

SLAIS News: Poster Award at iConference

By Michelle Mallette.

The School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, The iSchool at The University of British Columbia, sent a contingent of nearly 20 students, faculty and others to the 2012 iConference in Toronto in February. This was the School's first iConference since joining the [iSchools](#) in 2011. UBC was well represented on the program with faculty and students presenting papers, posters and workshops, and one of our posters won a conference award. Faculty members Luanne Freund, Rick Kopak, Aaron Loehrlein, Eric Meyers, Lisa Nathan, Edie Rasmussen and Judith Saltman presented, along with adjunct faculty member Gail Edwards, who is chair of the history department at Douglas College, post-doctoral fellow Michael Huggett, and MACL graduate Robert Bittner.

Students Danielle LaFrance (MLIS), Jade Guan (MAS), Jacqueline Huck (Dual MAS/MLIS) and Schuyler Lindberg (MLIS) also presented. Attending the iConference as delegates were students Justyna Berzowska (Ph.D.), Florian Ehrensperger (MLIS) and Alex Garnett (Ph.D.), and faculty members Caroline Haythornthwaite and Vicki Lemieux.

The poster by Eric Meyers and Robert Bittner, "Green Washing the Digital Playground: How Virtual Worlds Support Ecological Intelligence...or Do They?," was one of five chosen for a [Best Poster Award](#).

Informal learning at the Barber Centre

Learning isn't limited to classroom studies in today's world, and it's no different at the UBC iSchool. The School's lunchtime colloquium events continue with a series of timely and engaging presentations.

Several speakers were hosted in March, and readers of the Browser are invited to attend the last in the Spring 2012 series. Bertram "Chip" Bruce is professor at the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Illinois, where his work focuses on youth community informatics. He will present a one-hour talk, "How Young People Use New Media for Community Action and Personal Growth," at 12 noon on Wednesday April 11. The talk will be held in the Dodson Room, on the third floor of the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, and all are welcome.



Also that week, on Tuesday April 10, Samuel Kai Wah Chu returns to UBC to present his talk, "Social Networking Tools for Libraries," in which he examines how academic libraries are using social networking tools. Dr. Chu is an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong. He is an alumnus of SLAIS and of UBC Library, which is hosting his talk from 4-5 p.m. in the Lillooet Room, also on the 3rd floor of the Irving K. Barber Centre. RSVP at <http://elred.library.ubc.ca/libs/dashboard/view/3020> by Friday, April 6.

Book examines how we find information

A chapter by an iSchool faculty member is included in a new textbook that may be of interest to BCLA members. *Interactive Information Seeking, Behaviour and Retrieval*, edited by Ian Ruthven and Diane Kelly, features the chapter "Access Models" by iSchool Professor Edie Rasmussen. She describes her contribution as a down-to-earth explanation of algorithms for information retrieval systems.

The textbook covers the whole spectrum of information retrieval and is the first book to integrate information behaviour, information seeking and information retrieval into a single account of how we find information. A key text for library and information studies students, it is also useful for practising LIS professionals who wish to better appreciate how IR systems are designed, implemented and evaluated.

Faculty news: Lecturer earns Ph.D.

The UBC iSchool is pleased to announce a second faculty member has successfully defended a Ph.D. dissertation in 2012. Rafa Absar defended her dissertation at McGill University in February, and will be conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Spring Convocation at McGill in June. She holds a 12-month Lecturer position at the iSchool.

This follows the successful dissertation defence by faculty member Aaron Loehrlein in January. He has formally submitted his dissertation to the University of

Indiana Bloomington after defending in January. He will be conferred the Doctor of Philosophy degree at the Spring Commencement Ceremony in Indiana in June, and holds the rank of Assistant Professor at UBC.

Congratulations to both Dr. Loehrlein and Dr. Absar on their achievements.

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