

Brian Michael Bell

REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

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Profile

Passionate and career driven, I am seeking a library reference position that will allow me to engage with patrons and scholars on a personal level. My experiences working in Academic Libraries, Public Libraries, and Special Collections has allowed me to develop the necessary skills needed to move forward in this field. I also have over a decade of professional graphic design experience working in print, digital, and web, and have a strong background in visual communications.

Education

Rutgers University - New Brunswick, NJ 2021-2023

Master of Library and Information Science

- Concentration in Archives and Preservation
- American Library Association (ALA) Accredited Program
- GPA 4.0

Bowling Green State University - Bowling Green, OH 1996-1999

Bachelor of Arts in Communication

- Concentration in Visual Communications
 - GPA 3.8
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Library Experience

Reference Librarian Assistant Aug 2023 - Dec 2023

- **The Archibald S. Alexander Library - Rutgers University**

The Archibald S. Alexander Library, located on the College Avenue Campus, is the main social sciences and humanities library in New Brunswick.

- Provided physical reference desk services for students, staff, and alumni.
- Recommended, located, and interpreted various resources to help answer patrons' research questions.
- Effectively navigated specialized databases to help students find reference material to assist in their research needs.

- **The Mabel Smith Douglass Library - Rutgers University**

A primary collection focus on women's, gender, and sexuality studies. It is also home to the Performing Arts Library and the New Brunswick Libraries media collection.

- Provided virtual reference chat services while being shadowed by supervisor.
- Performed physical research inquiries using microfilm, periodicals, and other non-circulating materials.
- Arranged interlibrary loans to help students find materials unavailable in one particular library.
- Participated in Ask a Librarian 24/7 chat support

Librarian Technical Assistant IV Jul 2005 - Nov 2010

- **The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs - New York Public Library**

Print Collection - encompasses over 200,000 prints along with a specialized reference collection of over 15,000 volumes on the history of prints and printmakers.

- In charge of the handling and the proper housing of the collections fine art prints, photographs, and rare manuscripts for research and imaging.
- Retrieved and reshelved material from the collection on a regular basis for patron research use in the study room.
- Provided outstanding public service for researchers, staff, and the general public on how to handle and view material.

Spencer Collection - surveys the illustrated word and book bindings of all periods and all countries and cultures, from medieval manuscripts, Japanese scrolls, and Indian miniatures to monuments in Renaissance printing, illustration, and binding to contemporary livres d'artistes..

- Responsible for the digital imaging of the collection to be used in print, web, and exhibition catalogs.
- Managed and organized registrar loans and proper inventory checklists for material leaving the collection.
- Arranged for the conservation and preservation of select material within the collection.

Librarian Technical Assistant III Feb 2002 - Jul 2005

- **The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts - New York Public Library**

The Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound - is one of the richest resources of recorded sound in the world. The collection is a vital research facility for performers, musicians, scholars, critics, and the recording industry.

- Responsible for maintaining and controlling access to the Research Collection archives of over 700,000 recordings.
- Provided researchers and patrons audio access to the collection through computer terminals stationed listening booths.
- Retrieved, handled, and reshelved material from the collection on a regular basis.

Theatre on Film and Tape Archive (TOFT) - preserves and produces video recordings of Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional theatre productions, as well as dialogues between notable theatre personalities.

- Provided patron access to the collection through linked video monitors in the research room.
- Retrieved, handled, and reshelved material from the collection daily.
- Responsible for maintaining and controlling access to one of the most comprehensive collections of videotaped theater productions in the world.

Design Experience

Graphic Production Designer Oct 2019 - Sept 2020

- **City Winery - New York City**

City Winery is a winery and music venue that began in New York City and has since expanded to seven states and nine cities.

- Created visual designs that effectively communicate City Winery's brand identity.
- Designed, developed and executed graphic collateral and creative assets for the marketing / promotional team.
- Worked with a wide range of media, including digital ads, web, video, and photography.
- Managed project deadlines and adhere to timeline processes and come up with solutions.

Senior Graphic Designer June 2011 - Oct 2015

- **Razor & Tie - New York City**

Razor & Tie is an American entertainment company that consists of a record label and a music publishing company based in New York City.

