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ULS Universe

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Exciting Keynote Lineup for ACRL 2009

Join your colleagues in Seattle, March 12-15, 2009, at the premier professional development event for academic and research librarians and staff. Registration and housing for ACRL's 14th National Conference is now open!

The ACRL 14th National Conference will challenge you to explore new ideas, engage in new learning, and extend the collective vision of the future of academic and research libraries. ACRL's celebrated line-up of keynote speakers include Naomi Klein, award-winning journalist, activist, and author of *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of*



Disaster Capitalism; Sherman Alexie, prolific novelist, poet and screenplay writer; and Ira Glass, host and producer of the public radio program *This American Life*. In addition to program sessions, the conference will provide time to have fun, share informal conversations, network with colleagues, and explore Seat-

tle. ACRL will offer Virtual Conference presentations and embrace Web 2.0 tools such as podcasts, Flickr, blogs, and more to enhance and expand the impact of the National Conference. ACRL 2009 will also implement more eco-friendly practices than ever before and has invited Robin Chase, Founder of Zipcar and GoLoco to speak about her innovative combination of social networking and transportation. Help us reduce the meeting's ecological footprint by committing to the Green Pledge when you register for the conference. Registration materials are online at www.acrl.org/seattle.

Message from the Chair

— Barbara Jenkins

Dear Colleagues,

As I drink my morning tea I think of ULS. Tea and ULS - it may seem an odd combination. But really, it does make sense. I use a tea sieve to screen out the tea leaves and give me that perfect cup of tea. I think ULS can help librarians have a "perfect cup" by increasing our role in focusing on the issues that make university libraries unique and developing sieve-like structures that improve our productivity. Just like our library users, we don't need more information - we need customized information to address the things we and our campuses are concerned with. ULS is well positioned to take a greater role in ACRL in connecting the many university librarians to the ideas, issues and best practices that are being discussed at different forums throughout higher education.

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Message from the Chair

(Continued from page 1)

ULS has a lot of strengths in these areas, but we do have some work to do to develop that “perfect cup.” We need to restructure ULS to have committees and discussion groups that are flexible and have the right mesh with unique growth areas in the field. We need a forum to keep track of the ebb and flow of issues. We also need to make sure that everyone knows that ULS is not just for library administrators – it is an organization for anyone with a cap tilted toward the stimulating arena of life in higher education.

Please join me and your ULS colleagues in making ACRL/ULS the kind of organization that you go to regularly on your personal web portal. Try out the new ULS blog at <http://www.acrl.ala.org/ULS> and the ACRL blog at <http://acrlog.org/>

Please look for the ULS discussion groups at Midwinter and the program on campus graduate education in Chicago.

I look forward to working with you,
 Barbara Jenkins
 Chair, ULS

ULS Universe 2.0: the Future of Our Newsletter

– Update from Kim Leeder,
 ULS Communications Committee Chair

ULS is going 2.0! After a survey of our members and several conversations with the ULS Executive Board, the ULS Communications Committee is pleased to announce that our newsletter will shed its PDF skin in 2009 and emerge as a full-fledged blog.

The newsletter, which transitioned from paper to PDF in 2005, is now transitioning again to the ULS Universe blog. The blog is already live and in its first phase of development on the ALA server at <http://www.acrl.ala.org/ULS/>. We encourage you to make the change now to the blog, and add its RSS feed to your readers or simply bookmark the site so that you can continue to receive ULS news in an even more timely medium.

The ULS Communications Committee's esteemed editor, Felicia Palsson, will continue to bring you the newsletter in PDF until the transition is complete in Fall of 2009.

Your feedback is welcome, as are your blog posts! Submit your news and/or articles at any time to be included on the ULS blog. Just email Felicia Palsson at fpalsson@usc.edu with your submissions.

The screenshot shows the ULS Universe website interface. At the top, it says "ULS Universe" and "The communication site for the University Libraries Section of ACRL". Below this, there are three main article sections:

- Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Award Application**: Written by tsugarman on 11.09.2008. The article text describes an annual award of \$1500 for dissertation research in academic librarianship, with applications accepted through December 5, 2008.
- Career Opportunity**: Written by tsugarman on 29.08.2008. The article is for a COMMUNICATION & POLITICAL SCIENCE LIAISON/LIBRARIAN position at Georgia State University Library.
- European Libraries program from ALA**: Written by Felicia on 24.08.2008. The article discusses cooperation between European libraries.

On the right side of the page, there are sections for "Categories" (ACRL, Discussion Items, LIS/professional interest, Member achievements programs, ULS, ULS Executive Committee, Uncategorized), "Pages" (About University Libraries Section and ACRL), and "Tags" (ALA awards career opportunity editing event Illinois job opening members). At the bottom right, there is a calendar for October 2008, with the 2nd of the month highlighted.

The ULS blog

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More than 5,000 librarians from a wide variety of university libraries make up the University Libraries Section (ULS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries. ULS is one of three type-of-library sections of ACRL.

