LAUNC-CH Conference, March 14, 2022
Expanded Schedule

Time	Session
9:00 – 10:15 AM	Opening Remarks and Keynote with Sofia Leung
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 – 11:10	Concurrent Sessions 1
11:15 – 11:55	Concurrent Sessions 2 (Choose one 40-minute or two 20-minute sessions)
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 1:00	Poster Presentations
1:05 – 1:45	Concurrent Sessions 3
1:50 – 2:10	Concurrent Sessions 4
2:15 – 2:55	Concurrent Sessions 5 (Choose one 40-minute or two 20-minute sessions)
3:05 – 3:25	Session 6

Keynote

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/LAUNCCHkeynote2022

9:00 – 10:15 AM

Opening Remarks and KEYNOTE* with Sofia Leung *SOFIA LEUNG*

"Deconstructing Narratives of Good Librarianship"

Sofia Leung is a librarian, facilitator, and educator working towards fulfilling the promise of social justice in libraries and higher education. She was formerly an editor at the journal, *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*, founding editor of *up//root: a We Here publication*, co-editor of *Knowledge Justice: Disrupting Library and Information Studies Through Critical Race Theory* with Jorge López-McKnight (MIT Press, 2021), and a facilitator for the Association of College and Research Libraries Information Literacy Immersion Program. Sofia's focus is on building community among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in libraries and beyond.

*This presentation will not be recorded.

Break

10:15 – 10:30 AM

Concurrent Sessions 1

10:30 – 11:10 AM

Session 1.1 (40-minute session)

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/working

"Working Together: Developing Better Practices for Collaborating in a Remote and Hybrid Workplace at NC State"

HILLARY FOX, KEVIN BESWICK, ROBIN DAVIS, LYNN WHITTENBERGER (NC STATE UNIVERSITY)

Beginning in the spring of 2020, the NC State University Libraries convened a working group to respond to the rapid shift to remote work in response to the pandemic. Areas for developing better practices included calendaring, time management, and effective and inclusive online meetings. The resulting recommendation document was shared with the NC State University Libraries community in May 2020 and outlined better meeting and collaboration practices for our heavily remote work at the time. The group revisited those recommendations as the Libraries transitioned from a heavily remote environment to a more hybrid working environment. In spring 2021, we expanded upon the recommendations to include better practices for individual time management, collaborating in and running meetings in a hybrid

environment, and onboarding new employees in a hybrid environment. We received positive feedback about our recommendations, and some of our suggestions — such as reserving Friday afternoons for meeting-free focus time — have become standard practice across the Libraries. We will discuss how our working groups determined areas of focus and developed better practice recommendations. We will share how we communicated our progress and gathered staff feedback into developing and refining those recommendations. We'll discuss our recommended practices for remote and hybrid workplaces and how the NC State University Libraries have adopted and incorporated the recommendations into policy and practice.

Session 1.2 (40-minute session)

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/lawschool

"Be Well: A Law School's Approach to Supporting Students and Building Community"

ROBERT BIRRENKOTT, JR., TREY ELLIS, JACOB BROOKS, JULIUS BRITTMAN, BIANCA D. MACK, KELLY PODGER SMITH, JOHN B. KASPRAZAK (UNC-CHAPEL HILL)

Law school is an extremely high stress, high-pressure academic environment, even at the most supportive of schools. In November of 2021, just ahead of finals, the University of North Carolina School of Law (Carolina Law) held an innovative event to bring together law school students, staff, faculty, and their families. They designed the event, dubbed "Be Well," to promote wellness, strengthen bonds, relieve stress, and just plain have fun. It was the more ambitious of several Carolina Law wellness initiatives undertaken by a community battered by months of pandemic, racial unrest, uncertainty, and isolation. To make it truly a community event, a committee of students, staff, and faculty planned and executed it, with the help of community volunteers. Here the chair of the committee and committee members will discuss the planning, the activities they chose, and implementation. They will discuss challenges, lessons learned, how they measured the event's success, and how they will build on that success in the future.

