

STEPHANIE E. NISSEN

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• snissen@rockford.edu

EDUCATION

Valdosta State University Valdosta, GA
M.L.I.S., Department of Library and Information Studies 2022

Northern Illinois University Dekalb, IL
B.A., English 2013
President of the NIU Student Chapter of the Society for Technical Communications, 2012-2013

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

Library Director | Assistant Professor February 2025 – Present
Rockford University Rockford

- Manage five professional staff and oversee operations of the Howard Colman Library and The HUB for Academic and Research Success.
- Collaborate with faculty and staff across campus ensuring the visibility and success of the library's information literacy program.
- Serve as delegate representative for Rockford University at library consortia meetings.
- Manage library database and publisher contracts, negotiating and seeking new services when appropriate.
- Design and implement assessment tools for information literacy workshops and class visits. Review data regularly to ensure the success of the information literacy program.
- Assist students with research by helping via email, during office hours, and individual research appointments.

Student Success Librarian | Assistant Professor 2023 – January 2025
Rockford University Rockford

- Developed and presented information literacy sessions for courses at instructor request.
- Taught and further developed one-credit information literacy courses that are discipline specific.
- Assisted students with research by helping via email, during office hours, and individual research appointments.
- Assisted with the library's collection development efforts by cataloging and processing new materials.
- Worked alongside the Academic Success Coordinator to develop and implement a wide range of success workshops.
- Applied for and received a \$2,000 from Reaching Across Illinois Library System to purchase multi-media equipment for the library to support multi-modal student assignments.

Library Director 2021 – 2023
Oregon Public Library District Oregon, IL

- Oversaw operations and management of finances, facilities, a staff of 7, and services in an historic Carnegie library building serving approximately 6,100 residents.

- Led the library through a strategic planning process incorporating community, staff, and board feedback.
- Built and maintained mutually beneficial partnerships with local organizations and businesses to better serve residents.
- Ensured adequate funding for necessary staffing and services, including seeking additional funding from grants, fundraisers, and donations. Grants awarded include:
 - Illinois State Library, Per Capita Grant 2023 (\$9,000)
 - Illinois Humanities, General Operating Grant 2022 (\$5,000)
 - Illinois State Library, Per Capita Grant 2022 (\$9,000)
 - City of Oregon, Mobile Lab Grant (\$3,500)
- Manage all library social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube).

Circulation Services Coordinator

2018 – 2021

Rock Valley College

Rockford, IL

- Managed circulation department operations and staff, including four professional level library assistants and varying numbers of student workers.
- Provided backup reference during Librarian breaks; added regular reference hours during COVID-19 pandemic; assisted with virtual instruction sessions, including pre-recording and editing instructional videos.
- Initiated and implemented “Fine-Free @ RVC” to reduce barriers to students needing access to library materials to succeed in their academic journeys.
- Implemented virtual course reserves program during COVID-19.
- Manage all library social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube).

Reference and Local History Librarian

2016 –2018

Ida Public Library

Belvidere, IL

- Assisted patrons with basic reference as well as more in-depth research, local history, and genealogy inquiries.
- Managed the local history collection by selecting, acquiring, processing, mending, and weeding materials.
- Regularly conducted research in topics of local history to be included in the local history archives; created and updated finding guides to the collection.
- Worked closely with the adult services and youth services managers to ensure a well-rounded program selection for all ages.
- Designed and published a monthly newsletter and quarterly program guide.

Library Assistant

2010 – 2016

Byron Public Library District

Byron, IL

- Assisted with processing new materials, weeding the collection, managing inventory, designing marketing materials, and programming.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rockford University

Rockford, IL

Assistant Professor, Library and Information Science

September 2023 - Present

- FYS 101: Searching for Truth in the Age of Misinformation
- LIL 101: Intro to Info Lit in the Social Sciences
- LIL 102: Intro to Info Lit in the Sciences
- LIL 103: Intro to Info Lit in the Arts & Humanities
- RUOL 151: Visual Art and Social Change

PRESENTATIONS

Bednar, L. Byers, A., Caldicott, M., Harris, M., Leyva, R., Nissen, S., & Stewart, A. (2025, October 15). *We do belong: Candid conversation on the future of libraries*. Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Rosemont, IL.

Nissen, S. & Porter, E. (2025, October 14). *Defending our values: The impact of culture wars in public libraries*. Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Rosemont, IL.

Porter, E., Lombardo, H., & Nissen, S. (2025, October 14). *The accidental health librarian*. Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Rosemont, IL.

Nissen, S. (2024, September 27). *Artificial intelligence and you: An AI primer for library workers*. PrairieCat User Group (PUG) Day, Virtual.

Nissen, S. (2024, March 20th). *The state of AI*. Brown Bag Series Presentation, Rockford University, Rockford, IL.

Nissen, S. & Porter, E. (2023, October 11th). *Canva pro for library workers*. Reaching Across Illinois Library System All Staff In-Service Day, Rockford, IL.

Nissen, S. & Porter, E. (2023, September 29th). *Canva pro for librarians*. PrairieCat User Group (PUG) Day, Sugar Grove, IL.

PUBLICATIONS

Nissen, S. (2025, August 4). *My library is... Supporting multi-modal projects*. RAILS.

<https://www.mylibraryis.org/blog/943>

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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| Illinois Library Association, Intellectual Freedom Committee | July 2026 – June 2029 |
| Rockford University, Faculty Development Committee | 2024 – Present |
| Rockford University, Council of Global Affairs | 2024 – Present |
| RAILS Board, Advocacy Committee | 2024 – Present |
| PrairieCat Administrative Council | 2025 – 2028 |
| PrairieCat Technical Services Committee | 2024 – 2027 |
| Coliseum Museum of Art, Antiques, and Americana (CMAAA), Board Member | 2021 – 2023 |
| NILRC, Professional Development Committee | 2019 – 2021 |

Rock Valley College, PAIC (Promoting an Inclusive Community) Committee

2020 – 2021

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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| American Library Association (ALA) | 2020 – Present |
| Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) | 2023 – Present |
| Illinois Library Association (ILA) | 2020 – Present |
| Library Freedom Project (LFP) | 2024 – Present |