

## Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC)- September 27, 2019

### Attendees

Columbia University Library Staff: Nicky Agate, Robert Cartolano, Amber King, Sophie Leveque, John Lussier, Allison Morrow, Francie Mrkich, Barbara Rockenbach, Ann Thornton, Abbey Lovell

Students: Molly Boord (General Studies), Tyler Campbell (Columbia College/BSO), Alex Cuadrado (Italian), Darold Cuba (Oral History), Laura DiNardo (GSAS, Italian), Rahim Hashim (Biological Sciences), Heather Ketchum (Union Theological Seminary), Elize Manoukian (Journalism), Rads Mehta (Columbia College), Parker Jordan (Social Work), Gustie Owens (Barnard), Jack Rossiter-Munley (Journalism), Nicole Saldarriaga (School of the Arts)

For committee membership and previous meeting notes, please see our [Student Library Advisory Committee site](#).

### Notes

\*The next SLAC meeting will be held on **November 15, 2019 in Butler 523**.

- 1) Introductions (Barbara Rockenbach; all)
  - Brief history and impact of SLAC: Noteworthy outcomes based on last few years' work include student wellness efforts, new Libraries website, Butler Banner Project, new portraits in Butler.
- 2) Technology in the Libraries: We are continually iterating on our programmatic approach to technology in the Libraries to ensure we have the hardware, software, and training that meets student needs.
- 3) Facilitated activity (Abbey Lovell)
  - Students work in groups of two to come up with a persona:
    - I am \_\_\_\_\_
    - Studying \_\_\_\_\_
    - At \_\_\_\_\_
    - I need to \_\_\_\_\_
    - For \_\_\_\_\_
    - ...How can you help?
  - **Student personas:**
    1. I am a musician studying journalism. I need a multi-purpose recording space for interviewing and recording performers. I need a studio/space and ideally, recording equipment to borrow. How can you help?  
**Library responses:** We host a weekly [Podcast Club](#) (Thursdays, 5 pm – 7 pm, 305 Butler Library) for students who are new to podcasting, which will use librarians' favorite objects from the Columbia collections as starting points for podcasts, as well as a workshop series, [Podcast Essentials](#), with guest speakers on various topics related to podcasting.  
**Student recommendations:** Partner with schools and programs, like the Journalism School, and encourage faculty to spread word about the studio, weekly meetings, and workshop series to students. Ensure that the podcast studio is featured in Google search results for Columbia University recording spaces.

2. I am journalism student working on an article about nurse health issue. Needs public documents, but the amount of information provided by a search of online databases overwhelming. How can I narrow my search and/or identify the most relevant search results?

**Library responses:** Workshops and one-on-one research consultations with subject librarians may be helpful. Forthcoming video projects, including the Hybrid Learning Grant, will offer brief, accessible online tutorials on topics like how to search CLIO. Also potential to create written “quick guides” to catalog search, etc. that complement existing subject-based research guides.

3. I am a PhD in Italian and biology looking for a smarter search in CLIO. How can you help?

**Library responses:** Forthcoming written and video tutorials on how the refine your catalog search will be available online and potentially embedded as resources for specific courses in CourseWorks.

4. I am an oral history student mapping freedom colonies and I need to create a digital map with interdisciplinary components, but I have no GIS or digital skills. How can you help?

**Library responses:** Skills like GIS and mapping can be learned in library workshops. Question for students: Where would you look for information about workshops? How would you prefer to find out about events?

**Student recommendations:** Flyers for workshops are effective. Embed librarians in classrooms and/or connect with faculty to share workshops. Promote content via weekly emails from the Libraries and/or academic departments, programs, or schools. Potential for a monthly, user-focused e-newsletter from the Libraries? Topics that would be of interest to students:

- a. Which computers on campus have specific software,
- b. How often data is cleared from library computers,
- c. Events, resources, services, workshops, etc. that are relevant to specific schools, like General Studies, Journalism, and the School of the Arts, which tend to feel isolated from other, larger programs.

5. I am a BSO historian digitizing our archives and I need a free way to digitize a collection of VHS tapes. How can you help?

**Library resources:** METRO, with which the Libraries has a partnership, provides this service. Publicize opportunities, resources, and services facilitated by local and institutional partnerships, and ensure that this information is discoverable on the Libraries’ website. Embed support for software and hardware in the Libraries.

We want to react to user needs in an instantaneous way so that we can evaluate if we are: a) providing the right service in the first place, or b) connecting you to an existing service.

- Where are we missing the mark to connect you to our existing tech offerings, which could mean equipment or services?
- Where are we missing the mark to provide technology support, and how can we think about a path forward?

- How can we improve our way-finding (i.e. connecting people to resources) or communication program?
- How can we best prepare ourselves for trend-spotting?
- What should we be teaching, lending, supporting that isn't part of our current service programs?

Email follow up:

Butler Banner events and site

Social media accounts

Future meeting topics:

1. Stress culture in libraries
2. Camping/general community norms
3. Social workers/executive functioning coaches
4. CPS privacy on 5th floor