I REMEMBER IT WAS A HOT AUGUST DAY.
I was a brand new librarian in my first job and I had no idea what I was doing, or at least it felt that way. I had taken a class in library school about how to design a library instruction session, but some of the content knowledge in my new subject area escaped me. Sure, I'd been a communication major in college, but the advertising data platforms were new to me and I knew I needed to learn them quickly if I was going to teach them to a class of eager undergraduates in 24 hours. Thank goodness for EBSS’ Electronic Resources in Communication Studies’ subject guides! They proved to be an invaluable resource to me as I tried to navigate my way through my new role. For me, they were as good as gold.

At the 2018 ALA Annual Conference, EBSS will celebrate all the golden moments that the section's members have made possible during the last 50 years. We are looking for any EBSS stories or memorabilia that you would be willing to share and we hope that you can join us for the Good as Gold 50th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, June 22nd from 6-8pm at the Red Fish Grill in New Orleans. The celebration, sponsored by APA Style Central and Sage Publishing, promises to be lots of fun with games, awards, and numerous chances to connect with colleagues past and present.

In addition, EBSS’ committees are continuing to work on projects to create future golden moments. Besides the 50th Anniversary Celebration, look for EBSS’ Research Forum (complete with lightning talks) and a panel discussion program focused on the library’s contribution to a diverse and inclusive campus. Other committees, such as Psychology and Communication Studies, are in the process of developing subject-specific information literacy frameworks for instructing in those disciplines. Also, I am working with the Publications and Communications Committee to create an EBSS Communications Manager position. The person who eventually fills this position will work with section leadership to ensure that all of our section's golden moments do not go unnoticed.

EBSS has proved to be an invaluable resource for me during the nine years since that hot August day. If you feel the same way that I do, I hope you will share your story as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration and help us to create more golden moments through your involvement in an EBSS event or committee. After all, EBSS is as good as gold.

~Joyce Garczynski
EBSS Chair, 2017-2018
COMMITTEE REPORTS

EBSS 50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT BY CO-CHAIRS SCOTT COLLARD, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, AND NANCY O’BRIEN, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The committee met virtually to discuss plans for the upcoming celebration of EBSS’s 50th anniversary in 2018. Along with the chairs, the committee includes Melissa Beuoy, Joyce Gaczyński, Raquel Horlick, Connie Phelps, and Ericka Raber. The event will be held on Friday, June 22, 6-8pm at the Red Fish Grill, 115 Bourbon Street. The celebration will replace the annual EBSS Social for 2018, and a small registration fee will be charged in advance to defray costs. Registration will be available April-June, with more details coming soon. Two sponsors have provided additional support for the event: the American Psychological Association and Sage. Appetizers and a ticket for a beverage will be provided along with a cash bar. Complimentary USB chargers and EBSS gold ribbons will be distributed. A brief program will be held, including some whimsical awards (EBSSies) for longest term member, newest member, most chair positions held, and so on. The EBSS Distinguished Librarian award will also be presented, and former award winners will be encouraged to attend. Table-top trivia signs will provide information about EBSS since its founding in 1968. Digital/scanned EBSS memorabilia from throughout the years can be sent to co-chair Nancy O’Brien at npobrien@illinois.edu. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT BY STEPHANIE DAVIS-KAHL, CHAIR, ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

The Awards Committee reviewed applications for the American Psychological Association Librarian Conference Travel Awards throughout the year. Rachel Elrod from the University of Florida attended the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, and Kelsey Cheshire from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign attended the Charleston Conference. You can read interviews with the awardees on the APA Databases & Electronic Resources Blog. In January, we selected Scott Collard, New York University, as the recipient of the EBSS Distinguished Librarian Award for 2018. An award presentation will take place at the EBSS 50th Anniversary Celebration during the ALA Annual Conference in June.

