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People Profile: Daniel C. Mack

Editor

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These elements address the external factors that may influence collection development, some directly, others more circumspectly. For example, by inquiring about current trends in curriculum and methodology within a particular discipline, the liaison is able to collect information about such external environmental factors within the discipline at large, such as the internationalization of a subject area, new methodological approaches within the field, and other issues within the discipline on much larger scale than within the home institution. Likewise, by asking about faculty interest in other, related services that the library may provide, the liaison not only gathers useful information for designing and delivering complementary services, but also reminds the faculty that the library operates within vital and dynamic open system of which the collections are one key component. Thus, the environmental input regarding library collections may lead to an output of improvement in not only collections, but other library services as well.

The collection development policy statement offers library liaisons a similar opportunity to create a tool that identifies the library, and its collections and services,



as an open system within the context of both its parent organization and the larger environment. In this case, the collection development policy statement is a tool for disseminating rather than collecting information. As a formal policy, it should be supported by the full weight of the organizations within which it operates, both the library and the university. This therefore makes the collection development policy statement an authoritative instrument to convey the scope and extent of library collections for a specific area. In addition, an official collection development policy statement can serve as a master document for the creation of other, more targeted communications geared toward specific audiences within the system and its environment, such as the faculty within a discipline, the library administration, or the general public.

Table 4 (see page 38) shows the elements that a collection development policy statement should address in order to present an open systems view of the academic library.¹¹

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against the grain people profile

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Daniel C. Mack

BORN & LIVED: Born and raised in Wisconsin. Grew up in Milwaukee, WI.

FAMILY: Second youngest of five brothers. Life partner **Gary White**, been together 22 years. Three cats: Erik the Red, Xander the Great, and Eddie.

EDUCATION: Master of Arts, History, **The University of Akron**, 1997. Major field: ancient history. Minor field: renaissance and reformation studies.

Master's thesis: Priestly Propaganda: Sacerdotalism under Caesar Augustus. Master of Library Science, Kent State University, 1989. Master's paper: Formation of Reference Service Policies in an Academic Library: A Case Study.

Bachelor of Arts summa cum laude, **Youngstown State University**, 1988. Major field: philosophy and religious studies. Minor fields: art history, Latin, history.

FIRST JOB: First library job was circulation attendant at **Maag Library, Youngstown State University**. I had been working as a parking deck attendant during the winter, and I was freezing, so I applied for an indoor job in the library so I could get warm. The librarians talked me into graduate school in library science, and I've been in libraries for over two decades now.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: As a graduate student in library school, I cataloged for a research collection. I've been in academic libraries for most of my career, with a detour into corrections librarianship. Every librarian should work in maximum security for a few years, if only for the assertiveness training. Active in the **American Library Association** and its division the **Reference and User Services Association**, and currently serve as editor of its newsletter *RUSA Update*.

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Read, listen to music, and cook. I collect incense burners and martini shakers.

FAVORITE BOOKS: **Ursula LeGuin**, *The Left Hand of Darkness*. **William S. Burroughs**, *The Place of Dead Roads*. **Philip Pullman**, *His Dark Materials Trilogy*. Anything by **J.R.R. Tolkien**, **H.P. Lovecraft**, **Virgil**, **Horace**, or **Ovid**.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: Chronic tardiness. Everyone is late sometimes, and sometimes you can't help it. However, when someone is late all of the time, it shows both an inability to manage time and a lack of respect for colleagues. Being constantly late to meetings doesn't make you look busy, it makes you look sloppy.

PHILOSOPHY: Service, service, service. Mission, goals, policies, procedures, planning, budgeting, and training should all be focused on service. You can have the most comprehensive collections in the world, the best bleeding-edge technology, and the finest new facilities, but if you don't have people and programs to provide services, what's the point?

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Being awarded sabbatical leave for six months in 2008, during which I will conduct bibliographic, philological, and archaeological research in Rome as groundwork for a digital reference work on the early Roman Empire.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Final digital publication of my online reference work on the early Roman Empire (see previous question).

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I see the industry continue to create models for scholarly communication. This will require innovation in all steps of the process, including peer review, publication, distribution, and access. I predict new and closer collaborations between universities, scholarly and professional societies, publishers, and vendors. These stakeholders will begin to develop a clearer vision of how research, publishing, copyright, licensing, and access work together in the post-information age. 🐼

