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And They Were There-Reports of Meetings-The LOEX Conference

Sever Bordeianu
University of New Mexico

Julia Gelfand
University of California, Irvine

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And They Were There

Reports of Meetings

Column Editors: **Sever Bordeianu** (U. of New Mexico) <sbordeia@unm.edu>
and **Julia Gelfand** (UC, Irvine) <jgelfand@orion.oac.uci.edu>



ATG encourages reports on meetings. Please contact Sever Bordeianu if you are interested in reporting on a meeting or in suggesting a meeting for review by ATG! — KS

LOEX Conferences 1996

Report by **Linda St. Clair** (U. of Utah)
and
Susan Deese-Roberts (U. of New Mexico)

“Programs that Work” was the theme of the 24th LOEX Conference, May 17-18, 1996 held in Ypsilanti, Michigan. **Betsy Wilson**, Associate Director of Public Services at the University of Washington and recipient of the 1995 ACRL Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian award, was the keynote speaker and offered her perceptions of “What Makes a Good Program.” She believes that instruction librarians need to develop learner-centered programs; create avenues for collaboration across the campus; use technology in the service of teaching and learning; develop a solid framework of institutional support; select enthusiastic people to promote the program and model effective teaching strategies; remember that timing is everything; develop a program fully integrated into the institution; create flexible and agile programs; promote continuous learning for students, faculty and staff; provide a lens that education is one of the library’s most fundamental missions; and continually evaluate and assess programs.

Linnea Dudley reported about the successful PREMIER project (Promoting Research Education in Michigan: In-service Education Resources). Volunteers from Michigan formed a core of library instruction professionals who provide assistance to other Michigan institutions for integrating library instruction into the curriculum, fostering collaboration between librarians and faculty, and offering advice in administering a research program across the curriculum. After the library develops a portfolio, PREMIER consultants identify and invite speakers and facilitators, finalize the agenda, design evaluation, prepare printed materials, and make local arrangements.

Debra Gilchrist-Pierce described her experience in using “The Abilities Model in Library Instruction” at Pierce College. The competencies are used in collaboration with faculty to design the curriculum (how the student will do this in the par-

ticular course), assignments (how will the student demonstrate the ability in the course), and assessment (how to evaluate students, teach students to evaluate themselves, and how to evaluate teaching). The process is used as the basis for educational reform.

A panel entitled “Programs That Work” included presenters **Tom Kirk** of Earlham College, **Carla List** of SUNY-Plattsburg, **Patricia Iannuzzi** of Florida International University, **Corinne Laverty** of Queen’s University, and **Margaret Fain** of Coastal Carolina University. Panelists described what they believe makes their programs successful. As a preconference session, **Deborah Fink** and **Abigail Loomis** presented their popular “Meta-Learning Workshop.” In individual and group activities, participants were asked to observe how they personally learn (what thoughts, questions, process are used), reflect upon and assess the process, and establish a personal system of learning.

Dan Ream of Virginia Commonwealth University spoke on “Glitch Management,” and thirteen breakout sessions were offered on a range of topics. As usual with LOEX conferences, opportunities were built into the conference to get to know colleagues and informally share successes and discuss issues. As in the past, this year’s LOEX proceedings will be published as a part of the *Library Orientation Series* published by Pierian Press.

“Collaboration and Instructional Design in a Virtual Environment” was the theme of the 2nd LOEX of the West Conference, June 20 - 22, 1996 held in Seattle, Washington. **Carla Stoffle**, Dean of Libraries, University of Arizona led a panel-style keynote address, “Campus Partnerships: Collaborating for the 21st Century.” Other panel members were **Karen Williams**, University Library Social Sciences Team Leader; **Karen Smith**, Faculty Associate to the Provost; and **Martha Gilliland**, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, all from the University of Arizona. The panelists provided an overview of the Faculty Development Partnership at the University of Arizona which is a joint program involving the campus computer center, the library, the teaching center, the New Media program within the

fine arts center, and VideoServices. The state legislature appropriated \$940,000 for the Partnership. Of particular interest to conference participants was the role of the library in the Partnership: training for faculty in information literacy, library and Internet resources, and creation of Web pages; consultations to integrate information literacy skills into courses and assignments; and facilities and equipment for developing multi-media and Internet resources.

Sharon Mader, Plough Library, Christian Brothers University conducted a second session for all participants, “Collaborative Leadership for Learning.” Participants assessed their leadership styles, discussed differences between leading and managing, and applied leadership behaviors to collaboration within libraries and between libraries and other organizations. Mader noted that library leaders must provide vision, communication, trust and self-confidence and that more leaders than managers are needed in the virtual environment. The session leader modeled effective instruction strategies as well as providing an inspiring learning experience.

The concurrent sessions of the conference focused on form and structure of library instruction programs in the virtual environment. The use of technology in providing new form to instruction was one of several program themes. As an example of collaboration and form, the University of Washington’s collaborative project, UWired, was highlighted during the conference with tours of library facilities and presentations by UWired librarians. Partners in the UWired project are the University of Washington Libraries, Undergraduate Education, and Computing and Communications. Other themes included distance education, partnerships among campuses, and collaboration between computer centers and libraries.

During 1996, instruction librarians had the opportunity to share with and learn from each other. The next LOEX conference is scheduled for May 8-9, 1997 in Charleston, South Carolina; the theme is “Theory and Practice.” The next LOEX of the West conference is scheduled for June 1998; two western universities have expressed interest in hosting the conference. 🌱