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## Founders Keepers Newsletter 2013-10-15

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## *Your* newsletter!

This is the first issue of a new newsletter for University Libraries, but it has no title, yet! There were many suggestions, but I've decided that you, the employees of the UL, should make the final decision on what our newsletter will be called. More on that later...

best choices submitted. Everyone who submitted title suggestions has at least one in this list. I am asking YOU to send me an email at [rcordell@niu.edu](mailto:rcordell@niu.edu) by Nov. 7 with your top choice. Just one choice, please.

### Title choices:

The Athenaeum Monthly  
Book Bytes  
Check-It-Out  
Founders Almanac  
Founders Horizon  
Founders Keepers  
The Shelf Life  
ULib News



### Upcoming Events

Friends Hedin talk	Oct. 15
FLA Halloween party	Oct. 31
Customer Service Trng	Nov7&8
Open Access Reception	Oct. 25

Any unit (department or part of a department) or group (such as FLA, LOSAC, Library Council, etc.) in UL is welcome to submit items. The newsletter will be as long or short as you make it. I'll send out requests for submissions and reminders of deadlines, and I'll even write some pieces on issues libraries are facing or events library groups are planning. However, this is really your newsletter and should be filled with the news you provide.

Back to the newsletter title...These are a few of the

## Katherine Walker Scholarship, by Lynne Smith

The Katherine Walker Library Scholarship committee has put together a brochure to entice library loving students to apply. There are some at the reference desk, and the Circulation desk has some to share. If you are going to an NIU

event to represent the library, stop by Circulation and pick some brochures up. The scholarship is open to any student who can demonstrate a love for libraries.

## It's the Great Pumpkin FLA! by Meredith Ayers

**FLA Halloween Party**  
**October 31**  
**11:30-1pm**

There is a party in the pumpkin patch (Staff Lounge) on October 31, 2013 during the witching hours from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. All are invited. Membership dues are \$10 or \$5 dollars for non-FLA members or guest. Dues can be paid at the party or to Pat Arne in Technical Services anytime between now and the party. FLA will provide subs and liquid refreshments. Please bring a pumpkin

flavored dish to pass. Come dressed as a pumpkin or in some other disguise to be entered in a prize drawing. The Pumpkins request

that you keep the patch green and litter free by bringing your own Halloween themed cups and mugs to the party.



## Renewing I-Share Books, by Lynne Smith

Circulation Hint: For those who don't know, if you request a book from I-Share, you can renew the item three times. Until now, it was thought that you should wait

until the day before the item is due to renew it. This week we noticed you can renew an item three times ALL AT ONCE and it will make item due in 16 weeks.

The library can still recall the book if they need it, but at least you don't have to wait patiently each month to renew.

## Women's Self-Defense Classes, by Annie Oelschlager

Annie Oelschlager and Jennifer Kirker Priest, Director of the Anthropology Museum, will be holding R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) program classes on Tuesdays, 3-6pm, October 15 to November 5. More information about the R.A.D. program can be found on their web

site at [http://www.rad-systems.com/about\\_us.html](http://www.rad-systems.com/about_us.html)

Annie and Wayne Finley were both part of a group that received R.A.D. certification training last year. Wayne and Annie also provided Women's Self Defense classes for the First-Year Success Program.



## LOSAC Annual Meeting, by Annie Oelschlager

October 17th will be LOSAC's Annual Meeting with Operating Staff. The meeting will take place at 10 a.m. in the Staff Lounge. This

year's committee and officers will be introduced, and the annual report will be reviewed.

**Did you know that Kishwaukee College is the 81st member of I-Share? Their students can check books out at our library without a courtesy card!**  
—Lynne Smith

## Curt Quitno: A Memoriam, by Teresa Jacobsen

Curt Quitno passed away September 25, 2013.

He was born October 7, 1937, a lifelong resident of Sycamore, Illinois. He graduated from Sycamore High School in 1955. Married to Patricia, they had three sons: Robert, Thomas, and Anthony, and 7 grandchildren: Michael (deceased), Dawson, Elijah, Dillan, Ashley, BreeAnne, and Caitlyn. He was also a great-grandfather to Morgyn

and Brooklyn.

Curt worked in the library's mailroom, then located directly left of the loading dock entrance door. Curt was responsible for sending and receiving materials from other institutions through the route system and U.S. mail. He took great pride in delivering the mail to library faculty and staff, and always did so in a very warm, cheerful manner. He retired after 25 years

of service in 1996.

Curt was a very passionate and caring man who lived life to the fullest, and will be greatly missed by family and friends alike.



