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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, 2007

Master of Science, Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, 1999

Bachelor of Arts, General Studies (Linguistics and Music), New College of University of South Florida, 1995. Thesis title: The Significant Pleasures of Roland Barthes, From Structuralism to Post-Structuralism

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

The Cultural Origins of Youth Services Librarianship, 1876-1900

Public library youth services developed during the period from 1876 to 1900, in the context of late 19th century beliefs about the importance of childhood and the power of reading. This dissertation analyzes the cultural forces that influenced the negotiation and growth of the development of public library services to children. A number of preceding but more transient forms of library services in such institutions as Sunday Schools and young men's associations informed librarians' discussions in 1876, when they first began addressing the needs of children in professional writings. Early models of youth services emphasized the authority of teachers, limiting children's borrowing to those materials that augmented school lessons. By the late 1880s, librarians began providing direct, personal service to children, formalizing their own expertise and authority by making lists of approved books for young readers. Librarians were influenced by Progressive Era movements including the kindergarten, settlement house, child study, and home libraries movements to further expand their offerings for children by exploring new ways of attracting and capturing children's interest. Public library youth services began in the 1890s to include games, picture collections, story hours, and reading clubs. By 1900, these developments were formalized in training programs for children's librarians and the formation of a national organization of professional children's librarians within the American Library Association. These findings about cultural origins of youth services librarianship shed new light on how this specialty developed, and they offer a vantage point from which to reassess contemporary youth services in public libraries as a product of late 19th century debates about the importance of reading as an influence on children's characters.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2007-present Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC).
- 2006-2007 Visiting Lecturer/Instructor, GSLIS, UIUC.
- 2004-2005 Doctoral Student Representative, Curriculum Committee, GSLIS, UIUC.
- 2003-present Member, Board of Trustees, The Urbana Free Library, Urbana, IL.

2003-2004	Instructor, GSLIS, UIUC.
2000-2003	Adjunct Instructor, GSLIS, UIUC.
1999-2003	Children's Librarian, Urbana Free Library, Urbana, IL.
1999-2002	Reviewer, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, UIUC.
1997-1999	Research and Editorial Assistant, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, UIUC.
1998	Teaching Assistant, GSLIS, UIUC.

PUBLICATIONS

"Truth Over Fiction: Librarians' Book Recommendations for Children, 1876-1890" in *Education and the Culture of Print in Modern America*, University of Wisconsin Press (book chapter accepted)

"Change and Continuity in Professional Community: PUBYAC Listserv and Historical Context in Public Youth Services Librarianship," *Children and Libraries* 4(1) Spring 2006: 6-10.

"Review of *Storytelling in Daily Life: Performing Narrative* by Langellier and Peterson" *On the Horizon* 14(4): 173-174.

Reviews of books for children and young adults. Publication of four to eight reviews per month in the Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, a premier reviewing journal of literature for young people, 1999-2003.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"From 'Not Unreal' to Fantasy: Librarians' Changing Recommendations of Children's Books, 1876-1900," panel presentation, Children's Literature Association conference, June 2007.

"Truth Over Fiction: Librarians' Book Recommendations for Children, 1876-1900," panel presentation, Education and the Culture of Print in Modern America conference, sponsored by the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America, University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2006.

"'Elder Sisters from Large Families': Family Metaphors in Library Services to Children, 1876-1900," panel presentation, Family, Youth and Literature conference at Allerton, UIUC, October 2006.

"Building Community in Distance Education Courses: Teaching Participants," invited panel presentation, ALISE, January 2006.

"Library Collections II," Panel Chair, Library History Seminar XI, October 2006.

"Performing Girlhood, Performing Self: Naylor's *Alice* Books," Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, June 2005.

“Pedagogies of LIS Distance Education Programs,” invited panel presentation, ALISE, January 2005.

“Before There Were Children’s Librarians: Surveys of Youth Services Methods and Emerging Professional Specialization Before 1900,” Doctoral Student Poster Session, ALISE, January 2005.

“Recruiting Librarians and Faculty: Two IMLS funded Projects” Contributor and Panelist for “Project Athena: Weaving a Web of Recruitment,” ALISE, January 2005.

“Using Student Stories in Theoretical Frameworks,” Illinois Online Conference, February, 2004.

