps from the Hilton Chicago)

Room: 3rd Floor North Reading Room

Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/Tal8J>

The Instruction Section Soirée is your opportunity to enjoy good company, meet/reconnect with other IS members, and learn about the work of the Section. All are welcome— old-timers and newbies alike!

Arlie Sims and Shirley Bennet, Co-Chairs, *IS Local Arrangements Committee*

IS Discussion Group at ALA Annual

The Discussion Group Steering Committee is planning a big topic for the City of the Big Shoulders. Join us on Saturday, June 29th from 4:30 to 5:30 PM to discuss:

“Preparing Students for the Day *After* Graduation: How We Succeed and How We Struggle”

Laureen P. Cantwell of the University of Memphis will lead the discussion, addressing topics such as workplace information literacy, how to teach more than just library skills, best practices for instruction librarians in preparing students for the workforce, and the challenges we face in these efforts.

The IS Discussion Groups provide a wonderful opportunity to converse about instruction-related topics with colleagues, network with others interested in instruction, and keep up-to-date on the latest technologies and teaching trends. Complete information on the Discussion Group will be announced in the Annual Conference program and on the Instruction Section website. Questions about the Annual Discussion Groups can be directed to the co-chairs of the Discussion Group Steering Committee, Elana Karshmer (elana.karshmer@saintleo.edu) and Russ Hall (rhall@psu.edu).

Consider submitting a proposal to convene an online discussion group to be held prior to ALA Midwinter 2014. The Request for Proposals will be posted on the ILI-L listserv and the Instruction Section website in April 2013.

Get the News on News Literacy

Join the ALA 2013 Program Planning Committee in Chicago for an exciting Instruction Section program, "All the News That's Fit to Teach: News Literacy Instruction." Nationally, there is growing awareness of the need to educate young adults in news literacy – the ability to think critically about print, broadcast, and online news. The News Literacy Project sponsors outcomes-based research in best practices; however, few libraries have news literacy programs, and the topic remains under represented in our professional literature. This program features researcher Dr. Stephanie Craft, who will provide an overview of current research on news literacy education, followed by librarian-led lightning talks on successful news literacy instruction programs in libraries. The program will take place Sunday, June 30, 2013, from 1:00 - 2:30 PM (location TBA).

From the desk of the Vice-Chair



Years ago, as a new instruction librarian searching for ways to get involved professionally, I was encouraged by a colleague to volunteer to serve on an ACRL Instruction Section (IS) committee. I was also cautioned, however, that getting that first IS appointment could be difficult, since it was not uncommon for there to be fewer vacancies than volunteers. The advice I received was that I could maximize my chances of getting appointed by providing as much specific information about my experience as possible, expressing my enthusiasm and eagerness to serve, and

applying to many committees rather than just one or two. That advice not only served me well then, as I was appointed to the IS Information Literacy in the Disciplines committee, but it remains true today and is indeed the same advice that I passed on to attendees and asynchronous viewers of the IS Virtual Orientation I delivered this past January!

Since being offered that first appointment, I later went on to serve as a Member-at-Large on the IS Executive Committee, and currently I have the privilege of serving as your Vice-Chair. Given my past experiences in the Instruction Section, I knew before my term began that one of the major jobs of the Vice-Chair is to make committee appointments and that this process can be quite time consuming. I was also aware, however, that it is an energizing and rewarding experience as well, since the Vice Chair is in the unique position to see just how many talented and enthusiastic librarians committed both to instruction and enhancing the profession through service are dispersed across the U.S. While I knew all this in my head, knowing is of course not the same as actually experiencing something, and having now gone through the committee appointment process, I feel decidedly privileged to have been given this opportunity. I worked hard to match volunteers' interests with available committee openings as well as to create committees with a balanced mix of librarians with various career, ACRL, and IS experiences. I've thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the individual members that make our Section so diverse and strong, as well as getting the chance to correspond with so many of you.

While my experience making appointments has been overwhelmingly positive, like so many IS Vice-Chairs before me, I do regret that there were more volunteers than open committee positions. If you volunteered and were not placed on a committee for 2013-2014, it is still possible that new opportunities may arise mid-year. Sometimes members have to resign from a committee, for example, or new task forces are created by the Executive Committee. Your volunteer form will stay on file in the ALA database, and so as new positions emerge, the information you submitted will be reviewed again. If you are particularly eager to serve and would like to be considered for any opportunity that becomes available, please feel free to email me.

If you are new to professional service at the national level and are considering volunteering next year to serve on an IS committee, keep in mind that you will first need to become an ACRL and Instruction Section member. The next step is to complete the online Committee Volunteer Form (currently located at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/membership/volunteer/volunteer>). The volunteer form must be completed by February 15 in order for applicants to be considered for an appointment that begins in July, immediately following the Annual conference.

