Public Library Plan of Study

Discussion of Public Library taking one literature course. Dr. Harer asked Michelle Osborne her views. She stated that a literature course was necessary, but that for many special programs, a programming course was needed. Dr. J. Jones shared that Readers Advisory was coming back making a focus of literature. She brought up the idea of an adult lit course. Al mentioned the Adult Reader and the need for that. Dr. Harer asked if there is a need for separate courses for programming needs. Dr. Jones said just one should do it and bring in different types.

Discussion of a strong focus on one area, for example technical services. Opinion was that all MLS students need a generalist knowledge of the profession. Dr. Harer brought up ALA’s concern as to how students are able to meet their focus or interest area? We have ample electives in Public and Academic concentrations. The school’s concentration is different in that only one elective is allowed.

Dr. Harer asked Michelle Osborne if she felt there was enough information in the early courses for public or were they more schools oriented? Michelle said yes, there was enough information for public. Yontz added that the makeup of the course can cause it to seem that way, and Michelle Osborne added that yes, this is true and she tailored her assignments to reflect her area, even though most of the others used a school’s focus. Dr. Sua mentioned that this is a part of our work, learning from each other and seeing what is going on in other programs. Dr. Yontz added that we are adding the advocacy course, adding one lit course, adding management courses all leaving the public concentration with only one elective.

Dr. J. Jones brought up the need for review of ALA program standards. For ex. We need a clear policy for adjuncts (minutes, planning to support this). We also need to keep a clear record of minutes and other policies. Discussion followed about the quality of our students and the need to provide student support. Dr. Dotson added that we don’t want to paint our entire student body in a bad light. The majority of our students are dedicated and highly responsible and capable. Dr. J. Jones suggested that if and when we have another grant we need to build in student support.

Lunch break...

Dr. Harer began the Academic concentration with a discussion of the Archives track. We can offer LIBS Records and Management but then these students need to more courses, possibly from the History program. WISE is another consideration. Dr. J. Jones questioned the need for the track. Dr. Al Jones asked if these students could intern in an archive library department. The answer to that is yes, so this would actually add another archives based course. Dr. Jones’s concern was to our overly accommodating spirit. There is no evidence of this in our archival offerings at present. Only one course would have to be offered at a potentially low enrollment status. Genealogy is another good course possibility for this group.
Another possible track is suggested by Bill Sugar, an Instructional Technology track in the Academic Concentration. Dr. Jones shared that Katie Web from Joyner has similar ideas. Dr. Harer also shared the idea of a Music Library track in the Academic Concentration. Dr. J. Jones suggested a Health Consumer/Sciences track. The question is can we get any of these out in two years. The Health consumer track was considered to be a good possibility. Dr. Sua said we could develop the course and put it out there as 6903 course and see what happens. Dr. J. Jones and Dr. Yontz may work on this. Dr. Yontz referred to the degree or certificate in the College of Allied Health, we may consider one of their courses. Dr. Yontz asked about the Community College track and if it is still in the Academic Concentration? It is and is a strength of the Academic Concentration.

Cyber data analysis was a track that was once considered and has been ruled out for us.

Dr. Harer went back to the Public Library Concentration, mentioning the need to offer more work on library management.

Dr. Harer revisited WISE to share that any concentration could make use of these courses.

School Library Concentration Review: Keeping the LIBS 6031 management course, but can we find another elective? Tavia Clark addressed the idea of school librarians as technology facilitators with you must infuse technology in every course. She advised creating products and the application of technology in assignments as essential. Dr. Sua asked how you get students to do that. Tavia advised the use of multimedia with part in writing, reflection, as well as other things. Jami suggested attending Tech Chats, Kaye added having levels of expectation, Tavia suggested partnering with alums for guidance. Jami mentioned asking for volunteers in our exit survey.

Dr. Harer thanked our visitors for coming.

Meeting ended.