“Reading Rocks! Great Books for Summer 2002,” *IREAD and Broadcast Booktalking for Librarians*, Videoconference, Lincoln Trail Library System, Champaign, IL, 2002.

“Website Selection for Children,” presentation at “On the Front Lines,” *Illinois State Library Annual Conference*, Springfield, IL., 2000.

“Just Right! What to Suggest When Easy Readers Are Too Easy and Chapter Books Are Too Hard,” Children’s Literature Conference, Champaign Public Library, 1999.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Children and Public Libraries, 1876-1900,” Project Athena Meeting (follow-up to Project Athena Fellowship), June 2007.

“Truth Over Fiction in Librarians’ Recommendations of Children’s Literature, 1876-1890,” guest speaker for LIS 514 LE: History of Children’s Literature, October 2006.

“The Social and Cultural Origins of Youth Services Librarianship: 1876-1902,” guest speaker for LIS 590 YL, Doctoral Seminar: Youth, Literature, and Culture, April 25, 2006.

“Gender and the Cultural Origins of Children’s Librarianship: 1876-1902,” Feminist Scholarship Series talk, March 29, 2006.

“The Beginnings of Youth Services: an overview of research in progress,” guest speaker for Youth Services Meeting, GSLIS, March 31, 2005.

“Musical Elements of Storytelling,” guest lecture in LIS409 Storytelling, Instructor Keren Moses Joshi, 2005. March 15, 2005.

“Public Library Boards and Local Governmental Structures,” guest lecture in LIS505 Administration and Management of Libraries and Information Centers, Professor Caroline Haythornthwaite, GSLIS, UIUC, 2005.

“Digital Resources for Updating Children’s Reference Collections,” guest lecture in LIS303, Literature and Resources for Children, Professor Betsy Hearne, GSLIS, UIUC, 2002.

“Creative Storytelling in Public Libraries,” guest lecture in LIS309 Storytelling, Professor Betsy Hearne, GSLIS, UIUC, 2002.

“Literacy for the Very Young,” guest lecture in Child Development class, Instructor Debbie Lee, 2001-2002.

“Children’s Literature and Public Youth Services Librarianship,” guest lecture in LIS303, Literature and Resources for Children, Instructor Deborah Stevenson, GSLIS, UIUC, 2000.

“Great Websites for Kids and Parents,” workshop, The Urbana Free Library, Urbana, IL, 2000.

“Leap Into Reading: How to Read With Your Child,” Family Reading Night Presentation, Thomas Paine School, Urbana, IL., 1999.

TEACHING

Supervised 1 CAS student, served as faculty advisor to 26 master’s students, fall 2006-spring 2007.

Storytelling, LIS 409, GSLIS, UIUC, 2006, 2007.

Literature and Resources for Children, LIS 403 (formerly LIS 303LE), GSLIS, UIUC, 1999, 2002, 2006.

Youth Services Librarianship: Principles and Practices in School and Public Libraries (formerly LIS 406), GSLIS, UIUC, 2003.

Literature and Resources for Young Adults (formerly LIS 304LE), GSLIS, UIUC, 2000, 2004.

Library Materials for Children (first LEEP iteration of LIS303), Teaching Assistant for Professor Betsy Hearne, GSLIS, UIUC, 1998.

SELECTED STORYTELLING PERFORMANCES

“How Possum Brought Fire: A Story from Mexico,” Booker T. Washington Afterschool Program (coordinated by Ann Bishop), September 2006.

GSLIS Storytelling Festival, GSLIS, Champaign, IL, April 2006, 2007.

Student and Faculty Storytelling Concert, GSLIS, Champaign, IL, 2004.

Featured Solo Performer, Storytelling Concert, The Teller’s Art Series, Café Verde, Champaign, IL., 2004.

Featured Solo Performer, Street Theatre Festival, sponsored by Developmental Services Center, Urbana, IL, 2001-2003.

Featured Storyteller, Urbana Park District Big Grove Storytelling Festival, Urbana, IL, 2001.

Storyteller, Annual Yankee Ridge School Family Night, Urbana, IL, 2001-2002.

Featured Performer, Story Songs Concert, Champaign Public Library, Champaign, IL, 2000.

Sweet Corn Festival, Urbana IL, 2000.

