

VIRTUAL LIBRARY NEWS

Dr. Yvonne Chandler: Enthusiasm and Excitement

By Christina Ostroff

The staff of the UNT Dallas Campus Library had the pleasure of speaking with Dr. Yvonne Chandler about librarianship as a career, job hunting, coursework recommendations, and her experiences in the field. Our discussion, flavored with animated accounts of her experiences, brought out job hunting tips that are of value to students in any field. She, like so many of the UNT faculty and staff, is passionate about her field and about sharing her knowledge with students.

By Dr. Chandler's estimate, her library career started at age 12, while helping her mother conduct research for her master's degree, but it was her love of history that motivated her to pursue the field.

When she began her studies, her dream was to be the archivist for a great historical collection, but this is not the direction her career has taken. As she emphasized in our discussion, the best news about a library career is that, regardless of your specialty, you have the flexibility to change. The last course she took (and she took a lot of courses since she started the graduate work while still an undergrad) was legal research. At that time, none of the law libraries in Atlanta had been integrated into the law firms and she found herself surrounded by opportunities, so she chose to build her career in law librarianship.

With regard to coursework, she had a few recommendations for students. Dr. Chandler suggests



Dr. Yvonne Chandler

students interested in special libraries pursue individual programs, but remember they are not tied down by course of study. It is not unheard of for a public librarian to move into medical librarianship or a legal librarian to move into a business library position. For those unsure about specialization, the general program is ideal. Students in the school librarianship program are an exception because teacher certification is required. For those pursuing

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Editor's Notes

This second edition of the Dallas Campus Library newsletter focuses on Library and Information Sciences as our Major of the Month. In cooperation with the UNT-Dallas Campus Student Development Office, the Dallas Campus Library focuses on one of our degree programs every month. This program is featured on the

bulletin board outside the Student Development Office showing salary ranges, job titles, income potentials, and other pertinent information. In the Dallas Campus Library our Major of the Month is featured in the special collection of print resources on display. Concentration on Library Sciences was intensified when the

library staff met with Dr. Yvonne Chandler, a member of the University of North Texas' School of Library and Information Sciences faculty. The library staff interviewed Dr. Chandler about her career, job potential, course selection, job searching strategies, and her personal career path. (See lead story.)

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- SUSIE KUTCHI INTERVIEW/ RECENT MASTER'S GRADUATE
- NEW VIRTUAL LIBRARY TEAM LAB

VIRTUAL LIBRARY NEWS

Recent Graduate Profile: Susie Kutchi

By Christina Ostroff

As the end of the Spring semester approaches, the thoughts of those nearing graduation turn to job hunting. We interviewed a recent graduate of UNT's School of Library and Information Science program, Susie Kutchi. We spoke with Susie about her experiences in the SLIS program and making the transition from coursework to job search.

What prompted you to enter the SLIS program at UNT and what program of study did you follow?

Two things: I had done some graduate work at NTSU in clinical psychology a long time ago and therefore had a "track record" with the university, and while I was contemplating getting my degree in library science, I had a conversation with a teacher who was getting her degree in school librarianship. She advised that if I wanted to be anything other than a school librarian, UNT was the place to be.

Which classes did you feel prepared you best for your current position and for the job market in general?

The courses that have helped me most as an academic reference librarian at the UT Dallas library were the subject resources—the 5600 series.

What additional advice do you have for those just starting the program?

Do not be afraid if you don't have a specific job in mind when you finish. If you have room in your course options, take both cataloging and indexing. You may find, as I did, that you really prefer the face-to-face interaction of a reference desk, but knowing what goes into cataloging and indexing makes you understand and appreciate the technical aspects of the library that make your job easier. And since a lot of the jobs I've seen lately are for cataloging, you may just find your niche!

Tell me about your job search strategies. Where did you start the search?

I started my search on the various library association websites—SLA, TLA, etc.—as well as looking at all the job postings done through the SLIS office

What additional advice do you have for those approaching the end of school and beginning their job search?

Don't be afraid to apply for a job, even though it appears you don't have the qualifications. Every interview gives you a better insight into what's expected and a better picture of each and every type of library.



Susie Kutchi

"Do not be afraid if you don't have a specific job in mind when you finish."

