



# Instruction

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College and Research  
Libraries and American  
Library Association

# Section

## NEWSLETTER

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## From the desk of the Instruction Section Chair

As instruction librarians, Fall Semester is an ideal time to reflect upon what techniques and styles have worked well for us in the classroom, and also the changes we would like to make to strengthen the quality of our classroom sessions. As this year's work of the Instruction Section is now well under way, it is also a good time to think about positive changes for IS, and how we can continue to meet the needs of our membership.



To help undertake this project, the Committee Assessment Task Force has been formed to provide opportunities for chairs, committee members, and IS membership to give feedback in the coming months on their IS experience. As a result of this feedback, the Instruction Section will be able to make informed changes and better achieve its mission.

The Instruction Section is preparing for its fourth virtual Midwinter Conference. Instruction Section committees will hold virtual meetings in November and early December, so that their meeting reports and any questions are forwarded to the IS Executive Committee before our meeting at the in-person conference. All IS committee meetings, virtual or in-person, are open to anyone who would like to attend (with the rare exception of meetings marked as closed, such as Awards). In compliance with ALA's Open

Meeting policy, virtual committee meetings will be announced at least ten days in advance, and the agendas will be posted to ALA Connect. You are encouraged to contact the committee chair if you wish to participate in a committee's virtual meeting.

If you plan to attend the in-person Midwinter Conference in Seattle, Washington, I invite you to attend the events that the Instruction Section will host during this conference. On Friday, January 25, the IS Soirée will take place from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. On Saturday, January 26, the IS Current Topics Discussion will be held from 4:30 - 5:30 PM. Check the IS web site for locations and additional details about these events.

Once again, thank you all for generously volunteering to work with the Instruction Section. We are an innovative and productive Section because of your time and excellent efforts.

Susan Miller, Chair  
*Instruction Section*  
2012-2013

## Save the Date! Midwinter Program

The ACRL Discussion Group Steering Committee invites you to attend its Midwinter program, "Grad Students: Surprises, Skills, and Support." The discussion forum is scheduled for 4:30-5:30 PM on Saturday, January 26, 2013. Hope to see you there!

## Candidates for 2013 Election

The IS Nominating 2013 Committee is pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the Spring 2013 election of the Section's officers:

### **Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect**

Jennifer Knievel, University of Colorado at Boulder  
Mark Szarko, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### **Member-at-Large**

Nikhat J. Ghouse, University of Kansas  
Karen Munro, University of Oregon, Portland  
Russell Hall, Penn State Erie

### **Secretary**

Danielle Skaggs, California State University, Northridge  
Bonnie Imler, Penn State Altoona

Information about the duties of the Section's officers can be found on the IS website, and biographical information and a statement of purpose for each candidate will be available through the online ballot.

The Nominating Committee wishes to thank everyone who submitted nominations and extends particular thanks to those who agreed to stand for election.

Nominating Committee for 2013:

Lori DuBois, Chair  
Susanna Eng-Ziskin  
Ellysa Stern Cahoy

## From the desk of the Vice-Chair

Like many librarians, my first career path was not librarianship. Teaching was my first love, and I thrived upon both interacting with students, challenging them to think deeply and critically, and designing engaging activities and assignments that facilitate learning. Although I didn't have a clear idea at the time what librarians actually did, it never occurred to me that those kinds of teaching and learning experiences could be a fundamental facet of librarianship. However, as I gained experience teaching at the college level and learned more about my institution's library services, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the library offered a variety of instructional services and that teaching was a big part of many librarians' jobs. Although I wasn't yet familiar with the term "information literacy," I was already committed to teaching my students how to find, evaluate, and effectively and ethically use information in their research projects. When I learned that there were library jobs that allowed librarians to focus primarily on this kind of instruction, I was intrigued, and it wasn't long before I charted a new career path and enrolled in library school.



