

LIBRAS Members' Meeting/Annual Report

Minutes of Meeting

May 31, 2013

Opening:

The meeting of the LIBRAS Membership was called to order at approximately 1 p.m. on 31 May, 2013 at Benedictine University by President Kathryn Maier-O'Shea.

Present:

Approximately 40 attendees.

Annual Reports:

- **President, Kathryn Maier-O'Shea**
 - **Welcome and Call to Order**
 - **Acknowledgements.** Thank you to Benedictine University for hosting this meeting and workshop.
 - **President's Report:**
 - History and changes in the consortium: The consortium's original reason for being, was primarily to facilitate resource sharing among the small academic libraries in the Chicago area. This function was ultimately made redundant by the statewide CARLI (formerly ILCSO) consortium. LIBRAS' focus is now on cooperative professional development and networking activities – sharing of new knowledge, and experiences in professional practice. LIBRAS membership dues have remained the same for decades.
 - Highlights of the past year's activities: The Bylaws document has been edited, to remove obviously vestigial policies on activities no longer undertaken by LIBRAS, such as ILL. Conference funding rules have been changed, and per-person grant amounts have been capped to enable more individuals to receive funding.
- **Treasurer's Report:** presented by Katie Maier-O'Shea in the Treasurer's absence.

The work on LIBRAS Not-For-Profit status work might require that an attorney and/or an accountant be hired.

The hospitality budget has been increased, to provide food for SIG events.

Programming: Speaker/workshop leader hired for this year's annual meeting.

Election to the Executive Committee for 2013-2014 (via SurveyMonkey poll)

Nominees:

Vice President/President Elect: Elaine Fetyko Page, Elmhurst College

Treasurer: Jill Bambenek, Dominican University

Secretary: Anita Morgan, St. Xavier; Michelle Oh, Lake Forest College; Amy Weidner, Benedictine University

Results:

President: David Malone, Wheaton College

Vice President/President Elect: Elaine Fetyko Page, Elmhurst College

Past President/Continuing Education Coordinator: Kathryn Maier-O'Shea, North Park University

Treasurer: Jill Bambenek, Dominican University

Secretary: Amy Weidner, Benedictine University

▪ ***Past President/Continuing Education Coordinator, John Small***

It was an interesting year for funding, because ACRL was in Indianapolis and ALA will be in Chicago. When conferences are held in nearby cities, applications from LIBRAS library staff members increases. Even so, this year nearly all funding applications were approved. The Professional Development and Research Grants are not often applied for. The application deadline for those grants is generally early fall, and might account for that.

The funding rules have been changed to remove the reporting requirement for funding recipients.

▪ ***Vice-President/President-Elect, David Malone***

Summarized his report of the year's activities. Highlights include:

- Strong participation in Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- Increased utilization of fund reserves to increase programming.
- Significant funding of continuing education requests
- Migration of LIBRAS listservs to Google platform
- By-laws and handbook revisions and updates. The most significant change included revisions to caps on conference spending allowing more members to receive funding.
- Saying goodbye to the directors of three LIBRAS libraries: Sally Anderson, North Park University (retiring); Iva Freeman, Kendall College (retiring); and Mark Vargas, St. Xavier University (newly appointed as Dean of the Library at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota).

Program: *Applying Assessment Techniques to the Library*

Mark Vargas, Library Director, St. Xavier University:

Using Assessment Techniques to Inform Decision-Making and Evaluation in Academic Libraries

Higher education is under increasing pressure from the federal government to justify its existence. This pressure is rolling downhill to libraries in the form of demand for quantifiable results/outcomes and proof of effectiveness. However, such information as: "We checked out n-thousand books, had n-zillion downloads" is meaningless data, because this activity does not include information as to whether these actions were useful to those performing them. Mark Vargas presented the methodology employed by

St. Xavier to arrive at meaningful analyses of library functions and impact. His work was informed by the following publications:

Association of College & Research Libraries. *Standards for Libraries in Education*. Chicago : ACRL, 2011.

Web: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/standards/slhe.pdf>

Oakleaf, Megan, for the Association of College & Research Libraries. *The Value of Academic Libraries*.

Chicago : ACRL, 2010.

Web: http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/issues/value/val_report.pdf

Oakleaf, Megan. *Academic Library Value Impact Starter Kit*. Syracuse, New York : Della Graphics, 2012.

