



Suncoast Information Specialists Info

Vol. 32 #4 July/August 2017

SIS Scholarship Reports

Check out SIS FLA Scholarship Winner's conference reports below!

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to host Vilma Butym and speaker Theresa Burress!

Did You Know?

Suncoast Information Specialists is a professional association of librarians and information specialists in the greater Tampa Bay area, dedicated to providing an open forum for the discussion of mutual concerns and the exchange of ideas in the realm of information management and dissemination. For membership forms and directions on how to join, please go to: <http://www.suninfospec.org/membership>

Features-Guest Column!

Be on the lookout below for a guest column – Libraries are Good for Our Country by Gene Coppola!

Upcoming Meeting

When: August TBD

Time: TBD

Where: TBD

Directions: TBD

Program: TBD

Cost: Food for students is \$5, members/guests \$10, see meeting page below for info

RSVP: <http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting>

Questions?: Please contact Carrie Cullen at carriecullen@mail.usf.edu

June Meeting Overview

Humanities Librarian and a 2017 Library Journal Mover & Shaker, Theresa Burress, spoke about her work with digital humanities. Miss the meeting? No worries, her meeting slides can be found posted here!:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting/pastmeetings/2017-06-19>

Meeting minutes can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/meeting/minutes>

Meeting photos can be found here:

<http://www.suninfospec.org/photos>

Tidbits

- Bartow Public Library is working on providing Hotspots available for checkout to Bartow library users. Available through T-Mobile, they hope to give their community an opportunity for Internet access in the remote parts of their area lacking direct lines. Other Polk County Libraries - Lakeland and Winter Haven - have already begun this device checkout to great success. They hope to have hotspot devices available by mid-July or August 2017.
- Jessica Szempruch recently "emerged" from the ALA 2017 Emerging Leaders program, following her successful poster presentation at ALA Annual in Chicago. Jessica's Emerging Leaders project had her working alongside colleagues from four other institutions on behalf of the ALA Learning Round Table (LearnRT) to develop conference presentation tips and best practices, as well as map out a process for a presentation review mentoring service. Deliverables created by the group will be available for future presentation-goers via ALA's conference website and LearnRT. Jessica welcomes questions regarding this project, or Emerging Leaders in general; please feel free to email her at jessica.szempruch@gmail.com

SIS FLA 2017 Scholarship - Conference Summaries

Adam E. Berkowitz

I had three goals in mind when entering the conference on May 10, 2017: 1) network with professionals attending the conference, 2) gain a better understanding of what librarians do beyond what I have been taught in my classes, and 3) form an understanding of what this conference has to offer so that I can report it to the Suncoast Information Specialists. This conference far exceeded my expectations, and the value of what I have gained cannot be measured.

While attending the conference, I went to several presentations. Many of which dealt with how to prepare college students for their responsibilities and obligations. As librarians, we consider the success of every student to be of the utmost importance. However, we must remember that although teaching students how to use library resources is our primary role in the university system, we also concern ourselves with their mental and physical well-being as well as how to prepare them for their lives proceeding their graduation. We can be more effective in accomplishing these tasks by not only investing time in our own professional development, but also through interdepartmental collaborations. Librarians should be called upon by professors to explain to students how to use the library resources, and librarians should take the initiative to inform certain professors and departments of their content specialty. Libraries should establish cooperative events with career services as well as writing centers, and student organizations. All of these ideas, and more which were suggested during conference workshops will lead to a more integrated and engaging library experience for the students. These initiatives will benefit the students during their studies at the university and as graduates while they seek employment.

I also learned a tremendous amount about the roles of academic and public libraries in emergency situations. The top priority of a library in such a situation is to provide a sense of safety and a return to normalcy. Libraries are supposed to have contingency plans for fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, blackouts, insect and pest infestations, and more. I, personally, found the lengths to which libraries go in order to protect their patrons to be inspiring. I was especially impressed with the role that the Ferguson Public Library played during the riots in

Ferguson, Missouri in 2014 and 2015. During this period of civil upheaval, schools were temporarily closed; however, the public library remained open so as to provide a safe venue for students to meet with their teachers, and continue with their coursework. The library provides a sanctuary to its patrons in times when life is interrupted by severe, life threatening events. It is important to understand the role in which the librarian may find him/herself, and it is important to surround one's self with reliable staff members who can react effectively in times of emergency.