Career changes can be exciting but they are also often scary, and it can take a while to become acculturated to the discourses and values of the newly chosen profession and to find one's place within a professional community. My transition to librarianship was less disconcerting than it might otherwise have been, however, thanks primarily to the Instruction Section (IS). I discovered IS's strong web presence while enrolled in library school, and the [Projects](#)

[and Publications pages](#) were particularly helpful to me as an aspiring instruction librarian. Over ten years later, our projects and publications have grown richer still, offering librarians access to [mentoring opportunities](#), [peer reviewed instructional materials](#), [Instructional Technologies Tips and Trends](#), and a variety of documents outlining instruction related guidelines, proficiencies, and best practices, including [Guidelines for Instruction Programs in Academic Libraries](#), [Standards for Proficiencies for Instruction Librarians and Coordinators](#), and much more.

IS projects and publications are invaluable to new, mid-career, and seasoned instruction librarians alike, but so too is the IS community and the opportunities the section provides its members for networking with other librarians who are passionate about teaching and learning issues. Want to chat informally with other instruction librarians from around the country? Then join us for good company and conversation at our “Soirées,” held biannually at both the ALA annual and midwinter conferences. Interested in more formalized networking and professional development opportunities? Then consider volunteering for an IS committee. I volunteered and was appointed to the Information Literacy in the Disciplines committee early in my career, an experience that not only introduced me to dynamic colleagues from around the country but also counted toward my institutions’ professional activities requirements for retention, tenure, and promotion. Years later, in my new role as Vice-Chair of the Instruction Section, it is now my pleasure to have the opportunity to appoint others to our 20+ [committees and task forces](#).

To volunteer for a committee, please fill out the committee [volunteer form](#) by February 15, 2013 (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/membership/volunteer/volunteer>). Keep in mind that we are a large section with a very active membership, and as a result, it is not always possible to provide every volunteer with a committee appointment. However, attending IS events and discussing your interest in specific committees with committee chairs or members of the section’s Executive Committee can increase your chances of being appointed. So too can volunteering to serve as a Committee Secretary. Committee Secretaries are full committee members with the additional responsibility of taking and distributing meeting minutes. Most committee appointments will be made by the end of March 2013, with new terms beginning immediately following the 2013 ALA Annual Conference.

If you have questions about ways you can get involved with the Instruction Section, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly at [crstevens@csupomona.edu](mailto:crstevens@csupomona.edu). I look forward to working with you!

Christy Stevens, Vice-Chair  
Instruction Section  
2012-2013

## Save the Date for the IS Soirée in Seattle!

The IS soirée for ALA Midwinter conference in Seattle will take place on Friday, January 25, 2013, from 5:30 -7:00 PM. Details on the venue and how to sign up will be coming soon!

Jackie Belanger ([jbelanger@uwb.edu](mailto:jbelanger@uwb.edu)) and  
Dave Ellenwood ([dellenwood@uwb.edu](mailto:dellenwood@uwb.edu))  
Midwinter 2013 Local Arrangements Co-Chairs



## Check out the newly designed instructional [Workbook!](#)

[Analyzing your Instructional Environment: A Workbook](#), an ACRL Instruction Section publication, is a practical guide for instruction coordinators and managers to use in the environmental analysis of their own unique situations.

Environmental scanning assists educational institutions in understanding the changing needs of learners and in shaping how they market their programs and services to meet those needs. Instruction programs are not static and many factors affect their ever-changing goals and needs. Major initiatives such as an institution's strategic planning process, curriculum changes, and accreditation reviews greatly influence the instructional programs, services, and environment.

Instruction Librarians wanting to understand how to effectively engage in their institution's instructional environment would benefit from using this workbook. The workbook guides practitioners through an environmental scan and provides information such as nationally established guidelines, possible local resources to consult, questions to ask, and sources for additional reading.

