

Ruth Szpunar

EDUCATION

Master of Library Science

Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN

B.A. in English, Cum Laude

Bethel University, Mishawaka, IN

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Reference and User Services Consultant

2020 – Present

PALNI (Private Academic Library Network of Indiana)

- Consult and work with libraries on projects for Reference, Instruction, and Outreach areas to support local expertise.

Co-Owner

2019 – Present

Aestiva Solutions

- Consulting group, leveraging existing skills for new clients, with a heavy focus on Springshare products, usability, user needs, communication, and collaboration.

Information Fluency Coordinator

2014 – Present

PALNI

- Coordinate collaboration and communication on Reference, Instruction, and Outreach (RIO) activities for 24 academic libraries in Indiana.
- Plan in-person professional development opportunities for RIO librarians, including the biennial Camp RIO.
- Co-led Information Needs Assessment Project Team
- Perform large-scale usability testing on Discovery layer product.
- Serve on task forces focused on topics such as information literacy scaffolding, information literacy assessment, and outreach events.
- Created and maintain an instructional peer coaching program.

Part-time Instruction and Reference Librarian with rank of Part-Time Associate Professor

2005 – 2019

DePauw University Libraries, Greencastle, IN

- Staffed Research Desk--answered questions from the DePauw community about library usage, research, and technology.
- Taught information literacy sessions for DePauw classes
- Collected usage statistics for electronic resources and created custom reports.
- Developed online library guides using LibGuides software for classes, events, and research processes.
- Trained students to provide peer to peer research help.
- Curated Reference book collection.
- Designed creative book displays, such as for Valentine's Day (Blind Date with a Book) and Banned Books Week.
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Customer Service Manager**2011 – 2017**

PearBudget

- Responded to all customer queries in a timely manner, whether submitted via e-mail, blog comment, or social media.
- Tracked customer feature requests and bug reports.

Fall 2010**Part-time Assistant Professor of University Studies**

DePauw University, Greencastle, IN

Taught credit-bearing First Year Seminar:
The World of Social Media

PUBLICATIONS

- Szpunar, R., & Bradley, E. (2023). Conducting a User Needs Assessment through the Consortia: Pooling Resources to Examine Student and Faculty Habits. *College & Research Libraries*, 84(1), 69.
- Bradley, E., Szpunar, R., & West, M. *PALNI WorldCat Discovery Usability Reports, 2015-2023*.
- O'Leary, C., & Szpunar, R. "Revitalizing Homeschool Programming for Public Libraries: A Case Study." *Homeschooling and Libraries: New Solutions and Opportunities*, edited by Vera Gubnitskaia and Carol Smallwood, McFarland, 2020, pp. 115-123.
- Szpunar, R., Bradley, E., West, M., Bell, J., Starkel, A., Miller, L. & Newell, S. *PALNI Information Needs Assessment Project Reports, 2017-2020*.
- Szpunar, R. Review of *Engaging Design: Creating Libraries for Modern Users*, by Emy Nelson Decker and Seth M. Porter. *College & Research Libraries*, vol. 80, no. 5, July 2019. pp. 739-740.
- Szpunar, R. Review of *Undergraduate Research and the Academic Librarian: Case Studies and Best Practices*, edited by Merinda Kaye Hensley and Stephanie Davis-Kahl. *College & Research Libraries*, vol. 79, no. 4, May 2018. pp. 602-603.
- Szpunar, R. Review of *Collaborating for Impact: Special Collections and Liaison Librarian Partnerships*, edited by Kristen Totleben and Lori Birrell. *College & Research Libraries*, vol. 78, no. 5, July 2017. pp. 729-731.
- Bradley, E., Szpunar, R., & West, M. "Collaborative UX Testing: Cardigans Included." *ACRL TechConnect Blog*, August 4, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS

