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## ILA/ACRL Newsletter, vol. 21, no. 4, Summer 2011

Association of College and Research Libraries. Iowa Chapter

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# ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 21, no. 4, Summer 2011

This issue of the ILA/ACRL Newsletter features a semi-annual President's Piece submitted by sitting ILA/ACRL president, Ryan Gjerde, article by Linda Nelson about library instruction, and news from academic libraries across the state.

## President's Piece

Around this time of year, my friends and family often ask how I'm enjoying the downtime in the library with most of the student population back at home. In reality, summer can be one of the busiest times of year in our library, as we work to test and implement updates systems and services, and make headway on other projects that are difficult to tackle with classes in session. Summer becomes a good time to buckle down and power through the to-do list that grew over the course of the academic year.

As we toil away throughout the summer, I wanted to spend some time reminding our membership of ways we can communicate and connect with one another. For years, our chapter has offered an email discussion list, of which many are members off. Our list serves as a forum for issues of broader interest to Iowa's academic library community such as discussions of reference/research issues, news of legislative initiatives, job openings, and staff development opportunities. We encourage your participation! More information on the list can be found at <http://www.iowaacrl.org/content/ecc/list>.

ILA/ACRL also has a social media presence, with a [Facebook group](#) and a [Twitter feed](#). Feel free to post, follow, retweet, etc. on these sites as well.

Another reminder for the summer is to start thinking about October's ILA conference in Council Bluffs. ILA has already posted a good amount of [preliminary information](#) regarding the conference, including a program that offers many sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by ILA/ACRL. I hope to see many of you there at our business meeting on Thursday!

Finally, there is one fact I neglected to mention back in March during our Spring Conference. This year marks the 35th anniversary of our chapter, which was first approved by ACRL at the 1976 Midwinter meeting. One of the first activities offered by the Iowa chapter that Spring was a bibliographic instruction workshop. I had hoped to ask our 2011 conference attendees if any had been present back in Spring 1976!

A [brief history](#) of our chapter which noted this milestone ends with an assessment that I find still true today: “ILA/ACRL is an organization that has developed from the efforts of many members, and its growth will continue because of those that are willing to serve.” As we approach that time of year when we seek to fill committee rosters for 2012, I hope that you will consider sharing some of your time and experience if contacted by a member of the nominating committee - or, if you are feeling bold, fill out the [volunteer form](#) on the ILA/ACRL website!

Thanks,  
Ryan Gjerde  
ILA/ACRL President

## **Problem Based Learning Activities in Library Instruction Sessions**

During the semester, it is a race against time for faculty to teach students everything they will need to know to satisfy course objectives. In order to introduce students to the library resources they will need to complete class assignments, the instruction librarian is often given thirty to fifty minutes to teach students how to access and use these resources. Often, librarians settle for the lecture method of library instruction, provide handouts and perform demonstrations for students. However, due to the technological advances of the twenty-first century, the one shot library orientation is not enough to teach the students the critical thinking skills they will need to be valuable employees and life-long learners.

In order to meet time limitations and ensure that students will acquire the critical thinking skills, some librarians are incorporating active learning techniques into one shot library instruction sessions. One of the most successful techniques is problem based learning. Kenny reported that “Problem-based learning (PBL) provides the theoretical framework for a learner-centered, active instructional experience that relies on collaboration, critical thinking and hands-on interaction with resources.” (Kenny, 386)

Problem based learning involves students working together to solve problems that are based on real world issues. Librarian and faculty collaboration is necessary to develop a scenario that will mesh with course content and objectives. During the session, students are divided into groups to analyze what they already know and to identify the information that is still needed in order to solve the problem. The librarian serves as an advisor and helps students devise a research strategy, locate the resources they will use to find the information, and evaluate the information found.

According to ACRL, problem based learning helps students develop the skills necessary to become information literate:

Guided by faculty and others in problem-based approaches, students reason about course content at a deeper level than is possible through the exclusive use of lectures and

textbooks. To take fullest advantage of problem-based learning, students must often use thinking skills requiring them to become skilled users of information sources in many locations and formats, thereby increasing their responsibility for their own learning.

Consider using problem based activities in your instruction sessions. Students will remember more from active participation than they will from the “one shot” 50 minute lecture. For more information and ideas for activities see the bibliography provided below.

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*By Linda Nelson, Scott Community College*

## **Community College Libraries News**

### **Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny**

In January, DMACC Libraries began offering downloadable ebooks as part of the WILBOR consortium. In addition, we have purchased a couple Nooks and Kindles (not currently compatible with our ebooks) and an iPad for faculty/staff to borrow. These devices may be borrowed for up to 1 week and are a great way for faculty/staff to ‘try out’ the new format before purchasing. This new venture expands our growing collection of electronic resources which include downloadable audiobooks and online films (Films On Demand).