- Responsible for managing the design and production of all artist bands merchandise as well as apparel.
- Overseeing each musical artists ad campaign is executed and completed on the albums release date.
- Designed all web-based projects for the label, various owned imprints, and its music publishing company.
- Trained new graphic designer employees on how to organize files, follow styles guides, communicate with staff, and manage daily workflow.

Outreach

- **Babs Siperstein Humanities and Medicine Virtual Seminar - 2023**

The mission of the Babs Siperstein Humanities and Medicine Seminar is to provide useful information and raise awareness of the needs of gender minority individuals for health professionals, patients, family members, learners, and the community-at-large.

- Co-hosted and attend events through Zoom.
- Designed and promoted events through print and digital material.

- **Celebration of Scholarship at Rutgers University Libraries - 2023**

Celebration of Scholarship highlights and celebrates the accomplishments of Rutgers–New Brunswick authors and creators . The celebration, salutes the scholarly accomplishments across the wide range of disciplines.

- Attended meetings on Zoom to discuss timeline needed for event.
- Designed PowerPoint presentation of over 130 slides.
- Edited and organized book cover images of over 100 authors for Drupal site.

- **Books We Read - Rutgers University Libraries - 2023**

Books We Read aims to connect readers with the right book at the right time. The project believes in the healing power of guided reading, also called bibliotherapy, through reading, discussing, and relating to texts relevant to the reader in a difficult phase of their lives. .

- Researched and wrote blog posts on the subject of Contemporary Art Photography.

- **BRIC Contemporary Art Education - 2010**

Photographed and designed a large format poster for BRIC Contemporary Art Education in collaboration with Juan Morel Campos Secondary School. BRIC is a non-profit arts organization based in Brooklyn, New York founded in 1979 as the "Fund for the Borough of Brooklyn".

- **The Bronx River Art Center - 2010**

Catalog Design for the exhibition "Acting Out" at the Bronx River Art Center. Bronx River Art Center (BRAC) is a culturally diverse, multi-arts, non-profit organization that provides a forum for community, artists, and youth to transform creativity into vision.

Skills

- **Research**

- QuickSearch - Rutgers University Libraries
- WorldCat
- Specialized Databases
- LibApps
- MARC Standards
- Library of Congress Authorities
- READ Scale

- **Design**

- **Adobe Creative Suite**
 - InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere, After Effects, Dreamweaver, Acrobat
- iMovie
- SquareSpace
- Bootstrap / CSS
- WordPress
- Atom

- **Computer**

- **Microsoft 365**
 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneDrive
- **Google Drive**
 - Docs, Sheets, Slides, Classroom, Meet
- Slack
- Asana
- Tableau

Awards

- **Brooklyn Arts Council 2010 New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Regrant**

Received the Brooklyn Arts Council 2010 New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Regrant for my artwork and curation practise.

Art Curation

- **Non-Native New York, de Castellane Gallery, Brooklyn, NY**

Non-Native New York exhibition was a community art forum celebrating Brooklyn's rich diversity of artists from around the world. Through a call for entries, forum curators selected fifteen international artists who live in Brooklyn, whose work reflects each artist's homeland as well as his or her neighborhood. Artists from varied backgrounds and art experiences were invited to submit their work: emerging artists, hobbyists with little or no formal art background, as well as artists with many years' experience.

Art Exhibitions

- **Personal Work in Exhibitions**

2013

- *Contemporary Video Now*, Present Company, Brooklyn, NY

2011

- *Mutual Friends*, Present Company, Brooklyn, NY

2010

- *The Work Office (TWO)*, Chashama, New York, NY

2009

- *New York Zine Fest*, Brooklyn Lyceum, Brooklyn, NY
- *Post Postcard Show 12*, the Lab, San Francisco

2008

- *Click! A Crowd-Curated Exhibition*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
- *Snap to Grid*, Los Angeles Center for Digital Arts, Los Angeles, CA
- *Suckers and Biters: Love, Lollipops, and the Exquisite Corpse*, Chashama Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- *Post Postcard Show 11*, the Lab, San Francisco

2007

- *ZROX: VersionFest*, Public Media Group, Chicago, IL