

HISTORY SECTION (HS)

2017

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Melissa Gonzalez

Current Position: Head of Reference, University of West Florida, Pensacola FL

Type of Library: Academic

Previous Positions:

Project Archivist, Clemson University, 2000-2003

Degrees and Certificates:

University of Southern Mississippi, MLIS, 2000

University of Southern Mississippi, MA History, 2000

University of Southern Mississippi, BA History, 1996

Division Affiliation(s): ACRL, RUSA

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities

RUSA History Section, Executive Committee (Member-at-Large, 2015-2018)

RUSA History Section, Gale Cengage Learning History Research & Innovation Award Committee (member, 2015-2018)

RUSA History Section, Nominating Committee (member, 2015-2018)

RUSA History Section, Instruction and Research Services Committee (chair, 2016-2018; member, 2013-2018)

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES)

Librarian Incentive Program Award, UWF, 2007

“U-Care” Award, UWF Faculty and Staff Recognition Program, March 2007

Publications:

McGowan, Britt, Melissa Gonzalez, and Claudia J. Stanny. "What Do Course Syllabi Say About Information Literacy: A Comprehensive Review of Undergraduate Syllabi at a Public Institution." *portal: Libraries and the Academy* 16, no. 3 (July 2016): 599-617.

Stanny, Claudia, Melissa Gonzalez, and Britt McGowan. "Assessing the Culture of Teaching and Learning Through a Syllabus Review." *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education* 40, no.7 (November 2015): 898-913. doi:10.1080/02602938.2014.956684.

Gonzalez, Melissa F., and Amanda W. Ziegler. "The Great Good Place: Creating Space for Knowledge Creation." In *Letting Go of Legacy Services: Library Case Studies*, edited by Mary Evangeliste and Katherine Furlong, 121-131. Chicago: American Library Association, 2014.

Links to further information:

CV: <https://ir.uwf.edu/islandora/object/uwf%3A22680/datastream/OBJ/view>

UWF Institutional Repository: <https://ir.uwf.edu/mgonzalez>

Statement of Professional Concerns/Aspirations if Elected:

Being involved in the RUSA History Section in various capacities over the past few years has been one of the highlights of my professional life. It is extremely gratifying to work alongside dedicated and like-minded colleagues in advancing the field of history librarianship. There are innumerable opportunities and challenges to face as the professional landscape continues to change and evolve, and I would like to see the section strive to marry some of our more traditional functions and services (i.e. reference, instruction/information literacy, outreach, collection development) with newer roles and initiatives (i.e. digital humanities, UX, scholarly communication, data curation). Additionally, because the section is made up of professionals from all types of libraries and institutions representing different constituencies, we should maintain a focus on identifying and serving the needs of ALL members. It would be an honor to continue serving the professional organization that has served me so well.

Number of Years as an ALA Member: 4

Jennifer Eileen McElroy

Current Position: Reference Specialist, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota

Type of Library: Other (if other enter below)

Other:

Special Collection and Archive

Previous Positions:

Reference Associate, Minnesota Historical Society, Sept 2010 - June 2013

Division Affiliation(s): RUSA

To which Round Tables do you belong?: New Members Round Table (NMRT)

Were/are you an Emerging Leader? Yes

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities

RUSA-History Section, Executive Committee, Secretary, 2015 to present

RUSA-History Section, Local History Committee: Co-chair, 2014 to 2015; Chair, 2015 - present
RUSA-History Section, Communications Committee: Member, July 2013 to present

Offices held in state/regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES)

Minnesota Library Association, Member, Membership Committee, 2015 to present.
Metronet Multi-type Library Board (MN), Special Libraries Representative, September 2011 to present.
Metronet Board, Vice-Chair, September 2013 to June 2014.
Metronet Board, Chair, July 2014 to present.

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES)

ALA Emerging Leaders, member 2016 cohort
ALA Emerging Leaders, alternate 2015 cohort
NCSU Outstanding Public History Graduate, 2007
Best Overall Submission, Charlotte History Forum, 2007
Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society), member
Beta Phi Mu (Library & Information Studies Honor Society), member

Publications:

Author. "North Carolina English, 1861-1865: A Guide and Glossary," book review in North Carolina Libraries, January 2014.

