NETWORKING & GETTING INVOLVED PROFESSIONALLY

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UNT Libraries | Career Development Group

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
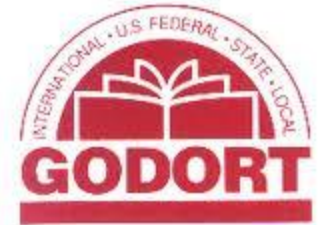 ◻ Special Library Association

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

My Memberships

- **ALA (American Library Assocation)**
  - 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 <u>do what you do</u>
- More opportunities to contribute/volunteer
  - need volunteers
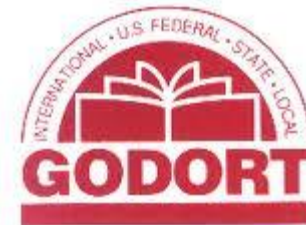
How to Get Involved

□ 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

Making Business Cards Work

□ Business Card Notes

■ Specialty

■ Research interests

■ Distinctive qualities
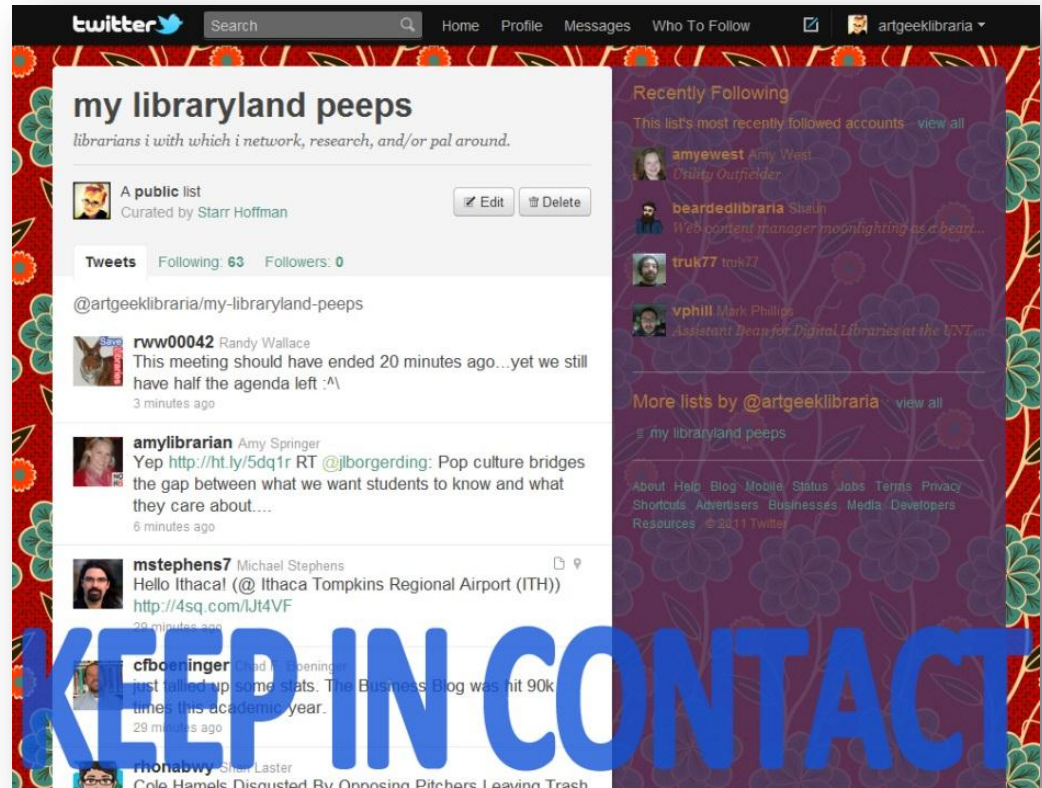
■ Specific follow-up

