

# SLA Social Sciences & Humanities Division

serving as a vital forum for the exchange of information and knowledge.

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## Call for Posters for 2010 SLA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

April 8, 2010 Categories: Annual Conference, Social Science Division Archived Posts

### How Info Pros Use Social Media and/or Social Events to Reach Out to New Clients

The [Academic](#); [Education](#); [Museums, Arts, & Humanities](#); and [Social Science](#) Divisions of SLA invite proposals for a poster session to be held during the divisions' Poster Session and Open House at [SLA 2010](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Poster Session and Open House will be held on Monday, June 14 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at The Historic New Orleans Collections, 533 Royal Street in the historic French Quarter.

In keeping with the SLA 2010 conference theme, "Entering SLA's Next Century: Let the Good Times Roll," the theme for the poster session is "**How Info Pros Use Social Media and/or Social Events [‘the good times’] to Reach Out to New Clients.**" Proposals should focus on the use of social media and social events in libraries or information work. Posters may include examples of social media tools in use, innovative ideas for future uses, comparisons of available tools, descriptions of successful social events, or any other idea relevant to the theme.

The poster session will be a relaxed and informal time to share ideas with your colleagues. We welcome proposals from any SLA member, new or experienced, and especially from students. In the event we receive more qualified submissions than we can accommodate, members of the four sponsoring divisions and student members will be given priority.

Proposals should be submitted by **May 1, 2010** via e-mail to [lyleminter@yahoo.com](mailto:lyleminter@yahoo.com) or mail to Lyle Minter, 3137 Eakin Park Court, Fairfax, VA 22031 USA. Please include a title and description of about 250 words, and your name, institution, e-mail address, and address.

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee for relevance to the theme and quality. We will notify applicants of our decision by May 10, 2010.



# Whither SLA?

December 20, 2010 Categories: Alignment Project, SLA, Social Science Division Archived Posts

*2011 DSOC Secretary/Treasurer Kadri Kalikorm-Rhodes offers her thoughts on the role of SLA, DSOC and special libraries...feel free to leave a response in the comments!*

The libraries and information centers we work at are becoming increasingly less like each other, molding themselves more and more to the exact needs and requirements of our host institutions. That also means that the kinds of services we provide varies immensely. In fact, we may end up linked to our fellow professionals by a graduate degree (for most of us) and a little more than the passion for managing information and exemplary customer service, as many of SLA members are becoming high-level subject matter experts in specific research or policy areas, while others end up spending most of our time wrangling KM projects, metatagging or curating electronic publications. Is this inevitable? Pretty much, I think. Look at it one way, it is a question of professional survival. On the other hand, it is also an opportunity to reinvent ourselves and our libraries or information, making both (more) central, more essential, to the core business of the institution we are serving.

So where would that leave SLA, and Social Science Division in particular? Is there a role for them? I believe so. In fact, I think that in this era of increased accountability and demands on our time and resources, SLA (and the annual conference in particular) could be crucial for special librarians (for lack of better common term – you know who you are..) by doing two things: providing an opportunity to network and learn from the experience of others in the same shoes, and by giving members a chance to get quick overviews of new technological developments, catch up with vendors, and learn things not immediately related to any urgent issues burning a hole our inboxes (if you're anything like me, you spend most of your days on fireman-duty during the rest of the year..). So I am optimistic. But enough about me – what do YOU think?

# Call for Posters – WIN A \$200 AMEX GIFT CARD!

March 7, 2011 Categories: Annual Conference, Social Science Division Archived Posts

*Submit a poster for our DSOC poster session at SLA 2011. Presenting a poster gives you an opportunity to share ideas with your colleagues in an informal setting – and this year, the opportunity to win a \$200 AMEX gift card!*

## **Future Ready: Innovative services for the user of the future**

The Academic; Education; Museums, Arts, & Humanities; and Social Science Divisions of SLA invite proposals for a poster session to be held during the divisions' Poster Session and Open House at SLA 2011 in Philadelphia, PA.

Proposals should focus on innovative services and products which look at the future of libraries, museums and information work. Possible topics could include, but are not limited to, case studies of a new service to concepts of the user of the future.

The poster session will be a relaxed and informal time to share ideas with your colleagues. We welcome proposals from any SLA member, new or experienced, and especially from students. In the event we receive more qualified submissions than we can accommodate, members of the four sponsoring divisions and student members will be given priority.

Proposals should be submitted by April 15, 2011 via e-mail to [april.colosimo@mcgill.ca](mailto:april.colosimo@mcgill.ca). Please include a title and description of no more than 250 words, and your name, institution, e-mail address, and address. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee for relevance to the theme and quality. We will notify applicants of our decision by May 1, 2011.

# Anatomy of a Librarian

December 2, 2011 Categories: Social Science Division Archived Posts



photo by moqub

Check out this [infographic](#) about librarians. Much of it is no surprise to anyone in the profession – for example, that only 1% of librarians are 20-24, considering most jobs require a masters degree and many choose librarianship as a second career, or that women outnumber men.

But our chair-elect, Brandy, pointed out that the chart for employment only includes local government (27%) and educational institutions (59%) as employers. What about the other 14%?

While many Social Science Division members do work for educational institutions, and some probably are employed by local government, I would guess that most of us fall into that 14%. I know I do, as the librarian for a nonprofit research library. Some of you probably even work for yourselves, like Brandy.

Whether you fall into the 14% or the 86%, I'd love to hear what you think of this depiction of the profession, and what kind of organization you work in. Let us know in the comments!

*(By the way, I think the 59% and 27% numbers come from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). It strikes me as pure laziness to take those numbers and slap them into a pie chart that doesn't even add up to 100%.)*

# How SLA helped me land my dream job

March 21, 2012 Categories: SLA, Social Science Division Archived Posts



Me in the American Philatelic Research Library

One of the benefits of belonging to a professional association is that it can help you when you are job seeking. SLA helps in some very obvious ways – through the sharing of job announcements on division and chapter e-mail lists, through mentoring and resume review services, and through connections made at networking events. It can also help in some less obvious ways, even when you aren't actively looking for a job.

I first visited the [American Philatelic Research Library](#) on a tour with my local SLA chapter (the Central Pennsylvania Chapter, now part of the [Philadelphia Chapter](#)). I knew the American Philatelic Society's headquarters was located in Bellefonte, PA, just a few miles from my home, but until that tour I had no idea that a large portion of the building was occupied by a very special library.

I immediately loved everything about the library, from its physical location in a renovated factory building in a small Victorian town to the obvious enthusiasm of the staff and patrons. The depth and breadth of the literature of philately (stamp collecting) amazed me. Having worked in a public library, I was familiar with the [Scott Catalogues](#), but I had no idea how much research and writing philatelists did.

I was happy with my job in a research center at Penn State, and the APRL wasn't hiring, so it was filed away in my mind as an interesting place to visit, but I couldn't help daydreaming about the place. So, several years later, when I saw an advertisement for a librarian, I couldn't resist applying.

SLA had helped me find the job, and SLA also helped me get the job.

In my application and in my interview, I mentioned that I'd first visited the library with an SLA group, and I described my leadership experience in my chapter and in the Social Science Division. During my interview, I had to give a talk to the staff directors, and I was prepared because of public speaking I'd done in SLA. I could say that I had experience planning events and working with volunteers because I'd been a program planner for DSOC.

During the interview, I got positive comments on my SLA experience, so I know it was a plus. Those positive comments also reassured me when I was considering the offer that my new employer valued and would support

my professional development and leadership opportunities.

# Are you surrounded by information junk food?

April 24, 2012 Categories: Social Science Division Archived Posts

*This post was written by Laura Puls, Assistant Director of Research and Collections Services at the Council on Foreign Relations.*



DuckDuckGo, an ad-free search engine that does not track individuals' search histories, presents a [visual explanation](#) of why you and your colleagues get different search results in Google and Bing—and how these search engines modify future results based on your searches. Eli Pariser often discusses this concept (“invisible algorithmic editing of the web”). Pariser wrote [The Filter Bubble: What the Internet is Hiding from You](#) and gave a [TedTalk about the “search bubble”](#) where he challenges Google, Microsoft, Facebook, and other tech executives to do business differently, to not tailor (and, consequently, censor) results based on user preferences:

“Because they are mainly looking at what you click on first...instead of a balanced information diet, you can end up surrounded by information junk food.”

Pariser and a former The Onion employee started [Upworthy](#), a news aggregation and sharing site in which humans, not algorithms, select articles that discuss issues that “really matter.”

# Summary of “How to Present a Poster” Webinar

April 26, 2012 Categories: Annual Conference

*This post was written by Laura Palumbo, Rutgers MLIS student and co-webmaster of the [Student College, Academic, and Research Libraries Association \(SCARLA\)](#).*

I just attended a [a webinar on how to present a poster](#) presented by Tara Murray, Director of Information Services/Librarian for the American Philatelic Research Library, and hosted by the Social Science Division of SLA. The webinar was a great concise outline of poster construction and presentation. You can get more information from her blog at <http://diylibrarian.org/archive/2012/04/10/posters/>

I know this will come in handy for my upcoming poster at NJLA!

- Read the instructions! Follow the directions for poster size and format.
- Include your name on your poster- nobody wants to be anonymous. Generally, your poster should include:
  - Title of your poster
  - Authors and affiliations
  - Contact information
  - Intro/abstract- check with instructions if required or not wanted
  - Methods, if a research study, or a description
  - Conclusion
  - References and acknowledgements (optional)
- Posters can be created using Adobe Illustrator, or MS PowerPoint.
- Your title font should be at least 1.5 inches, the rest of the text at least 24 pt font- readable from 3-4' away. All caps are difficult to read, as are fancy fonts. Sans-serif is good for titles; serif fonts may be easier to read in the body.
- Color is good for highlighting important points, but don't go crazy. Contrast is important- don't use light text on light background.
- Leave space around your text. Posters are visual- use images.
- Don't laminate- it makes the poster heavy, and causes glare.
- Carry your poster in a tube or carrying case, especially if flying.
- Handouts are a good place for additional information that didn't fit on the poster, and for contact information. They should remind people of your poster.
- Read the instructions so you are prepared with mounting materials, and check to see if you have a table for handouts, and electricity for a laptop. On the day of your presentation, arrive early to set up. Stay near your poster to answer questions.

# What rights do employees, employers and unions have on social media?

May 29, 2012 Categories: Labor Issues Section, Social Media, Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by Marilyn Bromley, Past Chair of DSOC*

The [National Labor Relations Board](#) is an independent federal agency that “acts to prevent and remedy unfair labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions.”

