I hope everyone’s spring semester is going well. Right now my library is facing an extensive renovation that will begin as soon as the spring semester is completed. It’s been a really interesting process planning how to close the library and set up our temporary space. I know quite a lot of you have been through this experience and the logistics involved are daunting. A lot of packing and cleaning is involved!

At the same time, I am really looking forward to having a brand new renovated library space for our students’ use in the future. We are planning many improvements in our new library such as a coffee shop, a redesigned Special Collections wing and other high-impact teaching and learning spaces. The library will also be undergoing a lot of critical infrastructure updates (electrical, mechanical, etc.) that will allow us to better meet the needs and comfort of our patrons.

At Midwinter 2015 in Chicago, I attended a CLS Medium-Sized Academic Libraries discussion where library renovations came up as a subject. It’s really helpful to hear other people who have been through the process speaking about it. As I wrestle with a variety of renovation questions, I am particularly glad for the ideas and conversations that happen at ACRL and on COLLIB-L. My students and my work benefit from your knowledge and experiences. And I am excited about what I will learn at ALA Annual in Orlando! If you are attending Annual, be on the lookout for information on the listserv and in the Conference Planner about the CLS Friday Night Feast, our Leadership & Management Issues in College Libraries discussion group, and our Medium-Sized Academic Libraries discussion group. We have also partnered this year with ALCTS to present the program Let’s Play Family Feud: a Public Services/Technical Services Dialogue. This program will concentrate on the challenges of communicating at work.

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Save the Date

Save the Date for the 6th Annual Connecticut Information Literacy Conference

University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut
Friday, June 17th, 2016

Maintaining Focus in a Changing IL Landscape

Mark Twain once quipped, “If you don’t like the weather in New England now, just wait a few minutes.” The same might be said for information literacy instruction in academia today. Technology advances, resources shift, student and faculty expectations fluctuate, instruction delivery methods vary, pedagogical theory evolves … librarians’ roles are transformed. The degree to which these changes affect us - and the breadth and speed at which change takes place - can blur our perspectives and threaten our focus. Join librarians from across the state and beyond as we embrace these changes and share strategies to maintain our bearings in a rapidly shifting information literacy landscape.

The Connecticut Information Literacy Conference Committee invites you and your colleagues to submit proposals for breakout and/or poster sessions.

Breakout Sessions: Run 45-50 minutes long with 10-15 minutes for Q & A. Proposals should emphasize how to implement the topic (including tie-in with the new ACRL Framework and standards, planning details, and assessment). Workshops that include hands-on activities, role-playing exercises, and other audience participation activities are welcomed!

Ideas for possible session topics include:
- Embracing the new Framework (in any way, shape, or form!)
- Incorporating “new” technology into the IL classroom
- Innovative approaches to meet the shifting demands of students and faculty
- Addressing 21st Century learning styles
- From Library 1.0 to Learning Commons 2.0
- Preparing students for tomorrow’s workplace
- Strategic planning and program development

Team presenters such as faculty-librarian are highly encouraged to submit a proposal.

Posters:
The Committee will also review proposals for posters to be displayed during the Conference. Posters should reflect the conference theme, Maintaining Focus in a Changing IL Landscape and address best practices in information literacy instruction and assessment as outlined in the examples listed above. Exhibitors will be expected to discuss their posters with attendees as needed. Additional guidelines are found http://bit.ly/1nwuEkP.

For consideration, please submit this form http://goo.gl/forms/TLvS8bxX29 by March 8, 2016. Benefits to the presenters include eligibility for one-half conference registration fee for up to two presenters and the opportunity to build your presentation experience and resume and to receive valuable feedback from your colleagues. Accepted proposals will be notified on or about March 28, 2016. Questions regarding proposals should be directed to jhansen@mxcc.edu.
Looking forward, in these last few weeks of the semester and in these last few months of my term as CLS Chair I am excited about many of the new things CLS has to offer. We have the pilot program of the Peer Writing Circles just starting up. This service is designed to bridge the gap between the intent to publish and the submission of a final project by supporting the writing process itself. This has been an awesome year and I can’t wait to see what happens next with Patricia Kreitz at the helm of CLS.

If you have any suggestions of additional ways CLS could assist librarians who are serving, or who are interested in serving, college campuses – or any questions about the section in general – please email me at sally.bryant@pepperdine.edu. I would love to hear from you!

Hollywood at the LBCC Library

The Long Beach City College Library has taken on Hollywood! A team of LBCC librarians’ have created and produced a fun, entertaining film showcasing the many programs and services offered by the LBCC Library. In an effort to promote the many features of the campus library to current and future students, the library applied for, and received, funding from the LBCC Auxiliary/PepsiCo Student Success Grant to produce Student Success in 4 Acts. The film, which can be viewed at http://bit.ly/LibrarySuccess, stars LBCC students and faculty members. It comprises four shorter videos each scripted and directed by an LBCC librarian. The film was recently recognized by the Telly Awards with a Bronze Award for the category of Online Videos - Education.

