

ACRL 2007 Report  
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Sailing into the Future-Charting our Destiny was the ACRL conference theme for 2007, held in Baltimore. There was a wide variety of programs along the themes of Deep Waters (challenges), Getting Your Sea Legs (early career issues), Hoisting the Sails (leadership), Lifelines (values), Passport to Success (effective practices), Rocking the Boat (innovations), and Squalls (controversies). Detailed information from a handful of the best programs I attended is below.

### **First-Time Attendee Orientation Session**

I am including this session as one of the best I attended, not because I learned a great deal to take back to my library, but because it set the tone of the conference for me. I appreciated having the time and opportunity to meet other librarians right at the beginning of the conference that were new to the ACRL conference too.

### **How Instruction Librarians Can Be Successful and Avoid Burnout, Overload, and Turning into a Zombie (Roundtable discussion)**

*Kari Mofford, Wentworth Institute of Technology*

I attended this roundtable discussion because my current position has had a relatively high turnover rate in the past. Kari Mofford suggested some of the reasons for stress and the group discussed ways to avoid burnout. Some suggestions were to share the teaching load, schedule no more than 2-3 classes a day, try to create variety within the classes by asking lots of questions, and get the teaching professor involved in the session. As a result of this session, I am going to consider ways that the faculty member can get more involved with the instruction, and I am going to ask more questions to students.

### **Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Library? (Contributed paper)**

*Martina Nicholas, Health Sciences/Distance Education Librarian, Slippery Rock University; Catherine Rudowsky, Business/Social Sciences and Electronic Access Librarian, Slippery Rock University; Jesus Valencia, Assistant Professor, Slippery Rock University*

The authors conducted two research projects to determine what effect bibliographic instruction, one-on-one instruction, and online tutorials have in reducing library anxiety. The result from their second study, which was conducted better than the first, was the following, in order of effectiveness: Group instruction, one-on-one instruction, online tutorial, and the control group. The authors thought that one-on-one instruction would have ranked the highest (like it did in their first study) if they had not had so many to do because there was 74 participants. They also noted that the online tutorial was one that their library had created themselves, and was probably not as effective as some other tutorials might have been. It was an interesting presentation, and confirmed what I had originally thought- that instruction that can be provided to students in person is more

effective than instruction using online tutorials. It was also nice to have Jesus Valencia present with them because he was not a librarian, but was able to explain the statistical analysis of the study.

**Balancing Baby and Book: Managing Career and Parenthood Demands  
(Roundtable discussion)**

*Frances Maloy, Emory University; Marta Deyrup, Seton Hall University Libraries; Alice Bahr, Salisbury University*

I attended this roundtable discussion because I have a have baby and am working full-time as a librarian too. It attracted a wide array of people, and we could barely fit around the table. Alice Bahr discussed the results of a survey of female library directors. The discussion also covered family-friendly workplaces as well as specific issues related to balancing family and librarianship like not being able to stay late, and what to do when your child is sick. A petition was passed around in an effort to continue the discussion, except the group thought it was a good idea to broaden it to family and life balance because many people encounter similar issues if they have aging parents, or a family member with a chronic illness.

**Inside the Academic Administrator's Mind: What They Really Think About  
Library Value and Support (Panel Session)**

*Lisa Stillwell, Deputy College Librarian/Information Literacy Librarian, Franklin and Marshall College; Leigh Estabrook, Professor, The Library Research Center/Graduate School of Library; Celia Rabinowitz, Director of the Library, St. Mary's College of Maryland*

The members of a panel session explained the results from interviews with Chief Academic Officers. I gained three insights from the presentation. The first was that libraries should not be afraid to ask for resources. The second was to show how a resource will help address campus needs and not self-serving needs when it is requested. The third was that the library needs to be brought to the CAO as a solution to campus problems.

Even though I learned from the sessions at ACRL, the greatest benefit of the conference was to talk with other librarians. I only ran into one librarian that I knew, so I had the opportunity to meet many more. It was usually during the periods of time between the sessions that those impromptu conversations began. I was able to go to dinner on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday with other librarians. In addition, the reception at the National Aquarium was a nice way to conclude a very busy Saturday. I am grateful for the opportunity that LIBRAS gave to me to attend the conference.