



# Instruction

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# Section

NEWSLETTER

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## Grassian receives 2014 ACRL/IS Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award

Esther Stampfer Grassian, distinguished librarian (emerita), University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) College Library, is the winner of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section's (IS) Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award. The award honors Miriam Dudley, whose efforts in the field of information literacy led to the formation of IS. The honor recognizes a librarian who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of instruction in a college or research library environment.



Grassian will receive her \$1,000 award, along with a plaque, at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 29, 2014, during the IS program at the ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

"Esther Grassian's deep impact on the field of information literacy has been sustained over the length of her distinguished career, including 41 years as a librarian in the UCLA College Library," said IS Miriam Dudley Award Chair Susan Miller, visiting librarian at Illinois Wesleyan University. "Grassian's contributions span all areas of librarianship. She is nationally recognized for her leadership, teaching, writing and presenting in the area of information literacy instruction and advocacy.

"Grassian's extensive service to the profession ranges from local to international in scope, and includes work with the California Clearinghouse on Library Instruction, ALA, ACRL, IS, LIRT, REFORMA and the European Conference on Information Literacy," noted Miller. "The Instruction Section is pleased to honor Esther Grassian, who has made an especially significant contribution to the advancement of instruction in academic libraries."

Her numerous publications include the IS award-winning book "Information Literacy Instruction: Theory and Practice" (2001, 2nd edition 2009) and "Learning to Lead and Manage Information Literacy Instruction" (2005), as well as the "Information Literacy Instruction" article for the third edition of "The Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science" (2010), all co-authored with Joan R. Kaplowitz. Grassian has influenced a generation of future librarians by teaching at the UCLA Graduate

School of Education and Information Studies (1990-present), and serving as guest lecturer for both the Drexel University and University of Hawaii library schools.

Grassian received her M.L.S. in Library Service and her B.A in Hebrew from the University of California, Los Angeles.

For more information regarding the ACRL IS Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award, or a complete list of past recipients, please visit the [awards section](#) of the ACRL web site.

## From the desk of the Instruction Section Chair

It was great seeing many of you at the Instruction Section's (IS) Midwinter soirée at Tango Karaoke Lounge in Philadelphia. Thank you for braving the cold to join us! Thanks also to Latanaya Jenkins and Jill Luedke for scouting out the excellent location and to those of you who made the party that much more fun by belting out a song or two (you know who you are!) – you rock!

It is with some sadness then that I announce that this was our last Midwinter soirée. Our committees haven't met face-to-face at the ALA Midwinter meeting for several years now, and the IS Executive Committee recently voted to follow suit. Since none of our members have an IS-related reason to attend Midwinter any more, we have decided to focus our energy on the Annual soirée instead. While I will miss socializing with my Instruction Section colleagues at Midwinter, I do believe that moving away from having a presence at Midwinter makes a lot of sense in our current fiscal and technological landscape, the former of which limits our members' ability to travel to conferences and the latter of which has provided us with so many effective tools for getting the work of our committees done virtually. So thanks again for making what turned out to be our last Midwinter soirée such a memorable occasion!



Looking forward, Erin Rinto and Ernesto Hernandez, our Local Arrangements team for the 2014 ALA Annual conference in Vegas [\(baby!\)](#), have a great evening in store for us at [Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant](#). Please note that we've opted to move the soirée from the traditional Friday at 5:30 p.m. timeslot to Saturday at 6:00 p.m. The benefit here is that the soirée won't be held during an ALA no-conflict time, which in the past has limited our ability to utilize ALA and ACRL promotional channels. The soirée will follow our Current Topics Discussion Forum, titled "Thinking like a First Year Student: Academic Librarians' Educational Role." I hope you can participate in a lively discussion from 4:30–5:30 p.m. and then head over to the soirée with the new friends you've made at the discussion forum!

Plans are also well underway for the IS program at ALA Annual, which will focus on threshold concepts, a timely topic in which librarians are increasingly interested, in part because of the important role it has played in shaping the recently released draft [Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education](#). I hope you can join us to learn more about how librarians can use the threshold concept model to make

information literacy instruction more relevant, meaningful, and exciting to students. Prior to the actual program, 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. The IS Annual Program will be held on Sunday, June 29, from 1:00–2:30 p.m.

