

**Virgil Orr Junior Faculty Award
Library Nominee 2018
Abigail DeSoto, Assistant Professor,
Government Document Librarian**

I am pleased to represent Prescott Memorial Library as their nominee for the Virgil Orr Junior Faculty Award.

I. Description of activities in which the nominee has engaged to benefit the students, faculty, and university community and performance evaluations of the nominee by his/her superiors

As a librarian in Prescott Memorial Library, I strive to support the curricular, research, and service activities of Louisiana Tech University. From answering reference questions from students, faculty, and staff about library resources to helping students who come to the library looking for other departments on campus, I am able to serve my university community on a daily basis.

Last summer, the library participated in Summer Orientation for incoming freshman. I, along with staff members set up a table in the Quad during the organizational browse time with information about the resources and services that the library offers to incoming freshman. I was very happy with the turnout and the number of students that stopped at our table eager to learn more about the library. The following quarter, it was interesting to note that many of the students we met at orientation frequented the library using the resources and study spaces we outlined during orientation. The increased presence of incoming students showed us that participating in this event was very beneficial to the library and the university. After this event, students were more aware of the library resources and staff. Since then, the library has participated in the Louisiana Tech University Student Health Center 23rd Annual Wellness Fair to promote our health databases and resources. To me, these events are excellent for one-on-one interaction with the students and allow us to help answer questions and to promote our resources in a relaxed atmosphere. Because we have so many great resources beneficial to our students and faculty, I am frequently looking for new on-campus events where I will be able to promote the library's resources to students and faculty.

Additionally, I assist in teaching information literacy classes pertaining to government information in the library. These classes are beneficial to all students on campus because they are learning about library resources that can be used in their research for projects and assignments. For these classes I try to cater the material to specific subjects as requested. All government information is considered a primary resource for students and faculty to use. There are many online web portals with which to do a quick search such as USA.gov and Govinfo.gov. I have given this presentation to Education 210 and I/O Psychology classes and both classes have received positive feedback from instructors. I am currently researching how to help the reference librarians incorporate government documents in their information literacy teaching. Since government documents cover a wide scope of topics and research, I am working closely with the other librarians to incorporate specific materials into their information literacy classes. This has been done on a case by case basis, based on the course and what the instructors have requested.

I am the Facebook administrator for PML. Social media is a effective way to connect with students and faculty across the campus. Through Facebook, PML has promoted its services

and highlighted staff and their achievements, along with showcasing our various collections. The interactive social media posts allow students to connect with the library through Facebook as well as in person, while also learning about the library.

Performance Evaluations

My last review by my superiors was completed in April of 2018. My summative evaluation was that I “meets expectations”. It was stated that I am “extremely active in all aspects of Prescott Memorial Library operations. She is committed to excellence in providing library services and resources to our academic patrons. She has initiated numerous programs and services all of which are beneficial to the students and faculty of Louisiana Tech.”

In 2017 my summative evaluation was that I “[meets] expectations.” It was further stated that I “continue to be a competent, active, and involved librarian that willingly and efficiently serves the Library, the University, and the state as our representative on the national level.” I “stay up-to-date on library and Government Document trends, strengths, and challenges and share this information with library staff on a regular basis. I seek out professional development opportunities in webinars and training sessions, along with attending relevant statewide and national meetings.” I “continually seek opportunities to be of service and [am] to be commended for your involvement in University, Library, and various community activities.”

In 2016 the summative evaluation was “meets expectations.” I have “been extremely active attending meetings, making presentation, and topping it off by winning a prestigious national award for Our Government Documents Library.” “It is difficult to count all the displays and Facebook postings which promote and highlight both the Library and the Government Documents that Abby has been responsible [for] throughout the year. She is an outstanding spokesman for the Documents collection.”

In April 2015 my summative evaluation was “meets expectations.” This evaluation came only several months after I started working at Louisiana Tech University. “She is energetic, cooperative and efficient. She has many great ideas and is extremely creative.... It will be exciting to watch her as she progresses and I expect great things for her and the future of Prescott Memorial Library.”

II. Statement of beliefs concerning the importance of teaching, research, or other services and activities in which the nominee is engaged, and community/university service to the overall mission of the university

I chose the field of Library Science, in order to provide students and faculty with the tools that they would need to complete research using the library’s services. The heart of any university is to teach people a skill and to provide them with the knowledge to implement that information. I truly enjoy showing students and faculty how to find materials through the databases or online catalog. I view the library as an integral part of supporting the curriculum of the university. My efforts in teaching and providing library services are supporting the university’s mission by providing resources and help to give students the best education possible. I am fortunate that the Government Documents collection, my specialization, is interdisciplinary. It lends itself to all areas of study at Louisiana Tech and can be used to aid in accreditation for programs. By providing essential library services, I am supporting the university’s mission of making the education and development of students a high priority.

III. Selected List of Publications, Grants, and Similar Activities

Publications:

DeSoto, Abigail D. "#Let's Get Social: How Libraries and the Federal Government Use Social Media." *Louisiana Libraries* 78.1 (2015): 12-17.

DeSoto, Abigail D. Calendar Column Editor. *Louisiana Libraries* 79.3 (2017): 26.

Book Reviews:

DeSoto, Abigail. Review of *Government Information Essentials*, Edited by Suzanne Caro. *Catholic Library World*, vol. 88, no. 3, Mar. 2018, p. 204.

DeSoto, Abigail. Review of *This Savage Song*, by Victoria Schwab. *Catholic Library World*, vol. 88, no. 2, Dec. 2017, p. 147.