DMACC Libraries will again offer the common reading program One Book One College One Community, for the 2011/12 academic year. The selected title is No Impact Man by Colin

Beavan. The author will visit two of the DMACC campuses on November 3, 2012 and his presentations will be open to the public.

In February, Lindsay Healey joined the DMACC Libraries as Library Specialist – Circulation Lead for the Ankeny Campus. Lindsay has several years of experience at Iowa State University Parks Library and ISU's Vet Med library. She has been a wonderful asset to our library and we are thrilled to have her here!

### **Northeast Iowa Community College, Peosta**

The Burton Payne Library of Northeast Iowa Community College will be moving into a renovated space beginning July 5th and become the Peosta Library of NICC. With the addition of much needed study rooms and study space, two classrooms, additional office space, a story room and space for audiovisual equipment, our library area will triple. We have also partnered with the Dubuque County Library to become a branch for the City of Peosta and its surrounding community. Benefits include increasing our children's collection to meet curriculum needs and our staff and students accessing leisure reading. The Peosta Community will have access to a more diverse collection and additional computers. Together we hope to promote information literacy. Look for our open house announcement which should be coming out soon.

## **Private Academic Libraries News**

### **Briar Cliff University**

During the "quiet" days of summer here at Briar Cliff University, there is never a dull moment. We host the study hall sessions for our summer Upward Bound program so that every hour, on the hour, we have a new group settling in. This keeps us on our toes greeting them and meeting their AV needs.

Briar Cliff will be one of the schools introducing an iPad program for students in the fall. With this new program the university has also expanded to develop an Educational Technology department to support faculty and students as they learn to use these devices and incorporate them into the campus curriculum. Our former Reference and Instruction librarian, Sara Thompson, was selected to develop this new service on campus. Being a librarian at heart, Sara's new service will be housed in the library. We count this as growth in the library as we search for our next Reference and Instruction librarian!

In May, Sara and Deb Robertson traveled to Hennepin County, Minnesota to attend Library Journal's Design Institute. This was a great event with many opportunities to learn from peers, architects, and interior designers who have so many wonderful ideas it starts to become overwhelming. One thing we did come away with is the fact that the trend to make room for people in our buildings has been noticed by the designers and developers working on library building projects. This trend is happening even when it means removing print media to make it

happen. Moving collections to more digital than print is exactly what we have been planning here at BCU in order to create collaborative spaces for library, IT and Educational Technology to work together. We are working to develop spaces where we can offer blended services that bring in expertise from each of these unique yet overlapping departments.

As we cull our print collection we are utilizing the services of Better World Books to help us with the resale or distribution of our gems to others who will cherish them far more than we ever will again. This organization is great to work with and we don't have to host our own book sale events!

Right now we are looking forward to the "quiet" days of fall, when we can sit out in the new campus coffee shop located in the lobby of the library and sip on a yummy beverage to dream of our next project.

## **Cornell College**

New College Librarian

On July 5, 2011, Cole Library will welcome Paul Waelchli as Cornell College's new College Librarian. Many of you will remember Paul for his work at the University of Dubuque and his presentation on gaming at the library at the ILA/ACRL Spring Conference. Here is the write-up that announced his appointment in the Cornell College campus newsletter.

"Paul Waelchli has been appointed as director of the Russell D. Cole Library and college librarian at the rank of assistant professor. He earned a B.A. in economics and political science at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, an M.A.T. at Clarke College, and an M.L.I.S. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Waelchli currently serves as the information literacy and instruction librarian at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis. He previously served as the assistant director for library instruction and public services at the University of Dubuque. Waelchli will begin his duties in Cole Library on July 5."

Recent activities

In addition to the traditional methods of promoting Information Literacy among students, hosting monthly Conversations about Teaching with Faculty, and participating in campus activities, Cole Library sponsors many events every year that highlight a variety of fun learning opportunities.

## **GET YOUR GEEK ON**

On May 4, 2011 on the campus ped mall over the lunch hour, Cole Library sponsored the 2nd annual Get Your Geek On. Students, staff, and faculty showed off what it is that they are passionate about. From launching a hot air weather balloon, to playing the harmonica ala Bob Dylan, to spinning, to small houses, there was something for everyone, and great weather, too!