I also wanted to issue a warm welcome to our new Social Media Coordinator Annaliese Fidgeon. Annaliese will be helping the section use social media more effectively to engage members and to promote the work of the Section. We are excited to have her on board and look forward to her leadership in strengthening our social media presence.

The Executive committee recently voted to approve the creation of another new position – Publications Editor. This new position is intended to ensure that IS publications are consistent, professional, and polished, and that they reflect well on IS and on ACRL. Additionally, this position will hopefully help remove some of the burden of detail editing from IS committees, freeing them to focus more of their energy on their documents' contents. Keep your eye out for the position announcement and encourage the talented editors in your life to apply! If you heart *The Chicago Manual of Style*, or if the mere sight of a comma splice makes you cringe, that person may well be you!

I also want to take a moment to thank all of you who have generously volunteered your time and expertise to work on an Instruction Section committee or task force. Put simply, the Section wouldn't exist without you and all the amazing work you do. Thanks too to my fellow Executive Committee members – Danielle Skaggs, Karen Munro, Mark Szarko, Maura Seale, Meghan Sitar, Merinda McLure, Nikhat Ghouse, and Susan Miller – for their leadership, ideas, and enthusiasm.

Finally, if you haven't interacted much with the Section yet, I hope you'll visit us at one or more of our events at the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Please don't hesitate to contact me, or any of my Executive Committee colleagues, with your questions about ways you can get involved!

Christy Stevens, Chair  
*Instruction Section*  
2013–2014

## IS Discussion Forum at 2014 ALA Annual

The Discussion Group Steering Committee has a lively discussion planned for this year's Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Take a break from the glitz and gambling and join us on **Saturday, June 28, 2014**, from 4:30–5:30 p.m. in the Las Vegas Convention Center, Room N110 to discuss "*Thinking like a First Year Student: Academic Librarians' Educational Role.*"

Beth Tumbleson and Jessica Long from Miami University Middletown will lead a thought-provoking discussion on the varied challenges and opportunities instruction librarians encounter when teaching information literacy in a disruptive digital environment. The discussion will focus on three recent reports and studies that are redefining the role of academic instruction librarians in higher education:

- "[Learning the Ropes: How Freshmen Conduct Course Research Once They Enter College](#)," the latest Project Information Literacy report.

- [Ithaka S+R US Library Survey 2013](#)
- The draft of the [ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education](#)

Each of these publications presents opportunities for a lively conversation about the evolving role of instruction librarians on college and university campuses. Join the discussion and learn from your colleagues in this fun, collaborative forum. The date, time, and location of the Discussion Forum will be posted on the ALA Annual Conference Scheduler. Watch for an announcement on the ILI Listserv as well.

Should you have questions regarding the Discussion Forum please contact the Discussion Group Steering Committee co-chairs, Veronica Arellano Douglas ([varellano@gmail.com](mailto:varellano@gmail.com)) and Jennifer Knievel ([Jennifer.Knievel@colorado.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Knievel@colorado.edu)).

## 2014 Annual Instruction Section Soirée

The ACRL Instruction Section invites you to connect and socialize at the **ALA Annual IS Soirée**. This is a great opportunity for members of the Section as well as anyone interested in joining to meet, reconnect, or learn about the work of the Instruction Section.

**Date:** Saturday, June 28

**Time:** 6:00–7:30 p.m.

**Place:** Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant

**Address:** 3987 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV

**Map:** <https://goo.gl/maps/9E3cT>

All are welcome! Come enjoy an evening of good company and conversation at the IS Soirée! Please see this link for further information and to RSVP for the event: <http://tinyurl.com/ISsoiree2014>.



