ERIC Reauthorization
Midwinter Current Topics Discussion at San Diego

Julie Tharp and Penny Beile

The traditional EBSS Current Topics Discussion round table format was changed this year in favor of a lively panel of speakers who addressed a topic of overarching importance, the ERIC reauthorization and the implications of these changes on education research dissemination. Members-at-Large Julie Tharp and Penny Beile invited representatives from a variety of backgrounds to speak, and the final slate included Kate Corby, Chair of the EBSS Ad Hoc Committee on Access to Government Sponsored Education Research, Nancy Cawley, Marketing Director of the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS), and Dave Lankes, Director of the Information Institute of Syracuse and past head of the now defunct AskERIC service and the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information and Technology.

The 80+ people who attended the session heard Kate Corby summarize the timeline and background of the ERIC reauthorization and EBSS efforts at oversight of the process. Kate went on to relay that the proposed ERIC model will consist solely of the database, and that all clearinghouses had already ceased to exist. Kate also indicated that the restructuring was due to the recent No Child Left Behind Act and the current administration’s emphasis on making empirical research studies more accessible. This restructuring has resulted in the elimination of the ERIC clearinghouses, which were seen as giving undue emphasis to weak research. A new “What Works Clearinghouse,” unrelated to the ERIC system, will evaluate the reported research for users. Although some changes to the ERIC database will definitely be seen as improvements, including the provision of more full-text resources and comprehensive indexing of chosen journals, other outcomes are not so clearly articulated, and may be detrimental both in the short and long term.

Following Kate, Nancy Cawley reported on the status of EDRS. Nancy indicated that revisions to the ERIC Statement of Work required that the new ERIC database go live September 1, cont’d on page 3
From the Chair

Scott Walter, EBSS Chair

Collaboration. That was the first thing I heard when I walked into my first-ever EBSS meeting 6 years ago. Just finishing library school, I had the good fortune to wander into a meeting of the Instruction for Educators Committee as its members were finishing work on the project that became The Collaborative Imperative (2000). As I finish my year as Chair of the section, I think about the lessons of that project and how we have built on them over the past few years.

First, one can’t help but notice that this book seems as much an Instruction Section project as an EBSS project. It is, after all, about instruction, and it is certainly designed to appeal well beyond the subject specialist concerns often embraced by EBSS. And, why not? Many EBSS librarians have teaching backgrounds and/or work with teachers on a regular basis. This was my introduction to the idea that EBSS members could contribute to issues of concern to other sections because of the experience and expertise rooted in our subject specialties. A few years later, I saw that idea play out again at the annual meeting in Atlanta when our section program on “Games Academics Play” was among our most successful. The lesson learned: to remain a vital and growing member of the ACRL family, EBSS must not only work to further research and professional practice in the areas of education and behavioral sciences librarianship, but must look to see how our connections with those disciplines can illuminate issues of broader concern to academic librarians. Our program planned for Annual 2004 continues this theme, as we present “Pedagogy and the Online Learner” — a program rooted in the disciplines of education and psychology, but designed to address professional concerns also faced by our colleagues in the Instruction Section and the Distance Learning Section (and elsewhere).

Second, one can’t help but respect the prescience of the idea that this book has had. Through its more than 500 pages, EBSS has always been a wonderful place to be a librarian. Our programs are open and welcoming (thanks to people like our current Membership & Orientation Chair, Melissa Cast), our Web site provides a rich resource for professionals, both new and experienced (thanks to our Webmaster, Kate Corby, and all the committee that provide content), and our discussion list is well known for the quality of the information provided to subscribers (thanks to our list moderator and Chair-elect, Judy Walker). It’s a great place to become a better education and behavioral sciences librarian. As all these recent examples show, however, it’s also a great place to contribute to issues important to all academic librarians. This has been proven time and time again over the past few years, and I look forward to seeing it continue over the next few years.

EBSS Annual Meeting Schedule for Orlando

http://www.lib.msu.edu/corby/ebss/04annual.htm
Midwinter Discussion

cont’d from page 1

2004, and that the new EDRS and E*Subscribe closing date of September 30 would allow some overlap. Nancy added that ERIC microfiche service will end July 30 and will be turned over to the new contractor for archival purposes at that time. She further indicated that most existing electronic EDRS documents would be made freely accessible via the Internet and new materials will be added in electronic format. Elaborating on the new ERIC document delivery model, Nancy stated that no new information would be archived in microfiche form, and that existing 1966-1992 backfiles would be indexed, but would not be made available through the database. Nancy ended by noting the new ERIC contractor is supposed to be aggressive in pursuit of education information, and will emphasize full-text information through links to journal providers and Internet data-mining in addition to the traditional acquisition strategies.

