



LOEX QUARTERLY

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Normally at this time of year, I discuss work on the current conference while also announcing the location of the conference for the following year. Of course, this is not a normal time. The LOEX 2020 conference had to make the move from Ypsilanti, MI to a solely online conference due to COVID-19 related restrictions on travel and meetings. This shift was enabled by a ton of great, thoughtful work by the LOEX 2020 Committee (who signed up, in part, expecting to be the “local” conference committee, which is not a role that really exists online) and by presenters willing & able to shift sessions that were originally crafted for a face-to-face audience to an online format.

For LOEX 2021, we are scheduled to be in the East Bay—in Concord, CA—on May 6-8. As I’ve mentioned before, we start selecting locations for future LOEX conferences about 2-3 years ahead of time, once we get an expression of interest from local librarians who want to volunteer. Once we select a location, it isn’t confirmed until we get a hotel—typically the hardest part in the past five years, as hotels have become more pricey (e.g., service charges have gone from 18-20% to 23-25%), but with a lot of negotiation and work, it is still doable. Contracts are typically signed about 18 months in advance.

Will LOEX 2021 occur face-to-face? Of course, that is unknowable this far in advance, but we will plan for three options: face-to-face; hybrid; online-only. A lot will be out of our hands and up to the government, and I am sure we’ll learn a lot as the months go by.

For this issue of the Quarterly, we have the second part of our article on statistics, along with one on working with your campus’ institutional research office. In TechMatters, we review a useful tool designed to help instructors provide more efficient and effective assistance to students in the physical classroom. Our Book Review can help refresh one’s instruction toolbox and help instructors focus on who they are teaching. Finally, we end with an interview of an award-winning librarian whose programs are making a real impact on making courses student-centered at his university.

Happy instructing,

Brad Sietz
Director

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