

CJCL'S Newsletter

Community and Junior College Libraries Section

Association of College and Research Libraries, a Division of the American Library Association
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OUR HEARTFELT PRAYERS AND BEST WISHES go out to colleagues in the Gulf area who suffered such devastation from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. No effort to send assistance will be too small. Individuals and associations can help by keeping in touch with those colleges that were damaged or destroyed.

Please stay in touch with your state associations—they are often a good source for coordinating drives for books, money, equipment, and jobs. The ripple effect of the storms will undoubtedly be felt by all of us in one way or another. Let's all do what we can to help the affected libraries and librarians recover from terrible losses.

Christine Godin, Section Chair



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THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PANEL has been developing a white paper specific to community college issues as a contribution to a national study, the *Study on the Future of the Library Workforce*. The national study has been funded by the **Institute for Museum and Library Science (IMLS)**. It will identify perceptions from the front lines that may identify the strategies that will aid in alleviating labor shortages in the library and information science profession over the next decade. **Stephanie Tolson reports, "It is too early to report on trends. The panel is busy analyzing responses from individual librarians. Without the support of several discussion list subscribers, we would not complete the task."** The opinions of every community college librarian are appreciated. All community college librarians are invited to speak up about the future of the profession. To participate in the discussion, self-subscribe to the bulletin board at <http://bechet.exp.sis.pitt.edu/imls/>. The panel needs feedback to adequately represent community college perspectives. **Tolson challenges us to "Act now."**

Do you know
the next

Community College Learning Resources
& Library Achievement Award

winners ●

CJCLS/EBSCO Community College Learning Resources and Library Achievement Awards

These two annual awards recognize significant achievement in the areas of programs and leadership.

Nominees for the **program award** should demonstrate significant achievement in development of a unique and innovative learning resources/library program.

Nominees for the **leadership award** should demonstrate significant achievement in advocacy of learning resources/library programs or services, or leadership in professional organizations that are associated with the mission of community, junior, or technical colleges.

Individuals or groups from two-year institutions, as well as the two-year institutions themselves, are eligible to receive awards. Nominations will be kept on file for three consecutive years.

Each Award: Citation and \$500 sponsored by
EBSCO Information Services

Nominations
due
December 2, 2005

See details in the Awards Section of the
ACRL Web site: www.ala.org/acrl

ACRL Association of College
& Research Libraries
A Division of the American Library Association

ALA CONFERENCE CHICAGO - 2005



JOE BARNES

A busy day at the exhibits

We want you! There are openings on a number of CJCLS committees. The volunteer form is on the CJCLS website, <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacr/acr/sections/cjcls/volunteer/index.htm>.

This is an opportunity to help direct the activities of the section, to help make it more vital to its members, and to help bring to the forefront significant issues in community college librarianship.

You are welcome to apply for any committee of interest to you, and it is helpful if you indicate preference to assist us in making appointments. Please go to the web page on CJCLS Committees

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacr/acr/sections/cjcls/collaborate/index.htm> to read about current committees.

Ellen Sutton
CJCLS Vice-Chair

Remember the Spring LTA Program Survey?



At Conference . . . the LTA Committee looked at **data received from over 31 Library Technical Assistant Programs in 16 different states, and discussed the results to see how they related to the issue of accreditation of LTA program.** The group discussed the possibilities for using the survey data for program planning as well. The summary of data is not yet ready to be distributed to a wider audience.

For more information about Midwinter and Annual Conference, please consult the CJCLS Website.

How do recent library school graduates find jobs when “professional library experience is required”? Ameet Doshi reflects on one alternative. –Ed. Note

REFLECTIONS ON THE LIBRARY RESIDENT PROGRAM

by Ameet Doshi, Resident Librarian

College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn, Illinois)

After graduating with perfect grades and armed with strong faculty recommendations from the School of Information Sciences at the University of Tennessee, I felt I had a reasonable chance at getting a good job. I was dead wrong. I spent hours scouring *lisjobs.com* and *The Chronicle*, only to realize that the money I was spending on faxes, postage and fancy resume paper, was amounting to nothing. The purpose of this essay is to briefly describe some of my experiences as a library resident at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, a large, very diverse community college west of Chicago.