□ 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
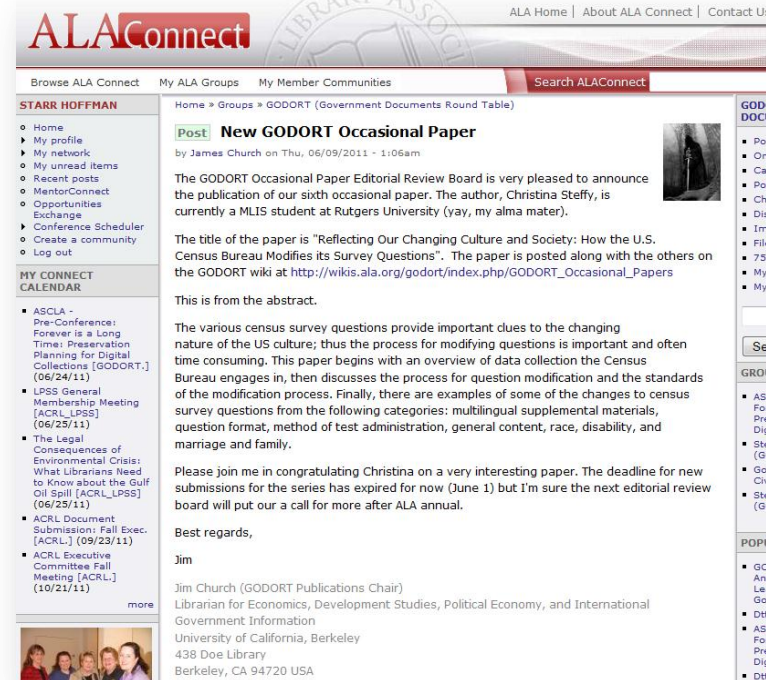
Giving Back to Your Network

- 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
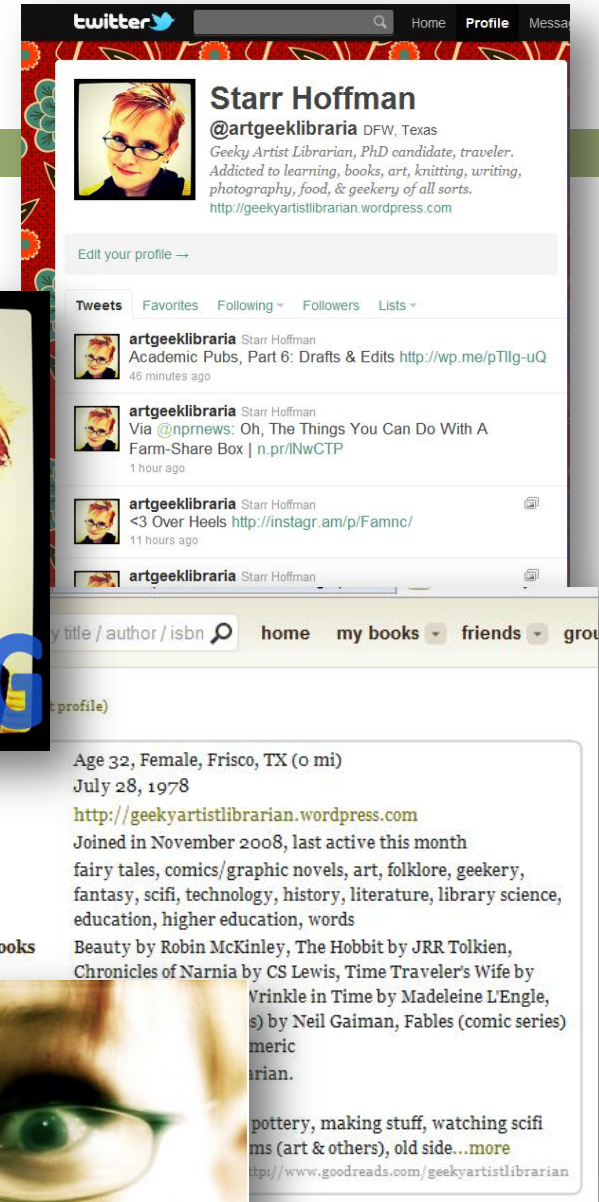   - Post to list-serv
      - FB/blog/tweet it

…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!

BRANDING

geeky artist librarian

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://www.itcompany.com/inforetriever/assn_us.htm
  - http://www.itcompany.com/inforetriever/assn_oth.htm

- Agre, P. (2003). *Networking on the Network: A Guide to Professional Skills for PhD Students.*
  http://telecom.inescporto.pt/~rcampos/PhDNetworking.pdf

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

- *Why ALA?* http://www.ala.org/ala/membership/whyala/index.cfm

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

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

- *TLA Volunteer Interest Form.* http://www.txla.org/Volunteer-TLA