Good As Gold
ACRL EBSS
50th Anniversary Celebration
Friday, June 22, 2018

The EBSS Newsletter (ISSN 0887-5189) is a biannual electronic publication of the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS) of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Members of the ALA/ACRL EBSS section receive the newsletter as a perquisite of current membership.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT, BY CO-CHAIRS ALEX HODGES, HARVARD, AND DORINNE BANKS, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

The EBSS Education Committee met virtually in late January 2018. The committee has been considering the use of Slack as another tool that EBSS could use for communication and collaboration. Education Committee members started using Slack for project-specific communication. Although Slack is not a tool that everyone uses, it might be a worthwhile tool for the new EBSS Communication Manager to consider. The committee has begun collaborations with the EBSS Online Learning Research Committee (OLRC). Amanda Ziegler, an Education Committee member, co-chairs the OLRC and has engaged the Education Committee to work together on creating a LibGuide promoting best practices, recommended readings, and resources for working with online learners. Committee members are also working on two new projects: (1) support for education sub-disciplines not covered by the EBSS committee structure, and (2) informal education librarian chats online (details still to be determined). The Education Committee will meet virtually instead of in-person at New Orleans for its 2018 annual meeting.

CURRICULUM MATERIALS COMMITTEE REPORT BY CO-CHAIRS JAMES ROSENZWEIG, EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, AND AMANDA MELILLI, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

The Curriculum Materials Committee has concluded its substantive revision of the Guide for Writing CMC Collection Development Policies. The committee is currently completing the formatting and layout of the new guide and will vote this spring on the final approval of the document, after which it will be forwarded to the Publications and Communications Committee for review. The Curriculum Materials Committee agreed at its midwinter meeting to focus next on building a LibGuide that would gather and curate information for CMC librarians. One of the first sections of the guide to be built will be a literature review regarding CMC librarianship. Rita Kohrman has long maintained a publicly available literature review and, at her retirement, she asked the committee if it would take over maintenance of the bibliography. The committee was delighted to accept this responsibility, and is grateful to Rita for her service to the profession.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT BY CO-CHAIRS CATHY MICHAEL, ITHACA COLLEGE, AND HEIDI SENIOR, UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

The Library Resources for Communication Studies LibGuide is nearing completion. Mid-March is our deadline for final drafts. At that point, the committee will either review each others’ work or ask for external reviewers. A request for a light review will be submitted to the Publications and Communications Committee by the end of March (“light review” as the resource was transferred from the ACRL wiki). The goal is to publish the guide by ALA Annual 2018. Our committee will schedule a virtual meeting for the annual conference.
ERIC USERS COMMITTEE REPORT BY CO-CHAIRS PAUL BELLONI, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, AND TODD SHIPMAN, AUBURN UNIVERSITY

The ERIC Users Committee held a virtual meeting on February 9th. Erin Pollard, Education Research Analyst at the Institute of Education Sciences, provided us with an update on ERIC. They expect to award a new contract in late April and begin work in late July. As resources allow, they will be restoring ERIC microfiche and developing an application programming interface (API) to give developers more access to ERIC’s underlying data and metrics. The previous committee group began work on a LibGuide about ERIC for librarians. It was decided that all committee members would look at it and share notes on what they believe should be the future of the guide. The committee discussed whether we would want to do a survey on how ERIC is used by librarians. It was agreed that this was worth looking into once we have completed the LibGuides project.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT BY SARAH FRENCH, CHAIR, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

The Higher Education Committee has continued to be active. We are meeting monthly in order to stay focused on our goals. Thanks to Amy Riegelman, we published an article about systematic reviews in the fall newsletter. The article provided introductory information and ready resources for librarians who wanted to understand basic facts about doing systematic reviews or who had been asked by a faculty member to participate in one. The committee then began to consider what topics might be suitable for a meaningful learning object, conference panel, or presentation. We generated possible topics, but decided to survey the EBSS membership to determine what topics feel most pressing to them. We chose to divide the survey into two areas: 1) competencies of interest to librarians (e.g., embedded librarianship, grant partnerships, instructional design) and 2) topics for which librarians provide instruction and/or information tools/resources to researchers and practitioners (e.g., Altmetrics, open educational resources). We are currently designing survey items and determining how best to implement the survey.

