Notes from [2 of] the New Newsletter Editors

The Library Collective – a conference review

Eryn Roles, WPWVC-ACRL Newsletter Co-Editor
Marshall University, Research and Instruction Services Librarian

I have had the pleasure of attending the Library Collective conference three out of four years since it began in 2015. This conference IS a research librarian’s conference. It is affordable, consistent, and dependable, and is always held in the same location with an easy schedule to follow with a conference planning committee that accessible and open to all.

As I said, the conference started in 2015 and it hit the ground running. The organizers from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, were always looking for a conference that was theirs and was packed with useful and interactive events and sessions. The Collective “is all about learning, networking, and kick-starting new ideas among next-generation librarians and library stakeholders.” Every attendees starts off on the same foot. We are all in it together. There is active learning throughout, and attendees have the opportunity to form partnerships with vendors (no sales pitches!!!). This organization is innovator-focused, a non-profit, and the best part is the program is set by US!

(continues on page 2)
(continued) First, the committee solicits session ideas from the public in Summer/Fall preceding, The Collective, gathering and allow voting and comments on those ideas via the Session Picker. After the public votes from the online Session Picker are in, The Collective organizers start the Round One review. The programming team then invites more detailed proposals from sessions organizers who advance to Round Two where each proposal receives a double-blind peer review (typically with feedback from three reviewers) by a peer review panel. Final selections are made based on initial votes from the Session Picker, feedback from the peer review panel of practitioners (see below), and discussion among the conference organizers.

Since The Collective has been so successful they have branched out to provide year-long initiatives such as Library Leadership workshops and drop-ins, more information can be found here - The Library Collective.

Please don’t take my word for it. GO! Experience this conference for yourself! It is based in innovation, inclusion, usefulness, and impact!


Greetings from NNLM-MAR!

Elaina Vitale, WPWV-ACRL Newsletter Co-Editor

University of Pittsburgh, Academic Coordinator NNLM MAR

As the Academic Coordinator for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region (NNLM MAR), I wear many hats! I primarily provide health information outreach for academic and health sciences librarians in Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania on behalf of the National Library of Medicine. This means exhibiting at regional library conferences and events, providing trainings on National Library of Medicine resources, and overseeing some of the amazing projects we fund across our region. Librarians are excellent conduits of health information and I love to see the incredible health outreach we and our partners are able to do across MAR’s service area.

In some ways, my work and the work of NNLM can feel like an uphill battle. More people use Wikipedia than use trusted National Institute of Health and NLM resources for health information--studies even suggest that our healthcare providers and students in health professions turn to Wikipedia for much of their health research. Recognizing this, a group of us NNLM coordinators recently organized a virtual Wikipedia Edit-a-thon to improve citations and pages on various health topics. Our goal was to work towards making Wikipedia a better, evidence-based resource by incorporating citations from trusted resources like PubMed, MedlinePlus, Genetics Home Reference, and the Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center. (continues on page 3)
We held a public, virtual training session with a physician and active WikiProject Medicine editor, Dr. James Heilman who walked attendees through the importance of providing evidence-based citations to Wikipedia and demonstrated how to add citations, and improve existing content.

We held our Edit-a-thon a few weeks after our initial training session. As a first time Edit-a-thon participant, I was surprised by a few things. The first: how fun it was! I loved following our hashtag (#CiteNLM2018!) and seeing the various articles our participants were hard at work improving. The second: how easy editing articles and adding citations was. I plan to continue editing and improving articles as I come across them--it really doesn’t take more than a few minutes.

Future plans for NNLM and Wikipedia: while we encourage all of our partners to continue improving articles on an ongoing basis, we all enjoyed the Edit-a-thon so much that we hope to hold them routinely. We’re looking to host another one in October, and then six months after that. We learned a lot from our first one and have a few tweaks to implement moving forward. We had a few participants host in-person Edit-a-thons, and we’d love to have more participating libraries host in-person (interested? Let me know! ejv@pitt.edu). No medical expertise necessary to participate!

Lastly, as one of the new newsletter editors, I am looking forward to getting to know all of you better!

Chatham’s JKM Library Moves to Open Source ILS Koha

Kate Wenger, Chatham University, Head of Access Services

On July 31, 2017 Chatham University’s Jennie King Mellon Library transitioned from Innovative Interfaces’ Millennium ILS to the ByWater Solutions hosted Koha. With the phasing out of Millennium, we entertained onsite demos for several different systems. Ultimately, we choose Koha because it has the functionality we need at an affordable price.

Now at over three months in, we are still happy with our decision. We appreciate the transparency of an open source system. As an example, the Koha community uses Bugzilla to track all ongoing bugs, which is useful for knowing if problems we are encountering are known issues. If so, we can easily add a note that we would benefit from a solution as well, or even help in creating the solution. In addition, there is no nickel and diming. New releases are rolled out every six months, and we get all the new features included in that release at no added cost.