Erin Rinto ([erin.rinto@unlv.edu](mailto:erin.rinto@unlv.edu)) and Ernesto Hernandez ([ernesto.hernandez@nsc.edu](mailto:ernesto.hernandez@nsc.edu)), Co-Chairs  
ACRL Instruction Section Local Arrangements Committee

## From the desk of the Vice-Chair



Depending on where this newsletter finds you, spring may finally be coming into bloom. Here in the Boston metro area, the winter has been particularly harsh, and the bulbs bravely poking through the ground outside my office window are a welcome sight indeed. While I enjoy winter activities as much as the next person, I am very much looking forward to warmer temperatures and longer daylight hours in the months ahead.

I'm also looking forward to working with so many new individuals. For those of you who volunteered to serve on an IS Committee, my sincere thanks! Reading through your application materials has truly been inspiring, and reaffirms my impression of the Section as an exciting wellspring of incredible talent and enthusiasm. As of this writing, I am still not finished making appointments, so if you volunteered and haven't heard from me, please be patient. All appointments begin on July 1, so if you are appointed, you will definitely hear from me before that.

As much as I wish I could appoint everyone, there are a limited number of slots, and there are more volunteers than there are openings. However, if you don't hear from me by the end of June, there are other ways to get more involved. Appointment opportunities do come up throughout the year, either through resignations or the formations of new task forces. You do not need to re-apply for these positions – I have your information in the appointments database, and I can pull up your contact information there. As Christy has mentioned in her column, there are also many opportunities to connect with other members of the Section in Las Vegas, from our soirée to the discussion forum to the program.

If you have any questions about the appointment process or the Section in general, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me ([szarko@mit.edu](mailto:szarko@mit.edu)). Thank you all for the work you do, and for your commitment to student learning and success. It truly is a privilege to work with so many talented and inspiring individuals!

Mark Szarko, Vice-Chair  
*Instruction Section*  
2013–2014

## Report from the First-Year Experience Liaison

During the third week of February hundreds of higher education professionals escaped the snow and ice to converge on San Diego, California for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience. This conference, sponsored by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition (NRCFYE) brings together educators and administrators for three days of brainstorming, discussion, debate and reflection.

As the ACRL liaison to the NRCFYE, I organized informal social events and had the privilege of meeting librarians from around the country who are actively engaged in FYE initiatives on their campuses. Librarians are taking the lead on assessment projects, integrating innovative pedagogy into first-year seminars, building flexible learning spaces, and building successful collaborative partnerships.

The sessions at this conference are broad and varied, with several topics of particular interest to librarians. This year, there were multiple sessions focused on teaching and assessing the higher-order cognitive skills (e.g., critical thinking) that are important goals for library instruction programs. Libraries are investing significant resources into supporting high-impact pedagogical practices, like Common Reading Programs; multiple sessions dug into the challenges and the value of these programs. And the librarians in attendance had wonderful things to say about sessions focused on teaching practice and pedagogy, including embodied learning, syllabus design, and best practices for lecturing (really!).

If you'd like a taste of the conversations at this conference, I live-tweeted most of the sessions I attended using the conference hashtag, #FYE14. I also pulled out items of particular interest to librarians with the hashtag #FYE4lib. You'll find those here: <https://twitter.com/hashtag/fye4lib>

I'll be publicizing information about the 2015 conference, and the NRCFYE, on the ALA FYE Discussion group (<http://lists.ala.org/wws/info/acrl-fye>). Join now!

If you have any questions about the conference, the NRCFYE, or the experience of being an ACRL Liaison, feel free to ask ([anne-marie.deitering@oregonstate.edu](mailto:anne-marie.deitering@oregonstate.edu)).

Anne-Marie Deitering

*ACRL Liaison to the National Resource Center on the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition*

## Call for Exemplary Information Literacy Programs

The Information Literacy Best Practices Committee invites ongoing submissions for the forthcoming list of Exemplary Information Literacy Programs on the IS web site. Using a rubric based on the document, "Characteristics of Information Literacy Programs that Illustrate Best Practices: A Guideline," the committee will periodically review submissions in each of the ten categories laid out in the "Characteristics."

