

From the Desk of...



Mark Szarko
Chair
Instruction Section
2014-2015

Although as I write this it's a balmy 19 degrees in the metro Boston area, I'm hoping that by the time you read this, winter is but a distant memory (that probably won't be true for Boston, but we can still dream...). The change to spring cannot come soon enough!

In my last column I hinted at several changes coming to the Instruction Section, and I am happy to report that nearly all of them are moving

forward. For a start, we have been able to expand our professional development opportunities – for the first time in many years, we will be once again offering a preconference at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco on Friday, June 26, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. Called “Reflective Teaching: Self-Evaluation to Assess and Improve Your Teaching Practice,” the workshop will be led by Wendy Holliday and Anne-Marie Deitering. During the session, Wendy and Anne-Marie will lead participants through strategies designed to foster more structured and intentional reflection in their teaching. I am very excited that IS will once again be offering this kind of programing, and I am very pleased with the work that the Preconference Committee, very ably led by Nancy Fawley, has done to make it happen.

Likewise, I am equally looking forward to the IS conference program at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference on Saturday, June 27 from 1:00–2:30 p.m.: “Aligning Learning Spaces with Pedagogy: The Instruction Librarian’s Role in Classroom Re/Design.” The program will examine different ways of renovating learning spaces to better reflect current trends in pedagogy – both small and large-scale projects, and from a panel that reflects different sizes and types of institutions. The Conference Program Committee, with the skilled Meghan Sitar at the helm, has done a remarkable job putting together the panel, and I cannot wait to hear what they have to say.

The Discussion Group Steering Committee is also hard at work putting together the Current Topics Discussion during the 2015 ALA Annual Conference. Although the topic had not yet been selected at press time, the session will be held Saturday, June 27 from 4:30–5:30 p.m. If you missed their most recent virtual offering, “Applying Design Thinking to Information Literacy,” you can now listen to the [recording](#) online. The Steering Committee has for years helped IS think about how to develop both online and in-person programing, and I am very grateful for both Chair Veronica Arellano Douglas and the rest of the group for their tireless efforts in bringing this kind of programing to you this year.

The move to more online programing marks a new direction for IS, and I am pleased to say that many committees are now exploring this possibility. With travel budgets shrinking, we recognize that not everyone can

travel to ALA every year. At the same time, technology now offers us possibilities to discuss instruction-related topics throughout the year, not just at conference. We're hoping that these events can help more people feel more involved in IS activities throughout the year, and ultimately help all of us to grow and become better teachers. Look for announcements of upcoming virtual programming throughout the spring, both on the [e-mail list ILL-L](#) and on Twitter ([@ACRL IS](#)).

I can hardly believe this year has passed so quickly. I'd like to thank everyone in IS for their extraordinary work over many months. In particular, I'd like to thank everyone on the Executive Committee – Ellysa Stern Cahoy, Christy Stevens, Jacqueline Belanger, Lori DuBois, Nikhat Ghouse, Amy Gibson, Sara Holliday Holder, Karen Munro, and Danielle Skaggs – for their thoughtful insight on numerous occasions. It truly has been an honor to work so closely with so many of you! I look forward to seeing many of you in San Francisco, and in other venues in the years to come.

ACRL Framework

Have you joined the [#ACRLframework listserv](#) yet?



2015 ALA Annual ACRL IS Programs

Preconference: [Reflective Teaching: Self-evaluation to Assess and Improve Your Teaching Practice](#)

Discover techniques and strategies for more structured and intentional reflection. Learn how to identify, articulate, and diagnose teaching and learning “problems” you encounter in the classroom, analyze your role as a teacher in that situation, and learn about techniques of reflective practice to address those learning problems and improve student learning.

Friday, June 26th 1-4 p.m.

Contact Margot Conahan at mconahan@ala.org or call 312-280-2522 with questions.

Conference Events

[Aligning Learning Spaces with Pedagogy: the Instruction Librarian's Role in Classroom Re/Design](#) Saturday, June 27th 1-2:30 p.m. MCC (Moscone Convention Center) 3014-3016 West

[Current Topics Discussion](#) Saturday, June 27th 4:30-5:30 p.m. MCC 200-2012 South

[IS Soiree](#) Saturday, June 27th 5:30-7 p.m. [Redford Bar](#) 673 Geary St

ACRL IS Teaching Methods Committee

The Teaching Methods Committee has been busy this year, restructuring its activities and working on new initiatives, including a soon to be launched [blog](#)! Intended to serve both Instruction Section members and interested others, the blog will support the Committee's dissemination of news related to teaching methods, as well as additional content supporting librarians who work in higher education and who have job responsibilities related to teaching. One of the new highlights of the blog will be a Teaching Librarian of the Month (TLOM) feature. During select months, the Committee will choose and interview a librarian, nominated by her or his peers, who demonstrates a passion for teaching, innovation, and student learning. We'll feature this interview as a way to highlight best teaching practices and learn from colleagues.

