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Professional Writing for Librarians

Jennifer Little Kegler

The College at Brockport, jkegler@brockport.edu

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The College at
BROCKPORT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Professional Writing for Librarians

Jennifer Little Kegler

Library Instruction Coordinator/Reference Librarian

Drake Memorial Library

NYLA Annual Conference

Lake Placid, NY

October 21, 2015



Abstract

- During this session prospective authors will learn how one librarian wrote and published articles as a sole author, co-author and with a group of authors. Creative opportunities and projects abound in and around the library; the hard part is converting these projects into publishable material.
- Discover ways to generate research ideas through regular job duties, patron interactions, coursework, and grants.
- Learn how to take ideas and projects and publish them as scholarly articles for library journals.
- Bring your own topics and/or drafts, and we will work on them together.
- Identify publishing opportunities: both "traditional" journals and open access titles and peruse helpful publishing resources.
- Learn how to create a consistent online presence on Google scholar, ORCID, and/or your institutional repository, where you can also keep track of all types of scholarly work.



From start to finish

1. Finding topics or ideas
2. Article Types
3. Research
4. Authorship
5. Choosing publication venues
6. Write... or how not to get stuck
7. Submit... **JUST DO IT!**
8. Revise and re-submit
9. Your online research profile



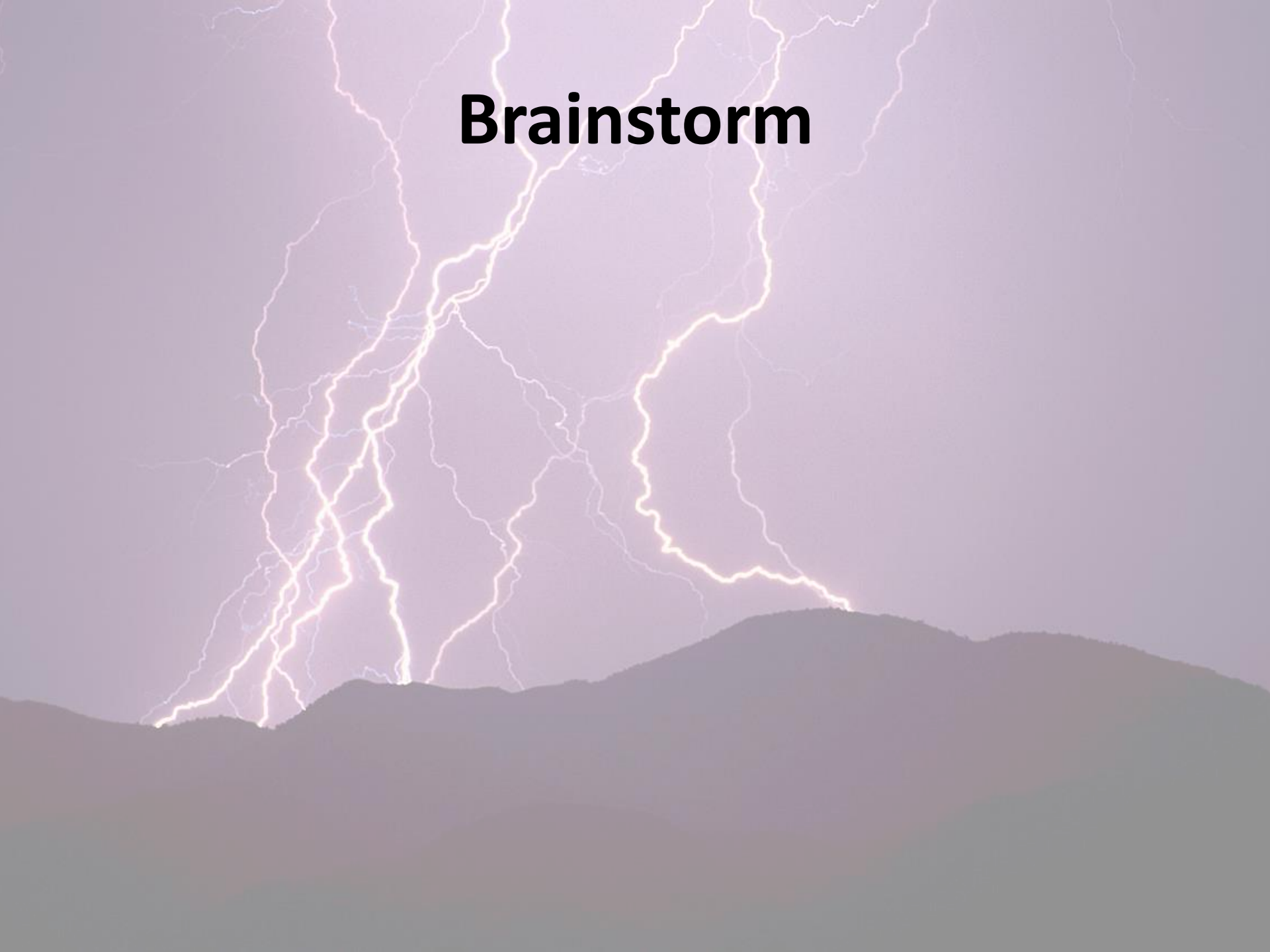
Topics and Ideas

The background of the slide is a soft-focus image of several red pencils. The pencils are arranged diagonally, with their tips pointing towards the bottom right. The lighting is bright, creating a warm, yellowish-white glow around the pencils, which are slightly out of focus.

“If there's a book (or article) that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it.”

— Toni Morrison

Brainstorm



Job responsibilities

- Campus-wide Information Literacy project
- Faculty interactions when teaching classes or serving on committees
- LibGuides author
- Informal mentoring opportunities
- Other passions and interests
(e.g. e-reading and comprehension)



Community Connections

- Look for opportunities to interact with other librarians or community groups.
- Participate in Faculty learning communities:
 - “Using Research as a Teaching Tool” (2008-2009)
 - “Technology and Comprehension” (2010-11, funded, continued for two years voluntarily)
- Network across the community with student or faculty groups, Senate, clubs, etc.



Coursework (Formal/Informal)



- Graduate or Continuing Education classes (through local universities or online)
- Online webinars
- Conferences
- Professional Development Workshops
- Instructional design continuing education

Grants and Grant writing



- Information Literacy Grant: Offered small stipends for faculty to attend workshops.
- Technology Initiative Grants: Bought Kindles and iPads for library use.
- ACRL Assessment in Action Grant

Types of Articles

- Book Reviews
- Case Studies
- Bibliographies
- Perspectives Pieces
- Research Articles:
 - Quantitative
 - Qualitative
 - Response
 - Review
 - Theoretical



