2018 NISO Calendar of Educational Webinars

January

**Wednesday, January 10, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**

**Annotation – Practices and Tools in a Digital Environment**

Annotation tools can be of tremendous value to students and scholars. Such support for collaboration can add tremendous value to the information that’s being accessed by those user populations. What is the current state of the art? This event will bring together content and platform providers as well as those who are actively seeking to use annotation tools, whether in the library, the lab, or the classroom.

February

**Wednesday, February 7, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**

**The Evolving Natures of Reference Work and Reference Product**

In an age when rapid reference inquiries may be handled through a mobile phone and a search engine, reference work in the library must change and expand. How is that unfolding? What are the new expectations of the information products once referred to as major reference works—those general or subject-specific encyclopedias and indexes that served library professional and patron? How are librarians combining free and subscription resources? This webinar will examine a variety of approaches to enhanced service.

March

**March Two-Part Webinar**

**Part One, Wednesday, March 7, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**

**Library as Publisher: Current Status and Impact on Scholarly Communication**

An increasing number of university libraries have assumed responsibility for scholarly communication activities and university presses. This event will bring together professionals from a variety of institutions, asking them to address what the challenges have been for them, name their successes, and articulate their vision for the future.

**Part Two, Wednesday, March 14, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**

**Library as Publisher: UX and UI for the Library’s Digital Collections**
Just how good (or how bad) are the Web-based interfaces encountered by library users these days? Having invested in the creation of significant digital collections, how can libraries enhance usage of those collections? How do scholars and students (especially those working remotely) expect to engage with this content online? What should the interfaces be designed to support? Is there a baseline that has been established? What room exists for innovation in the user experience (UX) and user interface (UI)?

April

Wednesday, April 11, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)
Can There Be Neutrality in Cataloging? A Conversation Starter
How does one create awareness of the bias that may be introduced into automated systems? This session will look at the selection of vocabulary in establishing taxonomies and ontologies. What is the real nature of the issue? How might establishment, maintenance, and use of a thesaurus contribute to a more inclusive search/discovery process? And where should responsibility lie for developing such ostensibly neutral tools? How can we bring more diverse voices into the development and maintenance of these resources?

May

Wednesday, May 9, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)
Trends in Technology: Smart Services in the Academic Library
When content and platform providers dream of offering smart services to their clients, what do they envision as their value-added offering? Provisioning text and data mining services? Support for the Internet of Things or for Big Data? This session will bring together publishing technologists to spotlight what they see as emerging trends and the rationale for the development of smart services. Of course, from the institutional library’s point of view, the issue is whether such smart services are truly in demand from the user population. This webinar will bring together the various stakeholders in the smart services arena to look at emerging technologies serving diverse research communities.

June

Wednesday, June 6, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)
Innovative Tools and Apps: What’s Hot
Are there interesting new tools and/or apps emerging that are revolutionizing the work being done by scholars, researchers, and students? This event will convene a variety of information community professionals to talk about the tool or app that they know to be indispensable to either themselves or their community. What does it do? Why is it important? What else do you wish it did? And what does this resource portend for the future?

July Summer Break
August

**Wednesday, August 8, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**

**Discovery: Where Researchers Start**

If the discovery resources available via the library don’t necessarily serve as the faculty’s starting line for launching cutting-edge research, then what’s the next step? Published in early 2017, ITHAKA’s “US Library Survey” of roughly 1,500 institutional libraries indicated a diminishing expectation that the institutional library will be the starting point for researchers. What does that suggest for content providers and for library professionals? How does a library know that faculty are using something else? How can libraries draw upon that knowledge of researcher preferences to improve their own services?

September

**September Two-Part Webinar**

**Using Analytics to Extract Value from the Library’s Data**

**Part One, Wednesday, September 12, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**

**Analytics Behind the Scenes**

Faced with a highly diverse array of externally and internally collected data (web visits, gate counter, collection usage, subject analysis, budgets, space use, reference interactions, etc.), academic libraries have rapidly mastered the use of analytics and appreciate their value. Whether analyzing prospective subscription packages to determine their value for an institution’s research activities or reviewing usage data drawn from the local digital repository, libraries want to extract meaning from the increasing volume of library data. What does that data look like? How should that data be managed? And how best can figures from different sources be used together to create enlightenment?

**Part Two, Wednesday, September 19, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**

**Actionable Data Analysis**

Looking beyond the simple statistical report (*how many individuals attended a program or searched a database*), what might be best practices in using a given data set in support of long-term planning and decision making? What types of trends do libraries believe they might be seeing? Wrestling with library data should yield significant insights about the institution’s needs. Libraries and those who serve them will benefit from understanding how data is being wrangled, mixed, and interpreted.

October

**October Two-Part Webinar: Finding the Funds**
**Part One, Wednesday, October 10, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**  
Library Funding and Successful Advocacy  
This event will look at the messaging, media platforms, policymaking, agency, and tension involved when librarians become funding advocates. It will also examine social media and effective practices related to navigating participatory networks.

**Part Two, Wednesday, October 17, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**  
Strategic Approaches to Funding Scholarly Initiatives  
Aside from funding libraries themselves, there are many innovative projects that might never be accomplished without the support of grants from foundations of various sizes and sorts. What are the current trends? The speakers in this event will identify and examine those trends and share their possible impact on the academic environment.

**November**

**Wednesday, November 14, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**  
Building Diversity in the Workforce  
This event will look at bias awareness and the difficulties of appropriately valuing diversity in a work environment. What are the implications for the library in terms of data collection, recruitment practices, and mentoring? How might library leadership encourage applicants from a broad spectrum of cultural backgrounds while avoiding any appearance of double standards? How might technology jobs in the library be made more appealing to a greater range of applicants?

**December**

**Wednesday, December 5, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (U.S. Eastern)**  
Maker Spaces: Things that Go Bop, Whizz, and Clank!  
Have 3D printers become commonplace? Is someone in your library using pizza boxes to create their next-generation VR viewer? Perhaps you’re wondering just how sophisticated (and how spacious) a Maker Space needs to be these days. What are the expectations from students and faculty? What tools and services need to be part of a library’s maker space?

For questions pertaining to membership or available subscription packages, please contact NISO Headquarters at:

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