

Different by Design – The First Annual Georgia Libraries Conference, October 4-7, 2017

A Conference Report submitted by Guy Frost

On Wednesday, October 4, I co-presented with Catherine Bowers on “Other Duties as Assigned” in relation to the Promotion and Tenure process. Catherine and I had developed a survey focusing primarily on the teaching aspect of our job duties. The survey results were very enlightening and we plan to revisit this after the semester (we are both currently teaching for-credit courses). This was also my first experience with a half-session, which I can say without hesitation “I do not like them at all”. We had approximately 20 minutes to “rush” through our slides and still leave time for questions, of which there were several. In addition, we had to listen to the first half of the session on a topic that otherwise we would have skipped. Regardless, it was a good crowd on a popular topic.

Thursday, October 5, 2017, 8:45-9:45. Welcome and Keynote by R. David Lankes: A New Librarianship.

The keynote speaker presented on an insightful topic concerning the library’s and librarian’s impact on user populations, both academic and community. Measuring the impact librarians have is important, especially as we are reviewed in the Promotion and Tenure process on “making a difference” and proving your impact on the profession. Lankes presentation was broad in scope but relevant to everyone.

Thursday, October 5, 2017, 11:00-11:45. Faculty Status of Librarians in Georgia: A Snapshot.

This session was presented by three librarians at Kennesaw State University, Sandra Barclay, Hyun Chu Kim, and Emily Williams and scheduled at the same time as Emily Rogers’ panel. This presentation was an excellent complement to the presentation Catherine and I did. The primary focus, as their title suggests, is on Faculty Status of all 28 USG institutions. Of note were: perceptions of others (outside the library) on librarians with faculty status; percentages of faculty status in the USG; tenure track in the USG; academic rank (or lack thereof); disadvantages and advantages. After the presentation, several people continued discussing P&T for approximately 30 minutes. Thai lunch with Kennesaw librarians and Emily Rogers with minimal P&T conversation.

Thursday, October 5, 2017, 1:30-2:15. Technical Services Interest Group Business Meeting.

Although this group represents all areas and all types of institutions, the content of this meeting was USG Alma dominated. Of particular note: more training; development of policies across Alma areas (e.g., Cataloging and Acquisitions); indexing and display of content in Primo. A more detailed description of this meeting can be read in the October 12, 2017 GIL Cataloging Committee meeting minutes found on the USG Alma Training Wiki (or a direct link to the minutes):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0BzbLCmZK-afafmt5ODFfM1AzSEEyTExFWwNXVjdPdy1rdWtJWnZxXzVlaEw4aVVaUEIPU1U>

Thursday, October 5, 2017, 3:15-4:00. Cataloging Graphic Novels: Some Best Practices.

Linh Uong, from GPLS, provided an update on a survey she performed a few years ago. She covered the various practices for dealing with Graphic Novels of academic and public libraries in Georgia and the U.S. Linh has been working on updating PINES procedures for some time now and it was good to see results of her work (and photographs of our stacks with graphic novels in her presentation).

Thursday, October 5, 2017, 4:15-5:00. Come on Down: The Water is Fine—Teaching Library Skills in Belize.

This presentation, by Deborah Davis, was aimed at recruiting participants in COBEC activities. COBEC is a significant program for the country for Belize. When Belize achieved independence from the United Kingdom, they looked to the U.S. for skill development of their people in all areas (Education, Medicine, Agriculture, etc.). U.S. and Belizean constituents met at Murray State College to discuss possible mechanisms for achieving this. The U.S. representatives agreed to help and COBEC was formalized shortly after as a collaborative effort among individuals from both countries. Library development is one of those areas explicitly stated in COBEC's charge. Valdosta is fortunate in having a predominant leadership role in helping them achieve their library goals. There was a decent crowd of very enthusiastic individuals that expressed interest in working with Deborah.

Friday, October 6, 2017. A Morning of Networking before the Raffle

Programs for cataloging in general were sparse at the first GLC mainly due to Alma consuming everyone's time. Friday morning I met with Carol Stanley, Director of Library Services at Athens Technical College and we discussed their status of migration to Alma. All of the Technical Colleges in Georgia are beginning the migration process. Originally, they were going to have help from GALILEO and GIL Support but that offer has now been rescinded. It was GALILEO/GIL support that encouraged them to move forward with the migration. All help will now come solely from Ex Libris. Obviously tech schools are not happy about that. They will not have a Union Catalog (Network Zone) like the USG which is fortunate as they will not face some of the issues the USG is still trying to riddle out.

I reconnected with Chris Backer, former VSU MLIS student, Acquisitions staff, and cataloging intern under me in 2008. His first job was at the Gwinnett County Public Library, but is now working for Intellum. This is a company that creates "large external catalogs for companies like Facebook, Google, and Snap. ... curat[ing a] catalog of quality learning resources that exists on the Internet." You can "add resources, share content, and create instructional paths" developing a learning resource of user populations. Content includes resources on reference interviews, customer service, and eLearning trends. For more information on Intellum see their website: thepubliccatalog.com (note: it will request your gmail account to log in).

Since 2000?, the area where the Convention Center is located has had a revitalization and repurposing of buildings. Involved with this project has been Columbus State, which has moved many of their Departments to these renovated buildings. One of these is The Schwob School of Music and CSU Music Library, which now conveniently resides across the street from the Convention Center. I was given a personal tour by Judy Moore and Linda Jones (retired). The Library has been in this location since 2001 and is the only branch of the main library. The library includes scores, sound recordings, books, various labs including a piano lab, and numerous listening stations similar to what we had in FAMC when it was still in the Fine Arts building.