

# News

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## 1. Conferences

### *1.1. Libraries in the History of Print Culture, Center for the History of Print Culture/Library History Seminar XII, Madison, Wisconsin, September 10–12, 2010*

Library records provide a particularly fruitful avenue into the history of print culture. For millions of Americans from mid-nineteenth century on, institutional libraries have constituted a major path of access to texts, and in recent years, print culture scholars have begun to exploit libraries as a rich – and widely available – source of data. In addition to providing an important link between individual readers and the texts that they read, libraries can help occupy the middle ground between specific texts and readers and the macro or meta-theories that have come to dominate literary criticism. Indeed, libraries provide print culture scholars with an arena in which to exercise the historical and sociological imagination, linking micro analysis of the study of this text, these readers, here and now with the dimensions of macro analysis – such as class, race and gender, that they recognize need to be included. Libraries are both a site and a source of regulating processes. The interactions of multitudes of authors and readers are shaped in part by the meta-texts of the library's operations: its classification and cataloging practices, its shelving system and the principles on which it bases reader access to those shelves; its circulation rules, its spatial and temporal arrangements for in-house reading; its provision of printed signs and guides to the collection, its use of web pages and personnel to steer readers along pre-defined and recognizable paths. Yet just as individual readers engage in ruses which allow them to appropriate individual texts, so those who read in the library read the library itself – becoming in the process, potentially resistant readers of the library.

We especially encourage the submission of proposals that make use of library records as primary sources, that focus on libraries as sites of textual encounter, or that locate libraries in the broader print culture of specific places and at specific times. Proposals for individual papers or complete sessions (up to three papers) should include a 250-word abstract and a one-page c.v. for each presenter. Submissions should be made via email to [printculture@slis.wisc.edu](mailto:printculture@slis.wisc.edu). The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2010. Notifications of acceptance will be made by early March. Registration information will also be available by early March.

Keynote speakers will be Professor Janice A. Radway of Northwestern University (author of *Reading the Romance: Women, Patriarchy, and Popular Literature*, and *A*

Feeling for Books: The Book-of-the-Month Club, Literary Taste, and Middle-Class Desire) and Professor Wayne A. Wiegand of Florida State University (author of many books on library and print culture history, including *Books on Trial: Red Scare in the Heartland* [with Shirley A. Wiegand] and *Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey*).

Two publication opportunities will be available. As with previous conferences, we plan to produce a volume of papers for publication in the Center's series, "Print Culture History in Modern America," published by the University of Wisconsin Press. A list of books the Center has produced, available on the Center's website (<http://slisweb.lis.wisc.edu/~printcul/>), offers a guide to prospective authors. We also plan to publish a special issue of *Libraries and the Cultural Record* (whether papers appear in the book or the journal will be decided by the editors, in consultation with the UW Press and L&CR editors).

<http://slisweb.lis.wisc.edu/~printcul/>

Co-sponsors are the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America, the School of Library and Information Studies, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Library History Round Table of the American Library Association, the University of Wisconsin Libraries, Madison Public Library, the Wisconsin Library Heritage Center and the departments of History, English, the History of Science, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies

Christine Pawley Ph.D.

Professor & Director, School of Library and Information Studies

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Director, Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America

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*1.2. Information Science: Synergy through Diversity: 38th Annual Conference, Canadian Association for Information Science/Association canadienne des sciences de l'information, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada, June 2-4, 2010*

With a focus on innovative research and on information science as an evolving field, the conference will provide information scientists with a forum for presentation on four areas that form the conference program theme:

Knowledge and Information Management (e.g. Knowledge Management, Competitive Intelligence, Economic Intelligence) Social networking and user participation in knowledge structure (e.g. Web 2.0, folksonomies, ontologies) Information Organization (e.g. cataloguing and classification, Informetrics, Records Management, metadata) Human-Information Interaction (HII) (e.g. information retrieval, interface design, information architecture, user studies, information behaviour, information literacy).

For further information, please contact one of the CAIS/ACSI 2010 Conference Co-chairs.

#### Co-Chairs of the CAIS/ACSI Conference 2010

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343 5753

#### Registration

The conference will take place as part of the 2010 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Concordia University. Registration should be done online through the Congress Website (<http://www.fedcan.virtuo.ca/congress2010/>).