Concurrent Sessions 2

11:15 – 11:55 AM

Session 2.1 (40-minute session)

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/student

"Student Engagement Is a Two-Way Conversation: Listening Beyond Social Media"

EMILY JACK, KARINA SONI (UNC-CHAPEL HILL)

Social listening can yield opinions and feedback that result in stronger programs and a better connection with your community. But are you using all the available avenues for hearing from your community? This presentation will:

- Describe the listening exercises that changed our approach to pandemic student programming and informed our response to the "Make Davis Loud Again" student campaign

- Discuss the wide variety of listening opportunities in person and online that can inform your messaging, programming, and operations
- Share best practices: How can your conversations go beyond the transactional to deliver a more holistic picture of the student experience?
- Reflect with colleagues on listening opportunities and help participants understand how, when, and where to ask the right questions

Session 2.2 (20-minute sessions)

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/looking

"Looking Inward, Looking Outward: The Value of Self-Organized Discussion Groups for Peer Managers"

MOLLY BRAGG (DUKE UNIVERSITY), EMILY DALY (DUKE UNIVERSITY), KIM DUCKETT (NC STATE UNIVERSITY)

This short talk highlights a strategy for leveraging middle managers' collective wisdom: self-organizing discussion groups that bring middle managers together to share ideas, learn from one another, find support, and collaborate. We'll share examples of how groups of middle managers from a range of library departments organized themselves in order to reflect on their own management practices, infuse anti-racism into their work, strategize ways to use their positional power for the benefit of the library and its staff, and help each other manage teams through the pandemic.

"Balance and Guardrails: Individual Practices and Organizational Strategies for Addressing Workplace Stress"

LAURA BLESSING, TARIDA ANANTACHAI (NC STATE UNIVERSITY)

The pandemic has brought about, and in some cases exacerbated a number of extraordinary challenges for employees—both professionally and personally. While there have been many discussions about what individuals can do to manage their own stress, such tactics may be limited without a broader managerial and organizational commitment to staff wellness. In this session, we will explore strategies that individuals, as well as managers and organizations, can use to help mitigate everyday work stress from a micro to macro level. We will also define and discuss the concept of establishing guardrails, and how this approach differs from boundary setting. Participants will be encouraged to select specific strategies to focus on and check back in with themselves at a later date to gauge strategy effectiveness.

Lunch

12:00 – 12:30 AM

Poster Presentations

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/postersession

12:30 – 1:00 AM

"Using Azure DevOps for Your Digital Projects"

DANIEL NANEZ (UNC-GREENSBORO)

The Digital Library on American Slavery is an expanding initiative by the UNC-Greensboro Libraries to bring public records related to enslavement together in one place. This presentation will highlight the useful technology and workflow changes made due to the Covid-19 work environment. The project is located at: https://dlas.uncg.edu/.

"Library of (Living) Things: Steps to Starting a Seed Library"

JORDAN GREEN (UNC-CHAPEL HILL)

Seed libraries are emerging around the country: these collections of freely available, "lendable" seeds are most often found at public libraries, academic libraries, and other community locations. The first seed library at the UNC-Chapel Hill campus is taking shape in the Kenan Science Library Makerspace, a collection featuring native North Carolina plants housed in a retired card catalog. The proposed poster will outline how seed libraries work, the steps followed to start one, and how the seed library may be used to support community and hands-on learning in a science library.

"Work-Life Balance"

LAURA MANGUM (EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY)

This pre-recorded poster session will include an introduction to experts in the field of work-life balance and productivity and actionable steps for implementing work-life balance.

Concurrent Sessions 3

1:05 – 1:45 AM

Session 3.1 (40-minute session)

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/keepingclue

"Keeping Clue: An (Un)successful Attempt at Adapting a Beloved Library Tradition for the Virtual World"

KATELYN ANDER, ALISON BARNETT, ALLISON RUVIDICH (UNC-CHAPEL HILL)

Wilson Library Presents Clue is a live action mystery game that introduces students to UNC Chapel Hill's Wilson Special Collections Library staff, spaces, and materials. The event, a biannual tradition since 2012, came to an abrupt halt in Spring 2020. COVID forced the Clue Committee to figure out how to keep up momentum and student engagement without an in-person game. Clue Committee co-chairs Katelyn Ander and Alison Barnett along with committee member Allison Ruvidich will discuss how the committee turned an in-person experience into an interactive virtual event. We will go over how and why the committee decided on a Clue: The Movie watch party, the logistics of planning and carrying out the event, and a summary of what did and did not work. We will also answer the ultimate question: was it worth it?