DeSoto, Abigail. Review of *Tall Tall Tree*, by Anthony D. Fredericks. *Catholic Library World*, vol. 88, no. 2, Dec. 2017, p. 142.

DeSoto, Abigail. Review of *Foxheart*, by Claire Legrand. *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 4, June. 2017, p. 291.

DeSoto, Abigail. Review of *Between Worlds*, by Skip Brittenham. *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 3, Mar. 2017, p. 222.

DeSoto, Abigail. Review of *Plenty of Love to Go Around*, by Emma Chichester Clark. *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 3, Mar. 2017, p. 218.

DeSoto, Abigail. Review of *Catching a Story Fish*, by Janice N. Harrington. *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 3, Mar. 2017, p. 216.

DeSoto, Abigail. Review of *The Shadow Cadets of Pennyroyal Academy*, by M.A. Larson. *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 1, Sept. 2016, p. 62.

DeSoto, Abigail. Review of *Dorothy Day: Love in Action*, by Jordan Patrick. *Catholic Library World*, vol. 87, no. 1, Sept. 2016, p. 48.

Presentations:

DeSoto, Abigail and Hayley Johnson. "Speak Out: Government Documents Learn and Share Session" Louisiana Library Association, 8 March 2018, Holiday Inn, Alexandria, LA. Conference Round table discussion. Presenting soon.

DeSoto, Abigail, and Kevin Cuccia. "Library Instruction for Faculty and Students." College of Education, 28, March, 2017, University Hall, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA. Presentation.

DeSoto, Abigail. "10 Heads Are Better Than One: the Public Document Depository Program Advisory Council." Louisiana Library Association, 9 March 2017, Cajundome Convention Center, Lafayette, LA. Panel Discussion.

DeSoto, Abigail. "Strut Your Stuff! Tips and Tricks to Showcase Government Documents Resources." Louisiana Library Association, 8 March 2017, Cajundome Convention Center, Lafayette, LA. Conference presentation.

DeSoto, Abigail and Stephanie Braunstein. "Helping your Regional Help you." Louisiana Library Association, 9 March 2016, Crowne Plaza Executive Center, Baton Rouge. Conference presentation.

DeSoto, Abigail. "Engaging with Social Media." Louisiana Tech University, Center For Instructional Technology, 26 February 2016, Center for Instructional Technology Conference Room, Ruston, LA. Presentation.

DeSoto, Abigail. "Life Liberty and the Pursuit of ...Documents." Rapides Parish Library Staff Development Day, 25 September 2015, Alexandria, LA. Presentation.

DeSoto, Abigail. "Life Liberty and the Pursuit of ...Documents." Louisiana Support Staff Association of Libraries Conference, 25 September 2015, Lincoln Parish Library Events Center, Ruston, LA. Conference presentation.

DeSoto, Abigail. "#Let's Get Social: How the Government Uses Social Media for Fun and Facts." Louisiana Library Association, 27 March 2015, Shreveport Convention Center. Conference presentation.

Awards and Grants:

GPO Regional Library of the Year (2015)

Nominated for the Louisiana Tech University Senate's Virgil Orr Junior Faculty Award (2016-2017)

DeSoto, Abigail. (2015-2016). Purchase of one ScanPro 3000 microfilm scanner and computer workstation. Louisiana Tech University Student Technology Fee Board. Amount Awarded: \$3,731.83.

The new ScanPro 3000 microfilm scanner allows the library to now search microfilm more easily, provide better quality scanned images, and multiple options to allow users to save or email copies. This equipment supports the academic endeavors of all Louisiana Tech University faculty, staff, students, and community members by providing access to primary research material such as newspapers, journals, and government document publications on microfiche and microfilm. Various methods of saving scans along with word searchable software will be a major advantage for our staff and users who are doing research.

IV. Selected list of Community/Service Activities

Committee Service:

Volunteer, SGA Big Event (2018)

Volunteer, I.A. Lewis School Career Fair (2018)

Member, Junior Auxiliary of Ruston (2015-2018)
Volunteer, Methodist Children's Home (2014-2018)
Member, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Women's Guild (2016-2018)

University Service:

Volunteer, Louisiana Tech University Student Health Center 23rd Annual Wellness Fair (2018)
Volunteer, Louisiana Tech University Fall Freshman Convocation (2015-2017)
Volunteer, Louisiana Tech Summer Freshman Orientation (2017)
Time Out for Tech (Fall 2017)
Volunteer, President's Midnight Breakfast (2015-2016)
Volunteer, Junior Auxilliary Pediatric Health Fair (2017)

Committees:

Library Committees:

Member, Library Building Committee (2017-2018)
Member, Library Advisory Committee Prescott Library (2014-2018)
Member, Social Committee for Prescott Memorial Library (2014-2016)
Member, Cataloging/Systems Administer Search Committee (2014-2015)
Chair, Federal Depository Library Program 120th Anniversary Committee (2016)

University Wide:

Member, Louisiana Tech University Senate (2015-2018), Executive Board Member (2017-2018)
Member, Graduate Council (2016-2017)
Member, Library Vision Committee (2015)
Officer, Faculty Staff Club (2017-2018)

State Wide:

Member, Louisiana Public Document Depository Program Advisory Council (2014-2017)
Member, Louisiana Federal Depository Library Council (2014-2017), Chair (2015-2016) and (2016-2017)
Member, Louisiana Library Association Government Documents Round Table (Vice Chair (2016-2017) and Chair (2017-2018))
Column Editor, Louisiana Libraries Journal (2017-2018)

National:

Member, Regional Government Information Librarians (REGIL) Committee (2015-2018)
Member, Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) Collaborative Federal Depository Program (CFDP) Steering Committee (2017-2018)