Megan Griffin

ACRL honors the 2009 award winners, Part 1
A recognition of professional achievement

Krystyna K. Matusiak awarded Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

Krystyna K. Matusiak, digital collections librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries (UWM), has been awarded the 2009 ACRL Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for her proposal, “Use of Digital Resources in an Academic Environment: A Qualitative Study of Students’ Perceptions, Experiences, and Digital Literacy Skills.” The fellowship, sponsored by Thomson Reuters, fosters research in academic librarianship by encouraging and supporting dissertation research.

The award of $1,500 and a plaque will be presented at the 2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

“Matusiak’s research struck the committee members as being particularly germane to an emerging national discussion about how digital resources are used in the academic environment,” said Nancy H. Seamans, chair of the selection committee and dean of libraries at Georgia State University. “Her interdisciplinary approach, along with the many different ways that she is collecting data, should provide the academic library community with new insights into the delivery of digital resources to library users.”

Matusiak received her MA in Polish Studies and Theater History from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, in 1986. In 1999, she earned her Master of Science in Library and Information Science from UWM, where she is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Digital Information Design.

In addition to her work as a digital collections librarian at UWM, Matusiak is a digitization consultant for projects funded by the Endangered Archive Programme at the British Library. From 1999 to 2001, Matusiak served as reference librarian/collection manager at UWM libraries, and, from 1996 to 1998, she was Polish language instructor at UWM. She also served as a Polish language instructor at Alverno College from 1991 to 1997.

Excellence in Academic Libraries Award winners

Moraine Valley Community College Library in Palos Hills, Illinois; Wyndham Robertson Library at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia; and University of Minnesota Libraries-Twin Cities are recipients of the 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. Sponsored by ACRL and Blackwell’s Book Services, the award recognizes the staff of a college, university, and community college library for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources to further the educational mission of the institution.

“Receiving an Excellence in Academic Libraries Award is a national tribute to a library and its staff for the outstanding

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Gloriana St. Clair, dean of university libraries at Carnegie Mellon University, is the 2009 ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. The award, sponsored by YBP Library Services, recognizes an outstanding member of the library profession who has made a significant national or international contribution to academic/research librarianship and library development.

St. Clair received her $5,000 award at the opening keynote session of the ACRL 14th National Conference in Seattle.

Gloriana St. Clair is deserving of this award on all counts. She epitomizes the librarian-leaderscholar model through her long and notable career as an academic librarian, her contributions to ACRL and other professional organizations, and in particular her record of scholarship and scholarly contributions with both national and international influence and impact, said award committee Chair Robin Wagner, director of the Gettysburg College Library. St. Clair demonstrates a deep commitment to academic librarianship and has an extraordinary record of scholarship and service to the profession. She is among a handful of people who have been instrumental in reshaping our professional literature, setting high standards for scholarship and writing, while making the literature meaningful and accessible to both researchers and practitioners.

In academia, the most prestigious awards are those that our peers accord us. I was blown away when I found out that I had received this incredible recognition, and I thought it was an early April Fool’s joke, St. Clair said. Having my accomplishments, which were all achieved through working closely with others, recognized is both deeply humbling and satisfying.


In addition to her work as an author, editor and scholar, St. Clair has served as director of the Universal Library Project since 1999. A broad coalition of libraries and computer scientists in the United States, India and China, the project aims to digitize 1 million scholarly volumes and make them freely available online. St. Clair’s contributions to the project include coauthoring more than $3.5 million in funding grants.

She has contributed to the future of the profession by serving as adjunct professor in the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, teaching academic library management. Her experience as an educator also includes teaching in the Carnegie Mellon University Academy for Lifelong Learning and the Department of Management at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Prior to being named dean at Carnegie Mellon, St. Clair served as associate dean for information access services at Penn State University’s Pattee Library from 1990 to 1998; assistant director for technical, automation and administrative services at the Kerr Library at Oregon State University from 1987 to 1990; and head of the Acquisitions Division at Texas A&M University, among other positions in her long and distinguished career.
services, programs, and leadership they provide to their students, administrators, faculty, and community," said ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen K. Davis. "It is wonderful to learn of the innovative programs and services being offered by these three exemplary institutions."

The Moraine Valley Community College Library, winner of the community college category, was recognized for creating an environment that fosters numerous relationships with partners outside those traditionally associated with libraries.