The opportunities to network with other librarians was just as important as the time I spent in the workshops. By speaking with other librarians, many of whom were at one time students at the University of South Florida like myself, I was able to compare their library school experiences with my own. I received feedback on the coursework I am pursuing, and furthered my understanding of how my newly acquired knowledge and skills will be applied in the field. I consider myself to be lucky, and am most appreciative for the opportunity afforded to me by the Suncoast Information Specialists. Without this opportunity, I most likely would not have met such fantastic individuals who strive to not only make librarianship more formidable, but also wish to invest in me as a student. I have learned that these librarians see MLIS students as a breath of fresh air, and individuals to whom they can pass on the torch. Upon retiring, librarians want to be ensured that library school graduates are fully prepared to carry on the responsibility of serving the institution's patrons. I, for one, look forward to fully preparing myself to continue and further such a legacy.

Arlene Haessler

First, I would like to thank the Suncoast Information Specialists for awarding me with the scholarship to attend the FLA Annual Conference this year. As an online student in a rural area with an interest in academic and medical librarianship I have few opportunities to interact with LIS professionals working in those areas, nor with my fellow students, professors and future colleagues. Last summer I was able to attend two conferences, the Science Boot Camp for Librarians Southeast and the SAA in Atlanta. I also attended the small, but mighty Florida Health Sciences Library Association meeting in March, but I did not make it to the FLA Annual Conference last year and I did not think I would be able to afford it this year. Then I was awarded the SIS scholarship and asked to volunteer for our department with some reimbursement and with this assistance was able to attend!

I spent many hours looking through the schedule and trying to decide how I could be in two places at once (sometimes more). I settled on a few primary interests and decided to play it by ear the rest of the time. Wednesday morning began with the new attendee orientation and then the keynote speaker, Toni Tipton-Martin. The story of her work was fascinating and an inspiration. My next stop was the section, *So You Want to be a Faculty Librarian?* This was such a useful presentation, the presenters described the process for hiring in their university libraries, but also were able to generalize it a bit so that I left with a deeper understanding of the expectations if I were ever to land that coveted academic library interview.

I was interested in a couple of committees and saw a familiar name from the Science Boot Camp on the Leadership Development Committee. One of the nicest qualities of FLA is how small it is, I was able to track Renaine Julian from FSU down easily. After speaking with him about the committee, I decided to attend the Library Leadership Roundtable that afternoon and the LDC's meeting the next morning. While I am far from a leadership role in LIS, I am currently trying to manage the Keys Chapter of the Florida State Massage Therapy Association (FSMTA) to get them prepared for when I move on. We have struggled for years with bringing in new members as well as having them take on leadership roles (I think this is a familiar problem with any volunteer run association). With the LDC I was hoping I would both gain some inspiration for inspiring leadership in my current colleagues as well as build transferable skills and I was not

disappointed. Wednesday evening my fellow USF students and I assisted with the USF Alumni Reception. This was a great opportunity to network with fellow students and graduates as well as professors from the department, since I rarely see any of them in person.

Other sections I attended were, Creative Solutions in Technical Services and the FALSC Forum. I am interested in learning more about Florida colleges and universities' move to the Sierra ILS so the forum was interesting. The President's Reception was a lot of fun! It was also another excellent networking opportunity. Myself and a fellow USF student had a long discussion with a USF Alum about the program and requirements as well as what her experience is at a college library.

Although the FLA was not as large and glamorous as the SAA or as focused as the Science Boot Camp or the FHSLA, I found it inspiring and encouraging. One of the main takeaways for me was the idea that even as a student, or an early career professional I could have something to say and do a presentation of my own at a conference like this. I left with several ideas for projects and hope to begin working on them soon! Thank you so much for helping me to attend this conference!

Libraries are Good for Our Country – Gene Coppola

There are four basic elements of public libraries; we provide a safe/secure environment, we welcome everyone, we are neutral and we act as an educational/cultural destination. Over the past few years, I have written how your Palm Harbor Library has mirrored these services, but what drives a library and determines its mission is more than just these four principles.

In light of current difference of opinions about our country and the seemingly lack at times of civil discourse, public libraries are anchors of hope. This is clearly demonstrated in an article by Leonard Kniffel in American Libraries where he reminds us how libraries are good for our country. Here are 10 ways:

1. Libraries sustain democracy.

Libraries provide access to information and multiple points of view so that people can make knowledgeable decisions on public policy throughout their lives. With their collections, programs, and professional expertise, librarians help their patrons identify accurate and authoritative data and use information resources wisely to stay informed. The public library is the only institution in American society whose purpose is to guard against the tyrannies of ignorance and conformity.

