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University of Nebraska at Omaha

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Comprehensive Exams -Summer 2008

Summer comps will take place **Saturday, June 14 through Sunday, June 22**. If you plan on taking comps in the summer and have not yet notified both Dr. Pasco and Amy Adam, please do so immediately. (adamae@imssouri.edu).

Comprehensive Exams -Fall 2008 (Draft -dates not yet confirmed!)

The tentative dates for the fall comprehensive exams is **Saturday, October 25 through Sunday, November 2**. The tentative date for the review session is **Friday, August 22** from 3-4 p.m. The review will be held via LisRadio. We will confirm these dates when we receive the appropriate information.

SUMMER AND FALL 2008 REGISTRATION

Heads up everyone! Registration opened up on March 3, 2008. Its not too late to register. Consult your course schedules and plans of study and be ready to register right away. Classes fill quickly -please don't delay! Visit

GRADUATION REGISTRATION- INFORMATION

The process for registering for graduation has changed! During the semester that you are planning to graduate you must register by visiting the following web address: <http://gradschool.missouri.edu/policies/commencement/self-graduation.php> . If you do not follow this process for registration by the appropriate date, you will not be eligible to graduate that semester. Keep an eye out for Mizzou email that provide the cut off date.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Consider joining the NLA's New Members' Roundtable and be a part of exciting conversations and events. Find out more about their mission, their events, and how to join at <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/NMRT/>.



"A vacation is is what you take when you can no longer take what you've been taking."

~Earl Wilson

It is definitely vacation time!

INTERESTED IN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES??? THIS GROUP'S FOR YOU...

On February 29, a group of NEMO students interested in academic libraries, met in Kayser Hall for a presentation on Scholarly Communication by Faye Couture, Director of Libraries at the College of St. Mary's. Faye gave an introductory presentation on methods and places for publication, a frequent requirement for academic librarians. Afterwards, the group discussed possible future events and had refreshments. The evening was coordinated by Michael Straatmann and Erin Willis. If you are interested in attending future meetings with this NEMO interest group, please contact Michael at mstraatmann1@unl.edu or Erin at erwillis@inebraska.com



ADVANCED CATALOGING -Fall 2008



Missouri students who wish to work in technical services departments are advised to take Advanced Cataloging which will be offered by Corinne Jacox in Fall 2008.

Since Missouri has removed Advanced Cataloging from their course list, NEMO students wishing to take the course will be admitted and register for the course at UNO and transfer it to Missouri when completed. If students do not have this course on their plan of study, Dr. Pasco will assist them in completing paperwork for the change in plan of study.

The process is as follows:

1) Get admitted into UNO as a Secondary Education Unclassified student (The unclassified status allows you to take any UNO graduate course you want – the secondary education designation doesn't matter and is just a convenient "umbrella" so that Dr. Pasco is assigned as your advisor.)

2) You can get admitted online at <https://ebruno.unomaha.edu/php/admissions/graduate>

Fill out the form, check the Secondary Education Unclassified box (and nothing else) – indicate you want to enroll in Fall 08 – give them their admissions fee (\$45 I think).

3) You'll receive a letter welcoming you to UNO Graduate College with a student number and login that you'll use to register for TED 8756 Advanced Cataloging.

4) Course dates/times will be:
TED 8756 - 850 Advanced Cataloging
Sundays 1-6PM
Criss Library 204

Jacox
August 24, September 21, October 26, November 16 and December 7.

Let Dr. Pasco know if you have any questions!

PLAN OF STUDY

If you have taken four or more classes and have not yet done so, you must contact Dr. Pasco for a discussion about your plan of study. The University of Missouri Graduate School requires that all students have an approved plan of study on file in order to graduate.

If you have made changes to the curriculum outlined in your plan of study, you must submit a substitution form to your advisor. You can not graduate if you haven't fulfilled the plan outlined in your plan of study. Do not procrastinate as these processes often takes months to approve.

