

Curriculum Vitae
Dr. Allen C. Benson
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Education

2011 Doctor of Philosophy in Information Science, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh. Dissertation: *Relationship Analysis of Image Descriptions: An Ontological, Content Analytic Approach*

1993 MLS, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama.
Recipient, MLS Faculty Scholar Award

1980 Graduate program in music, New York University

1974 BFA, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota.

Professional Experience

Library Director and Professor, U.S. Naval War College (November 2011 to present)

Oversees planning and operations for the Naval War College Library and Naval Historical Collection. Currently developing teams in Electronic Resource Management, Assessment & Measurement, and Social Media to improve operational efficiency in workflows, budget process and to study user perceptions of library services. Aggressive digital initiatives programs address preservation and digital humanities concerns. Projects include digitizing the 4,000-page Nimitz Gray Book, transforming the Gray Audograph Lecture Series into streaming audio and converting 16mm films into digital video in the SACO Film Project. My own research interests continue to focus on the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and how we represent information in computers. This addresses the topics of ontology-based knowledge representation, ontology of the photograph, and knowledge base development in Scone knowledge base system with Dr. Scott Fahlman, Carnegie Mellon University.

Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences (August 2008 to August 2011)

As a doctoral student in the School of Information Sciences, I held a variety of positions including Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Richard Cox in archival studies; Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Geof Bowker in cyberscholarship and values in design; and Teaching Assistant graduate level courses in Photographic Archives, Digital Libraries, and Introduction to Information Technologies.

Washington & Jefferson College

Director of Library Services, U. Grant Miller Library (July 2002- October 2007)

Engaged library staff, faculty, staff and students in drafting and implementing aggressive five-year strategic plan. Successfully implemented new wage and salary administration for library staff resulting in increased salaries and creation of two new professional positions and two new academic technician positions. Performed conspectus analysis of collections resulting in new collection development policy, supervised development of new core collections in children's literature, music CDs and DVDs, and developed allocation formula for effectively dividing the acquisitions budget between faculty and subject specialists in library. Drafted planning documents for maintenance of public access PCs, records management, archives & special collections, information literacy, and public and technical services. Led efforts to design and launch College's first Web-based digital library. Project manager for migrating from text-base library system (DRA Classic) to a state-of-the-art Sirsi/Dynix Unicorn system. Implemented federated searching, OpenURL linking, and enriched records support. Completed planning documents for conversion from Dewey Decimal classification to Library of Congress classification.

Participated in fundraising efforts to secure, through a naming opportunity, a one million dollar bequest for the archives. Participated in writing successful grant proposals securing approximately \$540,000 in funds from Mellon Foundation, Buhl Foundation, and George I. Alden Trust to support the costs of migrating to a new integrated library system. Secured a smaller grant of \$25,000 from the Knapp Foundation to fund a multimedia design lab in the library.

Arkansas State University Mountain Home

Library Director (January 1997 to June 2002)

Participated in design of new library on new campus including master planning and design stages, construction phase, and moving. Project manager for migration from a DOS-based automation system to the Web-based Endeavor integrated library system. Led developing core collection of children's literature to support the B.S. degree program in elementary education, codified policies and procedures for circulation, collection development, cataloging, and reference services. Helped implement the school's first Windows NT based local area network, supervised creation of school's Website.

Designed and implemented a digital library and oral history project named the South Shore Memory Project—a born-digital archive and partnership between Arkansas State University Mountain Home, local public school, and North Arkansas Telephone Company. Funding included a \$150,000 state grant and two private grants of approximately \$25,000 each. The main focus of this project was to help children develop their information-gathering skills as they learned to document and preserve the local history and culture of the Ozark Mountains.

Freelance Writer

(July 1996 to December 1996)

Completed two book projects for Neal-Schuman Publishers: *Securing PCs and Data in Libraries and Schools* and *The Neal-Schuman Complete Internet Companion for Librarians*, first edition. Both titles were published in 1997.

Saline County Library, Benton, Arkansas

Library Director (May 1993 to June 1996)

Project manager for retrospective conversion of catalog and automation of the main and branch libraries. Established one of the State's first public library Internet connections in 1993. Awarded state grant to establish early prototype of wide area networking to link main library catalog to branch system via the Internet. Public service work included sixteen public speaking engagements promoting library resources and services. Created two new professional positions, codified policies and procedures for all departments and designed and implemented new wage and salary administration for all county library employees.

School of Library and Information Studies, The University of Alabama

Graduate Research Assistant (August 1992 to May 1993)

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

Searcy County Library, Marshall, Arkansas

Library Director (February 1990 to March 1992)

Directed daily operations of the Searcy County Library including materials selection, budgeting, children's programming, community relations, and implementing and managing new procedural methods. Initiated innovative summer reading programs with puppet shows, musical performances, and storytelling.

Self-employed

Real Estate Sales Associate and Broker (1983-1989)

Sales associate with Merrill Lynch and later licensed as broker specializing in renovation and restoration of old houses.

Musician, Artist in Residence

(1974-1983)

Artist in residence, Augsburg College, and Instructor, Carleton College, St. Olaf College, and University of Minnesota, Duluth, 1974-1979; consultant for Columbia Studios (1982) in production of *The Blue and the Gray*; toured with the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, New York, 1979-1982. Performed in solo recitals, symphony orchestras, dance bands. Designed and built string and percussion instruments, published music and conducted research in French, Swiss, and American Ancient style drumming.

Publications

- Capturing Relationships Expressed in Image Descriptions: A Preliminary Investigation (2011). *BiD: textos universitaris de biblioteconomia i documentació*, 27.
 - 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.
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Publications under Review

- (2013). "Image descriptions and their relational expressions: a review of the literature and the issues." *Journal of Documentation*.

Awards/Honors

- Recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award 2013, University of Alabama.
- Awarded the Outstanding Academic Service Award, August 2000, Arkansas State University Mountain Home.
- *Library Journal* (June 15, 1998) *The Complete Internet Companion for Librarians* ranked 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)

- "Professional Growth and the Competency Conundrum," University of Alabama, 11 October 2013.
- "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," 13th 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

- Photogravure Printing Process, private study, Sergy Zlotnikov, 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, 2004
- Machine Learning for Text Classification and Information Organization, Philadelphia, 2002
- Internet Strategy and Architecture, Philadelphia, 2002
- Emergency Preparedness and Recovery, Jonesboro, 1999
- Preservation of New Technology/New Technology for Preservation, Little Rock, 1997
- Snowbird Leadership Institute for Librarians, Snowbird, Utah, 1995

Professional Memberships

- American Library Association
- American Society for Information Science & Technology
- Association of College and Research Libraries
- Library and Information Technology Association
- Artist Member, Pittsburgh Filmmakers
- Member, Ag Works Artists' Consortium