

The Basement Blotter



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american library association — student chapter

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LIS adapts in flood aftermath

By Christian De Lay
ALA-SC Webmaster

Now that the ground floor of Hamilton library is clean and media attention has waned, what are the challenges the LIS program faces in the aftermath of the October flood?

Dr. Andrew Wertheimer, excited at the opportunity to teach this term's Informa-

tion Sources & Systems in Social Sciences course, had "some very different ideas for internships, but had to cancel them under the present circumstances." His ability to gather teaching material from Hamilton, coupled with the substantial loss of his personal research material, has complicated many aspects of the course. On a personal level,

he feels "especially troubled by not being able to browse new journals — that was a big part of my weekly routine before the flood and was part of what kept me alive as an intellectual."

For the Introduction to Reference & Information Services course, Dr. Diane Nahl has had to make arrangements with Windward Community Col-

lege, Kapi'olani Community College, Chaminade University and UH Hilo libraries to allow new students to complete their reference interaction observation reports. Thankfully, the Hawai'i library community continues to provide support. Because the Hamilton reference collection is unavailable,

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Do a little (bon) dance

Blotter Co-Editor Wendy Ikemoto does the electric slide, bon dance style, at the Cherry Blossom Festival Heritage Fair March 5. Ikemoto was a contestant in the 53rd Cherry Blossom Festival.

photo by
LORI ANIN SAEKI



national news

Sex, language top banned list

Blotter Staff

For the first time in five years, Harry Potter was not one of the patrons most often asked to leave the library.

That nod went to Robert Cormier's "The Chocolate War," the most challenged book in 2004 according to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom. Cormier's book drew complaints for its sexual content, offensive language, religious viewpoint and violence.

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom received 547 challenges in 2004, but that number only reflects formal requests for removal of books filed with a library or school board. The OIF estimates that for each complaint reported, four or five go unreported.

"Not every book is right for every person, but providing a wide range of reading choices is vital for learning, exploration and imagination," said ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano

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For some, school is a real commute

By Jody Brown
Blotter Staff Writer

Many of us complain about our daily traffic-packed drives, long bus rides or tiring walks to school. But imagine being one of the students in the LIS program who travel to O'ahu every week from an outer island. Their stories are of literally "going the extra mile."

My Story

As I'm whizzing down the side of Haleakala Mountain, I

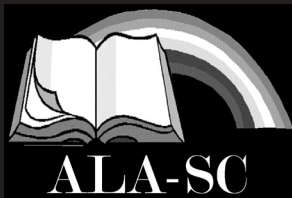
wonder why I do this. Why do I leave my wonderful family for three days a week? Why do I, at 38 years old, stay in dorms and use coed bathrooms? Aren't I getting a little too old for this? Why didn't I choose an online master's degree? I think back to this morning ...

It's Wednesday, 6:20 a.m. I'm at home on Maui, strategically strapping my suitcase onto the back of my bike. I'm ready to go, but I have to wait a few more minutes until it's light enough for me to leave.

I take advantage of this short time to go back in the house, kiss my husband, my daughter and my dog.

About a quarter-mile from home, I lift my suitcase-laden bike over a barrier so I can travel along a sugar-cane road to the highway. This saves me a couple miles and a really steep hill. Still, it's dirty and bumpy. Once I get to the highway, it's smooth sailing down a 9.2-mile, 1,200-foot drop in elevation. It's

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**american
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association**

university of
hawai'i at manoa
student chapter

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from your ala-sc officers



The library as a 'third place'

*As they race to keep up with the Internet,
are libraries making themselves obsolete?*

No one will disagree that the public library has an important role in the community. These days, one way we reach out to the community is to adapt to the ways users access information; that is, we make our libraries, their databases and holdings, available online. Because of the attention on this front, I can't help but wonder if the physical locations are being ignored. If they are, it is a grave mistake.

Ray Oldenburg, in his book, "The Great Good Place," writes about the importance for many individuals to have a community place to go to. After the home and workplace, these "third places" are spaces where an individual goes to on a regular basis for socialization and to receive intellectual stimulation. Oldenburg names cafés, coffee shops, bookstores and barbershops as such places. But rarely does he mention the public library as such a place. Why not? I assumed that the neighborhood library would be ideal as a third place: It has reading materials for just about every kind of reader, most offer free Internet usage and it has meeting spaces for groups. In so many ways, it is the community center of a neighborhood. But in other ways, it is not. I must admit that my own third place is not a local library, but a coffee shop where the cups are not always clean, but my needs are all met: coffee, good company and connection to the Internet.

Obviously, I'm not suggesting that all libraries should serve coffee and play acid jazz. But they can start with creating a more welcoming atmosphere with brighter lighting and longer hours. Free wireless is nice too, which I know some libraries in other states are experimenting with. I've even heard of libraries offering video game play to provide teenagers a positive environment. Budget limitations are a big concern. But politicians, librarians, teachers, local businesses and other community advocates need to recognize the importance of having a space where individuals can exchange and share with other individuals, or at the least, a place where a person can go and sit with themselves. They should support this need.

