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Spotlights: Faculty, Alum, and Course

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Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Xinyu Yu joined the School of Library and Information Science in Fall 2007. She teaches several courses including cataloging, special libraries, information in society, introduction to Information Science, metadata, and digital libraries. Dr. Yu also serves as the faculty advisor to the Library and Information Science Student Association (LISSA), a student chapter of the American Library Association at The University of Southern Mississippi. She works closely with the student body of LISSA to provide a forum for students in the program and to help organize service projects on and off campus.

In 2012 Dr. Yu published the paper "Exploring Visual Perception and Children's Interpretations of Picture books" that appears in *Library & Information Science Research*. This paper was the second publication revised from her dissertation, *Visual Perception in relation to Levels of Meaning for Children: An Exploratory Study*. The results of the study inform how images of picture books are useful visual exercises to enhance children's visual skills and narratives.

Currently Dr. Yu is working on several publications derived from the grant, "The IMLS Minority Scholarship Initiative at the University of Southern Mississippi School of Library and Information Science." She serves as the Principal Investigator and administrator for the grant. Her research interests are image analysis and indexing, digital preservation, bibliometrics, and consumer health information.

Dr. Yu is a member of the American Society for Information Science and Technology and the American Library Association.

SLIS Alumni Spotlight



Sheila Cork started her career as a librarian when she was five years old. She would visit her brother's bedroom, pull all the books from his shelves, and put them on the floor, arranged by size, color, or shape. At elementary and high school Cork assisted in the library and her first job after school was with Northamptonshire libraries. She graduated from Leeds polytechnic with a B.A. degree in librarianship, and then in spring 2002 Cork graduated with an MLIS from USM.

Cork has many years of experience working in public libraries, including the Hancock County Library System in Bay St. Louis, MS. In June 2005 she moved to the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA), and entered a new library world, that of Special Librarianship, and life as a one-person librarian in an art museum.

Cork says, "One of the most enjoyable aspects of the change has been the opportunity to work with library school interns and practicum students. These students bring a wealth of new information and ideas to the library and have made great contributions towards practical problem solving."

Students who come to NOMA's library are trained in all aspects of the day to day running of the library. Whenever possible field trips to other libraries are

arranged, giving interns the opportunity to learn about other types of special libraries.

During their initial visit to NOMA students are encouraged to develop a project that they do under the supervision of the librarian. Previous projects have included making a digital database of the WPA files in the library, planning and implementing a major collection shift, and developing a PR program for the library. Students are encouraged to write up their projects for publication in *Mississippi Libraries* and present at the Mississippi Library Association annual conference. Please contact the librarian at scork@Noma.org or 504-658-4117 for more information about interning at NOMA.

Currently Cork is a member of the SLIS advisory board. As a member of this board she has had the opportunity to be involved in the future of SLIS, to comment on the curriculum, and meet with other SLIS alums.

Course Spotlights:

There are two exciting courses taking place this summer. LIS 670 Literacy and Story Time is making its first appearance and LIS 666 has undergone major changes.

LIS 670 Service to Library Clientele: Literacy and Story Time, (June 25-July 26, 5-6:30 pm)
Instructor: Dr. Catharine Bomhold

For: Graduate students interested in working with children in libraries and schools. This course is approved for the new [Graduate Certificate in Youth Services and Literature](#).

Who said summer school can't be FUN?

Did you know a child's vocabulary level upon entering kindergarten is a major predictor of overall school success? That children who aren't read to at home face a huge language gap at school? How about this: Teaching a child to read does not necessarily make a child a reader, but reading to a child dramatically increases their chance of being one.

This class is for students interested in learning how to effectively read aloud to children in the classroom or the public or school library in a manner that enhances their overall cognitive development.



Join us this summer for a 5-week class on childhood literacy and story times in the library and school. Using *The Read Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease we will explore the following topics:

- Why read aloud to children: The science behind the art.

Using a research based approach, students will learn why it is important to read to children starting at birth and continuing beyond when they become independent readers.

- How to read out loud in an effective and entertaining manner.

Students will learn the art of inflection and tone, how to include and engage children in the reading experience and make story time a successful developmental encounter.

- How to choose age appropriate books and materials.

Successful reading experiences start by choosing the right book for the right reader at the right time. Students will learn about childhood cognitive development and be able to apply that knowledge to their choice of reading materials and activities.

- How to develop story times that engage and interest children of particular age groups.

Using unifying themes, students will develop and present story time programs for public and school libraries including songs, crafts, finger plays, and other activities that reinforce the reading experience.

- Strategies for increasing the print climate at home and school.

Students will learn strategies for increasing print resources in the home or classroom by making collections attractive to children and engaging parents creatively.

So dust off your puppets, grab your glue stick, some children's books, and your web cam and join me for some enlightening summer fun this term!

Course: LIS 666: Advanced Reference, (Thursdays May 30- July 25, 5- 6:30 pm) Instructor: Dr. Catharine Bomhold

For: Graduate students who have successfully completed LIS 501

Interested in reference work? Perhaps you are pursuing a career in academic libraries? Or maybe you just feel you need more practice with reference resources? Then this class is for you!

This summer we will look beyond basic online reference sources and discover a world of reference information in print and the deep web. Using Thomas Mann's *Oxford Guide to Library Research* (Oxford University Press, 2008) as a text, the class will address the following topics:

- Virtual reference

Navigating the various technologies associated with virtual reference, students will become adept at responding to online questions, 'pushing' information to patrons, and the delicate art of interpreting inquiries with no physical prompts.

- Effective search strategies

Using Boolean operators, students will be able to formulate and evaluate effective search strategies in the most appropriate print and electronic resources.

- The continued importance of browsing

Knowledge of what is available in the library is one of the most important data sets a librarian can have. Students will get hands-on experience browsing subject collections and evaluating available print collections.

- People sources

Students will find and participate in listservs and discussion groups relevant to a topic and discover how to tap into the vast knowledge of their colleagues.

- Discipline-specific resources

Students will demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the resources of a specific discipline. Using citation searching, they will map seminal works of an academic discipline and the subsequent chain of research.

- Becoming an information resource

As a capstone project, students will create an online wiki or web page of print and electronic resources available for a given topic. This project may be in a public space that students may use later to demonstrate their knowledge of reference resources to potential employers.

This class is an elective and is open to all students who have completed LIS 501: Reference Sources and Services. Students who enroll in LIS 666: Advanced Reference must have access to an academic library at a university or college that is classified as a Carnegie RU/H (or above) institution. To find out if schools in your area qualify, [click here](#), or contact Dr. Bomhold (Catharine.bomhold@usm.edu) for information.



Dr. Catharine Bomhold is a tenured Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Science. She received her Ph.D. in Communication and Information Studies from the University of Alabama in 2003, her M.S. in Library and Information Science and M.A. in Art History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and her B.A. from Illinois State University. Dr. Bomhold joined the Southern Miss SLIS faculty in 2003. Her areas of interest are youth literature, information seeking through technology, and multicultural populations.