School Public Special Academic

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS

The purpose of LIRT is to advocate library instruction as a means for developing competent library and information use as a part of life-long learning.

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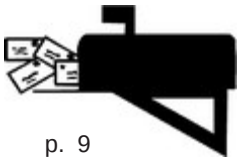
2009 LIRT Midwinter Discussion

The Adult Learners Committee would like to invite you to participate in the 2009 LIRT Midwinter Discussion. The discussion topic is "Wikipedia and Library Instruction: Love it or Lose it." Please follow this link, http://tinyurl.com/68a63v, to YouTube where you can hear the discussion question, and also post your comments or video replies. Those comments and replies will become an active portion of the discussion at Midwinter 2009. We would love for you to make it to Midwinter, but if not please make sure to post!



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http://www.baylor.edu/LIRT/lirtnews/

From the Editor

by Jeff Knapp

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Send claims to Darlena Davis,HRDR, 800-545-2433, X4281, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

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Production editor:Jeffrey Gutkin American Library Association

share? Consider sending it to me (knapp@psu.edu) to be published in LIRT News. We are always interested in ideas to share.

Best wishes for a successful autumn!

Jeff Knapp

Send Us Your Tutorials -

The Adult Learners Committee invites LIRT and ALA members to submit links and short annotations for online tutorials that they have created, which are geared toward Adult Learners. These include, but are not limited to, teaching methods, learning theory, adult literacy, or special populations within the adult community. Those selected will be added to the Adult Learners Resource Center Tutorials section. Send your links to Ted Chaffin, co-chair, at tchaffin@mailer.fsu.edu. Please include “LIRT Adult Learners – Tutorial” in the subject line.

Check These Out!

Sharon Ladenson, ladenson@msu.edu
Gender Studies and Communications Librarian
Michigan State University Libraries

Assessing the diverse needs of students always presents a challenge in library instruction. How do we assess gender differences in educational needs, especially in the online environment? How do we assess women's information literacy? Do female and male students have different attitudes about technology? How have librarians developed courses specific to gender and information? Check these out, and enjoy!

Broidy, Ellen. "Gender and the Politics of Information: Reflections on Bringing the Library into the Classroom." Library Trends 56.2 (2007): 494-508.

Broidy describes her work in developing and team-teaching an innovative advanced-level seminar specific to gender issues and information literacy. Focusing primarily on the history and current impact of technology and electronic resources in women and gender studies, the course objectives included not only identifying and critically assessing the content and architecture of information sources and technologies, but also investigating the "gendered nature of information and 'knowledge'." Active learning played a significant role in the seminar. Most class sessions involved the students working in groups to develop questions specific to the assigned readings, and posting them to the class Web page in advance. The students were also required to lead class discussions. In order to foment information literacy skills, the instructors assigned a five to seven page final research paper. Students were also required to share project proposals with their peers via e-mail, and to discuss the topics and research challenges in class. The author not only had the opportunity to teach the seminar to upper-division undergraduate students at the University of California-Irvine, but also to graduate students at the University of California-Los Angeles.

Dresang, Eliza T., Melissa Gross and Leslie Holt. "New Perspectives: An Analysis of Gender, Net-Generation Children and Computers." Library Trends 56.2 (2007): 360-386.

Dresang, Gross and Holt conducted primary research specific to gender differences and computer use among children in a public library. The authors developed a manual and designed training sessions for Saint Louis Public Library staff members, who collected data from public library patrons in grades four through eight. The library employees also collected data from the children's parents. The staff employed several methods, including survey research, focus groups, and observations of children in the library. The authors also did an extensive review of recent literature on gender differences and children's computer use. The primary and secondary research yielded similar findings. While research has traditionally reported significant differences in female and male attitudes regarding technology, some of the more recent literature (published since 2000) contradicts older findings, indicating that no significant sex differences exist. The authors provide primary research findings that corroborate such changes. For example, the observations of children in the library showed that girls and boys used computers in similar ways (most boys and girls used library computers to play games). Furthermore, survey results revealed that girls were very confident about using computers, rating their personal skills at equally high levels to those of boys. Consequently, the authors assert that library professionals should recognize children's strong interest in computer games, and not make gendered assumptions about children's computer use.

Fidishun, Dolores. "Women and the Public Library: Using Technology, Using the Library." Library Trends 56.2 (2007): 328-343.

Fidishun worked with the director and staff of the Chester County Library (in Exton, Pennsylvania) to develop a qualitative survey to assess the needs and library experiences of adult library patrons. The author analyzed the female responses (184 women completed and returned the survey). Although the majority of the female respondents indicated that they were comfortable with technology and online resources (including the library's online catalog), most did not know about the subscription database products available through the library. Very few of those who experienced using library databases had received anyr dia35 Tw Txrs ava products avail Tw T*mprimaterof tee0 Tdr and un g Exwere comfortable with

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Surfing the Net: Google to the Next Level
ALA Empowerment Conference
On Saturday, June 28, 2008, “Surfing the Net: Google To the Next Level” was presented as part of ALA’s 2008 “Riding the Wave to Empowerment” Conference, the goal of which was to rejuvenate and refresh library practitioners. Diana L.

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3) What role/presence should instruction librarians have in social networking sites?

4) How is the Social Web changing how our students think and learn about privacy and information sharing? How can we utilize social networking sites to inform students about online privacy?