After getting frustrated enough to leave the country and wander around New Zealand for a few months, I came to realize that my entire job search had been misdirected. I had been applying for academic reference positions which required experience and specialized Master’s degrees. I discovered the jobs I should have been applying for are called residencies. Library residencies tend to cause a sometimes humorous response among those not familiar with the job title. Some people ask if I live in the library; others ask me if I am allowed to perform surgery yet. Most are just curious what the deal is.

Here’s the deal

A residency is an opportunity for an enthusiastic new graduate to gain useful experience in the field. Unfortunately, not every academic library offers residencies, although more have recently been popping up. A library residency can be a remarkably valuable experience for those with degree-in-hand who hope to enter the profession with gangbusters.

No surgery, but lots of brain work

The beauty of the residency is that it is *not* an internship. I worked an internship (read: cheap or free labor) and came to despise the low-caste nature of the job. Certainly, some folks tend to mesh the two (resident and intern), but those who know realize that a resident is on relatively equal terms with the rest of the librarians. At the College of DuPage, the library plays a huge role in the development of a student’s education; library

faculty taught over 1,000 information sessions in 2004 alone. Because librarians are recognized as valuable contributors to every discipline, they are part of the college faculty (indeed, two C.O.D. librarians hold elected positions on the faculty senate). As the C.O.D. library resident, I am thrust into and become a part of this dynamic community college environment.

I routinely made mistakes my first quarter, but eventually I got the hang of things and began to work myself into committee meetings and other library and college-related activities. The sheer multitude of possibilities can be challenging to grasp. While I've found there are many different ways to approach a residency; I think it is best to keep an open mind and generally be open to discovery. When beginning my residency, the library faculty and administration repeatedly explained to me that the purpose of my two years as a resident was to learn as much as possible. This process includes attending conferences, contributing on special projects, meeting with various faculty and staff, working the reference desk, and learning more about cataloging and circulation.

The advantages

There are numerous advantages to being a resident. There is a freedom to observe and participate in a wide array of library activities: everything from circulation to technical services to reference and collection development. The residency is a really unique opportunity to enhance skills and to experiment with various teaching styles.

Teaching has been the most rewarding aspect of my residency. Because the C.O.D. library promotes information literacy for students as a cornerstone of its services, most library faculty engage in teaching within their core disciplines. As a resident librarian, I have had opportunities, very early on, to conduct information literacy classes across a variety of disciplines: ESL, English, Architecture, and Geography.

I have also had the opportunity to be involved with collection management of significant and growing video rental collection. As I am a film aficionado, this has been one of the many enjoyable aspects of the residency.

Finally, at the College of DuPage, the library resident works actively on a second-year project meant to showcase the interests and abilities of the resident, as well as contribute and strengthen library initiatives.

The down side

There are few disadvantages or disappointments that have come to bear since beginning the residency. Obviously, because it is two-year term appointment, I am often being reminded by others (and myself) that *the clock is ticking*. This certainly adds a sense of urgency (i.e. having to finish up a major project in a relatively short amount of time), as well as a kind of vague malaise about having to leave such a wonderful environment in a relatively short amount of time.

The future for library residencies

Nevertheless, simply having the opportunity to learn such a wide variety of skills necessary to become a strong librarian, so soon after completing library school, is a chance that I hope becomes increasingly available to more graduates.

As an increasing number of librarians move towards administrative positions and retirement, the academic library community should advocate the creation and support for more residencies such as the position at the College of DuPage. The ACRL ought to make the creation of residencies an institutional objective on par with increasing diversity and the protection of intellectual freedoms.

