Bioinformatics Librarian Visits MU

On July 30 and 31, 2007, Diane Rein, Assistant Professor of Library Science and Assistant Life Sciences Librarian at Purdue University, visited MU Libraries to conduct a six-hour introductory workshop on bioinformatics and to participate in a discussion on how MU Libraries can deliver bioinformatics services to life sciences researchers on campus. Dr. Rein’s visit was supported by funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through a “Bring in the Expert Grant” administered by the Missouri State Library.

The “Introducing Bioinformatics: A Primer for Librarians” workshop was attended by fourteen librarians from MU, UMR, UMKC and Washington University as well as a biological sciences faculty member. Bioinformatics brings together biology, computer science, and information technology, allowing for the discovery of new biological insights. Based on a survey of participants, the workshop received high marks for the presentation, presenter, and accompanying manual.

Fifteen people participated in the discussion session the following morning. In addition to Dr. Rein, attendees included librarians and administrators from MU Libraries, a representative from the MU Division of Information Technology, a faculty member from the Department of Computer Science, and the Director of the Bond Life Sciences Center.

Because there is currently a fragmented approach to meeting the bioinformatics needs on campus, the MU Libraries Life Sciences Task Force will continue to delineate the possible contributions librarians can make to bioinformatics on the MU campus.

Thanks to everyone involved for welcoming Dr. Rein to campus. A special thank you to Janice Dysart for her instrumental role in acquiring funding for this visit.

Submitted by:
Kate Anderson
Chair, MU Libraries Life Sciences Research Task Force
New Technologies Group  
Tuesday, October 2  
10:00 – 11:00 A.M.  
Room 159  
Ellis Library  

Hunter Kevil will give a brief presentation on putting Google Books in the library catalog, and Diane Johnson will present on recent enhancements to Highwire.

Please bring topics/news to share.

Sage Library Support Staff Travel Grants  
The Travel Grants (six to be awarded) make it possible for library support staff to attend the ALA Annual Conference to be held in the summer of 2008 in Anaheim, California. Sage Publications donates six grants of up to $1,000 to cover the expense of attending the conference which includes airfare, three nights lodging, and conference registration for each recipient. Library Support Staff who currently are employed in a full-time support staff position, have a minimum of three years of experience in an area of technical services (acquisitions, cataloging, collection development/management, preservation of library materials, serials) and have not previously attended an ALA annual conference are eligible for the grants. Successful candidates will be required to submit a brief report describing their experiences at the annual conference. This report will be published in the post-conference issue of the “ALCTS Newsletter Online” and also will be shared with the sponsor.

To apply, send a letter addressing the application criteria, brief resume and a short statement (ca. 250 words) outlining why attending the 2008 ALA Annual Conference would be beneficial. A letter of support from the applicant’s supervisor, indicating the employer’s support for the application also is required. Applications and the supervisor’s letter must be submitted in electronic format, with all parts emailed as Word attachments. The deadline for Sage materials is November 30. Send all documents to: Donna Cranmer, Sage Jury, dcranmer@siouxfalls.org. For more information: contact Manuel Urrizola, chair, Sage Jury, manuelu@ucr.edu. To access a list of Frequently Asked Questions and more details about the grants, please go to the Web site:


Your Special Talents Are Needed for the Ellis Library Open House at Homecoming  
For the past several years, Ellis Library has hosted an open house on Homecoming. This year we are working on plans for encouraging families to visit the library. If any of you have special skills that would be entertaining for children or have any ideas for our open house, please contact Sheila Voss (vosss@missouri.edu) with your ideas. We are looking for staff (or their friends and family) who can make balloon animals, paint faces, etc. The Open House will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on October 20. There will be light refreshments and tours of the library. Thanks for your help and ideas.
***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

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**Mark Your Calendar!**

The rescheduled date for the MULSA yard sale has been set for October 13, 2007. This sale will be held at 1612 Anthony street, across from Boone Hospital.

Contributions will be accepted from any and all MU Libraries staff and friends. If you have some items to contribute, please contact Karla Geerlings (geerlingsk@missouri.edu, 882-0837) to make arrangements either to drop off items or to get assistance in transporting them.

Persons wishing to receive profits from the sale of their own items should clearly mark said items with the sale price and with a unique initial (contact Karla to assure uniqueness). MULSA will receive a 25% commission on these items and will pay out the balance to the owner. No-strings-attached donations are also gladly accepted, so clean out that closet, clear that garage, and get us your unneeded-but-still-usable stuff!

MULSA yard sale subcommittee

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**MU Unveils New Events Calendar**

This semester MU has introduced a new events calendar on the Web. To see the new calendar, go to the MU homepage (http://www.missouri.edu/), and click on “More events.” In order to submit an event to the calendar, you must go through your divisional calendar representative. Shannon Cary (carysn@missouri.edu) is the representative for the libraries, and Mark Ellis (ellismw@missouri.edu) is the back-up representative.
Security Guard - Administration, Ellis Library. A full description of the position may be found at the following address:
https://web.missouri.edu/~employment/vacdetails.php?vac=1008876

Senior Information Specialist- 100% FTE; 8-5; M-F; occasional evening and weekends; $29,443-$40,000. Administration, Ellis Library.

Duties: This is a full-time exempt, professional position with dual reporting lines to both the Director of Libraries and the Libraries Development Director. The position exists to lead the MU Libraries’ external relations, organizational marketing, and overall communications planning, implementation, and evaluation.

The Sr. Information Specialist, in collaboration with stakeholders in the MU Libraries and on the MU campus, develops and implements a communications/marketing plan to promote the services, programs and fund-raising efforts of the MU Libraries. Duties include but are not limited to: managing all official external communications; serving as principal contact for queries by news media; directing the design and editing of Libraries publications; consulting on design and content of Libraries web pages; and coordinating library events, programs and exhibits. Approximately fifty-percent of the activities of the Sr. Information Specialist will be in support of fund-raising activities.

See the job description for more details:
http://mulibraries.missouri.edu/staff/admin/positiondesc/Posdesc/Admin/SISjd.htm

Minimum Qualifications: A Bachelor’s degree in English, Journalism, Communications, or Public Relations. Two to three years in journalistic and public relations activities is required.

Preferred Qualifications: MLS from ALA-accredited program or equivalent; minimum of two years experience in academic libraries; knowledge of emerging trends in marketing and communications; excellent verbal and written communications skills; strong interpersonal skills; ability to work a flexible schedule, including occasional evening and weekend duties.