Librarians Publish Book to Offer Advice

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Setting a goal and reaching it is what Bridgette Sanders and Lois Stickell did when the idea of adding a book to their professional development accomplishments crossed their minds. And with the support of ALA Editions, they sought authors to make it happen. Serving as the editors, Sanders and Stickell transformed an idea for their book, Making the Most of Your Library Career, into a reality. Published in January, 2014, the book is now available through the ALA store.

“Since 2008, Sanders and Stickell began brainstorming on book subjects. “During that time, the economy was bad, there weren’t any raises given and we were looking for a way to make a little money. After researching subjects that already existed, we settled on writing about something that would benefit librarians—careers,” says Sanders.

We’re already well on our way to accomplishing what we set out to do in our summer planning.

In a previous job, I worked for a Dean who included this at the end of every list of library goals: “We will also accomplish things this year that we cannot anticipate now, but will dazzle our community.” I love this allowance for what we can’t know about the future, and the confidence that we can produce brilliant things at a moment’s notice. One “dazzling thing” we’ve done this year is our remarkable leadership in promoting “course adoption texts” from our ebook packages. The impetus for this program came from Chuck, but as he has noted, it involved fast, thorough, and creative contributions from so many library staff. This program is producing countable improvements for students and faculty, and just as importantly, it is changing the way our community views our work. None of this happens by accident, it happens only when you’ve got a group of smart, committed people hungry to make a difference in peoples’ lives. It is such a pleasure to work with you all!
CAOS welcomes Jessie Berrios who joined the library staff in January. Jessie is the Administrative Assistant for Communications and Development, and will be working with Sharon Reichard and Donna Mitchell. She is a 2011 graduate of Charleston Southern University where she earned her BA in Business Administration. In her spare time, Jessie volunteers at the Children’s Theatre of Charlotte and Lawyers Glen Assisted Living Center. Her desk is across from Lula’s on the second floor, so stop by and introduce yourself when you can!

Collections and Outreach Services

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Library Administration

Library Administration is busy with reimbursements of travel requests. Several librarians attended ALA Midwinter and requests are being processed at this time.

Information Commons is hiring three faculty positions. Library Administration is working to complete the necessary paper work to get position descriptions and announcements out.

The unit is coordinating with Dan Fansler of Technology and Digital Scholarship to purchase public computers and laptop check-outs to replace ancient machines. Staff is also working with Mark Reynolds of Facilities to order more furniture for the ground floor and for the Halton Room.

Technology and Digital Scholarship

Two staff members from the Digital Scholarship Lab are participating this year in the Duraspace E-Science Institute. Reese Manceaux, Data Services Librarian, and Heather McCullough, Head of the Digital Scholarship Lab, along with Dr. Jean-Claude Thill, Professor of Geography and Earth Sciences and Director of Project Mosaic, are participating in this intensive program.

The E-Science Institute is designed to help academic and research libraries develop a strategic agenda for e-research support, with a particular focus on the sciences. The Institute consists of a series of interactive modules that take small teams of individuals from academic institutions through a dynamic learning process to strengthen and advance their strategy for supporting computational scientific research. The coursework begins with a series of exercises for teams to complete at their institutions, and culminates with an in-person workshop. Local institution assignments help staff establish a high level understanding of research support background needs and issues.

The team is currently working on conducting and writing an institutional survey for UNC Charlotte as well as conducting interviews with researchers and administrators on campus.

CDER is happy to announce that Liz Siler and Valerie Wigg joined the unit in December 2013.

Liz, the Non-Serials Electronic Resources Librarian received her MLIS from the University of Kentucky. Before coming to Atkins, she was the Electronic Resources Librarian at Florida International University. Along with her library experience, Liz also has a background in marketing and television commercial production. She will be working closely with Sharon to promote CDER’s resources to the campus community.

Valerie, who was in charge of data management in Millennium, came to CDER from Technical Services. She is excellent at analyzing and manipulating data with MS ACCESS/EXCEL and MarcEdit. Valerie played a significant role in the data migration to WMS and with building the library profile in the OCLC knowledge base. CDER absolutely appreciates her data management skills and her detail-oriented work ethic. The unit is excited to welcome her to the department.

Collection Development and Electronic Resources

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IC is in the process of conducting three librarian searches for Engineering, Arts and Architecture and Education. The Engineering Librarian position has been posted on the UNC Charlotte Jobs website as well as the library website. The other two position announcements for Arts and Architecture Librarian and Education Librarian are being reviewed by the search committees at this time.

Michael Winecoff attended ALA Midwinter and chaired the Technical Services Workflow Efficiency Interest Group. He additionally presented on “Using MarcEdit and Excel to Identify Bibliographic Problems with Batchloaded Records.” MARC records provided by our vendors are often batch-loaded into WMS without regard to checking for quality control. These records could have unknown problems that would otherwise go undetected making them inaccessible. This session showed one way to use MarcEdit and Excel to quickly pull out key fields and scan for issues. Thanks to Valerie Wigg in Collection Development & Electronic Resources for developing this process.

The J. Murrey Atkins Library is officially a NACO (Name Authority Cooperative) library, one of only four universities in the state of North Carolina.

SPEC is working with Alumni Affairs in planning the upcoming events celebrating the legacies of UNC Charlotte African American Alumni honoring Dr. Benjamin Chavis.

The unit is working with organizers to bring a portion of the exhibit, “No Roadmap: Integrating the Charlotte Medical Community, 1951-1965,” to campus in late spring. The exhibit opened February 9 at the Levine Museum of the New South.

Author and illustrator Gail Haley visited the Library in January. She spent two days working with her named collection. It was a rare opportunity to review a collection with the donor. During the visit she donated two recent books to the children’s literature collection.