*1.3. 7th International Conference on Conceptions of Library and Information Science, London, 21–24 June, 2010*

The conference theme is Integration in the Information Sciences: unity in diversity. The conference will explore the integration and underlying unity of the information sciences, as both academic disciplines and as work practices.

There will be a doctoral students' forum and a information literacy research seminar.

Details are available at <http://colis.soi.city.ac.uk>

*1.4. 33rd Annual ACM SIGIR Conference, 18–23 July 2010, Geneva, Switzerland, 18–23 July, 2010*

<http://www.sigir2010.org>

SIGIR is the major international forum for the presentation of new research results and for the demonstration of new systems and techniques in the broad field of information retrieval (IR). The Conference and Program Chairs invite all those working in areas related to IR to submit original papers, posters, and proposals for tutorials, workshops, and demonstrations of systems. SIGIR 2010 welcomes contributions related to any aspect of IR theory and foundation, techniques, and applications.

Relevant topics include, but are not limited to:

- Document Representation and Content Analysis (e.g., text representation, document structure, linguistic analysis, non-English IR, cross-lingual IR, information extraction, sentiment analysis, clustering, classification, topic models, facets);
- Queries and Query Analysis (e.g., query representation, query intent, query log analysis, question answering, query suggestion, query reformulation);
- Users and Interactive IR (e.g., user models, user studies, user feedback, search interface, summarization, task models, personalized search);
- Retrieval Models and Ranking (e.g., IR theory, language models, probabilistic retrieval models, feature-based models, learning to rank, combining searches, diversity);
- Search Engine Architectures and Scalability (e.g., indexing, compression, MapReduce, distributed IR, P2P IR, mobile devices);
- Filtering and Recommending (e.g., content-based filtering, collaborative filtering, recommender systems, profiles);
- Evaluation (e.g., test collections, effectiveness measures, experimental design);
- Web IR and Social Media Search (e.g., link analysis, query logs, social tagging, social network analysis, advertising and search, blog search, forum search, CQA, adversarial IR);
- IR and Structured Data (e.g., XML search, ranking in databases, desktop search, entity search);

- Multimedia IR (e.g., Image search, video search, speech/audio search, music IR);
- Other Applications (e.g., digital libraries, enterprise search, vertical search, genomics IR, legal IR, patent search, text reuse).

**GENERAL CO-CHAIRS:**

Fabio Crestani (University of Lugano (USI), Switzerland) Stephane Marchand-Maillet (University of Geneva, Switzerland).

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS:**

Hsin-Hsi Chen (National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan) Efthimis N. Efthimiadis (University of Washington, WA, USA) Jacques Savoy (University of Neuchatel, Switzerland)

For other details, please see the conference web site:  
<http://www.sigir2010.org/>

*1.5. Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) 2010, Zadar, Croatia, 24–28 May 2010*

University of Zadar, Zadar, Croatia (<http://www.unizd.hr/>).

Full information at: <http://www.ffos.hr/lida/> Email: [lida@ffos.hr](mailto:lida@ffos.hr).

The annual international conference Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) addresses the changing and challenging environment for libraries and information systems and services in the digital world. Each year a different and ‘hot’ theme is addressed, divided in two parts; the first part covering research and development and the second part addressing advances in applications and practice. LIDA brings together researchers, educators, practitioners, and developers from all over the world in a forum for personal exchanges, discussions, and learning, made easier by being held in memorable locations.

**Themes LIDA 2010**

*Part I: DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP: support by digital libraries*

- research, practices, and values related to digital scholarship, including conceptual frameworks that emerged;
- contemporary nature of the scholarly information and communication environment in general and as involving digital libraries in particular;
- developments in digital humanities;
- navigating shifting patterns of scholarly communication;
- the impact digital libraries have on digital scholarship and on education in various fields, and vice versa; the impact of digital scholarship on digital libraries;

- studies on how faculty, researchers, and students make use of digital scholarly resources for their research or in education;
- practices that emerged in libraries related to support of digital scholarship, such as resource/collection building, digitization, preservation, access, services and others;
- international aspects of digital libraries with related trends in globalization and cooperative opportunities for support of digital scholarship;
- research and discussions on general questions: How are we to understand new forms of scholarship and scholarly works in their own right? How are we to respond in digital libraries? What are the opportunities and challenges?