Libraries are not merely containers for information. As important as it is for public libraries to continue advancements in the electronic environment, we mustn't forget basic human elements. Like a *place* to go to. If we don't pay attention, municipal, state and national leaders will find libraries obsolete, cut budgets and we'll start to lose libraries. Salinas, Calif., and Buffalo, N.Y., are facing this today. It's heartbreaking to think of communities losing their libraries, the ultimate third place.

Mona Kwon
ALA-SC Secretary

Ten most challenged books of 2004

1. "The Chocolate War," Robert Cormier
2. "Fallen Angels," Walter Dean Myers
3. "Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture," Michael A. Bellesiles
4. Captain Underpants series, Dav Pilkey
5. "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," Stephen Chbosky
6. "What My Mother Doesn't Know," Sonya Sones
7. "In the Night Kitchen," Maurice Sendak
8. "King & King," Linda de Haan and Stern Nijland
9. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," Maya Angelou
10. "Of Mice and Men," John Steinbeck

national news

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in a press release. "The abilities to read, speak, think and express ourselves freely are core American values."

Sexual content and offensive language are the reasons most commonly cited on requests for removal. Three of the books on ALA's 2004 top 10 list were challenged for containing gay and lesbian themes, the most in a decade.

challenges

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Kathy Chee, Hawai'i Pacific University librarian, donated recent editions of frequently consulted reference sources for LIS 601 students to use. Nahl added that she is grateful for the Hamilton librarians' support, providing a special carrel in Phase III for some course materials which can no longer be browsed.

Due to the loss of the LIS computer labs, interisland commuter student Jody Brown decided to purchase a laptop computer for use when on O'ahu. "It's not a stretch to say that the flood cost me \$1,000," she said.

Christian De Lay snaps photos of a coral reef exhibit while Lillian Nicolich tunes into the self audio tour during the ALA-SC's visit to the Waikiki Aquarium.

photo by
LORI ANN SAEKI



Something Fishy

ALA-SC members took advantage of Spring Break to take a trip to the Aquarium



photo by LORI ANN SAEKI

Wendy Ikemoto and Mysti LePage compare their teeth with a set of shark jaws on display at the Waikiki Aquarium.

Dayni Kuo, who has no personal computer and relied upon LIS computers in the past, commented that while there are some available computer labs on campus in which to complete assignments, few of them provide printing. She also said that she was used to seeing fellow students on a daily basis in the department, but since the flood she now only interacts with people during class.

Recent graduate Suzanne Uratani faced challenges in completing her internship last term, noting that "my supervising librarian in the Charlot Collection was very under-

standing. She helped arrange a workspace in archives when it was impossible to work in the collection. I completed the project more than a month after I graduated."

Overall, despite the challenges, students and staff remain upbeat. Nahl found one silver lining: "I'm gaining increased stamina from climbing the three flights to Bilger 319 and I have more communication with librarians (from other institutions) now." Wertheimer, ever upbeat, added that "the flood has led to (new) employment and learning opportunities for students."

now on the shelves

@your library®

Our Own Selves: More Meditations for Librarians

Michael Gorman
Z665.2.U6 .G675 2005

Managing Electronic Resources

Vicki Grahame, Tim McAdam
Z671 .S7 no.282

Library Services in Non-Library Spaces

Gordon Aamot, Steve Hiller
Z671 .S7 no.285

Community Resources in the School Library Media Center

W. Bernard Lukenbill
Z675.S3 .L8954 2004

The Whole School Library Handbook

Blanche Woolls and David V. Loertscher, editors
Z675.S3 .WV66 2005

Downsizing in Academic Libraries: The Canadian Experience

Ethel Auster, Shauna Taylor
Z675.U5 .A98 2004

The Essential Friends of Libraries: Fast Facts, Forms and Tips

Sandy Dolnick
Z681.7.U5 .D65 2005

Fundamentals of Library Supervision

Joan Giesecke, Beth McNeil
Z682.2.U5 .G54 2005

How Libraries and Librarians Help: A Guide to Identifying User-Centered Outcomes

Joan Durrance, Karen Fisher
Z685.85 .D87 2005

Creating the Customer-Driven Library: Building on the Bookstore Model

Jeannette A. Woodward
Z716.3 .W636 2005

Dismantling the Public Sphere: Situating and Sustaining Librarianship in the Age of the New Public Philosophy

John E. Buschman
Z716.4 .B87 2003

commute

from page one

a fun, but scary, commute to the airport.

At the airport, I lock my bike onto the bike rack in the parking lot (it's okay; it's Maui) and check in. Since I fly so much, I have an Ali'i Club card, which means I don't have to wait in any lines and I get to go into the Aloha Lounge and have cookies and hot chocolate at 7:15 in the morning. The flight is only 20 minutes, so it actually takes longer to load and unload the passengers than to fly to O'ahu. I stride out of the terminal and wait for the first bus.