As the Head of Access Services, one of my favorite features is that the circulation and fine rules are available in one huge chart on a single webpage. While it is a bit hard to fit it all on one screen, all the information is in one easy-to-find location. Coming from Millennium, we also deeply appreciate that Koha is browser-based and that there are no limitations on the number of staff users - we can have the Koha staff side open in as many browsers and tabs as we want at any given time. (continued on page 4)
Perhaps one of the greatest benefits is that ByWater Solutions’ support is very responsive. When we submit a ticket for an issue or question, we get a response very quickly—often within hours.

There have certainly been a few challenges. After approximately 15 years with Millennium, transitioning to a new system was inevitably going to involve some bumps as well as a fair bit of learning and rethinking the way we do things. One of the biggest issues was that it took us months to get the NCIP connection to E-ZBorrow up and running, partially because Relais had to release new code for everything to work properly with Koha. In addition, our first semiannual Koha system update promptly broke E-ZBorrow again. While that was quickly resolved, it begs the question if we will encounter issues with future updates. We also have yet to find a built-in macro feature, which had been heavily used by our cataloging department in Millennium. One last thing that is kind of a mixed blessing is that they have a robust reports feature, but writing reports requires knowledge of SQL (similar to old Sirsi as opposed to what we were used to with Millennium). If we need a report, though, they are happy to create it for us.

If you have any questions about Koha, let us know. We would be happy to chat about our experiences!

Scholarly Communication Workshop at WVU Libraries

Penny Pugh, West Virginia University, Head, Research Services

WVU Libraries are happy to announce an exciting professional development opportunity in summer 2018. The workshop Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement will be offered Friday, July 13 from 9 - 4:30 in Room 104 of the WVU Downtown Campus Library, 1549 University Avenue, Morgantown, WV at the WVU Downtown Campus Library.

The day-long, interactive workshop will cover essential scholarly communications competencies for academic and research librarians, as well as taking a deep dive into topics of copyright, research data management, and outreach and programming. The workshop will be led by two expert presenters: Carla Myers, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Scholarly Communications at Miami University Libraries and Jenny Oleen, Scholarly Communications Librarian at West Washington University.

A continental breakfast and on-site lunch are included as part of the registration. Participation is offered on a first come, first served basis, and space is limited to 50 participants. Register by completing the application before June 1, 2018.

Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement is sponsored by ACRL and hosted by WVU Libraries as part of its Engaged Librarian series. Workshop costs are supported in part by an ACRL subsidy, by the Dean of WVU Libraries, and by the Research Services summer teaching fund. Additional thanks go to the WPWVC-ACRL Regional Chapter and the Libraries of Fairmont State University for their participation in preparing the application.
Potomac State College’s Mary F. Shipper Library Hosts & Participates in Mineral County STEM Festival

Charles Julian, Potomac State College, Library Director

For six years, the Potomac State College of West Virginia University has hosted the local community’s Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Festival on its campus located in Keyser, West Virginia. The event, traditionally held on a Spring Saturday is co-sponsored by local businesses and community organizations and coordinated by the College and the Mineral County West Virginia University Extension Office staff.

Each year, attendance at the STEM Festival grows with a 2018 impressive total of nearly 1,000 attendees. A unique feature of the event is the hands-on nature of exhibits and the variety of displays that are available both inside and outside of campus buildings.

Past strategies involved Library participation in a nominal way with an exhibit or two set up in the building. However, in 2018, the Library served as a secondary site for the Festival and hosted several exhibitors in addition to a demonstration of a drone obstacle course.

Other stations included: Building Structures With Spaghetti and Marshmallows by John Cole & Brandon Felton, RK&K; Exploring Watershed Connections by Rebecca Wolf (Commission Potomac River Basin); Out of this World: Space Lab by Garrett County 4-H Tech Wizards (University of Maryland); and Mathematical Puzzles by Richard Petersen (PSC Mathematics Department).

The Library proved to be the perfect venue for these displays and the participants enjoyed the activities and events. Throughout the day, local children and their parents created paper rockets and shot them at targets; viewed virtual reality images of the universe, and worked mathematical puzzles.

One of the Festival’s organizers, Andrea Schafer noted, “Thank you so much for your enthusiastic support of the STEM Festival. The Shipper Library was certainly one of the “places to be” on Saturday. Presenters felt welcomed and accommodated, and guests felt the energy. I appreciate all of the efforts of the Shipper staff/faculty to make the event a success.”

Another community member noted, “I think that it’s wonderful to see the PSC Library chock full of people!”

The STEM Festival involved participation by nearly all members of the Shipper Library Team. Library Director, Charles A. Julian, said, “The Library is always delighted to invite members of the community to our campus and to Library-hosted events. As leaders in instructional development, the Library Team remains committed to providing these important and interesting educational program and activities which demonstrate that STEM activities can be both fun and exciting.”
Let's Celebrate!: Marshall University's International Children's Book Day Celebration

Isaac Larison, Associate Professor - Reading & Zana Sueme, Staff Librarian

April 2 is both Hans Christian Andersen's birthday and International Children's Book Day.

