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University of Nebraska at Omaha

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UNO Library Science Education Programs Newsletter

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Advice from the Frontlines—Gail Formanack Omaha Public Schools Supervisor of Library Services

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

When providing direct service to patrons, I always receive a great reward from meeting their needs either with a specific piece of information, a material, or a teaching strategy. My biggest joy comes in the design of instructional experiences that open students', teachers' or librarians' eyes to new understandings. Staff development for teachers and librarians is the most important aspect of my current position. Increasing the capacity of our professional educators to be optimally effective with students is my mission, and I am very rewarded when I see educators embrace new ideas and approaches.

various patrons has served me well. The fields of both librarianship and education have seen much change in the almost three decades I have been working in the profession. Aside from the books, paper, and pen, almost all of the tools of the trade have been transformed. An information professional must be a life-long learner and be prepared to embrace change.

the design of a public/school library. In addition to the library, the joint-use facility will house a K-4 elementary school and a city recreation center. The design process required some creativity as we endeavored to have a single, unified library while keeping in mind the safety of students. The plans should be going out to bid this fall with an anticipated opening date of August, 2009. I look forward to the continued collaboration as we work through operational issues in anticipation of the opening.

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

I believe that one must be very aware of how the information-seeking behaviors of our patrons are changing as the access to technology becomes so readily available. We have to be prepared to meet them where they are.

On a lighter note: When the work day is done, what do you like to read?

There are always a lot of professional journals to read, but my true joy is escaping into a good work of fiction. One of my favorite authors is Diana Gabaldon who has written a number of historical fiction novels involving time travel.

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

I would say that the ability to adapt to a changing environment and the needs of

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

I am very excited to be working in collaboration with the Omaha Public Library in

Thank you, Gail, for all of you hard work and your wonderful contributions to the profession!



Student Spotlight—Bridget Kratt

U.N.O. Library Science Graduate Assistant

What is your education / library / professional background?

I graduated from UNO in 1992 with a B.S. in Communications and worked in Journalism and Advertising for several years. But, in 1998 I decided to quit “just thinking” about going into Education, and actually make a move. I returned to UNO, received my B.S. in Elementary Education in 2000, and taught 4th grade in O.P.S. until the birth of my second child. I returned to UNO in 2004 to pursue my Masters in Reading, but after just one conversation with Dr. Pasco, I quickly added the Library Media Endorsement to my plan of study. She had me hooked! I am currently her Graduate Assistant, and work in the Education Resource Room in Kayser Hall. It's great hands-on experience .

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

Right now, the majority of books on my reading list are for my Young Adult Literature class. I just finished *Looking for Alaska*, by John Green, which I highly recommend, and I am currently reading *Jude*, by Kate Morgenroth. I have to admit that Young Adult literature was an area I had not ventured into prior to this class, but I have found the titles and the topics covered within them quite intriguing. My “want to read list” is too lengthy to include here. Let's just say that there many great books out there, and not enough time to read them all!

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

I just finished reading *Adolescent Liter-*

acy In Perspective, and went through every article and vignette in the edition. It's put out by the Ohio Resource Center, and has great tips from experts in the field, as well as teacher written articles and insight from students. I also read *School Library Journal*, and make it a point to read their articles on Information Literacy.

What do you do in your "down time"? Do you have any hobbies? How do you relax?

Down time? What's down time? Work, school, and family keep me pretty busy... and not necessarily in that order. My husband and I have a 7-year old daughter and a 5-year old son, both of whom keep us moving. But, when we aren't at some scheduled activity, we like to go for walks and bike rides, and just hang out together! I also enjoy scrap booking, and usually have my camera close by to capture those “Kodak moments”!

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

Secrets aren't meant to be shared!

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

My willingness to be open to change and my willingness to continue to learn. If we close ourselves off we will never grow, and our students/patrons will be the ones who suffer because of it.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Take advantage of the low cost of Student Memberships, and join some of the wonderful organizations available to us! It's a great way to stay current on issues and make contacts for the future!

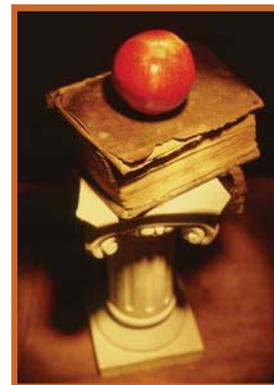
What do you see as key future trends and challenges for Library Information Specialists?

