

Curriculum Vitae  
Allen C. Benson

Education

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University of Pittsburgh

Ph.D. May 2011, School of Information Sciences

Dissertation: *Relationship Analysis of Image Descriptions: An Ontological, Content Analytic Approach*

The University of Alabama

MLS 1993, School of Library and Information Studies

Recipient, MLS Faculty Scholar Award

University of Minnesota

BFA 1974, College of Liberal Arts, Music

Professional Experience

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2011- 2022 Professor of Libraries, United States Naval War College (NWC)

Oversaw operations and planning at Henry E. Eccles Library, Classified Library, and Naval Historical Collection. Administered NWC records management program. Led strategic initiatives, including online resource expansion for distance education. Managed system upgrades and web-scale discovery implementation. Orchestrated \$11M library redesign adopting Learning Commons model. Directed Preservica cloud edition implementation for preserving intellectual capital. Spearheaded Ares electronic course reserves beta testing. Executed successful five-year strategic plan for Naval Historical Collection, increasing storage space, implementing monitoring systems, and digitizing at-risk materials.

2008 - 2011 Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences

Doctoral student in the School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, where I held a variety of positions including Graduate Research Assistant for Richard Cox in archival studies; Graduate Research Assistant for Geoffrey Bowker in cyberscholarship and Values in Design; and Teaching Assistant to Christinger Tomer in Introduction to Information Technologies.

2002 - 2007 Director of Library Services, Washington & Jefferson College

Managed operations and planning at U. Grant Miller Library. Implemented new wage and salary administration, including classification schedules, position descriptions, and performance assessment plan. Oversaw conspectus analysis of collections and developed core collections in children's literature. Assisted in launching the College's first web-based digital library using CONTENTdm. Orchestrated transition from DRA Classic to Sirsi/Dynix Unicorn system with advanced features. Led conversion from Dewey Decimal to Library of Congress classification. Raised substantial funds, including a \$1 million bequest for the archives, \$540,000 in grants from Mellon Foundation, Buhl Foundation, and George I. Alden Trust, and \$25,000 from the Knapp Foundation.

1997 - 2002 Library Director, Arkansas State University Mountain Home

Directed operations and planning at Norma Wood Library. Spearheaded planning and execution of a new library, including relocation to the new campus. Managed transition from DOS-based automation to Web-based Endeavor integrated library system. Implemented Windows NT local area network and led development of a new college website. Pioneered the South Shore Memory Project, a born-digital archives initiative in collaboration with Arkansas State University Mountain Home, local public schools, and the North Arkansas Telephone Company. Secured \$150,000 in state grants and received two \$25,000 private grants.

1996 - 1997 Freelance Writer

Published two books with Neal-Schuman Publishers in 1997:

1. *Securing PCs and Data in Libraries and Schools*
2. *The Neal-Schuman Complete Internet Companion for Librarians, first edition*

1993 - 1996 Library Director, Benton, Arkansas

Served as Director of the Saline County Library System, overseeing one main and one branch library. Led planning and operations. Notable achievements encompassed catalog conversion and automation for both libraries. Pioneered one of the State's initial public library Internet connections in 1993 and developed an early wide area networking prototype linking the main library catalog to the branch system via the Internet. Conducted sixteen public speaking engagements over three years to secure funding and promote library resources and services.

1992 - 1993 School of Library and Information Studies, The University of Alabama

Graduate Research Assistant in the Information Processing Lab; President, Student Advisory Committee; Editor of monthly library school newsletter published in both paper and electronic formats.

1990 - 1992 Library Director, Marshall, Arkansas

Responsible for planning and daily operations of the Searcy County Library, including materials selection, budgeting, adult and children's programming, and community relations.

Other experience

Adjunct faculty and Artist in Residence, Augsburg College, Carleton College, St. Olaf College, and University of Minnesota, Duluth (1975-1979); served as consultant for Columbia Studios in production of *The Blue and the Gray*; toured with the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, New York (1979-1982).