5) What are some strategies for instructing our students on the perils and opportunities presented by

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Research Committee
Mardi Mahaffy, Chair

The bibliography for the current conference program was completed and was distributed at the program on Saturday. Committee approved the removal of all tutorials pages from the LIRT web site except the one on designing tutorials.

The committee has not been particularly active over the last few years and a suggestion was made to disband. The charge of the Research Committee was read and it was noted that the charge duplicates efforts of the Top 20 Committee and of the ACRL IS Section Research and Scholarship Committee. Committee members felt reluctant to disband at this time, but rather to:

- Work on providing programs/guidance on effective research strategies for those wanting to conduct research in Library Instruction. It was proposed that we take on responsibility for a Midwinter Discussion program on this topic.
- Focus on reporting research needs that are currently not being met in the literature. We would need to keep school and public libraries in mind while doing this. We might either post a form for individuals to identify a hole in current research, or work with LOEX in identifying these holes.

Archivist
Kari Lucas

Submitted a proposal to revise the way in which LIRT handles archiving. Lucas based the proposal on how ALA groups handle archiving. Lucas proposes that the secretary would become Archivist in the year following his or her service. Appendixes A-D of the proposal provide procedures that would become part of the LIRT Manual.

Discussion: There is a lack of understanding among LIRT members about the archives and about what ALA wants LIRT to archive. Lucas has three boxes of LIRT material and filing is current. Vice-President Colding asked how far back the archives go. Lucas has at least one copy of the newsletter from the first issue. The other documents are spotty – she has a good file from most of the retreats, and some committees have a good bit. Some people have submitted t-shirts and other realia. What exactly do we want to archive? Do we need to be archiving information in paper at all? Lucas hasn't had any requests for information that she has (minutes, reports, publicity, etc.). The Board determined that it needed more information before it could make a decision on the proposal at hand.

Membership
Kawanna Bright, Chair

Both out-going and incoming chairs were present at the meeting and provided an overview to new committee members of the four major activities the committee is responsible for. Announcements were made about the scheduled *Bites with LIRT* events that had full sign-ups, and the LIRT program scheduled for the following day.

The committee discussed activities for the upcoming year, which include an update of the LIRT brochure and development of an ad to promote LIRT. The Committee has been given funds for both activities. The committee's role in helping with the next annual program was discussed and further discussions with the program planning committee will take place throughout the year. The committee will look at tying the Membership Fair theme into the Conference Program Theme.

Top Twenty
Esteban Valdez and Camille McCutcheon, Co-Chairs

Discussed previous year's work. Brainstormed ideas of how work could be made easier for members and co-chairs. Chair will look into the possible use of web-based spreadsheets such as Google Documents to make compiling article rankings easier. Provided orientation to new member; timelines, deadlines, etc.

Organization & Planning
Carol Schuetz, Chair

Goals for the 2010 LIRT Retreat were discussed and decided on and assignments were made for committee members to investigate possible facilitators and venues. The need for a backup meeting plan was discussed and decided that we would wait until something more definite was known. Ted Chaffin was invited to the committee meeting and spoke as LIRT's emerging leader from this past year. Candidate criteria and possible projects for a candidate for LIRT were discussed. What committee within LIRT could supply a project for our candidate?

Liaison
Cynthia Dottin, Chair

Welcomed new member, Irene Ke, and provided overview of Liaison Program Handout, including the requirements for attendance. Reviewed the list of non-LIRT education-related activities/meetings/events and assigned and accepted the non-LIRT education related activities and events to attend. Reviewed the newsletter report format and deadlines. Discussed the progress made in the development of Liaison contacts and strategies that might enhance forming said contacts.

Web Advisory
Stephanie Michel, Chair

The committee examined LIRT Web site survey results; Stephanie will do additional analysis to pull out comments for high vs. low frequency users of LIRT web site and public and

Report on 2008 LIRT Conference Program: "Energize Your Instruction: Keep the Magic Alive for you and Your Audience"

By Susan Sykes Berry

On Sunday, June 29, 2008, the Convention Center held almost 300 instruction librarians eagerly awaiting the annual LIRT program. LIRT President, Vibiana Bowman, introduced and thanked the Conference Program Planning Chair, Barbara Hopkins, and the rest of the Conference Program Planning Committee. Then she turned the floor over to Andrew Sanderbeck, the founder of the People~Connect Institute for his presentation.

Andrew began by taking a quick poll of the audience. He wanted to know how many people would change the way they

Dear Tech Talk: We keep hearing about how the library needs to go to where our users are, instead of relying on them to come to the library (both physically and virtually). Physically, we now travel about, going to places in the community where our users hang out, but how do we virtually "hang out" with our users? —Virtual Visioning Vacuum

Dear VVV: You are absolutely correct in that librarians have always done well with physical outreach: book mobiles; libraries in shopping centers; libraries in academic departments; and now librarians staffing 27 Tc 9olocfe keep hend now . Tc .015 Tw31T*(them stud an wh henow lj 0.01w)in

- WorldCat (

research experience. Create gateways that provide good information about the tools and instructions on how to use them. Some examples are at:

- Stanford University (https://www.stanford.edu/

Adult Learners - Assists library professionals to understand, find information or promote ideas on learning styles, teaching methods, and training resources most often associated with adult learners.

Conference Program - Plans the LIRT program for the ALA Annual Conference. Makes arrangements for speakers, room, handouts, and activities during the program.

Liaison-

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