INSTRUCTION FOR EDUCATORS COMMITTEE REPORT BY CO-CHAIRS DAN ZUBERBIER, EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, AND DIANE FULKERSON, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, SARASOTA-MANATEE

The Instruction for Educators Committee is continuing its work to revise the Information Literacy Standards for Teacher Education and align them to the new Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education. Over the course of the fall, the committee used the University College London’s threshold concept bibliography to develop an understanding of identified threshold concepts within the teacher education discipline. We also used the opportunity to match those thresholds with specific frames within the framework. The committee wrapped up its work crosswalking K-12 information and technology and teacher preparation accrediting bodies’ standards to the framework in early April, and is reviewing options on how to gather education librarians’ feedback on the current
INSTRUCTION FOR EDUCATORS COMMITTEE REPORT, CONT’D.

Information Literacy Standards for Teacher Education. We hope to gain insight on education librarians’ use of the current document, expectations for a revised document, and how best to share the committee’s work with the broader EBSS community.

ONLINE LEARNING RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT BY CO-CHAIRS ANDREA HEBERT, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, AND AMANDA ZIEGLER, UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

The EBSS Online Learning Research Committee is partnering with the EBSS Education Committee to build an Online Education Toolkit for ACRL’s LibGuide site. The toolkit will address both synchronous (e.g., chat, videoconferencing) and asynchronous interactions (e.g., tutorials, discussion boards embedded in learning management system courses) with online users. It will point librarians to helpful literature on each topic and popular tools for providing service. The EBSS Online Learning Research Committee hopes to address the needs of librarians new to online service models and offer hints on how to get colleagues on board with providing service to online users. The committees expects to publish the guide in fall 2018.

PSYCHOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT BY KIMBERLY MILLER, CHAIR, TOWSON UNIVERSITY

The Psychology Committee continues early work to draft an Information Literacy Framework Companion for Psychology, following the process outlined by the Information Literacy Frameworks and Standards Committee. Committee members are currently reviewing the existing literature and other documentation related to psychology information literacy. We hope the next step will be to analyze and discuss our findings.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE BY JODIE BORGERDING, CHAIR, AMIGOS LIBRARY SERVICES

The EBSS Publications and Communications Committee held our midwinter meeting via conference call on January 22, 2018. Joyce Garczynski is working on creating a Communications Manager position for EBSS that will oversee EBSS’s social media platforms, listserv duties, and other marketing efforts. She drafted a job description for the committee to review before it goes to the EBSS Advisory Board and Executive Board for review. The 50th Anniversary Committee is working with Tina Mullins, EBSS Webmaster, to set up a website for the anniversary celebration. Emily Darowski, EBSS Newsletter Editor, is transitioning the newsletter production to Adobe InDesign. The new template for the newsletter was reviewed by the committee and Joyce. Cathy Michael from the Electronic Resources in Communication Studies Committee joined us to talk about their project of migrating the Library Resources for Communication Studies from the wiki to LibGuides. The Publications and Communications Committee will do a review of the new guides before they go live. The committee will meet virtually for our annual meeting. Meeting details will be sent out by the end of May.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

REFERENCE SOURCES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT BY RACHAEL ELROD, CHAIR, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The Reference Sources and Services Committee finished creating a Qualtrics survey to examine the online research behavior of postsecondary education faculty and students. The survey went live on February 28th and will stay up through the end of May 2018. The committee hopes to then analyze the data and publish the findings in a peer-reviewed journal. The survey can be found at https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2gZS8y8OVC8hA9n. All EBSS members are encouraged to forward this link to people they know who are either a postsecondary education faculty member or a student majoring in an education field.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT BY CO-CHAIRS SAMANTHA GODBETY, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS, AND CALLIE BRANSTITETER, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

The EBSS Research Forum at ALA Annual on Saturday, June 23, 2018, 4:00-5:30 pm will highlight research from education, behavioral, and social sciences librarians. This year’s event will follow the same lightning talk format as last year. EBSS members will remember that this format was new in 2017; a survey of EBSS members in fall 2017 via the EBSS listserv helped the committee in their decision to continue with the lightning talk format in a stand-alone event.

