

Library Assessment Conference 2014

Introductory remarks by Martha Kyrillidou

August 4, 2014

Seattle, Washington

Thank you, Betsy and Steve. I am delighted to welcome you to Seattle with Betsy Wilson and Steve Hiller. I know of no two other people who can support library assessment the way Betsy and Steve have done over the years. I know of no other campus that can host 600 some people and having Betsy Wilson lead this campus library is a real treat for all of us, for the campus here and for the profession at large. Thank you, Betsy and thank you, Steve!

A couple more words for Steve Hiller – he is the name of library assessment (people come here to get an autograph from him so at lunch he will be signing the programs at the registration desk). It is a real honor to work with Steve in organizing this conference, the fifth biennial conference on library assessment and marking a decade of close collaboration, learnings and growth. By the way, we are already working on preparing the sixth biennial conference in Washington, DC, in late October 2016.

Steve brings to our profession a unique quality of grounded practicality and forward vision – his knowledge of the field, of the issues and his knowledge of this campus are what makes it possible for all of us to enjoy sunny Seattle on the magnificent University of Washington campus today! More than two years ago he was telling us about the campus housing work and the HUB renovation, visioning and planning what it would look like to be in a HUB with air conditioning (six years ago when we had the conference here, the HUB did not have air conditioning)! His vision has come true – air conditioning in the HUB ...

Talking about the future is very much in the mind of the ARL culture these days. As some of you know, we are in the midst of an exciting strategic thinking and design process, and information about this is available on the Web. It's a process that has engaged many people from within and outside ARL libraries and Elliott Shore, our ARL executive director, has led it. Assessment is an essential capacity in our emerging design with a mandate to chart new directions and engage actively in the higher education vistas. Our directive is to identify the really important questions our higher education administrators need to ask about libraries and provide data to support these directions! The challenge comes at a time when higher education is changing rapidly, and it is no small a task, so all of your talents and engagement and readiness are fundamental to our future success.

The changes that have taken place on this campus over the last six years are a testament to the future changes to come in the next five to ten years and beyond. Many campuses go through constant transformation and renovations, and this one is offering us the opportunity to witness them. I hope many of you will enjoy the tours of the Odegaard library and the research commons this afternoon, where you will be exposed to a renovated learning commons space (compared to the computer lab with the hundreds or nearly thousand computers we marveled at six years ago). Instead we walked yesterday into wonderful state of the art classrooms, a flexible sitting and studying environment and so much so that it wonderfully accommodated our registration and meet and greet preconference day – some of our preconference workshop participants enjoyed the active learning classrooms for their own learning. This brings me to the master keyholder of our event – the wonderful Jackie Belanger. Jackie has done an amazing job in putting together all the details and stands ready to entertain you with some Northwest hospitality with a cadre of University of Washington volunteers – not every one of our volunteers is in this room but if you are here, please stand University of Washington volunteer staff please stand ... know that they are here and please ‘Ask them’ any questions you may have as their nametags say! You can easily identify them because of the ‘ask me’ on their nametags. And they are listed in the program!

There are a handful of more people whose nametag says ‘ask me’ – my wonderful ARL colleagues – without them neither I nor you would not be here – please stand as I call your names: Gary Roebuck, Henry Gross, Shaneka Morris, and Amy Yeager! And Angela Pappalardo who is holding the fort back in DC!

This event has been built on the brain power of our conference planning committee members – would our 2014 Library Assessment Conference Planning Committee members please stand up! Please also find their names in our conference program!

We have been plotting for two whole years, and we are enjoying today the fruits of their goodwill and generous support. Thank you to our planning committee members!

Generous support also has come from our sponsors – Atlas Systems, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL/ABRC), Counting Opinions, ProQuest, Project SAILS, Sustainable Collection Services, Thomson Reuters, Compendium, COUNTER, the National Information Standards Organization (NISO), and OCLC.

Their financial support is helping us keep the registration for this event to a bargain level. Many of you are interested and using their programs, products, and services. You are invited to attend the breakfast and lunch sessions we have with our sponsors showcasing their work.

A special request for the lunch sponsor sessions: Please let the people who plan to attend a sponsor session grab their lunch box first so they can head to the sponsor presentation room in time. If you don't plan to go a sponsor presentation, please pick up your lunch after the initial rush in the lunch box line slows down a bit. Note that lunch will be served in two locations (both the prefunction area on the second floor where you had breakfast as well as on the first floor outside the Lyceum area.). Very

important for vegetarian and special dietary requests – please note that all vegetarian and special lunches are on the first floor.

Last but not least I would like to thank each one of you –

This event would not be possible without all of you – the assessment community is growing and your presence here is testimony to the growing importance of this area for our universities and our libraries, our students and faculty, learning and research.

I hope you will enjoy the concurrent papers and panels and remember, we have our poster reception this afternoon starting at 6pm at this very space – it will be rearranged and set up according to the poster program later this afternoon.

For our 45 posters we will have an online voting process. This is different from earlier years, so hear the details carefully:

At 6pm you will be receiving an e-mail inviting to choose your first three choices for posters. You can vote for the same poster all three times if you wish. You can vote after you go back into your lodging if you have internet access there or you can vote with your mobile devices during the poster reception. We will close the vote at midnight. If you don't have a mobile device with you to do the voting, please use one of the three computers we will have at the poster reception by logging into your e-mail and following the link in your email message. This is a personalized e-mail, and the link can only be used once. Remember to vote! Our poster presenters want to hear from you! We are eager to find who will get the chocolate prizes!

We plan to announce the results of the poster voting tomorrow morning – Tuesday morning -- at the opening announcements. The winners will be acknowledged on the website as well!

Please note that all posters and presentations will be available on the web after the conference!

So now – a couple of important logistics – breakfast will be at the south ballroom prefunction area on the second floor all three days, and coffee breaks and lunch boxes will be at two locations (both the prefunction area and outside the Lyceum on the first floor). All vegetarian and special lunches are on the first floor. I want to make sure you all know Jackie Belanger – she knows every little detail about this event. Today, registration will be outside the ballroom till the poster reception time. Starting tomorrow, staff working on registration and general information inquiries will be moving to the conference office in room 238.

A white board for announcements will also be located outside the prefunction area after Tuesday.

Please use the guidebook app -- we are receiving very good feedback on the guidebook app – please use it and let us know whether we need to go paperless in 2016!

Do tweet your experience using the hashtag #lac14 and pay attention to messages coming from @LA_Conference, the official conference twitter account!

If you want to post a blog entry at the Library Assessment Blog, libraryassessment.info, please let us know – Bloggers please come forward! This event is all about sharing!

Talking about sharing – we do love to share globally, and we are delighted to have the amazing Margie Jantti with us today to open our conference. Margie is a pioneer in putting together student analytics information to the service of faculty and students to improve learning. She is coming to us all the way from Australia. She was one of the very first people to engage in this area, and we are fortunate to learn from her.

Please welcome Margie Jantti, Director of Library Services at the University of Wollongong.