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## Orbis Cascade Alliance Newsletter - Winter 2020

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Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 8:14 AM



### *Alliance News - Winter 2020*

## **Greetings from the Executive Director!**

*Kim Armstrong (Orbis Cascade Alliance)*

Happy 2020 to all of you! I joined the Alliance on January 9th, and am quickly settling in to the area, and to our work. From our central staff to all of you engaged in the Alliance, I have experienced the Orbis Cascade kindness and commitment to collaboration that I have long heard about.

I have been working closely with the Board to engage in Alliance business, and am getting to know the talented individuals that are the Alliance central staff. In learning about the programs currently underway, I can tell that there is a great energy and momentum to realize the goals of the strategic plan. This strategic plan is more than an individual set of initiatives, it is a document that recommits the members of a collaborative, once again, to embark on a shared future. The hard work of collaboration is critical, more than ever, as libraries are challenged to deliver more programs and services without increased resources. The Alliance should be contributing to the success of each of its members by delivering programs of value that enhance teaching, learning, and research for all.

The strategic plan is a dynamic document, designed to grow and change with emerging needs and opportunities. Recent Board activity that illustrates the continuing work on the strategic plan includes:

- Considering how to integrate the development initiatives with Ex Libris into the strategic plan (look for updates on this work later this year).

- Reviewing the timeline and priority for several stalled initiatives.

- Approving the charge for the Equity Exploratory Committee (previously, Social Equity Committee). A call for volunteers is underway. We anticipate that the Equity Committee will hold its inaugural meeting in early spring.

I will be out and about this spring visiting libraries and getting to know you all better. I am thrilled to be on board and working on our shared mission to, “create and deliver innovative, sustainable, and essential library programs and resources.”

## **Central staffing updates**

In addition to our new Executive Director, we have two other exciting developments in Alliance staffing.

**Jaime Bogdash** joined the Alliance central staff as the new E-Resources Specialist on December 2. Reporting to Jesse Holden, Jaime works with libraries and content providers to ensure timeliness and accuracy in our e-resources service. Jaime was previously the Collection Development Technical Assistant at Oregon Health & Science University, and brings significant experience to Alliance e-resource management. Jaime earned their MLS from Emporia State in August 2018 and is based in Portland.

**Maija Anderson**, who served as Interim Executive Director of the Alliance in 2019, has shifted to a new role on central staff. In 2020, she is serving as Interim Program Manager for Discovery and User Experience. She is also coordinating the Unique and Local Content program this winter and spring. Maija is ensuring stability and proactive communication in these programs, as we determine how to permanently fill these vacancies.

Maija came to the Alliance from Oregon Health & Science University, where she served as head of special collections from 2010-2018, and interim library director from 2017-2018. She holds an M.A. in Library and Information Science from University of Missouri, and an M.A. in Art History from University of Chicago.

## **2019-2020 John F. Helmer Awards**

The John F. Helmer Award program promotes collaboration and learning across the Orbis Cascade Alliance. The current Helmer Awards committee (Michelle Bagley, Portland Community College [chair]; Xan Arch, University of Portland; Mark Watson, University of Oregon) announced the 2019-2020 recipients in January. Michelle Bagley shares what made the committee excited to fund these two proposals:

**HIP, HIP Hooray! Sharing Strategies for Implementing High-Impact Practices in Academic Libraries**

Project Leaders: Janet Hauck, Business and Social Sciences Librarian and Kristen Hoffman, Psychology and Scholarly Communications Librarian (Seattle Pacific University)

The Award Committee saw a great opportunity for Alliance members to collaboratively explore the ways that college and university librarians and staff can be involved with the exciting work of High Impact Practices (HIP) to support student learning. At many of our colleges and universities, HIP such as First Year Experience, Study Abroad, and Capstone Projects are gaining momentum. The HIP, HIP Hooray! project aligns with the Alliance's strategic plan themes "Equip Students for Success" and "Strengthen Member Institutions." Creating a planning committee from across Alliance libraries promotes collaboration and engages instruction librarians in consortial work. Sharing the presentations from the symposium will allow other Alliance librarians and staff to learn about and develop their own plans for integrating the library and information literacy into these student-focused initiatives.

## **Alma Automation Workshop**

Project Leader: Kyle Banerjee, Collections and Services Technology Librarian (Oregon Health & Science University) The Alma Automation Workshop will help attendees expand their knowledge of Alma, and promotes the important work of technical capacity-building in the consortium. Participants will build skills to work in and improve the SILS for the benefit of member libraries and their communities. The Award Committee noted that this project is both practical and innovative. Its cooperative approach builds on the expertise of individual Alliance member staff, and it leverages the use of APIs to automate processes in collection development, cataloging, and public services.

Through this project, the Alliance will also provide access to professional development and training for a region of the consortium that often faces geographical barriers. Kyle Banerjee and Lesley Lowery will lead an interactive workshop at WSU in spring 2020. Another workshop is planned for the Portland area later in the year.

