HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Welcome to our first issue of LTAEC Pages! We are looking forward to connecting and highlighting successes, efforts and stories from the programs so that we can all share and learn from each other’s experiences.

We now have a LibGuide available at http://acrl.libguides.com/LTAEC.

Have a great and successful Spring semester!

~The Library Technical Assistant Education Committee
College of DuPage

By Carol Sturz
The Library and Information Technology program at the College of DuPage is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Program highlights of the Library Technical Assistant (LTA) program:

May 8, 1968 - At the Board of Trustees meeting, President, Dr. Rodney Berg, recommended the approval of the Library Technical Assistant Advisory Committee. An advisory committee was formed.

Spring 1969 - COD first offered an LTA class with one course offered: Library Technology 101 Functions of Libraries.


Library and Information Technology program celebrates its 50th anniversary!

Winter 1994 - Carol Thompson became the first COD LTA graduate to obtain the new 50% tuition scholarship for the first four courses to Rosary College (now Dominican University) in the Masters in Library and Information Science.

1994 - Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar requested and the legislature approved $15 million to buy equipment and train personnel. Another $15 million in FY 1995 budget would continue expanding the network. A total of 122 sites were planned to eventually link all 49 community colleges. The state’s multimillion dollar plan was to electronically link 122 sites and all 49 community colleges using television monitors showing remote site classrooms. http://www.lib.niu.edu/1994/ii940518.html

2000 - ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, College of DuPage Library – From the award application: “Successful grant applications to the Illinois State Library have resulted in considerable assistance that has augmented the resource base and allowed the library to develop LTA Illinois to extend services, programs and support throughout the state.” http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/excellenceaward/codapplication
2006 - Library Journal, 03/01/2006: Paraprofessional of the Year
2006: Valeria Fike, College of DuPage Library, Glen Ellyn, IL.

2010 - First program in country approved to participate in the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) sponsored by American Library Association. http://ala-ap.org/lssc/approved-courses/approved-course-providers/

2011 - Entire program becomes available online. Students begin enrolling from other states and countries, including Canada, France, and China.

2012 – Dual Admissions Agreement signed with Dominican University (DU) – students will ultimately be able to complete a baccalaureate degree at DU and be eligible for dual admission to DU’s Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS).

2016 – Program now has 9 courses available both on campus and online; 31 Total Hours required for certificate.

A special thank you to Jenny Dunbar, Archivist at the College of DuPage, and Amy Berger, LTA Student, who spent many hours assembling information for the timeline.

In recognition of 50 years of students and graduates of the Library and Information Technology program who contribute to our great reputation.

Program Coordinators:

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Acknowledgements:
The College of DuPage Librarians and Library Technical Assistants, Staff, and Administrators who continue to support our program, as well as the Advisory Committees and the many Libraries that have supported our program throughout the years.

Works Cited:

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Library Technical Assistant Program

Northampton Community College of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania offers a completely online Library Technical Assistant Specialized Diploma, now in its 48th year. This program was originally designed to support public libraries in PA, but over the years has been completed by individuals living and working across the United States, other countries, and US military bases around the world.

Completion of the specialized diploma requires 15 credits, and can be used as free electives in obtaining the General Studies AAS. In 2016 fifteen students completed the LTA Specialized Diploma. Several of those students used the credits to meet the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Public Library Certification levels to serve as library directors in smaller public libraries receiving state aid. The library assistant and provisional librarian are defined in the PA Public Library Code, and can be met when an individual combines either 2 years of college education with 9 credits of undergraduate library science courses, or a bachelor’s degree with 12 credits of library science courses.

For more information contact: Director, Library Services, Sandra Sander ssander@northampton.edu
ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Library Technical Assistant Program

Rose State College, located in Midwest City, Oklahoma, is a publicly created and sustained open-admission, associate degree-granting college that provides comprehensive lower-division programs of higher education and effective community services. The Library Technical Assistant (LTA) Program (https://www.rose.edu/content/academics/academic-divisions/humanities/library-technical-assistant/) exists (since 1977) as a part of that mission to educate and train paraprofessionals to work in libraries and information environments.

Given the diversity among libraries and the range of information needs required by those who use libraries, the Library Technical Assistant Program is designed to introduce the student to a variety of methods, techniques and resources commonly and currently in use in libraries. The LTA program aims to instill within the student an ability to recognize differences in libraries, adapt to technological change, and begin a lifelong learning process.

The LTA program is a 62 hours for an Associate of Applied Science. There are 8 courses required for the LTA program: LTA 1303 Special Publications, LTA 1312 Library Services for Children & Young Adults, LTA 1313 Introduction to Library Public Services, LTA 1322 Introduction to the Library Paraprofessional Field, LTA 1323 Introduction to Library Technical Services, LTA 1333 Technology in Libraries, LTA 1343 Records Management, LTA 1353 Library Management Skills and the final LTA 2001 Capstone Project.