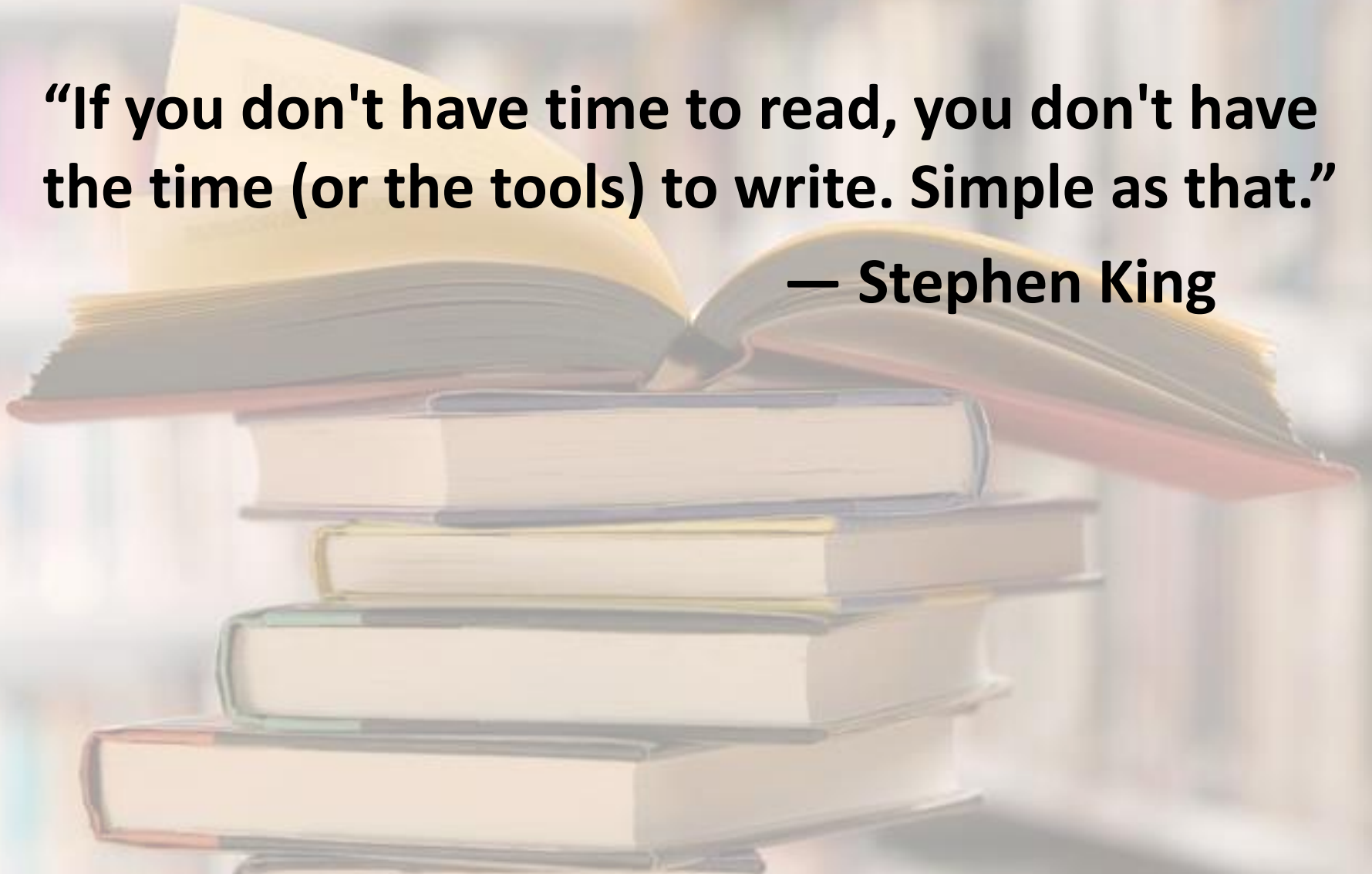
Free write



Research

“If you don't have time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.”

— Stephen King



Keep Up to Date




- Set up alerts for authors who have published on your topic in Google, bepress, databases.
- Set up an alert with specific search terms (e.g. LibGuides) in databases.
- Use an RSS reader to learn when journals publish new articles.
- Read listservs, twitter feeds, group posts, etc.

Research Organization Tips

Determine how you are going to keep track of citations and notes.

- “Old fashioned” note cards
- A notebook
- Scrivener (<http://www.literatureandlatte.com/>)
- Zotero (<http://www.zotero.org>)
- Ebscohost or Gale “My account”

Authorship

	Challenges	Benefits
Sole Author 	High self motivation. Set own schedule. Asking for help.	Self-paced. Set own deadlines. Ownership is clear.
Two Authors 	Who is really “in charge?” Sharing the workload. Voice in the article.	Communication between two is easy. Proofread each others’ work fairly easily. Timeline may be quicker.
Three or More Authors 	At least one person HAS to take the lead. Difficult scheduling meetings. Various levels of commitment. Multiple voices in early drafts.	Multiple proofreaders. Many hands to help with data collection. Broader level of knowledge on the topic.

Select a publication outlet

A close-up photograph of a dog, possibly a bulldog, wearing black-rimmed glasses and resting its head on an open book. The dog's fur is brown and white. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

“The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself.”

— Albert Camus



“Traditional” Journal formats

- Cabell’s Directory of Publishing Opportunities
<http://www.cabells.com> (subscription-based)
- Ulrich’s Periodical Directory (subscription-based)
- In Print: Publishing Ideas for College Librarians
- LIS Publications Wiki:
http://slisapps.sjsu.edu/wikis/faculty/putnam/index.php/LIS_Publications_Wiki
- Iowa State LibGuide:
<http://instr.iastate.libguides.com/LibResearchResources>
- Search relevant databases for titles in your discipline.
- Other opportunities (updated almost daily):
 - <http://librarywriting.blogspot.com>

Cabell's screenshot

Cabell's Directory Search Results - Page 1 (1-8 of 8)

