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Association of College and Research Libraries. Iowa Chapter

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ILA/ACRL Newsletter

vol. 24, no. 1, February 2014

President's Piece



The Executive Board of ILA/ACRL is off to a good start in 2014 and I am excited to be a part of it. I want to thank those of you who are continuing your membership this year and to those members who helped work on or chair committees in the past year. The chapter has accomplished quite a bit thanks to you. I also want to thank Amy Paulus from the University of Iowa for an excellent job as President in 2013.

We are very excited about our Spring Conference this year, which will be held at the FFA Enrichment Center on the DMACC-Ankeny campus on May 2nd. This year's theme is "Breaking Down Our Silos: Redefining Academic Libraries in the 21st Century." You can find out more information, including our keynote speaker Bobbi Newman, here: <http://www.iowaacrl.org/content/conference>. Mary Peterson of Simpson College and her committee deserve huge thanks for putting this conference together.

One of our hardest working committees is the Nominating Committee. They are always looking for members to help serve on and chair committees as well as serving as an officer of the chapter. Anne Marie Gruber of the University of Dubuque is our current Vice President and chair of the committee. Please contact her if you are interested in serving ILA/ACRL or if you know of a member who would serve the chapter well.

Many of us were deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Mary Iber, Cornell College librarian, at the beginning of 2014. At Cornell she was extremely helpful to faculty and students

as well as a great mentor to many librarians across the state. Mary's humor, friendliness, and limitless energy helped make her a great advisor and mentor to many librarians in Iowa. Her presence on the Executive Board, especially in her role as President in 2010, helped strengthen the organization and inspired other members to see the value of volunteering their time and energy to our chapter and to achieve greater things in their professional lives. Mary Iber was a vibrant human being and her memory will live on in many of our hearts and minds for years to come.

Finally, one of my goals as President this year is to help increase communication among our members throughout the state. We work best when we share ideas and collaborate with one another no matter where we are located or what size our institution might be. With that in mind, if you want to get more involved and help us open up the lines of communication, contact me or one of the members of the Executive Board and we can talk to you about how you can help the chapter. Feel free to send any of us ideas or suggestions that you have to help make our chapter stronger.

Dan Chibnall

Grand View University

Regents Universities Library News

University of Northern Iowa

Library Mini Comic-con

Rod Library will be hosting a mini comic-con in the library on Saturday, March 29th from noon-5pm. Several panel discussions will focus on diversity in comic books such as LGBT in comics, women in comics, censorship and comics, and more! A photo booth, costume contest, trivia contest, children's coloring contest, and gaming will also take place that day.

Recent Hire

Angela Pratesi joined the faculty at the University of Northern Iowa's Rod Library as the Fine & Performing Arts Librarian on August 22, 2013. In this position, she serves as bibliographer in music, art, theatre, and design; provides library and information literacy instruction; and curates the Rod Library Art Collection. Pratesi comes to UNI after earning graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Library and Information Studies and School of Music.

Feasibility Study

During the fall of 2013, Rod Library took part in a semester long feasibility study looking at our library space that would assist in future planning. We hired OPN Architects to work with us and

Sam Demas, library consultant, also assisted us. OPN has completed the final feasibility study report. Rod Library is now moving on the next steps of generating campus interest, fundraising, and moving on smaller projects.

Private Academic Library News

Waldorf College

Assessment, Information Literacy and Collaboration

Assessing student information literacy levels when they first enter college is essential not only for librarians and our instruction curriculum, but also for faculty awareness. At Waldorf College in Forest City, we are working towards gauging the information literacy skill levels of students during their Freshman Seminar class. Each incoming freshman student is required to take Freshman Seminar which has a library course on academic integrity built into the syllabus. We use this opportunity to pass out a pre-test to gauge their skills and have come up with some startling results.

The pre-test, designed with the ACRL's Information Literacy Competency Standards in mind, measures students' awareness on locating, identifying, and using information. Questions include "What do you use to locate an item on the shelf in a library," "Have you ever used a library database to locate journal articles," and identifying a primary source. What we've discovered is that incoming freshmen lack the skills necessary to be considered information literate. Seventy-one percent of students never used a database, 54% do not know when to cite sources, and 74% cannot identify a primary source. With such surprising statistics, we created an infographic to share with faculty and to advertise an information literacy discussion session. This gave us the opportunity to reiterate our services to the faculty and stress the importance of working collaboratively to improve overall student information literacy and critical thinking.