Journal (open access): *Evidence-Based Library & Information Practice*.

Web: <http://ejournals.library.ualberta.ca/index.php/EBLIP>

Study: *Project Information Literacy*.

Web: <http://projectinfolit.org/>

Dr. Nancy J. Mactague, Research and Electronic Resources Librarian, Aurora University.

Using Statistics to Make Informed E-Journal Keep/Cancel Decisions

Nancy Mactague presented the results of her effort to establish criteria to produce a set of database/e-journal usage statistics that would accurately reflect the value of Aurora University's electronic subscriptions, in the context of a holistic, discipline-based collection development strategy.

Dr. Mactague's presentation slides, with data, notes, and her list of works cited, may be found here:

<http://libguides.aurora.edu/CARLIUsageStats>

Also accessible from the Prezi website:

http://prezi.com/xepsb2lp_xzh/carli-usage-statistics-2013-03-25/

Aurora University has a full-time enrollment of about 3700. 207k DB 67k for per (print, e, ebSCO ejs journals) 56.2k books. The library's overall budget has not changed but the materials/format mix has, as have AU's programs. This has led to the need to assess the quality and mix of resources for AU's population. E.g. For online students, how does the library understand them, if they are never seen?

AU's criteria: All interpretation of resource value is more flexible for those supporting advanced degrees.

Analyses were done of subscription price, cost of full-text download, cost of access via ILL, and Copyright Clearance Center fees for fill-in should a moratorium/hiatus period be decided upon for some subscriptions. The question was posed: Are any titles expendable for a period of time? Consideration was given to cutting 101 discrete journal titles. Those titles with 30 or more downloads were spared. Those with 5 or fewer downloads were cancelled without review. If the cost for 1 yr of ILL fulfillment for a single title was \$200 or greater, the subscription was kept on the renewal list.

Weeding at Aurora is in general a discipline-based procedure. The print-collection is shrinking to make room for other activities. Weeding/title review is on track to be completed every five years, so that the library may remain in step with changes in curriculum and programming.

Dr. Mactague noted that Serials Solutions doesn't count usage of titles whose articles are accessed through the publisher's website. E.g. Ovid takes users to the WoltersKluwer site for download of articles from WoltersKluwer, and as a result those downloads are not counted by SerialsSolutions

Applying these criteria allowed Aurora University to make cuts reducing its cost by approximately \$20,000, and as of the presentation date there had been no complaints about any of the cuts made.

Gregory Morrison, Assistant Professor of Library Science, Research Services, Wheaton College.
"Tracking reference interaction and engagement."

Assessment of reference interactions is difficult to track in a sustainable way, and little has been published on academic reference service assessment.

Took statistics & defined categories before Wheaton changed to central service island. After the library was renovated interactions increased by 30%. Student comfort approaching a peer may account for some of that increase.

Identifying software that would help to capture what was taking place took time. Initially, a program called Gimlet was used [Sidecar Publications, \$10/month per library branch]. After three years, Buswell Library switched to LibAnswers.

This software enabled Buswell Library staff to learn whether instruction sessions changed the number of visits to the reference desk for *Introduction to Bibliography* course resources. The software also shows the library's busiest days and times. Buswell staff are still evaluating what data are the most interesting, and determining priorities, as they learn to analyze the data that LibAnswers allows them to capture. This has helped with staffing of the reference desk between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m., and has helped staff determine the best use of Buswell's professional staff members' time. It is also telling library staff which groups are the heaviest users of reference services, and capturing for future reference the types of questions being posed. The LibAnswers knowledgebase has proved to be a good training tool for all library staff. The knowledgebase has permitted criteria to be established for defining what constitutes a 'research related' question. According to the decided-upon criteria, approximately half of the questions posed have been determined to be research related.

Buswell studied the desk-centric model of providing reference service, since it is becoming more common for academic libraries to move away from that model. Buswell staff elected to continue with the desk reference model – for overall quality of service, and for the ability to monitor interactions between library patrons and student workers. At Buswell Library the professional presence is particularly good for relationship building.

Adjournment:

[Meeting was adjourned by Katie Maier-O'Shea.]

Minutes submitted by: Mary E. O'Dea, Secretary