2. Libraries break down boundaries.

Libraries of various kinds offer services and programs for people at all literacy levels, readers with little or no English skills, preschoolers, students, homebound senior citizens, prisoners, homeless or impoverished individuals, and persons with physical or learning disabilities. Libraries rid us of fences that obstruct our vision and our ability to communicate and to educate ourselves.

3. Libraries level the playing field.

By making access to information resources and technology available to all, regardless of income, class, or background, a public library levels the playing field and helps close the gap between the rich and the poor. Libraries unite people and make their resources available to everyone in the community, regardless of social status. There are more public libraries than McDonald's restaurants in the United States.

4. Libraries value the individual.

Libraries offer choices between mainstream and alternative viewpoints, between traditional and visionary concepts, and between monocultural and multicultural perspectives. Library doors swing open for independent thinking without prejudice. Library collections and services offer the historical global, cultural, and political perspective that is necessary to foster a spirit of exploration that challenges orthodoxy and conformity.

5. Libraries nourish creativity.

By providing an atmosphere that stimulates curiosity, libraries create opportunities for unstructured learning and serendipitous discovery. As repositories not only of books, but of images and a wide variety of media, libraries offer access to the accumulated record of mankind with assistance from professional staff delivering these resources through the physical library, the web, and outreach services.

6. Libraries open young minds.

Children's and young adult librarians offer story hours, book talks, summer reading activities, career planning, art projects, gaming competitions, and other programs to spark youthful imaginations. Bringing children into a library can transport them from the commonplace to the extraordinary. From story hours for preschoolers to career planning for high schoolers, children's librarians make a difference because they care about the unique developmental needs of every individual who comes to them for help.

7. Libraries build communities.

People gather at the library to find and share information, experience and experiment with the arts and media, and engage in community discussions and games. No narrow definition will work for libraries. There is the community of scholars, the deaf community, the gay community, the gaming community, and countless others, each with its libraries and specialized collections. Libraries validate and unify; they save lives, literally and by preserving the record of those lives.

8. Libraries support families.

Libraries offer an alternate venue for parents and their children to enhance activities traditionally conducted at home by providing homework centers, parenting collections, after-school programs, outreach, one-on-one reading, and early literacy programs. Like the families they serve, libraries everywhere are adapting to meet the economic and social challenges of the 21st century. In libraries, families find professionals dedicated to keeping their services family-friendly by offering a diverse selection of materials to which people of many backgrounds can relate.

9. Libraries build technology skills.

Library services and programs foster critical-thinking skills and information literacy. Nearly 100% of American libraries offer internet access and assistance with problem-solving aptitude, scientific inquiry, cross-disciplinary thinking, media literacy, productivity and leadership skills, civic engagement, global awareness, and health and environmental awareness. Library patrons search for jobs online, polish résumés with word processing software, fill out applications, research new professions, sign up for career workshops, and look for financial assistance. Public libraries serve as technology hubs by offering a wide range of public access computing and internet access services at no charge to users.

10. Libraries offer sanctuary.

By providing an atmosphere conducive to reflection, libraries induce a feeling of serenity and transcendence that opens the mind to new ideas and interpretations. In the library we are answerable to no one. We can be alone with our private thoughts, fantasies, hopes, and dreams, and we are free to nourish what is most precious to us with the silent companionship of

others who share our quest. Libraries are places where computers and databases provide superior access to information and they offer an atmosphere of light and texture that beautiful architecture and design foster.

This is what your library does. This is our mission.

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Ideas - Do you have an idea for a presentation? Do you have recommendations for meeting venues? Do you know someone who would be perfect to speak at a meeting? Would you like to volunteer your services? If so, please contact the Editor or one of the Officers, or send an email message to: suninfospec@gmail.com

Employment Opportunities - Please post *employment opportunities* to the SIS-L elist by sending an email to sis-l@mailman.it.usf.edu. The list reaches 270+ subscribers in the Tampa Bay area. See <http://www.suninfospec.org/list> for additional information about subscribing or posting to the list.

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Questions about SIS? Feel free to contact any one of the SIS Officers listed to the left of this page!