

Curriculum Vitae

Allen C. Benson, Ph.D.

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 to present, Professor of Libraries, U.S. Naval War College

I am currently responsible for oversight and administrative management of the Naval War College Library, which operates under the aegis of the Department of the Navy, the Department of Defense, and the U.S. federal government. My work entails:

- Conceptualizing the Library's organizational management strategy; developing the strategy making process and facilitating annual strategic planning sessions; building consensus on goals and objectives and synthesizing into a vision the Library should pursue; assigning action items and monitoring progress
- Aligning the Library's annual budget narrative and spend plan with the strategic vision; tracking spending against budget to ensure accuracy and effectiveness of financial controls
- Exercising policy and planning guidance and general supervision of two operational branches: Henry Eccles Library and Classified Library
- Exercising policy and planning guidance for the Naval Historical Collection's archives and federal records management program, November 2011 through July 2017
- Safeguarding the acquisition, cataloging, storage, and dissemination of materials classified secret; implementing procedures for the proper destruction and disposal of classified information
- Project leader on developing Navy Higher Education Digital Archives and Preservation System, including creation of metadata guidelines to ensure long

- term visibility and access to public information, restricted, and classified information
- Participating on technical evaluation boards evaluating responses to Requests for Quotation (e.g., for implementing proxy server, Integrated Library System, physical inventory of collections, digitization of at-risk archival materials, moving libraries, and implementing repository that complies with Open Archival Information System standard; performing cost/price analysis; preparing detailed written summary of the board's consensus
 - Collaborating closely with Library Department Heads to improve operational efficiency and to ensure strategic goals and objectives are met on time
 - Developing close, cooperative working relationships with professional peers in Navy higher education and other U.S. military libraries
 - Preparing after-action reports and providing written recommendations on academic library development for senior officials in foreign professional military education (PME) institutions
 - Generating statistical analysis of Library's input and output measures to identify trends in acquisitions, circulation, database usage, reference, social media, and instruction
 - Overseeing and participating in all aspects of federal government human resources management, including recruiting, hiring, setting performance elements and evaluating performance, providing training and instruction, mentoring, establishing competencies and individual development plans, and evaluating and implementing disciplinary actions
 - Engaging in conflict resolution, responding to formal complaints and grievances; addressing and attempting to resolve poor performance
 - Participating on architect's design and planning team for construction of new Learning Commons; moving libraries into temporary buildings for two years; returning staff and collections to new Learning Commons

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

Completed a program of advanced study and original research, earning a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the School of Information Sciences in 2011.

- Demonstrated an ability to synthesize and understand complex concepts and content, problem solve, manage complex data sets, apply advanced research methods, design and make decisions about abstract models
- Managed and completed multiple projects, including knowledge base design and implementation, website design and implementation, designing syllabi and preparing for classroom lectures

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

Responsible for all aspects of the U. Grant Miller Library, including the organization, administration, operation, and evaluation of library services, physical facilities, staff, collections, and budgets.

- Led fund raising initiatives resulting in a one 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.
- Implemented new wage and salary administration, including classification schedules, position descriptions, and a performance assessment plan
- Oversaw conspectus analysis of collections
- Developed new core collections in children's literature
- Project leader, developing and implementing web-based digital library using CONTENTdm
- Project leader, migrating from text-based library system (DRA Classic) to Sirsi/Dynix Unicorn system
- Project leader, converting collections from Dewey Decimal classification to Library of Congress classification

1997-2002 Arkansas State University, Mountain Home (ASUMH)

Directed the Norma E. Wood Library in planning, budgeting, staff hiring, assessing, and developing programs, services, and collections.

- Led fund raising initiatives resulting in two \$25,000 grants from North Arkansas Telephone Company
- Raised \$150,000 in state grants to support born-digital archives
- Participated on architect's design and planning team for construction of new library
- Planned and supervised moved of collections to new facility
- Modernized services and oversaw the design and construction of a new library
- Designed and developed the South Shore Memory Project in partnership with local businesses, schools, parents, and middle school students who learned to capture oral histories, hand-code HTML, and setup and configure Apache web servers.

1996-1997 Freelance Writer

My success after publishing *The Complete Internet Companion for Librarians* in 1995 quickly led to two more 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.

I took one year off to complete these books, both of which were published in 1997. With these writing projects behind me, I again turned my attention to libraries

accepting the position of Library Director, Arkansas State University, Mountain Home.

1993-1996 Library Director, Saline County Library System, Benton, Arkansas

Public Library Director, responsible for all aspects of the main library and branch, including hiring and training staff, administration, operations, and evaluation of library resources and services, physical facilities, collections, and budgets.

- Engaged in active public relations program, participated in sixteen public speaking events
- Solicited for funds and gathered public support during county millage campaign
- Served on the Literacy Council; organized volunteers to teach Adult Basic Education
- Established one of the State's first public library Internet connections in 1993.
- Established one of the early prototypes of wide area networking to link the main library's catalog to branch system via a virtual private network connection through a dial-up modem.

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

Enrolled in the School of Library and Information Studies at The University of Alabama where I earned my Masters in Library Services in 1993. Worked as a Graduate Research Assistant in the Information Processing Lab supporting Internetworked- and mainframe-computing. Awarded the MLS Faculty Scholar Award.

1990-1992 Library Director, Searcy County Library, Marshall, Arkansas

Responsible for all matters relating to the administrative management of the Library, including the development of two children's summer reading programs.

1974-1982 Instructor

Artist in Residence teaching percussion concurrently at Augsburg College, Carleton College, St. Olaf College, and University of Minnesota, Duluth. From 1979-82 toured with the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, New York.

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)

- “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,” 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

- Thinking Critically About Data: Using APIs to Create Qualitative Datasets, Brown University, 2018
- Computation for Humanities and Social Science, Brown University 2018
- 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)