## Southeast Asia Collection News, by Hao Phan

On Wednesday September 18, 2013, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand came to NIU to receive an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. The Princess was honored for her work in science and education, as well as her

humanitarian efforts. To honor this occasion the Southeast Asia Collection is featuring an exhibit on Her Royal Highness and her father King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The exhibit contains books by and about Princess Sirindhorn and her father, including a book of the King's mu-

sic. The exhibit is accompanied by other materials related to the Chakri Dynasty as well as Thai culture.

Hao Phan has just completed his pilot project on the preservation of Cham manuscripts in Vietnam. Supported by a grant from the British

## SEA News, Continued, by Hao Phan

Library for a follow up project that digitizes some of these manuscripts. If approved, the digitization project will start next summer. A few photos from his trips can be viewed here:

[http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview\\_project.a4d?projID=EAP531;r=41](http://eap.bl.uk/database/overview_project.a4d?projID=EAP531;r=41)



Photos of SEA exhibit.

## BIBFRAME: A Technical Matter, by Matt Short

After an initial testing phase in 2011, the national libraries agreed to move forward with RDA implementation on the condition that “credible progress” be made towards finding a replacement for MARC. Although MARC has served

as the backbone of the library catalog for more than 60 years, many early testers – myself included – expressed skepticism that any of RDA’s goals could be realized within a MARC environment. BIBFRAME is the first proposal that

the Library of Congress has put forth, intended to do what MARC does, while also anticipating what we might want to do with library data 40 years down the road. So what exactly is BIBFRAME? And why do we need it?

## BIBFRAME, continued, by Matt Short

In our current environment, libraries maintain their own data in the form of flat-file MARC records, each of which refers to one single manifestation or edition of a resource. These records exist in isolation from each other, with no direct links between them, and so rely heavily on textual notes and the context of the record to signify anything to the patron. Partly because MARC records are intended to print catalog cards, they are unable to say the sorts of things we now want to say in the way that we want to say them. With RDA, for example, we are much more interested in describing the relationships between resources and entities than we are in exhaustive descriptions of the resources themselves. Because MARC is focused on a single manifestation, it makes it difficult for us to say much about any relationships outside of the record. Our data is also largely cut off – or siloed – from other data sources, including everything from subscription databases to Wikipedia, since MARC records were never intended to interact with each other,

much less with data on the Web.

This makes federating datasets difficult for library system developers, and it's part of the reason that expensive alternatives like Primo exist. BIBFRAME is intended to solve both of these problems by 1) adopting a data model that is truly of the Web – the Resource Description Framework, or RDF – and 2) by proposing a semantic model that is compatible with our legacy data, but also flexible enough to accommodate any future data requirements and simple enough to be used outside of the library.

Instead of thinking in terms of records, RDF asks us to think in terms of statements, each consisting of three parts: a subject, a predicate, and an object. Like links on the Web, these statements allow us to point from one resource to another resource, unambiguously identifying each thing with a Unique Resource Identifier, like a URL. Unlike links, though, such statements allow us to point at both resources (webpages, books, movies, articles) and entities

(people, subjects, places), expressing *why* we are pointing in a machine-actionable way. We can say “Hamlet the play is created by Shakespeare” so that a computer can understand that these two entities – Hamlet and Shakespeare – have a very specific relation:

```
<http://www.example.org/plays#Hamlet>Subject: Hamlet the play
```

```
<http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/creator>Predicate: is created by
```

```
< http://www.example.org/names#Shakespeare >Object: Shakespeare
```

Because each entity is uniquely identified with a URI, we can also unambiguously say that Hamlet-cum-character was created by Shakespeare, instead of relying on a human being to unpack a textual note to differentiate between the play and the character.

Using these statements, RDF allows us to say anything about any subject, without relying on the context of the record

to make sense of the statements.

BIBFRAME adds a layer of meaning to this data model, specifying the sorts of statements we can make. It does this by defining classes and properties, then arranging those classes into a taxonomic hierarchy (e.g. Class B is a subclass of Class A, and so the properties of Class A are inherited by Class B). In other words, the model tells us what concepts we can talk about and how those concepts are identified and related. The current version of BIBFRAME consists of four main classes: **Works**, **Instances**, **Authorities**, and **Annotations**. All **Works** must have **Instances**, and all **Works** and **Instances** may have **Authorities** or **Annotations**. This model allows us to make three types of statements: 1) statements about the intellectual essence of a resource (**Work**), including things like subjects (**Authority**) and creators (**Authority**); 2) statements about the physical instances of a resource (**Instance**), physical instances of a resource (**Instance**), including where (**Authority**) and by whom (**Authority**) the work was published; and 3) statements about the resource

## BIBFRAME, continued, by Matt Short

that are not characteristic of the resource itself, but localized, such as library holdings (**Annotation**) or reviews (**Annotation**). It is a simple model by design, so that BIBFRAME data can be used more easily outside of the library, but the authors also argue that it is just as granular as MARC, since MARC, deconstructed, allows us to make no more than these three statements.