Congratulations to Alicia Salaz for being chosen as the ACRL Instruction Section Teaching Methods Committee's Teaching Librarian of the Month!

In addition, the blog will also feature our Zotero/Mendeley library of select and notable readings related to library instruction, in the areas of teaching methods, instructional design, and assessment. This curated list will be refreshed at least annually and the first issue should be available later this spring. We hope teaching librarians find the blog and these new features a great way to stay in the loop on the latest happenings in teaching and learning.

The hardworking 2014-2015 members of the Teaching Methods Committee are Karen Beavers, Carrie Bishop, Amanda Izenstark, Merinda McLure (Chair), Elizabeth Psyck, Erin Rinto, Sara Scheib, Emily Swanson, Lauren Wahman (Vice-Chair), and Brandon West. Karen Munro is the Executive Committee liaison.

Tips and Trends on Collaborative Learning Technologies

Written by Melissa Mallon and Suzanne Bernsten and published by the Technologies Committee

Check out the IS Instructional Technologies Committee's latest [Tips and Trends](#) to learn more about how to use collaborative technologies to facilitate discussion, brainstorming, document editing, and remote presentations. *Tips and Trends* introduces and discusses new, emerging, or even familiar technologies which can be applied to the library instruction setting.

Interested in keeping up with the latest in instructional technology? Check out the Instructional Technologies Committee Twitter account [@ACRL_IS_ITECH](#) where you'll find news, tools, trends, techniques, and other food for thought for the busy instruction librarian.

IS Leadership Opportunities

The IS Nominating Committee is currently seeking nominations for the following offices (terms begin following the ALA Annual 2016 conference):

- Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect (3-year term, consisting of 1 year of service for each role as vice-chair, chair, and past chair)
- Secretary / Archivist (2-year term, consisting of 1 year of service for each role as Secretary and Archivist. The Archivist now services a full year as a voting member of the IS Executive Board)
- Member-at-Large (2-year term) 2 open positions

Review [Executive Committee Member responsibilities](#), then submit your nomination using the [online form](#) or by contacting [any member of the Nominating Committee](#) **before June 22, 2015**. Self-nominations and nominations of others are welcome.

Do you have something you'd like to promote on official Instruction Section social media? Send suggestions to jennifer.turner@mnsu.edu.

Keba, Schofield, and Segno Win 2015 ACRL IS Innovation Award

Press Release: Michelle Keba, Michael Schofield and Jamie Segno, all of Nova Southeastern University, have been selected to receive the 2015 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section (IS) Innovation award for their work on the software, Library Learn, which hosts instructional videos for using library resources. Keba is reference and instructional librarian II, Schofield is Web services librarian and Segno is reference/outreach librarian II.

The annual award recognizes a project that demonstrates creative, innovative or unique approaches to information literacy instruction or programming. The award will be presented to the group during the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

"Library Learn addresses so many key issues that we all struggle with, and the committee was excited by the possibilities presented by the platform," said award committee Chair Susanna Eng-Ziskin of California State University-Northridge. "Online video tutorials are nothing new to libraries. Librarians have been creating them for years, but the ability to efficiently organize, maintain, and update instructional videos has not been sufficiently addressed. Library Learn is an exciting organizational platform that allows libraries to create permalinks that won't change when a video is updated, is mobile first and will tailor its design to any device, is ADA accessible, and is available to students at point of need by automatically detecting what type of video to display, based on the users' search queries on the library's website."

For more information regarding the ACRL IS Innovation Award, or a complete list of past recipients, please visit the [awards section](#) of the ACRL web site.

Drabinski Receives 2015 ACRL Instruction Section Ilene F. Rockman Publication of the Year Award

Press Release: Emily Drabinski, coordinator of instruction at Long Island University-Brooklyn, has been chosen as the winner of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section (IS) Ilene F. Rockman Publication of the Year Award for her article "Toward a Kairos of Library Instruction," published in 2014 by *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*. The award recognizes an outstanding publication related to library instruction published in the past two years.

The award, donated by Emerald Group Publishing Ltd., consists of a plaque and a cash prize of \$3,000. Drabinski

will receive the award during the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

"Given the recent discussion and examination of the ACRL IL standards within the profession, Drabinski's article couldn't be more timely," said award committee chair Susanna Eng-Ziskin of California State University-Northridge. "She offers a new approach to information literacy, one that will withstand the test of time by constantly adapting to new realities. The use of Classical Greek theory is an interesting way to reconsider the way librarians interact with students and develop teaching strategies that engage students and promote critical thinking. This exceptionally written thought piece is a must read."

