

Welcome to the September 2011 issue of *C&RL News*. With the return of students to campuses across the country, academic libraries and librarians are back in the groove for a new school year. If you are looking for inspiration for the new year, make sure to read “In the spirit of Benjamin Franklin,” where Andy Burkhardt, Catherine R. Johnson, and Carissa Tomlinson outline 13 virtues for next-gen librarians. But don’t take “next-gen” to mean simply young or new to the profession. These virtues, adapted from Franklin’s writings, are equally important and applicable to all academic and research librarians.

The coming of fall can mean the start of new research and writing projects as promotion and tenure activities kick into high gear. Courtney Greene and Elizabeth Ruane provide valuable tricks and technologies for “Collaborating in the cloud” to make your group research projects smoother and easier. Greene and Ruane field-tested these tips while writing their book on mobile technologies, published by ACRL last year.

With the new term comes the opportunity for new campus partnerships. Kacy Lundstrom

draws from her experiences as an English graduate assistant and a librarian to outline tips for “Teaching with graduate instructors.”

Fall may also mean launching long-term projects to improve library spaces and services. Valerie A. Lynn documents “A knowledge commons needs assessment” as the Penn State-Hazleton Library surveyed their constituents in planning for future space enhancements. Frank R. Allen revisits his 1996 *C&RL News* point/counterpoint essay on the value of place and concludes that “The knowledge commons” plays a major role in reasserting the library as the heart of campus.

We are also looking back (and ahead) at ACRL this month. Relive your time at ALA Annual in New Orleans with our review of many of the ACRL-sponsored conference programs and a list of Board of Directors actions. And learn more about nominations for the 2012 ACRL Awards Program. Make sure to check out the other features and columns this month, including Internet Resources on citation searching.

—David Free, editor-in-chief
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