Last summer they noted that there have been a number of emerging cases involving social media in the workplace, mainly around three areas:

- The nature of employees’ social media posts
- The “coercive impact” of unions’ social media posts
- The lawfulness of employers’ social media policies

The NLRB has issued two memos that review cases about these issues. The press releases give some good “take-aways” about which practices are protected and which have been found unlawful, and the memos provide a detailed look at a number of cases.

August 18, 2011

Press release: <http://www.nlr.gov/news/acting-general-counsel-releases-report-social-media-cases>

Full Memo — OM 11-74: <http://mynlrb.nlr.gov/link/document.aspx/09031d458056e743>

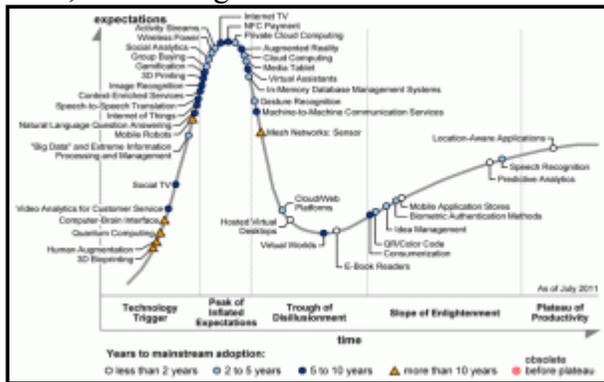
January 24, 2012

Press release: <http://www.nlr.gov/news/acting-general-counsel-issues-second-social-media-report>

Full Memo — OM 12-31: <http://mynlrb.nlr.gov/link/document.aspx/09031d45807d6567>

# Pushing Webscale up the Slope of Enlightenment

June 7, 2012 Categories: Other Conferences & Associations, Social Science Division Archived Posts



## Hype Cycle of Emerging Technologies

*This post was written by DSOC member Laura Puls, Assistant Director of Research and Collections Services at the [Council on Foreign Relations](#).*

On May 23, 2012 librarians gathered at University of Baltimore’s Westminster Hall, feet from Edgar Allan Poe’s burial site, to look into the future, [a future that](#) “lowers Total Cost of Ownership, while...increasing efficiency in library management and providing a platform for libraries.” For librarians, this long-desired vision has evolved into various forms of automation and streamlining, at its current iteration in the Integrated Library System. The ILS may soon be “Nevermore,” as a [library services platform](#) is projected to move in, operating at “webscale.”

## What is webscale?

What is webscale, the idea that underpinned the [OCLC-Lyris WorldShare Management Services Symposium](#)? Teasing out answers from my conference notes and from [definitions blogs had to offer](#), here’s my recap: *webscale is a networked system (“the cloud”), which encourages organizations to think of resources and impact beyond their local environment and capabilities. As technology becomes faster, ubiquitous, and less expensive, it is possible to improve the visibility, usability, and reliability of services, at both local and global levels.*

## Reducing workload for similar functions across libraries

Our first speaker at the symposium, [Andrew Pace \(head of OCLC’s webscale initiative\)](#) explains the purpose of this “next platform” in his blog, [Hectic Pace](#): “Anyone can dismantle a library resource management system, but few could put one back together in a way that introduces efficiencies, reduces total cost of technology ownership, and opens up the doors to a robust developer community.” [OCLC’s WorldShare Management Services](#) aims to do just that: provide a community platform where librarians can share their work for the wide range of activities that often aren’t very different from library to library. As Andrew quipped during his presentation: “no library checks out a book uniquely.” In addition to sharing the workload of technical services, OCLC WMS offers a gallery of apps created by librarians for automating, updating, and all-around making their services run smoothly.

## Free and Open-Source Software

The second speaker, Peter Murray (Assistant Technology Services Development at Lyris; [blogger at Disruptive Librarian Technology Jester](#)), discussed implementing Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) for webscale and gave examples of developer FOSS communities operating in the cloud (first two outside the library community; last two within): [Apache Foundation](#); [Eclipse](#); [Koha](#); and [Kuali](#). While FOSS gives libraries the rights to use, copy, inspect, modify, and create separate versions of a software or app, Peter re-emphasized

[various librarians' FOSS analogy](#): “free, not like free beer, but like a free kitten” — you are still responsible for its long-term TLC.

He went on to outline a framework of responsibilities for participating in the open source community:

- congratulate developers on apps you appreciate;
- share what you have;
- report and solve problems;
- contribute money;
- help others; and
- document what you've done.

You can evaluate the fitness of implementing an open source system for your library on [Foss4lib.org](#).

### **What do librarians need to make webscale happen?**

During the brainstorm session, librarians (grouped by their roles) began thinking “on a scale” about the questions of what we would need in order to:

- **Minimize** the duplication of general services,
- **Distribute** the oft-times repetitive, manual labor that can go into discovering, acquiring, cataloging, maintaining licenses, and updating our individual research platforms, and
- **Expose** our resources by meeting users where they are and with what they expect?

In our Reference and Training librarians group, we came up with a range of suggestions, both for sharing resources worldwide and for customizing them to fit our unique libraries. We would need:

- More transparent relevancy ranking in “discovery” interfaces and the ability to adjust the “weight” resources, based on what we know of our users.
- Search results that include suggested tutorials (from our library and from others) on specific databases/journals, or other tutorials, based on “trigger words.”
- An alert to updates in catalog records, in vendor holdings, to confirm that changes are made across the board (in A-Z lists, in catalog, etc.)
- To automate addition of new resources in research guides (find a website, tag it, and it auto-populates the right guide).
- An app to track communication with a vendor or communications with individual users
- A cloud for patrons' individual use (drag resources they like and can use from one dashboard)

### **But what about quality and privacy?**

When all groups shared their ideas, concerns came up about working in the cloud, especially in regards to data quality and data privacy. On the quality front, the panel at the symposium encouraged more librarians to participate and take on roles for improving the quality of data for all — the more eyes on the data and the more hands doing the work, the better quality. On the privacy front, OCLC explained their [policy for library data privacy and security](#) and that they implemented Information Security Management System in accordance with ISO/IEC 27001:2005.

### **What about YOU?**

How would webscale fit into your library? How do you know if it's plausible to consider it as a replacement for your ILS? Near the end of Andrew's presentation, he brought up a chart I remember from library school: the Gartner Group's [Hype Cycle of Emerging Technologies](#). Its nomenclature reminds me of the [Princess Bride](#) or [Monty Python](#)—and cloud computing/web platforms (aka webscale) is currently in the Trough of Disillusionment. Will librarians—individuals concerned with the issues that cloud computing aims to address

(sharing data and workloads, while maintaining privacy and quality)— be the ones to help push webscale up the Slope of Enlightenment?

# Why would a public librarian join SLA?

September 10, 2012 Categories: Alignment Project, SLA, Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by [Barbara Pilvin](#), DSOC member and librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia.*

As a librarian of several decades' standing but a relatively new SLA member, I'm sometimes asked why I joined. After all, I work in a public library, so why belong to an organization whose members work in law libraries, or business libraries, or hospital libraries, or museums, or... I stand there and nod, rhythmically, waiting for the question-asker to run out of "ors" and thinking, *been-there-heard-this*. Eventually, perhaps prompted by dizziness caused by my rhythmic nodding, they stop "or-ing" and let me answer.

In fairness, I must say that most of these people are not SLA members, so they know little about the organization; nor do most of them know *me* very well, for those who know about my specialized background and passions don't have to ask. To the uninitiated, I point out that I have a number of subject-area interests: history, genealogy, medicine (including consumer-health information and the history of medicine), languages and literature (notably French, but I've studied some Russian and Latin, am studying classical Hebrew, and have learned just a little Spanish, German and Italian, since I sing), and music.

At the Free Library of Philadelphia, I'm a reference librarian in social science and history, which means I provide information, teach people how to obtain and use it, and work in collection development. Because I understand the importance of specializing in some fields without hyper-specializing in only one—which limits a librarian's value in the market and ability to help his or her clientele (and which, let's face it, makes anyone a crashing bore)—I've developed skills and knowledge that have made me very useful to my colleagues, employers and patrons...and have contributed to my enthusiasm for the whole process of learning and teaching.

**So why did I join SLA? In six words, to keep learning, sharing and growing.** While I don't work in what would be termed a "special library," I am a specialist in the library and information professions. I've developed an ever-expanding, diverse and international network of colleagues and friends, and my mailbox is never empty, for long before I joined SLA, I joined both ALA and MLA. At some point I somehow started receiving *Information Outlook*, and in one issue I happened to see an article about AIIP, the Association of Independent Information Professionals. I perked up at that one too, since I have a fair (or unfair?!) number of medical problems and had learned by then that knowledge about them was vital to my health and to successful advocacy for research, education and proper treatment. Thanks to a successful workshop and poster presentation I'd given on the subject at several conferences, I'd started thinking about a way to use my knowledge in an independent business, perhaps consulting as a librarian, speaker and writer.

I had also been bitten by the genealogy bug...and as a lifelong student and lover of history, I knew that bug was not curable. About four years ago I fed it by joining some genealogy organizations and starting to attend their conferences. I also went to AIIP's site, joined as an associate member, and started helping to edit AIIP's quarterly online newsletter, *Connections*. I joined SLA around the same time, first in DBIO, then DMAH, then DSOC.

In a few years I'll retire from the Free Library of Philadelphia, but I don't see myself hanging up my shingle. There's too much I want to do, and as some people have advised me (not that they need to), **with everything I've done and learned, I should give it back...and pay it forward.**

*This post is the first in a series detailing why different kinds of people have joined SLA. See our second post from Brianna Marshall: "[Why would a grad student join SLA?](#)" If you would like to contribute a post to this series, contact [brandy@knowledge-linking.com](mailto:brandy@knowledge-linking.com)*

# Learning About Popular Papers from Mendeley

September 26, 2012 Categories: Social Media, Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by [Brandy King](#), Chair of the Social Sciences Division and owner of Knowledge Linking*

Have you tried Mendeley yet? It's combination bibliographic database and social network. You create citation libraries and can share them with colleagues. I have heard about Mendeley for over a year, and signed up for an account months ago, but just today did I finally actually USE it.

What prompted me to take the jump? I was trying to export references from PubMed and import them into EndNote (bibliographic software to which I have been a devotee since high school). In the process I was losing the URL of the PubMed record. A colleague of mine told me that when you import references from PubMed to Mendeley, it captures the URL of the record AND downloads the full-text automatically if it's available for free. I was sold!

