President’s Report

What we’ve been up to

ACRL Washington had a great year in 2012. We welcomed several new board members in May, including Vice President/President Elect Deborah (Deb) Raftus, Treasurer Charlene McCormack, Secretary/Newsletter Editor Emily Wood (who entered a newly combined position), and Member-at-Large Rebecca Marrall.

Here’s a bulleted list for speedy impact:

- Co-sponsored access to four ACRL e-learning webcasts with ACRL Oregon (Recordings available to signed-in members at http://acrlwa.org/members)
- Co-sponsored the Active Learning Unconference 2012 with the University of Washington Teaching and Learning Group
- Co-sponsored the wonderful ACRL NW Conference at Menucha with ACRL Oregon
- Provided an online membership payment option for the first time in our history
- Achieved legality as a 501c6 (perhaps a minor detail for most members, but a significant time and energy investment for ever-diligent outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Serin Anderson)
- Revised Bylaws so that we can now vote for most organizational changes online
- Revised board job descriptions to better match what we really do

What’s coming up

We also have some new co-sponsored membership activities already planned for 2013:

- ACRL Washington will host two complimentary e-learning webcasts from ACRL National
- Another first; we will be co-sponsoring a social event for academic librarians at the joint WLA/OLA conference in April.

Stay tuned for more detail on these via the web site and ACRL NW mailing list!

What we’re thinking about:

2012 ACRL NW Fall Conference

I considered for this report writing a treatise expressing my thoughts on our recent conference at Menucha with keynote speakers Barbara Fister and Char Booth, which I enjoyed tremendously. I was, at one point, inspired in the large group setting to raise both my fist and my voice in the “Power to the People” salute of yore. That doesn’t usually happen to me at library conferences, so take it as a sign indicating the invigorating nature of Barb’s talk, and watch (or a read) it for yourself. Char’s similarly stirring presentation is available for your viewing pleasure on the same page, along with most of the presentations from the conference.

Perhaps to your relief, I am not actually going to record the treatise of my imagination here. In both the interest of space, and in the interest of featuring a co-attender’s thoughts, I will instead here link to two posts on the Bookaneers’ blog, featuring the impressions of 2009 ACRL WA student scholarship winner, Althea Lazzarro (also a new colleague at the UW Bothell and Cascadia Campus Library): “Meaning-making in the Library,” and “The Power of Narrative: ACRL NW 2012.”

Archives and Institutional Memory

Finally, we are participating in an ongoing project to make an archive of newsletters, membership meeting minutes and board meeting minutes available on the website. It’s worthwhile to examine some of ACRL Washington’s past endeavors and communications to see how things have changed over the years. This is part of a larger effort to make sure that the institutional memory of ACRL Washington does not deteriorate with through regular board turnover. Our organization has functioned well with a strong oral tradition for many years, and we plan to document some of that tradition (and, in some cases, to re-instate documentation procedures that have waned). Stay tuned for developments along these lines by checking the web site.

Thankfulness and Holidays

It is a pleasure and an honor to serve as president of ACRL WA, and I want to express my appreciation for all of you colleagues who make this organization what it is. I hope your holiday season matches up to the wishes in all those holiday cards you’ll receive!

Danielle Rowland
ACRL WA President
By Carol King

Background: Eastern Washington University’s new Learning Commons officially opened on Friday, Sept. 28, on the main floor of JFK Library. The Learning Commons is a way for EWU to enhance academic support for all students at the university. The communal area provides an interactive space where students can collaborate and find academic support professions from various departments. It is accessible during all JFK Library hours.

“The Learning Commons will give students from different disciplines and fields of study the opportunity to enhance their skills and bolster their learning experience,” said President Arevalo. “Students work together in ways they never could before on campus.”

The Learning Commons combines traditional library research services with writing help, peer programs, computing and technology support, individual and group study and other services to support the learning process. With the first phase completed, the Learning Commons hosts the Multi-Media Lab (formerly the MARS lab), the Writers’ Center and PLUS group tutorial services. Future phases will see other services provided and groups added.

Check out the Learning Commons Facebook Page at: https://www.facebook.com/ewu.lc

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Why JFK Library for the Learning Commons?

