

VITA

Karen Dana Sobel
238 Auraria Library
1100 Lawrence Street
Denver, CO 80204
(o): 303.352.3640
karen.sobel@ucdenver.edu

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill)
Master of Science, Library Science, December 2007

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill)
Master of Arts, English, May 2004
Concentrations in Twentieth-Century British, Irish, and Post-Colonial Literatures

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park Campus
Bachelor of Arts, with Honors, English, May 2002
Minor in Psychology
Member of Phi Beta Kappa, Lambda Chapter of Pennsylvania

Professional Experience

Reference & Instruction Librarian

Auraria Library, University of Colorado Denver
January 2008-present
Rank: Assistant Professor (Tenure Track)

- Teaching library instruction sessions, primarily for freshman composition, English as a second language, and English literature; psychology and other social science courses as needed
- Designing, co-managing, and staffing “AskAuraria,” a chat-based reference service
- Providing reference service for patrons from three academic institutions and downtown Denver at the Library’s reference desk
- Performing content and design work on the Library’s Web pages, Intranet, and LibGuides
- Serving on numerous committees and task forces for the Library and the University of Colorado Denver
- Co-designing, co-teaching, and maintaining an ongoing non-credit online course, Navigating Library Research, for all three Auraria Campus institutions
- Planning and co-leading seminars on library resources for campus faculty and graduate students

Graduate Assistant

Instructional Services Department, University Library, UNC-Chapel Hill
May 2006-December 2007

- Planned and taught library instruction sessions for freshman composition classes
- Created content and code for the Library’s Web pages

- Participated in the planning of a new Learning Commons
- Planned and provided seminars on library resources in English literature for graduate students

Field Experiences

Instructional Services, UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries
 Summer 2007
 Creating subject-specific portals to the Libraries

Collection Development Department, Davis Library, UNC-Chapel Hill
 Spring Semester 2007
 Researching, selecting, and purchasing a collection of Latino literature and related works.

Cataloging Student Assistant

Latin American and Iberian Records Cataloging Department, Davis Library, UNC-Chapel Hill
 January 2006-May 2006

Information Services Intern

CATO Research, Ltd., Durham, NC
 July 2004-August 2005

Foreign Language Titles Cataloging Assistant

Cataloging Department, Davis Library, UNC-Chapel Hill
 August 2003-June 2004

Teaching Fellow

Department of English, UNC-Chapel Hill
 August 2003-May 2004

Publications

Refereed Articles

(Under evaluation) Sobel, Karen and Kenneth Wolf. "Enhancement of Existing Tools for Assessment of Learning during Library Instruction." Submitted to *Reference and User Services Quarterly*.

(Under evaluation) Sobel, Karen and Jeffrey Beall. "Humanities Research, Book Digitization, and the Problem of Linguistic Change." Submitted to the *Journal of Electronic Publication*.

(Forthcoming) Brown-Sica, Margaret and Karen Sobel. "User-Centered Design Planning in Learning Commons Design," *New Library World*.

(Forthcoming) Sobel, Karen and Dr. Ignacio J. Ferrer-Vinent. "Academic Reference Serving a Diverse Student Body Thrives at the Auraria Library: A Case Report," *Colorado Libraries*.

Sobel, Karen. "Evaluating and Enhancing the Latino Literature Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill." *North Carolina Libraries* 67:1/2 (Spring/Summer 2009), 22-23.

Brown-Sica, Margaret, Karen Sobel, and Denise Pan. "Learning for All: Teaching Students, Faculty and Staff with Screencasting," *Public Services Quarterly* 5.2(April-June 2009), 81-97.

Sobel, Karen. "Promoting Library Reference Services to First-Year Undergraduate Students: What Works?" *Reference and User Services Quarterly* 48.4(Summer 2009), 362-371.

Book Chapters

(Forthcoming) "Stuck in the Middle with You," *Generation X: Perspectives on Librarianship* (ed. Rebecca Tolley-Stokes), with Lisa Carlucci Thomas.

(Forthcoming) "Apples and Oranges: Creating a Hybrid Virtual Reference Service with Proprietary Chat Reference Software and Free Instant Messaging Services," *Reference Renaissance Conference Proceedings 2008* publication.

Refereed Product Review Articles

Evans, Lorrie, Nina McHale, and Karen Sobel. "Review: LibraryH3lp." *The Charleston Advisor* 10.4(April 2009), 25-29.