This year, the Marshall University's Drinko Library hosted the third International Children's Book Day Celebration, a popular yearly event organized by Ms. Zana Sueme from Drinko Library and Dr. Isaac Willis Larison from the College of Education and Professional Development. Ms. Sueme has been the catalyst behind an effort to improve and update Drinko’s children’s book collection. Dr. Larison serves as the West Virginia State Ambassador and is on the Board of Directors for the United States Board on Books for Young Children (USBBY). Each year a panel of experts in the field of children's literature select exceptional K-12 books from around the world which are included on the Outstanding International Books list and promoted by members of USBBY throughout the USA and beyond. Drinko has the complete list of the 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 award winning books in their collection.

The collaborations between Ms. Sueme and Dr. Larison go beyond just organizing the International Children's Book Day Celebration, and have included another Marshall University faculty member, Dr. Kimberly McFall, at presentations at several state and regional conferences for teachers and librarians. This summer, Ms. Sueme and Dr. Larison will assist with the USBBY booth at the International Literacy Association Conference in Austin, Texas in July.

Find out more about great books, volunteer opportunities, grants, and becoming a USBBY member online at the USBBY website.

New Staff Introduction from the Jennie King Mellon Library

In August, Chatham University's Jennie King Mellon Library welcomed Jocelyn Codner as their new Reference and Outreach Librarian.

Prior to joining the JKM Library community, Jocelyn worked at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s Job and Career Education Center, focusing on connecting teens with critical resources related to employment, education, and career planning. She piloted a system-wide virtual reality program for all ages, offered trainings to staff on specialized resources, and aided in workforce data collection. Jocelyn was also the Research Assistant at Vibrant Pittsburgh, where she handled database design and development, data collection and evaluation, and reference and research projects for Vibrant’s member organizations.

Jocelyn is an active member of the Beta Phi Mu honor society, the American Library Association, and the Pennsylvania Library Association where she sits on the website committee for PA Forward. She received her MLIS from the University of Pittsburgh and her B.S. in Cinema and Photography from Ithaca College. A self-proclaimed geek, Jocelyn is a founding officer of the Geek Girl Brunch Pittsburgh chapter, a social and volunteer organization of over 400 geeky women and female-identifying folks who love to nerd out together over delicious food and fulfilling community work.

A native of upstate New York, Jocelyn has fully embraced the Pittsburgh life! When she’s not cheering on the Pens or the Pirates, you can find her enjoying Highland Park, eating out at any number of amazing restaurants, or catching a movie at Row House.
This spring semester, Drinko Library hosted the first Marshall University Women’s Exhibition called, “Nevertheless, She Persisted.” Brought about as a collaboration between the School of Art and Design, Women’s Studies, and Marshall University Libraries, the team that organized the exhibition and opening were Art Liaison librarian Sabrina Thomas, Art Historian Dr. Heather Stark, and curator Melissa Yungbluth. With over thirty artists featured, the exhibition filled the first through third floors of Drinko with 2D and 3D works.

The exhibition highlighted two main goals. First, the intention of this exhibition was to feature women artists who were current or past Marshall University students, faculty or staff members. The second goal of the exhibition was to facilitate a conversation centered on the continued gender disparity in artists who are shown in art galleries and museums. It is Marshall University Library’s belief that all libraries hold a unique position as places to hold civil conversations on challenging subjects as well as purveyors of credible information in which to frame those conversations.

This exhibition seeks to explore gender disparities within the arts. There are a myriad of examples such as, of 590 major exhibitions by nearly 70 institutions in the U.S. from 2007–2013, only 27% were devoted to women artists.

Furthermore, though women earn half of the MFAs granted in the U.S., only 30% of artists represented by commercial galleries are women. In Australia, the ratio is 75% to 40%. The disparity includes auction value as well. Only five women made the list of the top 100 artists by cumulative auction value between 2011-2016. Drinko became a space to highlight Marshall University women artists’ work while also providing a space to seek authoritative voices on art history.

In addition to the artwork, the library hosted two book displays that included books on women artists, women’s art history, and women working in the art world. The January 20th opening was well attended and included a short speech by President Gilbert. The feedback from artists, students, faculty and community members was overwhelmingly positive.

Donna Sullivan, one of the featured artists stated, “It an awesome opportunity to be included as an amateur artist.”

Currently Sabrina Thomas, Melissa Youngbluth, and Dr. Heather Stark are organizing a second exhibition for spring 2019. A prospectus will be available by early fall 2018.

Harris, Gareth, Julia Halperin, and Javier Pes. What does a female artist have to do to get a major solo show? *The Art Newspaper*, 2016.