- Szpunar R. "Marketing Your Ideas." *PALNI Camp RIO*, Morgantown, IN, August 2023.
- Szpunar R., & Bradley, E. "Marketing the Library." *PALNI Camp RIO*, Morgantown, IN, August 2023.
- Bradley, E., & Szpunar, R. "More Than Just a Diary: Reflective Practice for Academic Librarians." *Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) Annual Conference*, Virtual, October 2021.
- Szpunar R. "Work Won't Love You Back." *PALNI Camp RIO*, Lake Placid, IN, August 2021.
- Szpunar, R., & Bradley, E. "Leveraging the Library Consortium to Conduct Local Ethnographic User Needs Assessment." Poster, *Library Assessment Conference*, Virtual, October 2020.
- Gray, A., Szpunar, R., & Bradley, E. "Can Information Literacy Encourage Critical Thinking? Can it be Assessed?" OPAL-PALNI Conference, Virtual, August 2020.
- Brodman, K., Haney, T., Szpunar, R., & Thelin, S. "User-Centered Design in Context." *ACRL 2019*, Cleveland, OH, April 2019.
- Szpunar, R. "More Action Please." *PALNI Camp RIO*, Morgantown, IN, July 2018.
- Bradley, E., Szpunar, R., & Megan West. "Collaborative UX Testing: Cardigans Included." *Designing for Digital*, Austin, TX, April 2016.

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- Szpunar, R. "Save Your Library from Unused Databases: Become a Usage Statistics Hero!" *Indiana Library Federation (ILF) Annual Conference*, Indianapolis, IN, October 2013.
 - Lambert, L., & Szpunar R. "We Didn't Start The Fire': How Billy Joel's Song Can Motivate Student Learning and Deeper Engagement." *Indiana University Libraries Information Literacy Colloquium*, New Albany, IN, August 2012.
 - Szpunar, R. "Engaging Students with Library Instruction." *ILF Annual Conference*, Indianapolis, IN, November 2010.
 - Wilson, W., Szpunar R., Hebb, T., Provine, R., & Millis, K. "Showcasing Faculty Scholarship and Artistic Work." Poster, *ALA Annual Conference*, Washington, D.C., July 2009.
 - Parker, S., & Szpunar R. "Using CONTENTdm as a Digital Repository." *GLITTER (Great Lakes Information Technologists for Education and Research) Annual Conference*, Greencastle, IN, April 2009.
 - Szpunar, R. "LibGuides - Web 2.0 Meets Library Research." *ILF Annual Conference*, Indianapolis, IN, November 2008.
 - Szpunar, R, Millis, K., & Hebb, T. "LibGuides: Updating the Old Pathfinder Model for the 2.0 World." *ICI (Independent Colleges of Indiana) Instructional Technology Summit*, Greencastle, IN, August 2008.
 - Szpunar, R & Millis, K. "Updating Library Guides for the 2.0 World." *All-PALNI Meeting*, Indianapolis, IN, May 2008.
 - Millis, K., Hebb, T., & Szpunar R. "De-desk Reference: Using Web 2.0 to Provide Services Away From the Reference Desk." Poster, *ALA Annual Conference*, Washington, D.C., June 2007.

COURSES TAKEN AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

- Immersion (ACRL), 2019
- Everyday Statistics for Librarians (Library Juice Academy), 2019
- Cultural Competence for the Academic Librarian (Library Juice Academy), 2016
- Microcontrollers for Educators: Connecting the STEM Dots: Microprocessors and Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Classroom (SparkFun), 2016
- Planning, Assessing, and Communicating Library Impact: Putting the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education into Action (ACRL), 2016
- Digital UX Workshop: Crafting Exceptional Digital Experiences for the User-Centered Library (Library Journal), 2015
- PALNI Arduino Workshop, (SparkFun), 2015
- DePauw University W (Writing) Workshop, 2012
- DePauw University S (Speech) Workshop, 2010

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- ILF (Indiana Library Federation)
 - Annual Conference Poster Session Committee, 2011, 2012 (Chair), 2014 (Chair), 2016 (Chair)
 - IALA (Indiana Academic Library Association) Chair-Elect, 2014, Chair, 2015, Past Chair, 2016
 - Board of Directors 2014-2015
 - IALA Secretary/Treasurer, 2012-2013

DEPAUW SERVICE

- Common Read committee, 2019
- Arts Advisory committee, 2018-2019
- Student Publications board, 2016-2018
- Banned Books Week events committee, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013
- GLITTER (Great Lakes Information Technologists for Education and Research) conference planning committee, 2009

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- Microsoft Office 2007 implementation committee

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistantship

2003 – 2005

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)
University Library, Indianapolis, IN

- Assisted in Interlibrary Loan
- Staffed the Reference Desk
- Scanned materials for the Digital Libraries Team
- Designed websites for the Special Collections/Archives