NEW LIBRARIANSHIP AND THE ROLE OF REFERENCE LIBRARIANS: A BIBLIOGRAPY

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The following materials address the changing roles of librarians and of libraries as institutions. Many of the items listed herein discuss an emerging trend in interdisciplinarity in academic research and the field of information science, and others address the need for libraries and librarians to be interdisciplinary in function and practice. Indeed, one article discusses the reorganization of a university library's reference services from separate subject area reference desks to a single consolidated reference service, a transformation that yielded various benefits—some of which were unexpected—for reference staff and patrons.

All of the referenced materials highlight contents the authors felt would be relevant to the topic at hand. Some materials include brief annotations, while others list the relevant contents. An appendix to this bibliography includes the full text of the abstracts and articles listed herein.

Andrews, Judy C., Michael Bowman, and Douglas M. Hanke. "Around the World: Rethinking Reference: A Case Study at Portland State University's Millar Library." *Library Hi Tech News* 20, no. 4 (May 2003): 13–15.

This article analyzes a library reorganization effort that is somewhat similar to LC's Initiative 900. In 1995 Portland State University (Portland, OR) reorganized its main library, Millar Library, consolidating separate reference services into a single reference desk. The authors found that the reorganization produced good results, including some that countered some pessimistic staff expectations. For example, the university found that subject specialists experienced an increase in the number of patrons they helped and that the increased number of librarians staffing a single reference desk led to a reduction in hours that librarians spent at that desk. Moreover, most reference staff became familiar with new subject areas faster than they had previously anticipated.

Bartolo, Laura M., Don A. Wicks, and Valerie A. Phillips. "Interdisciplinary Endeavors: Collaborative Efforts for Educational and Work Environments." Paper Presented at Association of College and Research Libraries' National Conference, Denver, Colorado, March 15–18, 2001. www.ala.org/acrl/files/conferences/pdf/bartolo.pdf.

This paper examines an emerging trend in interdisciplinary research among a university's academic departments and its impact on the university library's collection development. The authors, all of whom are affiliated with Kent State University, conducted the analysis to help that university's library better align its collection development with a shift to interdisciplinary studies by the university's academic faculty and departments. The authors concluded that the university academic departments were interdisciplinary in their research needs by examining those departments' monograph purchase requests, paying particular attention to the subject areas into which those monographs were categorized. The authors found that numerous academic departments at the university had placed requests for monographs that were outside of their primary subject areas (e.g., geography department requesting purchases of books in history, social sciences, and other subjects not specifically related to geography).

Chua, Alton Y.K., and Christopher C. Yang. "The Shift Towards Multi-Disciplinarity in Information Science." *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 59, no. 13 (2008): 2,156–70.

This article examines how information science—a common educational background for library personnel—has become increasingly multidisciplinary in practice. The authors examined all articles published in the *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* from 1988 to 2007, analyzing author affiliations, article keywords, and other traits that evinced the disciplines relevant to those articles. The author found that an increasing number of articles were written by individuals from library- and information-related departments collaborating with authors from other academic disciplines, including business, humanities, and information systems management. The authors conclude that that the field of information science has shifted toward multidisciplinarity in both education and practice.

Edwards, John D., ed. *Emerging Solutions in Reference Services: Implications for Libraries in the New Millennium*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press, 2001.

The LOC catalog entry links to the publisher's description, which states that this volume "suggests up-to-date, innovative ways to deal with traditional issues confronting librarians, including cross-training reference personnel."

Institute of Museum and Library Services. *IMLS Future of Librarians in the Workforce Project: Advisory Panel Opinion Papers*. Washington, DC: IMLS, 2006.

Lankes, R. David. *The Atlas of New Librarianship*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011.

In this book, which won the ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Award for Best Book in Library Literature in 2012, David Lankes offers guidance on how libraries can effectively address various challenges posed by an information environment that is undergoing numerous significant changes, such as the growing use of digital media. According to Lankes, librarianship has transformed from a basis on artifacts and books to knowledge and learning, and that library practice should utilize the concept that knowledge is created through conversation. In this volume, Lankes addresses a wide range of topics, often in great detail, and one topic that is particularly relevance to the current initiative is a sub-section of the book concerning librarianship titled "Ability to Work in Interdisciplinary Teams" (pages 170–77).

Lankes, R. David. *Expect More: Demanding Better Libraries for Today's Complex World.*
    CreateSpace, January 12, 2012.

From publisher's abstract: "Lankes argues that, to thrive, communities need libraries that go
    beyond bricks and mortar, and beyond books and literature. We need to expect more
    out of our libraries. They should be places of learning and advocates for our
    communities in terms of privacy, intellectual property, and economic development."

Levitt, Jonathan M., Mike Thelwall, and Charles Oppenheim. "Variations Between Subjects
    in the Extent to Which the Social Sciences Have Become More Interdisciplinary."
    Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 62, no. 6
    (2011): 1,118–29.