Since its establishment in 1937, ULS has been actively involved in shaping the future of our library and university environments. ULS advances university librarianship, university library service, and the development of university libraries in institutions with graduate programs. In addition, ULS fosters cooperation both locally with university administrators and teaching faculty, and among colleges and universities on issues of mutual concern.

For more information about ULS and the section's activities, see: www.ala.org/acrl/uls.

Strategic Planning: DIY works!

(A discussion/thought piece written for the ULS blog)

– by Sara Tompson

Colleagues, I fully expect many to disagree with this post! Nevertheless, I wanted to share that in my experience do-it-yourself strategic planning works well in libraries and library organizations.

My first full-fledged strategic planning was done as Vice President/President-Elect of the Illinois Chapter of the Special Libraries Association/SLA, in the late 1990s (the plan still lives in an updated version at <http://www.slaininois.org/node/126>).

Our Board and some invited others created the strategic plan out of brainstorming sessions. The process was engaging, and the plan was helpful; we actually did much of it!

Most recently, at the University of Southern California (USC), we completed our strategic plan, *The Essential Library*, in January 2008, with the official launch and publication in April 2008. The plan is available online here: <http://www.usc.edu/libraries/essential/index.php>.

Back in 2002-03, when the USC Libraries organization was linked with IT Services, a strategic plan for the dual organization was organized by the Academic Senate, with some librarians and library personnel on some of the groups. But it was very much teaching-faculty driven, and, while it gave us some pathways for development, in my opinion it was both technology-heavy and teaching-faculty-leaning.

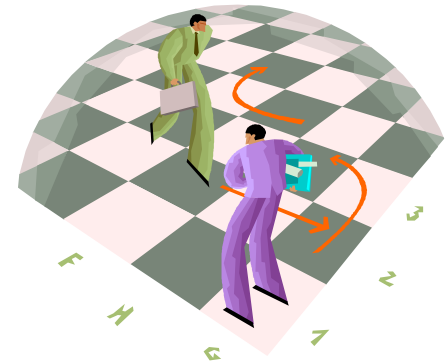
For *The Essential Library* we did it ourselves - our Dean, Catherine Quinlan, convened a committee of librarians and library staff, by invitation, but only if members really wanted to serve (no arm-twisting involved!). A veteran of strategic planning, our Dean guided us in the process, but the content was entirely developed by the committee and everyone in the libraries - we held a number of Libraries-wide discussions and brainstormed and prioritized our top issues (which all turned out to be foundational changes needed).

The engagement and participation of people across the libraries system was excellent! We are now beginning to implement these changes, and will continue to do so over the next 12-18 months. We will also soon be embarking upon planning for the next plan.

I have heard both positive and negative stories about plans developed with the aid of outside facilitators. Having never experienced that, but having been part of two in-house, if you will, strategic planning processes, I definitely favor DIY!

Looking forward to hearing others' thoughts!

– Sara Tompson is Associate Dean for Public Services at the University of Southern California Libraries. You can respond, or comment on this discussion piece by visiting the ULS blog: <http://www.acrl.ala.org/ULS> (7/26/08 posting).



Library Assessment Conference Draws Hundreds of Attendees

Washington DC—The 2008 Library Assessment Conference—cosponsored by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the University of Virginia Library, and the University of Washington Libraries—convened in Seattle, August 4-7, 2008. The event, which built upon the success of the 2006 Charlottesville conference, attracted 375 professionals interested in library assessment.

The robust program opened with a plenary session on the biggest challenges in library assessment, addressed by Betsy Wilson (Dean of University Libraries, University of Washington), Rick Luce (Vice Provost and Director of University Libraries, Emory University), and Susan Gibbons (Andrew H. and Janet

Dayton Neilly Dean of River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester) and discussed by Joan Rapp (Executive Director of Libraries, University of Cape Town) and Stephen Town (Director of Library & Archives, University of York, UK). The program offered more than 60 papers and panels presented in eight parallel sessions, over 35 poster presentations, and six half-day workshops. Topics included impact and evaluation, organizational culture, information literacy, qualitative methods, reference, LibQUAL+®, management information, and much more.

The first Library Assessment Career Achievement awards were presented to three pioneers in the field—Amos Lakos,

Shelley Phipps, and Duane Webster—during a spectacular reception in the Olympic Sculpture Park overlooking Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains.

Multiple post-conference workshops focused on such specific issues as the Balanced Scorecard, visualization of data, usability, learning outcomes, and space planning.

Conference presentations and related materials are available on the conference Web site: <http://libraryassessment.org>. ARL will publish the conference proceedings.

The next Library Assessment Conference is being planned for fall 2010 in the Washington DC area.

Upcoming Programs: ALA Midwinter Educational Institutes



Implementing an Institutional Repository

A Midwinter Symposium presented by the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) – Thursday, January 22, 2009, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Has your institution begun to develop, or is it considering developing, an institutional repository? If so, will there be a role for the library? Whether you answered 'yes' or 'no' to this question, please join us to consider the challenges, pitfalls and promises of establishing and supporting an institutional repository. An outstanding panel of presenters will discuss the legal and access issues as well as various IR platforms and models that will provide attendees with the means to make informed decisions regarding the introduction of an institutional repository.