OTHER CREATIVE WORKS

Blog “What Kate Reads,” <http://katereads.blogspot.com/> reviews of books, from children’s literature to history of children’s reading, for interested students and colleagues (also linked from www.katemcdowell.com).

Collaborated with students in Brian Heidorn’s class to create the technology design for the Story Coach Podcast, coming fall 2007.

Contributed 2 “learning modules” towards Chip Bruce’s grant titled “Community Informatics for Youth: Using the Extension Network to Recruit Future LIS Professionals”

Story Songs (original musical adaptations of traditional folktales, such as the Frog Prince, the Three Billy Goats Gruff, Little Red Riding Hood, etc.) CD available upon request. 1998-present.

Teens Read Grant, Website and Online Database Interface Design, <http://teensread.prairienet.org/index.html>, 2001-2003.

Puppet Gallery (Puppet design and creation), <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/~kmcowell/puppet-gallery/>, 1999-2003.

Babies’ Lap Time Website (top-ranked Google resource in this area, linked to by major libraries including Los Angeles Public), <http://www.itg.uiuc.edu/people/mcdowell/laptime/>, 1999.

Urbana Middle School Library Website <http://www.usd116.org/ums/library/UMSLHomePage.html>, 1996.

SERVICE

Trustee, The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees, 2003-present.

Served as Co-Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee, May 2006-May 2007.

Served as Vice-President of the Board June 2006-June 2007.

Member, Advisory Committee to the UIUC Education and Social Science Library’s School Collection of Children’s and Young Adult Literature, 2006-present.

Faculty Leader, GSLIS Storytelling Guild, 2007-present.

Member, GSLIS Publications Committee, fall 2006- spring 2007.

Member, GSLIS Lecture Committee, fall 2006- spring 2007.

Member, GSLIS Curriculum Committee, spring 2006.

Member, Joint GSLIS-UIUC Library IMLS Internal Review Committee, 2007.

Volunteer, European Modernism and the Information Society Conference, organizer Professor Boyd Rayward, GSLIS, UIUC, 2005.

Organizer, Student and Faculty Storytelling Concert, GSLIS, UIUC, 2004.

Organizer, New Ph.D. Student Orientation, GSLIS, UIUC, 2003.

Practicum Supervisor, Urbana Free Library Children's Department, Urbana, IL, 2001-2003.

Screening Judge, WILL-TV and Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest, Urbana, IL, 2001-2003.

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbons Award Committee, GSLIS, UIUC, 1999-2003.

Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Award Committee, sponsored by the Illinois Reading Council, the Illinois Association of Teachers of English, and the Illinois School Library Media Association, 2000-2001.

Independent Media Center, Founding Member and Volunteer Librarian, Urbana, IL, 2001.

Guest Reader at American Education Week, Washington School, Urbana, IL, annually since 2000.

MEMBERSHIPS

SHARP (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing) member since 2007.

Children's Literature Association, member since 2006.

History of Education Society, member since 2006.

Association for Library and Information Science Education, member since 2003.

American Library Association, member since 1997.

Association for Library Service to Children, member since 1997.

Young Adult Library Services Association, member since 2004.

HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS

"Community Funds of Knowledge: Bridging Family and School Life for At-Risk Children," UIUC Campus Research Board Grant for \$14,386 (co-written with Ann Bishop as P.I.)

Incomplete List of Teachers Rated Excellent by Their Students, UIUC, fall 2006.

Graduate College Dissertation Research Travel Grant, UIUC, 2005.

Graduate College Conference Travel Grant, UIUC, 2005.

Incomplete List of Teachers Rated Excellent by Their Students, UIUC, 2004

Incomplete List of Teachers Rated Excellent by Their Students, UIUC, 2003.

Project Athena Fellowship, IMLS funded, GSLIS, UIUC, 2003-present.

Pages for All Ages Poetry Contest, 3rd Prize, Champaign, IL, 2003.

Selected participant, *Outcome Evaluation and Consulting Institute*, sponsored by IMLS, GSLIS, UIUC, 2003.

Incomplete List of Teachers Rated Excellent by Their Students, UIUC, 2000.

Herbert Goldhor Award for Public Librarianship, GSLIS, UIUC, 2000.

American Library Association's *Bound to Stay Bound Books Scholarship*, 1997. One of four nationally selected recipients.