Incoming information literacy data helps us tailor our instruction efforts and we can see the benefits of library instruction by collecting exit surveys asking the same questions. While we do not have the same built-in model to administer the post-test to every student, we collect voluntary exit data before students graduate. Cumulative data from December 2012 to December 2013 suggest that information literacy skills have improved: 81% have used a library catalog, 73% have used a library database, and 73% can identify a scholarly source. Refining the collection strategy for this post-test data is being evaluated but it helps us, as librarians, discover holes in the curriculum and how we might work with faculty to ensure our students graduate with the skills needed to succeed in their professional and personal information lives.

Rebekah F. Vrabel (Reference & Instruction Librarian)

The Long Night Against Procrastination

This past November, our library held our second Long Night Against Procrastination, an international event organized in collaboration with our Writing Center on campus. The Long Night Against Procrastination, or Lange Nacht Der Aufgeschobenen Hausarbeiten, as translated in German, is an event begun by a writing center at the European University in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany in 2010. The intent of the event is to support students working on writing assignments by offering all-night, or late-night writing assistance in the form of additional tutors.

At Waldorf College, our library organizes this event in collaboration with our Writing Center, which is physically located within our library facility. We extend our late-night support to include locating and evaluating sources and provide librarians to assist students during the event. Our event ran from 6pm to 2am on Tuesday, November 19th, and was organized with individual stations staffed with Writing Center tutors and librarians. Each station had a specific focus, such as citation style, locating sources, or proofreading, which students could visit for individual assistance.

In order to keep students engaged, the library offered food and refreshments throughout the event, as well as hourly drawings for prizes. Over 100 students participated in the event, a turnout three times that of the event we held the previous year (leading to a shocking shortage in snacks!). Assessment data from our students indicated strong support for the event; out of the 86 respondents who participated in our feedback survey, 100% indicated that they would participate in a future event.

In response to student feedback, we'll be holding this event once each semester, making this a semi-annual event. At our next event - approaching quickly in March - we will be providing some additional incentives intended to keep students engaged. A drawing for participants of our Long Night Twitter feed will be added, as well as humorous postcards featuring reproduced archival images of students studying and slogans, which students can mail home postage-free during the event. Considering participation in the international event? Please feel free to contact me (elizabeth.kiscaden@waldorf.edu) if you have questions.

Elizabeth Kiscaden, MLIS (Director, Luise V. Hanson Library)

University of Dubuque

The Charles C. Myers Library hosted the Eighth Annual Celebration of Faculty & Staff Scholarship and Creativity on February 7, with featured speakers from the College and Seminary and a bibliography of faculty and staff publications, artwork, etc.

On Saturday, February 8, the Library hosted its first ever programming for preschoolers, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar Story Time." Katelyn Wolff (Librarian Student Intern and Evening

Supervisor), Diana Newman (Office Manager), and Becky Canovan (Reference & Instruction Librarian), planned the program. Katelyn constructed the fabulous caterpillar below.



Mary Anne Knefel (University Librarian) and Jonathan Barz, (Chair, English Department) co-taught a J-term class, “Literature & Culture of New York,” which included a five-day trip to New York plus an extra snow day, due to a blizzard.

Becky Canovan and Chaminda Preliis (Assistant Professor of Aviation) co-taught the J-term class, “Captain Picard Meets Dr. Who.”

Becky Canovan, Reference & Instruction Librarian, participated in a panel discussion at the Iowa Library Association in Coralville entitled “Rock the Blog.” Other participants were Kathy Kaldenberg (Solon Community School District), Shannon Miller (Van Meter Community School), and Stephanie Schulte (Davenport Public Library).

Jon Helmke (UD Assistant Director for Library Technology), Heidi Pettitt (Loras), Michael May (Carnegie Stout Public Library), and Dawn Schrandt (James Kennedy Public Library, Dyersville) conducted a digitization workshop for DALINC (Dubuque Area Library Information Consortium) on February 11. This four were on an ILEAD grant this team charged laying the groundwork for creating a fully searchable digital database of Dubuque history.

