



ALA 2016 Midwinter Meeting Ignite Sessions

Saturday Ignite Session

Saturday, January 9 • 11:30 am – 12:00 pm • BCEC-206AB

Milk and Cookies with Strangers, and other ideas from Burning Man

Burning Man has 10 Principles that could also describe libraries: Radical Inclusion, Gifting, Decommodification, Radical Self-reliance, Radical Self Expression, Communal Effort, Civic Responsibility, Leaving No Trace, Participation, and Immediacy. What can libraries learn from "The Burn?" I'll share examples of library-ish Burner culture and suggest ways that we can embody the Burner ethos closer to home.

Using Small Grants to Promote Academic Libraries and Engage Student Learners

In this session we will detail examples of the wide variety of programming activities academic librarians can engage in through the writing of small grants. Using their own experiences, the presenters will show slides and explain how they were able to increase faculty and student interest in the library through unique educational programming. The presenters combined have written over 30 successful small grants in the past seven years, and hosted programs that have included lectures by Holocaust survivors, book authors, and an expert on Black Cowboys in the American West. They have also hosted French and Spanish film festivals using grant funds, organized workshops for teachers, and supported a youth literacy program in the local community. They have also hosted large initiatives, such as the ALA's Muslim Journeys and Latino Americans: 500 Years of History programs. All of these activities have combined to not only increase the stature of the library in the eyes of those connected with the University, but also within the various communities the university serves.

Community Engagement Through Oral History

The New York Public Library's Community Oral History Project is engaging patrons through the celebration and preservation of community history! Since November 2013, NYPL branch libraries have motivated and trained hundreds of volunteer interviewers to collect over 700 stories from patrons in six different communities. How can an oral history project bring in new patrons and inspire innovative adult programming? Learn more about how you can use oral history as an effective community organizing tool at your library!

A Place to Nap: The ZieSta Room in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library

Resulting from an undergraduate student's proposal, the Z. Smith Reynolds Library has opened a space for students to rest and refresh between classes. As new undergraduate housing built on Wake Forest's campus has expanded on the north end, far from where the majority of undergraduate classrooms are located, students were unable to get all the way back to their assigned housing in between classes to take a quick nap or rest, and sought a space in the library that could be dedicated to this need. Library leadership carefully considered the costs in both finances and space, and balanced them against the benefits in well-being to our students. Dubbed the ZieSta Room (highlighting the Z. S. and R. that are the initials of the library) the space contains reclining chairs, dimmed lighting, and lockers with usb ports installed where students can secure their belongings, and recharge their devices, while they also recharge. The room was an instant and surprising success with the students, and had stories published in both the Winston-Salem Journal (the local newspaper) and on Inside HigherEd. . The story was then picked up by USA Today, and the Huffington Post and other news outlets.



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Learners as Leaders: Student-directed STEM Programs in the School Library

Are you willing to let students lead their own learning in the library? Student-driven classes in the school library can provide a rich atmosphere of STEM exploration, build trust and cooperation between students and librarians, and let students gain real world experience in developing and sharing their knowledge. Even if you are a STEM novice, students can create hands-on learning experiences that will teach both you and them about the world of technology. The boundaries of learning are wide open when student enthusiasm and curiosity lead the way.

Afterschool Gaming : Minecraft and Mario

Gaming is coming of age, and the library world would do well to treat it like books, music, movies and TV as a media that people can't get enough of. Our library saw an opportunity to join in on this exciting new frontier and have reaped the rewards with a revitalized Teen Zone, new technology, and a waiting list in the dozens for our Minecraft Club.

In five minutes you'll see how a library on the rise has included gaming as a pillar of it's new image as the place to be on Cape Ann.

Sunday Ignite Session

Sunday, January 10 • 11:30 am – 12:00 pm • BCEC-206AB

No reference desk? No problem!

Ignite session on the realities of serving the patron in a public library setting working side by side rather than with a desk/barrier between librarian and patron. The presentation is meant to give confidence to the librarian to be "deskless and screenless" while actually serving the patron in a more fulsome way.

Wearable Tech- the Next Big Thing, or the 'Next Big Thing'?

I wrote a book about Wearable Technology in libraries... then I actually started thinking about the topic. Is Wearable Tech another library fad, like QR Codes, Library 2.0, or Second Life, or do we ignore it at our own peril, like we did with mobile computing until it was too late and we were all scrambling to play catch up (and continue to do so today)? I seriously doubt I can answer this question in less than five minutes, but I'll sure as heck try!

Digital Humanities Uncentered: Engaging with Scholarship Across Your Campus

What is Digital Humanities? (Or, what are the Digital Humanities?) Why do you need to know? Far from being the latest buzzword in higher education, Digital Humanities (DH) is a decades-old interdisciplinary field of practice that connects technologies (like computers, applications, and networks) to cultural objects (like novels, films, and art). If you're a librarian, why should you care? Every academic library may not need a digital humanities center, but every academic library needs to engage with digital scholarship -- and there are some easy ways to build upon existing relationships that your library already has with colleagues across campus and throughout the global scholarly community. This Ignite session will show you how to utilize your campus networks and partnerships in order to support and foster scholars, researchers, and students who pursue interdisciplinary projects involving arts, humanities, computation, and technology.



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Digital preservation is important, so why aren't more people/institutions doing it?

The answer is; because it's complicated.

In this presentation I will talk briefly about why digital preservation is important, the barriers to implementation, and some tasks and resources that will get you started.