Author. "Native North Carolina: The "What, Why, and Where of Native American Place Names," book review in North Carolina Libraries, June - August 2011.

Author/compiler. Index to the first nine volumes of "The Collected Columns of Blue Greenberg" (held in the North Carolina Collection), Fall 2008.

Number of Years as an ALA Member: 3

Ben Himmelfarb

Current Position: Librarian I, White Plains Public Library, White Plains NY

Type of Library: Public

Previous Positions:

Library Assistant, Albany Public Library, April 2014-September 2014

Library Clerk, Albany Public Library, July 2011-April 2014

Outreach Intern, Partners for Albany Stories, Spring-Summer 2014

Degrees and Certificates:

University at Albany, MSIS, 2014; University at Albany, MA History, 2014; SUNY Purchase College, BA Literature, 2010.

Division Affiliation(s): RUSA**To which Round Tables do you belong?**

Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities

RUSA History Section, Local History and Genealogy Discussion Group Facilitator, 2016.

Offices held in state/regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES)

New York Library Association, President, Local History Roundtable, 2016-Present

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES)

Honoree for Advancing the YWCA's Mission
YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester
October 2016

Library Journal Movers & Shakers Award 2016

Library Journal

March 2016

McHenry Award

Open Space Institute

April 2014

Excellence In Service to the College Award

Information Studies Department, University at Albany, SUNY

May 2014

EBSCO 2013 Mid-Winter Scholarship

EBSCO/American Library Association

January 2013

Major Accomplishments

I am proud of my advocacy for public libraries and public history. In Albany, I helped create an all-ages music education program at the library and worked with a coalition of museums, historians, and government employees to write a strategic plan that would help keep Albany's public history resources useful and preserved. In White Plains, I partner with a diverse pool of community organizations and individuals to reinvigorate the library as a site of community memory. From oral histories to public history events that promote residents' perspectives, we have helped people understand how our local history connects to national events. I am also proud of my work as a literacy tutor in Albany, which taught me valuable lessons about helping people

learn on their own terms.

Links to further information:

"My First Year As A Local History Librarian," *New York State History Blog*, December 20, 2015.

<https://newyorkhistoryblog.org/2015/12/20/my-first-year-as-a-local-history-librarian/>

White Plains Library Local History Page
www.whiteplainslibrary.org/local-history

Statement of Professional Concerns/Aspirations if Elected:

Working in libraries is the perfect fulfillment of my commitment to public service and my passion for education. I left high school early because of an inhospitable educational environment and was able to move on all the way through graduate school because of the support of enlightened librarians and educators. ALA's mission is bold and important. I am always happy to serve an organization that does so much to support the people who use, work in, or need libraries.

Number of Years as an ALA Member: 4

Bobby L. Smiley

Current Position: Religion and Theology Liaison Librarian, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN

Type of Library: Academic

Previous Positions:

Digital Scholarship and American History Librarian, Michigan State University Libraries, November 2013 - May 2016

Degrees and Certificates:

Pratt Institute, M.S., 2013; Yale University, M.A., 2010; University of Wisconsin-Madison, B.A., 1998

Division Affiliation(s):

ACRL RUSA

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities

Member, Instruction and Research Services Committee, RUSA History Section, July 2014 - June, 2016

Co-Chair, Communication Task Force, Instruction and Research Services Committee, RUSA

History Section, November, 2014 - June 2016

Offices held in state/regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES)

Coordinator, Outreach/Liaison Interest Group, Collection Analysis and Assessment Interest Group, Michigan Academic Libraries Association (MI-ALA), July 2015 – May 2016

Chair Elect, Collection Section, Michigan Academic Libraries Association (MI-ALA), June 2015 – May 2016

Honors and Awards (library and non-library, including DATES)

2015 Bursary Award, Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO), July 2015

Lilly Teaching Fellow, Michigan State University, April 2015 – April 2016

Best Chat Transcript Award, Research Help Now, April 2014

Major Accomplishments

Opening Keynote Speaker, American Theological Library Association (ATLA) Annual Conference 2016

Invited Speaker/Panelist, Hope College, University of Michigan School of Information Student Association, HASTAC

