

Phoebe Suzanne Ayers

phoebe.ayers@gmail.com
<http://phoebeayers.info>

Science and engineering academic librarian; wiki and collaborative online community participant, educator, researcher and leader; free culture, open science and open access advocate.

Education

- Master of Library and Information Science*** **2005**
Information School, University of Washington, Seattle.
- Bachelor of Arts, English literature with a minor in History*** **2003**
University of Washington, Seattle. Departmental Honors program.
Honors senior thesis: "Romancing the Code: Portrayals of Computer Hackers in Fiction."

Professional experience

- Reference and Collection Development Librarian*** **2005-present**
Physical Sciences and Engineering Library, University of California Davis
Subject specialist and department liaison for computer science, electrical and computer engineering and physics/astronomy. Perform reference in PSE subject areas, including chemistry, geology, mathematics, physics, astronomy, and engineering. Collection development for liaison areas, including participation in University of California consortial journal and database purchasing decisions, licensing review, and subject guide development. Instruction including class guide development, in-class library sessions for liaison departments and writing program classes, and student orientations; co-taught term seminar on Wikipedia. Public and internal website development, including maintenance of and training library staff on use of a new intranet wiki. Led open access week activities and eScience and data management plan services. Library committees including website, program planning, peer review and hiring.
- Reference Assistant*** **2004-2005**
Engineering Library, University of Washington.
Reference work using print and online sources for engineering, including finding standards, patents and technical reports. Assisted with teaching introductory library classes for engineering undergraduates.
- Student assistant*** **2003-2004**
Social Work Library, University of Washington.
Solo night and weekend circulation and reference duties in a small branch academic library. Assisted users with computer, database, research and library policy questions. Processed online course reserves.
- Library researcher*** **2002-2005**
Parrish Lab, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
Acquired, cataloged, and maintained a large article collection relevant to this research laboratory's work on seabirds, fisheries, and marine ecology interactions, including developing a database and filing system and training 25 lab members in their use. Performed library and Internet research and copyediting in support of various projects, including two books (one a comprehensive textbook) and a NOAA research grant.

Publications

Book

Ayers, Phoebe, Charles Matthews, and Ben Yates. (2008). *How Wikipedia Works: And How You Can Be a Part of It*. San Francisco: No Starch Press. 536 pp. ISBN 978-1-59327-176-3.

Articles

Ayers, Phoebe. (2010) Review of *Virtual Research Environments: From portals to science gateways* (by Robert Allen). *Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship*. Winter 2010. <http://www.istl.org/10-winter/review1.html>

Ayers, Phoebe. (2006). Review of *Ambient Findability*, by Peter Morville. *Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship* (ISTL), Summer 2006. <http://www.istl.org/06-summer/review4.html>

Ayers, Phoebe. (2006). "Researching Wikipedia – Current approaches and new directions." Review paper in *Information realities: shaping the digital future for all*, annual meeting proceedings of ASIS&T '06, November 3-8, 2006, Austin TX. Andrew Grove, proceedings ed. ISBN: 0-87715-538-0. 14pp. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/116328989/abstract>

Professional and service activities

Wikimedia Foundation

Community-appointed member of the 10-person volunteer Board of Trustees that is responsible for the nonprofit foundation that runs Wikipedia, the fifth-largest website in the world, with a \$28M annual budget, staff of 90, and volunteer community of 100,000. Prior to board appointment, was also a longtime conference planning and governance volunteer and project participant.

- Member, Board of Trustees **2010-present**
- Annual conference bid jury/planning committee **2006-present**
- Program committee, Wikimania Conference 2009 (Buenos Aires, Argentina) **2009**
- Program committee, Wikimania Conference 2008 (Alexandria, Egypt) **2008**
- Scholarships co-chair, Wikimania Conference 2007 (Taipei, Taiwan) **2007**
- Program co-chair and co-lead, Wikimania Conference 2006 (Boston, MA.) **2006**
- Special Projects Committee member **2006-2007**
- Wikipedia editor and community member **2003-present**

Special Libraries Association (SLA)

Active participant in local chapter of the SLA, including chapter president. The Sierra Nevada Chapter is the most active local library association in the Sacramento area, putting on regular programs for the library community.

- Sierra Nevada Chapter, President **2011**
- Sierra Nevada Chapter, Education (workshop) chair **2007-2010**
- Sierra Nevada Chapter, Public Relations/Publicity Director **2006-2007**
- Member, SLA Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division **2006-present**

The International Symposium on Wikis and Open Collaboration (WikiSym)

WikiSym is the only international academic conference dedicated to wikis, with proceedings published by ACM.