Session 3.2 (40-minute session)

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/building

"Building Bridges and Boundaries: Transitioning to Online First-Year Experience Instruction"

JENNY DALE, MELODY ROOD, RACHEL OLSEN, JUANITA THACKER (UNC-GREENSBORO)

One of the most significant challenges faced by first-year instruction librarians at UNC-Greensboro Libraries during the COVID pandemic has been balancing instructional demands with the need for safe and sustainable teaching solutions. In this panel presentation, the Information Literacy Coordinator and three first-year instruction librarians will reflect on their experiences with transitioning library instruction for several high enrollment courses into online and hybrid formats. This transition came with a number of challenges, including creating accessible, effective, and engaging content, negotiating with course instructors, and creating high-impact instruction while honoring individual boundaries. We will share our process for transitioning instruction for three courses online, as well as lessons learned and future directions.

Concurrent Sessions 4

1:50 – 2:10 AM

Session 4.1 (20-minute session)

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/full

"Full of Emotions": Emotional Labor and Emotion Regulation Strategies in Archives Settings"

TAYLOR WOLFORD (NC STATE UNIVERSITY)

Emotional labor is a recent topic of interest in library and archival work, and research has explored how library professionals experience emotional labor in the workplace. However, there is a significant gap in the literature in terms of addressing how archive workers, from their own perspective, process and regulate emotional labor. The purpose of this research study was to fill a gap in knowledge by exploring emotional labor and emotion regulation strategies through the perspective of archive workers. In particular, this study examined how archive workers are essentially "grief workers," and may experience trauma due to the nature of archival work. Based on study findings, this presentation will explore emotion regulation strategies and community support as potential avenues for positive change in the profession.

Session 4.2 (20-minute session)

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/automating

"Automating Collections Review: Prospect and Limitations"

ROLANDO RODRIGUEZ (UNC-CHAPEL HILL)

Liaison librarians have to regularly conduct collection reviews as database subscriptions cuts occur due to budgetary constraints, and these databases often do not offer services to export search results. This results in hours of data entry work that could be better spent actually analyzing the database(s). To review works from the ProQuest One Literature database, I created a Python script to extract titles and authors from the results pages' HTML code. This script has been expanded as a local Google Chrome extension that can help semi-automate this data extraction process. In this presentation, I will be reviewing some limitations of automated tasks due to Terms of Service constraints and how this extension can be a tool to proactively semi-automate these tasks, which will continue to be regular practice.

Concurrent Sessions 5

2:15 – 2:55 AM

Session 5.1 (40-minute session)

ZOOM LINK: **https://go.unc.edu/lean**

"If You've Got Time to Lean…"

JUANITA THACKER, SUZANNE SAWYER (UNC-GREENSBORO)

COVID-19 continues to exacerbate long standing inequities within the greater workforce, on our campuses, and in librarianship as it relates to time management and productivity. Traditionally, management has determined where, how, and when library employees work. However, the pandemic has democratized that arrangement as libraries were pushed to accelerate the adoption of the digital time-tracking, productivity, and collaboration tools necessary to meet the needs of our users. Unfortunately, many of our educational institutions have demonstrated relentlessly ossified notions of productivity. Instead of a return to the status quo, we propose to challenge these toxic productivity narratives by examining existing management workplace practices/policies and suggesting practical solutions to advance a paradigm shift.

Session 5.2 (20-minute sessions)

ZOOM LINK: **https://go.unc.edu/culture**

"Culture of Collaborative Creation"

JEFF MCADAMS, SAVANNAH LAKE (UNC-CHARLOTTE)

An unexpected discovery of the pandemic was a new working style that proved more generative than previous in-person collaboration. Using Zoom to facilitate synchronous coworking sessions on volunteer projects led to fruitful results. People from disparate units in the UNC-Charlotte Libraries were able to contribute to the creation of useful materials while at the same time building community amongst each other in a comfortable environment. We will describe the details that we think contributed to success, why they work, and how you can use them to your advantage.

"Staff Well-Being"

NADIA CLIFTON, JENNIFER JEAN-BAPTISTE (UNC-CHAPEL HILL)

In 2020, the University Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill began a wellness initiative to improve the overall well-being of our staff. The purpose of this presentation is to educate others on the benefits of an employee wellness program and how to get started. We will discuss the importance of leadership buy-in, communication, staff engagement, diversified events, and execution. When the well-being of staff is invested in, you will find that you have staff that is more engaged and committed to the overall mission.

