Legal Reference for Non-Law Librarians

Session Description
In this session, librarians from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries will provide an overview of conducting reference transactions on Federal, State and local legal topics. Law Librarian Douglas Amos will cover legal reference resources, how to use them, and techniques for conducting a legal reference interview. Natalie Vaughn will provide concrete strategies for dealing with demanding customers asking for legal advice, as well as an overview of ODL's new program, Legal Information for Oklahoma.

Session Objective
1. Introduce attendees to federal, state, and local legal reference resources.
2. Give overview of legal reference transaction techniques.
4. Introduce attendees to ODL's new program, Legal Information for Oklahoma

Douglas Amos
Douglas Amos received his B.A. in Letters with minors in Latin and Judaic Studies from the University of Oklahoma in 1999. In 2002, he completed his M.L.I.S. also from the University of Oklahoma. Before completing his M.L.I.S., Doug worked as a paraprofessional at both the Chambers Library at UCO and Bizzell Library at OU. His first professional librarian position was as the Technical Services Librarian at OSU – OKC. In 2004, Doug relocated to San Francisco. For 4 years he provided research and reference services at The California Judicial Center Library which serves the California Supreme Court and California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District. Prior to joining ODL, Doug worked as the Circulation Services Librarian at the University of San Francisco School of Law Zief Law Library.

Natalie Vaughn
Natalie Vaughn received her B.A. in Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations in 2010 and her M.L.I.S in 2012, both from the University of Oklahoma. She began her career in 2009 as a student employee in the circulation department of OU’s Bizzell Memorial Library, and then accepted a staff position in the Interlibrary Loan Department at OU in 2010. In 2011, Natalie took on the role of Assistant Circulation Librarian at the Oklahoma City University School of Law Library, and was later promoted to Interlibrary Loan Librarian. In 2014, Natalie joined the Oklahoma Department of Libraries as a reference and cataloging librarian. In addition to reference and cataloging, Natalie trains librarians and teachers across the state about the Digital Prairie database program and is developing the Legal Information for Oklahoma initiative. She is also an Adjunct Reference Librarian at the Rose State College Learning Resources Center.

Natalie currently serves the Oklahoma Library Association as the 2015-2016 Chair of the Marketing Committee. She also serves on the Communications Committee, Ethics Committee, Program Planning Committee, and Executive Board. She was Chair of the Ethics Committee in 2014-2015.