

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Amy VanScoy, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

**Department of Library and
Information Studies**

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Amy VanScoy comes to UB from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned her Ph.D. in information and library science. While writing her dissertation, VanScoy received the Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship and the American Library Association's (ALA) Jesse H. Shera Award for the Support of Dissertation Research. VanScoy's research is inspired by her former career as a reference librarian and library manager at the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Libraries. In these positions, she collaborated with others to develop and evaluate innovative library and instructional services, and provided reference services and library instruction to NCSU's College of Education and students in various undergraduate programs.

VanScoy's research explores professional work and practitioner thinking in library and information service (LIS), particularly in the area of reference and information services. She is interested in how practitioners' thoughts, beliefs, and values shape their practice. While teacher thinking and its effect on teacher behavior and student learning are a common area of study in education, similar research has not been conducted in LIS. VanScoy plans to introduce this area of study and use it to improve professional and continuing education for library and information science professionals. Her dissertation, "Practitioner Experiences in Academic Research Libraries: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Reference Work," was a first step toward this goal. VanScoy is now beginning the second step, examining this research in other library and information environments.

VanScoy is interested in qualitative research methods. Active in the interpretative phenomenological analysis community, she is exploring the potential of this method for research in LIS. VanScoy's previous publications and presentations have focused on reference and information services, both in-person and digital, and library services for the academic community. Two of her co-authored articles have received awards: "Instructional Strategies for Digital Reference: Methods to Facilitate Student Learning" was chosen for the Reference Research Review 2010 by ALA's Reference and User Services Association and Research and Statistics Committee, and "Evidence vs. Anecdote: Using Syllabi to Plan Curriculum-Integrated Information Literacy Instruction" was named one of the Top 20 Instructional Articles of 2008 by ALA's Library Instruction Round Table. Her study of business reference work in the digital environment received a research grant from Emerald Publishing.

VanScoy's teaching reflects her research interests and professional experience. She teaches Reference Services and Sources; Academic and Research Libraries; and User Education. VanScoy is interested in the potential of online learning to create intimate, customized learning experiences for graduate students and professional librarians. Through her teaching, she looks forward to inspiring the next generation of dynamic and innovative LIS professionals.