

ACRL Virtual World Interest Group
Final 2012- 2013 Report

Chicago Annual ALA Convention 2013

Past Convener, Marcia Meister 2011-2012

Convener, Valerie Hill 2012-2013

Incoming Co-Conveners, Esther Grassian & Joe Floyd 2013-2014

About the ACRL Virtual Worlds Interest Group:

The Virtual Worlds Interest Group provides an opportunity for academic librarians with virtual world interests and responsibilities to have a place in ACRL to network, share information, ask questions, and work on special projects and programs relevant to academic libraries. The Interest Group also works to promote the various uses of virtual worlds to potential and current academic librarians and to improve information literacy specifically in virtual worlds. The ACRL VWIG sponsors events, programs and meetings held within the virtual world of Second Life and may explore additional virtual environments.

Any member of the Association of College and Research Libraries may elect membership in the Virtual Worlds Interest Group. Every member of the interest group has the right to vote and is eligible to hold office.

The officers of the ACRL VWIG are a convener, a past convener, and an incoming convener.

In Second Life: The ACRL in SL group is the Second Life group associated with the ACRL VWIG. Second Life is the most well established virtual world with a large number of active librarians and educators so it is currently the platform for the ACRL VWIG and to host virtual meetings and programs. It is not necessary to be a member of ALA, or of the ALA CVL Group or of ACRL or the ACRL VWIG to participate in Second Life ALA, ACRL, or other library-related activities.

The Community Virtual Library (a non-profit) hosts a space for ACRL VWIG and also for ALA events and virtual resources in cooperation with ALA liaison, Christina Coleman. Areas are provided for members to meet, and view notices about past meetings and upcoming events. The ACRL Virtual Worlds Interest Group coordinates events with the ALA Virtual Communities and Libraries Member Interest Group and often meets jointly with that group.

Events of 2012

Meetings for 2012-2013 were held once a month on Sundays at noon (SLT Pacific Time).

July 22, 2012 11AM A book discussion with authors Aaron Barlow and Robert Leston "Beyond the Blogosphere: Information and Its Children" was held in Second Life at the Community Virtual Library Auditorium. A machinima (video shot in a virtual simulation) can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJxWiFNwWw8&feature=share&list=UUrwxLEmZILcl74lwKx2wJSQ>



Authors Aaron Barlow and Robert Leston with Valerie Hill, ACRL Convener 2012-2013 on July 22, 2012

August 12, 2012 11AM The ACRL VWIG "gridhopped" (which means jumped from one virtual world to another) from Second Life to Inworld, which is built on open-source program code.. A lecturer at San Jose State University School of Library and Information Studies, Heather Ebay, and colleagues built a library in the virtual world of Inworldz and shared exhibits and resources. Although Second Life is recognized as the most widely used virtual world for education, many individuals and institutions are using other virtual worlds since the education discount was revoked in 2010. The ACRL VWIG has begun exploration of other virtual worlds. A machinima can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/43742003>



Librarians touring the Inworld Library on August 12, 2012 at the ACRL VWIG meeting grid-hop.

September 23, 2012 11AM Continued exploration of other virtual worlds included a grid-hop to Jokaydia (another open-source program based virtual world based in Australia and used by numerous educators). A SLIS doctoral student, Barbara Jansen, led a tour of her virtual Lifelong Learning Library. A machinima can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/50100853>



hops to Jokaydia for a library tour on Sept. 23, 2012. ACRL VWIG grid-

October 21, 2012 11AM An International Literacy Panel was jointly sponsored by the ACRL VWIG and the Center for Information Literacy Research in the UK. Panelists were from the USA, Poland, Chile, Greece, and the UK. A slideshow with photos can be viewed on animoto at <http://animoto.com/play/Cdf0k490YFkSbN58v9JCLw>

The panel was recorded on livestream at <http://livestre.am/4bIEI>



ALA Midwinter joint meeting in Seattle & SL Jan. 26, 2013

February 17, 2013 A panel shared information on the topic of "Moocs and Librarians" at the ACRL monthly meeting. Panelists included:

Valerie Hill, PhD - (Valibrarian Gregg in SL) LISD Library Media Specialist, Adjunct Instructor, TWU School of Library and Information Studies

Ilene- Frank, MLS (Ilene Pratt in SL) Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Maryland University College

Michelle Keba, MS in Information Science- (librarianatadistance in SL) Distance and Instructional Services Librarian, Nova Southeastern University

George Djorgovski, (Curious George in SL) Professor of Astronomy, Caltech

Machinima can be viewed at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SinXCiMF_Cs&feature=share&list=UUrwxLEmZILcl74lwKx2wJSQ



A panel on Moocs and Librarians on Feb. 17, 2012

On March 24, 2013, the ACRL VWIG monthly meeting was on Virtual World Meditation. Photos of the 13 avatars (mostly librarians) in attendance can be viewed in an Animoto video at

<http://animoto.com/play/IRuBgCXSS5UsCckLn8Z2oQ>

Donavan Vichi shared meditation techniques in virtual worlds. Oberon Octagon (Donavan Vicha) oversaw the design and construction of a sim for the American Library Association. He served as admin for sim for three years, consulting for another two years before it closed due to funding issues. Beyond his professional interests, he has received a certificate from the Christos Center for Spiritual Formation as a spiritual director. He helps facilitate the training of spiritual directors in the ChristosChicago branch and is on the board of directors of Christos. He has taken his experience inworld with an appearance at the 2012 International Spirit Festival and gave a series of talks on Happiness and Spiritual Disciplines at the Island of Nirvana.



Virtual World Meditation field trip with Donovan Vichi on March 24, 2013

On April 21, 2013, the ACRL VWIG meeting gave librarians the opportunity to share their work in virtual worlds. Virtual world exhibits and immersive learning environments were discussed. The Community Virtual Library in Second Life, which moved this year from Info Island to Imagination Island, has displayed numerous library exhibits built or curated by librarians.



Virtual World Librarians discuss an upcoming exhibit on the Mars Rover on April 21, 2013

On May 19, 2013, the ACRL VWIG meeting formulated the agenda for ALA 2013 in Chicago. The ACRL VWIG will meet jointly with the VCL Interest Group on Sunday, June 30th 3-4pm Central time in Chicago. A call for convener 2014-2015 was given. After sharing an overview of accomplishments for the year,

the group discussed goals and program ideas for the upcoming year. Ideas included more book discussions, a session on avatars and professional branding, and continued collaboration with the Center for Information Literacy Research in the UK.

Membership Summary (as of May 2013)

Second Life Librarians Google Group 620 members
ACRL in SL Google Group 54 members
SL Librarians (inworld group) 820 members
ACRL in SL (inworld group) 124 members

ACRL VWIG Status

In June 2012, at the ALA annual convention in Anaheim CA, the ACRL Board approved the request to renew the Virtual Worlds Interest Group with its original charge. This renews the Interest Group through the end of the 2015 Annual Conference.

Informational links:

ACRLinSL@googlegroups.com
Send email to request an invite

This is the ALA Connect link for the ALA Virtual Communities and Libraries Member Interest Group (VCL MIG)

<http://connect.ala.org/node/6632>

This is the for ACRL Virtual Worlds Interest Group on ALA Connect:

<http://connect.ala.org/node/78930>

There is also an ACRL Virtual Worlds Interest Group on Facebook.
(Alexandra Janvey has been posting events there).

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/21504303227/>