By Carolynne Myall

The mission of the new EWU Learning Commons is to “provide a collaborative intellectual setting that inspires excellence in learning.” Ultimately the Learning Commons will include many kinds of study and meeting spaces, many kinds of resources, and access to many types of services, all with the goal of supporting student learning and success.

The Learning Commons is located in JFK Library. So why is it in the library, and not someplace else on campus?

First, students are already using the library facility. For several years, attendance counts at JFK Library have been going up. Individually and through ASEWU, students clamor for longer library hours. We’ve worked with ASEWU to respond to student needs and extend our hours of operation.

Students need a place to work independently and with others. JFK Library is comfortable, with different kinds of furniture, a coffee shop, and good access to the Internet, as well as information resources and equipment. The library has quiet areas for individual study, and group study rooms and collaboration areas for use by two or more students.

Some people assume that in a digital information environment, library use must be going down. But it is not the case! Library use is up all over the country, and is up at EWU.

Second, the use of some specific library services and collections is up. For example, the number of library instruction sessions—classroom instruction conducted by library faculty members about finding, evaluating, and using information resources—has doubled since AY 2006. Reference librarians continue to consult, face-to-face and virtually, with students and others about their research questions. Students and faculty continue to use our interlibrary loan and Summit borrowing services, to obtain materials from other libraries.

The library also continues its historic role of collecting and organizing published research and works of the imagination. The library provides materials in varied formats: printed books, ebooks, DVDs, print journals, and streaming online resources, among others. Students and faculty tend to prefer journal articles in digital form, so we license online access to the contents of thousands of journals and newspapers. These digital resources, many quite pricey, are freely available to EWU students, faculty, and staff working on campus or from home.

It’s true that check-out of some tangible materials such as printed books is down, reflecting a national trend, but that decrease must be balanced against growing use of digital resources accessed through our databases and catalog. Also true: We had to withdraw some print journal volumes to make room for the Learning Commons, but we were careful not to withdraw journal volumes that were not available in full digital format.

Third, the library has a service ethic and strong commitment to helping students. The nature of library work requires collaborating with other faculty and staff throughout the campus. We are dedicated to student service, and we are used to working with others with different expertise and priorities. Library staff are looking forward to extending our tradition of collaboration through the Learning Commons.

In summary: The library is a good place for the Learning Commons because the library is already popular with students and because locating the Learning Commons in JFK enables the Learning Commons to build on the library’s strengths.

There’s an upside for the library too. We hope to see even greater use of our facility. We hope to discover more opportunities to work with EWU students, faculty, and staff, to fulfill the library’s mission: to stimulate and support inquiry.

Library Remodel, Move, or Renovation?

Tell us about it!

We’re interested in articles detailing recently completed, in-progress, and upcoming library construction projects. Submit articles and photos to the newsletter editor at ewood@pierce.ctc.edu for inclusion in the Spring issue.
In junction with the birthday theme, students could wish Foley a Happy Birthday by writing a birthday message on our building windows. Pictures of our beautifully painted windows can be found on our Foley Facebook page http://facebook.com/gonzagalibrary.

Pacific Lutheran University
Over the summer we updated our look, with much-needed new carpeting on the first floor, accent walls in bright colors throughout the building, and some touch ups to the display of our growing African Art collection. In June, librarians Amy Stewart-Mailhiot and Genevieve Williams presented at the LOEX of the West conference in Burbank. Our presentation, "Taking Root: Creating a Culture of Outreach" was well received. Genevieve also presented at this fall's ACRL-OR/WA meeting in Menucha, Oregon, a lightning talk on mobile technologies and libraries called "The Library You Carry Around with You."

For this fall's new student orientation, Amy also co-created an academic integrity video intended to introduce students to the core concepts of academic and research integrity. The campuswide collaboration featured PLU students, faculty, and new PLU president Thomas Krise.

In October and November the PLU Library hosted "Transgender Neighbors: The T-Town Exhibit," a show of portraits and biographies, in October and November. To kick off the Residence Hall Association's Gender Awareness Week, the Library hosted a well attended exhibition reception, having partnered with the Women's Center and the Diversity Center to bring T-Town to the campus.
University of Washington Bothell & Cascadia Community College Library

We are pleased to announce the formation of the new Campus Library Diversity Team, inspired by the ACRL Diversity Standards. The purpose of the team is to conduct trainings and facilitate discussions among librarians, staff, and student workers to develop cultural competencies; and to critically reflect on library practices to make use of library facilities, resources, and services optimal for users of diverse backgrounds, circumstances, and experiences. We are open to new ideas, and would love for you to contact a team member and tell us about your library’s efforts to support diversity among your constituents: alazzaro@uwb.edu; dellenwood@uwb.edu; tgarrard@uwb.edu; mwatson@uwb.edu.

