Proposals That Get Noticed

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Identifying a Presentation Topic

- What cool projects are you doing?
- Who are you collaborating with (inside or outside the library)?

- Look at conference programs from recent national conferences relevant to your position to see topics covered there
Conference Programs to Check Out

- **ALA Annual** (good for everyone; use the keyword search for your sanity)
- **Public Library Association conference**
- **ACRL Conference**
Writing an Abstract

◈ Typically two are needed
  ◆ Short abstract (100-200 words) for conference program
  ◆ Long abstract (500-∞?) for evaluation by the program committee and/or peer reviewers
◈ “Brevity is the soul of wit” -Shakespeare
◆ Tell them what went right! Or what didn’t!
How will you make it fun?

Start thinking now about activities, discussion questions, handouts, takeaways, etc.
Student Learning Outcomes

- What do you want attendees to walk away with?
- Must be measurable
- Use strong action words
- Example
- Your turn!
The Perfect Title: How To Get Butts in Seats

- Incorporate theme or track into title
  - “Sink or swim’ is not an orientation program: Teaching navigation to a new crew”
  - “Finding your career sea legs”
  - “Technology innovation in academic libraries: Rocking the boat or unfurling the sails?”
  - “Tossing a life preserver! Using characteristics of best practices to assess your information literacy program”

“Sailing into the future: Charting our destiny”
The Perfect Title: How To Get Butts in Seats

- The Colon: To use it or not to use it
- Flashy but accurate

Examples:
- Extreme Makeover: PowerPoint Edition
- Love in an elevator: Exploring new presentation formats
Finding Your Track

New York Library Association Tracks

- Administration and Leadership
- Core Knowledge and Career Development
- Current Issues and Research
- Accessibility, Diversity, and Unique Populations
- School & Youth Programs, Services, and Literacy
- Technology & Digital Information
- User Services
Before You Hit That Button

✧ Make sure you follow the rules!
◆ Check that word count, even for titles
◆ Should the content be anonymized?
◆ Do you have all the pieces?
✧ Have someone read over your proposal for clarity and typos.
✧ Make sure you’re aware of the deadlines
Timeline

Sadly, you’re at the mercy of the conference calendar!

- Presentation/workshop proposals are due first (usually 4-6 months before conference)
- Posters/lightning talk proposals are due later
- If at first you don’t succeed...
Words of Wisdom From Someone Who’s Been There

🔹 Rejection is real… and hard
🔹 Shop around!
🔹 Work large to small
🔹 Think outside the conference
REJECTION LETTERS ARE JUST THE PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATES OF ADULTHOOD
QUESTIONS?

THANKS!

Please feel free to email me at amy_harris@unCG.edu
CREDITS

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

✦ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
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- **Titles**: Oswald
- **Body copy**: Tinos

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