BIBFRAME was designed as a replacement for MARC, but it is also a major advance, enabling libraries to move their data out of local silos and onto the Web, where it can be found more easily. That said, it is not intended to be used in the creation of RDA data out-of-the-box, since RDA data includes many additional classes with more complicated hierarchical relations. Part of the confusion is that BIBFRAME occupies a middle ground, somewhere between the complexity of RDA (and other content standards like RDA, including CCO or DACS) and the simplicity of better established models used outside of libraries, like BIBO or schema.org. For exam-

ple, where RDA defines **Works, Expressions, Manifestations, and Items**, BIBFRAME defines **Works and Instances** and BIBO defines **Books**. We can anticipate community profiles that map library data to RDA, using BIBFRAME as an underlying framework, but BIBFRAME itself is really intended to be the *lingua franca* of bibliographic data among libraries – a common way for all libraries to talk about the bibliographic universe, without reference to a single content standard. The big question is whether or not a middleman is really necessary, or if it will instead just create a new kind of silo: a silo of ontologies that no one outside of libraries actually uses. For what it's worth, my opinion is that BIBFRAME is simple enough to allow libraries to map data onto semantic models like schema.org, while being complex enough to retain important information in the conversion from MARC, especially information relating to management and curation. Unless we want to abandon this data, or we can figure out how to make everyone in the world agree about biblio-

graphic description, BIBFRAME is a necessary transitional evil.

The best place to find more information about the BIBFRAME Initiative is <http://www.bibframe.org/>, which contains detailed documentation about the model itself, as well as a demo page with MARC data that has been transformed into BIBFRAME.

There is also an active BIBFRAME listserv, with ongoing conversation and debate about the model: <http://listserv.loc.gov/listarch/bibframe.html>

## IEEE Transactions

Nestor Osorio has been selected as a reviewer for the journal *IEEE Transactions in Education*, a leading publication in science and engineering education. IEEE is one of the largest international organizations for the advancement of technology.

He is a new member of the International Editorial Review Board of the *International Journal of Civic Engagement and Social Change* (IJCESC), IGI Global.

Nestor is also featured in our own *Founders' Type* with the article "University Libraries Boost Student Success Through Research Skills Course," in the 2013 fall issue.

## Customer Service Workshops

Customer Service Workshops will be held on Nov. 7, 1:30-3, and on Nov. 8, 9:30-11 in the Staff Lounge. The workshops are designed as interactive, so be sure to bring your thinking cap!

You can register by sending Rosanne Cordell an email indicating your preferred date to [rcordell@niu.edu](mailto:rcordell@niu.edu). Snacks will be provided.

## New Scanner in IDS, by Brian Prall

Information Delivery Service has acquired a new toy, the SL 1000 Micro Forms scanner. It has the capacity to scan Microfilm, fiche, and card either to a file or directly to a printer. IDS staff is still learning how

to use this new equipment and navigate the software that accompanies it, but it looks hopeful that we will be able to offer prints from Microcards again via special request.

The new machine will also allow us to free up the public accessible machines in the reading room on the second floor.

## The Last Word, by Rosanne Cordell

The editor always has the last word figuratively, but I can also have the last word literally in this newsletter. I may not be Will Manley, but I "have the pen."

October is my favorite month. It is in October that the quality of the light turns from summer-white to autumn-gold. We are reminded that all things end, but endings also bring new beginnings. Those beginnings are not always pretty or happy (think of March!), but out of the mud of early spring will come

the lush green of April. For now, I am quite content to enjoy Fall, the slow progress toward winter, and the chance to reflect on where we have been and where we will go. This seems like the perfect month to begin a newsletter!

Please take the time to send your vote for the title of this newsletter to me at [rcordell@niu.edu](mailto:rcordell@niu.edu) by Nov. 7, which also happens to be the deadline for submissions to the next newsletter. What is going on in your department? What new

projects are you starting? What new collections are you processing? What new services are you offering?



***Remember to  
vote for the  
newsletter title!***