#	Journal Title and directories listed in	Review	No. Ext. Rev.	Acceptance Rate	Website Link	Indexed in JCR/ERIC	Open Access Time To Publication	Editor's Location Cabell's Latest Update
1.	Internet Reference Services Quarterly Educational Technology & Library Science	Double-Blind Peer	3+	70%	Yes	ERIC	n/a n/a	USA <i>Apr 23, 2013</i>
2.	Legal Reference Services Quarterly Educational Technology & Library Science	Blind	3+	50%	Yes		n/a n/a	USA <i>Jun 24, 2013</i>
3.	Medical Reference Services Quarterly Educational Technology & Library Science	Blind	2	65%	Yes		n/a n/a	USA <i>Jul 1, 2013</i>
4.	Music Reference Services Quarterly Educational Technology & Library Science	Double-Blind Peer	3+	50%	Yes		n/a n/a	USA <i>Jul 2, 2013</i>
5.	Reference & User Services Quarterly Educational Technology & Library Science	Double-Blind Peer	2	30%	Yes	JCR	n/a n/a	USA <i>Feb 20, 2014</i>
6.	Reference Librarian, The Educational Technology & Library Science	Blind Peer	0	50%	Yes	ERIC	n/a n/a	USA <i>Jun 12, 2013</i>
7.	Reference Reviews Educational Technology & Library Science	Editorial	3+		Yes		n/a n/a	United Kingdom <i>Jul 29, 2013</i>
8.	Reference Services Review Educational Technology & Library Science	Double-Blind Peer	2	76%	Yes		n/a n/a	USA <i>Jul 29, 2013</i>

Open Access Journal Formats



- DOAJ: *Directory of Open Access Journals* <http://www.doaj.org>
- Genamics JournalSeek <http://journalseek.net/>
- Search SHERPA/ROMEO to see what the rules are for posting your article in an IR: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>
- Search for “open access journal*” and topic to find relevant journal titles.
- Look in discipline-specific repositories:
 - Digital Commons: <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/online-journals/>
 - Open Journal Systems (select list): <https://pkpservices.sfu.ca/customers>

Write

“Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.”

