CARLI Instruction Committee
FY 2021 Annual Report of Activities and Projects

Members

Kristin Allen	2019–2022	Harper College
Anne Armstrong	2018–2021	University of Illinois at Chicago
Joshua Avery	2019–2021	Wheaton College
Amy Hall	2017–2021	National Louis University
Tish Hayes	2019–2022	Moraine Valley Community College
Molly Mansfield	2017–2021	Dominican University
Christina Norton	2018–2021	Bradley University, Co-Chair
Dee Anna Phares	2019–2022	Northern Illinois University, Co-Chair

CARLI Board Liaison: Rebecca Donald, Trinity International University

CARLI Staff Liaisons: Debbie Campbell and Denise Green

Charge

The committee will identify and address issues of critical concern and best practices for instruction librarians and information literacy programs. The Instruction Committee acknowledges historical, structural, and systemic injustice, values the principles of diversity, inclusion, and equity (DEI), and will ensure that CARLI's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is embedded in their work.

Meetings

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings were held by video conference and took place on the third Wednesday of the month from 1:00–2:30 p.m. The committee also used the instruction@carli.illinois.edu mailing list and a Google Drive folder to share information and documents outside of meeting times.

Theme

The committee's theme this year was **Virtual Realities: The Challenges and Potential of Online Instruction**. Last year's emphasis on embracing change and moving "beyond your comfort zone," was amplified and expanded this year, since those who provide information literacy instruction faced new "Virtual Realities" that required many to change their praxis, and sometimes even their pedagogy, to adapt to the needs of patrons, faculty partners, and their institutions. And while this highly mutable period posed challenges for those required to (sometimes repeatedly) pivot and adjust, it also presented an occasion for reflection and reimagining--both in terms of the practical delivery of instruction and the larger issues associated with access to information and information instruction. For that reason, our

programming and projects were aimed at providing librarians a space to both share innovative tools and strategies and to discuss challenges they faced delivering quality instruction to patrons who were facing their own myriad challenges. In addition, our activities emphasized the potential for positive change in this highly fluid period, especially in regard to bolstering anti-racist efforts, and promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in library instruction. The webinars, discussions, and showcase afforded members of the CARLI community occasions for collegiality, encouragement, and a chance to develop new "best practices" even in some of the worst times.

Online Accessibility/Inclusion Discussion

The committee hosted two online discussions focused on issues related to online instruction. The first, held on November 06, 2020, focused on issues of accessibility and inclusion that arose during teaching online, especially related to librarian's experiences during the COVID-19 epidemic. The approximately 83 registrants shared both challenges and opportunities related to the online environment. A recording of the session, as well as a list of tools and strategies compiled based on the discussion, was posted on the CARLI website here: https://www.carli.illinois.edu/carli-instruction-committee-online-accessibility/inclusion-discussion.

Primo VE in Practice: Life after Going Live

During 2019-2020, the Instruction Committee collaborated with the Public Services Committee on a joint subcommittee devoted to "Creating Use Guides and Tutorials," in preparation for the consortium's transition to Alma/Primo VE in June 2020. That effort culminated in the creation of resources for CARLI libraries, and a presentation delivered at the virtual event on April 2, 2020, called "Getting Ready for Primo VE." An attendee of that webinar contacted the committee about the possibility of a follow-up event that would allow CARLI members to share best practices for teaching Primo VE six months after the transition. That webinar, "Primo VE in Practice: Life after Going Live," took place on December 2, 2020 from 1:00–2:30PM, and featured six 10-15 minute presentations focused on the presenters practical experiences instructing patrons on how to use Primo VE whether at a reference desk, in a classroom, or in another setting. 155 people registered for the webinar hosted on Zoom, and between 75–80 people attended on the day. Not only was the event incredibly useful to librarians and library staff across CARLI, but it has also become a valuable resource for other libraries making the move to Alma/Primo VE, such as the members of a team working on the University of California's Systemwide Integrated Library System consortium project who reached out to the Instruction Committee as a result of our sharing of the recording.

The recording of the webinar and links to the presenter's resources are available here: https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/pub-serv/instruction/LifeAfterGoingLive20201202.

