

Curriculum Vitae

Allen C. Benson

Education

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

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

Responsible for operations and planning, Henry E. Eccles Library, Classified Library, and Naval Historical Collection, including administering the NWC records management program. Strategic initiatives have included reorganization to support the expansion of online resources to distance education faculty, staff, and students by implementing proxy services and newly designed websites for libraries and archives; managed upgrade to Sirsi/Dynix SaaS hosted Integrated Library System and Summon web-scale discovery; led master planning for \$11 million redesign of the library, which adopted a Learning Commons model bringing under one roof a writing center, bookstore, Dean of Students, café, and IT department; project manager for design and implementation of Preservica cloud edition to preserve the Navy's intellectual capital originating at the Naval War College, U.S. Naval Academy, and Naval Postgraduate School; completed beta testing implementation of Ares electronic course reserves; successfully completed five-year strategic planning initiative in the Naval Historical Collection that increased storage space by 300%, implemented networked environmental monitoring systems, and systematic digitization of at-risk materials, including *The Nimitz Graybook*.

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 Teaching Assistant to Christinger Tomer in Digital Libraries and Introduction to Information Technologies; Graduate Research Assistant to Richard Cox in archival studies; Graduate Research Assistant to Geoffrey Bowker in cyberscholarship and Values in Design; and Teaching Assistant to Miriam Meislik in Photograph Archives.

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

Responsible for operations and planning, U. Grant Miller Library. Successfully implemented new wage and salary administration, including classification schedules, position descriptions, and performance assessment plan; oversaw conspectus analysis of collections; developed new core collections in children's literature; assisted with the design and launch of College's first web-based digital library using CONTENTdm; migrated from text-based library system (DRA Classic) to Sirsi/Dynix Unicorn system with federated searching, OpenURL linking, and enriched records support; administered conversion from Dewey Decimal classification to Library of Congress classification. Fundraising efforts included \$1 million dollar bequest for the archives, \$540,000 in grant monies 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

Responsible for operations and planning, Norma Wood Library. Principle charge during this period was planning for a new library and assisting with all stages of the process from design through completion, including moving the library from its old location to the new campus. Managed migration from DOS-based automation system to Web-based Endeavor integrated library system; implemented Windows NT local area network; team lead on the development and rollout of a new college website.

Designed and implemented a born-digital archives initiative named the *South Shore Memory Project*—a unique partnership between Arkansas State University Mountain Home, local public schools, and the North Arkansas Telephone Company. Raised \$150,000 in state grants and was awarded two \$25,000 private grants.

1996 – 1997 Freelance Writer

Successfully completed two book contracts with Neal-Schuman Publishers: 1) *Securing PCs and Data in Libraries and Schools* and 2) *The Neal-Schuman Complete Internet Companion for Librarians*, first edition. Both titles published in 1997.

1993 - 1996 Library Director, Benton, Arkansas

Director of the Saline County Library System consisting of one main and one branch library. Responsible for planning and operations. Major initiatives included retrospective conversion of the catalog and automation of the main and branch libraries. Established one of the State's first public library Internet connections in 1993; established early prototype of wide area networking to link main library catalog to branch system via the Internet. Outreach during these three years included sixteen public speaking engagements soliciting for funds and promoting 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)

- 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

- 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)

- "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," 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

- 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

- "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

- 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
- Society of Photographic Education
- Vice President, Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries
- Member of the Board, Rhode Island Coalition of Library Advocates
- Member MECC +LWG (Military Education Coordination Conference, Library Working Group)