Drake University

Professor Teri Koch, Collection Development Coordinator, and Assistant Professor Andrew Welch, Discovery Services & Technology Librarian, gave two presentations at the 33rd Annual Charleston Conference (Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition) in Charleston, South Carolina on November 7, 2013. One presentation was entitled “Adding PDA for Print? Consider Your Options for Implementation.” The second presentation was entitled “Maximizing the Value of Library Collections and Improving the End User Experience.”

Materials move in to the new University Archives and Special Collections space at Cowles Library. The new, 6,000 sq. ft. area includes a large climate-controlled storage unit for archival preservation. Special Collections materials — which include artifacts from Drake’s history and many rare and unique documents and items — have been scattered throughout the Library in file cabinets, boxes and “piles o’ stuff.” The new area will also hold the papers of Senator Tom Harkin and be the site of a mass digitization project for the papers of Iowa Governor Robert Ray. Cowles Library and the Academic Achievement Office partnered the fall of 2013 to complete two pilot projects related to academic success and student access. For the first pilot, tutoring services for biology, chemistry, psychology, and writing were co-located in a centralized area on the main floor of the library. 746 individual tutoring appointments were provided through this pilot. The centralization of tutoring services added visibility to tutoring services.

The second pilot addressed after-hours access to academic assistance. Chrystal Stanley, Professional and Career Development and Academic Achievement Coordinator, and Michelle Laughlin, Student Disability Services Coordinator, provided evening office hours throughout the semester. During the course of the pilot, the pair met with 27 students, administered 3 exams, and responded to 120 email requests. Both projects will be extended into the spring semester and will be thoroughly evaluated at the end of that time.

Cowles Library has partnered with EBSCOHost to beta test a new feature in SuperSearch, Research Starters.

More information about Cowles Library may be found in the Cowles Library Newsletter at <http://newsletter.library.drake.edu/>

Wartburg College Library News

The Saint John’s Bible at Wartburg in 2014

Vogel Library is partnering with the college to promote and exhibit The Saint John’s Bible, the first handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned in more than 500 years. The opening exhibit of seven volumes, The Saint John’s Bible: Illuminating the Word for a New Millennium, is currently displayed in the Waldemar A. Schmidt Art Gallery. It will remain there until February 23, from 9 a.m.--7 p.m. daily or by appointment. After the gallery exhibit closes,

two volumes—the Pentateuch and Gospels & Acts—will move to Vogel Library for the remainder of 2014. Librarian Karen Lehmann manages a group of docents, called Knights of the Page, who are staffing the gallery during all open weekday hours and assisting with special events on the weekend or evenings so that visitors can have a “hands-on” experience. Lehmann also created a resource guide at <http://knightguides.wartburg.edu/bible> , which includes links, FAQs, and video clips. This exhibit has obvious interest for librarians and archivists, so please consider a visit to Wartburg sometime during 2014.

Updated Technology

New library director Curtis Brundy has been advocating for updated technology. As a result, the library partnered with Information Technology Services to install and pilot 60-inch flat panel monitors in two group study rooms on the third floor of the building. In addition to the monitors, the smart-study rooms include cables for connecting a PC laptop to the screen, and a remote control to access the flat panel’s features. Informational posters are mounted in each room. The monitors make it possible for groups to work together on presentations and projects without having to crowd around a computer screen. Streaming video and DVDs can also be played on the monitors through the users’ laptop or device. In addition, Ethernet cables have been permanently placed in all study rooms, allowing faster internet access at the times when wireless access is slow. Another room will soon be upgraded to a presentation practice room, with a computer, video camera, microphone, and video capture software, allowing students to record and review their presentations or faculty to record videos that can be uploaded and used in the college’s instructional portal. [[Link to image of the flat panel monitors](#)]

Upgraded Library Newsletter

Vogel Library’s newest faculty and staff newsletter has combined a traditional pdf format with links to a LibGuide. This dual format was designed by Technology and Information Literacy Librarian Christine Elliott. If you are interested in seeing how it works, the link to the guide also opens to the original pdf, Vogel Library Update (Winter 2014), which was shared with the campus in January. <http://knightguides.wartburg.edu/LibraryNews>

Iowa Wesleyan College Chadwick Library

Chadwick Library at Iowa Wesleyan College, recently received word from The State Library of Iowa that it has received a Library Technology Grant Award in the amount of \$1,460 for the Chadwick Library Digital Collections project on the history of the Union Block. This project will create an online, digital version of Chadwick Library’s Special Collections materials related to the Union Block Building in downtown Mount Pleasant.