This article presents findings from a statistical study of article citations for social science
publications, and the authors find that various social science disciplines have become
increasingly interdisciplinary after 1990, particularly information science and library science.
The authors—all affiliated with universities in the UK—examined articles in the Social
Sciences Citation Index to determine what percentage of articles cited documents in
disciplines outside those which the authors were affiliated. The authors found that on average
social science disciplines have become more interdisciplinary over time, although they have
varied in the extent to which they have become so. Interestingly, the subject with the largest
increase in interdisciplinarity was information science and library science.

Mack, Daniel C., and Craig Gibson, eds. *Interdisciplinarity and Academic Libraries.*
    Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2012. [*Please note that this
    volume is listed in OPAC (call number Z675.U5 I578 2012) but is currently
    unavailable, as its status is listed as "at bindery 1-30-2013."*]

This recent American Library Association (ALA) publication examines how academic
libraries can effectively respond to higher education's transformation to "interdisciplinarity,"
a trend the ALA describes as "an emerging yet largely unexamined strategic priority for
academic and research libraries" This edited volume's 12 chapters address a range of issues
that libraries can consider in their efforts to effectively cope with growing interdisciplinarity
in higher education, including collections development and research services. Chapters that
may be of particular interest to Initiative 900 are "Area Studies Librarianship and
Interdisciplinarity," "The Changing Role of the Subject Specialist Librarian," and the
concluding chapter "Shaping the Future through Interdisciplinary Integration." This volume's
relevance to LC's current initiative is apparent in the ALA's write-up of this volume:

    Library leaders must seize this exciting opportunity to place the library at the
    center of the emerging interdisciplinary academy by creating and delivering a
    transformative suite of programs, services and collections.

Norberg, Lisa, and Angela Bardeen. *Proceedings of Disappearing Disciplinary Borders in the Social Science Library. University of Toronto, August 6-7, 2008*. Toronto: International Federation of Library Associations, 2008. [Conference Title: "Disappearing Disciplinary Borders in the Social Science Library – Global Studies or Sea Change?"].

Chapters focus on multidisciplinary collections, research, and databases.

Radford, Marie L. and R. David Lankes. *Reference Renaissance: Current and Future Trends.* New York: Neal-Schuman, 2010.

Notable chapters: "Meeting user's needs through new reference service models;" "Utilizing new staff training initiatives to develop and implement reference competencies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas libraries."

Radford, Marie.L. ed. *Leading the Reference Renaissance: Today's Ideas for Tomorrow's Cutting-Edge Services*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2012.

The papers in this volume resulted from presentations at the second Reference Renaissance Current and Future Trends Conference in 2010]. Notable papers: "The reference user experience: It's up to you to create it," "Inventing the future by examining traditional and emerging roles for reference librarians," "Rolling out roving reference in an academic library." Full table of contents provided in LOC catalog entry.

Schulte, Stephanie J. "Eliminating Traditional Reference Services in an Academic Health Sciences Library: A Case Study." *Journal of the Medical Library Association* 99, no.4 (October 2011): 273–79.

This article examines a library's consolidation of several reference desks into a single main desk, with generally positive outcomes. The article states, "In response to changing user needs, many libraries have eliminated their reference desks in the last decade to consolidate service at one main desk. How these desks are staffed varies from librarians and staff working together to librarians being on call in their offices. Some libraries have reported this latter practice has freed librarians to do other work during their on-call times."

Steiner, Sarah K. and M. Leslie Madden. *The Desk and Beyond: Next Generation Reference Services.* Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2008.

Notable chapters: "What is common about learning commons?: A look at the reference desk in this changing environment;" "Be you, be unique: How to create competitive reference services by being strategically different."

White, Herbert S. *Librarianship- Quo Vadis?: Opportunities and Dangers As We Face the New Millenium.* Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2000.

Winzenried, Arthur. *Visionary Leaders for Information.* Wagga,Wagga, New South Wales: Centre for Information Studies, 2010.

Selected because it is catalogued as library science — forecasting, and information technology—forecasting.

Witt, Steve W., and Lynne M. Rudasill. *Social Science Libraries: Interdisciplinary Collections, Services, Networks.* Berlin and New York: De Gruyter Saur, 2010.

Chapters are an outgrowth of the IFLA August 2008 Toronto conference. From publisher's abstract: "Focus is on practical and empirical accounts of organizational change in the social sciences and impacts upon the professional skills, collections, and services within social science libraries. Section one focuses upon the question of interdisciplinary within social science libraries and the role of libraries to both react to and facilitate paradigm shifts in research and science."

Woodward, Jeannette. *The Transformed Library: E-Books, Expertise and Evolution.* Chicago: American Library Association, 2013.

Notable chapter: "Survival Strategies for Academic Libraries."