

University of Oklahoma Libraries release open source Markdown Converter

The University of Oklahoma (OU) Libraries recently announced the release of an open source Markdown Converter designed to help make open content, including open educational resources (OER), shareable to the fullest extent possible. By using the Markdown Converter, well-structured documents can be converted into PDF, HTML, EPUB, and DOCX file formats with an easy-to-use web interface instead of the command line. Markdown is a markup language that simplifies authoring for the web. Its syntax is both easy-to-read and easy-to-write using tools that come installed on all computers.

Publishing OER in Markdown allows for easy editing, and then, using the Markdown Converter to provide OER in multiple formats, enables students to access OER content more readily. The Markdown Converter, developed by OU Libraries Emerging Technologies Librarian Cody Taylor, is based on Pandoc, but provides access through a graphical interface.

The Markdown Converter is available for anyone to use on the OU Libraries website at <https://tools.libraries.ou.edu/markdown>. The source code, openly licensed under an open source software license, for the converter can be obtained via GitHub at <https://github.com/OULibraries/Pandoc-Web-Interface>. The Markdown Converter can be viewed “in action” performing an upload and conversion process at www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJcFXiLYUWE&t=2s.

Nominations sought for ACRL Board of Directors

The ACRL Leadership Recruitment and Nominations Committee (LRNC) encourages members to nominate themselves or others to run for the position of ACRL

vice-president/president-elect, director-at-large, and councilor in the 2019 elections. LRNC will request a curriculum vita and/or a statement of interest from selected individuals prior to developing a slate of candidates.

To nominate an individual or to self-nominate, please submit the nomination form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/acrlboardnominations. If you have any questions about the nominating or election process, please feel free to contact LRNC Chair Jennifer Nutefall at jnutefall@scu.edu.

More information about the ACRL Board of Directors is available at www.ala.org/acrl/resources/policies/chapter2. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2018.

Three libraries sign GPO preservation steward agreements

The William A. Wise Law Library at the University of Colorado Law School, Indiana State Library, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Schuyler Otis Bland Memorial Library each signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) to become preservation stewards.

To help federal depository libraries meet the needs of efficient government document stewardship in the digital era, GPO has established preservation stewards to support continued public access to historic U.S. government documents in print format. Preservation stewards contribute significantly to the effort to preserve printed documents, and GPO welcomes all federal depository libraries that wish to participate as Preservation Stewards.

GPO provides for permanent public access to federal government information at no charge through www.govinfo.gov, partnerships with approximately 1,150 libraries nationwide participating in the Federal Depository Library Program, and our secure

RCL commends peer reviewers in the arts and humanities

Resources for College Libraries (RCL) identifies more than 85,000 essential titles for undergraduate research and teaching. Published by Choice/ACRL in partnership with ProQuest, each RCL subject collection undergoes external peer review by academic librarians and faculty to ensure continued excellence.

On behalf of the RCL editorial board and Choice/ACRL, we thank the referees from 2017 for their contributions to the profession and the RCL core collection.

Martha Adkins: University of San Diego
Felicity Ann Brown: Library of Congress
Megan Browndorf: Georgetown University
Daria Carson-Dussán: Washington University in St. Louis
Elizabeth Chase: Stonehill College
Matthew Collins: Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Kristina M. De Voe: Temple University
Keith Eiten: Wheaton College
Joseph Galron-Goldschlager: Ohio State University
Benjamin Garstad: MacEwan University
Haim Gottschalk: Library of Congress
Julianne Haahr: University of Wisconsin-Madison
Peggy Keeran: University of Denver
Brian Kooy: Georgia State University Library
Stephanie Krueger: National Library of Technology
Stacy Magedanz: California State University-San Bernadino

Maureen Maryanski: Indiana University-Bloomington
Jennifer Matthews: Rowan University
Marty Miller: Louisiana State University
Jennifer Newman: Hunter College, City University of New York
Gina Petrie: Catawba College
Thomas Phillips: Claremont School of Theology
Charlotte Price: Barnard College
Deb Raftus: University of Washington
Gabriella Reznowski: Washington State University
Matt Roberts: University of California-Irvine
Michael Russo: Louisiana State University
Amauri Serrano: Florida State University
Nathalie Soini: Queen's University
Konstantin Starikov: Boston University
Rebecca Stuhr: University of Pennsylvania
Martha Tanner: Nebraska Wesleyan University
Roberto Vargas: Swarthmore College
Gwen Vredevoogd: Marymount University
Sarah G. Wenzel: University of Chicago
Aparna Zambare: Central Michigan University
Alessia Zanin-Yost: Penn State-Altoona

Learn more about RCL at <http://rclinfo.net>. For more information about participating in the editorial development of Resources for College Libraries, contact Anne Doherty, RCL project editor, at adoherty@ala-choice.org.

online bookstore. For more information, please visit www.gpo.gov.

CLIR invites Recordings at Risk applications

The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) is now accepting applications from collecting institutions for the digital reformatting of audiovisual materials in its third call for the Recordings at Risk grant program. Funded by the Andrew W.

Mellon Foundation, Recordings at Risk is focused on digitizing “at-risk” audiovisual materials of high scholarly value.

