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Upstate New York Science Librarians Meeting

October 15, 2004

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Program and Other Documents From the Meeting

Includes:

Presenter Biographies
List of Attendees

This page created for the Upstate New York Science Librarians Website.
It is not an original document from the meeting.

Presenters Bios

Suzanne Bell (University of Rochester)

Suzanne Bell has worn various reference librarian and instructor hats since 1989, and currently is the Economics and Data Librarian in the Management Library at the University of Rochester. In August 2003, she added a hat called "Dspace Projects Coordinator" to her other duties, and has been working hard ever since trying to come up with "Dspace projects" to "coordinate".

Blythe Bennett (AskNSDL Coordinator at Syracuse University)

Blythe Bennett is the Virtual Reference Desk Coordinator and AskNSDL Coordinator, and works at the Information Institute of Syracuse at Syracuse University. She has been working with Web based digital reference services for K-12 students since 1995. She selects Web sites for the PBS TeacherSource with annotated Internet resources for libraries and schools. Blythe has also been a high school Spanish teacher, sixth grade teacher and elementary school librarian.

Susan Berteaux (Syracuse University)

Prior to 2003, Susan was the Associate Director at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California- a job that took her away from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Research Library. She convened the 2001 annual marine science librarians' conference in Brest, France and served as President of IAMSLIC in 2001-2002. After 18 years as a front-line, marine science librarian, Susan's career moved into science library administration. She now works with faculty to understand and participate in open access publishing, instructional repositories and scholarly communication through library dialogues and seminars.

Susan Cardinal (University of Rochester)

Sue Cardinal is the Chemistry Librarian at the Carlson Science & Engineering Library at the University of Rochester. She has a BS in chemistry from the University of Iowa and worked for Galson Remediation Corporation in East Syracuse, before she transitioned into the library world. She has worked at the SUNY Health Science Center Library, a law firm library, and at the Barclay Law Library at Syracuse University from late 1996 to March 2000. In December 1999, Sue received an MLS degree from Syracuse University's School of Information Studies. As part of her degree requirements she interned at the Moon Library.

Thomas Keays (Syracuse University)

For the past 23 years, Tom Keays has been the Chemistry Librarian at Syracuse University. Prior to that, while working on his MLS at Indiana University, he was a programmer and database specialist for the Chemical Information Center, a subscription-based SDI service that was connected to IU's Chemistry Library. His involvement with collection management statistics has been largely through his role as a subject specialist, but he hopes to also share some part of his experience in working with usage statistics that are newly available through SU Library's recently implemented SFX OpenURL link resolver.

Alesia McManus (Binghamton University)

Alesia McManus joined Binghamton University Libraries as Associate Librarian and Head of the Science Library in March 2004. Prior to that, she served as Team Leader, Science & Technology Team, University of Maryland Libraries, and as Science Reference Librarian, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. She received her M.L.S. from UCLA in 1991.

Carol Minton Morris (Cornell University)

Carol Minton Morris is Communications Director for the National Science Digital Library (NSDL) and a Research Associate at Cornell Information Science with interests in informal social and emotional dimensions of information technology development. As Communications Director for NSDL she participates with NSDL's Core Integration leadership team in strategic planning and development for NSDL External Relations: Outreach and Communications, Corporate and Foundation Development, and Legislative initiatives in collaboration with the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research and Columbia University. Carol holds a BS from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Before joining Cornell Information Science in 2000, she held industry publishing positions in art direction, editing, web development, and publishing for *American Demographics*, *Cornell Magazine*, and *Cornell Engineering Magazine*.

Jean Poland (Cornell University)

Jean Poland is Associate University Librarian for Engineering, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Before joining Cornell in 1999, she held science and engineering library positions at the University of Oklahoma, Purdue University, and Indiana University. In 1995, she was awarded a USIA/ALA Fellowship to Thailand. Jean is actively involved in digitization and archiving projects in the sciences. She serves on the Steering Committees of both the Electronic Mathematics Archive Initiative (EMANI) and the World Digital Mathematics Library. At Cornell University Library she is directly responsible for ongoing development and integration of the arXiv e-print server into the Library's digital services. She has a keen interest in the development of new library service models in science and technology.

Nancy Schiller (University at Buffalo)

Nancy Schiller has been the Engineering Librarian in the Science & Engineering Library at the University of Buffalo since 1989 and Co-Director of the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science since 1999. She has a BA in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MA in Library Science from Columbia University. Her research has focused on the impact of electronic networked information technologies on the mission of the academic research library and the role of the academic librarian. Most recently, she has been involved in exploring ways to incorporate case method teaching into undergraduate with funding from the National Science Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

A. Ben Wagner (University at Buffalo)

A. Ben Wagner joined the faculty of the Science and Engineering Library of the State University of New York at Buffalo as Sciences Librarian in June 2001. He is the subject specialist in chemistry and physics. Prior to that, Ben had a 26 year career at the Technical Information Center of Occidental Chemical's Technology Department on Grand Island, NY, eventually serving as Team Leader/Director of the Library. Ben is currently treasurer of the Upstate New York SLA chapter and secretary of the SLA Chemistry Division.

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Serving the Non-user: Cornell's Research Connection

Zsuzsa Koltay, Cornell University Library

Cornell University Library's Research Connection seeks to serve the non-users by being located where the researchers are and by making a strong marketing case for the difference librarians can make in people's lives.

Cornell University's College of Engineering has officially dedicated its newest building, Duffield Hall, in October 2004. This state of the art facility has a primary focus on research in the field of nanotechnology, although it also houses graduate student offices and some teaching labs. The building's atriums also serve as a community space for the College as well as a sheltered passageway between two other buildings of the Engineering Quad.

Cornell University Library has established a presence in the Duffield atrium to promote the services of the library and to encourage contact with that segment of the college that does not regularly come to the library. Reference specialists provide services in one of the atrium's study alcoves based on a regular schedule several times a week. They rely on a laptop, a portable printer and some printed handouts. They carry a cell phone to keep in touch with their home base in another building of the Engineering Quad. The Research Connection is being promoted with a 7' tall triangular sign that is always on site and gets lit up when a librarian is on duty as well as with a bookmark that also serves as a business card with easily identifiable contact information. Free imprinted mechanical pencils and candy are also used to raise awareness of the service.

The main message that the Research Connection aims to convey is that librarians can save time primarily by making sure that a specific research project takes full advantage of learning from previous efforts. The other message is that the right information can be challenging to find and often cannot be identified through popular search engines so the librarians' expertise can save time. These messages are being introduced through a couple of provocative quotes as well as ALA's masterful slogan: "Librarians * the ultimate search engine."

Staffing this service takes a new, proactive attitude from the reference specialists. To prepare for this role we have worked with a training expert. Having everyone prepare their own "elevator talk" combined with role plays served as a non-threatening way to practice new skills. Also, working on the details of the service together had benefits for the staff. For example, drafting the invitation for the opening celebration provided an unexpected yet useful way to think through the service from the users' point of view.

The assessment of the outcomes is going to take multiple approaches. The success will be measured in increments through an increasing level of confidence in the staff about a proactive service model as well as increased contact with users in a non-library setting.