Anyway, one of the cool things I discovered is that anyone can start a public group to share libraries. Those groups are organized into subject areas and you can see what papers are popular within those subject areas. [Here's the page for Social Science groups](#) — click around a bit!

Here's a great video intro on how to import citations into Mendeley:

## Importing Documents into your Library (Mendeley Minute)



# Why would a grad student join SLA?

October 9, 2012 Categories: Alignment Project, SLA, Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by [Brianna Marshall](#), a Master of Library Science and Master of Information Science candidate at Indiana University's School of Library and Information Science. She is Managing Editor for the blog [Hack Library School](#) and soon-to-be Social Science Division Archivist.*

**Why would a grad student join SLA?** To answer this question I could quote the membership page of the SLA website, listing off the benefits given there, but that seems too much like a stock answer. And truthfully, I haven't been an SLA member long enough to gauge its impact on my professional life. However, I think I can give one clue to the key to grad students' loyalties: **being welcomed**. I certainly think this matters much more than the membership benefits touted by SLA, since we have similar resources being dangled in front of us by a variety of other professional organizations. When SLA is just another acronym in the sea of associations, it's easy to put off joining for later in our careers, if at all. A commitment to inclusiveness and **an attitude that graduate student contributions are valued makes all the difference**.

When I joined SLA this past spring, my reason was purely pragmatic: my poster proposal had been accepted for the 2012 Annual Conference, which was taking place in nearby Chicago. I didn't know if I would get anything out of my membership after that; paying up was a means to build my CV and I was satisfied with leaving it at that. But at the [Joint Poster Session](#), I met Brandy King, Chair of the Social Science Division. We kept in touch after the conference, and because of her openness to my involvement I will be taking over as Division Archivist in November. All in all, I've had a great experience that makes me feel connected to SLA in a way I had not anticipated.

Feeling welcomed *matters*—to anyone, but especially to nervous grad students new to librarianship and new to professional associations. The question then becomes, how can SLA show this welcoming attitude to the graduate students who aren't meeting them face-to-face at conferences or other events? A few ways come to mind:

- **Bolstering support given to student chapters.** This is the primary way to increase grad student exposure to SLA. If student chapters are active and innovative, that naturally reflects well on the organization. At the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University, SLA has not had a noticeably active student chapter since I began my program. How can SLA inspire student members and provide incentives to boost student chapter activity?
- **Creating a space focused on grad student resources, issues, and voices on the SLA website.** There is a *lot* going on on the SLA website—I find it intimidating to sort through and I would guess my peers feel similarly. Carving out a space specifically meant for graduate students that breaks down what SLA is, does, and offers in the context of what graduate students care about would be a great next step.
- **Offering additional grants and scholarships for students.** Grad students are an enthusiastic yet broke group. Trust me, we want to write essays and work for it, so give us more chances to earn travel grants,

scholarships, and fellowships and advertise them broadly.

- **Reducing (or even eliminating!) the cost of Click University resources.** The Click U resources are posited as a major selling point of an SLA membership but the average grad student probably will not find them to be useful at their current pricing. Students do not have the need for continuing education resources in the way that professionals do and the \$49 webinar pricetag is prohibitive when many of us are sinking into debt to pay for our educations. Reducing significantly or eliminating the cost of these resources for full-time student SLA members would be an act of goodwill that could act as a major draw to students.

Again, this isn't to say that there aren't grad students who will find their way to SLA on their own—SLA provides resources and networking opportunities that are truly valuable—but these students will likely be the future business librarians and law librarians. The rest of us, who aren't quite sure where we'll end up, could be served by ALA, SAA, *or* SLA. To make SLA stand out from the crowd, being welcoming is key, whether it's an in-person interaction or the impression made by SLA's virtual presence, resources, and opportunities.

*This post is the second in a series detailing why different kinds of people have joined SLA. See our first post from Barbara Pilvin: "[Why would a public librarian join SLA?](#)" If you would like to contribute a post to this series, contact [brandy@knowledge-linking.com](mailto:brandy@knowledge-linking.com)*

# Connecting Non-Native Speakers with Open-Access Law Journals

October 22, 2012 Categories: Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by [Bobbi Weaver](#), DSOC member and Librarian at [California Western School of Law](#). Here she talks about how she uses Open-Access Resources in her library.*

There seem to be more good open-access resources published outside of the United States, so I often use them with our non-English speaking patrons here at California Western. For example, we periodically hold seminars on trial advocacy for attorneys from Latin-American countries. The seminars are held in Spanish, and I maintain a [research guide](#) to help the students in this program. In this research guide, I have provided links to relevant articles from journals covered on UNAM's [Biblioteca Juridica Virtual](#), as well as links to three open access law journals published online in Spanish: [Revista Telemática de Filosofía del Derecho](#); [Revista Electrónica de Derecho Ambiental](#); and [Revista Jurídica de Navarra](#).

I am currently organizing a lecture for our law students who are already attorneys in their native countries. I plan to discuss and demonstrate the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#), which seems to cover law articles in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish; and [Scientific Electronic Library Online](#) (SciELO), which covers some law articles in Spanish and Portuguese. Students in this program are required to write a comparative paper on a legal issue and how it is covered in their home countries compared to how it is addressed in the U.S. Finding resources nearby on foreign law can be challenging, so using these open access resources allows me to help them carry out their research projects without the additional work, time, and cost required for interlibrary loans.

## **Other Posts for Open Access Week 2012:**

[20 Open Access Science Resources](#) by Matt Von Hendy

[Publishers, Authors or Universities: Who Will Pay for Open Access](#) by Brandy King

# Open Access Science Resources

October 23, 2012 Categories: Open Access, Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by [Matthew Von Hendy](#), Chair of the Public Policy section of DSOC and an independent information professional at [Green Heron Information Services](#).*

**This post was updated on October 21, 2013**

Is it possible to access high quality scientific information through open access resources? Increasingly, the answer is yes.

In celebration of [Open Access Week](#) I have created a list of my favorite open access science resources. Many of these resources provide full-text or links to full-text if available but a few are only bibliographic in nature.

Overall the breadth and depth of open access scientific resources has increased during the past year, particularly with regard to science journals and repository collections. The recent announcement from Elsevier that [Scirus is being retired](#) early next year is a major loss.

If you have additional sources that would include or have comments, please let us know.

## Federated Searches

**Science Gov** – [www.science.gov](http://www.science.gov) Searches over 50 U.S. Government science-related databases and websites

**SciTech Connect**– <http://www.osti.gov/scitech/> Federated search covering Department of Energy related research, articles and conference proceedings

**Scirus** — [www.scirus.com](http://www.scirus.com) Maintained by Elsevier, this federated search covers journals and web-based peer review science content. It is going to be retired early next year.

**WorldWideScience.Org** — [www.worldwidescience.org/about.html](http://www.worldwidescience.org/about.html) Federated search developed by the Department of Energy that covers national and international government science resources

## Major Science Publisher Open Access Initiatives

**Copernicus Publications**– [http://publications.copernicus.org/open\\_access\\_journals/open\\_access\\_journals\\_a\\_z.html](http://publications.copernicus.org/open_access_journals/open_access_journals_a_z.html) Scientific society open access publisher.

**Hindawi Publishing**- —<http://www.hindawi.com/journals/>

Publisher of 400+ peer-reviewed open access journals—search box in upper right hand corner

**Wiley Open Access** — [www.wileyopenaccess.com](http://www.wileyopenaccess.com)

**Elsevier Science Direct** – [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com) Open access journals are mixed in with subscription titles.

**Springer Open** – <http://www.springeropen.com/search>

**Taylor & Francis** – <http://www.tandfonline.com/search/advanced> Limit to ‘Only Content I have full access to’

## Science Journals

**Directory of Open Access Journals** — <http://www.doaj.org/doi?func=home&uiLanguage=en> Key resource, journal title search, article search as well

**BioMed Central** [www.biomedcentral.com/journals/bysubject](http://www.biomedcentral.com/journals/bysubject) Publisher of 250 open access peer-reviewed science, technology and medicine journals.

**HighWire** — [www.highwire.stanford.edu](http://www.highwire.stanford.edu) Publishers of 1700+ peer-reviewed science journals—older content is frequently open access

**Public Library of Science** – [www.plos.org](http://www.plos.org) Advocacy organization and publisher of 7 high quality peer-reviewed open access journals

## Repositories with Significant Science Content

**Open DOAR Content Search** <http://www.opendoar.org/search.php> Maintained by the University of Nottingham—very good quality control

**Open Science Repository** <http://www.open-science-repository.com/search-research-papers.html> Open repository for scientific papers—not great for searching

For a listing of open access repositories by subject area, see the list maintained by Simmons University [http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary\\_repositories](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Disciplinary_repositories) .

## Subject Specific Resources

**Agricola**– [www.agricola.nal.usda.gov](http://www.agricola.nal.usda.gov) Agriculture and agriculture-related database from the USDA

**arXiv**– [www.arxiv.org](http://www.arxiv.org) arXiv provides open access to nearly 800,000 e-prints in the area of physics, mathematics, computer science, quantitative biology, quantitative finance and statistics.

**Chemistry Central**— <http://www.chemistrycentral.com/> Open access chemistry publisher

**CiteSeer** — [www.citeseer.ist.psu.edu](http://www.citeseer.ist.psu.edu) Digital library and search engine focused on computer and information science.

**Defense Technical Information Center** — [www.dtic.mil/dtic](http://www.dtic.mil/dtic) A searchable repository for all publicly accessible DOD science and technical research.

**ENTEWEB World Energy Base** <https://www.etde.org/etdeweb/basicsearch.jsp?pg=2> International database covering all aspects of energy research. Free registration required.

**INSPIRE-HEP** <http://inspirehep.net/> A database of high energy, particle physics and astrophysics .

**NASA Technical Reports Server** — <http://ntrs.nasa.gov/> Covers NASA produced or funded research

**Popline** — [www.popline.org](http://www.popline.org) Database covering family planning and reproductive health with excellent international coverage.

**PubChem** — [www.pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) The 3 databases in PubChem provide information on the biological activities of small molecules.

**PubMed** — [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez) 22 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and on-line books. Free full text is linked to when available.

**SciFlo—Scientific Electric Library Online**— <http://www.scielo.org/php/index.php?lang=pt> Focus on scientific peer-reviewed journals from South America with emphasis on Brazil

**Toxnet** — [www.toxnet.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.toxnet.nlm.nih.gov) From the United States National Library of Medicine databases on toxicology, hazardous chemicals, environmental health and toxic releases.

**TRID** — [www.trid.trb.org](http://www.trid.trb.org) Transportation-related research covering 940,000 records of transportation research worldwide.