In honor of the 2012 International Open Access Week, the Campus Library is hosting a poster display to build awareness of OA issues thru Fall quarter in our main lobby. This is a traveling display that was featured last year at the UW Seattle Campus (Suzzallo/Allen & Health Sciences Libraries), and was created by the UW Libraries’ Scholarly Communication Steering Committee. Slides of the display posters can be viewed here: http://www.lib.washington.edu/scholpub/actions/oaweek-2011.

The Campus Library has two new LibGuides to help with our instruction activities. The first is a How Do I? guide, providing one point of access for all of our online tutorials: http://libguides.uwb.edu/howdoi.

The second guide is on Teaching and Learning at the Campus Library, which includes the UWB/CCC Library’s new Information Literacy Student Learning Outcomes. Our student learning outcomes establish a broad vision for information literacy and research-related student learning at UW Bothell and Cascadia Community College. They describe what we hope our students will have learned and what they will be able to do at various stages of their academic careers. The outcomes will also establish the basis for the Campus Library’s assessment of student learning within and across programs (both in person and online) at UW Bothell and Cascadia: http://libguides.uwb.edu/teaching.

The Campus Library also recently launched its first digital collection. The Wetlands Collection contains photographs and documents related to the history, restoration, plants and wildlife, and use of the campus wetlands. The Collection provides significant documentation of a central feature of the campus, and makes comprehensive information related to the wetlands easily accessible online to students and faculty for the first time. The project is a collaboration between the Library and UW Bothell Professor Warren Gold, who contributed wetlands expertise, photographs, and explanatory text for the collection. Denise Hattwig curated, managed, and executed the project which can be found here: http://diglib.uwb.edu/wetlandsweb.

Coming this December, the Campus Library will begin circulating a collection of video games for the Xbox, Xbox Kinect, and PlayStati03 consoles. The collection is seen as serving a need for primary source material on video game studies being done across academic programs at UW Bothell.

University of Washington Seattle

Mellon Foundation grant for preservation librarian

The University of Washington Libraries has received a challenge grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to fund a new senior conservator position in its Preservation Services Division to care for the fragile rare books, manuscripts, maps, and drawings in our special collections. The Mellon Foundation grant includes a permanent endowment to establish the new position while the Libraries raises additional funds over three years to match the award, which will generate funding to support the position permanently.

National Endowment for the Humanities grant

Congratulations to Glenda Pearson, Head of Microforms and Newspaper Collections, who was awarded a two year supplemental grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities’ National Digital Newspaper Program. Along with librarians and staff of Washington State Library, Glenda and student staff have been digitizing historic newspapers since 2009. This grant will support salaries and benefits for two students to work on the project through August 2014.

University of Washington Tacoma

New Building

The new addition to the Library opened in August and as anyone who has moved into a new building can attest, the breaking-in period can be a bit rough. However, with the first quarter of occupancy nearly behind us, staff, students and faculty are adjusting to having library resources and services co-located in two separate buildings connected by a skybridge.
How We Increased Our Library’s Visibility on Campus:  
the Story of Seattle Central’s ACRL Award!

By Sharon Spence-Wilcox

While working at home during a January snow-storm, Wai-Fong Lee, Executive Dean of Instructional Resources, Accreditation and Assessment at Seattle Central Community College, was pleasantly surprised to receive an email message notifying her that our library was the 2012 recipient of the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award in the community college category. ACRL cited our “support for student learning through innovative information literacy offerings”.

During the next few months, congratulatory notes and calls poured in from our own campus community, librarian colleagues within the district, and colleges and universities throughout Washington State and beyond, energizing us as our to-do lists lengthened. Our library champions rallied to help us plan the requisite ACRL award ceremony and celebration, while we forged on in preparation for a comprehensive accreditation evaluation visit in April. Word got around, and we hosted visiting library teams from Vancouver, BC and Salt Lake City, Utah who wanted to learn first-hand how we respond to 21st century student needs for information literacy. We were encouraged by this widespread acknowledgment of our “hard work, creativity, and dedication to our college community and beyond!” and we took to heart the recommendation from fellow awardees and campus partners to “enjoy and celebrate!”

