



Colloquium Series

Librarians in American Diplomacy: Challenge and Change

A Colloquium with Jean Cavanaugh and Anne Johnson

U.S. Department of State

Where: CUA, 132 Marist Hall (Information Commons)

When: Monday, November 8, 6:00 p.m.

Abstract:

Libraries and Information Resource Centers (IRCs) of U.S. embassies are one of the many tools of U.S. diplomacy overseas that engage the public. They offer a unique service and opportunity, providing U.S. Embassy public diplomacy practitioners with a platform to cross the “last three feet, which is bridged by personal contact, one person talking to another.” (Edward R. Murrow) – and responding to queries from the public.

Information Resource Officers (IROs) are professional Foreign Service library specialists who consult and advise on the management of U.S. Embassy IRCs. The presenters will talk about the role of IROs at U.S. Embassies, how the U.S. Embassy library program has evolved, and the challenges of engaging both virtually and face-to-face in diverse information environments throughout the world.

About the Speakers:

Jean Cavanaugh has been a Foreign Service librarian since 1992. She has worked with Embassy Information Resource Centers in southern Africa, East Asia, and Latin America. She is now the Director of the Information Resource Office in the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Information Programs, where she coordinates worldwide IRC and library partner programs. Jean has a Master’s in Library Science and B.S. in Journalism from the University of Maryland, and did graduate work in international relations at George Washington University.

Anne Johnson is currently American Corners Coordinator, having served in Ghana and South Africa as regional Information Resource Officer. Previously she worked in public, non-profit and special libraries. She earned her MLS from Emory University and a Masters in International Relations from Georgia State University.

For further information contact David Shumaker, Clinical Assoc. Professor, shumaker@cua.edu

Note regarding accommodations: Please contact David Shumaker at least one week in advance to request accommodations for individuals with disabilities. This includes the need for materials in an alternative format (i.e. large print or Braille), Sign Language Interpreters, accessible seating, and parking information.