

SARAH B COHN | MLS, MA

EDUCATION

The Graduate Center, CUNY, 2017

Master of Arts, Liberal Studies, concentration in Digital Humanities

Queens College, CUNY, 2011

Master of Library Science

University of Oregon, 2000

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

Head of Reference, Assistant Professor, 2019-present

Reference & Instruction Librarian, Assistant Professor, 2018-2019

The City College of New York, Cohen Library, New York, NY

- Design and teach information literacy sessions covering research and library skills to first-year classes, subject-specific courses, and graduate courses.
- Provide research assistance to students, faculty, and staff—in person and online.
- Manage in-person and online reference desks, including scheduling 15 librarians for shifts on both.
- Outreach, instruction, and collection development for the School of Education, the Economics Department, and the multi-disciplinary subject area of LGBTQ+ studies.

Major Projects

- Undertook the overhaul of a never-weeded 11,000 item collection of children's material, including collection analysis, weeding, and new book purchasing.
- Ongoing work with the LGBTQ+ Center on their grant for purchase of books to be donated to Cohen Library to ensure wider collection representation of scholarly queer titles. Set up a [catalog featured collection](#) as a way to highlight these titles.
- Worked with the student group CCNY Dream Team to create a display in the Cohen Library's atrium display case. Details are on the [related blog post](#).
- Built Library FAQ on library access and policies to support reference librarians, students, faculty, and staff while we were fully remote in 2020. Available at ccny.libanswers.com
- Created a Research Toolkit to support student research needs. Available at library.ccny.cuny.edu/researchtoolkit
- Developed the syllabus for the Library's first credit-bearing course, Research in the Digital Age: Media and Information Literacy. Articulated the case for the course at the campus curriculum committee.

- Web developer responsible for writing all code (HTML, CSS, JS) for new library website home page.
- Project manager coordinating 4 librarians on 6-month website platform migration.

Instructional Services Librarian, 2016-2018

Pace University, Birnbaum Library, New York, NY

- Designed and taught information literacy sessions covering research and library skills to first-year classes, subject-specific courses, and graduate courses.
- Provided research assistance to students, faculty, and staff—in person and online.
- Offered outreach to students and faculty through library programming and University events.
- Collaborated in long and short-term planning of the library's information literacy program.

Major Projects

- Served as the lead librarian on an information literacy assessment team. Evaluated and updated learning outcomes and realigned the existing information literacy assessment survey to these outcomes. Responsible for the distribution, management, and data collection of the assessment.
- Completed a redesign and content update of the online module of library instruction for English 201 courses.

Assistant Librarian I, Information Services, 2015-2016

Visiting Assistant Librarian, Information Services, 2012-2015

Manhattan College, O'Malley Library, Bronx, NY

- Designed and taught information literacy sessions covering research and library skills to first-year classes, subject-specific courses, and graduate courses.
- Taught library resource and technology workshops.
- Provided research assistance to students, faculty, and staff—in person and online.
- Outreach to students and faculty through library programming and social media.
- Collaborated in long and short-term planning of the library's information literacy program.
- Assessed information literacy needs and outcomes through a multi-pronged evaluation approach.
- Created and conduct website usability tests in anticipation of a major site redesign.
- Created and implemented library user survey.

Major Projects

- Revised and expanded the rubric for assessing information literacy outcomes in first year student writing.

- Implemented an embedded librarian in a pilot version of English 110 online, co-created with English faculty and college Instructional Designers.
- Increased the number, quality, and use of course-specific LibGuides.

Assistant Librarian, 2010-2012

International Culinary Center, New York, NY

- Provided research, circulation, and technological assistance to students, chef instructors, and staff.
- Copy and original cataloging of new, rare, and foreign language items.
- Organized and facilitated student book club meetings.
- Updated, edited, and revised library wiki in support of school curriculum.
- Collection maintenance and development of cookbooks, food writing, and restaurant management.
- Maintained library social media accounts.

Reference and Technical Services Intern, 2011

St. Joseph's College, McEntegart Library, Brooklyn, NY

- Reviewed student theses and assign appropriate LC subject headings and call numbers.
- Provided research assistance to students in person, via IM and email.