**United States Geological Service Publications Warehouse** <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/> Database of USGS funded research reports and publications

# Publishers, Authors or Universities: Who Will Pay for Open Access?

October 27, 2012 Categories: Open Access, Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by [Brandy King](#), Chair of the Social Sciences Division and owner of [Knowledge Linking](#)*

While most academics and librarians would love to have open access to all kinds of publications, what would publishers do if their source of revenue was obliterated?

One expert is quoted as saying that [Elsevier's profits would tumble by 60%](#), which would be “catastrophic” for the company. But the UK’s Science Minister warns that publishers had better figure out a plan quickly, or they will end up taking a hit much like the music industry did when file sharing became commonplace.

Some publishers have decided to try out varying levels of open access: Offering authors the chance to pay to have their articles open access; offering open access to journals after an embargo period; or making specific issues of their journals open access. But these options come with consequences too.

A survey of from the Association of Learned, Professional and Society Publishers [ALPSP] and The Publishers Association found that if arts, social sciences and humanities journals were freely available after 6 months, [65% of libraries would cancel some or all of their subscriptions](#).

If authors are required to pay in order to make their research open access, that is a hit on universities that won’t necessarily be made up by having to pay fewer subscriptions. The Vice-Chancellor for Research at the University of Oxford stated that [the university’s publishing costs would rise 350%](#).

On the other hand, The University of Minnesota has said that sometimes “it costs the University less to underwrite authors’ costs than it does to pay to view works when they are not open access.” As such, they have established a [\\$20,000 Open Access Publishing fund](#).

There are no clear answers to who will bear the cost of open access, but the level of expectation for Open Access is rising quickly. Solutions must be found if we are to avoid burdening universities, authors or publishers to the point of irreversible harm in the name of better access to research.

## **Other Posts for Open Access Week 2012:**

[20 Open Access Science Resources](#) by Matt Von Hendy

[Connecting Non-Native Speakers with Open Access Law Journals](#) by Bobbi Weaver

# SLA 2013 Call for Posters: Making the Most of Opportunities & Collaborations

January 29, 2013 Categories: Annual Conference, Social Science Division Archived Posts



The Academic; Education; Museums, Arts, & Humanities; and Social Science Divisions of SLA invite proposals for a poster session to be held at SLA 2013 in San Diego. The theme for this year's poster session is **“Connect, Collaborate and Strategize: Making the Most of Opportunities & Collaborations.”**

Not sure how to present a poster? [Here's a summary](#) of Tara Murray's workshop last year with instructions.

Proposals should be geared towards successes through working with other organizations, other departments and/or by planning ahead for fundamental change in organizations. Case studies, research, and innovative ideas for the future are all welcome.

The poster session will be a relaxed and informal time to share ideas with your colleagues. We welcome proposals from any SLA member, new or experienced, and especially from students.

Proposals should be submitted by March 15, 2013 via e-mail to [klalonde@crdl.org](mailto:klalonde@crdl.org). Please include a title and description of about 250 words, and your name, institution, e-mail address, and address. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee for relevance to the theme and quality, and applicants will be notified of the decision by April 1, 2012.

The Poster Session will be held on Monday, June 10, 2013 from 4:00 – 5:30 PM



# Open Access, Federal Librarians, and Open Source Integrated Library Systems

October 29, 2013 Categories: Open Access, Social Science Division Archived Posts



This post was written by [Angela June Aranas Kent](#), who is an MSc. LIS Candidate (2013) at the Catholic University of America. She is a member of the Social Sciences Division; DC Chapter; and a past president of the SLA/CUA student chapter. She was the DC/SLA's Catherine A. Jones Memorial Scholarship Winner (2012).

As a current LIS student and active advocate for Open Access, here are some of my recent reflections on Open Access:

## *Open Access in Context*

For a paper on open source, I proposed two working concepts on open source: (1) the [spectrum of open information](#) and (2) [web of open information](#). Open Access Week is part of the larger Open Access movement. In turn, Open Access can be viewed more broadly, by which I mean, it is worth discussing the idea of “open source” as a concept and how it relates to other “open” movements, like freeware, Open Access, Copyleft movement, and to a lesser extent, free online tools. All of these open information movements can be viewed through the principles of a free and open library. Salve and his coauthors note succinctly, “[b]oth libraries and open source have the same philosophy, i.e., ‘community first’.”

## *Federal Librarians and Open Access*

This past summer I participated in a Federal Libraries Resource workshop. Each federal librarian spoke directly about how they serve the American public and the importance of making publicly-funded government documents available to the American public. Federal libraries can also face security (e.g., classified information) or even accessibility (e.g., grey sources) limitations to making information publicly available.

Across the government federal libraries are now assisted by the [Open Government Initiative](#) mandate and the [Office of Science and Technology Public Access Policy](#).

At the 2013 SLA conference, Michael Carroll updated attendees on public access to DoD-funded research. Federally-funded data creation, along with data mining, were trending issues with regards to open access and fair use. Additionally, Carroll raised the issue of ownership and who actually owns the rights. The status quo says the publishers own the rights, yet legal arguments can be made that the author retains those rights. A third and emerging viewpoint centers on the ownership role of funding institutions.

## *Open Source Integrated Library Systems (ILS)*

During the spring semester I reviewed the state of open source ILS systems and weighed its pros and cons:

**Advantages:**

- Cost effective: the cost and use of the ILS software is free, but the cost of developing and maintaining an in-house program may be a significant financial difference
- Scalable: open source can more readily able meet different sized libraries and their content
- Customizable: rather than waiting for a vendor to create a module or enhancement, open source allows for creation to be dependent on the library's technical abilities
- Portability: even when switching from different support vendors, you do not need to replace and learn a whole new ILS system. Unlike with proprietary vendors, libraries have a choice of platforms and do not have to remain with one vendor or commercial support firm.

**Disadvantages:**

- Not all open source is created equal: quality is not guaranteed
- Most libraries must engage a commercial support firm to maintain and customize their open source ILS software

**Websites of interest:**

- [Lib-Web-Cats](#) — Database of which libraries use which ILS, including open source ILS systems.
- [Foss4Lib](#) — Library open source software portal.

# Resources for tracking current federal and state legislation

February 7, 2014 Categories: Public Policy Section, Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by [Matthew Von Hendy](#), Chair of the DSOC Public Policy Section and owner of [Green Heron Information Services](#).*

With the recent State of the Union address and Congress getting back in session, attention has returned to the legislative front. If you need to track federal or state legislation on a specific topic or a particular bill, a number of excellent resources are available and several of these are free or low-cost.

[Congress.gov](#) is the new website developed by the Library of Congress for tracking current federal legislation. This site, currently in beta testing, incorporates all the information found on [Thomas.gov](#) but adds significant searching and personalization capabilities.

For tracking state legislation, the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) (NCSL) provides links to all the state legislative resources in [one place](#). NCSL has started to restrict some access to their legislative topical databases but it is still possible to search all the state resources on topics such as [energy](#), environment and transportation.

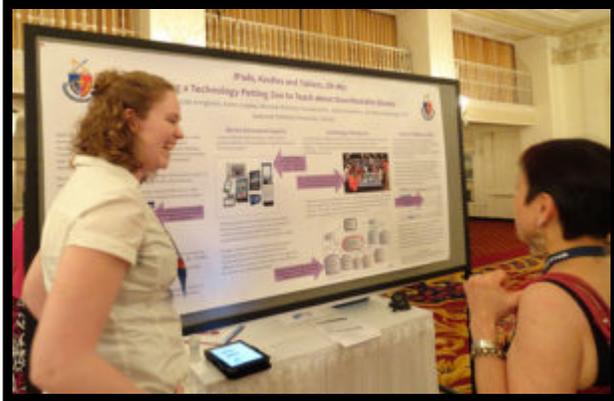
A relatively new resource, [BillTrack50](#), offers a quick, comprehensive and free to use search of all federal and state legislation. A free registration is required to access the search function. BillTrack50 also offers more specialized searches and additional products for a fee.

Of course, major commercial information services such as LexisNexis through their [State Net](#) service, offer bill tracking databases for both federal and state legislative content as well. These excellent resources typically require a yearly institutional subscription.

What resources do you use to keep track of federal and state legislation?

# Call for Posters: Embracing new roles and responsibilities in a shifting landscape

February 21, 2014 Categories: Annual Conference, Social Science Division Archived Posts



The Academic; Education; Museums, Arts, & Humanities; and Social Science Divisions of the Special Libraries Association invite proposals for a poster session to be held during SLA's annual conference in Vancouver, June 2014.

The theme for this year's poster session is "Welcoming Opportunity: Embracing new roles and responsibilities in a shifting landscape." This year's posters will be displayed in the Info/Expo area and will provide increased exposure for participants as posters will be available to view for an entire day.

Proposals might examine how reconsiderations and re-imaginings of traditional roles are providing both challenges and opportunities. Proposals could also focus on building connections with others across not only geographic and cultural boundaries, but between units in our own organizations as well. Case studies, research, and innovative ideas for the future are all welcome.

**We welcome proposals from any SLA member**, new or experienced, and especially from students. A prize will be awarded for the best poster, as judged by attendees.

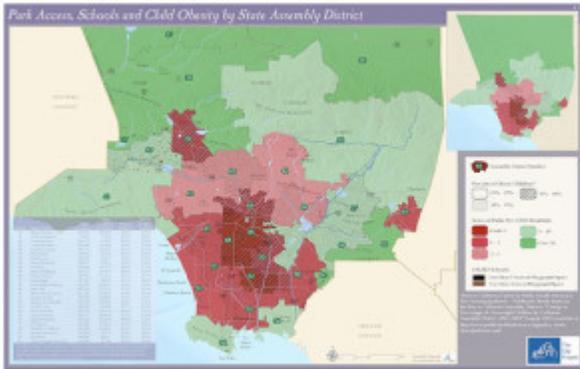
**Proposals should be submitted by April 15, 2014** via e-mail to [maya.kucij@mcgill.ca](mailto:maya.kucij@mcgill.ca). Please include a title and description of about 250 words, and your name, institution, e-mail address, and mailing address. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee for relevance to the theme and quality, and applicants will be notified of the decision by May 1, 2014.

The poster session presentation time will be a relaxed and informal time to share ideas with your colleagues and will be held on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:00p.m.

The 2014 poster session committee is Maya Kucij (Education Division), Julie Jones (Academic Division), Gina Gajewski (Social Science Division), and Rebecca Vargha (Museum, Arts, & Humanities Division).

