

From librarian to author – a tale of self-disruption



Librarians don't have to just surround themselves with books. They can also write them. NORA MARTIN outlines her path from librarian to published author.

This is one librarian's tale of self-disruption – the story of how I was contacted by a US publisher after presenting a paper at an international library conference. You never know where these things will take you.

Last year I published my book, *Information Verification in the Digital Age: The News Library Perspective* with the assistance of two perceptive editors. Hema Ramachandran from California State University, Long Beach, is the editor of the 'Emerging Trends in Librarianship' series from Morgan & Claypool Publishers. The focus is on new and emerging trends in digital collections and new technologies as they relate to the practice of librarianship and library science (see bit.ly/2b2M9kl).

Hema contacted me after reading my paper on information verification that I presented at the 2014 Special Libraries Association Annual Conference in Vancouver (see bit.ly/2eTP6wk), suggesting that I build and expand on my existing research into information verification and provenance within the context of media librarianship for this series.

Hema's role is to work with potential authors to come up with a working title and abstract that will form the outline for the book. Once Hema and I agreed on the scope of the publication, I was handed over to Executive Editor Diane Cerra, who worked with me on contract details.

My book provides a comprehensive overview of information verification in the digital age within the context of media librarianship. Chapter 2 explores how information professionals assist in the newsroom, looking at the places where journalists often get stuck when doing their research. Building on this theme, Chapter 3 discusses news reporting in the age of social media, looking at how technology innovation and the 24/7 news cycle are driving forces that compel news researchers and reporters to adapt and learn new skills. Due to an increased emphasis on the principles

of co-creation and crowdsourcing, Chapter 4 examines the significance of verification and evaluating social media content from an information science and journalistic viewpoint. This chapter highlights the links to a basic tenet of librarianship – critical evaluation of information. Chapter 5 provides a synopsis of possibilities on the horizon, such as automated journalism, and future roles for library professionals in an age of digital social media. Chapter 6 looks ahead to the challenges and opportunities in our evolving mediascape and at the implications for library service delivery.

In order to grow, we must embrace change. Yet often the pace of change can seem overwhelming. In her 2015 book *Disrupt Yourself: Putting the power of disruptive innovation to work*, Whitney Johnson talks about how disruption can be applied to our own individual lives and careers, which usually means pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones by engaging in lifelong learning. Initially, the idea of embarking on this writing project seemed daunting. It made me recall something that Henry Ford said: 'Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right.'

Morgan & Claypool are keen to hear from prospective authors. I encourage you to read the description of the most relevant series. The editorial contact for Information Science is Diane Cerra – cerra@morganclaypool.com.

It's important to always seize an opportunity for professional development. If I didn't make the effort to extend myself, I knew that I would later regret it. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the publishing team, my hard work paid off, and now I can proudly say that I am a published author. 📖

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