"The selection committee was impressed to read that a librarian cochaired Moraine Valley's Academic Quality Improvement Program committee," said Pamela Snelson, chair of the 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Selection Committee and college librarian at Franklin & Marshall College. "The staff is exceptionally supportive of students—the staff raised money for a library student scholarship for their student workers."

Staff of Moraine Valley Community College Library.

"It is my pleasure to work with the great group of people at the Moraine Valley Community College library," said Sylvia Jenkins, dean of academic development and learning resources. "We accomplish so much because of everyone's dedication to student success. I'm honored that the hard work of the library staff is being recognized by ACRL and Blackwell's Book Services."

The staff of the Wyndham Robertson Library at Hollins University, winner of the college category, impressed the selection committee with their “can do” attitude, which has resulted in many innovative and creative programs.

"The library’s Green program, an emphasis in the university’s strategic plan, displays forward thinking—far ahead of the curve both in content and partnership with student body," said Snelson. "The campus dining hall book mobile program is a program members of the selection committee are eager to emulate at their libraries."

Staff of Wyndham Robertson Library at Hollins University.
“The entire staff of the Wyndham Robertson Library is deeply honored to receive this award,” said Joan D. Ruelle, university librarian. “It is especially delightful to be recognized for our sometimes unusual approaches to outreach; kickball and karaoke are not always perceived as direct pathways to more successful information literacy programs.

The University of Minnesota Libraries, winner of the university category, was praised for developing excellent strategies to successfully transform and rebrand the libraries to secure a highly valued position on campus.

“The libraries understand the importance of the process of conducting scholarship and have implemented programs to support behaviors rather than product,” said Snelson. “By ‘getting in the flow of users’ the libraries have moved out of their comfort zone and shifted into an engagement-centered model for all library services and programs.”

“We’re immensely proud of the success we’ve had in integrating our expertise and resources into the life of the campus,” said Wendy Pradt Lougee, university librarian and McKnight Presidential Professor at the University of Minnesota. “To have our staff’s innovative work recognized by the ACRL community is quite simply wonderful.”

Each winning library will receive $3,000 and a plaque, to be presented at an award ceremony held on each recipient’s campus. The winners also will receive special recognition during the ALA Annual Conference.

Ray English wins Hugh C. Atkinson Award

Ray English, Azariah Smith Root director of libraries at Oberlin College, has been named the 2009 winner of the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award. English will receive a cash award and a citation during the ALA Annual Conference.

Named in honor of one of the pioneers of library automation, the Atkinson Award recognizes an academic librarian who has made significant contributions in the area of library automation or management and has made notable improvements in library services or research.

“Ray English has provided transformative leadership within his own institution, his state and region, in ACRL, and as a national leader in scholarly communications through SPARC,” said Sarah Michalak, Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award committee chair and university librarian/associate provost for University Libraries at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. “The award has been given to a college librarian only once before in its 21 year history.”

English was a primary founder of the ACRL scholarly communication program, serving as chair of the task force that led to the program and also as chair of the Scholarly Communication Committee from its inception until 2006. He is a long-time member and current chair of the SPARC steering committee, of which Oberlin Col-
lege is a founding member. English has also lectured and written extensively on scholarly communication issues and open access. Since 1988, he has served on more than 15 ALA and ACRL committees and is a former member of the ACRL Board of Directors (1996–98).

Under English’s leadership, Oberlin became the first private, liberal arts college library to join OhioLINK. In addition, he participated in a cooperative effort with four other Ohio private colleges in establishing a new consortium—the Five Colleges of Ohio—which received a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for library resource sharing. He also coordinated a $475,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to incorporate information literacy into the liberal arts curriculum of the five Ohio colleges. English additionally served as coproject director of an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership grant to create a library diversity intern program at Oberlin College from 2000 to 2002 and, since 2003, has directed four separate multi-institution grants from the Mellon Foundation totaling more than $2 million, which are designed to attract undergraduates from diverse backgrounds into the library profession and encourage leadership development. The Oberlin College Library received the 2002 ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award in the college category.

English received his A.B. with honors in German from Davidson College in 1969. He earned his masters in German literature from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1971, where he also received his M.S.L.S. in 1977, and earned his Ph.D. in German literature in 1978.

The Hugh C. Atkinson Award is jointly sponsored by four divisions of ALA: ACRL, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), LLAMA, and Library and Information Technology Association (LITA). The award is funded from an endowment established to honor Hugh C. Atkinson.

