NETWORKING & GETTING INVOLVED PROFESSIONALLY

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Finding Your Niche

First consider:  What are your goals?
               What do you want to learn?
               What do you want to share?

- **Organizational scope**
  - International (IFLA), national (ALA), state (TLA), regional (NORDOCs)
  - Divisions, round tables, interest groups

- **Library type**
  - Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL; ALA division)
  - Depository Library Council (DLC) Meetings
  - Special Library Association

- **Subject**
  - Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA)
  - Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
My Memberships

- **ALA (American Library Association)**
  - ACRL (Association of College & Research Libraries)
  - GODORT (Government Documents Round Table)
    - Webmaster (on 3 committees; chair 1)
  - formerly LITA
- **TLA (TX Library Association)**
  - GODORT (Government Documents Round Table)
    - Webmaster (on 1 committee)
    - Alternate Councilor
  - Distributed/E-Learning Learning Round Table
  - CULD (College and University Libraries Division)
- **Depository Library Council (DLC) Meetings**
  - Conference presenter
  - Attend educational sessions & training
- **North Texas Documents Group (NORDOCs)**
  - Arrange & attend meetings, training
  - Moderate list-serv
- **Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)**
  - Conference presenter
  - Reviewed conference paper proposals
- **American Association of Law Librarians (AALL)**
  - Joined for conference members rate (educational sessions)
- **International Federal of Library Associations & Institutions (IFLA)**
  - Conference presenter
Advantages of Smaller Org.’s

- Smaller conferences
  - meet more people directly
  - faster, more effective networking
  - fewer tracks = larger “full conference” experience

- Closer peers
  - people who do what you do

- More opportunities to contribute/volunteer
  - need volunteers
How to Get Involved

- Find Opportunities
  - Directory
    - Nominating committee
    - Committee on committees
    - Group secretary
    - Specific committees
  - Group Chair
    - Ask about opportunities
  - Group list-serv
Contacts from Conferences

- **Contacting Speakers**
  - Ask questions
  - Before/after sessions
  - Can you contribute?
    - Constructive criticism
    - Relevant citations
    - Helpful sources
    - Related research
  - Exchange cards

- **Other Contacts**
  - Repeat attendees
  - Lunch
  - Elevators, hallways, etc.
Networking Go-To’s

NETWORKING GO-TO’S
Making Business Cards Work

- Business Card Notes
  - Specialty
  - Research interests
  - Distinctive qualities
  - Specific follow-up

Example: (Jane Doe)
- met at ALA 2010
- likes baseball
- catalogs science info for TWU
- email her article about RDA
- ask about collaborating on science librarianship article
Between Conferences...

- Contact annually
  - Email / twitter / FB
  - Refer Q’s (librarians)
  - Review drafts
  - Offer to collaborate

- No contacts yet?
  - Email authors
Virtual Networking Opportunities

- ALA Connect
  - Virtual committee work
- Virtual conferences / webinars
- Streaming content from remote conferences
  - Live-tweets or live-blogs (follow Twitter hashtags)
- Archived conference material
- Other opportunities for involvement
  - Reviewing conference proposals
  - Reviewing/editing journal submissions
  - Contact group’s Secretary for more virtual opportunities
Giving Back to Your Network

- **Organizations**
  - Skills you’d like to use more
    - organize events
    - administer surveys
    - wordsmith docs
    - technological skills
    - photography
    - …more!
  - Experience, knowledge, or unique perspective
  - Change you’d like to see made
Giving Back to Your Network

- **Individuals**
  - Use those business cards!
  - Pass along relevant info

- **Learning community**
  - Types of LC’s
    - Research group
    - Writing group
    - Online or local
  - Getting Started:
    - Email & ask
    - Post to list-serv
    - FB/blog/tweet it
...What About You?

- When meeting new professional contacts, consider:
  - What do you want people to remember about you?
  - What’s the most notable thing about your position?
  - How do your research interests align with theirs?
  - How could you help this person?
  - What aspects of your personal life are relevant or memorable?
Your Online Presence

- Image & Branding
  - Not artificial
  - Should feel “right”
  - Find what works
  - Contribute back
  - Don’t sweat it!
Your Online Presence

- e-Portfolios
  - More than a business card
  - Some options:
    - About.me
    - WordPress.com
    - Pbworks.com (wiki)
    - UNT Faculty Profiles
- Your online hub
- Copy of your CV
- Link in email signature
Overwhelmed?

- Don’t overdo it
  - start *small*
  - use only what works
  - the “spaghetti method”
  - relax
  - if it’s stressing you out, it’s not working; drop something
- have fun!
Networking Resources

- Lists of library associations:
  - http://www.librarysites.info/library-associations.htm

  http://telecom.inescporto.pt/~rcampos/PhDNetworking.pdf

- Wiehardt, G. Finding Writers for Your Writing Group.
  http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/writingexercises/qt/writinggroups.htm


- ALA Divisions & Round Tables.
  http://www.ala.org/ala/membership/whataladoes/divandrt/index.cfm

- Join TLA. http://www.txla.org/join