Have a great idea for a workshop, symposium, or other collaborative learning opportunity? Consider applying for next year's Helmer Awards! Applications must focus on a project that is in direct alignment with Alliance Strategic Initiatives and that can be accomplished one (1) calendar year after the award announcement in December. Award amounts will not exceed \$2000.

## **New strategic plan web pages**

We heard your feedback! Alliance stakeholders want clear, concise information about the strategic plan. In 2019, the Alliance Board worked with designer Tiffany Butler of Whole Brain Creative to present a user-friendly overview of the strategic plan. The content is based on the infographic materials that we first shared at the 2019 Summer Meeting. You can now see initiatives broken out by theme and team assignment. For those who want more detail, we are also updating the pages with links to full action plans for initiatives.

Special thanks to Board members Michelle Bagley (Portland Community College) and Isaac Gilman (Pacific University); Alliance staff members Maija Anderson and Bryan Vogh; and Council member Craig Milberg (Willamette University), all of whom contributed to this project.

# Alliance Program Highlights

## Discovery and User Experience

DUX is currently forming a new standing group dedicated to accessibility! The Accessibility Standing Group will be an important component of the DUX Team's strategic initiative on user experience and accessibility. The group will be charged with gathering and sharing accessibility policies and practices within the Alliance community. An outcome of their work will be an Accessibility Toolkit available to all members.

Nominations to the group were accepted through January 31st. The DUX Team is currently reviewing nominations, and looks forward to appointing a diverse and engaged group.

## Resource Sharing and Fulfillment

Your RSF Team has been hard at work on the Summit Policy Review strategic plan initiative and moved into the testing phase. You may have seen a call for nominees for our Summit Policy Testing Project Group (happily dubbed "SPoTPiG"). These intrepid volunteers will use our premium sandboxes to test potential new workflows and report their findings to the team. More information will be posted on the project group webpage.

The Fulfillment Standing Group has developed new documentation, tackling real-world scenarios related to Fulfillment Units, TOUs and Item Policies! They will add them to our growing collection of documentation on the Fulfillment Essentials webpage. Also, look out for a survey opportunity to tell the group what kinds of training you want, and whether your institution would be willing to host our merry band!

The Summit Standing Group continues its important work testing new resource sharing developments from the monthly Alma releases (like the sparkly new Reactivate feature), as well as monthly regression testing.

They're all a-flutter with the prospect of having completed the year-long task of editing all the documentation on their Summit Documentation page.

RSF Program Manager Lori Hilterbrand says, "I've been working through my 'I'm New Here' learning curve, and visited a few member libraries along the way. I'll schedule springtime visits to get to know you, your libraries and your needs from the RSF program perspective. If you're in frozen spots, I'll come see you when the weather's warmer!"

### **Shared Content and Technical Services**

The Ebook Standing Group (ESG) will be moving ahead with their recommendation to implement a Cambridge University Press STEM ebook evidence-based acquisition (EBA) plan to replace T&F pilot plan. The ESG will be working with CUP on implementation through the winter.

Network Zone Manager Lesley Lowery is developing a script that will allow libraries to identify and clean up extraneous title-level holdings in OCLC without a costly reclamation project. The script and documentation on its use will be available for all members in late February.

### **Systems**

Laura Baird from Pacific University worked with Bryan Vogh (Systems Program Manager) on updating the systems documentation section on the Alliance website.

The Central Analytics Standing Group (CASG) completed its work creating queries that can be used by members to collect information for ACRL reports and shared that work with members. Kevin Edwards from PCC did some great work on creating Analytics in Action video tutorials. The documentation and resources from the CASG were moved to the new Cross Program Documentation Area. Data-based decision-making is here to stay, and this group is here to help.

The Primo Customization Standing Group (PCSG) is looking for suggestions of customizations that they can work on. Submit your ideas for customizations via this form.

### **Unique and Local Content**

The Unique & Local Content program will soon complete an upgrade to ArchivesSpace, a platform many of our institutions use for archival collection management. The upgrade to ArchivesSpace 2.5.2 was long awaited, and brings necessary stabilization and enhancements. Many institutions have completed the upgrade already, and we are on track to complete the remaining cohorts this February. Devin Becker (University of Idaho) is managing the upgrade in coordination with participating institutions, our hosting vendor, Alliance central staff, and the Archival Collection Management Standing Group. Thanks Devin!

The ULC Team has started planning the annual Archives & Manuscripts program meeting. Traditionally, we have held the A&M meeting before the annual Northwest Archivists meeting. This year, NWA is holding a joint conference in San Francisco, with the Society of California Archivists and the Conference of Intermountain Archivists. ULC polled the A&M community and learned that most of our representatives preferred to hold a regional meeting rather than travel to San Francisco. Thus, we are trying something different by scheduling the A&M meeting independently in Portland. Please watch the A&M email list for more information about the meeting!

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