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NEMO News

Happy Holidays!



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- “Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence.
Erma Bombeck”



Advice from the Frontlines –Robin Bernstein (Bellevue University Library Director)

In your capacity as a professional librarian, what aspects of your job bring you the most joy?

The people I work with and the people I assist—so I would have to just say “people in general.” I also enjoy the learning process—everyday brings new challenges and from each challenge I gain additional knowledge and grow professionally.

2. Please discuss one personal characteristic that you feel has contributed to your success as an Information Professional.

I believe being an effective communicator has been the key to my success. Knowledge should be shared so that every member of your team should and could make well-informed decisions when necessary. Building a cohesive, effective, productive team is also very important and the only way to accomplish that is by communicating your expectations, being available to address concerns, and providing feedback.

3. What one issue should future librarians be prepared to address in the workplace?

I would say the issue of “change.” Change is inevitable! Librarians need to be very adaptable, flexible, risk-takers, and think outside the box. I believe that those who can not or will not deal with change, are facing a very tough road ahead of them. Change is often a good thing, although, it is difficult to persuade others to see it; therefore, as librarians we need to nurture and mentor those who may struggle while adjusting to change.

4. In our coursework we often discuss the importance of collaboration. Can you share an instance of successful collaboration with a group?

Collaboration is a must in any library setting. At the Bellevue University Library we seldom begin a project without collaborating with others. We have collaborated successfully with individuals externally as well as internally. Several consortia collaborations have resulted in successful services and products for the BU community and vice versa. For example, our online catalog is made up of 10 private independent libraries within the state of Nebraska and we successfully

share responsibility for its’ content, maintenance, and preservation. The library directors meet approximately 8 times/year, the catalogers meet approximately 6 times/year, and the reference and serial personnel meet approximately 2 times/year. This constant communication ensures that everyone’s concerns are heard and that everyone’s needs are met. This is definitely a win-win situation for all involved.

5. On a lighter note: When the work day is over, what do you read?

When the work day is over, I am usually exhausted and I become a “couch potato” in front of the television and work on any number of my cross-stitch projects. However, I still enjoy a good book and I usually read biographies of famous and not-so-famous people. I love the learning process and nothing can replace reading in order to learn.

Thank you for your thoughts, Robin. We appreciate your hard work!

Student Spotlight –Joy Stortvedt

What is your education/library/ professional background?

I graduated in May 2005 with a B.A. in French and Russian from the University of Kansas. Since then I've been working part time at the Bellevue Public Library and taking classes full time. If all goes as planned, I will graduate with my MLS next May. I've loved libraries all my life, and librarianship has always been my career goal.

What is on your reading list? What are your favorites/your recommended/your want to read lists?

Right now I'm taking Youth Services in Libraries, so to complement that I've been reading a lot of juvenile fiction. My current favorite series is *Maximum Ride* by James Patterson. I'd encourage everyone to rediscover an old favorite from your childhood, like *Catwings* by Ursula K. LeGuin for me. For a non-fiction title, I'll recommend *The 20-Minute Gardener* by Tom Christopher and Marty Asher (very funny, even if you don't care much for gardening). On my reading list for when I get some time is a book about the current state of the food or water supply – something I've been thinking about, and would like to better understand.

What professional journal or article have you read and would recommend? Why?

For one of my classes, the teacher recently assigned the following article: "What is Going On at the Library of Congress?" by Thomas Mann [available <http://guild2910.org/AFSCMEWhatIsGoingOn.pdf>]. This article regarding decisions about the cataloging department at that institution really got me stirred up, ready to go protest on the steps or something. Even if you are not a cataloger or planning to be one, the directions being taken by LC to this point have defined the direction of the whole

field in the United States, so these issues will be important to all of us sooner or later.

What do you do in your "down time"? Your hobbies/recreation, how do you relax?

Well, between classes and work, I don't get too much down time, but I make a point of going walking regularly. Other than that, I spend time with my family, read decorating magazines, watch TV or movies, or shop in thrift stores. And of course, I read.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I'm a die hard librarian, but politically, I'm conservative. Shhhhhh.