— Louis L'Amour

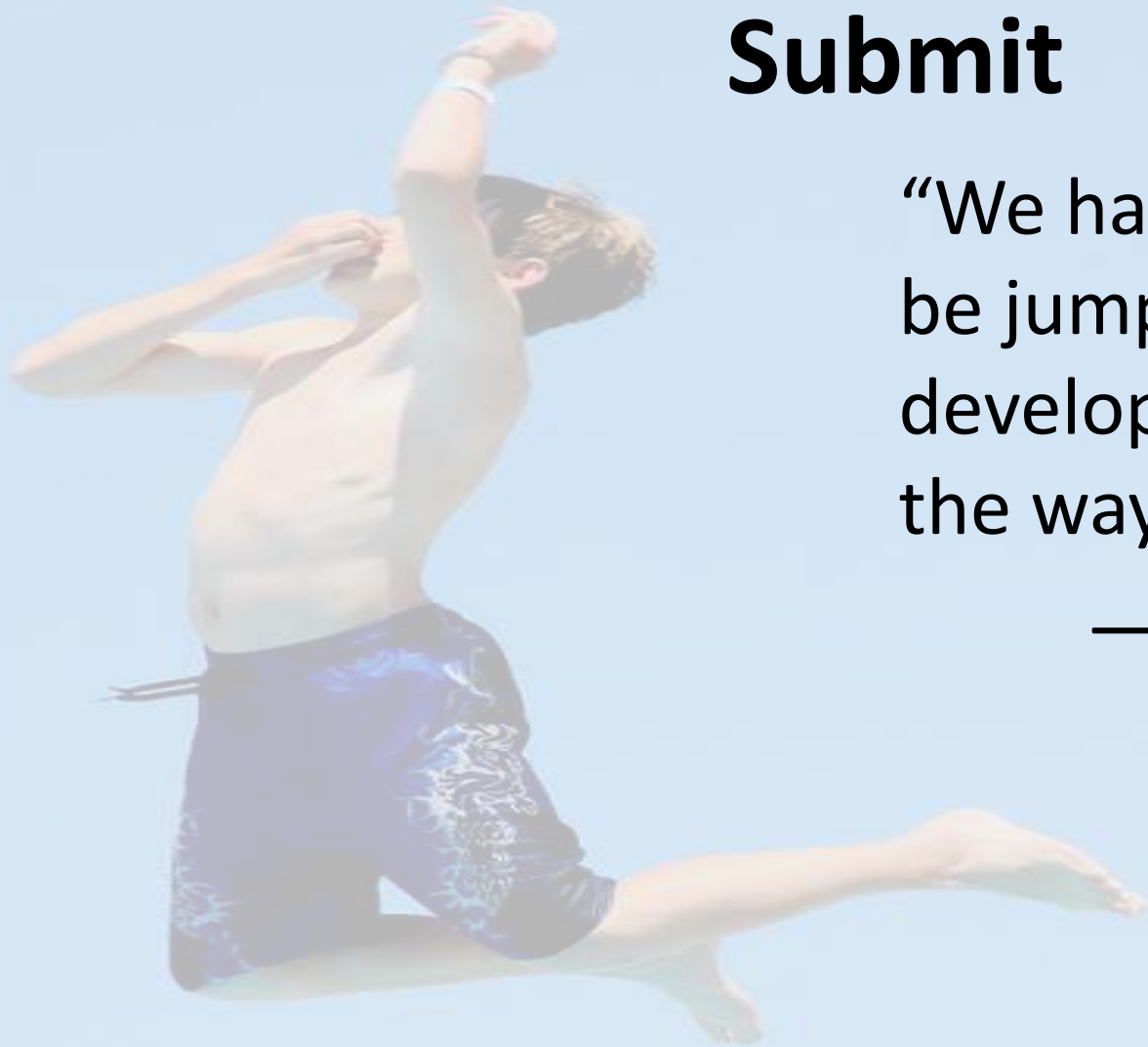
Hints for writing

- Leave your office. Go to a coffee shop.
- Go outside – take your laptop or writing pad.
- Spread out on a table – at home or “hide” at work in the stacks.
- Write in the middle of the night.
- Do something fun... lose any inhibitions.
- Don't be afraid to ask others to read your draft. Fresh eyes are always helpful.
- Write when it hits you.
- Get over “I'm wasting my time.”

Submit

“We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down.”

— Kurt Vonnegut



Just Do it!

- Submit to your first choice.
- Don't wait until the article is "perfect."
- Save your article drafts: the pre-print or post-print can often be added to your institutional repository.
- Expect to revise the article, always.
- Rejection is common, even after a re-write.
- Revise and re-submit to another journal.
- Congrats! You did it!
- Start mentoring the next generation of librarians.



Edit

re-search (ri-sûrch', ré-sûrch')

Advantages of using the IR





(Institutional Repository)

- Increase the readership of your works. Google, Bing and other search engines will index your work and make it easier for scholars to find.
- Conform with open access standards of your institution.
- Manage and preserve your work for when you leave or retire from the institution.
- Create an online presence and increase citation by providing simple access for other scholars.


My BePress website:

Jennifer Little Kegler has published journal articles regarding information literacy instruction, faculty collaboration with librarians, and cognitive learning theory and online library research guides. She enjoys assisting students and faculty with information needs, whether through informal one-on-one interactions, formal class instruction, or in learning management systems.