As the final panelist, Dave Lankes noted the RFP called for the contractor to procure full-text information, “…if you can, but point to it if you can’t.” He also confirmed Kate’s and Nancy’s observations that a lot of ambiguity was built into the RFP, and there were no assurances as to possible outcomes of the new ERIC model. Lankes went on to point out that the AskERIC service, up until the day it closed, had been a highly visible and highly used service, as indicated by the fact that it had answered over 350,000 questions, had over 14 million unique users, and had received approximately one billion hits since the site’s inception. Lankes added that available content from the AskERIC web site had been transferred to the Educator’s Reference Desk <www.eduref.org>, and further indicated the site is already receiving around one million hits per day. Lankes emphasized this service was too valuable to allow it to languish, and although he is able to continue to maintain the server space itself, he no longer has the staff to maintain the site. As a result, Lankes called for a grassroots initiative, spearheaded by EBSS and the library community, to support and continue to build this important resource. Many of the librarians in attendance rallied to the call and agreed to assist in efforts to continue the service.

The remaining time was spent with the panelists fielding a number of animated questions and comments from the audience.

Dr. Laurene E. Zaporozhetz named EBSS Distinguished Librarian

Dr. Laurene E. Zaporozhetz, Dean of Libraries, Murray State University, KY is the 2004 EBSS Distinguished and Behavioral Sciences Librarian Award recipient.

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Eduref.org

Needs Volunteers

Jennifer Barth

The Educator’s Reference Desk is seeking volunteers to help build our online collection at <www.eduref.org>

The Educator’s Reference Desk currently includes links to over 3000 online resources in education organized by topic. We are looking for volunteers willing to adopt a topic and manage its list of resources. For more information see <www.eduref.org/About/volunteers.shtml>

If you are interested, send a message to <eduref@eduref.org>. In your message, please include your name, title, institution, and the topic you are interested in managing.

Jennifer Barth is the Graduate Assistant for the Educator’s Reference Desk

Dr. Laurene E. Zaporozhetz served as EBSS section Chair, chair of the Distinguished Librarian Committee for six years, and was a member of the Standards for Education Library Services Committee from 1983 to 1987. She has been active in ACRL’s Chapters Council and the Instruction Section, and has served on the NCATE Board of Examiners since 1990. She holds a B.A. with Honors from Michigan State University, an M.S. in Librarianship from Western Michigan University, and a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Oregon.

Dr. Zaporozhetz will receive an award citation and a check for $1,000 from John Wiley & Sons, Inc. during the EBSS program on Saturday, June 26, 2004.
"Pedagogy and the Online Learner"

Mary Jane Brustman

Providing library resources and services via the web is a major challenge and opportunity facing academic libraries. Librarians are actively using the web to provide resources and services, yet many librarians lack sufficient understanding of how online learners learn. The EBSS program at Orlando will address human factors in information design, best practices in online learning, and how to use effective design in a library setting.

Presenters: Jerilyn Veldof, University of Minnesota Libraries; Michael Newlin, University of Central Florida, Psychology Department; Maria Lavooy, University of Central Florida, Psychology Department.

International Children’s Digital Library

Ann Weeks

Does one of your patrons need a picture book in Vietnamese? Have you been unable to find children's books in the five languages spoken in New Zealand? If finding children's books in multiple languages is a challenge you face, then a research project underway at the University of Maryland may be able to help. The International Children’s Digital Library (ICDL) is a five-year research project funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS). The goals of the research are:

- to create a collection of more than 10,000 books in at least 100 languages that is freely available throughout the world via the Internet;
- to collaborate with children as design partners in the development of a computer interface;
- to better understand the concepts of rights management and "fair use;
- to evaluate the impact that access to digital materials may have on collection development; and
- to develop a greater understanding of the relationship between children’s access to a digital collection of multicultural materials and their attitudes toward books, libraries, reading, technology, and other cultures.

The collection’s focus is on identifying materials that help children, ages 3-13, to understand the world around them and the global society in which they live. The current collection includes more than 320 books in 27 languages, from Chinese to Shona, and is expected to grow to 10,000 titles by 2007.

For more information, visit the project’s website at <www.icdlbooks.org>

Dr. Ann Weeks is Director for Collection Research/Use, Human-Computer Interaction Lab and College of Information Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

Scott Walter - thoughts about our current Chair

Doug Cook

Scott Walter, our current EBSS Chair, has been extremely involved in ALA for a number of years. I first met him when we were both newbies on the EBSS Instructors for Educators Committee. When I think of Scott I think of several things. Scott is an involved educator who happens to be a librarian, and he has a lightning-fast ability to write.