Evans, Lorrie, Nina McHale, and Karen Sobel. "Review: LibGuides." *The Charleston Advisor* 10.3(January 2009), 47-49.

Non-Refereed Articles

Sobel, Karen. "Bringing Freshmen to the Reference Desk." *Marketing Library Services* 22.3(May/June 2008): 1+.

Book Reviews in Print

Sobel, Karen. Rev. of *The Indonesia Reader*, ed. Tineke Hellwig and Eric Tagliacozzo. *Library Journal*, 1 April 2009.

Sobel, Karen. Rev. of *Married to a Bedouin*, by Marguerite van Geldermalsen. *Library Journal*, 1 October 2008.

Sobel, Karen. Rev. of *Marrying Anita: A Quest for Love in the New India*, by Anita Jain. *Library Journal* 1 May 2008.

Book Reviews Online

Sobel, Karen. Rev. of *Library Blogging*, by Karen A. Coombs and Jason Griffey. Published online by *Colorado Libraries*, October 2008.

Sobel, Karen. Rev. of *Access to East European and Eurasian Culture: Publishing, Acquisitions, Digitization, Metadata*, ed. Miranda Remnek. Published online by *Colorado Libraries*, June 2008.

Sobel, Karen. Rev. of *Virtual Reference on a Budget: Case Studies*, ed. Teresa Dalston and Michael Pullin. Published online by *Colorado Libraries*, May 2008.

Citations

Reiner, Laura and Leslie Stebbins. "The JAL Guide to the Professional Literature." *Journal of Academic Librarianship* 35.6 (2009), 609-619.

Contributions.

Interviewed for article: Kasowitz-Scheer, Abby. "Instruction and the Commons." *College Connection*. Interview conducted 26 March 2009. Listed as a Contributor. <http://www.sosspotlight.com/site_creator/view/421>

Presentations and Poster Sessions

Refereed

(Forthcoming) Presentation, Computers in Libraries, April 2010, Washington, DC: "Gen X Librarians: Leading from the Middle." (With Nina McHale and Lisa Carlucci Thomas.)

Presentation, American Library Association New Members' Round Table, 11 July 2009, Chicago, IL: "Starting Out? Start With You: What Every New Librarian Needs to Know." (With Lisa Carlucci Thomas.)

Presentation, Reference Renaissance, 5 August 2008: "Apples & Oranges: A Comparison of Proprietary Chat Reference Software Versus Free Instant Messenger Services." (With Nina McHale and Lorrie Evans.)

Poster session, American Library Association Annual Conference, 28 June 2008: "Working Smarter, Not Harder: Teaching Students and Staff with Screencasting."

Poster session, Colorado Academic Library Consortium, 23 May 2008: "Why Do Freshmen Visit the Reference Desk?"

Presentation, Fourth Annual Conference on Colonialism, 3 June 2004, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland: "Golden Age Mythology and Women in Yeats

and Tagore's Nationalistic Writing." Included in session titled "India and the Irish Literary Revival."

Invited

(Forthcoming) Panel Discussion, Reference Renaissance, 8-10 August 2010, Denver, CO: Untitled presentation on options for providing virtual reference. Panel of four librarians from across the United States.

(Forthcoming) Presentation, American Library Association Annual Conference, 25 June 2010, Washington, DC: "Starting Out? Start With You: What Every New Librarian Needs to Know." (With Lisa Carlucci Thomas.)

Panel Discussion, American Library Association, 24 January 2009, Denver, CO: RUSA Hot Topics in Frontline Reference Services: "Beyond Meebo: New Alternatives in Instant and Text Messaging Reference Services." Panel of Denver librarians.

Campus-Wide

Connections Faculty Seminar Series: "WorldCat Local." Auraria Library, 30 October 2009. With Lorrie Evans.

Denver Transfer Initiative: "Where is Your Future Without the Library?" Auraria Campus, 15 May 2009. With Lorrie Evans, Orlando Archibeque, Diane Turner, and Linda Tietjen.

Connections Faculty Seminar Series: "Resources in Literature." Auraria Library, 24 April 2009. With Nikki McCaslin.

Connections Faculty Seminar Series: "What to do when your students say, 'There's nothing on my topic!'" Auraria Library, 20 March 2009. With Lorrie Evans.

