

## **2021 LAS Passion Award**

### **Rebecca P. Maniates**

Rebecca Maniates is currently a Research Librarian at SMU Libraries, overseeing the research and information services for the School of Social Sciences (SOSS). Since joining SMU Libraries in 2016, she has supported students, faculty, and staff in SOSS. Rebecca has more than 15 years of professional library experience through work in academic and special libraries in the United States, as well as at Tanglin Trust School Senior Library and Yale-NUS College Library in Singapore prior to joining SMU Libraries.

Rebecca is highly recognised as a committed and passionate library professional with contributions and expertise in the areas of research support, teaching and learning, as demonstrated by her high-quality course-integrated instructional programs. Rebecca is very passionate about teaching information and digital literacy and has always looked for opportunities to improve her craft. In March 2021, Rebecca completed her Postgraduate Certificate Education (International) (PGCEi) from the University of Nottingham. Through this year-long, Master's level certificate programme, Rebecca enhanced her knowledge of learning theories and pedagogical practice which she quickly began applying in her instruction at SMU.

To take information and digital literacy to next level in SMU, Rebecca helped to plan and facilitate the Research Librarian Summer Camp in August 2021, bringing together Research Librarians, as well as others throughout the University to engage in discussions on instructional backwards design, strategies toward digital literacy, and faculty engagement.

Rebecca is admired for her commitment to share knowledge with her colleagues and offer her help and support when needed even for research enquiries. She has been an informal mentor to junior colleagues new to the library profession and has also engaged in the SMU Libraries' buddy programme for new staff. More recently, Rebecca has been participating in the SMU Libraries' job-shadowing programme, where she is paired to coach an Engagement Team member as part of the Libraries' Talent Management strategy. In addition to mentoring, Rebecca recently led the IRB-approved, Review of Research Consultation Services Project, which focuses on developing the libraries' service in this area through collaborative knowledge-sharing, branding and visibility on the libraries' website.

Rebecca values continuing professional development activities and has been active in several organisations throughout her career. In addition to attending numerous LAS programmes and events since 2013, Rebecca presented in 2017 as part of the LAS and NLB Professional Sharing Session, User Experience (UX) in Libraries ("Returns on 'Investment Studio': Investigating user behaviour in the Investment Studio to improve services and facilities"). In 2018, she worked to plan and coordinate the Storytelling through Data Visualisation Workshop which was part of the SMU / LAS co-sponsored, New Professionals Seminar: The Wonder Years (August 2018). Rebecca also presented at the LAS biannual conference, Re-making Libraries, held in 2019.

Rebecca is a champion of and role model for other new librarians through her articulate advocacy for librarianship as a profession and continues to be an active member of LAS through her presentations, as well as engagement in LAS events and activities.

LAS is pleased to honour Rebecca Maniates with the 2021 Library Association of Singapore Passion Award.