

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT

LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

Primary Applicant(s): Matthew Conner

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TITLE OF PROJECT:

Time Period of Grant: July 2012 – December 2012

Amount of Award Received: \$1420

Original Abstract as Submitted:

The New Library: Seven Trends, Four Case Studies

By Matthew Conner

Abstract

This book seeks to bridge theoretical and practical issues about the future of academic librarianship. The first half will summarize seven prominent trends of change in the profession in the areas of reference, personnel, technology, collections, buildings, campus roles, and library culture. While these trends have been discussed extensively, this book expects to contribute by providing an historical narrative for each that identifies driving forces, identifies best practices and promising directions, and shows the complex intersections between the topics. It is hoped that this methodology will provide a useful framework for the vast and multiform discussion of the future of libraries.

The second part of the book will test abstractions about the future and examine their relevance to libraries at four major universities: UC Merced, UC Davis, the University of Hawaii, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Each one offers distinct features that provide alternative perspectives on the future. The book will examine the seven professional trends at work at each institution to understand how they manifest themselves within the context of a living, changing university. This work hopes to add insight into the ongoing professional discussion about the future of libraries, mutually enhance scholarship and practice through its case studies, and illuminate the industry and resourcefulness of librarians as they adapt to change.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

- Describe what was achieved during the time period of the grant.
During the time period of the grant, I completed site visits to my two remaining case studies that had not been studied: the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For each visit, I interviewed 20-25 staff, took photographs and studied the facilities in person. I then drafted out the remainder of my book, submitting the

complete manuscript, images, and permissions to ALA in January 2013. I am told that the book will be published in 2014.

- What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.
As outlined for the question above, I completed my plans for the project as intended.

- Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?

- Include any relevant quantitative data, if applicable (e.g. How many individuals have benefited from this project? In what way? This may include various output measures such as circulation, reference transactions, program attendance, survey responses, etc. as appropriate.)

Quantitative measures are hard to produce now since the book has yet to be published. I can say that the 268 page manuscript (not including images, index and apparatus) was completed from start to finish in a little over a year including extensive research, both of the professional literature and of my case studies, three visits to other university libraries and a total of over 80 interviews with library staff there as well as email correspondence with other individuals. The process allowed my interviewees a chance to articulate their roles and build professional relationships. I was told by Sue Searing Associate University Librarian at the University of Illinois that my visit inspired their library to apply for an award for library innovation from Stanford University for which I was asked to write a supporting letter. I was consulted about library buildings (on the strength of the advertisement for the book by ALA) by an architecture firm in Oklahoma whom I was able to direct to Scott Bennett, the pre-eminent authority on library building design whom I had interviewed and who wrote personally to thank me. In addition to the book, the knowledge I gained has helped me immensely in contributing to the library reorganization underway at UC Davis and for my upcoming work as president for both LAUCD and LAUC.

- Include any anecdotes, if applicable.

Debbie Jones of Kinslow, Keith, and Todd Inc. (Architecture) based in Oklahoma thanked me for guiding her organization to the pre-eminent expert on library buildings and promised to buy my book when it comes out. Joyce Ogburn, Past President of ACRL, said that she will buy the book when it appears. John Wilkin, head of HathiTrust, reviewed part of the manuscript relevant to his specialty in collection building and called it “absolutely fantastic.” My editor at ALA, Christopher Rhodes, praised the final manuscript for its “first-rate discussion of library issues” and for “setting a new standard for books in the field.”

- What would you do differently next time, if anything?
Nothing significant.

- What advice do you have for others applying for LAUC research grants?

Refine the idea as much as possible before applying; have it reviewed by colleagues; plan out the details of the project, especially to do with budgeting, as much as possible.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes_X_ No__

If No, what is needed to complete the project? Is more time needed? Or more funds?

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please explain how the funds received were spent. Attach your original budget and indicate how well your estimates matched with actual expenditures. Receipts are not necessary.

The original budget is below. It turned out to be extremely accurate since most of the costs were in large, defined increments—such as airline tickets.

Budget

The research funding for this book project will consist almost entirely of expenses for traveling to the university libraries that serve as my case studies to interview and gather information. A tentative budget is as follows. Davis is omitted because I work there, and lodging and food for Hawaii will be unnecessary since I have family there.

Merced	Travel \$60	Lodging \$400	Food \$375
Hawaii	Air trip \$775 Ground transp. \$100	X	X
UIUC	Air trip \$725 Ground transp. \$100	\$440	\$375

Equipment - \$70 for a Sony digital recorder for use in making accurate transcripts of my interviews. I was advised by the UC Davis Office of Technology to buy one of these units rather than pay their rental fee of \$10 per day which would result in vastly greater expense over the course of my project.

Total = \$3420

\$2000 of these expenses will be paid for by a research award from LAUCD, the Davis Chapter Division. This application to LAUC is for the remainder of the total which equals \$1420.

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

What are your plans for disseminating the results of your work? If it will be a web page or product, or published article or book, when will it be available to the public? Include citations/URLs if known.

The dissemination of the book will mostly take the form of its publication, scheduled for Spring 2014. ALA has its own marketing plans. In addition, they encourage authors to take the initiative by developing their own websites and other practices for which they have guidelines and a support network. In addition to this, I have ideas of my own. For instance, I plan to publish a good deal of unused interview material separately in selected publications for their own intrinsic value and to provide secondary marketing for the book. I was actually advised to wait on that by ALA so as not to anticipate the actual release of the book by too much.

V. NOTE

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.