And so we did! Our invitation list included the entire campus community along with professional colleagues at local and regional institutions. Unsuspecting students in the library on the afternoon of May 7th witnessed a transformation of our usually quiet study area to a festive environment of colorful balloons, flowers, food, drinks, upbeat music, and a video collage of library supporters and staff cameos. About 150 enthusiastic guests attended the ceremony during which ACRL President Joyce Ogburn and YBP Library Services representative Joan Thompson officially presented the award to our library’s dean, Wai-Fong Lee. Attendees were treated to a live rendition of the Librarian Song by two talented ESL instructors. An open mic period gave rise to heartfelt expressions of appreciation for the library, including original student art and poetry. And months after the big party, students and colleagues continue to share positive vibes.

As the end of 2012 brings down the curtain on our award year and we fondly reminisce on the celebration, our passion for providing the best library possible continues. A colorful banner hangs by the college’s main entrance and inside the library, and the image graces our web site; we’ll keep it up a little longer to share the celebration with students who weren’t here for the event last spring. Although our library facility leaves lots of room for improvement, we work hard to make up for it with high quality service and strong support for innovative teaching and learning as we promote information literacy across the curriculum. We’ve also benefitted from working closely with other libraries in the Washington State Community and Technical Colleges. We are humbled to share company with the great academic libraries that have received this award.

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Going to ALA Midwinter in Seattle? ACRL in Indianapolis? LOEX in Nashville? Attending other conferences and workshops?

Bring the conference experience back home by sharing it with your fellow ACRL-WA members! If you’ve recently attended a conference that would be of interest to librarians, consider submitting a brief report of the conference and your key learning or ideas.

Conference reports and reviews can be submitted anytime for inclusion in the next newsletter issue. Submit reports to the newsletter editor at ewood@pierce.ctc.edu

Image by fortes under a Creative Commons Share Alike license
Interacting with the Seattle Interactive Conference

By Kristen Shuyler

Having enjoyed conferences that invite diverse participation not limited to librarianship, such as InfoCamp and the IA Summit, I decided to try a new conference that I assumed attracted very few librarians.

The Seattle Interactive Conference is for “entrepreneurs, technologists, advertisers, designers, entertainers, online business professionals and thinkers,” according to the conference website. The crowd was diverse as advertised, but seemed heavily populated by online marketers – folks who work at agencies designing marketing websites for large businesses.

I had hoped the sessions could relate to my work, such as marketing library services and managing the library’s website. However, as I settled in to the sessions, I wondered if the marketers’ professional concerns would be so different from mine as to make the content useless to me. Happily, this wasn’t the case – every session gave me something interesting to think about.

In keeping with the conference audience’s dominant mass-communication medium, Twitter, here are notes I took during the conference, edited down to 140 characters or fewer:

- Google’s product mgmt director for search says: search engine of the future should be conversational; users should interact with answers.
- Google is experimenting with “collections” of search results. Try googling “things to do in seattle” or “moons of Jupiter” for examples.
- Major disruptions for modern information technology have included: microchip, internet, mobile, social... what’s next?
- If told “no” by IT staff, ask “why?” in 5 ways. Ask Qs like “What do you think works better?” or “Are there solutions not being considered?”
- Let’s write for the new technologies... Be like the first filmmakers who moved beyond just filming stage plays and used cameras creatively.
- You are not your audience (read: patrons). You’ve lived with your content for a long time but your audience (patrons) will bring fresh eyes.
- “A brand is a nonlinear story that needs to evolve to remain relevant.” What is the library’s brand? My library; libraries in general?
- “If you can tell a story about your brand you’ll catch a consumer’s eye in the crowded marketplace.” What story do we tell about libraries?
- 86% of people watch TV with smart device in hand. How to tell stories based on that tech ecosystem? How to make stories more interactive?
- Ben Huh of Cheezburger.com says: The upcoming generation won’t watch TV; they’ll watch the internet.

