IACRL—Oak Brook
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Report to LIBRAS by Belinda Cheek, North Central College

Session 1: Outreach, Student Focus

"Putting the Shhh! In Student Activities" & "Creating Pedagogically Meaningful Work for Student Workers"

The first half of this session was presented by two staff from the University of Illinois, Springfield. It reported on a collaboration between library staff and their campus Assistant Director of Student Life to bring student programming into the library. They have successfully collaborated on activities such as "National Gaming Day @ Your Library" and "Haunted Library." Good suggestions were provided for such collaborative efforts and how to initiate, maintain such a program. Although I found this helpful, I was more intrigued by suggestions for possible future activities that seemed to me to have a closer tie-in with the library. Specifically, I would be more interested in exploring ideas such as book clubs and research fairs.

The second half of the session was presented by staff at Dominican University. They reported on ways that they are trying to create more meaningful work for their library student workers. Although their discussion mainly involved work with graduate students in their library science program, I found several ideas that might adapt to our traditional undergraduate student workers. Suggestions such as giving students real-life experiences, projects that they can use on their resume, helping the library explore new technologies, etc. all seemed applicable to our student population as well. One comment made by one of the librarians presenting was that it is a lot of work, and can eat up a lot of time, to plan for this level of student work. I must admit that this has always been the barrier for me to promote more of these activities at our library, but it gave me renewed interest to do more of this in our library.

Session 7: Reference, Instruction

"Legal Research for Non-Law Librarians" & "Digitizing the Laws of Illinois"

This was a good review session of basic legal research. However, the time was so short, that I felt like it was a bit of a whirlwind tour. The best thing I got out of both of these sessions was some handouts that I think will be helpful in making sure that our Government LibGuide has updated links to appropriate resources. I also feel that I have a better understanding of current access to Illinois law materials that are available online.

Keynote Address "Adopt a Design Approach to Accelerate Library Innovation" by Steven J. Bell

Steven is an inspiring speaker and very passionate about this topic. His presentation could have also benefited from a longer session time. I was disappointed by the number of video clips he had prepared that he was not able to show. I felt it made his presentation a bit dis-jointed. Nonetheless, it was a good introduction to design approach innovation. The graph that he used to illustrate "inflection point," or that point where a pattern of growth in an organization would eventually lead on to further growth or begin a pattern of decline was particularly interesting to me. Where is higher education on that chart today? Where are libraries? Where is *our* library? This provided good food for thought.

Steven's suggestions on how to make your library more innovative were also thought provoking. Ideas such as listen/observe (and take notes!), break a few rules, keep up and look beyond your own field, look forward at least 2 years, and borrow ideas from others were all very interesting. Again, his suggestions on listening and observing were inspiring to me. This is another area in which I believe we could have our student workers provide more meaningful input to library operations. Their interpretation of what they observe/hear about library services can put a whole new light on library services from what full time/seasoned staff observe. Overall, I felt that Steven was a very good choice for the keynote address.

Session 12: Unconference

"Say You Want An Institutional Repository" & "Scholarly Communications- Perspectives from a Two-Year and a Four-Year College" & "Managing the Digital Reference Collection"

I was only able to stay for the first two parts of this session, as they were running quite behind in timing. Both of these sessions talked about Institutional Repositories (IRs). The emphasis that several speakers put on including student scholarship was helpful to me, as that is the area in which I feel our institution could most benefit from an IR. Discussion in the first session of considerations/discussions you should have before starting an IR were good. I had not thought much about the legal aspects of such a venture, and the suggestions made on that topic were particularly helpful to me. Probably the most helpful part of this session for me was just the opportunity to learn who's had some experience in this area, what they are doing that might be similar to what we might consider, and who the librarians are that might be able to answer future questions we might have on this topic.

Session 16: Unconference

"What to Buy, and From Whom? Guidelines for Academic E-Book Collecting" & "Have You Got an App for That?" & "Meeting Information Seekers on their Turf"

The first part of this session was presented by librarians from Loyola University. The portion of this that I found most helpful was their list of what they feel are required, strongly preferred, or preferred features of an e-book service. Although I didn't necessarily agree with all of their choices, it made me think more closely about some of the issues.

The second part of the session was a group of librarians from 5 libraries that, through a grant, came together to design an information literacy game. This was an interesting concept, but it is not something that I think would be particularly applicable in our situation at this time. It does give one reminders, however, that you don't always have to work just among your own library staff to accomplish projects such as this.

The final portion of the session was using apps in you work day. As I do not even use many apps in my personal life at this point, this was more than a bit of a stretch for me! However, I did get some ideas for how we might make it easier for our patrons to discover any apps or mobile connectivity availability that we have for our current databases/resources.

Overall I felt that this was a worthwhile conference, and I am grateful to LIBRAS for supporting my registration. Perhaps one of the best parts of the day, for me, was the opportunity to see some LIBRAS and CARLI colleagues with whom I have not had a chance to visit for a while!