If you look at Scott’s CV you wonder when he has time to sleep.

Not only is he involved in ACRL and the American Association of School Librarians, but he is also involved in non-library associations such as the American Education Research Association and the History of Education Society. To his credit, he is almost finished with a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Washington State University. During the projects and meetings that I have been involved with Scott, he always has the broader picture of education in mind. He has made tremendous connections between librarianship and education.

Scott also writes like a whirlwind. His publications are numerous (and excellent). He is a book reviewer for Library Journal. He has a number of entries in the Historical dictionary of American education and the Greenwood dictionary of education. In 2003 alone he had articles in The Reference Librarian, Behavioral & Social Sciences Librarian, The Acquisitions Librarian, and C&RL News. He has book chapters on collaboration, professional education, and education statistics. And he probably responds more to EBSS-L than anyone else – with very well-reasoned and thorough answers. Scott is a good colleague to have on any committee. We all wish him well.

Scott is currently the Interim Assistant Director for Public Services and Outreach, Washington State University Libraries in Pullman.

The Curriculum Materials Committee was asked to recommend criteria for appointing an EBSS representative to the ICDL Board. They suggest the following:

Suggested Criteria: Experience with English language children’s literature selection (additional languages preferred); knowledge of both contemporary and historical children’s literature.

Suggested Term: 2 years

Role: It is understood that this board member will represent EBSS to the International Children’s Digital Library Project and request input from the CMC committee or EBSS Executive Committee when appropriate. This representative does not have to be a member of the CMC Committee but should be a member of EBSS.

The CMC Committee has nominated Darla Bressler for this position. She is currently a member of the CMC Committee and is the Social Sciences and Education Subject Specialist at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.
Read a Good Book Lately?

Thanks to Laurie Charnigo for suggesting this topic on EBSS-L.


Reviewed by Susan Ariew <saa@vt.edu>

Gerald Bracey has written several books and articles that analyze the education reform movement in the United States. In his latest book, Bracey takes aim at the destructive effects and consequences of the No Child Left Behind Act.

In all of Bracey’s books the reader enjoys a thorough review of research and assessment information translated into easily understood English as well as a clear sense of the difference between political misuse and abuse of high stakes testing versus what the research really tells us about our schools.


Reviewed by Arthur Tannenbaum <arthur.tannenbaum@nyu.edu>

With the use of many case studies of institutions (mine being one of them), David Kirp has written a thought provoking book about the future of higher education. One of Kirp’s essential points is that modern universities must aim for profit if they are to remain successful. Sometimes, this is at the expense of traditional “core values”. More plainly, this consumer approach to education can be at the expense of liberal arts areas that discuss theories and foster task based disciplines such as economics or communications that are likely to train students more directly for jobs.

This highly recommended book is a well written and incisive report on the state of higher education marketing in an increasingly competitive marketplace for the best students.


Reviewed by Laurie Charnigo <charnigo@jsucc.jsu.edu>

Dear Future President,

Read this book!

Just in time for the upcoming elections, teachers, education scholars and students write heart-felt letters addressed to the next President about current problems within our public school system.

These letters address the frustrations felt by teachers towards the unequal opportunities available to all our children.

One particular concern is the current over-emphasis, in many teacher’s opinions, on high-stakes testing. How disheartening it is to read one account of a bright young girl who had “bit her fingernails down to the quick” over the agonizing fear of failing the Texas third-grade TAKs test.

The letters have been written. How will our next President respond to them?


“Aging Creatively”

Mary Jane Brustman

At ALA Midwinter EBSS Gerontology Committee member Dr. Tricia Libutti, Social Science/ Education Librarian at Rutgers, facilitated “Aging Creatively in the Library Workforce.” Tricia linked creativity with successful aging - i.e. low risk of disease, high mental and physical functioning, and active engagement in life. She also talked about some of the abilities that increase with aging, such as social skills, coping, experience with many patterns, flexibility, creative ways of managing, and metacognition. An inspiration for much of her thinking was E. Paul Torrance.

Discussion revolved around inter-generational issues in the library workforce and mentoring younger librarians into the values of the profession. Twenty librarians (none of them young) from academic and public libraries participated.

