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Personnel News

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PERSONNEL NEWS:

Georgia

Georgia Southwestern State University

Ru Story Huffman, Dean of Library Services 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.



New Personnel at KSU L.V. Johnson Library
Ying Chen- Reference/Hive Lab/Embedded Librarian and
Kelly Ansley- Reference / Instruction Librarian



New Personnel at KSU Horace W. Sturgis Library
Starting with the back row: **Christina Holm** - Undergraduate Education & Liaison Coordinator Librarian,

Olga Koz - Graduate Librarian, **Laurie Aycock** - Science Librarian, **Kimberly Mascara** - Library Technical Paraprofessional II, **Khyle Hannan** - Learning Commons Librarian, **Amanda Albert** - Distance Learning Librarian, and **Caralia Gallagher** - Interlibrary Loan & Information Desk Assistant, Library Technical Paraprofessional I

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 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 different 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.

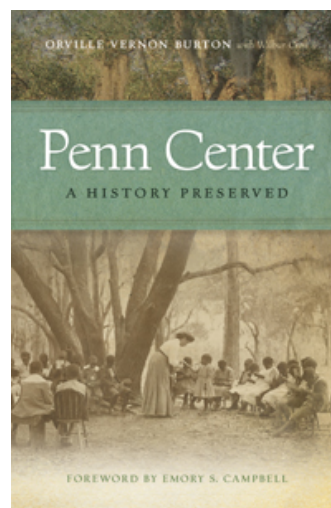


Knowledge gained from the project will improve aggregated search systems across different domains. Additionally, the project will develop software tools and resources that other researchers can use to test their own solutions.

"I am excited to continue working on further understanding how people interact with aggregated search interfaces, and to use that knowledge to develop better solutions that can be applied broadly in any environment where a system has to combine results from different, independent sources," Arguello said. "I'm thankful to have this opportunity and think that SILS is an ideal place to do this kind of research."

BOOK REVIEWS

Penn Center: A History Preserved. Orville Vernon Burton with Wilbur Cross. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0-8203-2602-3. \$24.95



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,