New Students, New Services

WPWVC ACRL
Fall Meeting,
November 2, 2012
University of Pittsburgh,
Johnstown.

The Fall 2012 Member meeting was held November 2, 2012 at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The theme, "New Students, New Services" highlighted the ever changing role the library plays in student life and on campus. Participation in the meeting was high, with 56 people attending. Hilary Fredette, Chair of the Program Committee said, "The Program Committee got a lot of very positive responses from attendees. Overall, people really enjoyed the presentations from other members. I know we were all thankful that the effects of Hurricane Sandy didn't cause any problems with everyone getting to Johnstown!"

The meeting included a keynote entitled “Millennials: Made in America,” by Susan Jennings Lantz, Assistant Director of WVU Student Employment. Jennings Lantz discussed the key differences between generations and what may have contributed to changes, and presented some practical information about students and employees today. The poster sessions were well attended during the breakfast and lunch breaks. A business meeting began the official program, with a presentation from Debbie Malone, of PA Forward. Afternoon sessions included a wide range of topics including a Veteran’s history project, a First Year experience program, a First Year information literacy program, and Library involvement with multimedia projects. WPWVC ACRL would like to thank all of the attendees and presenters for a great meeting! Join us in the 2013 for the WPWVC ACRL Spring Conference.
West Virginia State University LibQual Participation

The Drain-Jordan Library of West Virginia State University received a grant to administer the LibQual survey, which was recently completed. LibQual is a survey instrument that measures quality of service. Our “lite” version specifically measured what our patrons’ minimum level of service is (what they could live with), desired level of service (what they really want) and what our patrons perceive the service is now (what they think they’re receiving now).

Out of approximately 2,600 students, 1,000 students took the survey resulting in over 700 valid responses. We are extremely pleased with our university participation and some students were lucky enough to be chosen for prizes which included an IPad II, a Kindle Fire and a 19” television.

Survey results haven’t been compiled yet but our hope is to, of course, make improvements to our library services but also to accurately portray the library’s strengths and weaknesses to the university community. Our desire is to gain campus support in addressing library weaknesses and to correct those weaknesses. Using a national survey instrument such as LibQual will give the library greater credibility to campus entities so that weaknesses can be remedied.

Submitted by Mary Horn, West Virginia State University

Duquesne Librarian Elected to Head MLA Chapter

David Nolfi, Health Sciences Librarian and Library Assessment Coordinator, Duquesne University, has been elected chair of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter (MAC) of the Medical Library Association. Mr. Nolfi began his three-year leadership term at the annual meeting held in Baltimore in October. MAC is an organization of health sciences librarians and other information professionals serving the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, Western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Its purpose is to promote excellence in health sciences librarianship and improve access to quality health information services throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. He has been an active member of the national Medical Library Association and previously has served as chair of its Nursing and Allied Health Resources Section.

Submitted by Allison Brungard, Duquesne University

Using the Cephalonian Method to Introduce Undergraduates to the Library

This year, the Jennie King Mellon Library at Chatham University was invited to participate in the institution’s New Undergraduate Student Orientation. In coordination with two other departments, we decided to rotate students through in small groups of approximately 10-15 each. A librarian would have 12-15 minutes to talk to each group.

In order to engage students, ensure presentation consistency, and make the event fun for everyone, the Cephalonian Method was used. This method involves giving students the questions that they will then ask of the librarian presenter. The goal was to provide the students with a very basic introduction to the library since they would later receive more detailed instruction from a librarian in their First Year Writing Seminar course. We used humor to cover frequently asked questions, as well as library services and resources we wanted students to know about as early in their academic career as possible. Some of the questions included: “I just drank a HUGE cup of coffee! Where are the bathrooms in this place?” and “I’ve never been in a library in my entire life, and I need to find a book for one of my classes. Help!”

This method has many advantages, among which are: 1) It’s very easy and quick to put together, 2) It engages students through humor and active participation, and 3) It’s a lot of fun for the librarian presenters.