Digital preservation is important because the cultural heritage being created today is "born digital" while yesterday's cultural heritage is being converted in enormous quantities to digital formats. If individuals and institutions don't preserve these materials, there will be a large gap in the cultural record that cannot be closed.

Digital preservation must be actively pursued. Benign neglect does not work for digital objects because they are stored on volatile and decaying media and require vanishing equipment and computing platforms for access and use. Without intervention, digital material will become inaccessible and unusable.

Digital preservation is time consuming, expensive and ongoing. Advocacy and outreach to institutional stakeholders is required to raise organizational awareness and procure support and funds. Cultural heritage institutions must gain an understanding of digital materials and what is needed to make them available long term. Money must be allocated to acquire the resources necessary to carry out digital preservation and time must be dedicated to permit staff to make use of these resources.

Implementing digital preservation can be done incrementally. A good place to start is to research best practices and consult guides like the NDSA's Levels of Digital Preservation. This research will help you identify the most important digital preservation tasks and how best to perform them. Specific tasks that can be incorporated into processing workflows to improve digital preservation include better file naming and organization, selecting preservation friendly file formats, maintaining multiple copies of files, generating checksums and recording metadata. Don't delay until everything is planned and all resources are in place, because that perfect storm is not likely to occur.

After five minutes and twenty slides, I hope everyone will understand the need for digital preservation and feel they can begin the process of preserving their digital materials without becoming completely overwhelmed.

Cycling for Libraries: Turning Wheels at the Push of a Pedal

In September, 90 librarians and library lovers cycled 445 miles from Norway to Sweden to Denmark advocating for libraries, visiting innovative libraries and making lasting professional and personal connections. Cycling for Libraries is an annual international un-conference organized by the International Association for Library Advocacy to increase awareness of the valuable services and resources that libraries offer to the community as well as share ideas across borders. Come hear about the advantages of such an unusual un-conference and learn how you could participate in next year's international tour or organize a local one of your own.

Five Research-Based Tips for Fine-Tuning the LibGuides User Experience

LibGuides 2 offers greater design flexibility than the previous version, with extensive layout and customization options. This session will present results of a series of usability tests that compared the available options for three key aspects of a guide's user interface: number of columns, navigation menu position, and level of integration with the library website. I will focus on providing attendees with the top five takeaways from our research that can easily be applied to their own LibGuides.



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Monday Ignite Session

Monday, January 11 • 11:30 am – 12:00 pm • BCEC-206AB

Challenges Facing New Directors

More and more 20- and 30-somethings are becoming library directors. These new library directors face challenges - budgets, buildings, boards, staff - that all directors face, but without the decades of experience of older library directors. This Ignite Session discusses the rise of younger library administrators and the challenges they face through the specific experiences of presenter Alex Lent, whose brand new library sprung a 30-foot leak 90 minutes into his first day. This talk ends with a call for new library directors to sign up for a listserv in order to share experiences, discuss challenges and successes, and keep in contact with each other after ALA Midwinter finishes.

Privacy & Security: The Missing Pieces Of Information Literacy

While Information Literacy has traditionally been focused on tools and skill for, finding, and using information, little attention has been paid to teaching security and privacy fundamentals. Ensuring students have the skills and knowledge to identify, locate, evaluate, organize and effectively use information in a Safe, Secure, and Private way should be a key component to all programs. I will discuss how Privacy and Security fit in perfectly with all Information Literacy programs.

Tools for libraries to make the web more usable

Millions of web users have conditions that limit their ability to read, use and enjoy the web. Websites and web browsers are not optimized for people with low vision, limited dexterity, learning disabilities, or low literacy. Assistive technology and computer accessibility tools can help, but are used by only fraction of those who could benefit. New technology is helping libraries change this paradigm. With tools built into their websites and installed onto shared computer kiosks, libraries can now improve web usability for all.

Flexible, Affordable, Easy, Secure: An Open Source Solution for Patron Computing

The thing about desktop computers is that they take up a desk whether or not they are in use. To make the most of limited space, the Millis Public Library recently purchased 10 laptops for patrons to use anywhere in the building. In addition to making patron computing more flexible, the fleet of laptops also made possible new services: computer classes, hands-on demonstrations of library e-resources, an after school Code Camp, and Minecraft parties. In order to protect patron privacy and to make the most of a limited budget, the library used a host of open source technologies. The open source operating system Ubuntu was configured to wipe the laptops' hard drives after every use. Browsers were loaded with HTTPs Everywhere and Privacy Badger, add-ons from the Electronic Frontier Foundation that make browsing the web more secure. LibreOffice, an open source office suite, was specially configured to use Microsoft Office standards, saving the library hundreds of dollars while still meeting patron needs. This talk provides an overview of the process and benefits of Millis' laptop program and a guide for bringing aspects of the program to your own library.



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Send 'Em Home Happy – Intentional, Affirmative Public Service

Transform your patron-staff interactions. Good customer service is about building relationships, not completing transactions. When decision makers are just a few clicks away from articles predicting “the end of libraries,” desk staff has a vital role in making your library invaluable to your community. We may be beyond shushing, but are we connecting? Learn how to collaborate with your desk staff to figure out what procedures or rules are getting in the way, tap what your staff are into to improve programming, and be intentional about promoting collections and services. Learn some simple ways to send everyone home happy.

Give the people what they want! Lessons from website A/B testing

Do people prefer to click on an author's book jacket, or their photo? Do people hate it when a blog title ends mid-sentence with "..."? Find out counterintuitive, funny, and easy ways to improve web user experience and engagement, gleaned from Google Analytics.