

<http://ala.ci.fsu.edu>

# Chapter News

SLIS American Library Association Student Chapter  
November 2009

## ALA Student Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009  
5-6 p.m.

### Special Librarianship

We will be highlighting medical librarianship and law librarianship, featuring a medical librarian from Maguire Medical Library as well as a librarian from the FSU law library. So if special librarianship interests you, come out and see what they have to say about your field.

*Visit us in person at the Goldstein Library, or view the webcast any time from our **Blackboard** site. Have a question during the meeting? Go to **Blackboard**, click "Open Meeting Chat / February 10 Meeting."*

### Student Chapter Officers

President	Sara Duff sed08@fsu.edu
Vice President	Michelle Demeter med08c@fsu.edu
Secretary, Newsletter Editor	Karen Doster kcd04d@fsu.edu
Treasurer	Daniela Hudson dmh07d@fsu.edu
Event Coordinator	Beth Riggs cer09@fsu.edu
Webmaster	Kate Vilches lkh08@fsu.edu
Faculty Advisor	Dr. Christie Koontz ckoontz@ci.fsu.edu

## ALA Tour of the University of Central Florida Library



The ALA student chapter visited the University of Central Florida on October 23, 2009. Their tour was guided by April Anderson. We are fortunate enough to have had students from both Tallahassee and Orlando take part in this unique opportunity. We would like to thank the UCF library for providing the photos.



## *New ALA Student Chapter Officers Elections*

As the semester comes to a close, we will be holding elections for new officers. The following positions will need to be filled: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Special Events Coordinator, Web Developer, and Distance Liaison. If you are interested in holding any of these positions elections will be held November 25-December 4. Nominations are due November 24 and officers will be chosen December 4, announced December 5. Holding one of these positions look great on a résumé. You have the opportunity to meet many significant people in the field as well as build a rapport and gain experience in a professional organization.

## *Thinking Beyond the Shelf: Jobs for MLS Graduates*

Most people don't give much thought to indexes. They refer to them when they need to find a reference, but they never think about the person who made that index. But indexers fill an important niche and many MLIS students already have the skills needed to start off rewarding careers.

According to the British Indexing Standard, an index is a systematic arrangement of entries designed to enable users to locate information in a document. There are many types of indexes, including cumulative indexes for journals and back-of-the-book indexes in nonfiction books.

Indexers come from a variety of backgrounds and need many different types of skills, often depending on the type of indexing they will do. The American Society for Indexing offers a broad list, including excellent language skills, high clerical aptitude, attention to detail, self-discipline, curiosity and tolerance of isolation. I would also add an aptitude for technology, as many indexers use indexing software to aid in constructing, sorting, editing and formatting the index.

Many indexers work on a freelance basis, making it an excellent career for those who need a flexible schedule or want to own their own businesses. For this people, business and marketing skills are crucial.

To hone these skills, FSU offers a graduate course in Indexing and Abstracting, which offers an excellent overview on what it's like and what it takes to be an indexer. FSU also offers a course in nonprofit marketing, which is geared toward libraries and other nonprofits, but broad enough to give any enthusiastic student the basic marketing skills needed.

So how do you break into indexing? ASI suggests joining ASI (of course), but it also emphasizes education, making a business plan and finding a mentor. While ASI focuses on self-employed indexers, the occasional full-time indexing position does open up – usually in the field of journal indexing or as part of a more comprehensive job listing.

Freelance indexers usually work in back-of-the-book index and are hired by publishers, writers or book packagers. If you want to go freelance, ASI suggests starting by preparing a few sample indexes and sending them along with your resume and a cover letter to publishers. Be patient – it could take 100 letters or more before you score an assignment. You will also want to research what you're willing to be paid and what others in the field are paid. ASI does not give a firm figure, but it does warn against selling yourself too cheap.

To quote Dr. Hans Wellisch in *Indexing from A to Z*, "An hourly indexing fee should always be at least four times the wage one can earn by flipping hamburgers at a fast-food emporium."

One last tip for ASI – build your library. There is so much more to indexing than I can give in this brief overview. Books written by those experienced in the field can give you an idea of the realities of the career. Find some at <http://www.asindexing.org/site/asipub.shtml>

## *Join the CI ALA Chapter!*

- Sign into Blackboard
- Click the Organizations tab
- In the Organization Catalog link on the right hand side, click Student Organization / Other
- In the Name - Contains field, enter ALA Student Chapter
- The ALA Student Chapter should come up as a search result
- Click Enroll

*Congratulations!  
You're a member!*

# Goodbye, Goldstein

## Goldstein Library closing for Spring 2010

Heads UP! The Goldstein Library physical collection will be unavailable during most of the Shores HVAC replacement. This means (tentatively) DECEMBER 12, 2009 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1, 2010 (or maybe a few weeks later...final date not finalized yet).

SOOOOOO get what you need NOW (or at least before Friday December 11) Renew your stuff, or if you have exceeded your 3 online renewals, bring your materials in, we will check them in and check them back out. This will reset the renewal counter giving you 3 renewals...plenty for the Spring semester.

While the collection is unavailable, you can use your local libraries AND interlibrary loan (ILL) here at FSU will support expedient fulfillment of materials you would normally get from the Goldstein collection. Hedge your bets and make a comment in the COMMENTS section (duh) of your ILLIAD request that Goldstein collection is unavailable. If you don't have an ILLIAD account established, do one now

<http://www.lib.fsu.edu/services/materials/ill>

Return all your materials to Strozier Library.

THE GOOD NEWS: Leila and I (your tenacious, super-librarians) will still be working; answering the phone (850 644-1803), email: [library@cci.fsu.edu](mailto:library@cci.fsu.edu) or our personal emails, or in person in offices on the 2nd floor of Shores. If you have questions please contact me directly.

Pamala J. Doffek, Faculty, College of Communication & Information  
Goldstein Library--"THE Information Center" for CCI



*Newsletter items and ideas are welcome! Please e-mail Karen Doster [kcd04d@fsu.edu](mailto:kcd04d@fsu.edu).*