The team of librarians who worked on the film project, Vivian Linderman, Ward Smith, David Goto, and Colin Williams, along with Dr. Ram Chandran Sethuraman, Library Department Head, will be presenting the film in a panel discussion on the production process and what was learned at the upcoming NISOD conference in Austin, TX this May. NISOD or the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development is a prestigious group of community and technical college officials, administrators, and faculty members from across the United States and Canada. The American Association of Community Colleges has recognized NISOD as, “The country’s leading provider of professional development for community college faculty, staff, and administrators.”

Vivian Linderman, msls, mpa
Reference / Instruction Librarian, Adjunct
Long Beach City College

CLS Peer Writing Circle Program

The Research for College Librarianship Committee of CLS is pleased to report positive progress from the spring pilot of the CLS Peer Writing Circle program. A companion program to the CLS sponsored Your Research Coach program, this service is designed to bridge the gap between the intent to publish and the submission of a final project by supporting the writing process itself. A call for volunteer participants was disseminated in February of 2016 to members of CLS and an orientation webinar held by Program Coordinators, Kim Copenhaver and Beth Bohstedt on February 25th, 2016. Twelve CLS members committed to pilot participation and are currently meeting bi-weekly to review and discuss best practices in regard to academic writing, submit and receive feedback on current writing projects, and provide accountability to one another to sustain productivity.

The four pilot groups are off to an amazing start! As of mid-April, program participants have authored 24,119 scholarly words and devoted over 47 hours to academic writing! Participant comments indicate that peer writing circles foster collaboration, provide the support of a peer mentor and contribute to scholarly productivity. The spring pilot program will conclude in June, with program assessment scheduled to conclude prior to the ALA Annual Conference. If you are interested in learning more about the CLS Peer Writing Circle program please contact program coordinators, Kim Copenhaver copenhka@eckerd.edu or Beth Bohstedt bbohsted@hamilton.edu for additional information.

Kim Copenhaver, Behavioral Sciences Librarian and Assistant Professor of Reference, Instruction and Access Services at Eckerd College has been elected to the position of President-elect for the Florida Association of College and Research Libraries.
New College of Florida: Librarians, Faculty, and Students Create Displays and Programs

For the past several years, Social Sciences Librarian Caroline Reed has worked with Dr. Uzi Baram and his students to host library exhibits celebrating Florida Archaeology Month. According to Baram, these exhibits “are designed to encourage residents and visitors to learn more about the archaeology and history of the state, and to encourage preservation of Florida’s rich cultural heritage.” The exhibits are always free and open to the public. This year’s exhibit was called “Pioneers, Runaways, and Snowbirds: An Archaeology of Sarasota-Manatee.” It consisted of 10 informational panels, a display of artifacts and tools, short videos highlighting the major archaeological sites in the region, an interactive video on the 19th-century Cuban Fishing Industry, and a display of library books on Florida archaeology. The theme of the exhibit was foodways. Students included a display of various native foods prepared and consumed by people who lived in the area. As an added bonus, visitors were encouraged to take Florida Archaeology Month posters and Florida Public Archaeology Network maps of the region.

The display was a group effort. With an emphasis on the archaeology and history of Sarasota-Manatee, Dr. Baram, Director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab, sponsored a tutorial in which ten New College students learned about museum exhibits by working closely with Valerie Jackson Bell, Curator at South Florida Museum. The students created many of the elements that were included in the exhibit. Tours of the exhibit were provided by the students prior to a related talk by Michael Twitty, a recognized culinary historian and independent scholar focusing on historic African American food, folk culture and culinary traditions of Africa and the Diaspora presented “Culinary Justice: Defining a Theory of Gastronomic Sovereignty.”

In the fall of 2016, the exhibit components highlighting the Cuban Ranchos of southwest Florida will be featured as part of a larger Cubano-Americans Community Project and speaker series led by Spanish Language and Literature Professor Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez. Dr. Labrador worked with Humanities Librarian Theresa Burress and other campus and community partners including Sarasota Public Libraries to develop a successful grant proposal for the Florida Humanities Council. The Cubano-Americans Community project will help raise awareness of the deep roots that Cuban communities have in West-Central Florida with a distinguished speaker series that will begin with the Cuban Ranchos exhibit and programming in Sarasota County Public Libraries during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Caroline Reed, Social Sciences Librarian (creed@ncf.edu), and Theresa Burress, Humanities Librarian (tburress@ncf.edu), Jane Bancroft Cook Library, New College of Florida.