Come join your Vermont academic and special library colleagues for a day of learning about and sharing our new initiatives.

What's New Under the Sun: Innovation in Vermont Academic and Special Libraries
Tuesday, June 14, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m
Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont
Sponsored by the Vermont Library Association College & Special Libraries Section

Coffee and morning snacks provided, lunch is on your own. The college’s Coffee Cottage will be open, serving a variety of sandwiches, smoothies, and salads. In the village, a short walk from campus, is a deli/pizza place and a diner.

Please RSVP by email or phone to Charlotte Gerstein by Friday, June 3
charlotte.gerstein@castleton.edu (802) 468-6409

There is no charge to participate, but a $10 donation is requested to cover event expenses

Scheduled presentations

In addition to the scheduled presentations, please consider informally sharing something you are experimenting with at your library

To Text or Not to Text, That is the Question
Daisy Benson and Scott Schaffer, University of Vermont

Recent data has demonstrated that college students prefer text to voice as a means of communication. Based on this trend, and after some debate, the UVM Libraries decided to pilot a text-based reference service this year. During this presentation we will share with you: what we learned about the various methods of providing text service; our justification for selecting the method we chose; issues that arose during the selection process, such as privacy in text reference; and provide a short demonstration of our service.

Student-Centered Reference Assistance
Michele McCaffrey, St. Michael’s College

In light of declining reference questions but healthy instruction statistics, Saint Michael’s College librarians came up with some new ways to reach students: online scheduling of research appointments, proposed library presence in our eCollege courseware, personal librarians for First Year students, and focused outreach to students abroad. The convergence of new college-wide academic initiatives and the library's recent strategic planning research made the time ripe for some exciting changes in services.
From Living in the Cloud to Leveraging the Cloud, Why Norwich University Migrated to OCLC's Web Scale Management Services (WMS)
Elliot Polak and Greg Sauer, Norwich University

Norwich is very familiar with moving library resources into the cloud; whether it be the library's legacy Integrated Library System (ILS) hosted since 2006, or the virtual thin client desktops making up over 75% of the library's public access machines, Norwich has continually looked to external sources for processing power. Yet, for the first time Norwich will be gaining efficiencies not just from shared computing or electricity, but also shared information. Web Scale Management has given Norwich the opportunity to more fully take advantage of the work contributed by OCLC members. This information includes licensing data, bibliographic records, vendor information, and eventually even statistical data. These new-found cloud efficiencies have brought about new challenges and opportunities as we look toward the future.

Using Data to Drive Innovation or What Can We Learn from First-Year Students
Daisy Benson, University of Vermont

Last fall the University of Vermont Libraries conducted a survey of incoming First-Year students. The survey collected data on students' experiences with research, writing, and libraries; assessed students' confidence levels at performing certain research-related tasks; and assessed their basic information literacy skills. Students were also asked to report on what technologies they currently use and will be bringing to campus. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the survey results and a discussion about how this data can inform classroom practices, library services, and collections.

Fun, Thoughtful Tech in the Classroom
Andrew Burkhardt and Sarah Cohen, Champlain College

Champlain's information literacy program is unique in a number of ways: we are embedded, we see all students all four years, and we are inquiry-based. In addition, Champlain's Teaching Librarians try to use technology in fun and thoughtful ways in IL instruction. It’s not always easy to engage students, but we will discuss two instances where we successfully blended inquiry and technology in a freshman and a sophomore class. We will demonstrate the use of Poll Everywhere, an application, similar in practice to clickers, that allows students to respond to questions using mobile phones. We will also discuss our use of video clips from YouTube to explore the idea of plagiarism and more importantly the ethical uses of information.

The Long Trail to Mobile Digital Collections: Creating Smartphone Apps for Digital Archives
Dan DeSanto, University of Vermont

UVM’s Center for Digital Initiatives (CDI) recently launched the Long Trail Collection, a collection of over 900 digitized lantern slides that depict the beginnings of the country’s oldest long-distance hiking trail: Vermont's own Long Trail. CDI hopes to develop an iPhone app for this collection in order to make it available to hikers as they hike the trail. A user might stop at a vista or lodge and be able to view images from the very same spot taken during the nascent days of the trail (1912-1937). The app project is still in development; however, the session will present the basic "look and feel" of the app. In the future, libraries with "place based" collections, such as the CDI’s Long Trail Collection, could benefit interested patrons by using mobile devices to provide point-of-interest access to their digitized materials.