Name one of your personal or professional qualities that make you, or will make you, a leader in 21st century library and information centers.

The quality I bring is difficult to express in a word; the closest I can come is "cosmopolitan." During my undergraduate years as a foreign language major, I became aware of the benefits of international cooperation and the importance of taking knowledge from many cultures and many languages. I firmly believe in forming partnerships with institutions in other countries and in creating international standards that allow for information sharing across borders and across languages. As a result, I will look for solutions everywhere in the world and will advocate for better cooperation between agencies from all over the globe.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Make the most of every opportunity you have for learning. Even if in your job you aren't doing "library" things, use the skills you have from the program to improve your performance where you are, and look for skills you gain in your current position that you can apply to the library world. Most of us are very busy and don't have time to

seek out new opportunities, so make the most of what opportunities you have.

What do you see as key future trends and challenges in LIS?

As new technologies develop, libraries will have a great challenge in offering content in the new formats, continuing to offer content in older formats for those who have not migrated, and managing copyright issues. Another large challenge will be the development of a new cataloging system in the next few years, causing a big learning curve, coupled with potential issues of conversion between old records and new.

What do you think will be your legacy in this profession?

I hope that, in addition to increasing international cooperation among libraries and other information agencies, I'll be able to say at the end of my career that I made a difference in the lives of those around me. I want to encourage them to participate in finding solutions, to strive for greater achievements, and to be kind to others. I know it's rather altruistic and maybe a little cheesy-sounding, but when I look deep down, that's why I'd like people to remember me. Although this kind of achievement may not get me cited in a research paper a hundred years from now, I hope it will result in people who still care enough to do research a hundred years from now.

Any Last Words?

Someday I'm going to figure out all the ways to have attractive and bright rooms filled with books. Judging by the consistently growing collection filling my room and overflowing my bookcases, I'm going to have to.

Thank you for your thoughts, Joy. Keep up the good work!.

Alumni Spotlight—Sally Snyder*****

What is your education/library/professional background?

I have a Bachelor of Science in Education from UNL, a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from UNO and now a Master of Arts in Library Science (MALS) from Missouri.

As a student at UNL I worked in Love Library doing a variety of tasks. My favorite was making signs using the moveable type on the printing machine. Next I worked at the Estes Park Public Library for over seven years, the last three years as children's librarian. What a great location! When I returned to Lincoln in 1984, I started at the Nebraska Library Commission, first as the Volunteer and Outreach Librarian the Talking Book and Braille Service. From 1987 to 2003 I was the Federal Aid Administrator and beginning March 1, 2003 I am the Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services at the Commission.

What is on your reading list? What are your favorites/your recommended/your want to read lists?

Currently on my "want to read" list include the following youth titles:

Curse of the Bane (The Last Apprentice, Book 2) by Joseph Delaney came out in September and I am looking forward to finding and reading a copy. *Wintersmith* by Terry Pratchett, the third Tiffany Aching title. The newest Artemis Fowl title, *The Lost Colony*, by Eoin Colfer. I have not yet read

the "Hungry City Chronicles" by Philip Reeve (*Mortal Engines*, etc.).

On the adult side, I am eager to try the Thursday Next series I've heard so much about, by Jasper Fforde, starting with *The Eyre Affair*. These are only a few of the titles I am eager to read.

What professional journal or article have you read and would recommend? Why?

The *Horn Book* in general! Definitely the September/October 2006 issue, which has as its focus "What Makes a Good Book?" Articles by Richard Peck, Betsy Hearne, Susan Cooper, Nancy Werlin, and Hazel Rochman (among others) give insight into books for youth. "What Makes a Good Beginning?" and "What Makes a Good Thriller" are two samples of the articles. Do not miss the contribution by Robin Smith "A Letter to Parents." A second grade teacher, she tells parents what they need to know about continuing to read to their child and how to help their child select books to read by themselves.

What do you do in your "down time"? Your hobbies/recreation, how do you relax?

I read!! Maybe that doesn't count since much of what I read on my own time applies to my position at the Commission. I also go to the movies every Saturday with my two sisters. We see a variety of movies, although our favorite type

is romantic comedies. Lately my husband and I have been enjoying the antics of our two new kittens, they are great fun!

