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LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS

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By Linda J. Goff



Greetings from sunny California!

There is so much going on with LIRT these days that it can be hard to keep up with the changes, including who is in charge. So I thought I'd take a moment to tell you a little about myself. I've been an instruction librarian, or

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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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Announcement of ALA Annual Program 2011



Member A-LIRT

Teri Shiel, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Ely Library, Weid State University



Check These Out!

Column co-authored by:

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Teaching students to critically evaluate information is a challenging process. Is using a checklist sufficient for evaluating non-academic Web resources? What are examples of tools to assess students' abilities to evaluate information? Can we use Wikipedia as a tool to reinforce information literacy concepts (including evaluation of sources)? Do male and female students evaluate Wikipedia articles differently?

Chandler, Cullen J. and Alison S. Gregory. "Sleeping with the Enemy: Wikipedia in the College Classroom." *The History Teacher*, 43.2 (2010): 247-257.

Chandler (a history professor) and Gregory (a librarian) describe their collaborative efforts to use Wikipedia to teach and reinforce information literacy concepts. The authors worked together to develop an Islamic history class project that involved researching and writing articles to post on Wikipedia. Students honed their technology skills by learning about the mechanics of Wikipedia, as well as the online course management system used for instruction (Moodle). The project was organized into various steps: learning about relevant library resources, the students researched their topics and wrote brief (four-page) draft papers for review by their professor. After receiving approval from their instructor, the students posted their work to Wikipedia. Next, the students monitored their work in order to review and comment on changes that other Wikipedia users contributed to their articles. The students developed a keen understanding of the dynamic nature of information presented on Wikipedia. Through their assessment of existing Wikipedia articles, students further honed their skills in critically evaluating information. They learned that Wikipedia can sometimes be appropriate for quick reference, but not necessarily for in-depth research.

Currie, Lea, et al. "Undergraduate Search Strategies and Evaluation Criteria: Searching for Credible Sources." *New Library World*, 111.3/4 (2010): 113-124.

The authors surveyed students at the University of Kansas to determine what criteria undergraduates use to evaluate and select relevant sources for their research. The participants were given a typical research scenario (regarding

two-page paper on autism and vaccines) and their information-seeking behaviors were observed, recorded and analyzed. The authors found that only 32% of the sources cited were scholarly, and that participants did not use many of the standard criteria necessary for evaluating resources. Given that a majority of the students had attended a library instruction session prior to participating in this study, the authors conclude that course-integrated library instruction may not currently meet the needs of undergraduate students in developing their research and critical thinking skills. The authors recommend that librarians work more closely with teaching faculty to integrate information literacy and research skills into the curriculum.

The Benefits of Meeting Virtually

By Kawanna Bright, LIRT President



While attending the LIRT Midwinter Discussion Forum on the use of online collaboration tools, I had an odd thought – many of our own committees are not taking advantage of these exciting e-tools despite our having many virtual members who can only participate online! We'll always have work that can only be done by conference attendees, but most committees can do at least some of their work virtually.

Although a couple of LIRT committees have discovered an online method that works for them and are successfully using it, others are struggling. The Top 20 and Teaching, Learning, and Technology Committees have both tried Google products (Google Groups and Gmail Group Chat) with varying degrees of success. The Transitions Committee has relied on conference calls, and the Conference Planning Committee has relied on chat products (ALA Connect Chat and Meebo Chat). Time and money are factors that might be influencing why more of LIRT's committees are not meeting virtually. Getting everyone together for a meeting that works, especially when members are scattered around the country, can be very difficult. For others, time doesn't seem to be the issue, but money is. Getting all members to invest in the work of the committee can be an issue. Cost, as the discussion forum showed us, should not be one of the barriers.

I understand the pressures that we are all under. We all have many responsibilities including our jobs and our families – not to mention a score of other things that might be going on in our lives right now. But I want to remind everyone that you signed up for a LIRT Committee for a reason. Whether it is for tenure consideration, or you just felt impelled to get involved, working on a LIRT Committee is a true investment of yourself to LIRT and to ALA. So why this long message about virtual meetings? Mostly to encourage all Committee chairs to try to set concrete times for your committees to meet – virtually. Considering some of the collaboration tools mentioned during the Discussion Forum. If you missed the forum, read the article in the ALA Cognotes Highlights issue that covers it on page 4:

http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/hall-erickson/alacognotes_sandiego_highlights201101/