The decision to enter any given profession begins with education, and ends with professional expertise, but along that meandering path, there needs to be a more structured interim position for those new to a profession. For librarianship, the residency fills this need, and one can only hope that the recognition of the positive contributions of residents will inspire college and university administrators and faculty to support more library residencies across the nation. ■

Ameet Doshi may be contacted at doshia@cdnet.cod.edu.

Responses may also be sent to mmirza@gpc.edu for publication in the newsletter.



CHRISTINE'S CORNER . . .



Many CJCLS members, even if rarely able to attend conferences, already know Christine through her frequent responses on the CJCLS listserv--responses always to the point, and often filled with humor and common sense. This is the second column for us from Christine. This year Christine serves as CJCLS Chair. – Ed.

I would guess about now that we could all use a little levity in the face of what happened a few weeks ago.

When I last penned this column, I was working reference on a Saturday, surrounded by items being collected for our annual drive for the local battered women's shelter. I was scheduled to work a Saturday again, a couple of weeks ago (viewing the box that was holding items for Katrina victims), when we were told the college would be closed for the weekend in anticipation of Rita. Happily, she did not have any affect in San Antonio, except to send thousands more displaced residents of east coast Texas. Our city has a great sense of hospitality, however, and we managed to find places for these folks with only a few mishaps.

I promised to report on my "blind date" with Rick Anderson, the Mover and Shaker profiled in an April issue of *Library Journal*. We rendezvoused at the Baker and Taylor exhibit in Chicago and shared a few ideas about the future of libraries. I followed up with an email after I discovered he is going to be featured in one of the "Soaring to Excellence" programs hosted by the College of DuPage, where our vice chair, Ellen Sutton, is librarian. Rick and I both feel libraries need to recognize the needs of the users *as defined by them*. This sometimes flies in the face of tradition, but maybe it is time for some new traditions.

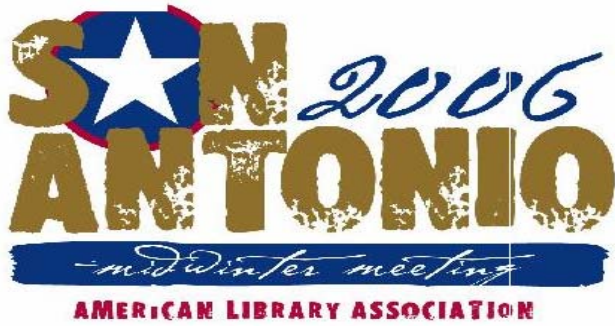
"Rick and I both feel libraries need to recognize the needs of the users as defined by them. This sometimes flies in the face of tradition, but maybe it is time for some new traditions."

--Christine Godin

As I type this, a presentation for my graduate course in Contemporary World Theatre is behind me and I am starting to pack for a trip to Russia! Somewhere in the next few days I have to have my car serviced (the dang Change Oil Soon light is on), pull all my warm clothes together (or buy some!), run over to the county court and turn in the paperwork that says I did indeed complete defensive driving school (I got a ticket for speeding for the first time in 20 years) and write my will. Just kidding about the last item, but my staff does want detailed instructions about who is in charge while I am gone. And my cats already sense something is up. And my husband thinks I might not have time for a honey-do list. The overworked, overcommitted person can always find time for that!

See you in January! I understand Midwinter is attracting more than the usual number of attendees. We should have a good crowd for dinner. Details will be coming out on the CJCLS listserv soon!

Christine
Christine Godin
CJCLS Chair



ALA MIDWINTER 2006 SAN ANTONIO

The 2006 Midwinter Meeting will be held in San Antonio, TX, from January 20-25, 2006.

The exhibits will be held January 20-23, 2006 in the Gonzalez Convention Center, with the Ribbon-Cutting held Friday, January 20 at 5:15 pm preceding the All-Conference Reception on the Exhibit Floor from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

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