CLSIR

Center for the Study of Information and Religion

2014 Conference on Information and Religion
Paper / Poster Proposal

All proposals must be submitted on this form and emailed as an attachment to csir@kent.edu. Incomplete forms will not be considered.

Last Name of Primary Author	Gates
First Name of Primary Author	Jeff
College, University or Other Affiliation	Cedarville University
Professional Title (e.g., Professor, Director, etc.)	Information Services Librarian
City, State, Country	Cedarville, OH
Phone Number	937-766-7841
Email Address	jeffgates@cedarville.edu
Preferred Format (Select one)	**[ ] Paper [x] Poster** *Note: The selection committee will determine most appropriate format based on information provided in proposal and conference schedule.*

Note: The "Primary Author" will be main contact for this proposal and will be responsible for sharing information with additional authors. Please use the spaces at the end of this form to indicate additional authors, if appropriate.

Please tell us how you heard about this conference; check as many as apply:

[ ] Listserv	Specify:
[x] Advertising	Specify: email promotions sent from the SLIS Office at KSU
[ ] Website	Specify:
[ ] Other	Specify:

Proposal

Title of Presentation
Communicating with Small Discussion Group Members Through Email

Presentation Summary (approx. 100 words)
Is email an effective way for leaders of small discussion groups to communicate with members of those groups? Does it help members to be aware of the topics of the weekly discussions? Is it a good tool to encourage them to prepare for the weekly discussions? In this poster presentation, the presenter shares his study of a weekly small discussion group that he leads to answers these questions.

Research Problem and Research Methods (approx. 250 words)
Is email an effective tool for helping members of a small discussion group that I lead to be aware of and prepare for weekly discussions? A few days before the weekly discussion, I send an email to members of the group that announces the topic and includes questions and links to articles and video clips to help prepare them for the discussion. In the Spring of 2014, I will interview the members individually and as a group to gain evidence of the emails' effectiveness for promoting awareness of and preparation for weekly discussions.

Anticipated Results and Significance to Research at the Intersection of Religion and Information (approx. 250 words)
I anticipate that there will be evidence that email is an effective tool for helping some members of the small discussion group that I lead to be aware of and prepare for weekly discussions. Knowing how effective these tools are for promoting awareness of and preparation for the discussions can help me decide how to improve its effectiveness for these purposes. Sharing these findings with others who lead small discussion groups can encourage them to use email for this purpose.

Statement of Author's Credentials (approx. 100 words)
Education 1. Master of Library Science, Kent State University, Kent, OH, 1995 2. Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, Faith Baptist Theological Seminary, Ankeny, IA, 2002 Experience 1. I promoted resources through regular bulletin announcements to church members as a church library director at Bailey Road Baptist Church, North Jackson, OH, 1993-1997. 2. I promoted use of library resources and services to faculty and students through formal announcements, bulletin boards, and flyers as library director at Faith Baptist Bible College & Theological Seminary, Ankeny, IA, 1997-2007. 3. For approximately one year, I have sent weekly email to members of the small discussion group that I lead to increase their awareness of and preparation for weekly discussions. 4. Recently, I have sent messages through Facebook and Twitter to increase their awareness of weekly discussions.

Statement of Intent
By submitting this proposal, I indicate my intention to deliver my presentation at the 2014 Conference on Information and Religion if selected. (*Primary author should sign and date below.*)

Jeff Gates	**November 30, 2013**
Signature *(may be typed)*	Date