

First and foremost, thanks to Janice Bacino for creating such a vibrant and inviting library and to Helena College for allowing me to serve as your Director of Library Services.

Meetings in the past three months:

- 1) Elizabeth Karr and I visited the libraries at the University of Montana Missoula and Missoula College on October 5th. This visit included meetings with John Greer, Jennifer Rusk, Teresa Keenan, Megan Stark, Shelley Ramberg, Samantha Hines and Shali Zhang, the new Dean of Library Services.
- 2) Elizabeth and I met with Mike Wiederhold for a tour of the airport campus with a discussion of services we might offer.
- 3) I attended the Academic and Special Library Division/Public Library Division Retreat at Chico Hot Springs on October 26 and participated in a discussion with other academic librarians about what they are doing inside their Learning Management Systems. I am in the second year of a three year term as the elected Montana Library Association Representative for the Pacific Northwest Library Association and am therefore committed to attending association board meetings, one which followed the retreat.
- 4) I attended the affiliate Directors' meeting in Butte on November 2 and met with Ann St. Clair, Mike Schulz, Shali Zhang and three other Butte librarians. Scott J., a Montana Tech reference librarian, is reviving a collaborative collection development group that I foresee to be very helpful in the future selection of resources. Marcia Lubick, another Tech librarian, shared her selections for their latest scanner purchases for student and faculty use.
- 5) I paid a visit to Corette Library to meet with Christian Frazza and the librarians there. What a beautiful campus and library they have.
- 6) I have attended two State Librarians' Roundtable meetings in September and November. The sharing of ideas, projects and support have been quite helpful.
- 7) We have been having weekly staff meetings to go over all of the new things we are learning.

Other Accomplishments:

- 1) Mary Ann George has served as our trainer, library historian and interpreter of campus committees and activities. We are ever so thankful for all that she knows and does.
- 2) Elizabeth Karr has been actively updating and adding to our Libguides with expansions to include course specific materials.
- 3) Elizabeth updated and improved our Library Research Tutorial in Moodle to reflect changes needed due the Helena College name change and other concerns.
- 4) Elizabeth has obtained her license from IT and U of M to make changes to our webpages. We still have oversight from IT to ensure consistency and accuracy.
- 5) Della submitted a program proposal for the Montana Library Association Conference for a joint presentation with Elizabeth that was accepted. The title is "Ebrarians Embedded in a Learning Management System: Best Practices Research and Experiences in Moodle".
- 6) Elizabeth has been creating interactive Prezi displays online; one for Ebooks, one for Native American Heritage month, and the one she is presenting today as an overview of services offered.
- 7) Della updated our brochure for students. This brochure is used, with a subject or course specific insert, as a handout in classroom instruction.
- 8) Mary Ann and Elizabeth created a science display for the large glass case as you walk in the building as a request from Chris Matson for the Science Symposium.

9) Chat reference was reinstated using the college chat service available on every web page.

Campus Committees:

Della – Budget, Budget Representative on College Council, Academic Standards and Curriculum Review

Elizabeth – Information Technology

Mary Ann - President of Staff Senate, Staff Senate Representative on College Council, Quality of Worklife, Professional Development

Thoughts on the Future:

- 1) We need to keep an eye on consortial possibilities for a discovery tool as our affiliates determine the paths they will take. University of Montana Missoula is now using Summon and Montana Tech is using Primo. So far, the cost for such a tool has been out of our reach. RFP's will soon be in process in Missoula as their Summon contract expires in two years, and Montana Tech has had difficulties implementing Primo.
- 2) How to encourage faculty to participate in collection development.
- 3) How to best approach faculty to place a library widget in as many Moodle classrooms as possible, and to enable further librarian involvement in Moodle.
- 4) The best use of library space is an ongoing process. We will continue the acquisition of core collection materials but will wait on weeding the collection until the summer when we have a better understanding of the collection and what has been done in the past. Scott, at Montana Tech, shared a chapter from a book that he co-authored entitled "Collaborating with Faculty to Weed an Entire Science and Engineering Book Collection." More information commons space, group and individual study space, and more computers are all under consideration. "The library is a growing organism." -- Ranganathan's fifth law of library science

Another thought:

I was sitting in my office on my very first day at Helena College, no staff id, no NetID, just me and an empty office. It reminded me of how I felt the first time I went on the WWW in the early 90's, so "Where's the beef?" It also reminded me of how a new student must feel at Helena College. Ok, here's my NetID, here's the website, now what? How do I navigate this? With that thought, my empty office was no longer a scary void, I had my focus. The library is here not only to enable access to information in all its forms, important as that is, but also to provide instruction and assistance to our students in finding the right information to enhance faculty work in the classroom. I then remembered a couple of articles I read about point of service contact. Point of service contact struck a chord with me; library services being available not only in the library, in the classroom, through online chat and tutorials, but also embedded in our LMS, Moodle. I thought of the quote at the bottom of our agenda. "Rather than thinking of our users as remote, we should instead recognize that it is we who are remote from our users." –Anne Lipow. What we are really working on is dispelling that feeling of remoteness. We need to offer library services at all physical and virtual points of service as much as possible. We need to position ourselves where our students are.