Articles

-  PDF **E-readers, computer screens, or paper: Does reading comprehension change across media platforms?** (with Sara J. Margolin, Michael J. Toland, and Casey Driscoll), *Library Publications and Presentations* (2013)
- The present research examined the impact of technology on reading comprehension. While previous research has...
-  PDF **Interdisciplinary collaboration: A faculty learning community creates a comprehensive LibGuide** (with Moira Fallon, Jason Dauenhauer, Betsy Balzano, and Donald Halquist), *Library Publications and Presentations* (2010)
- Purpose** – Many colleges and universities require both undergraduate and graduate students to plan and...
-  PDF **Cognitive Load Theory and Library Research Guides**, *Library Publications and Presentations* (2010)
- Online library research guides are instructional tools that most libraries provide for their patrons. With...
-  PDF **Strategic Planning: First Steps in Sharing Information Literacy Goals with Faculty Across Disciplines** (with Jane H. Tuten), *Library Publications and Presentations* (2006)
- Grounded in a campus-wide strategic planning effort and funded through a campus-wide lottery-based grant, the...

Contributions to Books

-  PDF **Business Students' Learning Engagement as a Function of Reading Assigned E-Textbooks** (with Susan Stites-Doe and Pat Maxwell), *Library Publications and Presentations* (2013)
- In this chapter we report findings from a quantitative and qualitative pilot study of students...

Presentations

-  PDF **Embedded Librarians: Supporting Student Research** (with Charlie Cowling, Logan T. Rath, and Allison Wright), *Library Presentations* (2014)
- Collaborative partnerships between faculty and librarians to support student research is not a new idea;...



