ACRL University Libraries Section Technology in University Libraries Committee
Annual Report, 2017-2018
Submitted by Jane Nichols, Chair

Summary of activity
Tech in University Libraries discussed its committee charge, scope, and purpose. We concluded that no major changes are needed and that the committee’s work is an especially good match for people newer to the profession and for people looking for a welcoming place to ask questions about uses of technology in librarians’ daily work. The committee had 14 members. Next year, there will be 11 members, a good size for the typical activities the committee undertakes.

The committees most active work has been to write the short column for C&RL News called ‘TechBits’, which runs smoothly. Recent columns discussed VoiceThread, Zoom, and Slack.

In May 2018, we hosted a well-attended webinar, “Introduction to Software Carpentry for Librarians”. Cam Macdonell, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at MacEwan University, presented on Library Carpentry: Software and Data Skills for Library Professionals. He was joined by Clara Llebot Lorente, Data Management Specialist at Oregon State University, who presented on Intro to Software Carpentry for Librarians. Thanks to the publication committee for helping us to promote it. The recording is available here: https://www.acrl.ala.org/ULS/introduction-to-software-carpentry-for-librarians-video-replay/ Slightly more than 80 people among 188 registrants attended the live forum and since then YouTube indicates there have been 188 views as of the report. Our evaluations were positive and appreciated the intro to a topic that is new to many of them. Appendix A: Evaluations for Library Carpentry Forum shows responses.

We discussed submitting a proposal to either or both ACRL 2019 TechConnect and ALA Annual 2019.

We decided to disband our Facebook and Twitter, despite quite a few followers.

Focuses for the coming year: TULS will continue existing activities and is interested in surveying ULS members about technology in their libraries.

Contributions to ACRL Plan for Excellence
TULS’ TechBits and online forum align with two areas of ACRL’s Plan for Excellence: Research and Scholarly Environment and New Roles and Changing Landscapes. Our work promotes librarians’ awareness and deepens their knowledge of new technologies. Such work contributes to the goal “academic and research library workforce effectively navigates change in higher education environments” and the objective to “equip library workforce at all levels to effectively lead, manage, and embrace change.” TULS’ work also contributes to the goal “the academic and research library workforce accelerates the transition to more open and equitable systems of scholarship” and the objective to “enhance members’ capacity to address issues related to scholarly communication, including but not limited to data management, library publishing, open access, and digital scholarship.”

Appendix A: Evaluations for Library Carpentry Forum

Library Carpentry Webinar Evaluation

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<td>13 responses</td>
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Summary Individually

Overall, how would you rate this webinar

13 responses

- Excellent 84.6%
- Good 15.4%
What did we do well?

9 responses

The two presenters provided unique perspective and covered differing topics.

Good for universities who want to know how Library Carpentry can be used.

Using zoom. Good overview & liked that Clara shared how she has used it.

Background + practitioners - nice mix

many resources with use examples

What could we have done to make this better?

5 responses

I couldn't see most of the chat (it went to panelists only), and I didn't have my question answered (answer may have gone to panelists only).

demonstrate software carpentry. More practical application would've been great

Can't think of anything

Can't think of anything. For me, this was the right length, the right scope. And the presenters were easy to listen to. Clearly knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the work they are doing.

Would like to have seen a presentation from a library that set up and ran a Library Carpentry workshop. What were their outlays, issues, etc.

What topics would you like to see in a future webinar?

2 responses

Hosting your first data carpentry session - dos and don'ts

Hmmm. I don't know yet. I want to explore the website first. Thank you.