Session 6

2:15 – 2:55 AM

Session 6.1 (20-minute session)

ZOOM LINK: https://go.unc.edu/unmeeting

"MEETING YOUR PRODUCTIVITY GOALS WITH THE UNMEETING"

BROWN BIGGERS, JENNY DALE (UNC-GREENSBORO)

Organizing and prioritizing tasks is a common productivity challenge, but we seldom make time for planning out our days or weeks or we cede scheduled planning time to take on new tasks that seem to require our immediate attention. But what if we gave our planning time the same reverence and importance as a meeting? Enter the Productivity UnMeeting! Join us to learn about this scheduled, weekly session where attendance is optional. This prevents the scheduled time on the calendar from being allocated to another event, regardless of whether you want to plan solo or with colleagues. Attendees share successes, potential strategies for the upcoming week, and talk about tools they've tried, successful or not. We'll talk about the (un)structure of these meetings, what's worked so far, and our plans for the future.

Keynote bio

Sofia Leung is a librarian, facilitator, and educator working towards fulfilling the promise of social justice in libraries and higher education. She was formerly an editor at the journal, *In the Library with the Lead Pipe*, founding editor of *up//root: a We Here publication*, co-editor of *Knowledge Justice: Disrupting Library and Information Studies Through Critical Race Theory* with Jorge López-McKnight (MIT Press, 2021), and a facilitator for the Association of College and Research Libraries Information Literacy Immersion Program. Sofia's focus is on building community among Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in libraries and beyond.

Presenter bios

Tarida Anantachai

NC State University
Tarida Anantachai (she/her) is the Director, Inclusion & Talent Management at NC State University Libraries. Her research interests include equity, diversity, and inclusion, and leadership and outreach. Tarida was an ALA Emerging Leader, a MN Institute for Early Career Librarians participant, and an ARL Leadership and Career Development Program Fellow. She received her MSLIS from the University of Illinois.

Katelyn Ander

UNC-Chapel Hill
Katelyn Ander is the Manager of the Media & Design Center in the Undergraduate Library. She also co-chairs the University Libraries' Clue Planning Committee.

Alison Barnett

UNC-Chapel Hill
Alison Barnett is the Business Services Coordinator for the North Carolina Collection at UNC Chapel Hill's Wilson Special Collections Library. Alison supports the collection's mission to document North Carolina's history, literature, and culture through her work with acquisitions, materials management, and outreach. She is passionate about creative ways to promote special collections spaces and materials.

Kevin Beswick

NC State University
Kevin Beswick is the Associate Head of the Digital Library Initiatives department at NC State University Libraries. He leads a team that advances library services through applied research and application development. He also manages several technical projects including the QuickSearch bento-box search platform and the Suma space assessment toolkit.

Brown Biggers

UNC-Greensboro
Brown Biggers (he/him) is the IT Operations Manager at UNC-Greensboro University Libraries, where he collects logins to productivity tools like Pokémon.

Rob Birrenkott

UNC-Chapel Hill
Rob Birrenkott is the Assistant Dean for Career Development at the UNC School of Law and oversees all aspects of the Career Development Office. He received his B.A. from the University of Tampa and his J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law (where he served as the assistant dean for career services). He is a past president of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, served as a member of The Florida Bar Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, and recognized as one of "The Gainesville Sun's 40 Under 40."

Laura Blessing

NC State University
Laura Blessing (she/her) is the Director of Library Human Resources and Administrative Operations at NC State University Libraries. She frequently presents and publishes on topics such as organizational communication, compensation, and onboarding. She received an MLIS from the University of Texas and she holds the HRCI Senior Professional in Human Resources certification.

Molly Bragg

Duke University
Molly Bragg is the Head of Digital Collections and Curation Services at Duke University Libraries. She collaborates with colleagues across the organization to digitize and preserve library collections and other scholarly materials. Prior to this role, Molly led the Digital Production Center at DUL and worked in the Rubenstein Library. Overall, she has been leading projects and teams at DUL for 10 years.

Julius Crosby Brittman V

UNC-Chapel Hill
Julius Crosby Brittman V is a second-year law student at the University of North Carolina School of Law. He currently serves as the Student Bar Association 2L Class representative. He will serve as the Student Bar Association Vice President for the 2022-2023 academic term. When he is not doing work, he enjoys exercise and connecting with others.

Jacob Brooks

UNC-Chapel Hill
Jacob Brooks is a lifelong learner and mistake maker. He drinks his coffee black. He used to be a teacher. He studies law at UNC. His favorite color is green.