It seems as though everything has gone or is going digital. Keeping up with the technology, and educating our patrons on how to use it, puts us in a very different and exciting position.

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

I read recently that the word “library” comes from the Latin “to set free”. I hope that my legacy will be that I helped set my students free!

Thank you for contributing, Bridget. Best of luck this semester!



He is wise who knows the sources of knowledge—where it is written and where it is to be found.

A.A. Hodge
(1823-1886)

Alumni Spotlight—Tara Glunz-Fries
Media Specialist—North Star High School -Lincoln, Nebraska

What is your education / library / professional background?

I completed my Masters Degree in Secondary Education in May 2007, and will complete my Library Media practicum this spring to finish my endorsement. This is my first year as a Media Specialist at North Star High School in Lincoln, and I love it!

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

I am currently reading *American Born Chinese*, by Gene Luen Yang and *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, by Ned Vizzini. My reading list is too long to even know where to start. Books I would recommend include *Looking for Alaska*, by John Green and *Twilight*, by Stephenie Meyer.

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

The professional journals I read include *VOYA*, *Teacher Librarian*, *School Library Journal*, and *LMC*. I would recommend any article or book by Joyce Valenza. She is an amazing Media Specialist and strong advocate for our profession. Check out her school library website at: <http://www.sdst.org/shs/library>

What do you do in your "down time"? Do you have any hobbies? How do you relax?

I spend time reading and laughing with my husband and two children.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

If I told, then it wouldn't be much of a secret anymore!

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 love the idea of working smarter, not harder. Anytime that I can simplify my teaching and keep students engaged, I have accomplished a great deal. Web 2.0 technologies enable me to do just that.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

When selecting a topic for a project, choose something that is of meaning to you so that you can implement it immediately. Plus, you will have helped your classmates who are always looking for great ideas to use in their library.

What do you see as key future trends and challenges for Library Information Specialists?

I think Google will continue to be an issue. It's hard to teach an old dog new tricks!

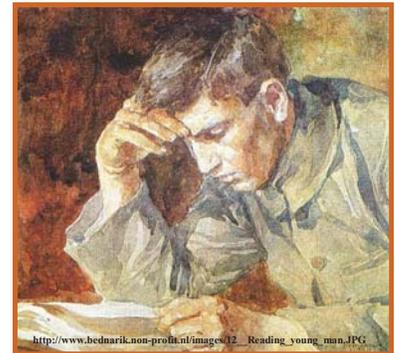
What do you think will be your legacy in this profession?

I dream big so the sky is the limit.

Any last words?

Get ready to enjoy the best profession out there. I love every part of my job each and every day!

Thank you, Tara, for your words of wisdom and encouragement. Best of luck at North Star High School.



I've never known any trouble that an hour's reading didn't assuage.

Charles de Secondat
(1689-1755)

Announcements

Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

Scholarship Opportunities:

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

American Library Association

The American Library Association and its units provide more than \$300,000 annually for a Master's Degree in library and information studies from an ALA accredited program, or for a Master's Degree in school library media that meets the ALA curriculum guidelines for a National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accredited unit. The scholarship process is open annually from October-March. Applications and reference forms (which must be submitted on-line) are available during that time period. Instructions and general information remain available year round. For a complete list of available scholarships, visit the ALA at:
<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=scholarships>

Nebraska Library Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission awards scholarships to Nebraskans for coursework and degree programs in library studies. The NLC offers scholarships valued at \$1000.00 for students pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Library Science or School Library Media. The NLC also offers scholarships valued at \$2500.00 for students pursuing a Master's of Library and/or Information Science degree (MLS), or those seeking a Master of Education degree in School Library Media. For information and deadlines, visit the NLC at:
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Scholarships.asp>

Scholarship Opportunities Continued:

Nebraska Library Association

The NLA established the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund to provide \$1000.00 to any Nebraska student in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Library/Information Science, or a Master's Degree in a media program that meets the ALA/AASL curriculum guidelines. The \$250.00 Duane Munson Scholarship is available to help practicing librarians and paraprofessionals to gain additional library-related education and training. For submission and deadline information, visit the NLC at:
<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm>

Nebraska Educational Media Association

NEMA awards two \$800.00 continuing education scholarships to school library Media Specialists and paraprofessionals who wish to gain additional professional training in the field on a full or part time basis. For more information, visit NEMA at:
<http://www.nema.k12.ne.us/mem.dir/Conted/html>

Registration Information:

Spring 2008 Registration Dates

The Spring 2008 schedule will be available for viewing on E-BRUNO October 19th. Registration dates are as follows:

11-5-07	Graduate Students
11-7-07	Seniors
11-9-07	Juniors
11-13-07	Sophomores
11-15-07	Freshmen
11-19-07	Open Registration

Classes fill up quickly, so be ready to register during your assigned time! Contact Dr. Pasco with any questions.