For more information about this method, please see the following article (freely available online!) from the librarians who first brought it into the library world:


Submitted by Kate Wenger, Chatham University
Library Faculty from Duquesne University Win 2012 Judges’ Choice Award for Peer-reviewed Poster

Gumberg Library’s Marcia Rapchak, Allison Brungard, David Nolfi, Tracie Ballock, Bridget Euliano and Joseph Nelson received the Judges’ Choice Award for their poster in the LibQUAL+ category, Doing LibQUAL+ at the Worst Possible Time: How Changes in the University and Library Affected Results.

The poster was one of 86 peer-reviewed posters presented at the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) 2012 Library Assessment Conference held in Charlottesville, Virginia from October 29-31. The conference was co-sponsored by the University of Virginia Library and the University of Washington Libraries. Members of ARL are research libraries distinguished by the breadth and quality of their collections and services.

The poster presented data from Gumberg Library’s 2006-2012 LibQUAL+ survey, using quantitative and qualitative methodologies to measure the impact of conducting a survey during a time of change.

Submitted by Allison Brungard, Duquesne University

Chatham Courts Prospective Students and their Parents with Archives Presentation

This summer, the Chatham University Archives teamed up with Admissions to bring information on college history to a group of prospective students and their parents. Focusing on Chatham traditions, the talk was titled “Looking Forward, Looking Back: Chatham History from the Archives” and consisted of a 30 minute slide presentation of historic photographs narrated by the University Archivist. This lively event was the surprise hit of Accepted Students Day and encouraged further Admissions/Library collaboration.

Our initial goal was twofold. First, we simply wanted to offer an activity for parents while their daughters attended advising sessions. Second, we more importantly wanted to show the parents how special Chatham can be and provide a context for the undergraduate experience by tying today’s campus culture to our 140 plus year history. The audience, which also included a few of the prospective students, was treated to details on Chatham holiday celebrations, sports, famous visitors, and our enthusiastic alumni. Balanced with humor and helpful information, the presentation gave attendees a sense of what makes Chatham unique. With the encouragement of Admissions, we are looking forward to sharing the presentation with all incoming students and hopefully aiding recruitment efforts.

Submitted by Rachel M. Grove Rohrbaugh, Chatham University

Carnegie Mellon Awarded Grant To Preserve Executable Content

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded a two-year, $497,756 grant to Carnegie Mellon University computer scientists and library personnel led by University Libraries’ Dean Gloriana St. Clair, to develop Olive, the first archiving system for the preservation for executable content. Co-Principal Investigators with St. Clair are Jerome McDonough of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Anita de Waard of Reed Elsevier, Inc.

The Olive concept grew out of a collaboration between the research teams of Mahadev Satyanarayanan (Satya) from Carnegie Mellon and Vasanth (Vas) Bala of IBM Research. Together they explored applying virtual machine (VM) technology invented by IBM in the late 1960s to current problems of software configuration and distribution in cloud computing. That research led to the realization that a global archive of curated VM images that could be shared, searched, extended, and executed via the Internet would be a powerful catalyst for collaboration across space and time. Realizing this vision is the goal of the Olive project. More information can be found here (http://www.cmu.edu/news/stories/archives/2012/october/oct4_executablecontent.html).

Submitted by Cindy Carroll, Carnegie Mellon University
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President - Martha Yancey, West Virginia University
Vice President/President Elect—Mark C. Scott, University of Pittsburgh
Past President—Tracey Olanyk, University of Pittsburgh
Treasurer—Janice Krueger, Clarion University
Secretary—Amy Rustic, Pennsylvania State—New Kensington

Member at Large—Eryn Roles, Marshall University
Member at Large WV—Linda Blake, West Virginia University
Member at Large, PA—John Barnett, University of Pittsburgh

Membership Committee
Chair—Rachel Callison

Nominating & Elections Committee
Allyson McKee, West Virginia University

Program Committee
Chair—Hilary Fredette, West Virginia University

Chapter Legislative Coordinator, WV—Linda Blake
Chapter Legislative Coordinator, PA—Laverne Collins

Bylaws Committee
Chair—Martha Yancey

Communications & Newsletter Committee
Chair—Amy Rustic

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