- Member, WikiSym conference steering committee **2010-present**
- General Chair, WikiSym 2010 (Gdańsk, Poland) <http://wikisym.org/ws2010> **2010**
- Wikimedia Liaison, WikiSym 2009 (Orlando, FL.) **2009**

Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC)

Appointed as web manager, responsible for maintaining site used by the 400 members of LAUC.

- Website manager **2008-present**
- LAUC Assembly liveblogging – participant and coordinator **2008-2010**

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)

Committee to plan an online conference in 2012.

- Spring Virtual Institute planning committee, member **2010-2012**

Selected UC Davis professional and service activities***Association of Research Libraries (ARL) eScience Institute***

Participant in 6-month ARL institute and research project to help the UCD library develop a strategic agenda for eScience activities.

- Member, eScience Institute (for UC Davis) **2011**

Librarians Association of the University of California, Davis (LAUC-D)

Active member of LAUC-D, which is responsible for librarian peer review, programming, and advising library and campus leadership on library issues.

- Committee on Personnel (peer review) **2011-2013**
- Program committee, chair **2010-2011**
- Nominations and elections, chair **2008-2009**
- Secretary **2007-2008**
- Web manager **2007-2009**
- Program committee, member **2006-2007**

Open Access Week program planning

Led library OA-week activities, with a committee of librarians and graduate student members of the university Open Science interest group.

- Ad-hoc open access week committee, chair **2010, 2011**

Selected presentations

- “Wikipedia for Biophysicists” (panelist), Biophysical Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. February 26, 2012.
- “WikiLit: Collecting the Wiki and Wikipedia Literature” (workshop with Reid Priedhorsky), WikiSym 2011, Mountain View, CA. October 3, 2011.
- “Why is the NSF making you share your data? Should you care? What should you do about it?” (panelist). UC Davis Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Symposium, April 23, 2011.
- “The Wikipedia Effect: How Wikipedia has Changed the Way the World Finds and Evaluates Information” (panelist). ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. June 27, 2011.
- “10 Years of Wikipedia: Working with the World’s Largest Encyclopedia.” Keynote speech for “Multi-Information 2011”, the conference of the Israeli Center for Libraries and the Israeli Library Association. Tel Aviv. March 7, 2011.
- “Too Small, Too Open: Correcting Wikipedia's Local Failure” (panelist). SXSW Interactive, Austin TX. March 13, 2011.

- “Working well with Wikipedia” (presentation) and “The Tower and the Free Web: Wikipedia” (panelist) . Charleston Conference, Charleston SC. November 3-5, 2010.
- Guest panelist for “Difficult Problems in Cyberlaw”, a January course taught by Professor Jonathan Zittrain and Elizabeth Stark, co-hosted by Stanford Law School and Harvard Law School. Stanford, January 8, 2010.
- “The future of Wikipedia and its lessons for communities and librarians,” guest lecture for LIS 131, Community Informatics, with Prof. Kate Williams, Illinois GSLIS. October 15, 2009.
- “Wikimedia and Libraries” (panelist).Wikimania 2008, Alexandria, Egypt. July 18, 2008.
- “Wonderful Wacky World of Wikipedia,” D-BIO sponsored presentation. Special Libraries Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA. June 16, 2008.
- “Wikipedia: Distributed editorial control,” talk given as part of a panel called “Understanding Information Work in Large Scale Social Content Creation Systems,” ASIS&T Annual conference 2007, Milwaukee, WI. Oct. 24, 2007.
- “Wikipedia 101.” California Library Association (CLA) annual conference, Sacramento CA. November 13, 2006.
- “Wikipedia research: current approaches and new directions” (poster presentation). ASIS&T annual conference, November 7, 2006.

Technical skills

Skilled with library software, including Ex Libris Aleph ILS/OPAC; database platforms including Ovid, ISI, EbscoHost, OCLC/Worldcat; databases including SciFinder Scholar, EI/Compendex, Pubmed, Crossfire/Reaxys, Web of Science and more; collection managers including YBP/Gobi and Blackwell; bibliographic software including Endnote, Zotero, Mendeley; course management and content management software, including Libguides.

Web design skills including HTML, CSS, some PHP/Javascript; operating systems including Windows, MacOSX, Linux/Unix environments. Expertise using and configuring blogging software including Wordpress; expertise with wiki software including MediaWiki, PBwiki, Twiki, Socialtext, Confluence. Familiarity with performing usability studies, technical training, and professional writing, editing and copyediting.

Member of the American Libraries Association (ALA), Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL), Special Libraries Association (SLA), and Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

References available on request.