“Iowa Wesleyan College and Chadwick Library are excited to provide this partnership between the college and community and convey the pioneering spirit of the college and the legacy of Belle Babb Mansfield, Iowa Wesleyan graduate and first woman licensed to practice law in the United States,” said Paula Kinney, director of the Chadwick Library.

The State Library of Iowa awarded 63 technology grants to 97 Iowa libraries from funds allocated by the Iowa Legislature during the 2013 session. One hundred ninety-four grant applications were submitted representing 255 libraries. Grant awards range from \$804.98 for a single library with a single project to \$13,499 to a group of nine libraries in one county. The projects must be completed by June 30, 2014.

“All the winning applications made a strong case for how the use of technology would improve the lives of Iowa citizens,” said Marie Harms, State Library Consultant and grant coordinator. The awards are evenly distributed throughout the state and awarded to all sizes of public libraries and a few academic libraries.

Said Harms, “The applications proved that there is a great need to add, upgrade and replace all sorts of computers and other equipment in the libraries. By using roughly half of the funds allocated to the State Library, the impact on the equipment, programs and services offered by Iowa libraries will be profound.”

For more information, contact Paul Kinney at paula.kinney@jwc.edu or 319-385-6315.

Briar Cliff University

Deb Robertson has left Briar Cliff University and Julius Fleschner has taken the role of the interim director of library and information services.

Briar Cliff University is switching their integrated library system from Sirsi Dynix to Koha, as hosted and supported by ByWater.

Special Libraries and Library Education News

School Library Studies Program, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls

Research: College Preparedness

What do those first-year college professors expect of high school graduates? This was the central question of a study undertaken by Dr. Donham. College assignments were solicited from private and public colleges and universities throughout Iowa. Three themes emerge from a content analysis of the assignments:

1. information literacy, especially how to engage students in inquiry;
2. academic writing, especially how to identify evidence in support of a thesis; and
3. learner dispositions, especially curiosity, open-mindedness, self-reliance, and perseverance.

The results will be presented at the AASL Conference in Hartford, Conn. in November. The report of the study has been accepted for publication in *School Library Research*, the online research journal of the American Association of School Librarians. It is anticipated for publication in February at <http://www.ala.org/aasl/slr>

Program Review

During the 2012-13 academic year, the School Library Studies program engaged in its every-seven-years program review. The process involves an extensive self-study to examine how our program is keeping up with changes in the profession, how well our graduation rates are holding up, how satisfied our graduates and their employers are, and what we see for the future. An external team visited the program in the spring; our visitors were Dr. Deborah Jesseman, Minnesota State University at Mankato, and Dr. Sherry Crow, University of Nebraska at Kearney. In the fall, we met with the Dean of the Graduate College, the Dean of the College of Education, our Department Chair, and the Provost to review the evaluators' assessment. A central recommendation of the report was to develop a five-year strategic plan for the program, and our administration encouraged us to plan with an eye to growth of the program in students and faculty. Such an endorsement and commitment to support growth is gratifying.

In Remembrance of Mary Iber

Mary Iber

The members of ILA/ACRL were deeply saddened by news of the passing of Mary Iber at the beginning of the New Year.



Mary's warmth and passion were ever present and I enjoyed getting to know her. She was such a strong advocate for libraries and students. We were blessed to count her as a friend and colleague. She will be deeply missed by many.

Rebecca Funke, Director of Library Resources Des Moines Area Community College

Mary was a joy to work with and a great mentor to new librarians. Her support and encouragement helped to make me the librarian I am today. Most of all, I will miss her smile.

Sara Scheib

I knew Mary as a kind, generous, and gentle colleague who was always optimistic and positive. She seemed to radiate good will and good humor. She called me to be a better person through her example. I will miss her.

Mary Anne Knefel