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 preparatory materials, as well as links practice tests (see Test Takers –Prepare for the Test-GRE-GRE Practice General Test).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Its important for all of our students to keep up with the current library job postings. You never know when your "perfect" job might come along. We regularly send out an email with the current postings. Please read these! Even if you're not looking for a job, you may see something that you want to pass on to a classmate or colleague. In addition to reading these emails, take the initiative to check the website periodically. We only send out Nebraska postings, but you can view regional postings by accessing the website. So set aside 5 minutes every week to visit <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/jobsandcareers.asp> and check out who is looking to hire here in Nebraska and in other states as well.

Directions: Once you access this link, select "view by location", pick your state and then hit "GO". This site provides access to postings in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.



Advice from the Frontlines - Ted Smith Norfolk Public Library, Norfolk, NE



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

Working with my staff, and patrons. After all these years, I still love talking about books – especially fiction – with anyone who will take the time. I believe in the viability and sustainability of the printed word. I believe in the importance of libraries. I believe deeply that reading shapes lives and that reading frees the spirit to dream. So, I have a burning desire to promote reading.

In my capacity as Library Director, I also have a responsibility to do everything I can to keep our library from becoming a relic of the past. I love facing the future and making decisions about how our library will position itself to meet the future. I love change, and I love thinking about all the ways we can change and all the ways and things we must change. But change generally involves risk. I think library professionals need to be willing to take risks, to change constantly and to slay as many sacred cows as possible. Change can be fun. And, sometimes, you have to be willing to drag people along as you attempt change.

Listing all the aspects of my job that I enjoy is like trying to make a comprehensive list of my favorite books – it's not possible. I believe librarians and libraries are healthy only when shared vision, care and understanding are present. Librarians can't afford to be solely concerned with their individual issues; nor can we operate in a vacuum. As a result, I enjoy being involved with the Nebraska Library Association, the Nebraska Library Commission and information technology groups around the state.

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

OK, I'm going to answer this honestly and I'll bet my response is not what you are expecting: I believe people have value – even people with whom I disagree. I generally love people. Not to steal from Will Rogers, but I don't believe I've met too many people I don't like, or at least can't work with.

If I have encountered one thing in my professional life it's this: some people don't like to get along, some people spend way too much time focusing on very small issues and many people would rather fall on a sword than share their turf. I guess the one characteristic that has contributed to my success is that life is too short for me to worry about whether or not I have turf, or if the comment someone just made was a passive-aggressive attempt to disconcert me. There's too much to accomplish. I don't have time to waste trying to figure out who wronged who or who's sandbox this is and whether or not I might be allowed to play in it. I also don't mind if people want to play in my sandbox. Maybe it's my generation but thank God and John Lennon cause "All you need is Love."

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

In a profession that has existed almost solely on the mantra of precision and inflexibility, we need to concentrate less on policy and procedure and more on meeting a customer's need in the fastest, least restrictive way we can. I'm certain some of the changes libraries have undergone, especially the move to bookstore displays, have driven a few in our profession over the edge. I'm not trying to make light of the situation – I know many people feel like we've lost our way – but it's time to let go of the idea that we are the only qualified caretakers of information, and that librarians have the only sure way of making information accessible. Patrons don't care about AACR2 and they have no knowledge of a MARC record. Other entities have entered our arena, and while we argue over minutiae, they are doing a fairly good job of providing access to information. They are doing this without the benefit of library degrees and without the AACR2 Bible, without MARC and without perfectly developed online catalogs.

Most patrons are keyword searching and most are happy with the results they get when doing so. This is true whether they are searching our online catalogs, or Google. For most patrons, close is good enough. As librarians, we feel it is our duty to show the world there's a better way – and there is – but that is beside the point.

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

Our ONE Library Consortium is a collaboration that has been extremely successful. ONE Library is a consortium of multi-type libraries in Nebraska that use one shared automation system on one shared server. ONE Library was birthed in 1999 and the original members included Norfolk Public Library, Columbus Public Library and Northeast Community College. In the spring of 2004 the three campuses of Central Community College joined the Consortium, and in January of 2006 Wayne Public Library and South Sioux City Public Library were added to the group. During the winter of 2007, Schuyler Public Library and Scottsbluff Public Library became members of the ONE Library Consortium.