EBSS HISTORY OVERVIEW

In 1968, Barbara S. Marks and Howard W. Dillon worked to create a section within ACRL as a way to communicate the needs of education librarians across America. Out of this work, the Education and Behavioral Sciences Section developed and became the preeminent professional organization for librarians working in education, psychology, communications, and social work. Members are responsible for providing the materials and services that allow research, teaching, and scholarship in the social sciences to thrive at universities across the United States and Canada. EBSS committees consistently provide tools and resources that help its members to better achieve their aims of library instruction, technological applications, collection development, and the communication of research. As of 2018, EBSS boasts around one thousand active members.

See the EBSS manual for more history details. Peruse the timeline on page 7 highlighting key events through 2011.
SHARE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

**DEBORAH SCHAEFFER,**
**PROFESSOR EMERITA,**
**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,**
**LOS ANGELES**

Deborah co-authored the article “It Just Messes Your Mind”: U.S. International Students’ Perspectives of and Experiences with Academic Text Sourcing” with Janet Kesterson Isbell and Jayati Chaudhuri, which appeared in the January/February 2018 issue of the *Journal of International Students.*

**LESLEY S. J. FARMER,**
**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

Lesley has been selected as the California State University Long Beach Outstanding Professor.

**TRENT BRAGER,** **UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS**

Trent Brager, Education and Social Sciences Librarian, along with Amy Mars (St. Catherine University) and Kim Pittman (University of Minnesota Duluth), won the ACRL Instruction Section’s Innovation Award for their work on 23 Framework Things, a free online professional development opportunity that helps librarians engage with the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education at their own pace through readings, activities, reflection, and discussion. The Innovation Award “recognizes a project that demonstrates creative, innovative, or unique approaches to information literacy instruction or programming.”

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**EBSS THROUGH THE YEARS**

- **1967** Twenty-seven education librarians sign a petition supporting the subsection.
- **1968** ACRL approves Education and Behavioral Sciences Sub-section at Midwinter ALA Kansas City.
- **1969** Mary Ellen Collins is first recipient of Distinguished Librarian Award.
- **1970** Subsection bylaws ratified at ALA Annual Conference in Detroit.
- **1986** Tom Porsch edits first volume of EBSS Newsletter.
- **1991** First discussion group meeting at Midwinter on bibliographic instruction, curriculum collections, and CD-ROM products.
- **1997** Deborah Rollins serves as first Web Manager.
- **2003** EBSS goes online with the Fall Newsletter.
- **2006** Information Literacy Steering Committee creates guidelines for disciplines in EBSS.
- **2009** EBSS goes online with the Fall Newsletter.
- **2010** Virtual committee meetings.
I had a fairly typical career for my generation, but I was also very lucky. I got my library degree only a handful of years after getting my BA and took a job at Drexel University. Then I got married and followed my husband as he built his career over three states, eventually landing in our home state of Michigan with three youngsters and a variety of part-time jobs on my vita. Just as the kids were reaching school age and I was anxious to get back in to academic libraries, Michigan State University (MSU) offered me a part-time reference position, which worked well and eventually led to full time work as the education and psychology librarian.

I started my professional involvement in the American Educational Research Association (AERA) but found that my peers at MSU didn't know the organization and thus did not value this as highly as they would ALA, so I joined ALA as well. This was the late 90s; the internet and web browsers were still fairly new and MSU was very supportive, giving everyone server space. Librarians who knew HTML were not that common. At my first EBSS meeting they said they needed a web manager and I was the only volunteer. MSU agreed to host (ALA did not host for sections at that time) so I was in. It didn't take long for everyone to learn my name in such a visible position. I did serve two terms on the Reference Sources and Services Committee but other than that I went straight from web manager to Vice Chair/Chair Elect.