*Part II: DIGITAL NATIVES: challenges & innovations in reaching out to digital born generations*

- research and discussions on general questions: who are these digital natives? How they are different from older generations – or digital immigrants – and what is the world they're creating going to look like?
- the impact of digital natives on libraries;
- digital libraries and social networks on the Web;
- the cultural and technological challenges faced by digital libraries in serving digital natives;
- examples of library services specifically aimed at digital natives;
- efforts by libraries to help people that are more digital immigrants to become more digitally natives;
- role of libraries in e-learning and education in general;
- is the future of libraries closely associated with how successfully they meet the demands of digital users?

*Types of contributions*

1. Papers: research studies and reports on practices and advances that will be presented at the conference and included in published Proceedings
2. Posters: short graphic presentations on research, studies, advances, examples, practices, or preliminary work that will be presented in a special poster session. Proposals for posters should be submitted as a short, one or two- page paper.
3. Demonstrations: live examples of working projects, services, interfaces, commercial products, or developments-in-progress that will be presented during the conference in specialized facilities or presented in special demonstration sessions.
4. Workshops: two to four-hour sessions that will be tutorial and educational in nature. Workshops will be presented before and after the main part of the conference and will require separate fees, to be shared with workshop organizers.
5. PhD Forum: short presentations by PhD students, particularly as related to their dissertation; help and responses by a panel of educators.

*Conference contact information*

Conference co-directors:

TATJANA APARAC-JELUSIC, Department of Library and Information Science  
University of Zadar; Zadar, Croatia; taparac@unizd.hr

TEFKO SARACEVIC, School of Communication and Information; Rutgers University; New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA tefkos@rutgers.edu

Program chairs:

For Theme I: VITTORE CASAROSA, Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie dell'Informazione, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche; Pisa, Italy, casarosa@isti.cnr.it

For Theme II: GARY MARCHIONINI, School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA, march@ils.unc.edu

*Venue*

Zadar is one of the enchanting cities on the Adriatic coast, rich in history. It still preserves a very old network of narrow and charming city streets, as well as a Roman forum dating back to the first century AD. In addition, Zadar region encompasses many natural beauties, most prominent among them is the Kornati National Park, the most unusual and indented set of close to a 100 small islands in the Mediterranean For Zadar see <http://www.zadar.hr/English/Default.aspx>. For Croatia see <http://www.croatia.hr/>.

*1.6. Connections 2010, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, May 15–16, 2010*

Connections is a conference for Library and Information Science doctoral students and candidates. It is one of the best venues for LIS doctoral students and candidates to meet and discuss with their colleagues from not only the Great Lakes region but from across Canada and the United States. Furthermore, because the conference is run and organized by and for us it serves as a forum for research at any stage in the process.

*Call for Papers*

Connections 2010 will feature twenty-four 20 minute presentations over the course of the conference. Presentations may cover any Information or Library Science related subject including library or information behavior, policy, or systems. Students and candidates interested in presenting are required to submit a 500 word abstract for a double-blind peer review.

*1.7. New digital directions and library education: sustaining library education programs. 76th IFLA Education and Training Section, IFLA General Conference & Council, Gothenburg, Sweden, August 10–15, 2010*

The IFLA Section for Education and Training (SET) seeks papers for its Open Session on the topic New digital directions and library education: sustaining library education programs. This topic has been chosen in accordance with the main theme of the conference, Open access to knowledge: promoting sustainable progress. A separate call for papers has been issued for the Section's satellite session and for a joint SET session with the IFLA E-learning special interest group on Understanding the value of ePortfolios to reflect on and present learning and professional development.

We are particularly keen to have papers and perspectives from LIS educators, practitioners and students and from a wide range of library sectors (e.g. public, academic, school, special). Papers must be original and could cover issues like:

- The impact of new information technologies : reconceptualizing, and/or globalizing library education?
- Library education in iSchools;
- Pedagogy for online/virtual library education and training;
- Employability of graduates in the digital library world.
- Interdisciplinarity, synergies and/or convergences of digital archives, libraries and museums in library education.

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<http://alumni.curtin.edu.au/Page.aspx?pid=345&chid=14>

*1.8. Joint Conference on Digital Libraries JCDL 2010, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, June 21–25, 2010*

<http://www.jcdl2010.org>

Sponsored by ACM SIGIR, ACM SIGWEB, ASIS&T, and IEEE-CS TCDL

The ACM/IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL) is the major international research forum focused on digital libraries and associated technical,



practical, and social issues. JCDL encompasses the many meanings of the term “digital libraries”, including (but not limited to) new forms of information institutions; operational information systems with all manner of digital content; new means of selecting, collecting, organizing, distributing, and evaluating digital content; and theoretical models of information media, including document genres and electronic publishing. Digital libraries are distinguished from information retrieval systems because they include more types of media, provide additional functionality and services, and include other stages of the information life cycle, from creation through use. Digital libraries can also be viewed as an extension of the services libraries currently provide.