Presenter, National Diversity in Libraries Conference (NDLC) 2016 (Data Visualization, Collections Analysis, Inclusion and Diversity), Keystone DH 2016 (Data Visualization & Collections Analysis), Mi-ALA Annual 2016 (Disciplinary Information Literacy), LOEX Fall Focus 2015 (Disciplinary Information Literacy), DH 2015 (Information Literacy, Pedagogy & Digital Humanities), HASTAC 2015 (Digital Project), ACRL 2015 (Information Literacy, Pedagogy & Digital Humanities)

Chapter author, Debates in Digital Humanities 2017 (University of Minnesota Press)

Publications:

“From Humanities to Scholarship: Libraries, Labor, and ‘The Digital’,” Debates in Digital Humanities 2017. Matthew Gold and Lauren Klein (eds.) (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, under contract).

Review of Ian Gregory and Alistair Geddes (eds.), Toward Spatial Humanities: Historical GIS and Spatial History, *Information & Culture: A Journal of History*, August 2015.

Review of Chris Klassen, *Religion and Popular Culture: A Cultural Studies Approach*. *Religious Studies Review* (41:1) March 2015, p. 8.

Links to further information:

Website: <https://bobbysmiley.com/>

Twitter: @bobbysmiley

Statement of Professional Concerns/Aspirations if Elected:

My interest in becoming Member-at-Large for RUSA HS pivots around several emerging and exciting areas for collaboration and conversation about possibilities for our practice as librarians.

Both in my current and previous position, I have dedicated myself to exploring how to introduce and harness the ACRL IL Framework for discipline specific library instruction. Critical for this is fostering conversation among librarians, and providing multiple venues to share best practices, and discuss pedagogy. Also in my work, I have attempted to leverage my background and research in digital humanities not only to produce scholarship, and but to re-imagine the role of the library in a broader context, in conversation the communities it serves. Additionally, I also want to work with others to find ways how library-based digital humanities work can help promote greater inclusivity and diversity in our collections and our profession, through analysis and activism.

Number of Years as an ALA Member: 3

Kathy Shields

Current Position: Research and Instruction Librarian, History and Social Sciences, Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

Type of Library: Academic

Previous Positions: Head of Reference and Instruction, High Point University, Jun 2010-Mar 2016

Weekend Reference Librarian, High Point University, Dec 2009-May 2010

Degrees and Certificates: University of North Carolina at Greensboro, MLIS Library and Information Studies, 2009; Mississippi State University, BA English, 2007

Division Affiliation(s): ACRL, RUSA

ALA and/or ALA-APA Activities:

Reference and User Services Association, Instruction and Research Services Committee (member), 2016-2019; Instruction Section, Continuing Education for Mentors Task Force (member), 2009-2010; Cognotes reporter at ALA Annual, 2009, 2010

Offices held in state/regional library associations, and other associations (include DATES):

North Carolina Library Association, Chair, Technology and Trends Round Table, 2012-2015; North Carolina Library Association, Member, Conference Planning Committee, 2012-13, 2014-15, 2016-17

Publications:

Kathy Shields: "Research Partners, Teaching Partners: A Collaboration Between FYC Faculty and Librarians to Study Students' Research and Writing Habits," Internet Reference Services

Quarterly (Taylor & Francis), Volume 19, Number 3-4, 2014.

Leah Schweitzer and Kathy Shields: "A New Studio Approach: Collaborating to Support First Year Writing," Southern Discourse in the Center (Southeastern Writing Center Association), Volume 20, Number 2, 2016.

Donna Scheidt, William Carpenter, Robert Fitzgerald, Holly Middleton, and Kathy Shields. "Writing Information Literacy in First Year Composition: A Collaboration Among Faculty and Librarians," Information Literacy: Research and Collaboration Across Disciplines (WAC Clearinghouse and University Press of Colorado), 2016.

Statement of Professional Concerns/Aspirations:

As Secretary of RUSA-HS, I pledge to work collaboratively with the other members of the Executive Board to meet the needs of our members and respond to changes in those needs over the next two years. I look forward to working with the Board and with other groups within ALA to develop opportunities for professional development and mentoring to support history librarians at all stages of their careers.

Member of ALA since: 2007