

A Day in the Life of Your Association of Vision Science Librarian

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WHO WE ARE:

AVSL is an international organization composed of more than 150 professional librarians, or persons acting in that capacity, whose collections include the literature of vision. Among the current members are individuals who work within libraries that serve educational institutions, eye clinics and hospitals, and private companies with an interest in eye or vision-related products and services.

HISTORY:

The idea of forming an organization of vision science librarians began at the 1965 meeting of the American Academy of Optometry in Denver, where representatives from all the Optometry Schools, met to discuss the ideas. The informal gathering was repeated the following December, and at the 1968 meeting of the American Academy of

Optometry in Beverly Hills, California, the Association of Vision Science Librarians (AVSL) was officially founded. A Statement of Purpose was formalized in 1969. This year we are celebrating 42 years of service to the vision community.

PUBLICATIONS:

Opening Day Collection – is a compilation of recommended books, journals and digital resources that identifies the materials that constitute a basic or “opening day” collection for all types of vision science libraries. AVSL librarians create this list by using reserve lists, book reviews, expert opinions, faculty recommendations, usage statistics, and other criteria. The list is reviewed and updated periodically.

Standards for Vision Science Libraries – describes the minimum levels of staffing, services, budget and technology that should be provided by a library specializing in vision science. The Standards also include the scope and coverage of what materials vision science libraries should contain. These Standards may be used by institutions establishing libraries or by accrediting bodies reviewing existing libraries. AVSL librarians have maintained the Standards since 1976.

Guidelines for Vision Science Libraries – This 16th edition contains quantitative information about the collections and services of academic vision libraries. The Guidelines include monograph and serial prices and vision library statistics.

Union List of Vision-Related Serials – Lists more than 1,100 journals and the volumes/issues to which libraries own/subscribe. Thirty-four member libraries from around the world contribute to this Union List.

WHAT WE DO:

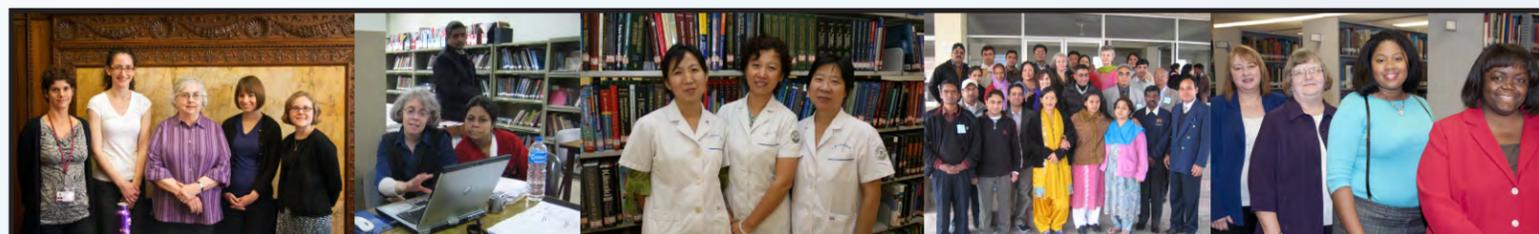
- Facilitate the cooperative activities among member librarians throughout the world
- Share our resources through loans of books, videos and journal articles
- Work to improve access to vision information
- Partners with NLM, NEI, ASCO, AAO and others to access information
- Develop and promote standards and guidelines to improve vision libraries and the services they offer
- Use our Listserv™ to exchange ideas, answer reference questions and share duplicate materials.
- Promote open access to the vision literature
- Maintain a vital Website that contains our publications and resources

“Since everything is available on-line what do you do every day?”

This ‘misconception’ is what we librarians are hearing more and more. Here are some of the answers we received after surveying our members on what a day in the life of an AVSL librarian is like:

- Process Inter-Library Loan Requests
- Place materials on reserve for class
- Retrieve materials from Off-Site Storage
- Assist patrons with their problems
- Revise references for PhD candidate
- Do reference searches for busy faculty members
- Track down an incomplete (& sometimes obscure) citation for a faculty member
- Search for the remote controls to the projector, the television, and/or VCR
- Check for the Impact Factor score of a publication someone wants to publish in
- Figure out what a faculty member’s H Factor score is
- Work at the reference or circulation desk
- Troubleshoot on why a database isn’t working
- Teach first year Optometry Students about library resources
- Do committee work for the library, school or college, or professional organization
- Plan for future of the library/institution

