



LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS

The purpose of LIRT is to advocate library instruction as a means for developing competent library and information use as a part of life-long learning.

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This has been a busy fall for me, as I am sure it has for many of you. I moved to a new city; started a new job; and lived through my first hurricane - all in the space of a few weeks. Things have calmed down now so it is time to think about LIRT and our agenda for the next few months. As I mentioned in the last *LIRT News*, we are planning a retreat for the 2004 Midwinter conference; recruiting new committee members, especially "virtual" members; and evaluating our current committee structure. Our treasurer, Trisha Medeiros, is looking at some exciting ways to make LIRT more financially sound and we will hear more about her plans in the near future.

At the upcoming ALA Midwinter conference, we will be doing a few things differently. LIRT has always sponsored a lively and well-attended discussion forum on Sunday afternoon. We will be offering a second discussion forum on Sunday morning at the upcoming Mid-Winter conference. The Transition from High School to College committee will sponsor the afternoon forum and the Teaching, Learning, and Technology committee will sponsor the morning forum. This committee sponsorship is r

The Times, They Are Achanging

Like the words to Bob Dylan's song, the times have been changing. How many of you thought all those years ago that computers would be an integral part of library instruction or that books would be read online or that you could have an entire article at the click of a mouse? Another great truth is that the more we change, the more we stay the same. This may also be the case in librarianship. The more we are networked and connected with wireless technology, the more important become the connections we form with our colleagues. The past two years as editor of the LIRT newsletter have taught me the importance of networking and connecting with other librarians. The connections I have formed with those I have met at seminars and conferences are particularly valuable to me. I hold these contacts especially close and treasure each idea or bit of encouragement that I received from each. As time goes on and things continue to change, this one idea should remain constant in our profession. The importance of the contacts and relationships that we build with our colleagues in library instruction is one thing we should never lose. We are each other's source of ideas, resources and encouragement. As I leave as editor of the newsletter, this is the one thought I would like to leave with everyone. Each of you is the strength of our organization.

Indeed, the times are changing. Computers and technology have become such an integral part of our lives that it is hard to remember how we existed without them. During my career as a librarian (we won't say how long),

computers have progressed from massive mainframes to units that fit in the palm of your hand. Information is available within a few keystrokes or clicks of a mouse. This ease of access has added an additional challenge to role as librarians, particularly in instruction. Not only do we have to provide instruction on using the appropriate search engine or database to find information, but we also have to stress the importance of evaluating retrieved information. I think this is one of the greatest challenges that I face when working with students. As Carol stated, our connections to each other are important and the strength of our organization. The ideas that we share

in the LIRT News can only contribute to our successes as we develop information literacy and library instruction programs on our campuses and in our libraries.

I was honored when Carol asked me to become editor of the LIRT News. I look forward to working with her during this transition period and to continuing to provide a communication forum for all those interested in library instruction. I also look forward to establishing strong connections with the members of LIRT. I would like to thank Carol for her leadership as chair of the Newsletter committee and as editor of LIRT News.

--Outgoing Editor Carol Schuetz and incoming Editor Caryl Gray

May 8-10, 2003

<http://loex2003.wisc.edu/>

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URL: <<http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/LIRT/lirt.html>>

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Many colleges and high schools now feature courses in American Studies, an innovative new field that combines history, literature, sociology, and the arts in a quest to capture the spirit of the

American people. For librarians, teach-American S849(tudi1A)]TJ 01003 Tc 13109 Tw T(clasursep-ss(nts ch Baenlegesris Tfow)Tj -0.004 T t(nt)9(s may be -ss(Leci Tf suuncA)]TJ 10709 Tw T(dntiour topici asoe thimnlegeofll)Tj 00604 Tw T* fmericch-)Tj -0.803 Tc 1



LIRT MEETINGS

ALA MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 2003

Saturday, January 25 - Hampton Inn, Grand Ballroom

8:00 a.m. Executive Board I
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Steering Committee I
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. All Committee Meetings I

Sunday, January 26 - Pennsylvania Convention Center

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Discussion Forum I, Teaching, Learning, and
Technology, Room 201A
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Discussion Forum II, Transitions to College,
Room 204c

Monday, January 27 - Hampton Inn, Grand Ballroom

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. All Committee Meeting II
9:30 a.m. - Noon Steering Committee II
Noon Steering Committee Lunch

Tuesday, January 28 - Pennsylvania Convention Center

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Executive Board II, Room 300

continued on page 12...