In some sessions, I had to do some mental interpretation – substituting “patrons” for “audience,” or “library” for “brand” – to make the content relevant. In others, the marketing-speak made no sense to me. But on the whole, the Seattle Interactive Conference was worth my time. It raised more questions than it answered. It reminded me of the wide world beyond the university. And it sparked interesting conversations in the hallway and online.

For instance, I’m not one to “live tweet” conferences, but I did compose one tweet about the conference on its last night:

“Stories” a theme at Seattle Interactive Conference. Only one session I saw used stories to convey info. And it was the best one. #SIC2012

By using the official conference tag, #SIC2012, my tweet reached other attendees, and I ended up in public and private conversations with some of them after posting it. (For the record, the session I liked best was “Innovations in Storytelling,” by Elan Lee.)

I would recommend that librarians interested in marketing, social media, user experience, or the technology and advertising industries consider attending the Seattle Interactive Conference. It’s expensive but doesn’t require travel costs, at least for Seattle-area librarians. I think I’ll go next year – maybe I’ll even live-tweet it next time.

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Seattle Interactive Conference Resources
Conference website: http://seattleinteractive.com
Presentation slides: http://www.slideshare.net/seattleinteractive
Official twitter: http://twitter.com/seattleinteract
Short interview with Elan Lee: http://on.aol.com/video/david-shing-interviews-elan-lee-founder-of-fourth-wall-studios-517523272

Disclaimer:
I’m on the board of InfoCamp Seattle, but have no connection to the Seattle Interactive Conference.
Personnel Updates

Clark College

Joan Carey retired at the end of Spring Term and Lori Wamsley resigned from Clark College to teach at Portland Community College in their Education/Library Media program.

Kim Read joined Clark College as Reference & Instruction Librarian. Kim Read started at Clark College as an intern in 2009, worked on-call during 2010-2011, last year held an adjunct position, and now embarks on a full-time faculty position. Previously she held teaching and reference adjunct positions at Mt Hood Community College, The Art Institute of Portland, Marylhurst University, and Washington State University Vancouver. Kim holds a Masters in Library Science from Emporia State University and her BA from Colorado College is in Anthropology with a minor in piano performance. For Kim’s CV and details about her presentations and publications, please visit www.kimread.com

Julie Austad joined Clark College as Reference & Instruction Librarian. Julie Austad graduated from Emporia State University in August 2012, and is now a reference and instruction librarian at Clark College Libraries. Julie started at Clark as an intern in October 2010, and had the opportunity to work in three different areas of the library: reference, circulation, and technical services.

Julie was raised in Valdez, Alaska, where she shoveled snow every winter, and went salmon fishing every summer until leaving for college in 2004. She graduated from Linfield College in McMinnville, OR, and migrated north with her husband to the top of the Willamette Valley.

The two of them then moved to Japan for two years to teach English through the JET Programme, where she designed lessons for elementary, junior high, and adult learners. She and her husband kept a blog of their experiences: http://pacificloons.wordpress.com/

She returned to Portland, OR in 2010 and began library school, and resides there now with her math-teacher husband and two cats.

City University of Seattle

Amy Hall recently joined the library staff at CityU as a librarian. Amy is a graduate of the Florida State University’s Master of Library and Information Science distance program. She has a keen interest in virtual library services, including online instruction and resources that will support information and digital literacy skills in our students and teaching faculty. Before joining CityU as a librarian, she worked for the library as a volunteer, creating online instructional materials. She brings experience with social media management, HTML/CSS and multimedia production.

Eastern Washington University

EWU Libraries welcomed Chris Ewing in July of 2012 as our new Science and Emerging Technologies Librarian. Chris comes to us from the USC Libraries and the private sector, where he worked as a web manager and developer, fostered the use of new web technologies, prepared and conducted information seminars, published articles, presented papers, and conducted research projects. At EWU, Chris will help us maintain and grow relationships with the Science, Technology, and Engineering programs, as well as working with other library staff to increase information literacy among the student population. He will also continue pushing the library and its web site toward new and innovative technologies to encourage collaboration.

Carolyn Hansen, our new Metadata Librarian, was also hired in July of 2012. Carolyn comes to us from the Brooklyn Historical Society, where she cataloged maps, atlases, manuscripts, and other items dating from the 1500s to the present. At EWU, Carolyn will help us develop and maintain discovery tools that will help library users find library resources, as well as working with other library staff to build the digital archival collections and repository. She will also perform and oversee cataloging, metadata, and classification activities.