Donations to the endowment may be sent to Megan Griffin, ACRL, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Trudi Jacobson wins ACRL/IS Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award

Trudi E. Jacobson, head of user education programs at the University at Albany State University of New York, is the winner of the ACRL Instruction Section’s (IS) Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award. The award honors Miriam Dudley, whose efforts in the field of information literacy led to the formation of IS. The honor recognizes a librarian who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of instruction in a college or research library environment.

The award is sponsored by Elsevier on behalf of its library and information science program. A check for $1,000 and a plaque will be presented to Jacobson at the ALA Annual Conference.

“For over 20 years, Trudi Jacobson has strengthened and deepened scholarly conversations about information literacy via her many publications, both within and beyond the literature of our librarianship,” wrote Jean Caspers, chair of the IS Dudley Award committee and reference and instruction librarian at Linfield College. “Her generosity in sharing knowledge has extended to presentations and workshops locally, regionally and nationally, again including, but not limited to, audiences within the library profession, thus spreading the word about information literacy across traditional academic boundaries.

“Her scholarship, leadership, service, and teaching combine to make Ms. Jacobson a truly worthy recipient of the Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award.”

Jacobson teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and has developed
exemplary library instruction programs. She is regularly sought out as a consultant about information literacy issues. She has been an active contributor within ALA since 1980, holding official positions in IS, the ACRL ARTS section, and the ACRL Information Literacy Advisory Committee.

Jacobson was the recipient of the IS 2005 Publication of the Year Award for Motivating Students in Information Literacy Classes (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2004), a book she co-authored with Lijuan Xu. She has published eight additional books, eight book chapters, and more than 30 articles in journals ranging from Research Strategies, C&RL, and Journal of Academic Librarianship to the American Biology Teacher, College Teaching, and Journal of General Education.

Connolly and Golderman receive ACRL CLS ProQuest Innovation in College Librarianship Award

Bruce Connolly and Gail Golderman of the Union College Schaffer Library in Schenectady, New York, have been named the 2009 recipients of the ACRL College Libraries Section (CLS) ProQuest Innovation in College Librarianship Award. This annual award, which is being presented for the first time in 2009, honors an ACRL member who has demonstrated a capacity for innovation in working with undergraduates, instructors and/or the library community.

Connolly and Golderman will share the $3,000 award, which ProQuest will present along with a plaque at the ALA Annual Conference.

“The committee chose Bruce and Gail as this year’s award recipients for their innovative sharing of audio files through iTunes in a variety of contexts that support students, faculty, and the library,” said award committee chair Stacy Voeller, associate professor and electronic resources librarian at Minnesota State University-Moorhead. “While they have encountered obstacles during both the development and implementation of their program, Connolly and Golderman have overcome those obstacles creatively. Their efforts demonstrate ongoing innovation using a popular and student-centric technology.”

“Steven J. Bell, former CLS chair, said it best in his recent comments in Urban Library Journal,” Voeller continued. “Universities and their libraries are making use of iTunes University, but few have discovered so many ways to use standard iTunes software and the iTunes store to connect the library with the classroom. While there may be nothing particularly innovative about using iTunes today, what these librarians have done with it shouts out innovation and creativity.”

The award selection committee commended the Schaffer Library’s ongoing exploration of the potential applications of iTunes and other software applications as a marketing tool for the library’s collections, as a teaching tool in a variety of courses across the curriculum, as a venue for supporting multiculturalism and diversity on campus and for stimulating ideas among library staff on weaving technology into a variety of library and curricular initiatives.

Bruce Connolly is head of public services at Schaffer Library. He has made presentations on music file sharing in academic libraries at the ACRL/NY and Internet Librarian conferences. Connolly has written on various aspects of Apple’s iTunes software for Serials Librarian, Computers in Libraries and netConnect, where he writes the quarterly “eReviews” column with Gail Golderman. He is a 1977 graduate of the SUNY at Albany, School of Library and Information Science.

Gail Golderman is digital services librarian at Schaffer Library. She has presented at numerous conferences and contributes to a variety of publications, including Journal of Internet Cataloging, Reference Librarian, Magazines for Libraries, and netConnect, where she writes the quarterly “eReviews” column with Bruce Connolly. She is a 1992 graduate of the SUNY-Albany School of Library and Information Science and is actively interested in online social networking, integrating technology with the learning process, and collaborative endeavors between teaching faculty, IT staff, and librarians.