When approached about writing an article describing how we started a library instruction program in my branch, I jokingly remarked that the pent up demand from the faculty in our

There was a time, not too many years ago, when instruction given to public library patrons consisted of a few basic steps. One was showing them how to use the card catalog and describing the various elements of the catalog and another was showing them how to use **Reader's Guide**. Other types of instruction included locating and using various reference tools, indices, and operating the microfilm reader/printer. The ultimate purpose, of course, was to enable patrons to find the item or items they needed.

The early eighties brought various electronic enhancements beginning with Computer Output Microfilm (COM). These automated readers containing the library's entire collection on microfilm and replaced the card catalog in many public libraries. The information

they provided was essentially the same as what had been available in the card catalog, but these COMs had the advantage, - or in some cases - the disadvantage, of being updated every three months or so. At about the same time, the Information Access Company developed an automated index to periodicals, called Infotrac, which was

Greetings as we approach the end of 2002. I hope your year of instructional opportunities has been productive and rewarding. The theme of this column is "collaboration." Too often, we instructional librarians are so focused upon the daily activity of scheduling sessions and teaching that we forget to keep in contact with outside entities. We should remember, though, that



Instruction librarians will recognize her

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE STANDING COMMITTEES

Adult Learners

Assists library professionals to understand, find information or promote ideas on learning styles, teaching methods, and training resources most often associated with adult learners.

Conference Program

Plans the LIRT program for the ALA Annual Conference. Makes arrangements for speakers, room, handouts, and activities during the program.

Continuing Education

Conducts research and develops plans, actual materials, and directories to further the education and help meet the information needs of librarians engaged in user education.

Liaison

Attends and reports to LIRT Steering Committee and members about committees within ALA involved in library instruction activities. Distributes to conference attendees a listing of instruction-related programs and meetings at ALA Conferences.

Long Range Planning

Develops short and long range plans for LIRT. Implements planning and operations for the activities of LIRT. Chaired by the president-elect.

Newsletter

Solicits articles, prepares and distributes the LIRT newsletter. The Executive Board of LIRT serves as the Editorial Board for the LIRT newsletter.

Nominations, Organization & Bylaws

Reviews, revises, and updates the organization manual of LIRT. Recom-

The answer to the first question – does the library pursue the development of an information commons unilaterally or in cooperation with the computer center – will, to a large degree, drive the answers to other questions. In some organizations, this level of cooperation may be a very politically sensitive issue. However, unless the relationship between the library and the computer center is particularly adversarial, it is to everyone's advantage – clients, library staff, and computer center staff – to work together. In particular, consider collaborating with computer center staff that (at least in an academic setting) provides academic technology support. This group is service oriented and already provides these specialized services to faculty and, in some instances, to students. They may even be the group responsible for the student computer labs throughout the campus. Their expertise can be used to address issues of technical support, client software support, training library staff on the basics of the software, assisting with print and authentication issues. Likewise the expertise of library staff can be used to help them provide better academic technology support when they are helping faculty to use technology to develop classroom content for course management systems, like Blackboard or WebCT. In some situations, they may even be able to provide financial support by purchasing computers or assisting with some staffing costs, since these costs may be in their budgets already because of existing responsibilities for other computer labs.

Some libraries have highly skilled information technologists already working in the libraries. This group of people may already support standard computer labs and other forms of technology in the library. Under these circumstances, the unilateral development of an information commons may be the best route, enlisting the support of the library's IT staff. In any case, libraries that pursue a unilateral route in

Additional Resources:

Bailey, Russell, and Barbara Tierny. "Information Commons Redux: Concept, Evolution, and Transcending the Tragedy of the Commons". Journal of Academic Librarianship (September 2002): 277-286.

Beagle, Donald. "Conceptualizing and Information Commons". Journal of Academic Librarianship (March 1999): 82-89.

n Demonstrate tactics for finessing the online catalog for primary sources.

One tactic is to search for a historical figure as an author. Punching in "Franklin D. Roosevelt" as an author will churn up papers and speeches by the New Dealer. Another tactic is to limit your search to items published within a specific timeframe so that, for example, a student researching World War II can restrict their results list to items published between 1939-1945. One other trick is to combine topical keywords with terms signifying a type of primary source such as "diary", "memoranda", "accounts", "papers", "narratives", "documents", or even just "sources." Searching for "women and voting and diaries" will uncover the daily jour-



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