# Current Research Using GIS Applications: Social Media, Social Sciences, Humanities and More

April 9, 2014 Categories: Geography and Map Section, Social Science Division Archived Posts



This post was written by [Vanette Schwartz](#), Chair of the DSOC Geography & Maps Section and Social Science Librarian at Illinois State University

Current scholarship reveals the wide range of applications involving Geographic information systems (GIS). GIS has traditionally been used in the following fields:

- **Environmental research:** GIS studies have focused on areas such as hydrology and groundwater management, conservation biology, forest fire risk, and climate change.
- **Transportation:** GIS has been helpful in determining the most efficient routes for delivery of newspapers and school commuting. It has also been used to ease traffic congestion, establish bike trails, plan for disaster evacuation, and locate patterns of motorcycle fatalities.
- **Crime:** GIS has been used in finding crime hotspots, and in relating crime to areas of drug activity and to the location of alcohol establishments. GIS also helps law enforcement track usefulness of crime prevention tactics and reveals the relationship of employment availability and crime patterns in neighborhoods.
- **Health:** GIS programs can show the prevalence and spread of disease from AIDS and cancer to asthma and sexually transmitted diseases. GIS is also used to analyze factors contributing to chronic health issues including air and water quality, as well as relational issues such as the location of food stores, recreational facilities, walking paths and biking trails and their influence on the health of a local population.

Expanding beyond areas where GIS has been used for several years, we find that GIS is being applied to analysis of social media. A recent issue of the journal [Cartography and Geographic Information Science \(volume 40, issue 2, 2013\)](#) focused on the visualization of social media. Articles included the mapping of socioeconomic factors to the use of Twitter and Flickr, and the spatial analysis of tweets for specific topics such as obesity and fast food.

An additional source that shows the increasing development of GIS is [The Sage Handbook of GIS and Society \(2011\)](#). A compilation of articles and studies, this volume traces the development of GIS in the social sciences as well as exploring developing areas of GIS use in these areas. An especially engaging article discusses the application of GIS by indigenous peoples. Indigenous Knowledge (IK) –incorporating the historical, cultural, linguistic and experiential aspects of native peoples — provides the foundation for use of GIS. Land ownership, resource management and preservation of indigenous cultural heritage are some of the ways GIS has been implemented by this population.

The handbook also includes articles on public participation in geographic information systems (PPGIS) — its design, implementation and usage for planning and community decision making. Other issues included in the

handbook are assessment and value, fairness and privacy, and legal and ethical issues in the use of GIS generated information.

Beyond the sciences and social sciences, GIS has also begun to impact the humanities as discussed in the book, [\*The Spatial Humanities: GIS and the future of humanities scholarship\* \(2010\)](#). Although connections between GIS and the humanities are more difficult to integrate, the chapters in *Spatial Humanities* examine such aspects as text mapping, qualitative GIS and the geospatial semantic web. Many GIS applications in the humanities involve historical topics but some scholars delve into areas such as language mapping, the archeology of rock art landscapes and the design of deep maps and spatial narratives. The humanities look to expand GIS by further integrating space, place and time in a wide range of new ways.

# Resources for Research in Tax Policy

April 14, 2014 Categories: Social Science Division Archived Posts Tags: tax policy



This post was written by [Rachel Lewin](#), a brand new DSOC member and the Librarian at the Urban Institute.

In honor of Tax Day, I thought it would be fun to highlight some resources for research in tax policy. My goal was to provide an overview of some free or low-cost resources, rather than make this a comprehensive guide to sources (my two links at the bottom of this posting already do that!).

## Federal Government Sources

- [House Ways and Means Committee](#)
- [Joint Committee on Taxation](#)
- [Useful Links from the U.S. Department of the Treasury](#)
- [Senate Finance Committee](#)

## Other free resources

- [NBER Working Papers](#) (use the search box to enter your keywords)
- [E-Journal of Tax Research](#) (open access)
- [Akron Tax Journal](#) (open access)
- [Social Science Research Network](#) (has a chunk of material related to tax and economic policy)
- [The Contemporary Tax Journal](#) (another open access journal)

## A few subscriber-only resources that are worth mentioning

- [Tax Notes Magazine](#)
- [Taxation And Economic Reform in American \(HeinOnline\)](#)

**Think Tanks that include tax policy as part of their work** *Note that many think tanks are not “non-partisan” even though their promotional literature might claim otherwise*

- [Brookings Institution](#)
- [National Bureau of Economic Research](#)
- [Cato Institute](#)
- [American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research \(AEI\)](#)
- [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#)
- [RAND Corporation](#)
- [Heritage Foundation](#)
- [Urban Institute](#)
- [Center for American Progress](#)
- [Hoover Institution](#)
- [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

- [Economic Policy Institute](#)
- [Manhattan Institute for Policy Research](#)
- [National Center for Public Policy Research](#)

**Tax Blogs** *While not authoritative sources of information, these blogs usually provide a good overview of economic policy issues*

- [Mauled Again](#)
- [Tax Policy Center](#)
- [21st Century Taxation](#)
- [Tax Foundation Blog](#)

**Thorough tax policy research guides**

*The librarians at Georgetown Law and Baruch College have put compiled very thorough tax policy research guides. While many of the sources listed in these guides are not available for free, they are at least worth knowing about, even if they are not in your library budget at this time.*

- [Baruch College Federal Tax Research Guide](#)
- [Georgetown Law Library Tax Policy Research Guide](#)

Happy Tax Day!

# Information Alchemy: An Interview with Mary Ellen Bates

May 29, 2014 Categories: Annual Conference, Social Science Division Archived Posts

This post was written by [Melissa Gustafson](#), Chair of DSOC and Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian at Battelle Memorial Institute



We are thrilled to feature a two part series from [Mary Ellen Bates](#) at SLA 2014. Both sessions will cover developing leadership skills in today's special libraries and providing strategic analysis and insight to users.

I will be the moderator at the second session and I emailed Ms. Bates ahead of conference to ask her about her views on strategic analysis and insight and its value for libraries and information professionals. Be sure to add these two sessions to your conference planner!

- **The Reluctant Intrapreneur – Becoming the Info Center CEO** ([more information](#) or [view this session in the online conference planner](#))  
Sunday, June 8, 2014  
1:30pm – 3:00pm  
Convention Centre West, Rooms 212 & 213
- **Information Alchemy: Adding Value Where It Counts** ([view this session in the online conference planner](#))  
Sunday, June 8, 2014  
3:30pm – 5:00pm  
Convention Centre West, Rooms 212 & 213

## **Q: How did you start thinking about the issue of strategic analysis and insight?**

**A:** One of the features of being self-employed is always having to tangibly demonstrate my value. I've been in business for over two decades, and I have always been looking for ways to make my deliverables more valuable. Back in 1991, that meant printing everything off and spiral-binding it, but even back then I would make sure I included a cover letter and table of contents with the result. As the info-world has changed, my deliverables have changed considerably... in fact, it's been months since I have sent a collection of documents to a client. What hasn't changed is my awareness that my client is trying to accomplish something and my goal is to ensure that she accomplishes that, whether it's a slide deck, a series of webinars, a market analysis or a survey.

## **Q: Do you see this as a new issue for librarians or a natural continuation of our roles?**

**A:** I think that we have always been conducting analysis on the information we find. We're evaluating search results, considering what that tells us, deciding when to stop and when to keep hunting, and so on. We *already* bring insight and analysis to our research; we just don't usually surface all the insights we glean. Yes, it often requires that we go beyond our comfort zone before these higher-value services feel normal and natural.

**Q: Is this an issue unique to Special Librarians?**

**A:** Definitely not! Every profession that provides a service is competing with “good enough”. Lawyers and accountants have lost low-end business to do-it-yourself software. Knowledge workers are being replaced by interns. Local book stores are being replaced by Amazon. The professionals who thrive in the global, sharing economy will be the ones who identify what they do better than anyone else and how they can do that for the people who value it the most.

**Q: What do you think the biggest challenge(s) to success in providing strategic analysis and insight for librarians in special libraries are?**

**A:** I think the biggest challenge for librarians and info pros is to Just Do It. Many of us have a perfectionist streak, and we hesitate to provide analysis because we are aware of what we *don't* know about a topic, and we worry that we don't have the time to do the analysis well. It took me quite a while to feel comfortable doing more than just sending search results to a client, and my goal for my Information Alchemy session is to give participants some tools to demystify the process.

**Mary Ellen Bates on the Web**

Website – <http://www.batesinfo.com/>

Blog – <http://www.reluctant-entrepreneur.com>

Twitter – [@mebs](https://twitter.com/mebs)

# Information Professionals: The Most Powerful Weapon

August 11, 2014 Categories: Geography and Map Section, Social Science Division Archived Posts



Card Catalog Photo By Ed Uthman from Houston, TX, USA (Card Catalog, Burrow Library) [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

*This post was written by [Mark S. Johnson](#), Chair of the Geography & Maps Section of SLA's Social Science Division*

My professional career has been built on “Connecting People and Information” and information is the key ingredient for intelligence; be it Geospatial Intelligence, Competitive Intelligence, Business Intelligence, or my specialty, Foreign Intelligence. In fact, [it was said](#) that researchers and analysts of the World War II predecessor to the CIA controlled “the most powerful weapon in the OSS arsenal: the three- by five- index card.”

While our profession has certainly moved beyond card catalogs, I would argue that today, it's the *people who access and retrieve information* who are the “most powerful weapon”.

As you can see from the wording in these job postings, librarians and geographers are powerful information professionals in demand at CIA:

- “[Librarians](#) are the U.S. Intelligence Community experts in acquiring, researching, exploiting, and managing information sources.”
- “[Geographers](#) are the U.S. intelligence community's experts on foreign mapping, geographic information and geospatial technologies.”

I was blessed with a rewarding career as a Government geographer and honored to lead these information professionals for a time. [Mr. Doug Naquin](#), my former director at the Open Source Center (OSC), CIA's center for turning openly-available information into intelligence, said, “An analyst with a master's degree in library science and multiple languages, especially one who grew up speaking another language, makes “a powerful

open source officer.” Doug always included OSC Librarians and Geographers alike in his definition of open source analysts. And I frequently witnessed librarians and geographers discovering, analyzing and providing obscure, yet absolutely critical information resulting in huge intelligence and national security impacts.

Geographers, librarians, and information professionals everywhere are engaged in powerful careers, deserving the best in career development. The SLA slogan, “Connecting People and Information,” has the word order correct—*people* come first. I encourage all geographers, librarians, and information *people* to join and participate in SLA—a most powerful *weapon* in your personal career development *arsenal*!