Visit our [application form](#) to participate, and view other documents at the [ILBP site](#). We hope to make this new professional development resource available in Summer 2014. Submissions received now are scheduled for review in Fall 2014. Contact committee chair Joe Goetz at [goetzje@gmail.com](mailto:goetzje@gmail.com) with any questions.



### **Assessment in Action: Year One Project Posters, I**

Friday, June 27, 2014, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

### **Assessment in Action: Year One Project Posters, II**

Saturday, June 28, 2014, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Assessment Project Posters! Presented by the first participants in ACRL's "Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success" program, made possible by IMLS. Librarian-led teams carried out assessment projects at their colleges and universities examining the impact of the library (instruction, reference, collections, space, and more) on student learning/success. In each session, half of the 75 teams will present posters. In mid-June, find poster abstracts at <http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/>

## News

### **Farkas, Hofer, Molinelli and Willson-St. Clair win 2014 ACRL IS Innovation Award**

Meredith Farkas, Amy Hofer, Lisa Molinelli and Kimberly Willson-St. Clair, all of Portland State University, have been selected to receive the 2014 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section (IS) Innovation Award for their work on the software [Library DIY](#), which assists students in find the information they need quickly. Farkas is general education instruction coordinator, Hofer is distance learning librarian and Molinelli and Willson-St. Clair are reference and instruction librarians at Portland State.

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 the group during the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

The full press release is available at <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2014/02/farkas-hofer-molinelli-and-willson-st-clair-win-2014-acrl-innovation-award>.

For more information regarding the ACRL IS Innovation Award, or a complete list of past recipients, please visit the [awards section](#) of the ACRL web site.

### **Holliday and Rogers receive 2014 ACRL Instruction Section Ilene F. Rockman Publication of the Year award**

Wendy Holliday, Head of Academic Programs and Course Support at Northern Arizona University, and Jim Rogers, Associate Professor and Director of the Intensive English Language Institute at Utah State University, 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 "[Talking About Information Literacy: The Mediating Role of Discourse in a College Writing Classroom](#)," published in 2013 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. Holliday and Rogers will receive the award during the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

The full text of the press release is available at <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2014/02/holliday-and-rogers-receive-2014-acrl-instruction-section-ilene-f-rockman>.

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

## PRIMO Moves to New Home

The ACRL IS PRIMO Committee would like to announce that the PRIMO Database has transitioned to a new home. This new web site (<http://primodb.org>) will house the online information literacy tutorials, virtual tours, and other online library instruction projects that met PRIMO selection criteria when they were evaluated, and were therefore accepted into the PRIMO Database. Beginning with the Spring 2014 Review Cycle, projects submitted and nominated for inclusion in PRIMO will come into the new database, and will be evaluated there by members of the PRIMO Committee. The PRIMO Committee would like to thank the [PRIMO Database Task Force](#), led by Britt Fagerheim, for spearheading this project and for all their hard work on it over the past few years. The committee would also like to thank Karen Arp, the person who designed and built the new database, for her great work, time, and patience in getting the database up and running.

## PRIMO featured in Blended Librarian webcast

PRIMO co-chairs Ben Oberdick and Alec Sonstebly presented a webcast in December to the Blended Librarian Online Learning Community. This popular series of webcasts is co-hosted by former ACRL president Stephen Bell and librarian John Shank. During the webcast, Ben and Alec shared insights on how projects are reviewed and accepted for inclusion in the PRIMO database. Joining Ben and Alec were Britt Fagerheim, who chairs the [PRIMO Database Task Force](#), and [Lane Wilkinson](#) and [Matt Upson](#), who have each had projects featured in [PRIMO Site of the Month interviews](#). You may watch the [archived webcast](#) at the Blended Librarian website.



ACRL's Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education Task Force is scheduled to release a revised draft of the Framework in mid-June. They will hold a hearing at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Las Vegas (Saturday, June 28, 10:30–11:30 a.m.) as well as online hearings in June. Task force members will continue the iterative process, modifying the *Framework* based on feedback they receive. They expect to submit a final document to the ACRL Board in August 2014 for their consideration and approval in September. For more see <http://acrl.ala.org/ilstandards/>



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