Nadia Clifton

UNC-Chapel Hill
Nadia Clifton is the Special Collections Engagement Librarian at UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries. She has an MA in English from UNC-Charlotte and an MS in Library Science from UNC-Chapel Hill. Nadia has observed a daily meditation practice since January 2019 and has served on the Libraries' Wellbeing Committee since Spring 2020. She facilitates meditations for colleagues, friends, and anyone else who is interested.

Jenny Dale

UNC-Greensboro
Jenny Dale (she/her) is the Information Literacy Coordinator at UNC-Greensboro University Libraries, where she also serves as a liaison to a number of academic programs. She is never not looking for her perfect productivity system.

Emily Daly

Duke University
Emily Daly is Interim Head of Research & Instructional Services at Duke Libraries. Prior to this role, she led Duke's Assessment & User Experience department for 9 years. Emily started her career at a public library and worked as a school librarian before accepting what was meant to be a term position at Duke's Lilly Library. Over 15 years later, she's still learning and growing in project and people management.

Robin Davis

NC State University
Robin Camille Davis is a User Experience Librarian at NC State University Libraries, where she coordinates content strategy and conducts user research. She earned her MA in Computational Linguistics from the Graduate Center at CUNY and her MLIS from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she was a Data Curation for the Humanities Fellow.

Kim Duckett

NC State University
Kim Duckett is the Head of the Research Engagement department at the North Carolina State University Libraries. In this role she leads a team of librarians focused on providing faculty and students with instruction and consultation across the research lifecycle. Prior to joining the NCSU Libraries in fall 2021 she led a department of subject librarians at the Duke University Libraries for over five years.

Trey Ellis

UNC-Chapel Hill

Trey Ellis is a third-year law student at UNC School of Law and is originally from Charlotte, North Carolina. Mr. Ellis serves at the Student Body President of the law school. Prior to law school, Mr. Ellis attended and played football at Vanderbilt University. Mr. Ellis recently has accepted a judicial clerkship on the Supreme Court of North Carolina with the Honorable Sam Ervin, IV, and he will be joining Justice Ervin's chambers after sitting for the bar in July.

Hillary Fox

NC State University

Hillary Fox is the Collections and Research Strategy Librarian for Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at NC State University Libraries. In addition to being a subject specialist, she also contributes to the Libraries' efforts for open education and collaborative hybrid work. Outside of the library, Hillary's hobbies include napping, spending time with her animals, and tracking weather systems.

Jordan Green

UNC-Chapel Hill

Jordan Green is a second-year MSLS student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Carolina Academic Library Associate (CALA) in the Kenan Science Library Makerspace. Her professional interests are in academic science librarianship, makerspaces, and fiction.

Emily Jack

UNC-Chapel Hill

Emily Jack is the Community Engagement and Outreach Librarian in the University Libraries at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she creates experiences to help community members build positive relationships with the library. She has been working in library engagement and outreach since 2012, when she co-led a team in launching a live, immersive game of Clue in Carolina's special collections library. She's passionate about the open culture movement and is one of the founders of a regional Wikipedia user group. She received her Master's degree at the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill and her B.A. from Oberlin College.

Jennifer Jean-Baptiste

UNC-Chapel Hill

Jennifer Jean-Baptiste is an HR Support Specialist at the UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries. She has a BA in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources. She has a passion for wellness and comes from a background in the fitness industry. In February 2020, she helped develop a wellness initiative for the University Libraries. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband Yuri, daughter Mariella, and two dogs Jersey and Jazz.

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John B. Kasprzak

UNC-Chapel Hill
John Kasprzak is a member of the Student Development Office at UNC School of Law and serves as the Assistant Dean for Student Development. In his role he works closely with the Director of Pro Bono Initiatives, the Director of Student Services, and the Business Services Coordinator to support student learning and student experiences outside of the classroom. He is a 2005 graduate of UNC School of Law and is currently pursuing his Ed.D in Educational Leadership.

Savannah Lake

UNC-Charlotte
Savannah Lake is the Digital Scholarship Coordinator Librarian at UNC Charlotte's Atkins Library, where she supports open access digital publishing, UNC Charlotte's institutional repository, and digital humanities instruction and outreach.

Bianca Mack

UNC-Chapel Hill
Bianca Mack is the Associate Dean for Equity, Admissions, and Student Affairs at the University of North Carolina School of Law. Her departments are responsible for recruiting and enrolling a diverse, accomplished class each fall, ensuring student programming and support during their law school tenure, and leading efforts to increase access, opportunity, equity, and justice for prospective and current students. Outside of the law school, Dean Mack is a member of the University Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council, and she serves as a Resilience Coach through the Carolina Collaborative for Resilience.
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Laura Mangum

East Carolina University
Laura Mangum is a teaching instructor at East Carolina University in the Master of Library Science Program. For the past five years she has been on a personal quest for work-life balance in order to achieve maximum productivity at work and in her personal life. She continually seeks out new information and experts on the topics of balance and productivity.