# Message from the Chair: A few words on information literacy, DRM, and libraries

September 10, 2014 Categories: Messages from the Chair, Social Science Division Archived Posts



Last week NPR's "Marketplace" featured an interview with American Libraries Association (ALA) president Courtney Young about the future of (public) libraries in the face of changing tech. [It's about two minutes long and you should have a listen](#). Ms. Young touched quickly on the very real fact that libraries are being asked to pay much higher prices than the individual consumer for access to eBooks. She then moved on to highlight how libraries are adapting to change by taking on "new" roles in helping the general public understand how to use new technology.

While the interview very clearly touched on the services of public libraries, it did have implications for special and academic libraries. The focus of educating people about new technology is a smart one, but we as a profession need to promote this core service more aggressively. Information literacy is a founding principle and role of the profession. Currently this new service looks almost reactionary rather than proactive as it should be, especially with the huge gap in information literate students and workers now in society. The role that librarians across the board play in information literacy is huge and that's a big deal that needs to be shouted from the rooftops. It's core to our "brand" — a unique niche that we have filled since the beginning. This is inseparable from our role as information gatekeepers, because what good is having the resources if our users do not know where to find them or how to use them?

The issues of pricing and Digital Rights Management (DRM) is a real concern in the face of shrinking budgets. ALA has probably been the most vocal in trying to bring publishers to the table on this issue. The conversation has been, understandably, about access in public libraries. SLA needs to join that conversation and take a stand on behalf of its membership, some of whom are big consumers in eResources. If the current model holds, access to high quality information will be severely limited to the richest few groups while everyone else will be left out.

# What's your "why"?

September 24, 2014 Categories: Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by Sabah Eltareb, DSOC Public Policy Chair and Assistant Director at the [California Research Bureau](#).*

I am an equal opportunity information grazer ranging from business and technology to early childhood development and many topics in-between. I look for gems that I can repurpose in some fashion to make sense for an issue I am grappling with, to implement a new service or program, or just tuck away for now until it's needed. But one post I saw recently stopped me in my tracks. It was by Michelle Woodward, an executive coach who recently led a Harvard Business Review webinar on worksite personality issues. It was a simple enough post, with a title "[Why Do You Do What You Do?](#)" Its premise? – that most people know 'what' they do and 'how' they do it but cannot easily answer the 'why'.

It struck me because it seems like a great tool to use – personally and professionally – but, perhaps, not the easiest to hang on to as we encounter the twists and turns that come from living life without a script ... or, to recognize and accept that our 'why' may have adjusted over time.

I remember the 'why' of what attracted me to the field – I was super curious, very tenacious, liked puzzles and helping people find the relevant information/answer/resource/etc. to their question. Being paid to do what I was already doing seemed like the best way to get the variety and challenge I was seeking. I had been to a number of career counseling seminars and classes and explored a number of other careers – doctor, attorney, pharmacist, teacher, nurse – and while there are pieces of each that intrigued me (and still do, for that matter), there were many more associated with getting the graduate degree so I could be a librarian. While I'm not so directly involved with the hands-on reference work now, it is the foundation I seek to build on at my workplace. That hasn't grown stale, just moved in another direction.

We have each traveled a different path to become a librarian/information pro and work in a variety of work settings. While we may take similar approaches in the 'how' and 'what' we do, learning about what has drawn us into this profession may help to foster deeper connections – so, **what's your why?**

# SLA Creates Valuable Connections, I'm Proof!

October 9, 2014 Categories: Nonprofit Section, SLA, Social Science Division Archived Posts



I would like to relate my personal tale about why SLA is a wonderful association and how the connections it creates are, in my opinion, the most valuable aspect of membership.

I joined SLA in 2007. I had just been accepted to the MLIS program at Pratt. I wanted to jump the gun before classes even started and begin getting involved with the special library world. I began attending SLA-NY events around the city, and I joined the DSOC section because I was working as a Library Assistant at a social policy research organization. Soon after joining I met Leigh Hallingby, who had the most amazing job! She was the Head Librarian for the Open Society Foundations, a foundation that supported so many of the initiatives around the world that I cared about and did work that was extremely interesting to me. I enjoyed chatting with her and hearing her insights on working in a small special library so similar to the one I worked in.

One of my first projects in library school was to interview a librarian I admired. I immediately thought of Leigh. She graciously took the time to meet with me and show me around the OSF library and explain how it worked. This also convinced me that her job was basically one of my dream jobs as a librarian. Fast forward about six years...I'm now a fairly seasoned Research Librarian and always excited to chat with Leigh at SLA events because our positions and the type of information we work with is so aligned. At the annual conference last spring in Vancouver, Leigh mentioned she was looking to retire and wondered if I'd be interested in applying. Bells went off in my head! I applied right away and spent the summer going through the interview process. I was offered the position as Head of Library Services at the beginning of August, and I started in mid-September! I was lucky enough to spend a couple weeks training with Leigh before taking the reins on my own. The only downside is that I'm replacing her, and not working WITH her! However, through SLA events I know I'll be seeing her often. I'm just so grateful that my membership in SLA led to making a connection with Leigh that has propelled me forward in my career in such an amazing way. So, hooray SLA!

-Natalie Brant

DSOC Nonprofit Chair

Head of Library Services: Open Society Foundations

# Lessons learned in partnering for a charitable cause

November 3, 2014 Categories: Other Conferences & Associations, Social Science Division Archived Posts



*This post was written by Sophia Guevara, member of the Social Science Division of SLA*

This week I had the opportunity to attend a conference for evaluators in Denver. As a topical interest group co-leader, I took the opportunity to partner with other group leaders and association personnel to create a service project that benefited the homeless in the conference host city. In addition to collecting travel-sized toiletries for the homeless, it also highlighted the issue of homelessness to the conference's over 3,000 attendees. Here are four lessons I learned from this experience:

1. **Be wise enough to accept constructive criticism and keep these points in mind for your project planning.** One of the people I went to for project review let me know that they didn't think the project was a good idea and provided their rationale for their decision. I could have chosen to reject the critique outright but was humble enough to go back to the drawing board about the initial plan. The critique eventually inspired the partnership it became.
2. **Ask for recommendations from your initial supporters.** This project went from being supported by the leadership of a group of over 300 members to being supported by leaders whose groups members number almost 3,000. The key to this growth was asking for recommendations from each leader who initially supported this project about others who might be open to joining the partnership.
3. **Small opportunities are often the building blocks for big wins.** In this case, the partnership was initially provided with permission for a collection space near the registration table at the conference. Eventually, the association's executive director took notice of it and added it to the agenda of a large meeting where the association's leaders were gathered.
4. **Don't allow a disruption to derail your project.** Once a problem is identified, dismantle it in order to develop the solution that can either solve or minimize its effect. To tackle the issues that will inevitably come up, patience and flexibility are key.

In conclusion, I learned that a good idea can often be worth more than money for projects that deliver the biggest impact.

# Labor-Friendly Law Firms

February 24, 2015 Categories: Labor Issues Section, Social Science Division Archived Posts



**By Larry Guthrie, Chair of the DSOC Labor Section**

According to public charity [Workplace Fairness](#), “Succeeding in an employment lawsuit without a lawyer is virtually impossible”.

Here’s a multi-city list of labor-friendly law firms who represent unions and employees.

## **California:**

Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld  
<http://www.unioncounsel.net/>

Bush Gottlieb  
<http://www.bushgottlieb.com/>

Reich, Adell & Cvitan  
<http://www.rac-law.com/>

Schwartz, Steinsapir, Dohrmann & Sommers LLP  
<http://www.lalaborlaw.com/>

Altshuler Berzon  
<http://www.altshulerberzon.com/>

Davis, Cowell & Bowe  
<http://www.daviscowellandbowe.com/>

## **DC:**

Bredhoff & Kaiser, P.L.L.C  
<http://www.bredhoff.com/>

Guerrieri, Clayman, Bartos & Parcelli, P.C  
<http://www.geclaw.com/>

James & Hoffman  
<http://jamhoff.com/>

Mooney, Green, Baker & Saindon, P.C.  
<http://www.mooneygreen.com/>

Slevin & Hart, P.C.  
<http://www.slevinhart.com/>

**Chicago:**

Allison, Slutsky & Kennedy, P.C.  
<http://www.ask-attorneys.com/>

Cornfield and Feldman  
<http://www.cornfieldandfeldman.com/>

Dowd, Block & Bennett  
<http://www.dbb-law.com/>

Jacobs Burns Orlove & Hernandez  
<http://www.jbosh.com/>

**Detroit:**

Sachs Waldman, Professional Corporation  
<http://www.sachswaldman.com/>

**New York:**

Cohen, Weiss and Simon LLP  
<http://www.cwsny.com/about.asp>

Levy Ratner  
<http://www.levyratner.com/>

Meyer, Suozzi English & Klein, P.C.  
<http://www.msek.com/>

Blitman & King  
<http://www.bklawyers.com/>

Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria LLP  
<http://www.lipsitzgreen.com/>

# Tracking Down Reliable, Authoritative Information in the ‘Anti-Information’ Age

April 2, 2015 Categories: Public Policy Section, Social Science Division Archived Posts



**By Sabah Eltareb, Chair of the DSOC Public Policy Section**

Remember how easy it used to be to determine that information was non-partisan, unbiased and authoritative? Well, the need to keep our critically sharp research mentality in evaluating all sources of information has never been so clearly illustrated than in an article that appeared in The Atlantic, “[The Anti-Information Age: How governments are reinventing censorship in the 21st Century](#)”. While the impacts to journalism and journalists are certainly valid and shouldn’t be taken lightly, many of the issues raised can apply just as much to what and how we – librarians and information professionals – perform our jobs. The more aware we are, the more context we can provide for the information we can, or can’t find, and choose to include in our responses.

# We Are Our Own Best Resources: External Communications and Networking

May 18, 2015 Categories: Nonprofit Section, Social Science Division Archived Posts



**By Natalie Brant, DSOC Nonprofit Chair and Head of Library Services at the Open Society Foundations**

Lately, I've had some wonderful experiences connecting with other foundation librarians and exchanging ideas.

I am quite new to my position and have never worked for a foundation before. So I was sort of racking my brain, trying to think of ways I could quickly learn the best practices for running a foundation library. I started out doing online research, but was coming up empty. Then I thought, why I don't I just contact *other* foundation librarians directly, and talk to them?

