

Get to Know RCL

Robert Kelly

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Describe your educational background.

A couple of years after graduating from what is now Western State Colorado University with a bachelors in history with a coaching minor I completed my MLS from University of Kentucky. I returned to graduate school ten years later at Wichita State University, earning a M.Ed. Sports Administration in 2002.

What was your path to librarianship like?

I wanted to be a basketball coach and history teacher when I finished my undergraduate degree. Had my background been more in football or baseball I would never have gone into librarianship. As many people do when they can't find a job, I went to graduate school after researching at my college's careers office what other fields would be best to pursue that had good job prospects and I could earn a master's quickly. I started my first librarian job at what is now Adams State University, a core rival to Western, nine days following my graduation from Kentucky. Only during the year I returned to graduate school at Wichita State have I not worked in libraries.

Tell us about a recent professional achievement of which you are particularly proud.

I am quite proud of becoming a subject selector for RCL Career Resources. Also, having an article published in the community college editorial section of the July 2017 issue of Choice and moderating the CJCLS presentation on open access resources at ALA Annual in Orlando are two others that stand out.

What are some of the most useful resources for selecting core books in your discipline?

Publisher and trade association websites are handy because I find titles and editions that have not appeared in BIP or are listed in BIP with the same publishing information. Resources that have user reviews and/or similar title discoverability are handy. Among those Amazon and LibraryThing.

What is the biggest challenge for you in maintaining the RCL subject collection?

Trying to judge what is essential, what reviewers regard as best of the best, and insuring diversity and balance of content. It is easy to overlook sub-areas within the subject's main disciplinary areas.

If you could select the campus-wide read using a book from your RCL subject, which book would it be? Why?

Green Construction by Alison Dykstra. This is a new pick for the collection on a high interest subject. Authoritative and well written, she provides environmental context for green building.

What is your best advice for new subject selectors?

Get a clear understanding of your subject’s main topic areas and its sub-areas by reviewing what’s currently in them. Use that information to inform your philosophy for populating your subject including resolving issues such as finding what are likely to be great core titles but are not likely going to be found in two-year libraries due to cost.

Stereotypes about librarians abound. What is the most unlibrarianlike thing about you?

I am a Blue Shark Optics eye wear sponsored poker enthusiast and write for a monthly poker magazine.

Complete this sentence: “When I’m not in the library, you can find me _____.”


Traveling with my family, in a poker room, coaching middle school girls basketball, or keeping score for Hutchinson CC college basketball.

You’ve been shipwrecked. What one book do you want with you to read while you await rescue?

I’m practical. I would want *The SAS Survival Handbook* or a similar title.

Is there anything else you’d like to tell us?

I have designed two school libraries that I never ended up working in.



Green Construction
An Introduction to a Changing Industry

Title:	Green Construction : An Introduction to a Changing Industry		
Author:	Dykstra, Alison		
Publication Year:	UNITED STATES: 15 Feb 2016		
Publisher:	UNITED STATES	Kirshner Publishing Company, Incorporated	View Publisher Info
Publisher Country:	UNITED STATES		
Market:	UNITED STATES		
ISBN-10:	0-9827034-2-2		
ISBN-13:	978-0-9827034-2-7		
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Overview

- My RCL
- Publisher Info
- Stock Availability