Spring 2008 Comprehensive Exams:

Selective Retention must be submitted and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. The registration deadline is Friday, **January 25th** for those students taking comprehensive exams during the Spring 2008 semester!

To register, contact Joyce Jones in the Department of Teacher Education
Phone: 402-554-2212 or
1-800-858-8648, ext. 2212
Email: jjones@mail.unomaha.edu

Graduation:

You must complete an Application for Degree during the semester in which you plan to graduate. Log into E-BRUNO and fill out the application on or before the deadline for that Graduation Ceremony. The deadline is **October 19th** for students planning to graduate during the Fall 2007 semester.

There is a \$25 Application for Degree Fee payable at the time the application is submitted.

After applying for your degree, visit the UNO Bookstore to order your cap, gown, and graduation announcements.



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

Andrew Carnegie
(1835-1919)

Ask Mr. Technology

By Joe Huber

Courtesy of: Huber, J. (2007). Ask Mr. Technology. *Library Media Connection*, 26 (2), p. 59.

Q: *During the past few months I have been reading about Web 2.0. What exactly is this, and will it change the way I use the Internet?*

A: Web 2.0 is a term often applied to a perceived transition of the World Wide Web from a collection of Web sites to a full-fledged computing platform serving web applications to end users. Ultimately Web 2.0 services are expected to replace desktop computing applications for many purposes. The phrase "Web 2.0" was coined by O'Reilly Media in 2004, referring to Web services such as social networking sites, wikis, communication tools, and folksonomies that emphasize online collaboration and sharing among users. O'Reilly Media used the phrase as a title for a series of conferences, and it has since become widely adopted.

Q: *Some of my browser "favorites" used to have special icons with them, then they disappeared. Why?*

A: These icons are called "favicons", and you can get them back by resaving the favorites again. You can avoid this problem from happening again by upgrading to Internet Explorer 7 or by switching to Firefox.



Q: *I am still using Office 2000, and up until now have seen no need to upgrade. I heard recently that Office 2007 has many new changes I may want to explore, especially online collaboration tools. Is Office 2007 worth the change?*

A: Office 2007 has a totally different file format than older versions of Office. Office 2007 uses an XML file format to achieve online collaboration. This means, for example, that Word saves a documents as a .docx not a .doc. While Office 2007 Word can open older Word documents, older versions of Word will not be able to open Word 2007 documents unless they are saved in the old .doc format. That means you will lose some of the formatting you have in your document. (This happens the least in Word, more in Excel, and PowerPoint can be a disaster.) Another thing you will find is that Office 2007 no longer has a command bar at the top of the screen. It has been replaced with what Microsoft calls the "ribbon". The ribbon automatically changes depending on what task you are doing, so the commands you need for the task at hand are always at the top of the page. Also, Office 2007 no longer includes FrontPage. This has been replaced with a new suite of applications called Microsoft Expression Web, a web design application that includes a photo editing product and a high-end publishing and video-editing product.

Q: *I spilled some water on my laptop! It still starts up, but the keyboard and mouse do not work. What should I do?*

A: First, be thankful it still starts. Second, use an external mouse or keyboard and copy all the data off of the laptop to some other device (a CD, DVD, USB drive, network, etc.). Third, go to an electronics store and purchase some canned air. Set the laptop so it looks like an "A" and dry it completely with the canned air. Then let it sit for 24 hours and dry it again. IF the keyboard and mouse still do not work, you will have to return the unit to the manufacturer for repair.

Joe Huber is the director of information systems at Greenwood Community School Corporation. He is the author of the new title *Ask Mr. Technology, Get Answers* (Linworth Publishing, 2007).



No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.

Confucius
(551 B.C.—479 B.C.)