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The UNT Dallas Campus Library offers information on how to navigate through the virtual library of the Dallas Campus. Our library is unique in that there are virtually no books. No books, you say? No books! Our many resources are available electronically so students and faculty can access materials any time, anywhere with an Internet connection. So how does one go about it? Well, our fully trained



library staff offers individual instruction to students and faculty as well as group instruction through faculty scheduled classes. These workshops aim to help our students and

faculty make the most of our virtual library and wealth of resources available. As a "thank you" for participating in the workshops, the library staff conducts door prize drawings at each session.

Some of our past winners were: Susan Schmidt, Lauren Reeves and Samantha Sieger.

MAJOR OF THE MONTH * Library & Information Science

By Wanda J. Tanghlyn

Library and Information Science is our featured subject area for the month of April at the UNT Dallas Campus Library. Find out everything you ever wanted to know about the world of the library and librarians. The Dallas Campus Library offers valuable resource information on the subject such as print and electronic subject guide materials. The resources are available to help inspire and inform our Dallas Campus students and faculty about the many majors offered at the UNT Dallas Campus. Drop by for a

visit and check out our display on the Major of the Month for April, Library and Information Science.

Each month the UNT Dallas Campus Library features a different major and offers valuable resources on that subject for students and faculty.

Subject guides for other majors are available in the library and on the website.

NEXT MONTH: COUNSELING



LAPTOPS PROGRAM A SUCCESS

By Wanda J. Tanghlyn

In early spring, the UNT Dallas Campus Library launched the Laptops for Students program. This program has been a huge success for the Dallas campus and the library. The laptops, available to current UNT students with a valid UNT ID, and are available in three-hour increments and can be renewed if there is not a waiting list.

Of course, the laptops must remain on campus at all times. The laptops have

the same types of software as the General Access Lab desktop computers.

Laptop checkout is available on a first-come, first-served basis during the library's normal business hours, which are:

Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

"This is the best thing the library has done in a long time. I really love this program", said UNT Criminal Justice major, Valencia Gipson.



Virtual Library Team Lab is now open

By Wanda J. Tanghlyn

The team lab is now up, running, and open for business. This was a true work in progress and to see it come to fruition has been a marvel. The Team Lab was conceived because of the input of our students here on the Dallas campus. Based on input indicating a great need for a place to do group projects, our sen-

ior library staff, with the help of Dr. Price and crucial assistance of our UNT-DC Information Technology staff, comprised of Wil Clark, Mike Sanders and Ramon Herrera, have made the library's Team Lab a reality.

Stop by and check out your UNT Dallas Campus Team Lab.



University of North Texas—Dallas Campus

8915 South Hampton Road
Dallas, Texas 75232

University Main Telephone: 972-780-3600
Library Telephone: 972-780-3625
Library Fax: 972-780-3636

HOME OF THE UNT EAGLES!

We are on the Web!

www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm



Credits:

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| Cindy Batman: | Librarian/Editor-in-Chief |
| Wanda Tanghlyn: | Junior Editor |
| | Newsletter Designer |
| | Writer |
| Christina Ostroff: | Writer |

Dr. Yvonne Chandler Interview (cont.)

management, it is wise to have a strong background in a certain subject such as technology or reference.

She recommends students take reference courses on government documents and online search techniques as well as technology-related courses. Coursework in library automation is also highly recommended. Though librarians do not have to be IT experts, it helps to have a strong understanding of technology issues to be able to participate in decisions regarding the library's needs.

For most students, the ultimate goal of any degree is a career, and job hunting can be a bit overwhelming. Dr. Chandler's best advice is to FOCUS ON NETWORKING and START EARLY. She stresses that networking is the key to career success; in fact, she commented that, "If the world is six degrees of separation, librarians

should be two degrees." Being well-connected through involvement in professional organizations such as the American Library Association (ALA), the Special Libraries Association (SLA), the Texas Library Association (TLA), and others is a strong first step. The next crucial step is maintaining your contacts. Collect business cards and give out your cards to every one



you meet. She suggests sending an e-mail or handwritten note thanking someone you spoke with at a

convention or a meeting. This small, old-fashioned courtesy goes a long way.

For resumes, she suggests including references rather than stating "References upon Request." The easier you are to contact and follow-up, the more likely you are to be interviewed. Starting early is advised. If you are graduating in the spring, starting your job search in March or April is best, especially if you intend to work in the academic setting. She also suggested looking into work in a public library, especially if you are unsure of what type of library setting you want or if you do not get a job in your chosen field. The broad experience of a public library will be to your advantage and help you find the focus you want and any specialization will make you a valuable asset. If you seek out experience and build a strong network of contacts, you will find success.