

Science Library 228
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92623-9556
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Michael Yonezawa
Vice-President, President-elect, LAUC
Reference Department
Rivera Library
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521
michael.yonezawa@ucr.edu

RE: Report on LAUC Mini Grant 2009-2010

Dear Michael:

I was awarded a 2009-10 LAUC Mini Grant for travel related expenses in order to present a paper at the Eleventh International Conference on Grey Literature at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC December 14-15, 2009.

This brief report indicates that I indeed delivered my paper, "New Shades of Grey: The Emergence of E-Science, Scientific Data and Challenges for Research Libraries." I have attached the paper and the accompanying powerpoint presentation which will be published in the formal proceedings. The immediate feedback on the paper was that it resonated with librarians associated with academic libraries and was highly relevant as well to the current themes of libraries handling research data. The theme of this conference was "The Grey Mosaic: Piecing It All Together," which was general enough to suggest changes from the content and contributor perspectives as well as from the organization and publishing spheres. Having the meeting in Washington, DC attracted many people from the federal agencies and the scholarly societies in the region who could add to the discourse of the changing fabric and hues of grey literature still evolving due to electronic publishing, emerging technologies and more profound use of social networking and mobile communications and devices. This conference is an independently hosted meeting that moves in alternative years between different cities in Europe and occasionally meets in the United States. The Grey Literature movement has a strong presence in Europe coordinated with national research councils in France, Italy, the UK and in the Netherlands, with a growing presence in Japan, Korea and China.

The themes developed in my paper suggest a very different paradigm for academic research libraries as they contend with what they must do to support the data component of research methodology, making the data available for ongoing testing or new potential applications, reuse, mashups and just sharing. The role of the librarian changes to accommodate this new content era and eScience reflects the changing cyberinfrastructure required for data curating, management and archival functions. The metadata role is critical to develop in order that indexing allows data to be reused and repurposed.

The conference reinforced that however much ePublishing allows grey literature more transparency it still appears in different formats and the possibilities for it to proliferate are greater due to the opportunities for multimedia to expand the potential for its use. Envisioning information in many ways is the direction of grey literature and this conference confirms that new knowledge generation is the

way to leverage entrepreneurship and new opportunities in publishing. One Day 2 of this conference over lunch, a proposal was made to form an alliance of US federal agencies and relevant departments that contribute to the body and spirit of grey literature. Common in European and other international contexts but sorely lacking in the US governmental infrastructure this effort will align us with countries in the European Union and other parts of the world. Volunteers in the greater DC area emerged to attend to this effort and inform others about its progress and to add comments later in 2010. This was considered a very significant and welcome activity to which many look forward.

Attending this conference in Washington was an added bonus because of the high number of librarians working in federal agencies and who influence the production of government data. A new era of grey literature is emerging. The invited keynote paper by Peter Young from the Library of Congress tied together my paper with his themes for how data and federally sponsored or funded research in the United States has responsibilities to be shared and what this means for eScience. All in all, this relatively small conference is intense and important even though few American academic librarians are ever in attendance. It is important that practicing academic librarians participate in these conferences and contribute to the discussions about new formats, methods of presentation and archiving that are becoming universally accepted. Access to information is so key to competitive intelligence in all areas of research.

Expenses:

Roundtrip Airfare	\$269.80
2 nights hotel	\$237.42
Local ground transportation	60.00
Photocopying ppt slides	91.00
Meals	21.50
Total	\$679.72

Having the \$500 MiniGrant made a big difference in meeting these expenses. I did not have to register for the conference so my out of pocket expenses were reduced.

I thank LAUC for this funding and remain most grateful for the support that made it possible for me to participate.

Sincerely yours,

Julia Gelfand
 Applied Sciences Librarian
 University of California, Irvine
 jgelfand@uci.edu