

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT

LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

Primary Applicant(s): Cynthia Johnson

Campus: UCI

Email: cynthiaj@uci.edu

Telephone: 949-824-0081

TITLE OF PROJECT: "Reference: the New Dirty Word" (presentation)

Time Period of Grant: Spring 2017

Amount of Award Received: **\$600**

Original Abstract as Submitted:

I am requesting a presentation grant totaling \$600 to help fund my participation in a panel session at the ACRL Conference in March, 2017. The LAUC grant would help fund my travel and registration for the conference. I am one of three panelists, along with Ann Brown (Instruction, Outreach, and Reference Librarian at George Washington University) and Elizabeth DeCoster (User Services Librarian at the Goucher College). ACRL has accepted our panel proposal, titled "Reference: the New Dirty Word?"

ACRL will be in Baltimore, MD, from March 22-March 25, 2017.

"Reference: the New Dirty Word" will focus on how reference service is changing in academic libraries, as well as generating ideas to communicate the value of reference. Below is the short description submitted to ACRL: Reference is being scrubbed from our library lexicon, often seen as an antiquated service point. While the word has not changed, the concepts and services have. Join the discussion on how to clean up its reputation through talking points and reconceptualized reference services. Participants will help create a communication strategy on the value of reference.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

- Describe what was achieved during the time period of the grant.
 - The grant paid for my registration and travel to ACRL 2017, in Baltimore, MD. At ACRL I presented with two colleagues. Our presentation was "Reference: The New Dirty Word?" which occurred on Friday, March 24th, 3-4 pm.
- What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.
 - We gave the presentation and completed the project.
- Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?
 - Approximately 75 people attended the presentation and we fostered conversation using polls and one presenter going into the audience with a microphone to encourage attendees to ask questions and provide their own points of view. From comments after the presentation, I believe many attendees appreciated hearing the various models we described and the affirmation that each library is individual and has its own needs. There is no "one size fits all" answer to how we should provide reference services. After the presentation I found this quote online:

- The panel Rebecca Lloyd found particularly interesting was **Reference: The New Dirty Word**. She reports, "The topics addressed were very similar to the discussions we've had here about shifting librarian roles, student worker training, librarian visibility, etc. Even though it wasn't new territory, it was reassuring to hear that other libraries are also struggling with these questions and finding that no matter which approach they choose, there are trade-offs and aspects of the service model that need further improvements. The main take-away was that there is no "right or wrong" on the future of the reference desk. It's individual to each institution and there are variety of viable paths forward." <https://sites.temple.edu/assessment/2017/03/30/acrl-conference-points-the-way-reports-from-the-field/>
- What would you do differently next time, if anything?
 - Nothing.
- What advice do you have for others applying for LAUC research grants?
 - Go for it.

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.

My original budget request:

Early Bird Registration \$390

Estimated air fare from Orange County/Santa Ana, CA to Baltimore/Washington, MD \$500

Total \$890

I received \$600 from LAUC. I used these funds for:

Registration (\$390) and my airfare to Baltimore one-way (\$219.94).

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.

LAUC awarded me with a Presentation Grant. The slides for the ACRL presentation are available on the conference site. I do not know if these will be archived.

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.