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**Conference Title: American College and Research Libraries 2017**

**Conference Dates: March 23-25, 2017**

Attending the 2017 American College and Research Libraries national conference allowed me to delve deeper into the areas of curriculum development and assessment and diversity. The sessions I attended addressed instruction best practices and student learning experiences in face-to-face, online, and hybrid classroom environments. In particular, I attended two outstanding sessions that have already helped me improve services that will affect students. In “Building Community and Enabling Student Success: 5 Reasons Why Graduate Students Love Thesis Boot Camp” the panelists shared how their boot camps are structured and outlined the results of a survey of the long term impact of boot camp participation, with emphasis on successful degree completion and enhanced student experience. Discussions have already started about how to implement some of these ideas in fall 2017 to help students understand the research process and what services we offer.

The second session I attended was “‘The Best Freaking Thing in the World:’ Libraries Solving the Textbook Problem’ and it was standing room only. Providing access to textbooks is a widely debated topic and librarians are continuing to work on how we can provide cheaper alternatives to students through Open Educational Resources, Open Access materials, and through Textbook Reserve programs. We have already begun discussions with the UNO Bookstore on how we might collaborate to pilot a textbook loan program through the library as part of our student-centered goals.

Diversity was a very strong theme at the ACRL conference, with several keynote speakers beginning and continuing this conversation throughout the conference. Most of the dialog I participated in was following and responding to comments and questions via Twitter. However, one of my favorite sessions was entitled “Gendered Labor and Library Instruction Coordinators: The Undervaluing of Feminized Work” which discussed the intersection of workplace structures and gender bias. The panel invited participants to come forward to share experiences of bias work in libraries and at conferences.

Other sessions I attended included:

- Opening Keynote: David McCandless
- Liberty and Justice for All: Critical Information Literacy for Business and Professional Students
- Scientific Societies and Associations: A Look into Publication and Beyond
- Cephalonian 2.0: Transforming Large-Scale Library Orientations to Support Student Success
- For Fun and Profit: Supporting Research Commercialization with Interdisciplinary Liaison Teams
- Using 3D Printers to Teach Information Literacy to College Students

I would like to thank the Colleges and Universities Section of the Nebraska Library Association for the opportunity to travel to this conference. As you can see, it has already had practical applications in our library and will continue to make an impact on student learning on campus.