Ted Smith interview continued...



The idea for the ONE Library Consortium was birthed in 1999, when I began sharing my ideas about a way for replacing aging text-based automation systems. I started with library directors from Northeast Community College and Columbus Public Library because all three of our libraries were in the same boat: broadband internet access was available, our IT staff was limited, we all needed new servers and our automation vendors were not responsive to our needs. The idea was to find a product capable of meeting our individual library needs, make a group purchase, buy one server and use the internet as the means for conducting our business. It didn't take a lot of discussion before everyone agreed that forming a consortium was a good idea.

In the spring of 2000, the group of three directors began writing grants to help fund the project. From the beginning, the intention of the Consortium was to purchase one hardware platform and software that would allow for the addition of other libraries to the group. Because we were building something new and because we had a vision for including other libraries in our project, grants for the initial project were awarded by the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Information Technology Commission.

The server for ONE Library is located at Norfolk Public Library and the City of Norfolk provides IT staff to manage the technical aspects of the project. I manage the Consortium's day-to-day business affairs and Consortium members pay a small annual fee for the services provided by the City of Norfolk. Members of the ONE Library Consortium have established by-laws and meet quarterly for the discussion of issues, sharing of ideas and training. To

ONE Library now stretches across the state from South Sioux City to Scottsbluff. Financially, the ONE Library Consortium saves tax-payer dollars year in and year out. We have been more successful than we ever dreamed and have generated a great amount of interest around the state. We have a number of libraries "in the wings" waiting to join our group.

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

Novels, Novels and more Novels. I love good writing and when I experience it, I don't mind reading a page, a paragraph, or a sentence, two or three times.

A short list of my favorite books include:

- A Prayer for Owen Meany
- The Road
- The Milagro Beanfield War
- Catch-22
- Life of Pi
- Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
- Great Expectations
- The Bible
- Cold Sassy Tree
- The God of Small Things
- The Poisonwood Bible
- Angela's Ashes
- A River Runs Through It
- The Mysterious Stranger Manuscripts
- Crime and Punishment

Thank you for your poignant responses and for all that you bring to the profession, Mr. Smith!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There is funding available for students pursuing library studies. Please take advantage of these opportunities. These scholarships are waiting to be snapped up by deserving students like you. Please make the decision to apply. Your educational journey is worthwhile, but it's not free. Let NLC, NLA and NEMA help!

Nebraska Library Commission:

21st Century Librarian Scholarships - The NLC offers \$1000.00 for students pursuing their Bachelor's in Library Science and \$2500.00 for students pursuing a Master's in Library Science. See

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/Scholarships.asp> for more information concerning the application process as well as various deadlines. Get busy! The next deadline will be here before you know it.

Nebraska Library Association:

Louise A. Nixon Scholarship

This \$1000.00 scholarship is available to any Nebraska student in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Library Science. (Deadline: April 15, 2008)

Duane Munson Scholarship

This \$250.00 scholarship is available to help practicing librarians pay for continuing education. (Deadline: April 15, 2008). See <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm> for more information.

Nebraska Educational Media Association:

Continuing Education Scholarship

NEMA awards two \$800.00 scholarships to practicing school library media specialists and paraprofessionals each year. (Deadline: March 15, 2008)

Duane Munson Scholarship

This \$250.00 scholarship is available to help practicing school library media specialists pay for continuing education. (Deadline: August 15, 2008)

See http://nema.k12.ne.us/mem.dir/award_scholar.html for more information.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT -MARTHA GRENZEBACK



What is your education/library/professional background?

