

UC Irvine

LAUC-I and Library Staff Research

Title

Fostering Library Staff Career Growth Through a Peer Support Group

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Peer reviewed

Fostering Library Staff Career Growth Through a Peer Support Group

Library Career Interest Group

The UCI Libraries Support Staff Career Development

Library staff may apply for...

- Up to \$2,100 per year for MLIS tuition
- Release time to attend class
- Opportunities for internships with librarians

Informal Group Gatherings

We have enjoyed...

- Lunching at the Campus Pub to plan sessions and socialize
- Attracting new members through an open house event and showcasing previous events
- Celebrating graduations!



Purpose and Scope of LCIG at the UC Irvine Libraries

LCIG is a voluntary, informal, peer group that...

- Provides moral support and encouragement for UC Irvine Libraries staff who have attained or are pursuing advanced degrees in library science.
- Develops programs on career growth and job-searching skills
- Communicates via a dedicated library listserv
- Meets periodically to learn, network, socialize, and celebrate graduations/achievements
- Helps foster employee engagement and career advancement

Exploring Career Paths

We explored different careers by meeting with UC Irvine librarians in these fields...

- Acquisitions and Cataloging
- Special Collections
- Digital Humanities
- Reference and Instruction

Career Advancement Sessions

We held sessions on...

- Optimizing our LinkedIn Profiles and provided complementary headshots
- Setting up and leveraging ORCID (<https://orcid.org/>) accounts
- Job searching strategies, resume and cover letter writing tips with a Human Resource Manager



Sharing Success

We invite former LCIG members to speak about transitioning into their new career positions.



"Through this group I connected with colleagues across departments which helped me gain broader exposure across library services as well as deeper insight into diverse user perspectives. Since then, I have grown into a role supporting statewide aggregations of archival collections at California Digital Library." — Christine Kim



"This group helped to motivate and inspire me not to give up my search. Eventually, after 6 years of interviews and part-time gigs, I landed a great full-time, professional job as a cataloging librarian in the Music Division at the Library of Congress." — Ben Barba



"LCIG helped me work toward my career goals & provided moral support while I was in grad school at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign as a distant learning student." — Ziba Zehdar, Children's Librarian at the Brentwood Branch of the LAPL.