## Committee Assessment Task Force Seeks Input from Section Members

The Instruction Section works hard to be responsive to the needs of its membership, and has been a leader within ACRL in piloting changes such as virtual committee memberships. While changes in our environment often cause us to move quickly, we do our best to carefully evaluate any changes, getting input from IS members and maintaining the historic strengths of the Section. As we have done periodically, it is once again time to evaluate our committee structures in order to be sure that we are serving our members effectively.

A Committee Assessment Task Force has been convened to conduct a review and recommend changes to the Executive Committee. We welcome and encourage your participation in this process, and you can look for the following opportunities for input:

- This fall, a survey to evaluate the usefulness of committee structures, projects, and publications, as well as how committees can operate more effectively in the future
- If you are currently serving on a committee, an opportunity for discussion and input during your Midwinter virtual meeting
- At the ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago, an open Forum to discuss recommendations and provide input on next steps
- Additional opportunities for input at meetings and via email

The Task Force will be providing information to the Executive Committee throughout the year as we work through a number of changes, including the new ACRL Plan for Excellence and the ongoing migration to more virtual opportunities for Section involvement. For additional information, contact IS Chair Susan Miller ([susanmiller123@gmail.com](mailto:susanmiller123@gmail.com)) or Task Force Chair Sarah McDaniel ([smcdaniel@library.wisc.edu](mailto:smcdaniel@library.wisc.edu)).

Sarah McDaniel, Daisy Benson, and Mark Szarko  
*IS Committee Assessment Task Force*

# Committee News:

## Seeking Reviews of Instructional Technologies

Are you currently using a classroom control system in your library instruction?  
Are you interested in sharing your views about how a particular system or product works?

The Instructional Technologies Committee would like to invite librarians to contribute reviews to our Classroom Control Systems wiki: [http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Classroom\\_Control\\_Systems](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/Classroom_Control_Systems)

We are looking for short reviews (200–500 words) of classroom control systems, covering both the strengths and weaknesses of a particular system, as well as ideas for potential teaching applications. The reviews are intended as a guide for those investigating the different classroom control systems options available, and as a source for creative ideas about how these systems can be used in information literacy instruction.

More information is available in the ‘Submit a Review’ section of the wiki.

Please email the committee co-chairs, Amanda Izenstark ([amanda@uri.edu](mailto:amanda@uri.edu)) and Brad Sietz ([bsietz@emich.edu](mailto:bsietz@emich.edu)) if you have any questions or are interested in submitting a review.

## PRIMO: Accepted Projects

The IS PRIMO Committee is delighted to announce that three new projects were accepted into the PRIMO (Peer-Reviewed Instructional Materials Online) database. The accepted projects and the creators are as follows:

- [Digital Learning Resources for EndNote; a bibliographic software package](#). Terry O'Brien, Nora Heagarty, Alan Carbery, John Moloney, Delia Foley of the Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford, Ireland.
- [How to use a database](#). Lane Wilkinson, Beverly Kutz, Erin McFarland of University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.
- [Online tutorials](#). San Jose State University Library faculty and graduate students.

More information about these projects can be found on the PRIMO [Accepted Projects webpage](#).

Congratulations to the creators of these excellent tutorials! Look for interviews with the creators of these projects at the PRIMO Site of the Month website during the next few months. For more information about PRIMO, including Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 nomination and submission deadlines, visit the [PRIMO website](#) or contact committee co-chairs Duffy Tweedy ([dtweedy@uscd.edu](mailto:dtweedy@uscd.edu)) and Ben Oberdick ([oberdic1@mail.lib.msu.edu](mailto:oberdic1@mail.lib.msu.edu)).

## Suggestions, Please!

How would you like to read and receive the IS Newsletter, and what do you want to read in it? Inquiring minds want to know! The Communications Committee is considering new formatting options and is open to refreshing the content. Please send suggestions/feedback to Megan Hayes Mahoney ([meganohayes@gmail.com](mailto:meganohayes@gmail.com)).

