Sabbatical Report

My year-long sabbatical (the only one I’ve ever taken) was wonderfully refreshing. I completed the project I proposed – an exploration of reading communities online paired with trying out ways to serially share my research in progress and ultimately publish it in an open access format using the PressBooks platform.

I had to scale the project a bit to get it done because I committed to other projects as well. I was one of three authors asked to put together a collection of essays, [*New Roles for the Road Ahead: Essays Commissioned for ACRL's 75th Anniversary*](http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/publications/whitepapers/new_roles_75th.pdf), to reflect on the future of libraries as the Association of College and Research Libraries celebrated a milestone. I also published two book chapters, two articles, and gave seven invited presentations, was on three conference panels, did a poster session with my colleague Michelle Twait, and conducted one in-service event for librarians at Harvard. This also gave the chance to participate in state, regional, and national conferences, two in the U.K. and one in Canada. I continued to contribute weekly columns at *Inside Higher Ed.* I also continued working with other liberal arts college librarians on the Lever Initiative and joined a study group that will be applying the methods of autoethnography in academic library settings. Members of this learning community will be contributing chapters to a book that is under contract with ACRL.

So with all that going on, I got a little distracted, but was able to examine online reading communities using mixed methods, publishing them serially on my blog. I combined these pieces with essays written for *Inside Higher Ed* in an open-access [book](https://barbarafister.pressbooks.com/).

The details of my publications and presentations from my sabbatical years are below.

"The Librarian 3.0." Panel chaired by Jo Norry with Oliver Obst and Claire Warwick at the SCONUL Summer Conference, The Scholarly Environment 2025, July 2015.

"[Sync Up With Faculty: Collaborating With Faculty to Help Students Cross Thresholds](http://barbarafister.com/TxLA2015.pdf)." Texas Library Association, Austin TX, April 2015.

"[The Liminal Library: Making Our Libraries Sites of Transformative Learning](http://barbarafister.com/LiminalLibrary.pdf)." LILAC, Newcastle University, April 2015. [Slides](http://www.slideshare.net/infolit_group/barbara-fister).

"75th Anniversary Panel: New Roles for the Road Ahead" with Lorcan Dempsey, Steven Bell, and Chuck Henry; "Sustaining Curiosity: Programs for Developing Lifelong Readers" (panel chaired by Meagan Lacey); "Threshold Concepts Through the Eyes of Faculty" (poster session with Michelle Twait) ACRL National Conference, Portland, OR, March 2015.

"[Creating a 'Let's Do It' Organizational Culture](http://barbarafister.com/OLA2015.pdf)." Ontario Library Association Superconference, January 2015.

"[The Radical Promise of the Academic Library](http://barbarafister.com/ILA2014radical.pdf)." Presentation/discussion at the Iowa Library Association, ACRL section, Cedar Rapids, October 2014.

"[The Mystery of it All: Why We Enjoy Crime Fiction](http://barbarafister.wordpress.com/2014/10/25/the-mystery-of-it-all-why-we-enjoy-crime-fiction/)." Iowa Library Association, Cedar Rapids, October 2014.

"How Students Learn & How the Library Can Help," Harvard Libraries, June 2014. [Slides](https://speakerdeck.com/bfister/how-students-learn-and-how-the-library-can-help).

"[Inventing the Library: Threshold Concepts and the Undergraduate Researcher](http://homepages.gac.edu/~fister/Maineacadlibday.pdf)," Maine Academic Libraries Day, Colby College, June 2014.