The Dr. Who paraphernalia, including an “authentic” full length scarf drew crowds and discussion as Jessie ‘Draya’ Brogden (’13) shares her geek.



Students and maintenance staff came to learn about the ecological advantages of small houses from Ellen Wrede (’13).



Greg Cotton (Systems Librarian & Consulting Librarian for Visual Arts and Social Sciences) demonstrates spinning. A man of many talents, he is also the go-to person for solving knitting challenges.

For more photos of Get Your Geek On, see Cole Library's facebook page.

Cole Team Trivia

For the 2nd year, The Center for Teaching and Learning / Cole Library hosted Team Trivia night, a lively evening of musical clues, questions all over the map, physical challenges, sorting book carts, food, prizes for students, staff, & faculty.





Teams working out the answers to a trivia question on the Quiet Study Floor of the library (between class sessions.)

### The Library Gallery Space

Displays rotate regularly primarily featuring current student art work. During the last 2 months of school, senior student art shows change regularly as part of their capstone experience.

This year, a special exhibit of the Art of the Book involved a collaboration of several members of the English Department, Jen Rouse (Consulting Librarian for the Humanities) and Mary Iber (in her role as Archivist).

#### The Art of the Book at Cornell: Yesteryear to Tomorrow

Starting February 28, 2011, the library gallery hosted a display of original publications created by Cornell students throughout the college's history. From chapbooks as old as 1919 to books created in 2011 English classes, creativity is evident at every stage.



Display of recent students' books created for a class on Dante's *Inferno* coexists with Winifred Van Etten's (Cornell faculty 1928-1934, 1937-1968) novel, *I Am the Fox*, which won the \$10,000 Atlantic Monthly Press and Little, Brown and Company prize in 1936. The display included Winifred's purse and gloves, donated to the Archives in 2010 by a Cornell alum.



Jen Rouse (Consulting Librarian for the Humanities and the Performing Arts) and Leslie Hankins (one of the English professors who collaborated on the display) warm themselves by the “fire” in honor of the Dante’s Inferno connection.



Mary Iber (Consulting Librarian for the Sciences, Kinesiology, and College Archivist) shows some unique features of the display to Addison Ault (Chemistry professor).

National Poem in Your Pocket Day (April 14, 2011)

Cole Library joined people across the country to encourage the sharing of poetry. A poster placed near our entrance was filled with poems within hours and enjoyed for weeks afterwards. Presidents at Cornell

To celebrate the introduction of the 15th president of Cornell College, Jonathan Brand, to the campus, Brooke Bergantzel ('08)(Reference/Technical Services Librarian) created a display of the history of the Presidents at Cornell, utilizing resources from the Archives. The reception for the president was held in the library. Brooke is re-creating that display in digital form.



Presidents of Cornell College from 1853-2011.

### **Dordt College and Grandview University**

Sheryl Talyor (Dordt College) and Pam Reese (Grandview University) were selected to attend the May, 2011 Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) workshop on Work Restructuring that was held in Denver

(see <http://www.clir.org/activities/leadershipCLIRCIC/WorkRestructuring.html>).

### **Drake University**

Carrie Dunham-Lagree, late of the University of Albany - SUNY, joined the faculty of Drake's Cowles Library on June 6 as Drake's first [Librarian for Digital Literacy & General Education](#). As such, she will be coordinating the Library's work with the University's First Year Seminars, as well as other General Education initiatives. We welcome Carrie and look forward to her getting to know her colleagues across the state!

### **Loras College**

The Library celebrated National Library Week this year with a wide variety of events including a library art scavenger hunt; a survey; the unveiling of this year's Loras READ posters; a Faculty Publications Celebration; National Library Worker Day celebration; Learn and Do: Bookbinding lecture and hands-on session; and Game Night with Texas Hold'em, bowling in the aisles, bean bag toss, and Wii.

Most of the hourly staff started new positions on June 1. There was a vacancy that allowed for discussion and rearrangement of duties. The hourly staff were given two directives and then allowed to work things out amongst themselves. The directives were to have full-time desk coverage for the checkout desk during the day and at night and to cover the tasks the positions are currently responsible for completing. After a two hour discussion, they had rearranged duties to fit individual talents and wishes. Given some time to consider their original proposal, the changes went into effect on June 1 and training for their new positions has been underway since then. We're looking forward to the changes.