Everest College

Jessica Anderson! Jessica officially joined the staff as of November 5, 2012.

Gonzaga University

Caitlin Bagley is the new Instruction Librarian at Gonzaga University, she started her new position in September. Caitlin received her MLS from Indiana University in 2010, her background and focus is on library instruction and museum work. She has previously worked as a humanities librarian at Murray State University. She has published on cloud computing and problem patrons. She is excited to join ACRL-WA and be involved in working with Washington librarians across the state. Caitlin will also be the new ACRL-WA liaison from Gonzaga.

University of Washington Bothell & Cascadia Community College Library

The Campus library welcomes three new tenure track Research & Instruction Librarians: Nia Lam, formerly on temporary appointment, will serve as the liaison to Cinema, Speech, and Communications studies; GIS, Geography and Community Psychology will be handled by Althea Lazzaro; and Megan Watson will be working with Finance, Accounting, and ESL.

The Campus Library also welcomes two new Research & Instruction Librarians on temporary appointment through June 2013. Heather Gillanders and Alyssa Berger will be working on special projects and helping with the Library’s research and instructional needs.

We also congratulate Leslie Bussert who was promoted to
Personnel Updates

Associate Librarian and Jackie Belanger who was reappointed as a Senior Assistant Librarian.

University of Washington Seattle

Retirements
• James Stickman, Monographic Services Librarian
• Charles Chamberlin, Senior Associate Dean of University Libraries
• Ju-Yen Teng, Cataloging Librarian, East Asia Library
• Jackie Coats, Head, Monographic Acquisitions

New hires
• Anne Jenner, Pacific NW Curator, Special Collections
• Dan Mandeville, Nordic Studies Librarian, Reference and Research Services
• Diana Louden, Translational Research Collaboration Librarian, Health Sciences Library

We are sad to report that our longtime colleague, Laurie Sutherland, Head, Serials Acquisitions, Acquisitions and Rapid Cataloging Services, died unexpectedly in September. Laurie joined the University of Washington in 1970 and made many contributions to the Libraries over four decades. She was widely respected locally and nationally for her deep expertise and commitment to serials acquisitions during a period of enormous change in journal publishing.

University of Washington Tacoma

Our former student employee, Megan Saunders, has joined our staff as the Evening Circulation Technician. Megan heads up the crew for the evening hours and is thoroughly enjoying her new role while planning for her next step – applying to i-School. We are all very happy to have Megan continue to be part of our staff.

Serin Anderson resigned from the UW Tacoma Library to join the Faculty at St. Martin’s O’Grady Library as their Electronics Librarian. We miss her immensely and wish her all the best in her new position.

Western Washington University

Elizabeth Joffrion has joined the faculty of Western Washington University (WWU) as Director of Heritage Resources where she will lead the Libraries’ Special Collections, University Archives and Record Center, and the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies. In this newly created position, Ms. Joffrion will provide direction for the development and promotion of Heritage Resources, the enhancement of its collections and services, and the integration of these resources into the overall mission of the library and the university. Prior to this position, she was a Senior Program Officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Preservation and Access where she coordinated the Preservation Assistance Grants Program. Before joining NEH in 2006, she was the Head Archivist at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies (WWU) and affiliated faculty in its graduate program in archives and records management. She has held professional positions at the Smithsonian Institution, North Carolina State Archives and the Historic New Orleans Collection, and has also taught courses on archives and special collections at Catholic University in Washington, DC. She received an MA in History from the University of New Orleans and a MLIS from the University of Maryland.

ACRL Instruction Section Soiree at ALA Midwinter

Come enjoy some fun and conversation!

Who: For instruction librarians and anyone interested in the ACRL Instruction Section
When: Friday, January 25, 2013, 5:30-7:00 PM
Where: Havana Social Club (http://www.havanasocial.com/)
Havana is located in the Capitol Hill Neighborhood of Seattle, about ¾ of a mile walk or cab ride from the Convention Center.
Finding the entrance to Havana can be tricky because it is set back from the street a ways. Havana is located at 1010 E Pike St. and to enter the venue go through the parking lot between Poquito’s Mexican Food (on the corner of Pike and 10th Ave) and 1016 East Pike. As you enter the parking lot, the entrance to Havana will be on your left just beyond Poquito’s.
For further directions you can view the map on Havana’s webpage.