I have already provided an overview of the crisis with ERIC that took place concurrently with my term as chair to Nancy O’Brien so I’ll skip that here except to say that like all crises it was a real unifier and the entire section was incredibly supportive of getting word out to other librarians about changes taking place at the Department of Education (DOE). We had people working for the feds providing us information, U.S. News and Education Week called me for comment, and we had some success in making sure the DOE, and especially the ERIC contractor, sought input from librarians when changes were planned. It is a legacy that continues to this day.

ALA and ACRL also took notice and asked me to run for council, which I did successfully with the voting power of EBSS behind me. In that position I was able to keep other librarians in the loop regarding Department of Education actions. I approached ACRL about my involvement in AERA and the advantages I believed would come from having a more formal working relationship. They were responsive and eventually established the Council of Liaisons to build formal relationships with several disciplinary associations. I was liaison to AERA for several years, though there were other EBSS member involved as well. One thing I know happened as a result of our efforts is that AERA decided not to sign with Elsevier to be their journal publisher, and went with Sage instead. Their executive director drove a tough bargain, something we can't take credit for, but I do think EBSS objections helped.

Because it is a disciplinary section, EBSS tends to have a fair amount of churn as new librarian liaisons come and contribute and move on up the ladder at their universities. The section has always been very welcoming and very trusting, letting new people take roles of significant responsibility quite early in their careers. I think that youthful energy combines well with the experience that those of us who don't want to move on, but instead stay with discipline specific liaison work throughout our careers, in ways that make
Please share a brief synopsis of your career in libraries, including when and how you got involved in EBSS and what committees you served on. I started my library career in technical services working with serial acquisitions initially and then as a social science bibliographer. When an opportunity came up to work with education collections in a public services capacity, I leaped at the opportunity. My initial project was to organize the transfer of the College of Education’s curriculum collection to the library in 1981. That involved outreach to faculty and acquiring updated material. It also led to being offered the position of education subject librarian and that is the role in which I have continued ever since. The position has evolved, of course, with additional responsibilities for instruction and outreach for our collections of test instruments, children’s literature, K-12 teaching material, general education resources (preschool through higher education), and even our occult sciences collection! I also manage a social sciences library affiliated with twenty-two academic programs on campus. There are eight librarians in “my” library, five staff, and four graduate assistants, along with about twenty undergraduate student workers.

My first EBSS appointment was in 1982. I was a member of the Curriculum Materials Committee from 1982 to 1987, chairing it from 1985-1987. As a librarian in a tenure track position, involvement in professional associations was expected. The welcoming and open nature of EBSS in the early 1980s made it a wonderful experience to join such an inclusive organization, and I have seen that welcoming attitude continue in the decades since. One of the greatest benefits to a new librarian is that EBSS believes in and practices collegiality and networking. As I was learning my new job responsibilities, I found colleagues in EBSS who offered advice and support and shared their experience. I also found opportunities to participate in committees that aligned with my work, so I was able to simultaneously learn and contribute. When there were gaps in knowledge or information, EBSS committees stepped forward to create publications that would be useful to the wider library community—some of which I still consult today!

As far as my committee experience, I have served on a number of...
NANCY O’BRIEN, CONT’D.

EBSS committees, such as Nominations, Membership, Program Planning, Publications and Communications, and ad hoc committees working on specific publications or a section review. I also served twice as section chair, in 1988/1989 and in 1994/1995.

Describe any key events or experiences you had while you were involved in EBSS.

One of the key experiences for me in being part of EBSS is the opportunity to connect with librarians in similar positions and learn from them. I have been very fortunate to develop friendships with colleagues in other parts of the U.S. that have continued past their retirements. In EBSS there is a very open attitude toward sharing expertise and passing it along to the next generation of librarians. User services continue to be at the forefront for EBSS members so programs, publications, and committee discussions are focused on services, meeting needs, and addressing current issues. One of the most notable examples of doing so is when the federal government decided to reorganize ERIC, a national resource of education information. EBSS members rallied under the leadership of Kate Corby and others to inform the government of what works with ERIC and where changes could be helpful. It was sometimes contentious as ERIC clearinghouses were closed and the ERIC database was revamped, but throughout EBSS continued to be a voice for stakeholders. The perceived potential demise of ERIC led to increased interaction between the U.S. Department of Education and EBSS members, which continues today through the EBSS ERIC Users Committee.

