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Staff News

I am happy to announce that Stacy Konkiel has accepted the E-Science Librarian position effective January 17. Stacy is currently a Marketing Associate for the Public Library of Science (PLoS) in San Francisco where she leads efforts to market PLoS journals to a wide range of international scientific communities, supports research and development for Article-Level Metrics and data sharing initiatives, and organizes appearances at major domestic and international scientific conferences. Prior to working for PLoS, Stacy was the Digital Repository Resident Librarian for ScholarWorks at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Stacy received her MLS and MIS from IU in 2008. While a student at IU, she worked for the Libraries as an Instruction Assistant, a Reference Assistant and a Metadata/TEI Intern. She was awarded a Digital Libraries Fellowship in 2006-2007 by the IU Digital Libraries Education Program. At IU, she also served as the Coordinator for the Office of Women's Affairs Commission on Personal Safety and received the Indiana University Commission on Multicultural Understanding Graduate Student Award in 2008. Her bachelor's degree is in English from the University of Delaware in Newark.

Please join me in welcoming Stacy when she arrives!

Submitted by: Julie Bobay, Associate Dean for Collection Development and Scholarly Communications, Collection Management, IUB

Library News and Events

IU Takes Part in RAILS Project

Indiana University is one of five institutions nationwide selected to participate in the RAILS (Rubric Assessment of Information Literacy Skills) project during the 2011-2012 academic year. RAILS is based at the Syracuse University School of Information Studies and led by Assistant Professor Megan Oakleaf. The three-year project seeks to measure information literacy skills of college students and is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

RAILS is designed to help librarians and academic faculty develop and test rubrics that evaluate student learning and information literacy.

“Previously, librarians have been relying on tests to assess student work and skills and not looking at their research papers and projects,” Oakleaf said. “There are limitations on what you can test, and students aren’t always motivated to really work hard on a test that doesn’t impact their grade.”

Over the three-year grant period, Oakleaf will travel to 10 different universities to meet with 10 librarians or faculty members at each school.

Indiana University will be represented by Brian Winterman, Information Fluency and Assessment Librarian. Winterman was selected from librarians attending the ACRL Assessment Immersion Program, an intensive professional development experience focused on building librarian capacity to assess student learning. He will participate in extensive rubric training and then organize librarians and academic faculty on campus to assess student work samples.

“We also need to identify the characteristics that will make librarians and faculty members good evaluators of student work so that we can develop training for them,” Oakleaf said.

More than 100 samples of student work will be evaluated at each institution to not only evaluate the students themselves, but also how well librarians and faculty members assess student work. Part of the study’s overall goal is to normalize evaluation of student information literacy and establish rubrics to measure teaching effectiveness in libraries. RAILS will employ an interactive website (www.railsontrack.info) and Waypoint Outcomes, a provider of Web-based academic assessment tools, to process the anonymized assessment data.

The issue of library effectiveness is important, according to Oakleaf, because libraries need to be able to demonstrate evidence that their programs and resources are contributing to the teaching and learning missions of their overarching institutions.

“It’s a big issue with academic libraries to show that they are really contributing to the overall mission of the university,” Oakleaf said. “Libraries receive substantial financial resources from their institutions, so they have to prove their value within the university. This is a way to give actual evidence of the importance of academic libraries.”

Taken from: IUB Libraries News & Events page

Free Workshop Pilot Program for Staff and Faculty In Spring 2012

For the spring 2012 semester, staff and faculty from any IU campus can register for UITS IT Training workshops at no charge, thanks to a pilot program designed to assess faculty and staff interest in free workshops.

The spring workshop schedule is now online, so sign up quickly to reserve your seat. Instructor-led workshops are available in Microsoft and Adobe applications, IU and academic technology topics, programming and much more. You can also request a specially scheduled workshop for your department, class or group at no charge this spring.

Remember that this is a pilot for the spring semester only to assess user interest, so let us know if workshop fees have been keeping you from taking the training you need. To find a workshop that interests you, browse by topic on the IT Training website.

Taken from: UITS IT Training website