Finally, if you have any questions about the Instruction Section generally or IS committee appointments specifically, please don't hesitate to contact me at crstevens@csupomona.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

Christy Stevens, Vice-Chair
Instruction Section
2012-2013

News

Hagedon and Sult Win 2013 Innovation Award

Gregory (Mike) Hagedon, senior applications systems analyst/developer, and Leslie Sult, instructional services librarian, both of the University of Arizona Libraries, have been selected to receive the 2013 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section (IS) Innovation award for their work on the software Guide on the Side, which helps instruction librarians create tutorials for database instruction.

Sponsored by ProQuest, the annual award recognizes a project that demonstrates creative, innovative or unique approaches to information literacy instruction or programming.

A prize of \$3,000 and a plaque will be presented to Hagedon and Sult during the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

“Understanding that many librarians are feeling the pressure to find methods to support student learning that do not require direct, librarian-led instruction, the University of Arizona Library’s Guide on the Side provides an excellent tutorial grounded in sound pedagogy that could significantly change the way libraries teach students how to use databases,” said award committee co-chairs, Erin L. Ellis of the University of Kansas and Robin Kear of the University of Pittsburgh. “The creators have made a version of the software open access and freely available to librarians to quickly create online, interactive tutorials for database instruction. This allows librarians to easily create tutorials that are both engaging to students and pedagogically sound. Guide on the Side serves as a model of the future of library instruction.”

Hagedon holds a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Oklahoma Baptist University, and his professional work is primarily focused on creating, developing and maintaining instructionally-focused web applications.

Sult holds a master’s degree in library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her work is focused on developing and improving scalable teaching models that enable the library to reach and support many more students than was possible earlier through traditional one-shot instructional sessions.

Brunetti, Hofer and Townsend Win Ilene F. Rockman Publication of the Year Award

Korey Brunetti, associate librarian and collections coordinator at California State University, East Bay; Amy R. Hofer, distance learning librarian at Portland State University; and Lori Townsend, learning services coordinator at the University of New Mexico, have been chosen as the winners of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section (IS) Ilene F. Rockman Publication of the Year Award, for their article “Threshold Concepts and Information Literacy,” published in 2011 by *portal: Libraries and the Academy*. The award recognizes an outstanding publication related to library instruction published in the past two years.

The award, donated by Emerald Group Publishing Ltd., consists of a plaque and a cash prize of \$3,000. Brunetti, Hofer and Townsend will receive the award during the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

“Any librarian who has struggled with turning theory into practice when it comes to information literacy instruction will appreciate this article,” said award committee co-chairs Erin Ellis of the University of Kansas and Robin Kear of the University of Pittsburgh. “The awards committee appreciates this excellent mix of the theoretical and practical and believes it presents a new and exciting way to think of what and how we teach.

“It offers ‘a way to focus and prioritize instructional content’ in ways that lead to more engaged learning. The authors present a model through threshold concepts that can truly transform information literacy teaching, as well as students’ understanding of information literacy and its relevance. This article provides great potential in moving the conversation on effective information literacy teaching forward.”

Brunetti received his MLIS from San Jose State University and his B.A. from Bradford College. He has taught Introduction to Information Literacy to first year students at California State University, East Bay since 2006. He applied threshold concepts theory in the context of this class and also adapted it for online delivery.

Hofer received her MLIS from San Jose State University and her B.A. from Brown University. She taught information literacy to a variety of populations since 2007 and applies the threshold concepts approach developed with her coauthors to the fully online credit course that she currently teaches.

Townsend received her MLIS from San Jose State University and her B.A. from the University of New Mexico (UNM). She has taught information literacy for seven years. In her new position as learning services coordinator, she hopes to lead the UNM University Libraries in building an online curriculum informed by the threshold concepts approach

For more information regarding the ACRL IS Innovation Award and Ilene F. Rockman Publication of the Year Award, or a complete list of past recipients, please visit the [ACRL awards website](#).



Research & Scholarship Committee

The Research & Scholarship Committee is happy to announce an update to one of our popular resources. This document, now known as *A Selective List of Journals on Teaching & Learning*, provides librarians with a list of sources that will help them stay aware of general and disciplinary trends in teaching and learning. These sources also serve as suggested venues for publishing outside of library literature. The list is organized into broad, disciplinary categories and specifically denotes journals with an open access publishing model. The list is available at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/aboutacrl/directoryofleadership/sections/is/iswebsite/projpubs/journalsteachinglearning>

Catherine Johnson, Chair
Research & Scholarship Committee

Resources for Identifying Professional Education Opportunities

Librarians new to an instructional role or seeking to sharpen their skills will find two professional education directories helpful for identifying formal learning opportunities. The first lists [courses offered by accredited master's programs in LIS](#). The second provides links to [sponsors of continuing education programs offered by U.S. and Canadian library associations](#). Both are recently revised and updated by members of the Professional Education Committee which encourages you to bookmark and share these resources.

- Accredited LIS Courses: http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/IS/Library_Instruction_Courses
- Continuing Ed Program: http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/IS/Continuing_Education



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