Loretta Edwards Receives Arkansas Library Association 2006 Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award

Loretta Edwards, Learning Resource Center Network Manager, is the 2006 recipient of the Arkansas Library Associations’ Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award. She won the nomination due to her promotion of staff development among paraprofessionals and her work with issues and concerns of paraprofessionals. Loretta was officially honored Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at the Arkansas Library Association Award Luncheon in Fayetteville.

Loretta receiving her award from UAMS Library’s Cindy Caton at the 2006 ArLA Conference in Fayetteville
Rachel Gyore Joins The UAMS Library as our newest Faculty member

We are very excited about an addition to our reference staff at UAMS Library. Rachel Gyore came to the UAMS Library on September 1st as a Reference Librarian where she will concentrate on outreach activities. She holds a BA in History from the State University of New York College at Geneseo, and an MLS from the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York.

Prior to joining the UAMS faculty, Rachel participated in the National Library of Medicine’s Associate Fellowship Program. Her previous work experience also includes three years as a library assistant at the University of Rochester’s Edward G. Miner Library where she worked in reference, circulation, archives, and Web management.

LSTA Funds Online Resources for Libraries in Arkansas

Thanks to the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), UAMS and other libraries in the state may access many online resources “for free.” The funding administered by the Arkansas State Library provides online materials for school, university, and public libraries throughout the state. Among the resources provided for 2006/2007 are the following:

Britannica Online

Webster’s Third New International Dictionary Unabridged Online

OCLC’s WorldCat -
A database containing the holdings of many thousands of libraries

Several EBSCO databases -
Including Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition and Academic Search Elite containing full text of several thousand journals.

These are tax dollars well spent!

Try out these and other databases on the UAMS Library’s website.

If you have any questions
Please contact Mary Hawks, Collections Management Librarian

- Mary Hawks
Notes and News

Stay current with RSS

This is a new way to be alerted when a website is updated. RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. The name is based on the simple coding that is used for the feed that is produced. For journals, this may be a new issue and TOC or an announcement from that journal or publisher.

According to UAMS campus IT, use of RSS readers would be within policy as long as one is reading feeds from sources such as journals and e-versions of print newspapers. It should not be used to connect to live streaming from a video or stock market source.

RSS readers can save you time by providing just one place to check for whether selected sources have new information on their websites. You do not have to go to each website to check, and you do not have to wait for a scheduled email alert. There are several ways to access the news from a reader, and each reader offers its own particular method: email alerts, accessing a reader you have installed on your computer, accessing a web-based reader.

Many of our subscribed journals provide RSS feeds. The feeds are usually marked RSS or sometimes XML. A few of the publishers/journals are ACS (American Chemical society), Blackwell, New England Journal of Medicine, NIH press releases, and International Journal of Epidemiology.

You must have software to receive the feeds from your chosen sources. Much of this software is free via the web, though there are also fancier fee-based versions. Here are some websites that explain RSS and offer links to downloadable readers:

www.whatisrss.com
www.wisegeek.com/what-is-rss.htm

- Rena Sheffer
A View of the UAMS Library Liaison Program from the Library of the Jones Eye Institute

The JEI librarian, Karen Coker, actually performs dual roles. Not only is she the acting librarian but she also serves as a research associate for the JEI faculty. The UAMS Liaison services provided to the departmental library at the Jones Eye Institute (JEI) provide various examples of continuing use. The departmental library Karen oversees has an academic mission for faculty, health care professionals, and residents rather than a consumer mission for the public. The JEI librarian also has direct involvement in faculty research by helping to plan research projects, analyze data, and help write scientific and technical articles, for example. Under the guidance of Jan Hart and liaison Abby Holt, the training offered to JEI’s librarian was tailored to a research library being formally organized for the first time.

The significance of the liaison program for the JEI Library is twofold. First, helping establish a research-oriented departmental library means honing in on the research tools of a library, most of which are based on information technologies. In fact, according to Ben Ridout, UAMS reference librarian, the most typical graduate degrees for librarians, the Master of Library Sciences (MLS) and the Master of Library and Information Sciences (MLIS), include notable training in information technologies or sciences. Thus, while the search database’s on-line help does provide basic direction to a patron, a departmental librarian and research associate who works closely with clinical faculty needs a deeper understanding of the search database structures, for example. Not surprisingly, a mediated literature search by medical reference librarian Susan Steelman or Brynn Mays is still warranted in some cases. In the meantime, Rena Sheffer has been instrumental in training JEI’s new librarian in use of UAMS’s electronic journals, an increasingly important part of any medical center’s library holdings.

Second, starting a new library requires planning and implementing the basic organization of the library as well as beginning to document its history. Also, in the case of JEI’s library, the newly formalized library must lay plans for its displays and documentation of antique ophthalmic instruments. Nancy Sessoms of the main library, already equipped with the necessary software and knowledge, cataloged JEI books and created labels.

Documenting the library’s history and managing its antiques relied on expertise that blended the most traditional and the newest of library sciences. Through Amanda Saar and the Historical Research Center, sources on the history of ophthalmology have been researched in both traditional and electronic sources. Also, Ms. Saar provides education in the proper handling of antique papers and instruments.

Could this have been accomplished simply through regular contact with the library? Possibly, but the coordinated efforts through the liaison program made the process far more efficient for all involved through better allocation of time and lack of redundant communication. Furthermore, JEI’s liaison has become a representative of JEI: as a single-point contact with knowledge of the department’s specific needs, Abby Holt can arrange the links between a department and the UAMS librarian specializing in relevant library services.

More about the liaison program can be found at www.library.uams.edu/AboutLib/Liaison.aspx, while the different library services are described through links on the left-hand side of the library’s home page at www.library.uams.edu.

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A View of the UAMS Library Liaison Program from the Library of the Jones Eye Institute continued

An overview of the progress at the JEI Library and examples of key responsibilities and projects of the Education Associate / Librarian

- Library Development and Oversight
- Organization of Books and Journals.
- JEI Library Services. Literature searches, location and provision of specific books and articles; assistance with library computers in library or electronic technology in project room.
- Library Communication and Representation. Communication with visual science librarians’ association and list-serve. Preliminary planning of JEI Library web site.

Clinical Research
- Research Ethics and Regulations. Completed online ethics/regulations training and registration through IRB’s online system called ARIA. Beginning to assist clinical research projects with ethical and regulatory considerations.
- Education and Research Ethics/Regulations: Preparation of ethics and regulatory materials for JEI residents.
- Literature Reviews for Clinical Research Articles. Conducted in-depth or specialized literature reviews for several articles. Susan Steelman assisted or followed-up with two of these.
- Completion and Submission of Clinical Research Articles. In varying degrees, contributed to several clinical research papers through some or all of the following: editing, writing of specific sections, analyzing data.

Basic Research
- Edited two basic research articles.

Other assistance to JEI
- Additional editing of documents and analysis of data for in-house purposes.

- Karen Coker