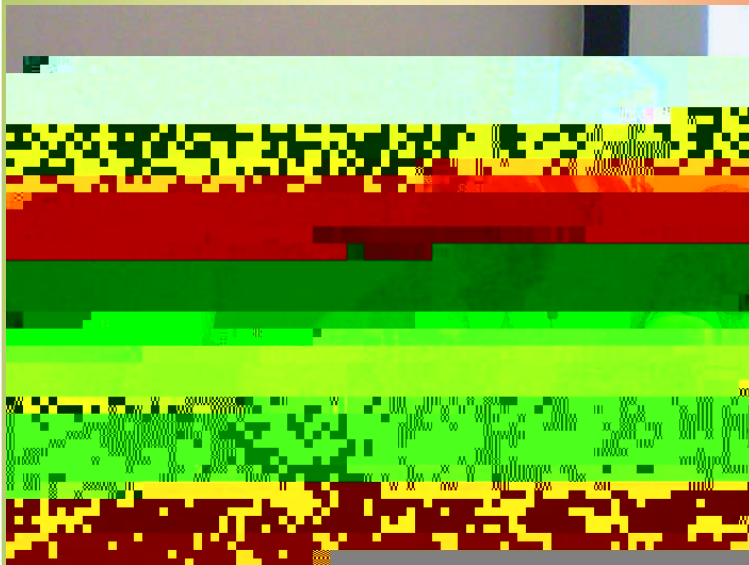
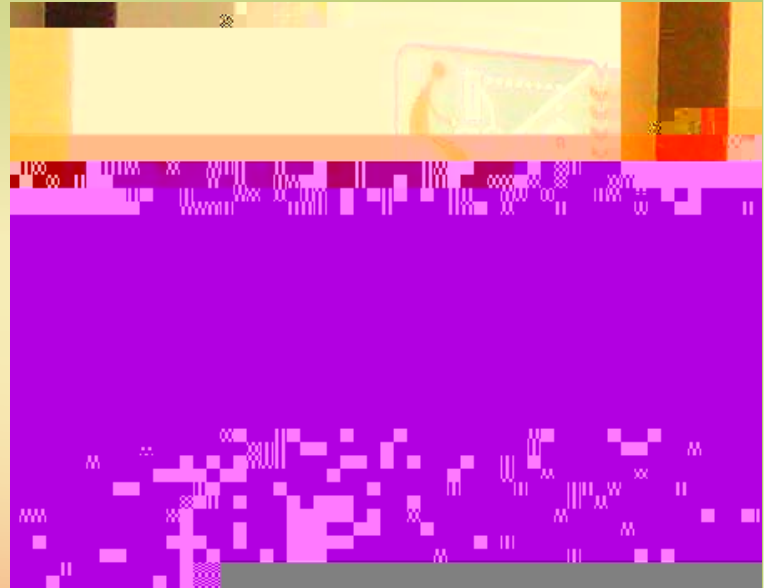
Can't meet synchronously? Then try an asynchronous meeting. Remember that ALA Connect is one that is available to you, and all LIRT Committees are committed to using it.



LIRT Events at ALA Midwinter 2011 in San Diego



The Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT) Web Advisory Committee held a discussion forum, titled "Share, Talk, and Write with Free Online Collaboration Tools."



Waiting for the BITES with LIRT attendees.

LIRT Supports Spectrum Scholarship Program

LIRT is excited to announce that we will sponsor a 2011 Spectrum Scholar in support of the Spectrum Presidential Initiative. The \$6,500 contribution will support one MLIS student fully. That student will be named a LIRT Spectrum Scholar. More information

Science Citation Index: Author Finder

By Meredith Ayers, Science Librarian,



Melt alone,

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engagement in an intense environmental scan with an eye to possible future innovations, changes, or events that would affect libraries and their function in the PL



Reference Discussion Group ACRL-LES
This discussion was led by co-chairs, Chad, New York

Project, this prediction has become bogus, and the birth of a "national digital library" may be on the horizon. Roy Tennant goes as far as to say that HathiTrust "is the closest thing we have to a national Digital Library, and it's fairly close from a variety of perspectives:" 7+ million volumes (4+ million books); an access and preservation vision; "technical chops" (represented by the implementation of a large-scale search engine); and governance (represented by the proposed national convention").
 (http://blog.libraryjournal.com/tennantdigitallibraries/2010/11/19/the-hathi-trust-is-our-national-digital-library)

If you work in a library that is considering HathiTrust membership, it is an endeavor worth serious deliberation because your users can download the full content of an e-book, not because print-disabled users can easily access the full text content, and not because your users can more easily create permanent "collections" with which they can work. Instead, choose to partner with HathiTrust so your library can contribute to and benefit from the formation of a national digital library. In the HathiTrust December update, the executive director of HathiTrust states that "HathiTrust's value as a pivotal resource in viewing and the aggregation of our collections benefits from growth. Building comprehensive and accessible online collections is a necessary part of our strategy for designing effective print storage and access strategies."
 (http://www.hathitrust.org/updates_december2010)

The future of HathiTrust is as bright as the contributing partners choose to make it. Researchers will have unparalleled access to a growing body of scholarly digital content -- historic and new. Needs of research will evolve with the ability to data mine the rich content in HathiTrust, and once HathiTrust is a TRAC compliant (Trustworthy Repository Audit and Certification) repository, librarians can make strategic decisions to de-accession physical volumes, making more use of limited space.
 (http://www.crl.edu/archiving-preservation/digital-archives/metrics-assessing-and-designing)

Yes, there is a giant elephant in the room: it is HathiTrust and it is good.

Additional Resources

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Burton-West, Tom. "HathiTrust Large Scale Search." 2010. (http://www.hathitrust.org/documents/HathiTrust-LuceneRevolution-201010.ppt>.

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"CRL Undertakes Assessment of HathiTrust." Library Hi Tech News 26.5 (2009): 25-6.

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