Reviewed by Paula McMillen <paula.mcmillen@oregonstate.edu>

Don’t be misled by the title into thinking that this is just about the attempts to force feed educators a national reading curriculum; it’s much broader in the scope of its critiques. Allington talks about the National Reading Panel report but also addresses the negative impacts of federal and state government determining what shall be taught. You might gather from the title, (accurately in this case) that he and others see many instances where research findings are misrepresented in order to serve political agenda.

New ICT Assessment Initiative

Ilene Rockman

The California State University is the lead charter client working with the Educational Testing Service and six other colleges and universities to develop a performance-based, scenario-based Information and Communication Technology (ICT) assessment tool as part of the new National Higher Education ICT Initiative. Plans are to beta test in 2004, to conduct large scale assessment in 2005, and to issue the exam for general release in 2006. Further information is available from the website, <www.ets.org/ictliteracy>.

One of the particularly useful aspects of this book is the inclusion of several chapters which critically analyze research and secondary reports of research. It’s obvious that this is not the only administration that has mucked about where they are not qualified, but their self-righteous attitude about it is irksome, so I enjoyed seeing the “No Child Left Behind” and the “Evidence Based Research” sound bites pretty well demolished by this collection of essays. Allington and others are provocative and engaging writers, so this was a stimulating read.
News from EBSS Members

Keep up with your EBSS colleagues by reading this column. If you have a news item you would like to see included in the next issue, please email it to Doug Cook, dlcook@ship.edu.

Ilene Rockman has edited a book on information literacy called, Integrating Information Literacy into the Higher Education Curriculum: Practical Models for Transformation. It is the first book on the topic targeted to faculty members and administrators, as well as librarians. The publisher notes, “Filled with illustrative examples, discussions, and case studies, this book shows how educators and administrators can successfully integrate information competence strategies into various parts of their academic structure.” <irockman@calstate.edu>

Tricia Libutti is Program Chair for the ACRL New Publications Advisory Board ALA program: Get Us to the Press on Time: A Discussion on the Preparation of the Monograph. Speakers: Marie Radford [proposal writing]; Tony Schwartz [editing]; Patricia O’Brien Libutti [getting started]; Publisher-discussants: Hugh Thompson [ACRL]; and Patricia Glass Schuman [Neil-Schuman].

Doug Cook has accepted a challenge from his new Dean, to establish a Research and Development unit at Shippensburg University Library. Doug just finished his first IMLS proposal and is now learning to walk on water and create silk purses from sows’ ears. <dlcook@ship.edu>

Penny Beile and Gordon Taub (University of Central Florida) are one of four teams chosen to participate in a Project SAILS initiative to develop and validate a discipline-specific information literacy assessment tool. Penny and Gordon will work on a tool for education. It is hoped that this tool will be able to measure information literacy skills, gather national data, provide norms, and compare information literacy measures with other indicators. <pbeile@mail.ucf.edu>

Former EBSS member, Toyo Suyemoto Kawakami, age 87, passed away December 30, 2003 at her home. Retired from The Ohio State University as an Associate Professor, Emerita of the Libraries. She was the Head of the Social Work Library and the Assistant Head of the Education/Psychology Library.

Collaborative Best Practices

Tasha Cooper

A subgroup of the EBSS Instruction for Educators Committee is working on a project that will describe collaborative best practices in meeting standards in K-12 and teacher education settings. Collaboration can be between librarians and faculty in higher education, as well as collaboration in K-12 settings. We welcome your suggestions, for a forthcoming web page and possible article.

Please contact Katherine Ott <oitka@nuok.edu> or Lori Mestre <lori.mestre@library.umass.edu> if you have suggestions.

CMC Directory - Alive and Well

John Hickok

For many years librarians enjoyed printed copies of the Directory of Curriculum Materials Centers (ACRL). However, in 2001, when the 5th edition was launched, a change was made - from a print directory to an e-directory. This might have caused confusion for some. Rest assured. The directory still exists. And in many ways, having it in electronic format is better - searchability by various fields/criteria make finding and comparing other curriculum materials centers so much easier. Furthermore, updates to the directory can be added without waiting several years for a new edition. The price is quite reasonable at only $35 ($31.50 for ACRL members); you may order it (subscribe to it) at: <acrl.telusys.com/cmc/index.html>. For those who specifically need a physical, print copy, there is, of course, the option of printing the entire thing directly to paper (maybe half a ream? I don't know; I haven't tried it.) What will the status of the next CMC Directory (6th edition) be? (Continue electronic only? Return to print? Offer both?) That will be for the next committee to determine.
Committee Highlights, San Diego

Complete Committee Highlights are available on the EBSS web site.