Information literacy instruction in libraries has traditionally been organized by the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. These standards define a set of external, abstract learning objectives that have been productive of a teaching role for librarians. Simultaneously, the standards have generated a substantial critical literature that contests the objectives as a "Procrustean bed" that distracts from the particular teaching and learning contexts. Drabinski's paper offers an alternative organizing heuristic for instruction in libraries.

For more information regarding the ACRL IS Ilene F. Rockman Publication of the Year Award, or a complete list of past recipients, please visit the awards section of the [ACRL web site](#).

Hinchliffe Wins 2015 ACRL/IS Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award

Press Release: Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, coordinator for information literacy services and instruction at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is the winner of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section's (IS) Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award. The award honors Miriam Dudley, whose efforts in the field of information literacy led to the formation of IS. The honor recognizes a librarian who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of instruction in a college or research library environment.

Hinchliffe will receive her \$1,000 award, along with a plaque, at the IS program during the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

"The Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award was created to honor librarians who have made especially significant contributions to the advancement of instruction in a college or research library environment, and no one is more deserving of this recognition than Lisa Hinchliffe," said award Chair Christy Stevens, head of reference and instruction at Cal Poly Pomona. "Indeed, the breadth and

depth of Lisa's contributions to instruction librarianship cannot be overstated. Lisa is a prolific contributor to library instruction and information literacy scholarship, having authored or co-authored more than forty-four journal articles and ten book chapters.

"As a member of the ACRL Immersion Program faculty since 2003, Lisa has worked with hundreds of librarians, helping them to become skilled teachers, instructional leaders, and information literacy advocates at their institutions," continued Stevens. "She has also been an active member of ACRL and IS, serving as section chair from 2005–06, and later as ACRL president from 2010–11. During her term as president, Lisa successfully foregrounded the educational role of libraries through the Value of Academic Libraries initiative. She is an outstanding, internationally recognized leader in the profession whose scholarship, professional service, and participation in the Immersion Program have shaped the teaching and assessment philosophies and practices of countless instruction librarians around the world."

Hinchliffe received her B.A. in Philosophy from the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota, and her M.L.I.S. and Ed.M. in Education Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For more information regarding the ACRL IS Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award, or a complete list of past recipients, please visit the [awards section](#) of the ACRL web site.

Information Literacy Best Practices Exemplary Programs

The [Information Literacy Best Practices Exemplary Programs list](#) presents IL programs judged to be exemplary in any of the ten categories delineated in the document "Characteristics of Information Literacy Programs that Illustrate Best Practices: A Guideline." In Fall 2014 the committee reviewed submissions and added entries from four programs across seven best-practice categories. We invite you to read more about these programs and to congratulate your colleagues on their achievements!

Joe Goetz
ILBP Committee Chair
goetzje@gmail.com

Looking for Professional Education Opportunities?

The IS Professional Education Committee is in transition as ACRL IS upgrades its web site. We're currently promoting instruction-related professional education opportunities via IS social media.

Instruction-Related News from ALA

We asked some of our other instruction colleagues in ALA to let us know what they're working on. LIRT (Library Instruction Round Table) President Jennifer Corbin shared the following information about projects currently underway:

LIRT's Top 20 Committee is reviewing and selecting the 20 best library instruction articles from 2014. The list will be published in the June 2015 issue of LIRT News.

The Adult Learners committee is working on a bibliography related to adult learning that will be completed later this year.

The Teaching, Learning, & Technology Committee will be writing an upcoming article for LIRT News that incorporates some of the tech tools presented at the 2015 Midwinter Discussion Forum.

Our Transitions to College Committee is developing a project to support librarians in creating partnerships to aid students who are transitioning from high school to college.

LIRT is also planning events for the 2015 ALA Annual Conference.

The Transitions to College Social is scheduled for Friday, June 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Jasper's Corner Tap & Kitchen. This is a great opportunity for academic librarians and school librarians to talk about information literacy and supporting students as they move from high school to higher ed. Visit the [event's Facebook page](#) for more info.

The LIRT Conference Program for the 2015 ALA Annual Conference is called Help Yourself! Library Instruction that Supports Self-directed Learning is scheduled for Sunday, June 28.

LIRT's [Librarian Recognition Award](#) and [Innovation in Instruction Award](#) winners were announced on February 27. An awards ceremony will be held at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference on Sunday, June 28 at 5:30 p.m., location TBD.

As always, we will have our lunch meet-ups, Bites with LIRT, during the 2015 ALA Annual Conference on Saturday and Sunday. These are great networking opportunities. Look for listserv announcements in June for sign-up information.

Connect with the Instruction Section!



*Advancing learning
Transforming scholarship*

Association of College & Research Libraries
A division of the American Library Association

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