HOT TOPIC #1: Distance Learning in Community College Libraries

A lively discussion ensued about “What does Distance Learning (DL) mean in your CC library?” Does your CC library serve Distance Learning students? Do you receive funding for DL services in different ways than for traditional learning modalities? Do you comply with ACRL’s Standards for DL?

- Job title is DL and librarians develops video resources
- Describes population that takes online courses
- Embedded librarian in Angel
- Supports Hybrid and fully online courses
- Means that students are moving around
- Relates to administrative pressures for space
- All our students are off-campus students almost all the time
- Trying to make the distinction disappear
- Distance is relative
• Online education means resistance by some
• DL means being part of the course shell, having a chat block
• DL means document delivery outside of the county
• DL tutorials, QuestionPoint, Videocasts, telephones service
• DL means assessment – which we should also be doing for face-to-face
• DL means honors courses too
• Link to ALA Standards for Distance Learning Library Services (2008)
• CC with distance learning populations are encouraged to join the Distance Learning Section of ACRL, the offcamp listserv, and to attend Central Michigan University’s Off-Campus Library Services Conference, which meets in the year opposite ACRL. The 2012 meeting is in Memphis.

HOT TOPIC #2: CCL Database Reviews

Initially, this agenda item was only going to be an alert of a terrific resource, provided by the Council of Chief Librarians of California Community Colleges. We lucked out, though, since Glorian Sipman (CCL-EAR chair) offered to discuss the criteria for these reviews. She encourages other librarians to also post comments at the website. For more information on the reviews, see: http://cclibraries.org/reviews/review-index/

The Community College League, in partnership with the Council of Chief Librarians, conducts a program of cooperative buying which includes community college libraries. Other California librarians told us how they use this resource, and most of the rest of us were jealous that our states don’t have similar organizations. We learned that the work has been happening for 10 years (or so) and includes regional advisors / reps across the state. The reviews allow CA librarians to share the work of reviewing potential database products and licenses. The review system uses a 4-star system. Vendors read the content.

This session left attendees with questions including: how do the CC librarians in your state work together, and, how does your state organization support the work of CC libraries?

This session left attendees with questions including: how do the CC librarians in your state work together, and, how does your state organization support the work of CC libraries?

Glorian shared the following about our California colleagues, “The work of the CC librarians on the Electronic Advisory Committee (the group that write the reviews) is supported by the California Council of Chief Librarians. Meetings, training, and information sessions are paid for by the Council of Chief Librarians. The California community college librarians work together to share knowledge and information, procedures and best practices with each other as we struggle with declining support by the state for the community colleges.”
HOT TOPIC #3 – Library School Students & CC Libraries:

Initially, the agenda was to have addressed budgets, but we were delighted to change directions to welcome Library School Visitors! We had questions for them, and they had questions for us, and besides, who really wanted to ruin a great sharing time to talk about budgets?

We had a unique opportunity to ask current library school students and recent grads about their educations – and what, if anything, might connect them to CC libraries. Topics mentioned included:

- Internships:
  - Cal State, U MD, and Catholic U have internships
  - Positives were finding mentors; negatives were that they were usually unpaid internships.
- Kenley Neufeld suggested that students should seek out a residency or PT fellowship, and that his library was in the process of doing just that.
- We asked if students took a class in IL. A few had, but all had done peer teaching within their programs, especially in subject bibliography classes. Some also worked in a library while in school, so they did a lot of one-on-one instruction.
- San Jose State has a CC course (didn’t spot one specific to CC libraries but they do have LIBR 230. Issues in Academic Libraries: Investigation of current issues impacting the functioning of the academic library. Topics covered include issues related to social and political environments, clientele, services, collections, physical settings, financing and staffing, and future trends in the academic library sector.)
- **University of IL has a certificate program for CC librarians.**"In this partnership with the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, NILRC has secured Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding to support professional library education for a cohort of 20 Masters Degree students. The community college librarianship-focused curriculum culminates with a six month paid internship at one of the grant-partner community colleges."
- We asked why they might be interested in CC libraries? Answers included: being a jack of all trades; not so specialized; variety; part of a community; opportunities for being supportive of students; student with military service said he felt most comfortable with a CC since he had used outreach services that seemed more like CC library services; another said that CC libraries hadn’t been much on the radar but seemed appealing
- Students asked how they can get a position in a CC library. Answers included: taking a PT job, volunteering, joining a campus committee once employed, teaching an online class, being willing to move, etc.

----------------------------------------------------------
National Council for Learning Resources (NCLR) Meeting

The National Council for Learning Resources (NCLR) is your voice in the American Association of Community Colleges. This is the only official representation of libraries and learning resources in the AACC organization.

CJC librarians are encouraged to join NCLR either as institutional or personal members.