FLA 2014 Annual Conference Summary
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As one of the scholarship recipients SIS sent to FLA this year, I'd like to thank you by telling you about my experience there.

I learned a lot at FLA this year. I particularly learned a lot about the many uses of open source software in Nicole Engard's "Open Source for Excellent Patron Service" session. There are open source alternatives to Microsoft Office, Photoshop, and other software often requested by patrons. Almost all of them can read and write the same formats as the commercial alternative, so a patron with a .xls Excel file can open it in LibreOffice or Google Docs, edit it, and then save it in the same format.

I also had the opportunity during the CyberZone technology session to learn about ways to teach myself how to code through using Codecademy (http://www.codecademy.com/), a website that teaches users coding though gaming—playing games while you learn to code in any number of different programming languages. Chad Mairn was kind enough to allow me to see the world through his Google Glass at CyberZone.

I surprised myself by taking in more sessions about cataloging than topics in academic reference. In the cataloging sessions I attended, I got more practice with the particularities of RDA cataloging. The panel session "Envisioning Cataloging Excellence: RDA through the Eyes of the User", including SIS's own Sarah Norris, definitely boosted my confidence using RDA cataloging. I'm sure my confidence and knowledge of RDA will help me in the job market.

I really appreciated the many opportunities afforded to me by attending FLA this year. From the poster sessions prior to the opening session to the closing business lunch, I had a chance to get to know a number of Florida academic librarians and gain professional career advice from them. I know I'll keep in touch with them, and I'm confident that my experience at FLA will make it easier for a library in Florida to hire me.