Although I have lived in New England for several years now, I still can’t get used to the stunning transformation that happens to the region every autumn. The breathtaking color and cooling temperatures helps me to take stock on where I’ve been, and helps me start planning for the months ahead. The Instruction Section is currently going through change as well, and while maybe not quite as dramatic as Massachusetts foliage in October, the difference is going to be remarkable.

For the past year, the Executive Committee has been considering either new projects or new ways to think about longstanding ones. Several committees are now hard at work specifically on ways to revise either their charges or their publications. Although I can’t share many details just yet, the intent is to make that work not just more rewarding and relevant for them, but for the profession as well. One theme we have been hearing consistently from different sources is a desire for more professional development opportunities sponsored by the Section, both in-person and virtual. We are looking actively at both, and I’ve appointed a Preconference Committee to look into bringing that kind of programming back to the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. So stay tuned!

Although IS will not be meeting at the upcoming 2015 American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Chicago, that doesn’t mean you can’t connect with other members of the Section virtually. Most IS committees hold regular virtual meetings throughout the year, and unless the meeting is specifically marked as closed, anyone is more than welcome to attend any of them. Agendas are posted in ALA Connect at least ten days prior to the meeting, or you can always directly contact the chair of the committee whose meeting you’d like to attend. For those of you looking for other ways to connect with other members of the profession, the Discussion Group Steering Committee will sponsor a virtual discussion group sometime this winter. The Section’s Twitter feed (@ACRL-IS) and Facebook page are also great ways to stay on top of what some of your colleagues are doing.

In an organization as large and complex as IS, change never happens overnight, nor is it ever the work of a single individual. I’m incredibly grateful to members of the Executive Committee, past and present, and numerous committee chairs, co-chairs, and vice-chairs for their creative thinking and willingness to tackle new projects. I’m also grateful to all of you – for the feedback you’ve provided, the questions you’ve asked – all of it makes the Section that much stronger. It’s such a pleasure and a privilege to work with and on behalf of such extraordinary talent!

As Mark Szarko noted in his message, fall is a time of changes and new opportunities. I am so pleased to serve as Vice-Chair of the Instruction Section for the coming year, and I am truly looking forward to working more closely with our Section’s many initiatives. The Instruction Section became my professional home when I became an academic librarian at Penn State back in 2001. Thirteen years later, I am excited to continue my involvement with the Section, and help our members, both new and veteran, connect with the Section and share their expertise on a national level.

On that note, the time to make appointments to IS committees is rapidly approaching! As Vice-Chair of the Section, it is my job to make these appointments, and as much as possible, match your interests and background with available committee seats. This is a great opportunity to get involved with our Section, and we want you to participate! Take a look at the committee charges, and see what interests you. If it is your first IS appointment, keep in mind that you may not always get appointed to your first choice committee, due to the large number of members seeking appointment and reappointment each year. If you’re open to serving on any committee where help is needed, note that on your application form! This increases your chances of initial placement, and gives you additional time during your first year of committee involvement to learn more about where you’d like to be involved in IS. Once you’ve looked through the committee charges, fill out the ACRL volunteer form (this form is for ACRL, but it pertains to all ACRL Sections, as well). Your form must be submitted by February 15, 2014, and most appointments will be finalized by April 30, 2014.

If you need help with this process, our Membership Committee has made some terrific videos on Getting Involved in the Instruction Section and Options for Involvement.

If you have any questions about the volunteering process, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly via e-mail at elysa@psu.edu. I would love to hear from you, and I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you might have. Best wishes for a wonderful fall–I’m looking forward to working with you this year!

Did You Know?

ACRL members can view full contact information for all ACRL section committee rosters by logging into the ACRL Web site.
Kickstart the Future of ACRL

You definitely know that we are celebrating ACRL’s 75th Anniversary. You probably know that ACRL was ALA’s first official division. You might know that Phineas L. Windsor was first president of ACRL as a self-governing division. I hope you know that to celebrate and honor this Anniversary ACRL is conducting a major fundraising campaign to raise money for scholarships to ACRL 2015. ACRL seeks to raise $50,000 by December 31, 2014, to provide 75 additional scholarships for these members to attend the conference to be held March 25-28, 2015, in Portland, Oregon.

