



California Academic & Research Libraries CARL Newsletter

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Governor's Message



We hope the upcoming CARL Conference will pump you up! Sacramento is a great place to spend a furlough day or two. Just ask thousands of state employees. If you do not have furloughs and are looking for a job, our prison (library) industry holds steady in California's economy. California librarian: Find yourself here!

CARL Conference Emergency Planning Guide!

In a bind?! Need to plan? Here is some last minute advice!

Places to Stay

Governor's Mansion: Not nice enough for any California governor, but it's probably good enough for you!

Sacramento Hilton: Partially paid for by the Governor's Residence Foundation of California

Greyhound Station: We can guess how little funding you got for the conference.

Hotel California: You can check in any time you like, but you can never leave...

Extracurricular Activities

Pub Crawl for Libraries! Buy a drink for your rep in the name of education.

Capitol Park Fun Run: Say "Good morning" when you jog past the homeless.

Waking Waters River Tour: Tour Sacramento's levy before it breaks.

People Make Bookmarks! Elephant dung paper anyone?

Yoga for Knitting Librarians

Dr. CARL's Advice Column

Dr. Carl Steinlaufen MLS, MSW, Ph.D, is an internationally known consultant on professional ethics. For twenty years he has counseled librarians and other academic professionals on a variety of career topics. Corporate clients include UCSF, OCLC and the California Correctional Peace Officers Association. His column will be a regular feature of the newsletter.

Dear CARL,

I am one year into a tenure track appointment at a State University. Help! It's crazy here. My colleagues are like something out of some warped Victorian novel, with villains and eccentrics, work shirkers, you name it. There is a pile of work to do, much of it would come under the category of "delayed maintenance" and I notice everyone else keeps hoping I will volunteer to do it. Is this normal? Is tenure over-rated? Should I want it? How do I get it? What do I do with it once I get it?

Sincerely

Five more years

Dear Years,

There there, let's not get carried away. Despite its reputation as a staid even boring profession, librarianship is a hotbed of controversy, rivalry and all the other qualities you would expect in any job.

Your first task in any new position, which hopefully you have been seeing to in this your first year, is to make sure your hiring committee and library director feel good, REAL GOOD, about your hire. This will save enormous difficulties later on. If you establish a reputation early on of being responsible, level-headed, and rational, any quirks or missteps in your work that pop up later (and they will) can be dismissed as just that, wrinkles in an otherwise serviceable permanent press fabric. (Excuse the metaphor.)

The second part is trickier, but certainly possible. Make friends, not enemies. Do volunteer for tasks but be selective and respect the cost-benefit ration (as far as your energy, impact of the project, and feasibility. Throwing yourself into the midst of a university committee charged with revising the 30 year old GE program will earn you an enmity (whatever you do) you can scarcely imagine. Leave that for the tenured folk. Also, like Rousseau said in his autobiography, don't do a bang-up job right off the bat. Older, possibly crankier, colleagues, which you appear to have in abundance, will not like to be reminded of the vitality and competence they might have exhibited in their salad years and your brilliance may cause resentments if they compare it to their current productivity index. Instead, scout the territory, do competent work on smaller projects, and build up gradually.

As to tenure, well, most of the rest of the world wouldn't mind tenure these days, would they? Many people mistakenly think it is an 800 year old tradition to guarantee academic freedom, but instead it dates from the fifteenth century when universities couldn't find enough bodies to teach the low-level arts courses, so they offered tenure upon graduation to the BA degree, which meant that graduates were required to stay on a minimum of two years to teach those courses, before

moving on or becoming fellows. If they stayed, their appointment was permanent. Not a bad lure, eh?

Stay calm, audit a psych class on dysfunctional behaviors so you know what you're dealing with in the trenches, and keep smiling! There is no show business like academia.

Dear CARL,

Seems like a lot of librarians are married to other librarians, or at least have long-term relationships. Is this common in other professions too, or just a quirk of ours?