New collections include the records of RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) and the papers of southern historian, Norris Preyer.

The LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) committee visited the Library to review progress on the grant project. They were excited about the digital set up, and most importantly, the program being developed by the team.
I am the Humanities Librarian. I have worked for Atkins since July 1, 2001. I am originally from Mooresville, NC and moved to Charlotte when I was four years old. In my free time I like to read, to bead, and to do genealogy. Many people don’t know that I am a great-great grandniece of Nancy Shelton Norton Franklin, from Shelton Laurel, NC, also known as Granny Nance and was purported to be one of the best spies for the Union army during the Civil War. Three of her sons, who were accused of being Confederate sympathizers, were killed in front of her by Confederate soldiers. Afterwards, she and her daughter went to Knoxville to cook, sew, etc. for the Union. One of my favorite books is Walker Percy’s collection of essays known as “The Message in the Bottle.” The first essay, “The Delta Factor,” is the most poignant contemplation on the human condition I have ever read. When I was younger, I wanted to be a writer—among other things. Three wishes—scale the brick walls in my family history research, write a novel, go to Rome/Vatican and meet Pope Emeritus Benedict.

I am the Data Specialist/Computer Support Analyst. I have worked for Atkins for 19 years and 5 months. I am originally from Abbeville, LA, a small town near Lafayette, LA. In my free time I like to travel, play video games, and practice my piano and all my woodwind instruments. My other “job” is freelance musician/music teacher, which takes up all my free time when I’m busy. Many people don’t know that I’m 100% Cajun. The last movies I saw were Gravity and The Hobbit 2. When I was younger, I wanted to be a full-time musician, then the ‘Apple II’ came out and I was hooked. If I had three wishes, they would be to retire sooner, instantly lose weight and gain muscle without having to diet or exercise, and win the Powerball lottery.

I am the Catalog Maintenance Coordinator. I have worked for Atkins for 17 years. I am originally from North Carolina. In my free time I like to travel, play video games, and practice my piano and all my woodwind instruments. My other “job” is freelance musician/music teacher, which takes up all my free time when I’m busy. Many people don’t know that I’m a huge fan of the Die Hard series; John McClane, aka Bruce Willis, is the best! I’ve watched every movie in the series a hundred times or more. The last movie I saw was A Good Day to Die Hard (2013), starring Bruce Willis. 25 years and he’s still beating bad guys! When I was younger, I wanted to remain young. I was in no hurry to become an adult because I really enjoyed my childhood. If I had three wishes, they would be: 1. A cure for all incurable diseases (cancer, Alzheimer’s etc.). 2. Ability to sing and sound really good like Alicia Keys, Adele, Yolanda Adams or Jennifer Hudson. 3. Win the Mega Millions lottery with my cousin.

I am the Shipping-Receiving Clerk. I have worked for Atkins for 13 years. January was my 20 year mark at UNC Charlotte. I am originally from Harrisburg, NC. In my free time I like to go camping. Many people don’t know that I was an ordained pastor. The last book I read was The Book of Matthew. (I try to read my Bible every day). The last non Biblical book I read was Happy, Happy, Happy by Phil Robertson. When I grow up, I want to be a cowboy. If I had three wishes, they would be, to be a better husband, father, and person, to bring more laughter and encouragement to people, and also to make more money to meet my family’s needs and to be able to help others.
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Government Documents Librarian. “We talked about the fact that library science classes teach you how to find things but not how to deal with new colleagues, new demands, or even the day-to-day realities of working in a library.”

Although Sanders and Stickell found that there were several books on library careers, there were not any books on how to actually manage your career as a librarian. This angle caught the attention of ALA Editions.

According to Sanders, “When we heard that our book proposal was accepted, the editor told us that this was a great idea. He was so excited that we were focusing on something new. Stickell says, “We thought the book was a perfect platform for practicing librarians to write about their experiences—all the way from what library administrators are looking for when considering new hires, to the first impressions a new hire makes the first few days on the job, to what to do if the job doesn’t work out.”

Just as life is all about varying experiences, the library profession is no different. Sanders says everyone doesn’t have an experience where their job was a perfect fit. The chapter on “How to Salvage Your Career When Things Go Wrong,” gives a perspective on how to move on and how to handle problems, situations, and conflicts in the workplace.

“This book will benefit anyone in the profession because the chapters are accounts of real life librarians giving their

“We’d like to think that it can be a useful blueprint for people just entering the profession as well as those in mid-career.” perspectives and their advice on actual situations,” says Sanders.

Although sharing information is what librarians do, Making the Most of Your Library Career takes information sharing to another level. Sanders and Stickell had a purpose for this book—they created a tool to make career decisions easier on their fellow librarians.

“We’d like to think that it can be a useful blueprint for people just entering the profession as well as those in mid-career,” says Stickell. “Much of what is in the book is very practical advice and we think that’s what librarians need. A really great outcome from this book would be to keep people from making mistakes that can cause long-term damage to their careers.”

Having a finished product is just one of the many rewards these librarians have to be proud of. “We learned a lot while working on this book. We dealt with challenges with the editing process itself. We learned that it is very difficult dealing with various writing styles of the authors as well as all the different levels and types of librarians that we used. Pulling everything together in a uniform fashion was a challenge, but we did it,” says Sanders. She says there were times when they wanted to give up, but having the patience, endurance and perseverance to continue to move forward helped them reach their goal of getting this book out to others.

“One of the rewarding parts of this experience was working with eleven librarians in very different jobs and at very different points in their career,” says Stickell. On a personal note, it was an opportunity for me to work with Bridgette on a project that meant a lot to both of us.”