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Spotlights: Faculty, Alum, and Course

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Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Matthew Griffis joined the School of Library and Information Science in August, 2013. A native of Ontario, Canada, he has worked in both the archives and public library fields and is a graduate of Trent University, Queen's University, and the University of Western Ontario. He currently teaches LIS 605 (Library Management) and LIS 636 (The Library in American Society), and in coming years will introduce courses on rural public libraries and the library as place.



Dr. Griffis completed his Ph.D. in library and information science in January of 2013. His areas of specialization include public libraries and society, the public library as place, library buildings and architecture, and library history. His dissertation, "Space, Power and the Public Library," investigated the materially-embedded relations of power between people inside public libraries and how building design regulates spatial behavior according to library objectives. He is currently reworking his dissertation for publication in *Advances in Library Administration and Organization*. Griffis has several publications, including three articles written with Dr. Catherine Johnson (Principal Investigator) of the University of Western Ontario about public libraries and social capital.

Many of Dr. Griffis's hobbies are library-related. An avid collector, Griffis specializes in vintage library postcards from around the world, antique library equipment, and original letters written by famous librarians. Griffis also has a strong interest in rare books and book history, and collects modern firsts and literary ephemera.

SLIS Alumni Spotlight



Lindsey (Nikki) Haney works as an acquisitions librarian in the Information Procurement Department for Linklaters LLP, a global law firm headquartered in London, England. Linklaters currently employs 4,600 members of staff across 28 offices in 19 countries. Linklaters, regarded as one of the members of the "Magic Circle" of leading UK law firms, was ranked number four among the highest-grossing law firms in the UK and the sixth highest-grossing law firm in the world.

Lindsey works within a team of three information procurement specialists, who are responsible for the acquisition of all English-language law materials for the firm. Her responsibilities include ordering, cataloguing, processing and invoicing of hardcopy materials for Linklaters global offices. She also assists with daily inquiries relating to serials records and electronic resources. As a member of the Linklaters Global Library Management System Experts Group and Linklaters Global Cataloguing Group, Lindsey works extensively with the firm's offices globally, especially Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Singapore.

Originally from Moss Point, Mississippi, Lindsey graduated from Moss Point High School in 2000. Upon graduation, she moved to Hattiesburg to pursue a bachelor's degree in English at the University of Southern Mississippi. Two years before finishing her B.A, Lindsey began working as student employee for Cook Library Circulation Department. She graduated from Southern Miss with a B.A. in English, minor in Classics in August 2005. Lindsey

decided to enroll in the master's program in Library and Information Science in December 2008 where she focused her studies on cataloguing and special libraries. Lindsey received her master's degree in Library and Information Science in December 2010.

While pursuing her MLIS, Lindsey worked as a monograph cataloguer for the Bibliographic Services Department at Cook Library. She worked within the Acquisitions Team, performing record management and data entry activities in acquisitions, cataloguing and serials records. She also assisted with the ordering, receiving and processing of firm order, approval plan and gift materials for Cook and Gulf Coast campuses. Lindsey's six year tenure in acquisitions enabled her to gain valuable work experience which benefitted her in the pursuit of her degree, and in her professional career.

After receiving her master's degree, Lindsey moved to the United Kingdom and began working at Linklaters as a temporary cataloguer in October 2011. She was given a permanent position in the Information Procurement Department in January 2012. Currently, Lindsey happily resides in south London and plans to continue living in Europe.

Course Spotlights:

LIS 670 Public Health Informatics, (Spring 2013-2014)
Instructor: Dr. Xinyu Yu

Have you thought of becoming a medical librarian or effectively providing quality health information for patrons in your public libraries? A health informatics course will help you realize your dream. There is no prerequisite to become a medical librarian but a background in health sciences or computer technology is considered an asset (Medical Library Association, 2002).

With a project funded by the National Library of Medicine, a graduate level course will be offered to cover public health informatics topics for the School of Library and Information Science and the Department of Public Health in spring 2014. Public health informatics is defined as "a systematic application of information and computer science and technology to the public health practice, research, and learning" (Yasnoff, Carroll, Koo, Linkins &

Kilbourne, 2000, p.68). Public health professionals rely on technology to analyze and interpret health information and data from a population's perspective. Mississippi is one of the most rural states in the nation and public health professionals play a significant role in monitoring the state health conditions and disseminating health information to Mississippians. Because public health has a broad coverage of practices from human issues to living environment, understanding public health information and how technology has an impact on the public health practices can empower librarians to team with health professionals and serve the community.

In this course, key health information resources, evidence-based approach, electronic health records, standards and ethics related to public health information technology will be introduced. Students will be guided to become familiar with searching PubMed/MEDLINE and information technology tools used in public health practices.

References

Medical Library Association. (2002 April). Tip sheets for graduate students and career changers. Retrieved from http://www.mlanet.org/pdf/career/career_exp_graduate.pdf

Yasnoff, W.A., O'Carroll, P.W. Koo, D., Linkins R.W., Kilbourne, E.M. (2000). Public health informatics: Improving and transforming public health in the information age. *Journal of Public Health Management Practice*, 6:67-75.



Dr. Xinyu Yu is an Associate Professor in the School of Library and Information Science. She joined Southern Miss in Fall 2007. She teaches several courses including cataloguing, special libraries, information in society, introduction to Information Science, metadata, and digital libraries.