All 62 hours of the program are available online. While face to face interaction is not required, (except for LTA 2001), professors use live chats and occasionally live video. Students are required to visit a number of libraries in their area. D2L is the current Learning Management System used by the college. Libraries are wonderful places to work, and the LTA program at Rose State aims to empower students to work effectively in them.

For additional information, please contact Melissa Huffman at mhuffman@rose.edu
Three Rivers Community College

Library Technical Assistant Program

Three Rivers Community College is located in Norwich, a small Connecticut city founded in 1659 by colonists who purchased land from the local Mohegan tribe. The abundant power source from three conjoining rivers spurred Norwich to become a hub for New England commerce, transportation, and manufacturing through the mid-20th century. Rich in history, the infamous traitor Benedict Arnold was born in Norwich in 1741 where his parents and siblings are buried. George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, and Harry Truman are a few of the many presidents who campaigned or gave speeches in Norwich.

Mohegan Community College and Thames Valley State Technical College merged in 1992 to form Three Rivers Community College. The Library Technology certificate program initially began at the Mohegan campus in the 1970’s, and for over 40 years prepared many library support staff to work in local school, public, and academic libraries in eastern Connecticut.

In an effort to raise standards that would give more value to the Library Technology certificate, adaptations were made to align the curriculum with the American Library Association – Allied Professional Association (ALA – APA) competencies. Proudly in June 2012 Three Rivers Community College was one of nine colleges who received ALA-APA Library Support Staff (LSS) accreditation. Our Library Technology certificate program was reaccredited by ALA-APA in 2016 for an additional four years.

At the same time of reaccreditation, the Library Technology program was also under review by the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education. A significant result of the review was the recommendation for the program to be offered fully online. Being an online program would make the certificate available to anyone in Connecticut. Today the college has agreements with all of the New England states as well as New York for reduced or in-state tuition. With these agreements our student pool has greatly expanded from the eastern corner of Connecticut to the entire Northeastern United States.

Who are our students? The majority are adult learners. Many already work in libraries and seek formal training to become better at what they do or to be eligible for advancement within the library. Students are highly motivated to obtain the certificate as there is less time for professional development on the job. Another large category of our students are in career transitions. Many have four-year and graduate degrees. Among these students are retired teachers, social workers, historians, and business associates who seek the Library Technology certificate as they ready for a career change. These students’ prior work skills and experiences are highly valued, and many are hired in libraries even before they complete the certificate.
We learned during our program review it was critically important to gain the support of the Connecticut State Library, the Connecticut Library Association, and the Connecticut Library Consortium. Each of these important library agencies not only help spread the good news that we offer an ALA-APA accredited certificate, but they also help us gain library director support for the new online program. Several students are now in the program because they were encouraged by their library directors to obtain the ALA-APA accredited certificate.

Certificate learning is desired in Connecticut. The Connecticut State Library’s Best Practices in Connecticut Public Libraries, 2017 at the mid or enhanced level suggests libraries pay partial tuition for staff who seek library technology certificates. At the exemplary level the standards suggest libraries offer paid release time for staff in library technology certificate programs.

Instruction in the Three Rivers program is personal in that faculty use video conferencing, email, texts, phone conversations and other technology to communicate and support their students’ learning. Faculty often meet with their students either on campus, at a conference or even at a public library or café. Internships are available for those who do not work in libraries and wish to gain practical experience under the direction of a faculty member, library director and site supervisor.

More information about Three Rivers Community College Library Technology certificate and the ALA-APA LSSC accreditation can be found at:

https://www.threerivers.edu/academics/degrees-certificates/library-technology-certificate/
http://www.ctlibrarians.org/3rivers
http://ala-apa.org/lssc/

Photo Top Row: (Left to Right)
Pamela Williams, Academic Librarian, Three Rivers Community College; Sue Prince, Library Media Specialist, Stonington High School; Linda Williams, Children's Services Consultant, Connecticut State Library; Jennifer Nally, Professor, Early Childhood Education and Library Technology Certificate

Photo Bottom Row (Left to Right)
Andrea Buka, Graduate, Library Technology Certificate; Marie Shaw, Program Coordinator, Library Technology Certificate; Hali Keeler, Adjunct Professor, Library Technology Certificate
GOING TO ALA MIDWINTER IN DENVER OR ALA ANNUAL IN NEW ORLEANS?


LTAEC would love to have you join us at our group discussion at ALA Annual in New Orleans this year (June 21st-26th). The program schedule has not been confirmed, but our group usually meets on Sunday with the other CJCLS groups.

Contact Sandy McCarthy (mccarthy@wccnet.edu) and Marlinda Karo (Marlinda.karo@hccs.edu) if you want further details.

Current Members:

Marlinda W. Karo (Co-Chair, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018)
Sandra C. McCarthy (Co-Chair, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018)
Walter Butler (Member, July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018)

Volunteers will need to complete the volunteer form by February 15 for committee service that begins July 1. More information, including volunteer requirements, can be found on the ACRL volunteer site.