Personnel News
PERSONNEL NEWS:

Georgia

Georgia Southwestern State University

Ru Story Huffman, Dean of Library Servicer at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus Georgia, has received a Textbook Transformation Grant from Affordable Learning Georgia to author a free, open source Information Literacy text. The textbook will go live Spring 2016 and be available as an Open Education Resource.

Kennesaw State University

Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) located in Marietta, Georgia and Kennesaw State University (KSU) located in Kennesaw, Georgia on January 6, 2015 officially consolidated into the new Kennesaw State University. The L. V. Johnson Library is on the Marietta campus and the Horace W. Sturgis Library is on the Kennesaw campus.

Mississippi

Dr. Matthew Griffis, Assistant Professor at SLIS, was awarded a 2015 OCLC/ALISE Library and Information Science Research Grant. Griffis’ project, entitled “The Place of the Librarian in the Deskless Library: Do Roaming Reference Models Create a More User-Centered Library?”, will investigate the spatial relationships between library users and roaming (also known as “roving”) reference librarians in public and academic libraries. An extension of his PhD dissertation, Griffis’ new study explores whether roaming reference service models create a more “user-centered” library than traditional, stationary reference models. Griffis will be visiting libraries this spring and summer to collect data and will be presenting his findings at the ALISE Annual Conference in Boston, MA in January, 2016. Griffis joined the faculty at SLIS as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in August of 2013. His research interests include the library as place, library buildings as social architecture, public libraries as community spaces, the history of public libraries and librarianship, and Carnegie libraries. His teaching interests include library foundations, archives and archival science, library history, research methods, and information technology in libraries.
North Carolina

UNC-Chapel Hill Recent Appointments

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library announces three recent appointments, effective Dec. 1, 2014:

- Mireille Djenno is Librarian for African, African American, and Diaspora Studies at the Stone Center Library.
- Kristan Shawgo is Social Sciences Librarian.
- Therese Triumph is Science Librarian at the Kenan Science Library.

UNC-Chapel Hill SILS Professor Jaime Arguello Receives NSF Award to Study Ways to Make Search Results More Effective and Useful

Knowledge gained from the project will help improve search systems (such as Google or Bing) across different domains and develop tools that will enable other researchers to test their own solutions.

Dr. Jaime Arguello, assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science (SILS), has received a National Science Foundation career award to support his research for the next five years on a project, “Making Aggregated Search Results More Effective and Useful.”

Aggregated search systems, such as Google, combine results from multiple independent systems into a single presentation. For example, in addition to web results, Google sometimes includes results from other back-end systems (called verticals) that focus on a specific type of media, such as images, videos, news articles or online products.

Arguello’s project has three main goals. The first is to further understand how users interact with aggregated search results. For example, the project will investigate how the results from one source (e.g., the images on the results page) influence a user’s interaction with results from a difference source (e.g., the web results).

The second goal of the project is to develop aggregated search solutions that are better informed by “real” user behavior. To this end, the project will develop approaches for automatically deciding which results to display and how to display them to a user in particular context. The third goal is to test the generalizability of the algorithms developed on two additional domains: digital library search and news story aggregation.

“Jaime’s work illustrates a unique strength of information science in that it entails human-centered studies that serve as the basis for algorithm development,” said SILS Dean Gary Marchionini.

BOOK REVIEWS


Orville Vernon Burton and Wilbur Cross's book, “Penn Center: A History Preserved,” brings us an uplifting story of how determined Northern abolitionists and missionaries came South as the Civil War was still raging, and established a school for former slaves on St. Helena island. This was truly a miracle for the little sea island, St. Helena,