I was apprehensive at first, worried I'd just be bothering busy people. Since I wasn't trying to network to find a job- the main reason colleagues "cold e-mail" each other, in my experience- I also thought it might be confusing. But, I took a chance and contacted a couple of librarians working for foundations. Low and behold, they were thrilled to chat with me! How could I have forgotten that librarians are some of the most open and helpful folks around?!

There aren't too many of us, it turns out. Not many foundations have a library function, and those that do generally call it something else. I spoke with a "manager of information services", a "senior information specialist", and an "information and research services manager", among other titles. Since it's such a small niche, most foundation librarians know each other, and nearly everyone I spoke with gave me another contact.

I learned so much about how they coordinated their services, what vendors they use, and how they were structured within the foundations. Best of all, now I have a list of great contacts for any time a tough work question comes up. I am already using many of these ideas to make changes and evolve my library services. I'm so glad I took a chance and reached out.

No matter what kind of library you work in, there is someone out there who does something similar. If you want to improve your library and the quality of your work, I strongly encourage you to find other librarians with similar jobs, and reach out for advice.

Start with the [SLA member list](#)! Post your questions to the Social Science Division's online communities on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or [Facebook](#). Make sure you're signed up for the DSOC [listserv](#). And then go do the same for your [local SLA chapter](#).

Don't be afraid to reach out to your DSOC or SLA colleagues. Remember that we librarians are here to help, starting with our own librarian community. We are our own best resources!

# Proposed merger with MAHD

November 27, 2017 Categories: Messages from the Chair, Social Science Division Archived Posts

Join the leadership of MAHD (Museums, Arts and Humanities) and DSOC for a discussion of the proposed merger between the two divisions. Now is your chance to ask questions before voting on whether to proceed with the merger.

Before the webinar, please read the Memorandum of Understanding posted in the DSOC community on [SLA Connect](#) outlining the terms of the proposed merger.

**Background:** In 2017, DSOC approached MAHD leadership about a potential merger between the two divisions. DSOC was having difficulty recruiting new volunteer leaders, and was without a candidate for chair-elect. Recognizing that the two divisions were similar in size, related in scope, and have frequently collaborated on programming, DSOC thought MAHD would be a good fit. Following a meeting between the boards of the two divisions at the 2017 Annual Conference, a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted, revised, and approved by both boards.

**[Register now](#) for the webinar! Nov. 28, 2pm EST.**

We will first address questions submitted in advance. To submit questions, email [Tara Murray](#). Time permitting, we will also accept questions and comments during the webinar. The webinar will be recorded for those who are unable to attend.

Tara Murray, Chair, Social Science Division and  
Tina Budsize-Weaver, Chair, Museums, Arts & Humanities Division

## **New website coming soon!**

March 23, 2018 Categories: Social Science Division Archived Posts

The merger of the Social Science Division and the Museums, Arts & Humanities Division to create the Social Sciences and Humanities Division was approved by the SLA Board earlier this year. Soon we will have a new website and other communications channels for the merged division, but in the meantime, we'll continue to post news here.

Members, you can get the latest division news and discussions on [SLA Connect](#).

# Call for Posters: BMore!

March 23, 2018 Categories: Annual Conference



**Deadline extended to April 20!**

The Social Sciences & Humanities and Academic Divisions of the Special Libraries Association invite proposals for a poster session to be held during SLA's annual conference in Baltimore, June 9-13, 2018.

The theme for the SLA 2018 conference is BMore! We welcome proposals addressing any aspect of this theme. How are you and your library being more innovative? More collaborative? More inclusive? Posters may present original research, case studies, or work in progress.

A prize will be awarded for the best poster, as judged by attendees.

**Proposals should be submitted by April 20, 2018** using this form [<http://bit.ly/BMORESLA>]. Please include a title and description of about 250 words. Proposals will be reviewed by the 2018 poster session committee for relevance to the theme and quality, and applicants will be notified of acceptance decisions by April 30, 2018.

The poster session will be a relaxed and informal time to share ideas with your colleagues and will be held on Tuesday, June 12, from 9-10 a.m. Poster presenters are expected to stay for the hour to answer questions and to network with attendees.

The 2018 poster session committee is Marilyn Bromley, Lateka Grays, and Tara Murray. Please send any questions to Tara at [tem10@psu.edu](mailto:tem10@psu.edu).

# Joint Poster Session: New Time and Location at Conference

May 2, 2018 Categories: Annual Conference, Events

By popular demand, the **Social Sciences & Humanities Division/Academic Division Joint Poster Session** has been moved to the **INFO-EXPO** (exhibit hall) on **Tuesday June 12, from 10:30-11:30am**.

We have a stellar group of over 10 posters addressing the conference theme **BMore!** Presenters relate to this theme in diverse ways, including:

- undergraduate students' perceptions of academic librarians
- faculty's perceptions of undergraduate research skills
- leadership attributes of library directors
- the impact of library support/services on business school students
- supporting veterinary students well-being
- the depository collection of the US Atomic Energy Commission
- the geography of environmental justice

Come meet the authors in the INFO-EXPO Hall from 10:30-11:30am on Tuesday, view the posters and vote for your favorite.

The winner will receive a gift certificate, thanks to DSSH/DAC leadership and members. In addition, **the posters will be up all day so be sure to stop by and vote Tuesday during INFO-EXPO hours.**

# 2018 Conference Programs

May 16, 2018 Categories: Annual Conference

Below is a list of our sessions and events at [SLA 2018](#); we hope to see you there! Please note that two events require registration so that we have an accurate head count (follow the link).

## SLA Annual Conference, Baltimore MD, June 9-13, 2018

MONDAY June 11

### Conservation, Science, and You: A Look at Conservation Tech

2:15 – 3:30pm

Where are technologies headed when it comes to conserving physical materials for future generations? Come join the discussion with both conservators and conservation scientists from Johns Hopkins University's libraries and the Heritage Science for Conservation Lab. Learn how these departments are working together to conserve fragile items, create exhibitions to meet growing interest in conservation, and experiment with new technologies in order to keep materials available.

### Joint Division Reception

8 pm, Pratt Street Ale House, 206 W Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Please join the following division at our annual Joint Division Reception: \* Social Sciences and Humanities \* Solo \* Government Information \*Transportation. We will be hosting this year's event offsite at the Pratt Street Ale House. This annual reception is the perfect opportunity to relax, mingle, and enjoy great food and drinks with your fellow librarians. Please register for this free event [here](#) (scroll down for instructions).

TUESDAY June 12

### DAC – DSSH Poster Session

10:30 – 11:30 am, INFO-EXPO

We have a stellar group of over 10 posters addressing the conference theme **BMore!** Presenters relate to this theme in diverse ways, including:

- undergraduate students' perceptions of academic librarians
- faculty's perceptions of undergraduate research skills
- leadership attributes of library directors
- the impact of library support/services on business school students
- supporting veterinary students well-being
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The winner will receive a gift certificate, thanks to DSSH/DAC leadership and members. In addition, **the posters will be up all day so be sure to stop by and vote Tuesday during INFO-EXPO hours.**

### Guided Tour of the American Visionary Art Museum

10 – 12pm

America's official national museum and education center for self-taught, intuitive artistry (deemed so by a unanimous vote of the U.S. Congress). Three renovated historic industrial buildings house wonders created by farmers, housewives, mechanics, retired folk, the disabled, the homeless, as well as the occasional neurosurgeon. Located at 800 Key Highway, Baltimore Inner Harbor. Please register for this event [here](#) (scroll down for instructions).

### **Add Web Archiving To Your Skill Set: What You Need To Know**

10:30 – 11:30am

What is web archiving and why should you be thinking about it as an information professional? This session will provide an introduction to the current web archiving landscape, describe tools for both capturing and using archived web content, and present case studies of creating a thematic web-archive collection at both Cornell University Library and New York University. Whether you help patrons use resources on the open web, manage your own organization's web presence, or are responsible for subject-specific collection development, this session will challenge you to think about the ephemeral nature of the web and your own job responsibilities.

WEDNESDAY June 13

### **Open Access Publishing: Where Is It Headed?**

9 – 10am

Libraries and librarians are in the middle of a tug-of-war between open access and academic commercial publishing. Sites like SCI-Hub, UnPayWall, Open Access Button and search engines like Google Scholar and Microsoft's academic engine are becoming important alternative points of access. How can libraries and librarians ensure that faculty, scientists, researchers, and students have access to the scholarly publications, pre-prints, and data that are necessary for scholarship while still respecting copyright? Where is this tug-of-war headed? Attend this session and find out.

### **Good, Bad, & Ugly Germs: Perspectives on the Centennial Remembrance of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic**

10:15 – 11:30am

With the centennial of the Spanish Flu Pandemic in 1918, medical libraries are working with museums to remember the loss of over 50 million lives worldwide. How are librarians helping curators create both interesting and informative exhibits that reach both general and specialized patrons? What research is currently underway at medical libraries on the influenza virus, and how does the Spanish Flu affect current research? This panel explores the link between librarians, researchers, and curators when current research and commemorative remembrance intertwine.

# Joint Poster Session: Poster topics & presenters

June 8, 2018 Categories: Annual Conference, Events

Please join the Social Sciences & Humanities Division and the Academic Division for our [Joint Poster Session](#) on Tuesday, June 12, in the INFO-EXPO.

From 10:30-11:30 a.m., presenters will be with their posters to answer questions. Following the session, posters will remain up for viewing during INFO-EXPO hours.

Be sure to vote for your favorite poster — the winner will receive a prize. Voting will be open until 1 p.m.

## How Undergraduate Students' Perceptions of Academic Librarians Can Inform Innovative Instruction

Elizabeth Price, James Madison University, and Lara Sapp, James Madison University

Academic librarians are often focused on trying to understand who their students are, but rarely have the chance to learn about who students think they are. This poster will highlight findings from a large study of how undergraduate students at a four-year comprehensive university perceive academic librarians. The investigators will synthesize responses to four research questions and present data that most closely relates to information literacy instruction in higher education settings:

1. What education, knowledge, skills, and expertise do students think librarians have?
2. Do students know which workers in their library are librarians? What do students think librarians do?
3. Do students perceive librarians as valuable to their own work, and what role do they perceive librarians playing in their own education and to the university?
4. What is the student's perception of the librarian's attitude toward their jobs and helping students?

This project updates two earlier studies (Heron & Pastine, 1977; Fagan, 2003), adapting Fagan's survey instrument and supplementing it with that of Bickley & Corral (2011). Understanding the mindset of students can help academic librarians better prepare for in-person and asynchronous classes and create instructional materials to meet today's students where they are.