We’ve already raised more than $33,000 during the advance phase of the campaign. Now we invite you to pay it forward and invest in the profession’s future leaders (and their libraries) as they seek to advance learning and transform scholarship in the 21st century. With your contribution (of any amount), we can ensure the future vitality of the profession, the association, and the diversity of our conference.

This is also a great opportunity for ACRL committees, sections and groups to show their support by establishing group scholarship goals. Some of those that have already established group goals include: the College & Research Libraries Editorial Board, Distance Learning Section (DLS), Education and Social Sciences Section (EBSS), Literatures in English (LES), Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS), Research and Scholarly Environment Committee, Science and Technology Section (STS), University Libraries Section (ULS), and the Value of Academic Libraries Committee. A page on the 75th Anniversary website acknowledges all group contributions. We have made great progress towards our goal but we are not there yet. Please consider making an individual donation or encourage your group to get together to fund a scholarship or commit to achieving 100% Board participation. For more information on how to get involved visit the Scholarship Campaign FAQ page. Help ACRL kickstart the future with your contribution.

Steven Bell, ACRL 75th Anniversary Campaign Chair

Registration is Now Open!

Register by February 13, 2015 and save more than 20%!

2014 American Library Association Annual Conference Recordings Available

Full registrants from the 2014 American Library Association Annual Conference can access recorded sessions.

The IS Instructional Technologies Committee is Tweeting!

Interested in keeping up with the latest in instructional technology? Check out the Instructional Technologies Committee Twitter (@ACRL_IS_ITECH) account where you’ll find news, tools, trends, techniques, and other food for thought for the busy instruction librarian.

EBSCO Offers Scholarships: Apply by November 3

EBSCO is offering five scholarships for $1,500 each to librarians who want to attend the 2015 American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Chicago. Deadline to apply is November 3rd. Click here for full details and link to application.

Looking for Professional Development Opportunities?

ACRL is offering a multi-week, asynchronous, web-based course from January to February, 2015 titled “From Tutorials to Courses: Building an Engaging Online Experience for Your Audience.” Click here for full details.

Registration will be available this fall.
Apply by Nov. 11 to Host ACRL 2015 Scholarly Communication Workshop as Road Show

Today’s academic and research librarians increasingly act as change agents in the higher education community. Nowhere is this truer than in the realm of open access and scholarly communication. To help empower our community in accelerating the transformation of the scholarly communication system, ACRL is once again taking its popular scholarly “Scholarly Communications: From Understanding to Engagement” workshop on the road to five locations in 2015. The day-long workshop is led by two expert presenters at locations across the country, and the content is updated annually to meet the evolving needs of the community.

The program continues its cost-sharing model as ACRL is committed to underwriting the bulk of the expense for delivering the road show, and the cost for successful host institutions is $2,000. The application to host is now available. Apply by Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. Central. Find out more on the program website.

In addition to the competitive subsidized version, you may bring this one-day workshop, at full cost, to your campus, chapter, or consortia year round.

Check Out the Latest Tips and Trends on “Technology for Flipping the Classroom.”

Brought to you by the IS Instructional Technologies Committee

Flipped classrooms – also referred to as inverted classrooms or flipped learning – are the strategic reversal of the traditional classroom: initial student exposure or exploration of learning content happens outside of the classroom in order to allow for clarification and active engagement of learning content inside of the classroom. Technology used to achieve a flipped classroom may include newly developed technologies or older technologies repurposed for the task. Regardless of the technology’s age, the collection of tools available for flipping the classroom continues to expand, and it is the technologies behind the flipped classroom that are the focus of this guide.

Read the latest edition of Tips and Trends.