### Publications (Selective Listing)

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- Image descriptions and their relational expressions: a review of the literature and the issues, *Journal of Documentation*, Volume 71, No. 1 (2015).
- Capturing relationships expressed in image descriptions: A preliminary investigation, *BiD: textos universitaris de biblioteconomia i documentacio*, Number 27 (2011).
- OntoPhoto and the Role of Ontology in Organizing Knowledge. (2011). *Knowledge Organization*, 38(2).
- Killed Negatives: The Unseen Photographic Archives. (2010). *Archivaria*, 68, 1-37.
- Photographic Materials Education in Library Schools. (2010). *The PIEA Journal for Photography Education*, 1.
- The Archival Photograph and Its Meaning: Formalisms for Modeling Images. (2009). *Journal of Archival Organization*, 7(4).
- *Connecting Kids & the Web: A Handbook for Teaching Internet Use and Safety*. (2003). New York, NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers.
- *Neal-Schuman Complete Internet Companion for Librarians*, Second Edition. (2001). New York, NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers.
- The South Shore Memory Project: Children Building Digital Libraries. (April 2000). *Arkansas Libraries*, 14-20.
- *Connecting Kids and the Internet: A Handbook for Librarians, Teachers and Parents*, Second Edition. Co-authored with Linda M. Fodemski. (1999). New York, NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers.
- Building a Secure Library System. (March 1998). *Computers in Libraries*, 24-29.
- *Securing PCs and Data in Libraries and Schools*. (1998). New York, NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers.
- *The Complete Internet Companion for Librarians*. (1995). New York, NY: Neal-Schuman Publishers.

## Awards/Honors

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- Recognized by the College of Communications and Information Science, University of Alabama, as one of the College's forty outstanding alumni, 2014.
- Recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, School of Library and Information Science, University of Alabama, 2013.
- Awarded the Outstanding Academic Service Award, August 2000, Arkansas State University Mountain Home.
- *Library Journal* (June 15, 1998) recognized *The Complete Internet Companion for Librarians* as one of the library profession's most outstanding pieces of literature.
- Awarded MLS Faculty Scholar Award 1993, University of Alabama.
- Awarded the Army Commendation Medal for composing original field-music marches for summer Retreat Review Ceremonies at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, 1982.

## Speaking Experience (Selective Listing)

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- "Grand Opening U.S. Naval War College Learning Commons," U.S. Naval War College, November 21, 2016.
- "The Nimitz Gray Book Project," New England Archivists Fall Symposium, November 1, 2014, Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island.
- "A Content Analytic, Ontological Approach to Understanding Relationships in Image Descriptions," The University of Barcelona, April 5, 2011.
- "Challenges and Opportunities in Information Communications Technology (ICT)," Tashkent State University of Economics, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, December 30, 2003.
- "Multimedia: Applications in Education," East Arkansas Community College In-service, February 22, 2002, Forrest City, Arkansas.
- "Digital image editing," Arkansas Library Association 2000 Annual Convention, October 9, 2000, Springdale, AR.
- "Connecting Kids and the Internet," 13<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Technology Conference, November 1, 1999, Harrisburg, PA.
- "Defending Against Sabotage: Security Solutions for Libraries," Computers in Libraries national convention, March 2-4, 1998, Arlington, VA.
- "Security Solutions for Libraries," Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges Annual Conference, October 15-17, 1997, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## Professional Development

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- Text Manipulation Practicum, Vika Zafrin, University of Rhode Island, 2017
- Preserving Digital Archives, Society of American Archivists, Newport, Rhode Island, 2014
- Photogravure Printing Process, private study, Sergy Zlotnikov, Pittsburgh, PA 2011
- Photographic and Filmmaking Principles, Pittsburgh Filmmakers, 2005

- Black & White Photography, Pittsburgh Filmmakers, 2005
- 3M One Tag RFID System, Columbus, OH 2004
- Filmmaking, Pittsburgh Filmmakers, 2004
- XML and Libraries, Harrisburg, PA 2004
- Fundraising & Development, Washington, PA, 2004
- METADATA, an Overview: Making Sense of the Alphabet Soup, Pittsburgh, PA 2004
- Machine Learning for Text Classification and Information Organization, Philadelphia, PA 2002
- Internet Strategy and Architecture, Philadelphia, PA 2002
- Emergency Preparedness and Recovery, Jonesboro, AR 1999
- Preservation of New Technology/New Technology for Preservation, Little Rock, AR 1997
- Snowbird Leadership Institute for Librarians, Snowbird, Utah, 1995

### Selected Group Photography Exhibitions

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- “Ninth Annual Ten X Ten,” Midwest Center for Photography, Wichita, KS, November 2016
- “Through the Pinhole,” The Irma Freeman Center for Imagination, Pittsburgh, PA, August 2012
- Ag Works “Interstitial,” Melwood Galleries, Pittsburgh, PA, June 2010
- “Wall at 818,” Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Mt. Lebanon, PA, December 2010

### Professional Memberships and Service

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- Association for Library and Information Science Educators
- International Society for Knowledge Organization
- American Society for Information Science & Technology
- Association of College and Research Libraries
- Library and Information Technology Association
- President, Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries
- Member MECC +LWG (Military Education Coordination Conference, Library Working Group)
- New England Library Association
- Rhode Island Library Association