Where the Wild Things Are:
Bring K-12 Students to Special Collections for Adventures!

Presented at the California Academic & Research Libraries 2018 Conference
April 13-15, 2018
Redwood City, California

Presenters
Rachel Wen-Paloutzian, Special Collections Instruction Librarian
Carol Raby, Library Events Manager
Loyola Marymount University

Description
What is the best way to spark curiosity in young students about our shared human past and create
a bridge to future university attendance? Visit special collections for an adventure! Aligning with
Loyola Marymount University’s mission to promote social justice, two departments in the
William H. Hannon Library - Archives and Special Collections with Outreach and
Communications - join together with the LMU Information Technology Services to collaborate
on robust educational programs for local schools.

This poster will illustrate the creative design process for an engaging library program that
facilitates active learning with cultural artifacts and provides the opportunity for K-12 students to
visualize themselves being successful at a university. It will highlight the steps for coordinating,
planning, and implementing the program with multiple internal and external community partners.
Grounded in best practices using feedback from teachers and students, the poster will focus on
our innovative, hands-on program for a group of 5th grade students from a Los Angeles Unified
School District campus. Featuring treasures from Special Collections and aligning closely with
California Curriculum, this library program provides an immersive learning experience with
Revolutionary War artifacts, 3-D technology, and contemporary children’s literature representing
women and minorities.

The poster will offer best practices on developing inclusive educational programs with
community partners, connecting students with special collections in an academic library setting.
Additional programming topics and lesson ideas for multiple grade levels demonstrates the
program’s adaptability.
Where the Wild Things Are
Bring K-12 Students to Special Collections for Adventures!

**PURPOSE**
Aligning with Loyola Marymount University’s Mission to promote social justice, this collaborative library program offers active learning experiences with rare cultural artifacts for K-12 students from local schools, creating a bridge to future university attendance.

**DESIGN & PLANNING**
- Coordinate with partners: set goals, learning outcomes, assign facilitator roles.
- Design lesson plans with K-12 teachers, Special Collections Instruction Librarian, Library Events Manager, IT Instructional Technologist.
- Create educational components and logistics for a 2.5-hour three-part library program with flexible starting points.
- Consider cost and funding for transportation, snacks, and takeaways.

**PARTNERS**
- Local K-12 Schools
- Archives and Special Collections
- Outreach & Communications
- Library Administration
- IT Faculty Innovation Center

**PIECING HISTORY TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR ARTIFACTS**

**Special Collections Game Plan**

1. **Warm up:** interactive show-and-tell
   - **Story Telling**
     - Story time: *Sybil’s Night Ride*
     - Explore children’s literature
     - Write reflections on white board

2. **Hands-on with rare artifacts at four stations**
   - a. Safely touch, feel, sense, imagine
   - b. Discuss guided questions with facilitators

3. **Make a team puzzle:**
   - Benjamin Franklin
   - 1781 Promissory Note
   - Game master: Special Collections Instruction Librarian
   - Facilitators: library partners, teachers, chaperones
   - Players: 5th grade students (2 sessions of 16 students)
   - Duration: 1 hour, 20 minutes each step

**BEST PRACTICES**
- Integrate library program with California Education Standards, connecting K-12 curriculum and program components.
- Ask what knowledge do students come with? How do K-12 teachers prepare students before successful library visits?
- Participatory experiences for diverse learners: touching, listening, speaking, creating, gaming.
- Select artifacts in good condition with enticing visuals.
- Detailed planning: snack breaks, transition time.
- Post-visit meetings to assess and improve program.

“My favorite was looking at George Washington’s Military Guide. I didn’t know (he) had a military guide. I really hope students next year get to see it.”
- Natalie, age 10, student participant

**MORE IDEAS**
- **Illuminated Manuscripts:** Students experience working in a scriptorium
- **Exaggerated Postcards:** Students create inspirational story lines and write postcards to themselves

Rachel Wen-Paloutzian
Special Collections Instruction Librarian
rwenpalo@lmu.edu

Carol Raby
Library Events Manager
carol.raby@lmu.edu