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I am a pack rat. I currently have print copies of all my papers and projects for my MALS in several small boxes. What will I do with them? I cannot tell you now but how can I ever throw them away! (Oh, I have digital copies, too.)

Name one of your personal or professional qualities that make you, or will make you, a leader in 21st century library and information centers.

I am a fence straddler, which I choose to see as a positive quality. I often can see and understand both (or several) sides of an issue under discussion, and interpret a person's point of view to others when they are not being understood. I learned many years ago in teacher's college that lessons must be presented in more than one way. People learn and understand in different ways, you must use more than one statement to convey your lesson. If someone does not comprehend what you are trying to say, rephrase your point. That's what I do for others, rephrase their point so it is understood.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Hang in there! Graduation will come. Every day in this profession I see benefits to having obtained my library science degree.

Save print copies of all your papers and projects... oh wait, maybe that is not the best advice. J Better advice might be to keep the **citations** of articles,

chapters, and/or books that you found of particular value and interest when writing those papers. They may come in handy early in your professional career.

What do you see as key future trends and challenges in LIS?

Change! No surprise there. We need to keep looking at what is coming and find ways to assist people in adapting or providing new technologies for those who cannot afford them.

What do you think will be your legacy in this profession?

I think (hope) I'll be remembered as a librarian who loved to talk about good books, whether new or old, whether paper or digital (or whatever is next), and as a person who enjoyed spending time with other people.

Any Last Words?

Librarianship is the ultimate profession. Visit GraceAnne Andreassi DeCandido's home page, <http://www.well.com/user/ladyhawk/gadhome.html>, scroll to the bottom and click on "Ten Graces for New Librarians."

Thank you for sharing your advice and encouragement with us, Sally. We're proud of the wonderful work you do!

‘Tis the season...

Announcements continued.......

Upcoming Changes in Required Coursework

SISLT is implementing changes in the required coursework for those admitted as of Fall 07. Dr. Pasco will be communicating those changes in the upcoming January newsletter once she's verified the changes as "approved by the Missouri Graduate Office" and will put the changes in lay terms and provide a calendar to make sure everyone understands the changes.

DO YOU NEED TO TAKE THE GRE? SEE NEBRASKA TEST INFORMATION BELOW.

Test Locations:

Columbus
Grand Island
Kearney
Lincoln
Omaha

Most locations offer the test multiple times per week. For more information on test preparation, registration, and scheduling a test visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/.

Once on the site select GRE and then REGISTER FOR TEST. This will provide you with information on locations and test times. The site also contains information about acquiring practice materials, as well as links practice tests (see Test Takers –Prepare for the Test-GRE-GRE Practice General Test).

Email Erica Rose at nemo-gradassistant@gmail.com with questions.



Stop worrying! A good review and a few practice tests and you'll be ready to go.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are proud to announce that NEMO student, ***Misty Prochaska***, is the new library director at Hamilton College in Lincoln, NE. We know she will do wonderful work there and we wish her all the best in her new position!

If you have accepted a new position in Library-land, please share it with us. We would like to announce it to all the NEMO students. Email Erica Rose with your exciting career changes (nemogradassistant@gmail.com).

Three cheers for our December 2006 graduates! ***Anna Cotton, Karen McCoy, Laura England, Joan Albenesius, and Lori Brezina*** have successfully completed this portion of their educational journey.

We are proud of you! Your hard work inspires the rest of us. We look forward to the wonderful things you will contribute to our profession.



“Think of yourself as on the threshold of unparalleled success. A whole clear, glorious life lies before you. Achieve! Achieve!” -Andrew Carnegie

“Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence.” -Unknown

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The world of books is the most remarkable creation of man. Nothing else that he builds ever lasts. Monuments fall, nations perish, civilizations grow old and die out, and after an era new races build others. But in the world of books are volumes that have seen this happen again and again and yet live on, still young, still as fresh as the day they were written, still telling men's hearts of the heart of men centuries dead.

- Clarence Day

Happy Holidays! May you all have a joyful, jubilant and rejuvenating holiday season. We look forward to seeing you next semester.