Do You Q? Looking at Your Users in a New Way!

An ACRL Pre-conference – Friday, January 23, 2009, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Do you need to know what your users are thinking? Of course! But, how? Using Q Method you can measure the qualitative, fuzzy opinions of users in a quantitative way. Making strategic plans, evaluating new services, developing staff training programs - all of these can be helped with Q Method. Discover how to use Q in your library. During the workshop, receive sample data, and practice administering the sorting. Learn to use the freeware software developed by the Q Method community and brainstorm ideas for using Q in your library.

The Midwinter Meeting is primarily a business meeting. Programs do not take place during the Midwinter Meeting. However, many informal, educational discussion groups will be held during the Meeting. These featured events are NOT included with a meeting registration. For more information, see: <http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/2009/meetings.cfm>

Publications, Awards, and New Hires: News of Your Fellow ULS Members

Erin Dorney has joined **Millersville University of Pennsylvania** as the new Outreach Librarian. She was also selected as a 2009 ALA Emerging Leader sponsored by the Pennsylvania Library Association. Erin is a 2008 MLIS & CAS-DL graduate of Syracuse University and was previously employed at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Lynn Baird of the University of Idaho welcomes the following individuals to the faculty:

Ramirose Attebury, Reference/Instruction Librarian (B.A., 2002, Eastern Oregon; M.L.I.S., 2005, South Carolina; M.A., 2007, Central Washington). Professor Attebury was a graduate assistant at Brooks Library, Central Washington University, where she worked in reference and instruction while completing a Master of Arts degree in history. **Deborah Green**, Digital Initiatives Librarian (B.A., 2005, Washington State; M.L.I.S., 2007, South Carolina). Professor Green was a graduate assistant at the University of South Carolina where she worked on digital projects in the Thomas Cooper Library while completing her Master in Library and Information Science. **Kristin Henrich**, Reference/Instruction Librarian (B.A. English, 2003, Wittenberg; M.L.S. 2008, Indiana). Professor Henrich was an instruction assistant, web designer and research assistant for African Studies, while working in the Wells Library, Bloomington, completing her Master of Library Science degree. **Robert Perret**, Reference/Instruction Librarian (B.S., 1999, Colo-

rado, Boulder; M.L.S. 2006, Denver). Professor Perret comes to the University of Idaho from Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas; where he provided reference, bibliographic instruction, collection development, and access services for the library. **Geoffrey Wood**, Catalog Librarian (B.A., 2002, M.L.I.S., 2006, Rutgers; M.A., 2008, Minnesota State, Mankato). Professor Wood was a graduate assistant at Minnesota State University, where he performed complex copy cataloguing and reclassification of materials while completing his Master of Arts in English literature.

Yasmin Morais of Georgetown University Law Center was awarded a professional bursary by the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) to attend their annual conference in Puerto Rico next month.

Edward Corrado joined the **Binghamton University Libraries** in May 2008 as the Head of Library Technology. Edward was previously Systems Librarian at the College of New Jersey. He was recently elected to the Steering Committee of Ex Libris Users of North America (ELUNA) and will be giving a presentation on the use of RSS with Aleph at the International Group of Ex Libris Users in Madrid, Spain. He is co-editor of Code4Lib and gave a presentation on the Code4Lib community of practice at the International Society for Knowledge Organization in Montreal, Quebec in August 2008. **Julie Wang**, Asian Studies Librarian at Binghamton University, was

selected as a participant in the Institute for Chinese Studies Librarianship held in Seattle, Washington this past summer and has been invited to visit China in October 2008 as a member of the North American Chinese Studies Librarians delegation. **Martha Kelehan**, Africana, Latin America and Caribbean Area Studies Librarian at Binghamton University, presented "The Reading and Reception of Marie Chauvet's *Amour, colère, et folie: A Contemporary Rare Book*" at the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Authors (ACWWS) conference in Grenada in May 2008. Martha also presented "French Colonial Perspectives of Indigenous Latin America from the William J. Haggerty Collection of French Colonial History" at SALALM 2008 (May 30-June 3) in New Orleans.

Leslie Madden co-edited a book that was just published by ACRL. It's *The Desk and Beyond: Next Generation Reference Services*, edited by Sarah K. Steiner and M. Leslie Madden, Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2008.



SUBMIT your member news and share it with ULS colleagues instantly via the ULS blog! Contact Felicia Palsson, ULS blog administrator, at fpalsson@usc.edu.

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Get involved!

Thinking about getting more involved in ULS? Everyone is welcome to volunteer for one of the section's stimulating committees or discussion groups. It's easy! Contact any of the people listed on this page for more information, or fill out the ACRL Section Committee Volunteer Form to volunteer for a committee assignment next year. The form is available in the ACRL Forms section of the ACRL website.



Participating in a ULS committee is a great way to put your experience to work in the field, and even to learn a bit yourself. You can meet people with similar interests, and the extra service commitment is always a boon on performance and tenure reviews. Get started now!

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