The theme of JCL 2010 is “Digital Libraries – 10 years past, 10 years forward, a 2020 vision”. This theme reflects the fact that the context in which digital libraries were originally conceived has significantly changed in the context of new information models embodied in Web 2.0 and popular social networking applications. In this spirit, we are especially interested in papers that address and demonstrate new models of collaborative, participatory information interaction increasingly ubiquitous in the Web 2.0 context.

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Collaborative and participatory information environments
- Cyberinfrastructure architectures, applications, and deployments
- Data mining/extraction of structure from networked information
- Digital library and Web Science curriculum development
- Evaluation of online information environments
- Impact and evaluation of digital information in education
- Information policy and copyright law
- Personal digital information management
- Retrieval and browsing
- Social networks and networked information
- Social-technical perspectives of digital information
- Studies of human factors in networked information
- Systems, algorithms, and models for data preservation
- Theoretical models of information interaction and organization
- Visualization of large-scale information environments

*1.9. Marketing Libraries in a Web 2.0 World. IFLA satellite pre-conference, Stockholm, August 7–8, 2010*

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Management and Marketing Section, in collaboration with the Stockholm University Library, are organizing a pre-conference and satellite meeting in Stockholm (August 7 and 8, 2010). This is held in conjunction with the IFLA annual conference, which takes place in Gothenburg (Sweden), the following week.

*Theme and objectives*

Marketing the 21st library and information organization to its 21st century customers using Web 2.0 tools is a “hot topic”. This satellite meeting will focus on the marketing applications and aspects (not technical), of Web 2.0:

- What are the implications of Web 2.0 and social networks for the marketing of library and information organizations;
- Which traditional marketing principles and practices are valuable (marketing mix & four P’s, etc.) amongst Web 2.0 marketing strategies?
- Which specific Web 2.0 applications are best for marketing specific library and information organizations (academic, public, school, corporate?)
- Can Web 2.0 help better understand and identify clients’ needs?
- How can Web 2.0 better meet clients’ needs?
- What technologies best market Web 2.0 tools for use by customers?
- What additional education do library and information professionals need for best use of these new marketing tools ?
- What examples are available of “best” marketing practices utilizing Web 2,0 tools ?
- And any other related question.

Scientific committee in charge of the evaluation:

- Judith Broady-Preston, Aberystwyth University, (UK)
- Dinesh Gupta, Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, (India)
- Trine Kolderup Flaten, Bergen Public Library (Norway)
- Christie Koontz, Florida State University, (USA)
- Àngels Massisimo, Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)
- Lena Olsson, Stockholm University (Sweden)
- Marielle de Miribel, Mediadix, (France)
- Réjean Savard, Univ. de Montréal, (Canada)
- Nadia Temmar, École Supérieure de Banque (Algeria)
- Christina Tovote, Stockholm University (Sweden)
- Steffen Wawra, Universitätsbibliothek Passau (Germany)

*1.10. 4th European Conference on Information Management and Evaluation,  
Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, 9–10 September 2010*

The conference committee welcomes contributions on a wide range of topics using a range of scholarly approaches including theoretical and empirical papers employing qualitative, quantitative and critical methods. Action research, case studies and work-in-progress/posters are welcomed approaches. PhD Research, proposals for roundtable discussions, non-academic contributions and product demonstrations based on the main themes are also invited.

A full call for papers, including how to submit can be found at

<http://academic-conferences.org/ecime/ecime2010/ecime10-call-papers.htm>

In addition to the main themes of the conference, there are 4 mini tracks on the following topics:

- ICT issues as they specifically affect SMEs
- The Metrics System: Evaluation Input Quality Issues
- Determinants of IT Adoption and Diffusion in Organisations
- Evidence based approaches to Information Systems Evaluation

Details of these mini tracks, including how to submit can be found at:

<http://academic-conferences.org/ecime/ecime2010/ecime10-minitrack.htm>

*1.11. 5th Shanghai International Library Forum, Shanghai Library, Shanghai, China, August 24–26, 2010*

The biennial forum, conducted in the era of quickened growth of information industry and globalized development of libraries, provides opportunities of brainstorming centering on the latest progress, innovative measures and future trends of library science and service. With the intensified coverage of media and wide recognition from the library circle, the convening of the forum, combining keynote speeches, plenary session and individual seminars, appeals to over 300 participants for participation at home and abroad, among who are IFLA senior officials, library directors, professionals and experts from the information sector, researchers and people from other fields.