- Select & order materials that our faculty and students need – books, media, realia (eye and brain models), electronic resources of all types. OR - oversee the selection and organization of library materials in many different (and changing) formats
- Search for lost materials and order replacements
- Deal with water leaks, mice/ants, etc.
- Check to see why the library is too hot/cold
- Do shelf reading to make sure materials are in the correct order
- Send overdue notices
- Troubleshoot on why a laptop won’t connect to the network
- Work with preceptors in obtaining research materials
- Talk to faculty, students, and staff about library resources
- Deal with staffing problems: Manage staff & students who work for us
- Work on the budget
- Set up borrowing privileges for externship sites
- Write articles/ do research relating to many, varied aspects of vision science librarianship
- Do presentations at meetings and conferences
- Tasks involving quickly changing technology – including...
- Serve our broader community – volunteer at various community organizations
- Help students and faculty with managing their citations/references – RefWorks, Endnote, Zotero
- Edit open access journals at our institutions
- Create digital collections for teaching & research
- Manage archives of institutions
- Deal with problems associated with the construction of a new building & redesign of existing space
- And most importantly – Lifesaver for faculty, staff or student who needs it NOW!
- And much more



NORTH AMERICA

CANADA
BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver
ONTARIO: Waterloo

UNITED STATES
ALABAMA: Birmingham
ARIZONA: Glendale
ARKANSAS: Little Rock
CALIFORNIA: Berkeley, Fullerton, Irvine, Los Angeles, Menlo Park, Pomona, San Francisco, Santa Ana
FLORIDA: Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, Pensacola
IDAHO: Pocatello
ILLINOIS: Alsip, Chicago, Geneva
INDIANA: Bloomington; Indianapolis
IOWA: Iowa City
MARYLAND: Baltimore, Bethesda
MASSACHUSETTS: Boston, Watertown
MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor, Detroit, Big Rapids
MISSOURI: St. Louis
NEW YORK: Flushing, New York, Rochester
NORTH CAROLINA: Durham
OHIO: Columbus, University Heights
OKLAHOMA: Oklahoma City, Tahlequah
OREGON: Forest Grove, Portland, Redmond
PENNSYLVANIA: Elkins Park, Philadelphia, Willow Grove
TENNESSEE: Memphis
TEXAS: Houston, Fort Worth
UTAH: Salt Lake City
VIRGINIA: Leesburg

MEXICO
Monterrey, NL

CARIBBEAN
PUERTO RICO: Bayamon

SOUTH AMERICA
ARGENTINA: Buenos Aires

ASIA
INDIA
Annagar, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore, Jodhpur, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Satna, Madhya Pradesh, New Delhi, Thavalakuppam, Pudhucherry

CHINA
Hong Kong
Tianjin, P.R.

NEPAL
Gaushala, Bagmati Bridge, Katmandu, Ghari Patan, Pokhara, Ghopa, Sunsari, Maharajgunj, Kathmandu, Nepalganj, Banke, Palpa, Lumbini Zone, Rupandhi, Siddharthanagar, Tripureshwor, Kathmandu

MIDDLE EAST
ISRAEL
Jerusalem

SAUDIA ARABIA
Hafr, Miznab, Al-Qassim

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES
Bowral, North Rocks, Sydney

VICTORIA
Carlton, East Melbourne

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Lonsdale

QUEENSLAND
Kelvin Grove

NEW ZEALAND
AUCKLAND: Newmarket

OCEANIA
NEW GUINEA: Papua

SOUTH PACIFIC
FIJI: Suva

AFRICA
NIGERIA: Lagos, Obokun, Eleyele, Ibadan
EGYPT: Mansoura
TANZANIA: Moshi

SOUTH AFRICA
Durban, KwaZulu, Natal

EUROPE
MALTA: Madliena
SPAIN: Madrid
ITALY: Monopoli, Vinci (Firenze)

UNITED KINGDOM
ENGLAND: Birmingham, London, Nottingham, Oxford
WALES: Cardiff



AVSL Librarians—2010 Academy Meeting



back row: Rudy Barreras, Nancy Henderson, Sharon Tabachnik, Suzanne Ferimer, Kathy MacDonald, DJ Mathews, Roger Beckman
first row, l to r: Mike Piorunski, Chris Nims, Pam Sieving, Cynthia Birch, Gale Oren, Jessica Ravetto, Elaine Wells, Bette Anton seated, l to r: Wilma Marreo Ortiz, Kathryn Johnston, Jenna Kreiss