# Awards Committee: Nominations Sought

## 1. Instruction Section Innovation Award

The Instruction Section Innovation Award recognizes a project from within the previous two years that demonstrates creative, innovative, or unique approaches to information literacy instruction or programming. Past awards have recognized well-known programs and initiatives such as the WASSAIL Information Literacy Assessment Project, the World War II Poster Project, the Embedded Librarian Project, the Community Workshop Series, and the UWired Freshman Interest Group Program. The creators of the winning project will be awarded a \$3,000 cash prize donated by ProQuest.

Nominations must describe how the nominated project meets the award criteria and include a letter of support and additional documents to present the project's purpose, content, impact, and innovative aspects.

A complete description of this award, including eligibility and selection criteria, submission requirements, and past recipients, is available on the IS Web site at

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/innovationaward>

## 2. Instruction Section Ilene F. Rockman Instruction Publication Award

The Ilene F. Rockman Instruction Publication of the Year Award honors the late Dr. Ilene Rockman, a nationally recognized leader in information literacy. The Rockman Award recognizes an outstanding article or book on instruction or information literacy in an academic library environment, published within the last two years. Publications are judged on the basis of relevance to the field of instruction in academic or research libraries, originality, timeliness, and quality of writing. Winners are awarded a \$3,000 cash prize donated by the Emerald Group.

Nominations must include a complete citation, a letter of support explaining how the publication meets the award criteria and, whenever possible, a copy of the publication.

A complete description of this award, including eligibility and selection criteria, submission requirements, and past recipients, is available on the IS Web site at

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/publicationawards/publicationyear>.

## Submission Deadline for Both Awards: November 21, 2012

All submissions must be received electronically.

Send the nomination to the IS Awards Committee Co-Chairs, Robin Kear ([rlk25@pitt.edu](mailto:rlk25@pitt.edu)) and Erin Ellis ([eellis@ku.edu](mailto:eellis@ku.edu)).

## Other Announcements:

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Elana Karshmer**, who was promoted to Associate Professor as of Fall 2012! Elana is the Instruction Program and Information Literacy Librarian at Cannon Memorial Library at Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, Florida.

### Apply for Immersion '13

ACRL is currently accepting applications for the Information Literacy Immersion '13 Program (Teacher and Program tracks) to be held July 28-August 2, 2013 at Seattle University. Immersion '13 provides four-and-a-half days of intensive information literacy training and education for academic librarians. Acceptance to Immersion '13 is competitive to ensure an environment that fosters group interaction and active participation. Complete program and track details, along with application materials, are [available online](#). The application deadline is December 7, 2012, and notifications will be issued in February 2013. Questions concerning the program or application process should be directed to Margot Conahan at (312) 280-2522 or e-mail [mconahan@ala.org](mailto:mconahan@ala.org).

### ACRL Awarded Second IMLS Grant to Build Profession's Capacity to Demonstrate Value

ACRL has been awarded a National Leadership Demonstration Grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the project "Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success." The grant funding of \$249,330 will support ACRL, in partnership with the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and build on their IMLS 2011 Collaborative Planning Grant which convened two invitational summits. With this grant, a professional development program to strengthen the competencies of librarians in campus leadership and data-informed advocacy will be designed, implemented and evaluated.

Librarians who participate in the program, supported by a blended learning environment and a peer-to-peer network, will lead their campus teams in the development and implementation of an action learning project examining the impact of the library on student success and contributing to assessment activities on their campus. The projects will result in a variety of approaches to assessing library impact on student learning which will be documented and disseminated for use by the wider academic library and higher education communities. The different perspectives and experiences represented by the institutional team members will foster a collaborative approach to assessing the library's impact on student learning and success on the campus of each participating institution.

Information about how to apply to participate in the first cohort will be available in January 2013. Contact Kara Malenfant, ACRL senior strategist for special initiatives, at [kmalenfant@ala.org](mailto:kmalenfant@ala.org) or (312) 280-2510 with questions about the grant or the Value of Academic Libraries initiative.



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