Expo 2010 Shanghai China will be held between May 1 and October 31, 2010 in Shanghai with the theme of ‘Better City, Better Life’. It would become a pageant for city life discussion, a symphony with the melody of technological innovation and cultural blending as well as a splendid between nations and cultures.

The forthcoming Forum coincides with World Expo and will include the 7th Chinese-Japanese International Seminar for the Librarianship. The Organizer is now extending warm welcome to domestic and overseas colleagues alike to join the academic exchanges while celebrating meanwhile Expo 2010 Shanghai China.

The topic of this forum is “City Life and Library Service”. To facilitate in-depth discussions, subtopics are designed as follows:

- I. Libraries and Multicultural Service
- II. Libraries and Community Well-Being
- III. Library Performance Evaluation
- IV. Library Support for Innovation and Strategic Decisions
- V. Library Service in Cloud Computing Era

We solicit papers from researchers, professionals and people engaged in libraries or information institutes. Papers thus submitted shall be original research contributions or summaries of practical experience, which have not been published in any other periodicals or proceedings. Formats can be referred to at <http://www.libnet.sh.cn/silf2010>.

Please submit the abstract of your paper to the Organizing Committee prior to March 15, 2010 and the full text before April 30, 2010. All the papers will be peer-reviewed by the Program Committee of SILF 2010 before the selected few get collected in the print proceedings of the conference for official publication.

Secretariat

Ms. Ren Xiapei (for program) or Mr. Zhou Qing (for logistics)

Address: 1555 Huai Hai Zhong Lu, Shanghai 200031, China

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Fax: +86.21.6445.5006

Website: <http://www.libnet.sh.cn/silf2010>

*1.12. Research Data Access and Preservation – ASIST Summit, Phoenix, AZ, April 9–10, 2010*

Preliminary program at

<http://www.asis.org/Conferences/IA10/ResearchDataAccessSummit2010.html>

Researchers in all fields generate and analyze enormous quantities of digital data. In fields ranging throughout the sciences and humanities, managing, preserving, and sharing these data require substantial capital and human resources and new kinds of information professionals who are able to integrate technology, content, and policy skills. This summit aims to bring together leaders in data centers, laboratories, and libraries in different organizational and disciplinary settings to share ideas and techniques for managing, preserving, and sharing large-scale research data repositories with an eye toward achieving infrastructure-independent access and stewardship. The summit will engage three kinds of leaders: those from projects with experience in integrating high-performance technologies; those from large scale collaboratories in science, social science, and the humanities; and those from institutions coping with the challenges of integrating different technologies and data collections. The summit will address three main questions:

1. What data access and preservation capabilities are required within and across research groups?
2. What technical solutions exist to meet these needs and how do they scale across domains?
3. What are the social contexts under which research communities assemble to share data?

Saturday will be a half day of sessions. The formal meeting ends at noon. Saturday afternoon tutorials will be given for those who wish to focus on particular concepts and systems. We expect to have a panel on each of the above questions led by leaders who have practical experience dealing with the associated challenges,

and a few invited speakers. Participants will have ample opportunities to interact with speakers and each other and present techniques and concepts via posters and semi-structured discussions. Demonstrations of integrated systems that address data management challenges will be held, with opportunities to compare approaches and ask implementation details.

Panel 1 – Data Life Cycle management

Texas Digital Repository – M. McFarland

Carolina Digital Repository – S. Michalak National Science Digital Library – M. Wright Michigan State University – C. Ghering

Panel 2 – Promoting Re-use of Scientific Collections Max Planck Institute for PsychoLinguistics – P. Wittenburg iPlant Collaborative – S. Ram International Virtual Observatory Alliance – R. Williams Odum Social Science Institute – J. Crabtree Sustainable Heritage through Multivalent ArchiviNg – P. Watry (INVITED)

Panel 3 – Large-scale Data Management Challenges Ocean Observatories Initiative – J. Orcutt National Climatic Data Center – E. Kearns Cinegrid – L. Herr Southern California Earthquake Center – P. Maechling

