

Service Statement

Abstract

I strongly believe that, alongside research and teaching, professional service to one's institution, the local library and information science (LIS) community, and the LIS field is an important part of being a doctoral student and future faculty member in the field. My service to my institution, Florida State University (FSU), has included serving as one of 3-4 doctoral student representatives to the Doctoral Program Committee of the FSU School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS); participating in four sessions of SLIS's Research and Teaching proseminar and colloquia series; facilitating SLIS's student-run Agraphia writing support group; and serving as a representative in FSU's Congress of Graduate Students. I also served for two years as Secretary of the Gamma Chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the LIS honor society, helping to renew the chapter's commitment to providing value to our alumni members. My service to the profession has included peer reviewing articles for multiple journals; membership in ALA, ASIST, and ALISE; and acting as Secretary of the ASIST Special Interest Group for Social Informatics (SIG SI). I believe my past, present, and future service activities are helping and will continue to support my career progress as a doctoral student and in pursuing a faculty career and tenure.

Introduction

I strongly believe that, alongside research and teaching, professional service to one's institution, the local library and information science (LIS) community, and the LIS field is an important part of being a doctoral student and future faculty member in the field. Such service helps promote the development of the field and its research, teaching, and professional activities, and my involvement in it ensures that I am an active participant in this process. Such service can also help inform my research and teaching activities as I progress in my career. So far, the majority of my service has been to Florida State University (FSU) and to the local and regional LIS community associated with the university, but I also am active in service to the profession. This statement details my current and future service activities and goals.

Service to the Institution

As a doctoral student at FSU, I have been active in service at multiple levels. On the departmental level, I have served since October 2010 as one of 3-4 doctoral student representatives to the Doctoral Program Committee (DPC) of the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS). In this role I have been able to express any concerns and opinions that my cohort of doctoral students have and provide valuable input on planned activities and changes to the doctoral program. In particular, my work with the DPC has included helping update the guidelines for the doctoral degree to accurately reflect current practices, providing advice and guidance to first-year doctoral students as they prepare for their first-year exam, and providing input on changes in admission and degree completion requirements. I hope to continue this service and be able to contribute further to the DPC's business and activities.

I have also participated in presenting four sessions as part of SLIS's Research and Teaching Proseminar and colloquia series. For the first, in October 2009, I was one of two

panelists who responded to a research presentation by Dr. Michelle Kazmer, also introducing the speaker and panelists and facilitating discussion and Q & A with the audience. The second, in September 2010, was a colloquium I co-presented with Dr. Gary Burnett and Dr. Michelle Kazmer on developing a doctoral-level qualitative research methods syllabus. In January 2011 I was part of a panel of three doctoral students who led and contributed equally to a discussion session on current and future research questions in LIS. Finally, in September 2011 I was part of a separate panel of three doctoral students who led and contributed equally to a discussion of academic and professional organizations and conferences in LIS, focusing on ASIST, ALISE, and the iSchools / iConference.

I have recently become the facilitator for SLIS's student-run Agraphia writing support group, beginning in August 2011. This group meets once a week during semesters to discuss writing and career progress and goals, with the intention to help support each other's writing and career activities and keep motivations high. Our group is also facilitated by Dr. Gary Burnett, our faculty advisor, who I work with in mentoring newer students as they complete their coursework and face becoming part of the world of academic writing. In sharing our experiences, goals, and knowledge, we are all able to better our writing and ease our progress through SLIS's doctoral program towards becoming faculty, administrators, or other career goals.

At the broader university level, between September 2009 and July 2011 I was one of four representatives for CCI in FSU's Congress of Graduate Students (COGS). This body serves as student government for graduate students at FSU, discussing, debating, and voting on funding requests from student organizations, university policies, and other issues important to FSU graduate students. In addition, I was a member of the COGS Academics and Student Life Committee and was elected and served as Vice Chair of this committee from December 2010 to July 2011. In this role I focused on issues relating to graduate student health insurance, housing, athletics, tuition, and electronic theses and dissertation (ETD) requirements. I resigned as a representative so I could focus on my academic program and other research, teaching, and service obligations, but feel my service and participation in COGS has usefully contributed towards both addressing the concerns of FSU graduate students—especially those in my department and college—and my own career progression as a doctoral student and future faculty member.

Service to the Community

I have also been active in serving the local and regional LIS community, particularly through serving as Secretary of the Gamma Chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the local FSU-based chapter of the international LIS honors society, for the 2010 and 2011 calendar years. I had primary responsibility for sending out invitations to new nominees to the society, handling incoming membership applications and other mailings, maintaining the chapter's membership database, and taking notes at officers' meetings. In conjunction with other chapter officers, I also helped establish and maintain a Facebook presence for the chapter and plan and execute two successful annual meetings and evenings of events in November of both years. Through our combined service activities, we were able to renew the chapter's commitment to providing value to our members and recognize their efforts as they begin and continue their careers as LIS professionals, leaders in the field, and FSU alumni. I plan to remain active in the chapter even though I have shifted my service focus to other avenues.

Service to the Profession and Field

In addition to the more localized service noted above, I have also provided service to the broader LIS field in the form of peer review. I took part in a SLIS seminar in Summer 2010 in critiquing and improving research, which provided substantial practical experience in this process and increased my competency in completing this valuable service activity. I then have applied this experience in peer reviewing articles for the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* and the *Journal of Internet and Information Systems*. My reviews and comments on revised submissions have been well received and appreciated by both journal editors and article authors; one article was greatly improved, in my view, as a result of the peer review process and my input into it. I intend to actively seek out peer reviewing opportunities and participate in the process when asked to do so, as I feel peer review is a vital part of the LIS research field and an area where I can contribute, enhancing my potential success in a faculty career.

I am also a member of the American Library Association (ALA; since September 2008), the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST, since February 2010), and the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE; since December 2010). I am also a member of and the Secretary for the ASIST Special Interest Group for Social Informatics (SIG SI) since September 2011, taking notes at SIG meetings and helping in organizing events and other SIG activities. I also have attended or will attend the ASIST annual conference (2010 and 2011), ALISE conference (2012), and the iSchools-organized iConference (2011, 2012). I also plan to attend other conferences of value to my research, teaching, and service goals, potentially including but not limited to JCDL (ACM and IEEE's Joint Conference on Digital Libraries), CSCW (ACM's conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work), and/or Internet Research (run by AOIR, the Association of Internet Researchers).

Conclusion

In sum, my past, present, and future service activities are helping and will continue to support my career progress. As noted, I intend to continue my service in the SLIS Doctoral Program Team for the foreseeable future, while adjusting my focus from previous university-level activities to being more visible in field-level professional and academic organizations such as ASIST. Continuing to be active in peer review will also help increase my visibility as I hopefully become a doctoral candidate. My service will thus support my continuation through the doctoral program and, in particular, my pursuit of a faculty career and tenure.