Participatory Librarianship: A Vital Conversation about Librarianship and its Future

Hillman Library September 23 2011

You are invited to hear R. David Lankes, the author of “The Atlas of New Librarianship,” speak to the ULS on librarianship and its future. He invites librarians to expand librarianship beyond the support of information seeking, access, and literacy and toward participation in and co-ownership of a community’s knowledge-creation processes.

Jan Fransen and Cody Hanson will serve as the panel to lead and moderate the discussion following the presentation. This event will be shared and recorded via WebEx, so if you are unable to come to Hillman, you can view the talk from your desk. Seating in 272 will be first come, first served, but we will also have WebEx set up in the Amy Knapp Room if we need more space. WebEx instructions will be provided next week.

If you have any further questions, please contact Heidi Card.

R. David Lankes, Professor, Syracuse University School of Information and director of the school’s library science program; Director, Information Institute of Syracuse (IIS)

David has always been interested in combining theory and practice to create active research projects that make a difference. His new book, The Atlas of New Librarianship, was published this year by MIT Press and co-published by ACRL. The Atlas is a thorough discussion of librarianship developed around the concept of “participatory librarianship.” The central concepts of participatory librarianship have not changed – that conversation and knowledge are core to all that librarians do.

Dr. Lankes has served on advisory boards and study teams in the fields of libraries, telecommunications, education, and transportation including at the National Academies. He has been a visiting fellow at the National Library of Canada, the Harvard School of Education, and the first fellow of ALA’s Office for Information Technology Policy. He received his BFA (Multimedia Design), MS in Telecommunications, and Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

Additional Speakers

Jan Fransen, Engineering Librarian at University of Minnesota Libraries

In her position as the liaison Librarian to the Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and History of Science & Technology departments, Jan combines experiences from 20 years in the technology field with skills gained in her MLIS program. She teaches and consults with students and faculty on a wide range of issues surrounding the communication of scholarship, and creates online instruction to complement classroom and one-on-one sessions.

In addition to serving on all three of the teams that have made up the Discoverability initiative, Jan co-chairs University Libraries’ Personal Information Management collaborative and participates in a variety of working groups that bridge the boundaries between library systems and library users.

Cody Hanson, Web Architect and User Experience Analyst at the University of Minnesota Libraries

Cody has co-chaired the project team that produced the influential and widely-cited “Discoverability” reports from the University of Minnesota Libraries. The U of M’s Discoverability initiative has sought to identify important trends in user behavior both within and outside of traditional library systems, and to develop a vision for a discovery environment that encompasses internal, external, owned, licensed, and freely available information resources. Cody is the author of “Libraries and the Mobile Web,” an ALA Library Technology Report, he was a 2010 ALA Emerging Leader, and he chairs the LITA Education Committee.

Pre-Visit Readings

R. David Lankes and the Atlas of New Librarianship:

University of Minnesota Libraries readings:
A Framework for Articulating New Library Roles by Karen Williams:

Discoverability Phase 1 and Phase 2 executive summaries:
http://purl.umn.edu/48258
http://purl.umn.edu/99734