Panel 4 – NSF DataNet Initiatives

Data Conservancy – S. Choudhury

DataOne – W. Michener

DataNet Federation Consortium – R. Moore

Demonstration session – Technology Systems Integrated Rule Oriented Data System – R. Moore L-Store – A. Tackett Fedora – D. Davis (INVITED) SHAMAN – P. Watry (INVITED)

Panel 5 – Developing Assessment Criteria NARA – M. Conrad Data One – J. Greenberg Ocean Observatory Initiative – J. Graybeal

Panel 6 – Legal and Social Implications of Shared Collections University of Michigan – A. Zimmerman NorthWestern University – N. Contractor

Chaired by Reagan Moore and an advisory board that includes William Anderson, Christine Borgman, Hsinchun Chen, Sayeed Choudhury, Michael Lesk, Gary Marchionini, William Michener, Art Pasquinelli, Sudha Ram, and Stu Weibel.

In cooperation with the Coalition for Networked Information \_\_\_\_Richard B. Hill Executive Director American Society for Information Science and Technology 1320 Fenwick Lane, Suite 510 Silver Spring, MD 20910

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*1.13. 4th European Conference on Information Management and Evaluation,  
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## **2. Schools**

### *2.1. Florida State University, US*

#### **IMLS Grant to Explore Digital and School Libraries, Open Content**

Studies have shown that digital resources – video clips, audio, simulations, and images – improve student learning in science and math, and the emergence of online digital libraries has made more free resources available than ever before. Yet few make it to student classrooms or computers. A new research study at The Florida State University looks to change this.

“Digital Libraries to School Libraries (DL2SL): A Strategy for Lasting K-12 Open Content Implementation” is an investigation into how school libraries can successfully integrate digital library “open content” in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM materials) into their collections and services. The research project, headed by Dr. Marcia Mardis, an assistant professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at Florida State’s College of Communication & Information, received a \$309,344 grant in June from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Most school libraries have the instructional resources, digital tools and space to support this type of learning, but few school librarians have the skills and awareness to take the quality STEM-related material available free on the Internet and make it available for teachers to integrate into their curricula. The Florida State project will provide professional development to school media specialists in building collections of STEM material that teachers can use, thus increasing student use of the digital materials that aid in learning. Research findings will be shared with the digital library, school library and education communities.

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## 2.2. *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US*

CIRSS Funded for Data Curation Research and Education as Part of \$20 Million NSF Award

The Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship (CIRSS) at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will receive approximately

\$2.9 million dollars as a partner on the Data Conservancy project, a \$20 million initiative led by the Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries. The five-year award, one of the first two in the NSF's DataNet program, will build infrastructure for the management of the ever-increasing amounts of digital research data. The principal investigator is Sayeed Choudhury, Hodson Director of the Digital Research and Curation Center, and associate dean of university libraries, at Johns Hopkins. The sub-award to the University of Illinois is led by co-principal investigator, Carole L. Palmer, director of CIRSS and professor at GSLIS. Other CIRSS researchers include Melissa Cragin, Allen Renear, John MacMullen, and David Dubin from GSLIS, and Michael Welge from the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA).

The project will begin with data from astronomy, the life sciences, earth sciences, and social sciences, developing a framework to more fully understand data practices currently in use, and arrive at a model for curation that allows ease of access both within and across disciplines. “Science and engineering research and education are increasingly digital and data-intensive,” said Choudhury, “which means that new management structures and technologies will be critical to accommodate the diversity, size, and complexity of current and future data sets and streams. The potential for the sharing and application of data across disciplines is incredible. But it’s not enough to simply discover data; you need to be able to access it and be assured it will remain available.”

The Illinois team will contribute to multiple aspects of the project, conducting studies of scientists’ data practices and needs, and analyzing how best to represent complex units of data in the repository.

The research led by Renear will develop formal terminology and identity conditions for fundamental data concepts. “Many of the key cross-cutting concepts of scientific data organization remain poorly defined,” said Renear. “Our work will provide the foundation for standardizing how Data Conservancy datasets are identified, described, related, and organized.”

The CIRSS research activities and other Data Conservancy efforts will feed directly into two professional training programs at GSLIS, the Data Curation specialization in the master’s of library and information science and the Biological Information Specialists master’s in the campus-wide bioinformatics program. The award will also support professional development in data curation principles, processes, and technologies.

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