What trends or changes have you observed in EBSS over the years?

While technology has changed dramatically over the years improving communication tools such as the electronic discussion list and the format of the EBSS Newsletter, one of the most important things about EBSS has not changed: the opportunity to connect with colleagues across the nation and beyond. In fact, technology in the form of the EBSS electronic discussion list has greatly increased the opportunity to connect with colleagues and ask questions. For new librarians, or for librarians dealing with new tasks, this has been invaluable.

Why is EBSS important for librarians?

EBSS is important for librarians in the behavioral sciences and education because it provides a network of expertise and mentors to call upon. Sometimes that expertise is from a librarian new to the profession who is aware of the latest trends and other times it is from librarians with years of experience. The commitment to sharing in an inclusive, non-judgmental forum is priceless. I’ve asked for information or guidance through the EBSS electronic discussion list or in committees and always had helpful responses. Whether it relates to how to deal with changes in textbook formats, open access, or which library is collecting historical material, there are EBSS members willing to help.

What advice do you have for young librarians just getting involved in EBSS?

My advice to new librarians is to use the electronic discussion list to ask questions, contact EBSS librarians directly for specific advice, and get involved! Many of our members remain active within the section for years and some move on to leadership positions in EBSS or ACRL. EBSS offers a wealth of opportunity.

Where do you see librarianship heading and how can EBSS help move us toward the future?
MEMBER PROJECT

SAMANTHA GODBEY, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS, EBSS SECRETARY, RESEARCH COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Samantha is co-editor of the recent publication *Disciplinary Applications of Information Literacy Threshold Concepts* (ACRL, 2017). The 25 chapters discuss approaches to the concepts in ACRL’s *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education* and cover a range of disciplines, including the humanities, social sciences, life sciences, and physical sciences, and a range of students from first-year undergraduates to doctoral students. Authors discuss each of the frames from the ACRL framework, using the language of threshold concepts to explore challenges students are likely to face in their learning. Each chapter offers personal reflection on a threshold concept and suggestions for addressing that threshold concept in the context of a discipline.

Samantha and her co-editors decided to put together this collection after leading several workshops on the framework and having conversations with many librarians about how to address these ideas with students. This is the first book-length publication that covers these concepts across a deliberate breadth of subjects and instructional contexts.

The following chapters may be of particular interest to EBSS members:

- Introduction – for a concise explanation of threshold concepts and their defining characteristics
- “But How Do I Know It’s a Good Source? Authority is Constructed in Social Work Practice” by Callie Wiygul Branstiter and Rebecca Halpern
- “Common Ground: Communicating Information” by Beate Gersch
- “Teaching the Teachers: The Value of Information for Educators” by Jess Haigh
- “Action Research as Inquiry for Education Students” by Samantha Godbey
- “Teaching Future Educators Exploration through Strategic Searching” by Michelle Keba
- “Threshold Concepts, Information Literacy, and Social Epistemology: A Critical Perspective on the ACRL Framework with Reference to Psychology” by Tony Anderson and Bill Johnston

NANCY O’BRIEN, CONT’D.

Despite the frequent assertions that libraries are no longer important because everything is available through the internet, librarians are seeing increased requests for research consultations, interpretation of database search results, and assistance in locating information. At my library, the gate counts show that more people are using the library as a place to study, meet with groups for projects, and take advantage of good connectivity with wireless or networks. EBSS can be part of the future by continuing to focus on the needs of library users in the behavioral sciences and education and by maintaining its welcoming and open presence.

Is there anything else you would like to add about the history of EBSS?