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

It is hard to track hard data on this topic, an area completely neglected by ALA. The keywords, Dr. Carl happens to know, should you want to pursue this (and this would be a sparking research article) are "professional endogamy."

I suspect you might uncover some interesting patterns. I would predict that a greater number of reference librarians are couples rather than catalogers. Systems librarians tend to be either single or connected with very accommodating partners.

Other possible areas to study: what do married librarians talk about? Do they argue about MARC fields and AACR2? Or ditch all professional discourse in a flurry of hedonism? I suggest you check with the Lipstick Librarian blog for starters.

Personal Ads

Looking for love in Library Land? Answer one of these posts from the London Review of Books.

London Writer (current affairs) seeks co-author/friends.

email: Acewriter1@hotmail.com

SWF Trim 30 year old knitter, chocolate loving SJSU grad seeks stable mate for the long road. Be my Boolean connector. (No, not THAT one!)

email: chocophile7@yahoo.com

SLM Wannabe novelist seeks adventurous female cataloger to help furnish ideas for his next erotic tale.

email:erratica@gmail.com

SWM 856 field seeks scope note minded female with classificatory instincts. Sort my array!

email:MARC-up@iii.net

I took a break updating my Twitter feed about my latest denim purchases to write this ad. M, 37.

box no: 0511

MWM 50 yr old M bibliographer of early modern British literature seeks ardent young female library school student for romps through Dickens passages and EM Forster charade games.

Box 47

DWF Are you 40+, male, tenured and promoted? Looking for some early career excitement again. Late blooming library convert seeks professional achievement and growth potential.

Tall (and tweed) a plus.
Box 99

History boy (37) seeks attention of female time traveller (29-37) to share journey into magical world of dusty tomes and aged chronicles. Let's wander through period after period in our table-top tardis before touching down, thrillingly enlightened and enchanted, in the here and now.

email: gavinstamp@hotmail.com

Impossible? Very attractive warm woman writer seeks emotionally coherent, nice looking, tall man 50-62ish with big heart and expansive man for new plot. London.
email: beautifulwriter@hotmail.com

My Vostok, your Salamanca. Whilst my pet names for you will recall early Soviet space projects, your terms of endearment for me will be tributes to the golden age of locomotion. Our love-making will be legendary and scholars will write about it in text books 700 pages thick. These books will be bound in leather and sit upon mahogany shelves in libraries filled with the scent of rich cognac and many taxidermies. Perry Anderson will review them all favourably in this very magazine. Upon submitting his article, he will retire. The piece will contain no edits, and every reader will weep upon seeing it. Man, 60. West Bromwich.
box no: 32/07

Gorgeous Celtic firebrand seeks well-read co adventurer.

email: searose@btinternet.com

It.s true. I have more than 200 books about post-revolutionary Russia. It.s my thing. I.m that guy. Write anyway.

box no: 32/04

Male seeks woman to read The Hobbit with, Humans and Elves only, no Goblins please.

email: ktmba@aol.com

School Teacher 36, seeking spectacle-wearing sci-fi reader, can be a Gamer if he makes time for kite flying.

email: kaliom64@aol.com

I have let my lonely rage suckle angrily upon my teat too long. Self-published poet and expert in experimental proctology (M, 61).

box no: 0508

The sickening malaise of humankind provided the canvas for my advert, and the disgusting spectacle of dashed hopes and forgotten dreams was my paint. Yet when I combine it all and put my strokes upon the page, the result is both touching and beautiful in a way that even the cinema of Luis Buuel could never be. Dental technician (F, 51).

box no: 32/11

I am the Frida Kahlo of both personal adverts and sandwich artistry. Woman, 48. Mad as a balloon.

box no: 0507

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People News and *Places News* should be sent to the appropriate Campus Liaison Coordinator. Other submissions are sent to the editor, Mira Foster (mira@sfsu.edu), J. Paul Leonard Library, San Francisco State University, 1630 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132. Letters to Dr. Carl Steinlaufen MLS, MSW, Ph.D should be sent c/o Ned Fielden (fielden@sfsu.edu).