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Describe your educational background.

I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Duke University, an MFA in Playwriting from the University of California, San Diego, and a Master's in Library Studies from Rutgers University. I have been a subject selector in libraries for 23 years.

What was your path to librarianship like?

It was a circuitous route, although I've volunteered and worked in libraries since high school. After graduating from college, I continued working at Perkins Library at Duke as a staff member before going to graduate school. I turned down a library program to attend UCSD for my MFA. By the time I finished my MFA program, I knew I'd be applying to library school again. I was accepted to Rutgers before I received my MFA.

Tell us about a recent professional achievement of which you are particularly proud.

I was asked to participate on a panel at an equity and diversity conference where we discussed controversies around public art. I spoke about a fairly recent controversy at the Newark Public Library around the display of a Kara Walker work which offended many of the African-American staff at the library because of its perceived negative portrayal of African-Americans – even though Kara Walker herself is African-American. The incident proved to be an important learning opportunity for the staff and the greater community, demonstrating the value of libraries as places that generate conversation and foster learning.

Describe RCL in three words.

Valuable, transformative, sustainable.

What are some of the most useful resources for selecting core books in your discipline?

Choice reviews, personal knowledge, faculty requests, and book reviews in journals.

What is the biggest challenge for you in maintaining the RCL subject collection?

I tend to physically consult the books to make sure they're appropriate even after reading reviews, which means I depend on my library's collection and my collection development activities. If our budget is cut in a given year, that adversely affects the number of titles I can consult, so I feel less certain about my recommendations.



If you could select the campus-wide read using a book from your RCL subject, which book would it be? Why?

Ellen Stewart Presents: Fifty Years of La MaMa Experimental Theatre. It's a wonderfully rich look at a very influential theatre practitioner and MacArthur "Genius" Award Fellowship recipient. Ellen Stewart was an African-American woman who founded not only a theatre company, but an experimental theatre company in the 1960s which still exists and continues to thrive.



Ellen Stewart Presents
Fifty Years of La MaMa Experimental Theatre

Author	Rosenthal, Cindy
Publication Year	16 Oct 2017
Format	Hardback
ISBN-13	978-0-472-11742-0
ISBN-10	0-472-11742-4

Summary

Ellen Stewart (1919-2011) was the single most important figure in the history of American avant-garde theater and performance art. Founder of La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, Stewart was responsible for a staggering array of productions and for fostering the early work of directors, playwrights, actors, composers, and performance artists. Active until her death at age 91, Stewart also [\(read more\)](#)

Overview

[Summary](#)

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What is your best advice for new subject selectors?

Be curious about your subject, not only about the areas of interest to your department, but about the wider field in general. It's easy to develop tunnel-vision and select based on the curriculum or current research interests, but I think it's equally important to be aware of upcoming trends and to let aspirations drive some of your selecting (within your budgetary constraints). I sometimes use gift funds to purchase items that might be considered out of our current purview, but they're items that I think might generate interest over time.

Stereotypes about librarians abound. What is the most unlibrarianlike thing about you?

I have a Wolverine tattoo on my upper arm. It's based on the sumi-e ink style character poster released for *The Wolverine* movie in 2014.

Complete this sentence: "When I'm not in the library, you can find me _____."

...crafting for the upcoming Christmas holidays. Yes, I start early.

You've been shipwrecked. What one book do you want with you to read while you await rescue?

Lord of the Rings, the omnibus edition with all three books.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

Being a drama librarian is fun; being a drama librarian who is also the dance and art librarian is even better.