Two bumpy bus rides later, I am finally at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. A quick 10-minute walk to the dorms across campus while dragging this annoying suitcase behind me makes me realize how cracked and old the walkways on campus are. Ah, 11 a.m. on the dot! Check-in time! What a relief. I made pretty good time today: the whole commute only took me four and a half hours.

I definitely could have applied for an online degree. There would certainly be no commute. Taking classes would be as easy as sitting down at my computer. But the intangible factors that make up a master's degree would be missing. There would be very limited — and artificial — contact with professors and peers. Typing e-mail is no substitute for human contact.

And what about enrichment? Would an online master's degree offer a chapter of the ALA to join? Would I be able to chat with a peer mentor? Would they host social events? I don't think so.

As I interviewed my commuting counterparts, one theme was universal: the quality of the Library and Information Science program at UHM makes it worthwhile for us to leave our families every week.

Moses' Story

Moses Gonsalves lives in Hilo. What he is most proud of is being a single parent. He has four children: Dena, age 27; Dane, age 23; Becky, age 16; and Sammy, age 2. Moses raised the eldest three largely by himself after their mom died 10 years ago.

In addition to being a single dad and commuting to O'ahu every week, he is a full-time LIS student and substitute teacher three days a week, and he runs his own photography business many weekends. Gonsalves is even productive during his personal time, volunteering five to 10 hours a week at a homeless mission.

Gonsalves has always been accustomed to multitasking and taking on challenges. He graduated from UH Hilo in 2003 with a triple major in philosophy, political science and criminal justice. He also

served as the photo editor of the UHH newspaper, Ke Kala Hea, for one year, after which he became the paper's editor-in-chief. Gonsalves said of being the Ke Kala Hea head honcho: "It was harder than school. ... I hardly got any sleep working at that newspaper. That was the most memorable experience I had during my undergraduate degree. I love journalism, but it's tough."

Change of plans

Initially, Gonsalves wanted to complete both a Juris Doctorate and an MLIS, but after completing one semester of the LIS program, he decided to dedicate his energy and time to the library degree.

Even with all he has going on, Gonsalves never considered an online degree. "An online program is not as interactive," he said. "I like the personal touch. I like being a part of the group and a part of the action."

No matter how long the commute, he makes the maximum use of his time. "The commute is my time to power read," he said. "I go straight from the airport to the bus and I'm reading all the way." He added that what's hardest about the commute is that it takes him a full day to recover. "It's a challenge to get on the plane every week and go through it every week. It's tiring and costly. I pay \$138 per round trip."

Inspiration from the Past

Gonsalves' own upbringing had a big impact on who he is today. "My parents are my heroes," he said. "After they died, I reevaluated my life. I was a rebellious kid. I hated school and hung out with the 'bad boys.' My mom probably died thinking that all her work was in vain, but I do appreciate and follow their values now. All my parents' values are what I am today. If things get tough, I think about my parents and

they inspire me. All their hard work, love and dedication are paying off now."

Mindy's Story

Mindy Higgins lives in Waimea on the Big Island and flies to Honolulu every Thursday morning. She leaves the house at 7:30 a.m. to catch an 8:40 flight ("I'm pushing my luck," she said). She gets to O'ahu at 9 a.m. and waits for the 9:30 a.m. bus to campus. If it's on time, she gets to campus around 11. After a long day of classes that ends at 7:40 p.m., she rides to Hawaii Kai to stay at a friend's house. The hardest part of her trip is getting up at 4 the next morning to catch the 5:40 a.m. flight back to the Big Island. After her drive back to Waimea, she gets home at around 7:15 a.m. — she's been gone almost exactly 24 hours.

Like the other commuters, Higgins also plays multiple roles. She is a full-time library student, a mother and a middle school teacher of science and math. She grew up in Colorado and has been living in Hawai'i for six years. Her love of research, of books and of learning drew her to LIS.

For Higgins, the most difficult part of the commute is leaving her two children, ages 2 and 4, and husband behind in Waimea. "It's hard; it's tiring. But it's really worth it," she said, adding that the quality of the program is extremely high. She wishes she could spend more time studying and socializing at the school, or conversely: "I wish they'd just move the program to the Big Island!"

Like the rest of us commuters, Higgins is happy that she didn't enroll in an online LIS program, noting that there is no substitute for the learning that comes from personal contact with peers and professors. Even though it takes her a full day to recover from the commute, she said it is worth it to be enrolled in such an excellent and supportive program.

ALA-SC Profile: Wendy Ikemoto



IKEMOTO

*Library student by day;
contestant by night ...*

Wendy Ikemoto, ALA-SC Social Committee Chair and The Basement Blotter Co-Editor, added a new role to her repertoire this semester — Cherry Blossom queen contestant. Though she was not named to the court, her participation added LIS to the Cherry Blossom vocabulary.