Following

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Jennifer Little Kegler

State University of New York College at Brockport

- Associate Librarian
- Reference Librarian / Library Instruction Coordinator

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i10-index	4	3



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No co-authors

<input type="checkbox"/> Title	+ Add	More	1-20	Cited by	Year
E-readers, Computer Screens, or Paper: Does Reading Comprehension Change Across Media Platforms?				18	2013
<small>SJ Margolin, C Driscoll, MJ Toland, JL Kegler Applied Cognitive Psychology 27 (4), 512-519</small>					
Interdisciplinary collaboration: A faculty learning community creates a comprehensive LibGuide				16	2010
<small>JJ Little, M Fallon, J Dauenhauer, B Balzano, D Halquist Reference Services Review 38 (3), 431-444</small>					
Cognitive load theory and library research guides				16	2010
<small>JJ Little Internet Reference Services Quarterly 15 (1), 53-63</small>					
Strategic Planning				12	2006
<small>JJ Little, JH Tuten College & Undergraduate Libraries 13 (3), 113-123</small>					
BUSINESS STUDENTS' LEARNING ENGAGEMENT AS A FUNCTION OF READING ASSIGNED E-TEXTBOOKS				3	2013
<small>JL Kegler Increasing Student Engagement and Retention using Mobile Applications ...</small>					
Are Students Ready to Declare Their Independence from the Printed Text? An Explorative Study of the Use of E-Textbooks				3	2011
<small>P Maxwell, J Little, S Stites-Doe poster session presented at ACRL, Philadelphia, PA</small>					
eTextbook Exploration: Are Students Ready to Declare Their Independence From the Printed Text?				1	2011
<small>PE Maxwell, JJ Little, S Stites-Doe</small>					
JL Kegler					
Embedded Librarians: Supporting Student Research					2014
<small>JL Kegler, C Cowling, LT Rath, A Wright</small>					
Growing a Culture of Assessment at the Drake Memorial Library					2014
<small>KR Wierzbowski, JL Kegler, C Govers, M Dentino</small>					
Collaborating to Write Scholarly Communications: Find Inspiration from one Librarian's Journey					2014
<small>JL Kegler</small>					

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Jennifer Kegler

ORCID ID

 orcid.org/0000-0002-3805-427X

Also known as

Jennifer J. Little, Jennifer J. Little
Kegler, Jennifer Little

Websites

[LibGuides profile](#)
[Digital Commons Website](#)
[Google Scholar](#)

Education (2)

Employment (4)

Works (5)

Sort

E-readers, Computer Screens, or Paper: Does Reading
Comprehension Change Across Media Platforms?

Appl. Cognit. Psychol.

2013-05 | journal-article

DOI: [10.1002/acp.2930](https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.2930)

ISSN: 0888-4080

Source: CrossRef Metadata Search

Preferred source

Business Students' Learning Engagement as a Function of
Reading Assigned e-Textbooks

Increasing Student Engagement and Retention Using Mobile Applications:

Smartphones, Skype and Texting Technologies

2013 | other

DOI: [10.1108/s2044-9968\(2013\)000006d011](https://doi.org/10.1108/s2044-9968(2013)000006d011)

ISBN: 978-1-78190-509-8

ISSN: 2044-9968

Source: CrossRef Metadata Search

Preferred source

Cognitive Load Theory and Library Research Guides

2010-02 | journal-article

DOI: [10.1080/10875300903530199](https://doi.org/10.1080/10875300903530199)

ISSN: 1087-5301

Source: CrossRef Metadata Search

Preferred source

Interdisciplinary collaboration: A faculty learning community
creates a comprehensive LibGuide

Reference Services Review

2010 | journal-article

DOI: [10.1108/00907321011070919](https://doi.org/10.1108/00907321011070919)

ISSN: 0090-7324

Source: CrossRef Metadata Search

Preferred source

Strategic Planning

College & Undergraduate Libraries

2006-10 | journal-article

DOI: [10.1300/j106v13n03_08](https://doi.org/10.1300/j106v13n03_08)

DOI: [10.1300/j106v13n03_08](https://doi.org/10.1300/j106v13n03_08)

ISSN: 1069-1316

Source: CrossRef Metadata Search

Preferred source

<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-3805-427X>

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- “Quotes about writing.” (2014). Retrieved from <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag?utf8=%E2%9C%93&id=writing>

My Publications

- Kegler, J.L. (2014). [Review of the book *Information Literacy Instruction that Works: A Guide to Teaching by Discipline and Student Population* by P. Ragains] *Journal of Library Innovation*, 5(1), 149-150.
- Margolin, S. J., Driscoll, C., Toland, M. J., & Little Kegler, J. (2013). E-readers, Computer Screens, or Paper: Does Reading Comprehension Change Across Media Platforms?. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 27(4), 512-519. doi:10.1002/acp.2930
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- Little, J. & Tuten, J. (2006). Strategic planning: Sharing information literacy goals with faculty across the disciplines. *College and Undergraduate Libraries* 13(3), 113-123.