Celebrating Asian Americans in Academic Libraries

Presenters:
Jennifer Shimada
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Moderator:
Yang Wu

Host:
Clemson University Libraries
• How did you enter the library profession? What interested you and kept you interested?

• What do you do in your work, and what do you enjoy the most about it?

• What advice would you have for someone seeking to enter the academic library profession?
Finding My Niche:


Jennifer Shimada
Senior Director of Library and Instructional Media
Relay Graduate School of Education
Fifteen Campuses,
One Librarian

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Collections Management

- **Primarily Virtual Library:** An electronic-first collection development policy ensures that patrons at all campuses have immediate access to materials. Further, e-books are only purchased if an unlimited number of users may access the titles at one time.
- **Demand-Driven Acquisition:** A large DDA e-book program allows patrons to access more resources more quickly, reduces the amount of money the library spends on e-books, and minimizes time the library needs to spend on collection development.
- **Discovery System:** The discovery system Summon is the primary access point for the library; this makes it easier for patrons to find resources. Electronic holdings (for both books and journals) are updated automatically in Summon, saving the librarian time.
- **Small Reference Collections:** The main physical collection is located at the NYC campus; books are mailed out as needed. Most other campuses have small collections containing the 100 most frequently requested titles. These small collections are managed by local staff.
- **Shelf-Ready Materials:** Purchasing shelf-ready, pre-cataloged physical materials reduces the workload for the librarian and allows patrons to access materials more quickly.

Introduction

Relay Graduate School of Education, an accredited national nonprofit institution of higher education, currently operates 15 campuses and serves school leaders in 24 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, reaching over 3,000 educators.

Relay has only a single librarian in charge of everything from cataloging to electronic resource management to reference to outreach to Instruction. This poster explains the systems, strategies, and tools the Relay librarian uses to serve all campuses without negatively affecting the user experience of patrons or stretching the librarian’s work beyond capacity. While each of the individual ideas in this poster are not revolutionary on their own, together they provide a picture of how a solo librarian can effectively and efficiently serve such a widespread institution.

Reference/Instruction

- **Chat:** AskAcademic, a 24/7 chat reference cooperative, is affordable and allows students in all time zones to get instant help.
- **Email:** Zendesk, an email ticketing system, allows reference requests to be easily tracked and efficiently responded to.
- **Video:** Zoom, a video chat system, allows the librarian to communicate with both individuals and entire classrooms.
- **Curriculum:** Curriculum at Relay is centrally designed, which means the librarian has to work with fewer people to integrate information literacy skills into the curriculum.

Marketing/Outreach

- **Newsletters:** Newsletters sent to faculty, staff, and graduate students are targeted to the department rather than the campus, allowing for efficient but effective marketing.
- **Local Staff:** As students know their local staff far better than their distance librarian, regular collaboration and communication with local faculty and staff is vital to ensure that students are aware of library resources.
- **LMS:** All students are enrolled in a single, non-credit, library “course” from which they can search the library. A link to this course appears in all other courses.
Ongoing Collaboration

Students: Reference Assistance

Faculty: Professional Development

Instructional Designers: Co-Design Courses
Welcome to the Video Library!

Scroll down to learn more about this tool and how to use it.
Professional Service

American Library Association (ALA)
Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)
Distance and Online Learning Section (DOLS)
  Strategic Planning Committee (2020-2022)
  Mentor (2019-2020)
  Executive Committee (2018-2020)
  Instruction Committee (Co-Chair: 2018-2020; Member: 2016-2018)
  Web Committee (2017-2019)

Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS)
  Instruction for Educators Committee (2019-2021)
  Education Committee (2017-2019)
  Online Learning Research Committee (2015-2017)

Library and Information Technology Association (LITA)
  Education Committee (2015-2017)

Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services Advisory Committee (Chair: 2021-2022; Member: 2019-2023)
  Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) Working Group on Social and Racial Justice (2020-2021)
  Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Assembly (Chair: 2021-2023; Member: 2020-2022)

Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA)
  Mentor (2020-2021)
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Assembly Charge

“The purpose of this EDI Assembly is to provide a forum for all groups within ALA and ALA-affiliated organizations working on initiatives related to equity, diversity, and inclusion to discuss their activities, identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination, and explore new initiatives related to the association’s strategic direction for equity, diversity, and inclusion.”

An assembly “by the people; for the people”; each of you are responsible -- whether as liaisons for your group or as individual members of ALA -- for sharing your perspectives and helping ALA move forward towards EDI.
Learn More About the Librarian Universe

- Look at a wide variety of library types (academic, public, special) and even non-libraries
- Read job descriptions
- Talk to librarians!
Networking and Mentorship

- Spectrum Scholarship
- Library Organizations
  - Local organizations
  - Smaller Divisions/Sections
  - ALA Affiliates: Reforma, BCALA, APALA, AILA, CALA
- Conferences (Esp. Local/Specialized)
- We Here (wehere.space)
- WOC + LiB (wocandlib.org)
- Social Media
Thank you!
All Roads Lead to Rome: My Journey to Becoming an Academic Librarian

Jianye He
UC Berkeley East Asian Library
April 21, 2022
Outlines

1. Life-changing experience: From a foreigner to a library school student

2. Ideal destination: My library career at UC Berkeley

3. “Changing World, Unchanging Mission”: Being a librarian in a challenging time
Life-changing experience: From a foreigner to a library school student

Albany Public Library, New Scotland Branch (2002)

My volunteer experience: reshelving, observing, interacting with users
Life-changing experience: From a foreigner to a library school student

Department of Information Science, University at Albany, SUNY Albany (2003)

I was also a Chinese Language Instructor at the Department of East Asian Studies (2002-2004)
Life-changing experience: From a foreigner to a library school student

Working on one of my library school projects: interviewing elementary students at the New Scotland Branch, Albany Public Library (March 17, 2003)
Life-changing experience: From a foreigner to a library school student

Intern at the Capital District Library Council (CDLC)

Intern at the University Libraries, UAlbany
https://library.albany.edu/news/winter-hours-2021-2022
Ideal destination: My library career at UC Berkeley


What helped me to get the position:

* Good internship experience (acquisition, cataloging)
* Good teaching records
* Good education background and effective scholarly communication
Ideal destination: My library career at UC Berkeley
Ideal destination: My library career at UC Berkeley

My major job responsibilities:

* collection development
* reference service
* library instruction
Ideal destination: My library career at UC Berkeley

Collection development
Ideal destination: My library career at UC Berkeley

Reference service
Ideal destination: My library career at UC Berkeley

Library instruction
Ideal destination: My library career at UC Berkeley
Ideal destination: My library career at UC Berkeley

Examples of professional achievements:

* Scholarly publications (books, articles)
* Library projects (oral history, archives, etc.)
* Professional organization activities
“Changing World, Unchanging Mission”
Being a librarian in a challenging time

“Five laws of library science” (Ranganathan, 1931):

1. Books are for use.
2. Every reader his or her book.
4. Save the time of the reader.
5. A library is a growing organism.
“Changing World, Unchanging Mission” : Being a librarian in a challenging time

Library technology, budget, space, format of resources, methods of access and even our job assignments are changing, but meeting users’ needs is still our mission.

We need to:

● provide best resources and service to our users
● serve where our users are and reach out to our community
● Keep up with new trends
● Be perceptive, innovative and collaborative
To become a librarian, you need to:

- have a passion for library and library service
- be respectful to others and care about your communities
- know your strength and be well prepared
- enjoy working in a collaborative environment
- be adaptive to changes and curious to learn more
- have a little luck!
Thank you!
Thank You!

Questions?
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