Communication Studies Committee
Chairperson: Lisa Romero

The group reviewed each committee member’s Website assignments, offering constructive suggestions concerning the content of each research guide/pathfinder and the actual design of the Website. The group hopes to have another section of the potential website done by Annual.

Conference Program Planning 2004
Chairperson: Mary Jane Brustman

Discussion of speaker for EBSS program, Pedagogy and the Online Learner. Dr. Michael Newlin accepted the committee’s invitation to speak, and a colleague of his, Dr. Maria LaVooy, will present with him. Jerilyn Veldoff, University of Minnesota Libraries, is the other speaker. ACRL will provide publicity in publications. Committee members will send out information to a variety of listservs.

Curriculum Materials
Chairperson: Jen Fabbi

The Webliography <www.unc.edu/cimc> will be updated. The CMC Collection Development Policy <www.lib.msu.edu/corby/ebss/cmcpolicy.htm> will be updated. Distinguished EBSS Librarian Award.

Chairperson: Charles B. Thurston

Dr. Laurene E. Zaporozhetz, Dean of Libraries, Murray State University, is the 2004 EBSS Distinguished and Behavioral Science Librarian Award recipient.

Gerontology
Chairperson: Mary Jane Brustman

The committee made final preparations for the discussion group to be sponsored by the committee on January 11, 2004, “Aging Creatively in the Workplace.” Also discussed was the web resources page for social gerontology.

Higher Education
Chairperson: Ann Brownson

Discussed focus of the committee / refocusing the committee. Decided to focus on hot issues in Higher Education. Decided to develop online colloquium on one of these topics - probably copyright.

Instruction for Educators
Chairperson: Tasha Cooper

The committee is working on two projects. Subgroup A is working on an article on NCATE standards. Will try to have all sections complete by mid-March in order to complete final draft before ALA Annual. Subgroup B discussed narrowing the focus of their project to standards-based collaborative best practices. Building on much of the work this group has already done, the group envisions a web site listing best practices and an article introducing the web site and providing an introduction to standards.

Membership and Orientation
Chairperson: Melissa Cast

Results of email survey to dropped members. Most respondents dropped membership to EBSS due to job changes or retirement. Many of those commented that EBSS was very helpful while they were education/social science librarians. One lapsed member dropped because they were currently unemployed and another dropped because of frustration becoming involved with ACRL committees. As the virtual member of the committee was present, we discussed the nature of virtual committee membership, how involved virtual committees feel in committee work and things that could be done to improve the situation.

Psychology/Psychiatry
Chairperson: Paula McMillen

Reviewed committee web page drafts. Need for revised edition of journals in Psychology. Brainstormed ideas for future meetings and presentations. Guest speaker from APA.

Publications & Communications
Chairperson: Marcia Keyser

Discussion of moving the EBSS web site to the ALA server. Agreed that we would wait at least one year. Patricia Libbitt is a member of the ACRL New Publications Committee. She suggested that we plan a program encouraging publication for librarians.

Reference Sources and Services
Chairperson: Laura Lillard

The committee discussed how to address education/library science journal recommendations to ISI, and the implementation of a Librarians’ Toolbox.

Social Work/Social Welfare
Chairperson: Brian Quinn

Corby summarized Saturday’s “Current Topics” program. The committee should continue gathering information and contact the new ERIC contractor when announced. She said we should concentrate on issues related to ERIC.

Ad hoc Access to Government Sponsored Education Research Chair: Kate Corby


Chairperson: Nancy P. O’Brien

A discussion of the Directory focused on a number of specifics. Assignments were reviewed.
ACRL 12 Minneapolis

Join ACRL in Minneapolis, April 7-10, 2005, for its 12th National Conference, Currents and Convergence: Navigating the Rivers of Change. Participate in stimulating programs, share your experiences, learn about the latest products and services on the exhibit floor, and see what ACRL and the Twin Cities have to offer!

ALA Orlando

Doug Cook

Space Mountain at Disney World, Incredible Hulk at Islands of Adventure, Twilight Zone at MGM, Kraken at SeaWorld, Spaceship Earth at EPCOT Center - When am I going to get time to go to any meetings?

EBSS Social at Dublin Square Irish Pub

EBSSers hoisted a few pints of Guinness at the Dublin Square Irish Pub in the Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego. If you have only met with your EBSS colleagues in official meetings, you are missing the stimulating atmosphere librarians create when you send them outside for recess.

La Jolla beach near San Diego

Scene of the Crime

The Gateway Arch to the Gaslamp Quarter

Melissa Cast - the Organizer

Helga Visscher and Ann Brownsee look very happy

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