Library Assistant, 2009-2011

Berkeley Carroll School, Brooklyn, NY

- Copy and original cataloging of books, periodicals, and non-print media.
- Provided circulation, reference, and technological assistance to students and staff.
- Assisted in collection maintenance, including de-selection, research of replacement material.
- Created teacher resource guides and library displays.
- Wrote content for library blog.

TEACHING

Credit Bearing

- LIB 10000: Research in the Digital Age: Media and Information Literacy.
 - Spring 2022, in person. Syllabus at academicworks.cuny.edu/cc_oers/388/
 - Fall 2020, online. Syllabus at researchfall20.commonsgc.cuny.edu/

Library Information Literacy Instruction

Library instruction taught in the following courses at City College

- Undergraduate
 - Argument & Evidence in Political Science

- Assistive Technology and the Environment: Creativity from Theory to Practice
- Career and Calling: Designing Your Self in Society
- Children's Literature and the Constructs of Childhood
- Entrepreneurship
- First Year Composition
- Inquiry in Education
- International Trade
- Introduction to Creative Writing
- Jewish Life in New York: Yiddish, Poetry, Theater and Politics
- Language and Literacy
- Law and Economics
- Leaders Who Changed Their Worlds
- Learning, Leadership, & Culture
- Love and Society in 19th Century Russian Literature
- Politics and Religious Freedom
- Research Methods in International Studies
- Self and Other in Literature
- Social Contract Theories
- The Politics of Leadership
- Truth, Fiction and Photography Composition for Creative Expression
- Writing and Social Justice
- Writing for Engineering
- Writing for Humanities and the Arts
- Writing for the Sciences
- Writing for the Social Sciences
- Graduate
 - Advanced Experimental Psychology
 - Continuing Research In Childhood Education
 - Critical Perspectives in Art Education
 - Masters Project in Science Education
 - Seminar in Educational Research
 - Teaching Multi-Lingual Learners

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

Peer Reviewed Articles

Cohn, S. B., & Levitan, G. (Forthcoming 2022). It's All Improv to Me: Infusing Play Into Library Instruction. *Journal of Play in Adulthood*.

Cohn, S. B. (2022). Remote reading: A Shelf List Analysis of an Academic Library's Juvenile Collection. *Collection and Curation, ahead-of-print*(ahead-of-print). doi.org/10.1108/CC-10-2021-0027

Cohn, S. B., & Hyams, R. (2021). Our Year of Remote Reference: COVID19's Impact on Reference Services and Librarians. *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, 25(4), 127-144. doi.org/10.1080/10875301.2021.1978031

Cohn, S. B. (2021). Professional Ethics and Learning Analytics: A Reflection on a Cross-Departmental Assessment Project. *Urban Library Journal*, 27(1). academicworks.cuny.edu/ulj/vol27/iss1/1

Book Chapters

Cohn, S. B., & Handfield, A. (2015). Google Trends as an Academic Research Tool: Expanding Scholarly Search Strategies. In C. Smallwood (Ed.), *The Complete Guide to Using Google in Libraries: Instruction, Administration, and Staff Productivity* (pp. 35-40). Rowman & Littlefield.

Cohn, S. B., & Handfield, A. (2015). Incorporating Google Trends into Library Administration: Marketing, Outreach, and Collection Development. In C. Smallwood (Ed.), *The Complete Guide to Using Google in Libraries: Instruction, Administration, and Staff Productivity* (pp. 131-134). Rowman & Littlefield.

Other Publications

Cohn, S. B. (2022, March 16). CCNY Dream Team Display. *CCNY Libraries Blog*. library.ccnycuny.edu/blog/Dream-Team-Library-Display

Cohn, S. B., & Hyams, R. (2021). Making Room for TBD: Adapting Library Websites During a Pandemic. *Computers in Libraries*, 41(2), 18-21. academicworks.cuny.edu/cc_pubs/845/

Cohn, S. B. (2020). *Clara Lemlich Shavelson* (U.S. National Park Service). nps.gov/people/clara-lemlich-shavelson.htm

Cohn, S. B. (2020). *Rose Schneiderman* (U.S. National Park Service). nps.gov/people/rose-schneiderman.htm