Jeff McAdams

UNC-Charlotte
Jeff McAdams is the Science and Engineering Librarian at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he works with the College of Engineering and the Mathematics and Physics departments.

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Daniel Nanez

UNC-Greensboro
Danny Nanez has over 15 years of experience in web application development. At the UNC-Greensboro Libraries, his work primarily involves database and back-end development of data-driven websites including the NC Digital Online Collection of Knowledge and Scholarship, the NC Literary Map and the Digital Library on American Slavery.

Rachel Olsen

UNC-Greensboro
Rachel Olsen (she/her) is the First-Year Communication and Social Sciences Librarian at UNC-Greensboro University Libraries. She also serves as the liaison to Communication Studies 105, Anthropology & Archaeology, Peace & Conflict Studies, Political Science, Social Work & Gerontology, Sociology, and Psychology.

Rolando Rodriguez

UNC-Chapel Hill
Rolando Rodriguez is a first year MSIS candidate at UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science and a Carolina Academic Libraries Associate. He also holds a master's in philosophy of religion from Yale Divinity School. He is passionate about library instruction, community building, and developing digital humanity projects.

Melody Rood

UNC-Greensboro
Melody Rood (she/her) is the Student Success and Open Education Librarian at UNC-Greensboro Libraries. In addition to working with student success offices, she serves as the liaison to International and Global Studies as well as Library and Information Science.

Allison Ruvidich

UNC-Chapel Hill
Allison Ruvidich is a second year MSIS student at the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill. She specializes in health data and data visualizations for library settings, particularly where these intersect with DEIA, and hopes to pursue a career in health libraries after graduation. She is an EPA-RTP Library Intern for Electronic Resources and has been a member of the Clue Committee since undergrad in Fall 2019.

Suzanne Sawyer

UNC-Greensboro

Suzanne Sawyer (she/her), MLIS and MFA in Book Arts, is a Preservation Specialist at UNC-Greensboro University Libraries. Sawyer is a member of the EDI Initiatives Team and her research interests include rankism and organizational culture in academic libraries; book preservation and conservation; and artists' books.

Kelly Podger Smith

UNC-Chapel Hill

Kelly Podger Smith is the Associate Dean for External Relations and Careers. She oversees the Career Development, Communications and Continuing Legal Education Offices. Dean Smith is a proud double Tar Heel (J.D., 2002 and B.A., 1996). After law school, she practiced law as litigator with Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. She returned to UNC School of Law in 2005 serving first as the Director of Student Activities and then as the Assistant Dean of Student Services. In 2011, Dean Smith returned to her law firm to serve as the inaugural Director of Professional Development. In that role, she oversaw the firm's recruiting efforts, diversity initiatives and lawyer training programs. Dean Smith came home to Carolina Law in 2015 to serve in her current role.

Karina Soni

UNC-Chapel Hill

Karina Soni is the Outreach Projects Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She uses a mix of social media and in person learning experiences to create meaningful engagement with the University Libraries collections, services, spaces, and expertise. She received her Master's degree and B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Juanita Thacker

UNC-Greensboro

Juanita Thacker (she/her) MLIS, is the Information Literacy Lecturer for the UNC-Greensboro University Libraries. Thacker holds a BS in business education/information technologies from East Carolina University. She has served on various committees devoted to advocating for all library users including students and library staff. Thacker continues to foster her passion for EDI issues via her role as founding and marketing team member of WOC+Lib.

Lynn Whittenberger

NC State University

Lynn Whittenberger is the Associate Head of Acquisitions and Discovery, Monographs at NC State University Libraries where she manages a staff of seven licensing, acquiring, and cataloging monographic resources in all formats. She spends her free time gardening, gaming (video and board), and working in the ceramics studio.

Taylor Wolford

NC State University

Taylor Wolford is currently a Special Collections Librarian at NC State University Libraries. Her previous positions include Library Assistant at Wake County Public Libraries, Graduate Research Assistant in the Public History Department at NC State, Oral History Intern at the State Archives of North Carolina, and Library Associate at NC State University Libraries. She holds a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Master of Arts in Public History and Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from NC State University.