## Getting Feedback from Students: The Evolution of the InterProfessional Student Advisory Gatherings (#IPSAG)

Amanpreet Kaur, University of Pennsylvania Libraries, and Barbara Cavanaugh, University of Pennsylvania Libraries

The InterProfessional Student Advisory Gatherings (#IPSAG) is a networking event series geared towards health sciences students hosted by the Penn Libraries as a way to get feedback for the Biomedical, Dental, and Vet Libraries. Originally, IPSAG was founded as the Penn Health Sciences Libraries InterProfessional Student Advisory Group, in which members were selected by schools, departments, and programs within the health sciences community. Over the years, health sciences librarians experimented with IPSAG with small changes including types of events, topics discussed, methods of publicity, time of the event, and locations as well as large changes including the expansion of eligible members and re-branding from a group to an event series. Feedback collected from #IPSAG has impacted the availability of library services, resources, and spaces at the Biomedical, Dental, and Vet Libraries. To date, #IPSAG is only successfully sustained library student advisory group at Penn Libraries. The Penn Libraries and the Undergraduate Assembly may consider the #IPSAG model to potentially create an undergraduate event series.

## **Digital Literacy/Privacy**

Jesse Lambertson, Metamedia Management, LLC / Georgetown Law Library

It is one thing to talk about libraries and information centers as places of privacy and intellectual freedom – but do we connect these notions explicitly to digital literacy? The aim of my poster is to visualize frankly how information is read in computers, how special librarians can better educate themselves and the folks they serve (not matter the organization or institution) in the area of digital privacy so each person can take their knowledge beyond just content into the realm of digital context. This aim brings together the purely service-orientation of information professionals with professional development by embracing a more current model of lifelong learning. The result more fully integrates the librarian's own use of digital tools and their training others to use them by detailing a few practices in the browser, with network connections (both wired and WiFi), and a few more complex software based solutions that simultaneously provide better privacy and educate each person about using digital tools more intentionally – even mindfully.

## **Undergraduate research skills: Do students have the skills faculty expect?**

Boglarka Huddleston, Texas Christian University, Jeffrey D. Bond, Texas Christian University, Linda Chenoweth, Texas Christian University, and Tracy L. Hull, Texas Christian University

How do college faculty perceive undergraduate students' library research skills? To answer this question, we developed a study which includes a series of faculty focus groups, as well as an extensive faculty survey. In this Texas Christian University-based study, we explore whether faculty members' expectations and perceptions of student research skills match and determine which core research skills faculty members expect students to have. Both expected and perceived student skills vary among the academic disciplines and among the different classifications of undergraduate students. The results of this study will help teaching faculty and librarians build better collaborative teaching relationships and inform faculty and librarians as they seek to improve information literacy among undergraduate students. This research will affect the library in multiple ways, including its instructional program, reference practices, and marketing strategies.

## **Signature Projects and Leadership Foundations**

Binh Le, The Pennsylvania State University

The libraries of the Big Ten Academic Alliance universities are among the largest academic and research libraries in the world. Presently, these libraries are managed and led by some of the most dynamic and innovative library directors in the profession. This poster presentation presents the results of a larger study on the leadership attributes of the 15 library directors of the Big Ten Academic Alliance universities. Specifically, it examines how some of the signature projects undertaken by these future library directors in the early stages of their careers formed their leadership foundations. To be considered a signature project, besides accomplishing its established goals (e.g., create a totally new library service or improve an existing library service), it must include some of the following elements: (a) it has to be innovative, (b) it must contain some element of calculated risk, and (c) it has a significant impact on the profession. The preliminary results of this study shows that these future library directors played the key roles in initiating, managing, and leading in many of the signature projects under study. Significantly, these signature projects formed not only their leadership foundations, but also propelled them to the highest leadership positions. This poster presentation should be of interest to those who aspire to higher leadership positions.

## **Building an Impact Narrative: Assessing Library Support for the Business School Community**

Amanda Click, American University

In the spring of 2018, I conducted an assessment project to explore the impact of library support and services for American University business school students, faculty, and staff. Inspired by a project at the University of Washington, a one-question qualitative survey designed using critical incident technique asked respondents to share stories about their experiences with the library. Initially, respondents indicated whether they could think of a time that the library's staff, services, spaces, or resources had a positive impact on their academic work. If yes, respondents were asked to describe the experience in just a few sentences. If no, they were asked to briefly comment on this as well. This poster shares the preliminary findings of the study.

This assessment was designed to encourage respondents to think about their relationship with the library in terms of a critical incident, or specific experience. The qualitative data collected provides an opportunity to gather impact stories that may help communicate the value of the library across campus. Themes from the data shed light on the ways that the library and I have been successful in supporting the business school community, and also help identify opportunities for improving existing services or trying new support models. This type of assessment goes beyond satisfaction ratings to build narratives that help us understand our patrons' needs and be more innovative in our practice.

## **How can libraries “be more” in the fight against HIV/AIDS? Lessons from Lubuto Library Partners in Lusaka, Zambia**

Jane Kinney Meyers, Lubuto Library Partners

Exemplifying how Lubuto Library Partners' assertion that public libraries are special libraries too (as presented at the 2013 SLA Annual Conference in San Diego), Lubuto is driving library development in Africa, showing colleagues how to “BMore” innovative, collaborative and inclusive by addressing central societal problems. The poster presents the example of Lubuto libraries' programming to reverse the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

As public institutions highly responsive to the information and service needs of their communities, libraries have an especially critical role to play in the fight against HIV/AIDS, reaching vulnerable groups (street children, adolescent mothers, and youth with disabilities) typically excluded from settings where HIV prevention programs are delivered. In Lusaka, Zambia, Lubuto libraries have reached more than 1,020 vulnerable youth with innovative HIV prevention programs.

Lubuto runs a role-model mentoring program under a PEPFAR/DREAMS Innovation Challenge grant to equip adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 with sexual and reproductive health knowledge and access to services, and foster their determination to achieve. Key programs where Lubuto libraries have been outstandingly successful relative to traditional AIDS programming include:

- Offering HIV testing and counselling services in a non-traditional yet trusted, inclusive, non-stigmatizing environment
- Implementing an effective strategy to combat poverty-driven pressure towards transactional sex
- The value of cross-sectoral partnerships to offer holistic support for adolescents

These lessons suggest that HIV prevention programs can benefit from partnerships to provide counselling at non-traditional community sites, such as public libraries, and drive enrollment by addressing factors that influence behavior.

## **More than books and cubicles: one library's support of well-rounded well-being**

Kelly Johnson, Cornell University

In the face of a rigorous curriculum and incredible student debt looming ahead of them, many veterinary students struggle to maintain a healthy school-life balance or a positive outlook on entering the profession. Preparing students to manage their stressors, or allowing them to temporarily step away from them, improves current and future well-being and, as a result, productivity. The Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library aims to

improve the student experience across the curriculum by providing unique services and materials focused on improving mental health. Some efforts, like developing a Wellness Collection of books on stress-reduction and financial planning, align more closely with the library's role as resource repository; others, such as the provision of games, study supplies, and a tea cart (our most treasured addition) offer noteworthy shifts away from that traditional role. Results from student surveys, formal requests, and personal conversations are continually used to anticipate and implement services that establish the library as an open, welcoming, and inviting space. A selection of efforts intended to address mental health, both directly and indirectly, are presented along with student feedback and plans for the future.

## **Atomic Energy Commission depository collection – shining a light on a hidden resource**

Linda Musser, Penn State University

Most librarians are familiar with the U.S. federal depository library program as a mechanism to provide free access to U.S. government publications. Similar programs to distribute publications exist at other levels of government (e.g., state or local), other countries (e.g., Canada), and other organizations (e.g., United Nations) as well as individual agencies (e.g., U.S. Patent and Trademark Office). Many of the resources distributed via these programs have been widely collected and organized by libraries. The AEC depository materials are much less well described and owned by libraries. From 1946-1974, the Atomic Energy Commission operated a depository program among a select group of approximately 40 to 70 university libraries in the United States. AEC depository libraries received publications on microfiche related to atomic energy and were tasked with making these publications freely available to the public. Topics range from medical effects of radiation to evaluation of uranium deposits. The total number of reports issued to AEC depository libraries is unclear but easily numbers in the tens of thousands, representing a formidable collection of information that is largely hidden. Efforts are currently underway to rectify the situation, with activities ranging from comparing holdings to gathering titles and other bibliographic information. A number of libraries in the Big Ten Academic Alliance are working together to bring the materials in the AEC depository collection to light. This poster will describe the AEC collection and how these libraries are collaborating to describe and catalog the AEC depository publications.

## **Visualizing the Geography of Environmental Justice**

Victor Perez, University of Delaware, and Bernie Langer, PolicyMap

Environmental justice can be measured and analyzed in a myriad of different ways, but for students not majoring in geography or social sciences, the subject can be daunting. Presenting environmental justice issues involves showing places that have disproportionate levels of environmental toxins and people exposed to them who lack social, political, and economic power. Professor Victor Perez at the University of Delaware uses online mapping tools to help his students not only understand his presentation, but let them do their own analyses, without spending hours learning to use sophisticated software they may not use again.

Looking at a map of Wilmington, Delaware, we can bring up data on the non-white population and poverty, seeing where both are in high concentration, showing a geographic pattern of racial and economic inequality. Locations of brownfields (former industrial sites that may have potential toxic hazards) can be added, to show these racial and economically unequal areas that also suffer from environmental degradation.

By using an online tool like PolicyMap, students can access this data and create analyses quickly, which lets them spend more time discussing the underlying issues.

## **Digital Exhibits for Special Libraries : Connecting Specialized Collections with New Audiences**

Rachel Cole, Northwestern University Transportation Library

The highly specialized collections held by special libraries can sometimes lead to the impression that our holdings have a very niche appeal. Online exhibits and other digital tools open up avenues to connect special libraries with to an expansive, global audience of researchers, scholars, and the general public, both within our fields of focus and more broadly. The Transportation Library at Northwestern University has cultivated a digital presence to connect with a far-reaching audience, including the creation of online exhibits and a robust social media presence. This poster draws from examples using the Transportation Library's completed and ongoing projects: the exhibits *Bicycles on Paper* (2016), *Lovers of the Open Road and the Flying Wheel: From Iowa to San Francisco in a Model T* (2017), *On Board With Design: Passenger Transportation and Design in the Mid-20th Century* (2017), and the forthcoming 2018 project *Independence in the Air: African Aviation in the 1960s*. It covers the process of developing online exhibits, touching on how a special library decides what to select, as well as digitization, formats for presenting exhibits online, and, finally, distributing exhibits to a broad audience through promotion and social media.