New Projects Accepted Into PRIMO Database

The IS PRIMO Committee is delighted to announce that five new projects were accepted into the PRIMO (Peer-Reviewed Instructional Materials Online) database after the committee’s latest round of reviews. The accepted projects and the creators are as follows:

- Developing a Research Question, Joanne Oud, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Auburn University’s Plagiarism Tutorial, Cate Oravet, James Truman, Tony Oravet, Auburn University
- Research Tracker, Jacalyn Kremer, Wilt Messangnil, Philip Bahr, Joan Clark, Curtis Ferree, Ramona Islam, Jessica McCullough, Christina McGowen, Laura Weber, Fairfield University
- Ship to Shore Information Literacy Tutorial, Christy Fic and Kirk Moll, Shippensburg University
- My Learning Essentials, Jade Kelsall, Jody McGurk, Jennie Blake, Sam Aston, Neil Sprunt, Dave Hirst, John Hynes, The University of Manchester

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 fall.

If you would like to nominate a project to be considered for inclusion in the PRIMO database, the fall deadline is October 31. Submit your own project for consideration no later than November 14.

Learn more about PRIMO.

Alec Sonsteby (Alexander.Sonsteby@metrostate.edu), PRIMO Co-chair
Jodie Borgerding (jbegerding80@webster.edu), PRIMO Co-chair.

IS Awards Committee: Nominations Sought

1. Instruction Section Innovation Award ($3,000 cash prize)

The Instruction Section Innovation Award recognizes a project from within the past two years that demonstrates creative, innovative, or unique approaches to information literacy instruction or programming. The creators of the winning project will be awarded a $3,000 cash prize. Past awards have recognized well-known programs and initiatives such as the WASSAIL Information Literacy Assessment Project, the Guide on the Side software, and the software Library DIY. Nominations must describe how the project nominated meets the award criteria and should include a letter of support and additional documentation presenting the project’s purpose, content, impact, and innovative aspects.

A complete description of the award, including eligibility and selection criteria, submission requirements, and a list of past recipients is available on the IS website.
2. Instruction Section Ilene F. Rockman Instruction Publication Award ($3,000 prize)
The Ilene F. Rockman Instruction Publication of the Year Award honors the late Dr. Ilene F. Rockman, a nationally recognized leader in the field of information literacy. The Rockman Award acknowledges 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 their 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 for the award must include a complete citation, letter of support explaining how the publication meets the award criteria, and whenever possible, a copy of the publication itself.

A complete description of the award, including eligibility and selection criteria, submission requirements, and a list of past recipients is available on the IS website.

The submission deadline for both the Innovation Award and the Ilene F. Rockman Award is December 5, 2014. All submissions must be received electronically. Please send nominations to IS Awards Committee Chair Susanna Eng-Ziskin (susanna.eng@gmail.com).

Call for Award Nominations
Excellence in Academic Libraries Award
$3,000 and a plaque
Sponsored by YBP Library Services

Academic/Research Librarian of the Year
$5,000 and a plaque
Sponsored by YBP Library Services

Information for many other award opportunities can be found on the ACRL Web site, or by contacting Chase Ollis at (312) 280-2521 or collis@ala.org

DEADLINE: December 5, 2014

Report from the Nominating Committee
The ACRL IS Nominating 2015 Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the spring 2015 election.

Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect:
Jennifer Knievel, University of Colorado at Boulder
Merinda McLure, Colorado State University

Secretary / Archivist:
Benjamin Oberdick, Michigan State University
Lizz Zitron, Pacific Lutheran University

Member-at-Large:
Carrie Donovan, Indiana University
Britt Fagerheim, Utah State University
Sara Miller, Michigan State University

The online ballot will include biographical information and a statement of purpose for each candidate.

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations, and special thanks to the candidates for your willingness to serve the Instruction Section.

Nominating 2015 Committee:
Stephanie Michel, Chair
Joe Goetz
Wendy Holliday
Connect with the Instruction Section on Social Media!

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