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Spotlights: Faculty, Alum, and Course

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Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Yan Wu is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the School of Library and Information Science, University of Southern Mississippi. She received her Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of North Texas. In her dissertation, she proposed a semiotic model that allows systematic analysis of multi-model representation and further applied it in the development of a method of creativity evaluation in storytelling. Prior to joining the Southern Miss faculty she was an adjunct professor with the North Carolina Central University. Dr. Wu has recently taught the following courses: Computer-Based Information Networks, Information Retrieval and Analysis, Organization of Information, Health Sciences Resources and Services, Internet Resources and Applications, Special Libraries, and Introduction to Information Science, and more!

Dr. Wu's research interests include representation and semiotics, information retrieval, knowledge management, and citation analysis. She has initiated and has been involved in various information science research projects and has published several papers in peer reviewed journals and in national and international conference proceedings. Among these are *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, *Proceedings of Image and Science Technology in International Conference*, *Proceedings of Text Retrieval Conference*, *Journal of Communications*, and *Journal of Distance Learning Administration*, to name a few. Her pending publications will appear in *Creativity Research Journal* and *Information Processing and Management*.

SLIS Alum Spotlight:

Sarah Mangrum (MLIS 2011) is using her information and library science degree right here at Southern Miss! She has worked for the University Libraries for over 3 years, including a position as the Circulation/Reserves Supervisor on the Hattiesburg campus. On March 1, 2012, Sarah will become the new Circulation Librarian at the Cook Library. In addition to being a new faculty librarian, Sarah serves as a board member and activities chair for Friends of University Libraries and is involved with events and exhibits at Cook Library. In October of 2011, Sarah presented an MLA Poster titled "Enhancing The Library Experience Through QR Codes." While a student in the MLIS program Sarah served two terms as a LISSA officer: Webmaster (2009-2010) and President (2010-2011).

Sarah is friendly, outgoing, and a true people person; these are all qualities that allow her to be an asset to any public services department. By combining the knowledge that she has acquired while in the MLIS program and her BA in Communications, Sarah is able to use all of her talents in one career! She has thoroughly enjoyed working in the academic library setting and is looking forward to serving the university in a professional capacity.

Sarah is proud to be a graduate of the School of Library and Information Science at Southern Miss. The program provided a valuable education that she continues to apply to her work every day.

Course Spotlight:

Has it been a while since you were in LIS 501: Reference and Information Resources and Services? Well, if you were to take the course today, you might find that many things have changed. In our endeavors to strengthen our coverage of the American Library Association's Core Competencies (<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/careers/corecomp>), there have been some modifications. This is not to say that everything is new – treasure hunts and source evaluations still exist to expose students to a variety of resources and provide practice on critical evaluation – but some old topics (e.g., the reference interview and annotated bibliographies) have experienced makeovers.

In today's LIS 501, students experience the reference interview in two ways. First, students practice asking the right types of questions to draw out more details and information during lecture/discussion with the professor, who plays the "troublesome" library customer. Their second experience involves group breakout sessions. Students create three questions answerable in an online situation and based on recent topics covered in class (e.g., dictionaries or atlases) and then role-play librarian and customer with their peers. Everyone gets at least one opportunity to be the librarian and to be the library customer, and each

interaction is followed by encouragement and feedback for improvement. Even our students who are already working in the field have found this to be a helpful learning situation. Next, the annotated bibliography has been given a new name – the online pathfinder, a form of electronic reference. Students locate ten reference sources (five print and five online) to use in an annotated bibliography pathfinder built around the topic of their choice. They must include articles, books, and authoritative websites. After writing short annotations, the students then turn the pathfinder into an online resource, using an appropriate venue like <http://www.portaportal.com> or Google Docs (see image below).

The final exciting change to LIS 501 is the inclusion of the podcast of a bibliographic instruction lesson. One of the first activities of the class involves students evaluating online tutorials and lessons created by libraries and databases. The podcast/vodcast builds on this first experience by having students create and evaluate their own experience in creating online instruction reference tools. Students may use whatever technology they choose in creating the podcast and making it "live." Some choices that have been used so far are Screenr, Audacity, Screencast-O-Matic, Adobe Captivate, Dailymotion, PodOmatic, Google Apps, and YouTube.

Image 1: Elizabeth Burt's Online Pathfinder from fall 2011