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LIBRAS Continuing Education Report  
ACRL 2011

First and foremost, I was able to present a poster session at ACRL 2011 entitled “From Coconuts to Cataloging: Lesson Learned While Volunteering Abroad.” The poster session presented my experiences and lessons that I learned while engaged in a two week volunteer experience in the libraries of the Cook Islands. This was a great opportunity for me to receive critical feedback on my research, meet with like-minded people and practice my presentation skills. I hope to keep in touch with a number of people who hope to take part in a similar volunteer program around the world.

Second, the conference gave me an opportunity to meet with vendors. It can be really hard to make time for vendors during the regular, busy academic year but with dedicated time set aside to visit, it makes life much easier. I attended the Ebsco lunch which showcased a demonstration the new NetLibrary interface. I spent some time with Zubal, a used book buyer/seller, and with LibGuides.

Of course, a conference wouldn't worth it without going to sessions. Two in particular were very beneficial to me. First, “E-Science, the next step in Information Literacy: The What and How of E-Science for Librarians” discussed a newly emerging area called e-science. The speaker defined this as “networked data-driven science.” One of the biggest obstacles in e-science is proprietary software that prohibits data from being openly-accessed by users. These ideas were very interesting to think about in light of Constellation, the LIBRAS collaborative repository. The session that I particularly enjoyed was “Here's the Story and They All became the Kimbel Bunch! Integrating Library, Instructional Technology and Distance Learning.” This panel discussed how instructional technology and distance learning became integrated in the library at one medium sized university. This was a fascinating discussion to me as the Elmhurst College librarians are responsible for working with faculty and students in all matters of instructional design especially Blackboard. I really liked hearing about their model for collaboration that included distance learning, IT, and the library.

Of course, it is immensely enjoyed and beneficial to have the time and the opportunity to socialize, network and talk shop with colleagues from all over the country, and from a variety of

academic institutions. There is no substitute for these in person interactions – sorry Twitter and Facebook! Finally, I will really appreciate access to the virtual conference that was included in the price of registration. I'll be able to catch up on sessions that I missed or review ones that I saw.