Why: To socialize, network, drink, & find out about IS events at ALA Midwinter 2013, as well as about volunteering for the Instruction Section. Havana does not serve food, but you are welcome to bring in food if you wish!

RSVP: Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, January 18, 2013 at: https://catalyst.uw.edu/webq/survey/dje8/182828
Jackie Belanger (jbelanger@uwb.edu) & Dave Ellenwood (dellenwood@uwb.edu), Instruction Section Local Arrangements Co-Chairs
As librarians, most of us are quite comfortable with literature research, but developing original research is less comfortable for many of us. Knowledge into Action neatly bridges that gap for the practicing librarian. The authors write on the premise that “research and evaluation are two sides of a single coin,” making it a useful text for both librarians developing a research program and librarians interested in cultivating a culture of assessment and ensuring that their practice of librarianship is evidence-driven.

It’s easiest to grasp new concepts in a familiar setting, and Knowledge into Action performs the unique task of placing what might be unfamiliar ideas about research methodologies in a very familiar context for librarians. This is the book’s particular strength, since it allows the reader to quickly transfer the concepts covered to their own experience.

The book is plainly laid out, with few illustrations and no flashy plates, but the illustrations it does have are well chosen and useful. Throughout the book, the authors provide clear explanations of concepts, and opportunities for application. Chapters finish up with helpful “Think about it!” and “Do it!” boxes that are excellent ways to explore the topic at hand or scaffold your own research project. Nor are the authors without a sense of humor. Common misconceptions or tendencies to go astray in research are explained in occasional “How to Lie” sidebars.

The first three chapters cover general research background concepts—the philosophical underpinnings of research, the research process, and ethics and politics of research—but from the context of research as a librarian. From there, the book quickly turns to the practical and applicable. The next three chapters help the reader lay the groundwork for research. They examine how professionals use research, how one develops a project plan, and what measurement and sampling techniques are available. The bulk of the book, the next five chapters, provides overviews of commonly used research methods in LIS. It is this section that I think will be most valuable for the novice library researcher trying to match their question to a methodology. Data analysis, statistics, and funding are covered in the later portion of the book as well, and while the book does not cover the publication process, that is a topic a reader can easily find covered in other recent books. The final chapter, “Research, Evaluation, and Change” is a fitting end, for it contextualizes the entire enterprise within our search for excellence as professionals. This isn’t the only book you’ll need to do good research as a librarian, but it is an excellent book to reach for when you first decide to do research as a librarian.


Reviewed by Zoe Fisher, Pierce College Puyallup

My roommate saw me reading Cathy N. Davidson’s Now You See It: How the Brain Science of Attention Will Transform the Way We Live, Work and Learn (Viking 2011) and asked the reasonable “What’chya reading?” question, which took me several minutes to answer. Davidson says her book is a “field guide and survival manual for the digital age”, but it's also a passionate argument against standardized testing in schools, a promising look at career opportunities for those with Asperger syndrome, and a wake-up call to all of us who passively engage with life-changing technology every day. It’s a book about everything—how we learn priorities as infants, how school prepares us for factory jobs that don’t exist, how most offices are strange and inefficient places, how we heal better from injury when we’re approaching a decade birthday, and how playing games might save the world.

Obviously Davidson is all over the place, but the same could be said about books like Malcolm Gladwell’s The Tipping Point or Blink. Books that jump from topic to topic with clear thematic connections—great fun. As a librarian, I've already recommended an excerpt of this book to a student doing research on the history of standardized testing. However, Davidson's book could also be helpful to a student writing a paper about the aptitude of people living with autism, the possible applications of iPods in the classroom, or the development of the first (and only) hotel in the United States to earn Platinum LEED designation.

This book is a nice complement to Nicholas Carr’s The Shallows, in which he sounds the alarm about the dangerous effects of the Internet on our attention spans. Carr cautions that the use of technology is irreparably changing our brains, which Davidson agrees with—the difference is that she energetically embraces these changes and suggests that the world is a place with more opportunities than ever before.