Other Indicators of Scholarship

Invited to edit manuscripts for the *Journal of Web Librarianship*, January 2010

- Manuscript edited January 2010

Reviewing and editing manuscripts for *Reference and User Services Quarterly*, September 2009

- Manuscript edited February 2010
- Manuscript edited September 2009

Grants Authored

University of Colorado Denver—Downtown Campus. Denver Transfer Initiative & Center for Faculty Development—Undergraduate Teaching Enhancement Grant. Project Title: Peer to Peer: Teaching and Learning Partnership in Computer Literacy. Written October 2009, with Lorrie Evans.

Teaching

Semester-Long, Non-Credit

Navigating Library Research, University of Colorado Denver, Fall 2009. Offered online via ECollege and Blackboard. Expanded to include all three Auraria Campus institutions. Co-taught with Lorrie Evans, Gayle Bradbeer, and Eric Baker.

Navigating Library Research, University of Colorado Denver, Spring 2009. Offered online via ECollege and Blackboard. Co-taught with Lorrie Evans, Gayle Bradbeer, and Eric Baker.

Navigating Library Research, University of Colorado Denver, Fall 2008. Offered online via ECollege and Blackboard. Co-taught with Lorrie Evans, Gayle Bradbeer, and Eric Baker.

Single-Session Library Instruction Sessions

Fall 2009

Total: 21 sessions, 364 students

Courses: Developmental English, U.S. History I and II, two levels of Freshman Composition, urban planning, landscape architecture, public speaking, Asian American history, Psychology of Communication, and research and citation skills for international graduate students

Summer 2009

Total: 5 session, 68 students

Courses: Developmental English, two levels of Freshman Composition, Human Biology for Non-Majors

Spring 2009

Total: 15 sessions, 204 students

Courses: Developmental English, three levels of Freshman Composition, Research Methods in Psychology, Human Growth and Development

Fall 2008

Total: 20 sessions, 332 students

Courses: Developmental English, three levels of Freshman Composition, two Chicano Studies courses, Juvenile Justice, Introduction to International Relations, Psychological Research Methods I, Public Speaking, Psychology of Communication, Introduction to the Study of [Spanish] Literature

Summer 2008

Total: 3 sessions, 51 students
Three levels of Freshman Composition

Spring 2008

Total: 21 sessions, 380 students
Developmental English, four levels of Freshman Composition, Introduction to Public Speaking, Statistics and Research Methods [in Psychology], Harlem Renaissance [Literature], Introduction to Literary Studies

Other Teaching

Connections Faculty Seminar Series, 28 August 2009, WorldCat Local. Co-taught with Lorrie Evans.

Professional Organizations

American Library Association

2006-present
New Members' Round Table: Member

Association of College and Research Libraries

2008-present

University Libraries Section Technology in University Libraries Committee: Founding Member, 2010-present

Library Instruction Round Table: Member 2008-present

- Member of Transition to College Committee, 2010-present
- Member of Adult Learners Committee, 2008-2010

Colorado Association of Libraries

2008-present
Book Reviewer: 2008-present

Service

College and University Committees

Member, Foundations of Excellence Subcommittee on Improvement, University of Colorado Denver, January 2009-present

Member, Downtown Denver Campus Outcomes Assessment Committee (University-wide): 2008-present

Member, Educational Policy and Planning Committee, University of Colorado Denver, May 2008-present

Auraria Library Committees

Member, Auraria Library Faculty Personnel Committee, May 2009-present

- Secretary, May 2009-April 2010

Member, Emerging Technologies Committee, March 2009-present

Member, Learning Commons Task Force, March 2009-present

Member, Service Task Force: 2008-present

Member, Tenure Research and Service Evaluation Committee: 2008-present

- Secretary, January 2010-present

Member, Faculty Assembly: 2008-present

- Secretary, May 2009-April 2010
- Chair, May 2008-April 2009

Member, Web Team (formerly the Web Advisory Committee): 2008-present

Member, Auraria Library Next Generation Catalog Task Force: 2008-present

Member, Resource Discovery and Delivery Small Group, November 2008

Recognitions and Honors

Excellence in Service Award, Auraria Library, March 2010

- Candidate for university-wide Excellence in Service award

Association of College and Research Libraries, Member of the Week, 15-21 September 2008

Continuing Education

“Photoshop CS4, Level 1” course, offered by New Horizons Computer Learning Centers of Colorado, 4-5 June 2009.

“PHP Basics” course, offered by Amigos Library Services, September-October 2008.

Professional Development

Association of College and Research Libraries Immersion, Program Track, Eckerd, Florida, 26-31 July 2009.

“Engaging Students,” offered by Young Upwardly Mobile Professors, University of Colorado Denver, 31 October 2008.