Librarianship is a change in career for me. I got my B.A. in Spanish and French and followed that up with a diploma in translation at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. I then spent many years (exactly how many is a deep dark secret I *won't* share) as a translator, mostly of academic books and articles. At a certain point, however—coinciding with moving back to the US after 20 years spent in Israel—I began to feel I needed a change, and decided to pursue my childhood dream: being a librarian! (Yes, I was a bookworm.) I enrolled in the University of Missouri-Columbia MLS program and have just three more classes to go to get my degree. Over the last two years or so, I've been working as a computer tech and circulation assistant at the Abrahams branch of the Omaha Public Library and enjoying myself. I also worked for some years as a volunteer at the Family History Center in Omaha, a genealogical library. I still do some translating, but only projects that are especially tempting.

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

My want-to-read list is probably too long to fit in these pages! First, I would highly recommend any of Connie Willis's time-travel books, all of E.M. Forster's books (especially *A Room with a View*), Rumer Godden (especially *China Court*), Barbara Kingsolver, Jane Austen (of course), and Terry Pratchett. Books that I've read recently and enjoyed include *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls; *Musophilica*, by Oliver Sacks, one of my very favorite authors; *Undercover*, a YA novel by Beth Kephart (I read a fair amount of YA and children's literature); *Go with Me*, by Castle Freeman; and *The Know-It-All*, by A.J. Jacobs (very funny! Now I'm waiting for *The Year of Living Biblically* by the same author). When I help out at the circulation desk, I'm exposed to a lot of temptation.

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

My library classes have introduced me to many journals and professional publications that I might never have heard of otherwise. An article that has stuck with me now for at least a year is "What Is Going on at the Library of Congress?" by librarian Thomas Mann (*Progressive Librarian* 28, Winter 2006/7)—a terrific (if rather grumpy) defense of subject headings and classified bookstacks!

Now I look for his articles. Otherwise, one of my favorite journals for "fun" reading is *Public Libraries*, which offers a lot of practical inspiration. I also recommend joining a couple of library- or book-related listserves. I am currently on GENALIB for genealogical librarians (a particular interest of mine), and am on temporary "vacation" from two great (but very busy) mailing lists, CHILDLIT (for children's literature) and PUBYAC (for children's and YA librarians). These have all been great sources of information and ideas, and are wonderful places to seek help with library, book, or research questions.

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

I read, of course! Another major hobby (obsession?) is genealogical research; my idea of a perfect vacation is one spent in a research library such as the Newberry Library or the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. I also enjoy gardening (in season), listening to music, and walking.

What deep dark secret would you like to share? I actually enjoy shelving books....

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 think I have a good ability to adapt my approach to the person I'm with and the situation I'm in. A patron (or staff member!) who is feeling threatened by change needs to be treated differently than someone who is eager for the latest innovation; and some people want personal interaction while others just want specific information or assistance. This is a time of such great change technologically and socially that we have to be especially sensitive to the feelings, fears, and cultural backgrounds of others as we cheerlead for our great new toys, introduce new policies, or suggest innovations. I really enjoy "spreading the good news" and introducing people to new possibilities or resources. My other asset is a good sense of humor—essential both for dealing with people and for staying sane!

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

I know it seems as though work, classes, and family take up all your time, but try to attend workshops, conferences, and lectures when you can—and there are some great free or almost free continuing-education opportunities out there. Not only will they give you new ideas, they are an excellent way to meet other people in the profession (or related professions), and you'll come home revved up and reminded of why you are getting this degree! By the same token, join professional organizations and perhaps run for office—the sections and round tables of the NLA are always looking for fresh blood (in some cases, anything with a pulse...). Just don't believe them when they tell you (as they will) that it won't take up any time at all—it will, but it's worth it. It really connects you to the bigger picture in the library world, and socially it's very enjoyable! (Speaking here as the forcibly recruited Spring Meeting Chair of the Paraprofessional Section....)

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

I see two main challenges: rapid technological change, and rapid social change. Libraries will have to keep changing and adapting, while continuing to maintain their guiding principles (and their subject headings J). Libraries can play such an important role as community centers, and they need to market that.

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

I get so excited about libraries and the services that they uniquely provide to everyone, from the millionaire to the homeless. My greatest goal is to pass that excitement on to as many people as possible.

Any Last Words?

I think I've probably said enough already. That's my other deep dark secret (probably not a secret, if you've read this far): I tend to ramble.