ACRL Framework Toolkit Revision

The Instruction Committee maintains a web page, the ACRL Framework Toolkit, providing context and resources around the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy, which was released in 2015. This web page includes an extensive bibliography of publications and other resources related to the Framework, which was last reviewed in 2017. The committee completed another thorough review of the bibliography

this year, removing older citations that had become outdated and adding more recent ones that reflect developments in the professional conversation around information literacy. This maintains the relevancy of the toolkit as a resource for teaching librarians within CARLI as well as those outside the system, since the toolkit has been widely shared outside of our consortium as well.

CARLI Covid Survey

A subsection of committee members began the process of completing a survey of teaching librarians within CARLI, with the goal of gathering insights into how the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated conditions affected their library teaching experiences. The goal of this survey is to "identify the new strategies and techniques librarians have employed, to determine which adaptations were effective and will continue to be beneficial in a post-COVID instruction environment, and to ascertain what resources and supportive structures are necessary for the successful implementation of these techniques and strategies." Additionally, the committee hopes that analysis of the survey data will help identify "emerging instructional needs that might be addressed at a consortial level." Committee member Annie Armstrong is serving as principal investigator and a Claim of Exemption was granted to the project through the University of Illinois at Chicago IRB. The survey is open for responses as of June 2 and will remain open until August 13, at which point the committee will begin analysis.

Online Instruction Discussion

The second online instruction discussion was held on March 03, 2021, with 60–70 attendees. Based on the direction that discussion took during the first event, the topic for this second meeting was announced as being online instruction in general, to allow for participants to have their varied interests more easily addressed. Committee members compiled questions to prompt discussion, which were shared with registrants before the event, but conversation was allowed to follow where participants' questions and answers led it. Issues covered included tools and software, assessment techniques, and emotional support for students. A summary of both discussions was written by a committee member and published as [a column in Internet Reference Services Quarterly.](#)

The recording of the event is available on the CARLI website at: https://www.carli.illinois.edu/carli-instruction-committee-online-instruction-discussion.

Collaboration with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library and Project Information Literacy: Virtual Chat with Barbara Fister

The Instruction Committee was approached by Merinda Hensley about co-sponsoring a Virtual Chat with Barbara Fister, author "[Lizard People in the Library](#)," along with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library and Project Information Literacy--a nonprofit research institution. CARLI staff and the Instruction Committee organized, publicized, and provided material support for the event, and on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 11:00 a.m.–Noon, David Ward, Director of Teaching and Learning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign served as the moderator of a conversation that focused on a number of topics, ranging from combating misinformation, empowering students, and promoting social justice, to an exploration of how librarians and instructional faculty can engineer personal agency as a part of information literacy instruction. The registration for the event was capped at 50 at the behest of

Ms. Fister, who wished to create a more intimate atmosphere, but it was recorded to ensure that all CARLI members would be able to engage with the topics discussed. Informal feedback from attendees was extremely positive, with a majority suggesting they felt inspired to reimagine their practice through a social justice lens and to do more to centralize student knowledge and experience.

The recording of the Virtual Chat, as well as the notes and resources associated with the event are available at: https://www.carli.illinois.edu/virtual-chat-barbara-fister-instruction-committee-event.

Instruction Showcase

The committee held the 9th Annual Instruction Showcase via Zoom on Friday, May 21, 2021 from 9:15 a.m.–2:00 p.m., with a virtual "lunch" and discussion from noon–12:30 p.m.The event featured a keynote conversation focused on "Disability Accessibility in the World of Library Service" and seven presentations which offered novel and inventive instruction techniques, tools, and lesson plans that not only addressed the transition from in-person to online instruction, but also highlighted strategies for incorporating of technology and tactics in post-pandemic instruction--engaging fulling with this year's theme, Virtual Realities: The Challenges and Potential of Online Instruction. The keynote and presentation were provocative and stimulating, fostering lively discussion and building a foundation for conversation and collaboration amongst the presenters and attendees.

This virtual event was well-attended, with 117 registrants and approximately 80 attendees. A video of the Showcase will be made available on the CARLI website at: https://www.carli.illinois.edu/carli-instruction-committee-9th-annual-instruction-showcase.

Respectfully Submitted by
Christina Norton and Dee Anna Phares
Co-Chairs, 2020–2021