CLIMBING THE LADDER OF SUCCESS FOR LIBRARY FACULTY AT CUNY:
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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This select bibliography of articles and web sites is intended as a follow-up to the spring 2004 program of the LACUNY Professional Development Committee. The first part lists articles that discuss publishing, research, mentoring, and the tenure process for academic librarians. The second part provides some examples of articles, reports and reviews written by CUNY library faculty and published in a variety of professional journals and books.

Part I.


Bahr and Zemon discuss the increasing trend toward collaborative articles by college and university librarians. They analyze the impact that collaboration has on factors such as article quality and author productivity.


The author argues that the strength of any profession can be found in its commitment to professional development and that the continued growth of librarianship will depend on its professional literature.


The authors discuss what specific activities qualify as service to the profession for academic librarians with faculty status. They analyze promotion and tenure documents from a number of U.S. research libraries, revealing inconsistencies between institutions and great flexibility in interpretation.


Block argues that Web contributions, such as subject guides and tutorials, should be considered as service to the library profession in tenure and promotion deliberations. Block argues that these contributions have the potential to reach a much larger audience than peer-reviewed journal articles.

Bowman provides a practical article about finding appropriate venues for research and publishing opportunities. She stresses the importance of making professional connections through local and national library organizations.


Academic library directors rank publication evaluation criteria for relative importance in the tenure and promotion process. For books, the most important criteria are assessments from subject experts, awards, and book reviews. For journal articles, the most important criteria are publication in refereed journals, the nature of articles, journal prestige, and subject experts' assessments.


The author lists several innovative and resourceful ways of finding and communicating with a mentor. The suggestions are particularly useful for those whose institutions lack formal mentoring programs.


Colley and Thorson argue that mentoring programs are a way in which to assure that new faculty members will have a fair expectation of success. The authors focus on factors which play an important role in making the tenure track less intimidating for new faculty.


In this excerpt from his book Publishing Your Research in Authoring a PhD: How to Plan, Draft, Write, and Finish a Doctoral Thesis or Dissertation (Palgrave, 2003), Dunleavy provides a good starting point for understanding the world of professional journals.


Evans outlines the basic tenets of tenure to be discussed in the mentoring relationship. They include: publishing, professional organizations and campus involvement.


The author encourages academic librarians to participate in poster sessions at library conferences. Librarians considering a poster session project can look forward to a
positive experience and about half of all poster session presenters will eventually publish an article version of their poster session.

Hill, Janet Swan. “Constant Vigilance, Babelfish, and Foot Surgery: Perspectives on Faculty Status and Tenure for Academic Librarians.”
In this keynote address, Hill provides a personal take on the benefits, problems and ongoing issues that face librarians working in a tenure-track environment.

The author discusses problems associated with tenure expectations while noting that faculty status for librarians is positively correlated with indicators of student achievement, such as graduation rates and pursuit of graduate-level education.

Marien discusses issues surrounding research pressures of business librarians on the tenure track in this two-part article about publishing opportunities for business librarians.

The authors point out that most librarians have not received extensive training in research methodology and their work schedules lack flexibility. Given these constraints, the support and assistance of colleagues is crucial and the establishment of an informal tenure support group can provide a mechanism for discussing common concerns and channeling efforts toward finding effective solutions in the quest for tenure.

This article reviews the literature on the impact of electronic publications on tenure decisions for academic librarians.

Newman addresses the perennial complaints of librarians about the lack of time to do research, suggesting that we spend less time in meetings and conferences and more time pursuing original scholarship.
Poole considers the possible reasons why community college librarians are not contributing to the research and the professional library and information science literature. She concludes that there exists a wealth of untapped talent and expertise among community college librarians that needs to be harnessed to the tasks of research and professional publication.

The author argues that much of the future of academic libraries depends on how well librarians analyze and resolve problems dispassionately and use the scientific method to promote self assurance and reduce panic during constant change and greater ambiguity.

Arguing that library faculty require a supportive atmosphere in order to successfully engage in research and publication, the authors discuss initiatives that have taken place at Oregon State University, where the Library Faculty Association (LFA) provides venues for peer criticism of manuscripts and presentations and for the discussion of professional issues.

A portfolio can be used to document skills and accomplishments, and give managers tangible evidence of a librarian's strengths as a professional. The development and maintenance of a professional portfolio can be used to support performance evaluation or promotion and tenure review.

The authors advise new librarians to be familiar with the tenure process, learn the culture of your organization, seek out mentors, and join professional, campus, and community organizations.

Common perceptions and misperceptions of scholars regarding the legitimacy of electronic scholarly periodicals are discussed.
Part II.

For ideas about topics and venues for publication, take a look at some of the articles and reviews that our CUNY colleagues have published. Some librarians have collaborated with other colleagues in their own libraries or from other CUNY colleges. Please note that this is by no means a comprehensive list of all of the work done by CUNY librarians.