Thank you for your encouragement and enthusiasm, Martha! We're so glad someone likes to shelve books...



GET READY TO GET THE JOB

Following are a few tips that were pulled from Carol Tripp's article, "Be Prepared and Interview with Confidence". Its worth your time to peruse the entire article (see full citation below) as it is full of insight and down-to-earth tips for interviewing well.

Tripp, C.J. (1999). Be prepared and interview with confidence. *Library Mosaics*, 10(3), 8-11. Retrieved April 23, 2008, from Wilsonweb database.

BEFORE YOU APPLY...

- Review your qualifications for the position. Examine your abilities and preferences to evaluate whether or not you are a good match. Then prepare an accurate, complete application and an updated resume tailored to this position.
- Do not overstate or misrepresent your experience or qualifications
- Translate your existing skills or experience into library-related tasks.

WAITING FOR AN INTERVIEW...

- Challenge yourself to obtain additional information about this particular facility. If the library is in your area, take a personal tour through the building...Tour the surrounding community to get a sense of the available services.

SCHEDULING AN INTERVIEW...

- Ask whether you need to bring anything with you -- a writing sample perhaps. Be as specific as possible.
- Ask who will be conducting your interview and their job position in the organization.

REDUCE INTERVIEW STRESS

- Select your attire in advance. Dress comfortably, but appropriately for a business setting.
- Prepare your list of questions for the interview committee. What do you need to know about this library or this position in order to be clear about the situation and whether or not it's a "match" for your interests, abilities and skills?
- Review library terminology, especially acronyms (for example, OCLC Dynix, etc.). Review the technology.
- Prepare a packet of information about yourself, and bring at least two copies to leave with the interview committee...Include your resume and samples of projects.
- Ask a friend to help you practice your answers to usual interview questions. See examples below:
- * Give us an example of how you handled...
 - * Explain or describe your experience with...
 - * What do (did) you like least about your current or last position?

* What do (did) you like best...

* What have you learned about supervising student workers or volunteers...

* Tell us about your experience with team management...

- Check your resume for misspellings or grammatical errors, and practice phrasing your answers to questions in easy-to-understand language

THE INTERVIEW...

- Allow sufficient travel time. Review the directions and parking information.
- You will need note-taking materials. Bring them with you
- Confirm the names of the members of the interview committee with the receptionist, and explain that you like to send notes of appreciation after an interview. Use this opportunity to observe the activity at the workstations around you and the behavior of employees in this workplace. committee with the receptionist, and explain that you like to send notes of appreciation after an interview. Use this opportunity to observe the activity at the workstations around you and the behavior of employees in this workplace.
- Take a list of points about your work experience or abilities that you want to emphasize.
- Expect to be tested. The business of *libraries* requires high standards of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Be pleasant and relaxed. Demonstrating the ability to remain calm in stressful situations may be essential to the position.
- Be positive.
- Tell them what they want or need to know -- don't include these "facts:"
 - * You have a bad job.
 - * You have a poor superior.
 - * You are not popular in your current position.
 - * You have a physical disability which does not affect your job performance.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- As soon as possible after your *interview*, write and mail a thank you note to the *interview* committee.
- When considering a job offer remember, it is considered poor form to shout, "Hooray, I'm out of here!" in the middle of your current workplace.

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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 hearts of men centuries dead.

- Clarence Day

To my fellow students, peers, and colleagues,

For the past two years I have had the honor and pleasure of serving as your Graduate Assistant. It has been a wonderful experience from start to finish. I believe in this program -its purpose, its character, and the quality of professionals who emerge from its depths. I have met many amazing people along the way and I am proud that I will work side by side with you in this profession. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the wisdom, experiences, and laughs that you have shared with me along the way. I wish you each of you the very best. And I reserve a special thank you for Dr. Rebecca Pasco who, over the past three and a half years, has challenged, taught, mentored and encouraged me. I am so grateful.

Best,

Erica Rose

PS Its summertime , friends (almost). Enjoy yourselves!