Cohn, S. B. (2017). *Clara Lemlich Shavelson – An Activist Life*. clara.commonsgc.cuny.edu/

Conference Presentations

Cohn, S. B. (2022, May 13). *Exclusionary Architecture: Physical Barriers to Accessing a Children's Collection*. LACUNY Institute 2022, New York, NY. 2022lacunyinst.commons.gc.cuny.edu/

López, M., Hill, S., Stoeva, D., Cohn, S. B., & Kreitz, K. (2020, February 3). *Histories and Representations of Communities Across the Five Boroughs*. NYC Digital Humanities Week, New York, NY. nycdh.org/dhweek/event/kickoff-2020/

Cohn, S. B. (2019, April 8). *Pretty, Pretty, Pretty Good: Teaching Critical Evaluation of Information*. Association of College and Research Libraries Conference, Cleveland, OH.

Beeman, K., & Cohn, S. B. (2013, February). *The Cookbook as Art and Status Object*. 2nd Annual Cookbook Conference, New York, NY.

Selected Professional Development Presentations

Cohn, S. B. (2019, September). *Active Learning*. CCNY Libraries Information Literacy Workshop, New York, NY.

Cohn, S. B. (2019, July). *Introduction to Data Visualization*. A Day of Data Visualization at the Levich Institute, New York, NY.

Cohn, S. B. (2019, February). *Zotero*. CCNY Libraries Week Workshop, New York, NY.

Cohn, S. B. (2019, February). *Introduction to Data Visualization*. CCNY Libraries Week Workshop, New York, NY.

Cohn, S. B. (2019, October). *Developing Information Literacy Classes*. CCNY Libraries Information Literacy Workshop, New York, NY.

Grants

CUNY Research Foundation Travel Grant, 2019, grant amount \$1200

SERVICE

Department

- Assistant Archivist Search Committee, 2022, Chair
- Library Executive Committee, 2021-present
- Library Web Working Group, 2019-present, Chair
- Library Communications Working Group, 2019-present

- Library Information Literacy Committee, 2018-present
- Library Diversity Committee, 2018-2022

College

- Faculty Affairs Sub-Committee of Faculty Senate, 2019-present, Chair

University

- CUNY OLS UX Committee, 2021-present
- LILAC, 2021-present
- CUNY OLS Assessment Committee, 2020-present

Profession

- LACUNY Web Management Roundtable, Co-Chair, 2019-present
- ACRL/NY Symposium Planning Committee, 2019-present
- ACRL/NY Mentoring Program Mentor, 2019-2020
- Peer Review Board, Journal of Interactive Technology & Pedagogy, 2018-present
- LACUNY Executive Council, Delegate 2018-2021, Alternate 2021-present
- Editor-at-Large, dh+lib Review, 2018-2019

Scholarly & Professional Associations

- American Library Association (ALA)
- Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL)
- Association of College & Research Libraries-New York (ACRL/NY)
- Library Association of the City University of New York (LACUNY)
- American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Andrew W. Mellon Transformative Learning in the Humanities Faculty Fellow, 2022-2023 cohort
- CCNY OER Workshop, 2022
- Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Course in Effective Teaching Practices, 2019 CCNY cohort
- Digital Research Initiative program, CUNY Graduate Center, 2016
- Leadership Lab program, METRO Library Council, 2015

STATEMENT OF SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

I have written about disparate topics such as learning analytics and improvisation in library instruction. I understand that this does not create a cohesive scholarly narrative, but it has allowed me to delve into areas of librarianship relatively unknown to me. As a result, my knowledge of the field is wide rather than deep, and I see this as an overall good. I read and appreciate the work of those whose work is deep in their areas, learn from them, and take their ideas forward into my daily work.

The article I have in progress is on seed lending libraries, and examining them in relation to ideas of food justice to see if they meaningfully and materially further food justice aims, or if they are simply a part of the 'library of things' movement.

My scholarly interests will always be varied, and so while I cannot chart a straightforward path, I will continue to research and write in areas that pique my interest. The freedom to follow ideas, to explore different areas of the field, is one of the things I most enjoy about being a librarian, and I plan to make the most of that in my career.