On June 15, the Loras College Library welcomed Julie Greenberg, Instruction Services Librarian to our staff. She graduated in May from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### **Wartburg Theological Seminary**

At Wartburg Theological Seminary, library staff needs to be creative. After staffing cutbacks, no paid student help in the summer, and staff vacations, the library realized that it could not do all that it wanted to do during the summer break. So an email was sent out to students, faculty, and staff and asked for volunteers for specific tasks. Volunteers included the President's wife, an adjunct faculty member, and a couple of students who have been coming in to help with inventory. An alumna who graduated in June and is still around for the summer and a staff member on her own time have been helping with small semi-weekly responsibilities. In addition, a couple of library students who live in the area have been coming in one morning a week to learn about libraries and help with weekly duties. The library found that it is important to have specific tasks that can be easily learned. Helping volunteers feel a sense of accomplishment and know that they are a vital part of the team is also crucial. The library is very grateful for its volunteers, who are so willing to give of their time.

## **Regents Universities Libraries News**

### **Iowa State University**

On June 30, 2011 Diana Shonrock retired after nearly 42 years of service at the Iowa State University Library. During her tenure Diana taught thousands of students, mentored colleagues, and experienced the evolution of libraries from print only research tools and catalogs to web accessible databases and federated searching. In addition to her work at ISU Diana has been an active ALA member serving as chair of several national committees. She was elected RUSA Vice-Chair/Chair-elect 2005-2006 and served as Chair during 2006-2007. Aside from these activities, Diana also serves on numerous editorial boards, writes book reviews, and serves as a blind reviewer for manuscripts. As a librarian, teacher, scholar, and mentor Diana's contributions to the ISU library and our profession as a whole are numerous and impact the entire campus community.

Although she is officially retired Diana plans to continue working on a few remaining projects, such as the [Iowa Cookbook Collection](#), while juggling time with her grandchildren and participating in American Library Association activities. If you would like to contact Diana feel free to write her at [shonrock@iastate.edu](mailto:shonrock@iastate.edu).

## **University of Iowa**

### Iowa City Book Festival

Presented by the University of Iowa Libraries on July 15, 16 and 17. The Book Festival will begin on Friday with an author dinner in the Main Library. Saturday is festival day in Gibson Square with booksellers, music, children's activities, food vendors, book arts demonstrations and readings and panel discussions. Sunday will be "A Day in the City of Literature." Local businesses of all kinds throughout Iowa City will participate with readings, special activities all day. <http://www.iowacitybookfestival.org/>

### Civil War crowdsourcing project goes viral

Woo, hoo! We've been slashdotted.

This is when a popular website (in this case, Reddit.com, an enormous online community where contributors share web content that others may find interesting, enlightening, etc.) links to a smaller site (in this case, our Civil War Diaries transcription project) causing a huge influx of web traffic that overwhelms the site.

Continue to read more at: <http://blog.lib.uiowa.edu/news/2011/06/08/civil-war-crowdsourcing-projec...>

### Bookmark statues

Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature and three Johnson County public libraries unveiled 25 unique BookMark statues in June kicking off what is believed to be the first public art display in the world to celebrate reading and writing. To learn more about these and the statue sponsored by the UI Libraries, please visit <http://blog.lib.uiowa.edu/news/2011/06/06/the-forever-war-is-ui-librarie...>

## **University of Northern Iowa**

### UNI Dean Marilyn Mercado Retires July 1, 2011

UNI Library Dean Marilyn Mercado will retire at the end of June, 2011. Marilyn came to UNI's Rod Library as head of the cataloging department in 1989. She was named acting Associate Dean of Library Services in 1998, named Associate Dean in 1999, and Dean in 2000.

Katherine Martin has been named Acting Dean of the UNI Rod Library ... effective July 1.

### UNI School Library Studies Awarded AASL Grant

Karla Kruger and Jean Donham recently received an American Association of School Librarian's Research Grant for their project "Influence of School Library Resources on Student Learning in Rural Iowa Schools". Their proposed project was featured in an April 26, ALAnews release <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/ala/aasl-funds-two-research-teams-focused->

[improving-school-library-profession?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=amlibraries.](#)

#### UNI Youth Collection Awarded a Carver Grant

Librarians Yolanda Hood, Katherine Martin, Sandra Wilkens, and Marilyn Mercado were awarded a \$220,981 grant for renovating the UNI Youth Collection from the Roy J. Carver Memorial Trust.

#### New Cornerstone Program

Twelve University of Northern Iowa librarians will participate in the soon-to-be-launched Cornerstone program for first-year students (see page 3 of the Academic Affairs Report, Summer 2011

- [http://www.uni.edu/provost/sites/default/files/summer\\_2011\\_academic\\_affairs\\_newsletter.pdf](http://www.uni.edu/provost/sites/default/files/summer_2011_academic_affairs_newsletter.pdf)).