

FLA 2016 Conference Summary

By Sila Lott

In March of 2016, I attended my first library conference, the Florida Library Association (FLA) in Daytona. I was accepted to present at CyberZone in tandem with one of the members of my research team, Jules Bailey. We presented the digital research tool that we and our fellow Reference Associates (Danielle Cram and Tariq Rahaman) have developed at Florida State University libraries. The goal of our tool is to target digital native user needs by providing a quick, simple, one-stop-shop for all your research needs in a modern web and mobile layout. The title of our presentation was “Research Help Now: Web and Mobile Research Tool.”

Thanks to the conference, I have had the opportunity to learn much. The experience of CyberZone has allowed me to hone in on appropriate skills and techniques when it comes to presenting and has helped me gain valuable knowledge on effective presentation. In addition to this advantage, I had the opportunity to socially and professionally network. I saw many familiar faces, but also met new people, made new connections, and shared and gathered valuable and innovative information and ideas. It is enlightening to see how other libraries have gone about solving or tackling different problems in the libraries, whether it is to help meet user needs, or to improve the resources available at the library, or even to simplify the librarian and support staff experience with new and proven effective methods. It provides perspective to your own library experience and allows you to take away new approaches. I am able to confidently walk away from this experience feeling the connections I have made and the knowledge and ideas I have gained at my time in FLA will better prepare me for my future goals and endeavors.

I thank the Suncoast Information Specialists (SIS) for helping make this experience possible for me. As a young mom, I often have to turn down opportunities outside of the budget, but with the support of SIS you have helped make this goal a reality for me. You have been a stepping-stone to my professional development and for that I am very grateful. With your generosity you help make opportunities possible for many. Thank you for the lasting impression. I look forward to a positive year to come.



(L to R) Danielle Cram, Sila Lott, Jules Bailey, and Tariq Rahaman at Cyberzone, Daytona FLA 2016.