For the third call, CLIR will award grants of between \$10,000 and \$50,000 for digital reformatting projects between 3 and 12 months carried out between May 2018 and April 2019.

All audiovisual formats are eligible, though applicants must partner with a qualified external service provider that can

The Fun of Motivation: Crossing the Threshold Concepts

ACRL announces the publication of *The Fun of Motivation: Crossing the Threshold Concepts* by Mary Francis, book number 71 in ACRL's Publications in Librarianship series. This innovative book combines theory with specific lesson plans and assessment options to help readers explore, implement, and assess this powerful means of motivation.

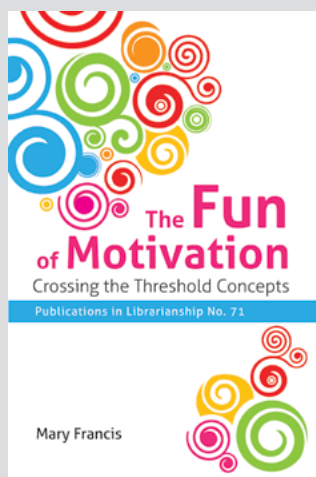
What's the place of fun in education? When students learn something new, they reach a learning edge, a threshold, where learning becomes uncomfortable because the material is difficult or beyond their understanding. To avoid this discomfort, some students can simply fall back on what they already know. This is a critical point, because if they do not move beyond the edge, they are stuck with both limited knowledge and a negative feeling about learning. Fun can be used as a motivating technique to help students get past this learning edge, and to meet an established goal or learning objective.

The Fun of Motivation: Crossing the Threshold Concepts is organized into two parts. Part I examines the theories behind motivation and fun in the classroom, and offers three instructional techniques that highlight their benefits. Part II is the application of the

theories explored in Part I, and its six chapters each address one of the threshold concepts provided in ACRL's Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education. Each chapter contains three lesson plans addressing the threshold concept, one for each of the three fun instructional techniques. Assessment opportunities are provided throughout, with formative assessment strategies as well as summative assessments, including sample rubrics to apply to a range of student work. Each lesson plan ends with a section on possible modifications and accommodations and additional ideas on how to adapt the lesson for different student populations.

The threshold concepts within the Framework need to be facilitated with deliberation by librarians integrating them into their instruction sessions. Students must be motivated to learn these concepts that help them master skills across disciplines. *The Fun of Motivation* can help you use this compelling means of motivation.

The Fun of Motivation: Crossing the Threshold Concepts is available for purchase in print and as an ebook through the ALA Online Store and by telephone order at (866) 746-7252 in the United States or (770) 442-8633 for international customers.



perform technically competent and cost-effective digital reformatting for the nominated format(s). Information for applicants, including a link to the online application form, is available on CLIR's website at www.clir.org/recordings-at-risk/.

The application deadline for the third call is February 9, 2018. Awards will be announced April 30, 2018.

2018 ACRL Immersion Program

The ACRL Immersion Program is all new for 2018. The four-and-a-half-day program will take place at the University of St. Thomas, in St. Paul, Minnesota, from July 29 to August 3, 2018. The new, more central location will provide easy travel access, while still providing the small campus feel with nearby urban amenities.

The 2018 ACRL Immersion Program will launch a major curriculum revision. The Immersion Faculty are responding to feedback from teaching librarians, including past Immersion Program participants, in order to design a learning experience that meets current challenges, is responsive and flexible, enables participant-driven learning goals and experiences, and provides opportunities to develop a critical reflective practice.

The program is not just for instruction or information literacy librarians or instruction coordinators. It is designed for anyone engaged in the educational role of libraries in higher education, including librarians from all library areas that engage in teaching and learning practices, such as offering workshops, designing library assignments, and creating exhibits.

Applicants may register for the program on a first-come, first-served basis in early 2018. Some scholarships will be available; scholarship details will also be available in early 2018. More information is available on the ACRL website at www.ala.org/acrl/immersion.

Tech Bits . . .

Brought to you by the ACRL ULS Technology in University Libraries Committee

For most people, when it comes to design, a blank canvas inspires dread. Many times, I have needed to design a sign to highlight a library event; however, I struggled with choosing the best color theme to use. Pictaculous, a web-based tool by MailChimp, can help. Both free and easy to use, simply upload your image, which must be a .png, .gif, or .jpg no larger than 500k, and click the palette button. Pictaculous provides a primary color swatch along with the hex color codes. Download the Adobe swatch file to import into Adobe or email it to yourself and use the hex color codes in PowerPoint. Five additional complementary color swatches appear below the primary, one so there are multiple options to consider.

—*Melissa Johnson*
Southern Methodist University

. . . Pictaculous

<http://www.pictaculous.com/>

ARL selects 2018–19 Leadership Fellows

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Leadership Fellows program facilitates the development of future senior-level leaders in large research libraries and archives. ARL has selected 30 individuals to participate in the 2018–19 cohort of this executive leadership program. In response to a continued need to develop future leaders of ARL member institutions, the ARL Leadership Fellows program is designed to build on self-assessment and reflection and to explore a personal/professional area of interest in the context of a group setting. More information, including a list of fellows, is available at www.arl.org/news/arl-news/4440-arl-leadership-fellows-2018-2019-selected. 