EBSS is a pro-active, service-focused organization. Discussion group topics focus on current trends and issues within libraries and more generally within higher education. With its commitment to serving the needs of library users, EBSS exemplifies how to stay a vibrant, healthy organization.
MEMBER PROFILES

EMAIL INTERVIEW WITH PENNY BEILE, UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Please share a brief synopsis of your career in libraries, including when and how you got involved in EBSS and what committees you served on.

While working toward my library degree I had the opportunity to serve as an intern at the University of Kentucky Libraries reference desk. This helped prepare me for my first job at Miami University (MU) in Ohio, as Social Sciences Librarian. After working with my amazing MU colleagues and learning more about academic librarianship, I eventually went to Louisiana State University (LSU) Libraries. My first job there was as Education Librarian, and I was lucky enough to assume directorship of the Education Resources Center when that position opened. This was when I first became involved with EBSS, which was almost two decades ago! EBSS was my professional home for 15 years; first as head of a Curriculum Materials Center at LSU, then later at the University of Central Florida Libraries. I served as member, co-chair, and/or chair of various EBSS committees, including the Curriculum Materials Committee, the Directory Committee, Instruction for Educators Committee, several Conference Program Planning Committees, and the newly-minted Research Committee. Ten years ago (2007-2008) I served as section chair and led the 40th Anniversary celebration working group, and in 2010 received the EBSS Distinguished Librarian award.

Describe any key events or experiences you had while you were involved in EBSS.

Some of my best memories of EBSS were in the mid-2000’s, when EBSS leadership formed forward-thinking committees like Online Learning Research, Research, and Scholarly Communication. I hate to list people who were instrumental in advancing the section at that time for fear of leaving someone out, but suffice it to say that I felt like giants walked the earth.

What trends or changes have you observed in EBSS over the years?

EBSS was an early adopter of fully online/virtual meetings, which ensures that those who can’t attend conferences in-person can still participate in the work of the section. Similarly, EBSS requested that the 5th edition of the directory be in electronic format (as well as print), which to my knowledge was the first work of its kind in ACRL. EBSS has a strong history of innovation in the association.

Why is EBSS important for librarians?

Wow, EBSS has been important to me in so many ways. Ways that are important for all librarians. When I think of EBSS I think of meaningful service contributions that have helped all education and behavioral sciences librarians be successful in their positions, while also accessing professional development resources and a community of practitioners who helped me be a better librarian; colleagues who have been collaborators on projects or served as letter writers when seeking promotion or job advancement; and just some of the most amazing people I’ve ever met, most of whom I’ve remained in contact with over the years and many who have become lifelong friends.

What advice do you have for young librarians just getting involved in EBSS?

Sit in on an in-person or virtual meeting (guests are welcome except for a very few closed meetings) or contact the section chair, a member-at-large, a committee chair, or any EBSS member for information about joining or being active in the section. Again, this is a very friendly and hard working group of
Please share a brief synopsis of your career in libraries, including when and how you got involved in EBSS and what committees you served on.

My first library position was a temporary one as a high school librarian. After realizing that wasn’t my cup of tea, I took a position as an elementary school media specialist in an open space school and loved every minute of the eight years I spent in that position. But an opportunity to create a curriculum library for preservice teachers caught my eye, so I graduated to academic libraries in hopes of inspiring classroom teachers to work more collaboratively with their school librarian/media specialist. For the past 35 years I have ‘played’ school librarian/media specialist at the academic level, creating a dynamic curriculum center (a.k.a. model school library) that faculty have incorporated into their curriculum and students have lived in. Since this position is an odd one in the field of academic libraries, I looked for comrades and found them in EBSS. I have served on several different committees including chairing the Curriculum Materials Committee and the original ERIC committee. I also served as the section secretary, then took my turn as Ccair of the section. For 20 plus years I have been the EBSS-L discussion list moderator.

Describe any key events or experiences you had while you were involved in EBSS.

Probably the most critical event I was involved in was while I was chairing the section in the early 2000s. It was during that time the Department of Education decided to modernize ERIC. This reorganization marked an end to the ERIC Clearinghouse system, which was near and dear to the hearts of education librarians. It also meant revamping the database structure and digitizing all of the ERIC microfiche. All of this was going to be ‘outsourced’ to a private company. To say the least, education librarians, as well as librarians in other behavior sciences, where extremely concerned about how this transition was going to take place. Over the course of my tenure as chair we managed to develop a positive working relationship with the Department of Education and the new ERIC entity, which I believe still exists to this day.
JUDY WALKER, CONT’D.

What trends or changes have you observed in EBSS over the years?
Advances in technology over the three decades that I have been involved with EBSS has had a dramatic impact on the section. Most of the influence has been good, but there have been some downsides as well. EBSS has always been on the cutting edge of technology and in some cases even pushing the envelope for ACRL. We established one of the first discussion lists, section websites, and online current topics discussion. Doing the business of the section has become a lot of easier thanks to technology. Back in the nineties, we killed a lot of trees in the course of doing work. It’s also become easier to stay in touch between conferences. And those librarians who could not attend the conferences now have more of a voice in the section. The one downside I see, we have lost some of the closeness that hours of face-to-face work created. Although our numbers haven’t changed much considering the state of economics, I think we are a bit more isolated behind our computer screens. And I say that as someone who is known to be a true techie. The other trend I have seen and believe to be significant, is the section’s move toward supporting librarians as researchers. The establishment of the committees for Research, Scholarly Communications, and Higher Education signified a shift in thinking about our role in academia from provider of information/resources to a role of creating knowledge not just about librarianship but about our specific disciplines. Again, EBSS was out in front of ACRL on this issue.

Why is EBSS important for librarians?
Networking and collaboration are the key reasons why education and behavior science librarians should be involved in EBSS. We learn from each other and we support each other as well as the profession.

What advice do you have for young librarians just getting involved in EBSS?
In many ways I envy those new to the profession. There are so many exciting opportunities available to them not just within EBSS but throughout the profession. I do, however, have a few suggestions for making the most of their involvement in EBSS. If you aren’t quite sure where you fit in, shop around a little. Visit a couple of different committee meetings including the less glamorous administrative ones like membership and publications. Listen and learn from your colleagues. Once you have decided where to concentrate your efforts, join in the discussion even if you are not a member of the committee/group yet. If you are on a committee, work hard to ensure the success of the committee’s work. Spend time getting to know others on your committee. Some of the best ideas can be discovered outside of the committee work over lunch or a drink. Volunteer for projects that will stretch you, staying within your comfort zone doesn't help anyone. One quick comment to the veterans in the section. Make sure you include the ‘newbies’. Take a few under your wing and help them find their place in the group. It definitely is fulfilling to see them mature in the profession.

Where do you see librarianship heading and how can EBSS help move librarians toward the future?
Throughout my 40 plus years as a librarian the discussion of relevancy has been bantered about with the sense of immediate doom in the air. We as librarians need to stop talking and BE relevant. That means confidently reaching out and collaborating with folks outside librarianship – our students, our faculty, our administration, our community. EBSS can help new and veteran librarians by providing timely professional development. In this age of social media, we should be able to connect with our members more often with vital information.
Looking for a simple way to remind your subject faculty that you exist? Send them an ecard! These digital postcards are a fun, informal way to jog their memory by noting who you are, where you’ve recently met, and what you as their liaison librarian can do for them. In my experience, receiving an ecard often prompts subject faculty to ask that lingering question, forward a purchase recommendation, or connect a student in need of research help to the library.

Creating a custom ecard is easy using design tools like the web-based Canva (www.canva.com). Sign up for a free account to access Canva’s digital library of professionally-designed ecard templates. Then simply select a template, modify and/or add text, download the custom image, and paste it into your email. Hit send, knowing you’ve taken a proactive step in engaging your subject faculty.

Here’s a sample ecard:

It was GREAT seeing you at the COE FACULTY OPEN FORUM

Don’t FORGET! I’m here for all your library needs from A(ccess) to R(esearch) and so much more!

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