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Library Education and Development Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 3

UNO Library Science Education
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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L.E.A.D.

Library Education and Development Newsletter

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Advice from the Frontlines: Wendy Grojean

*School Librarian
Bellevue East High School
Bellevue Public Schools*

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

I enjoy finding a good book for a reluctant reader to get them hooked on reading. I think we all remember "the book" that got us hooked and I love the thought of helping students find that for themselves. The process of finding this book for students helps me get to know them better and gives me insight on my collection as well. If I can create a bond with a student then more often than not, they keep coming back! This is very rewarding to me.

I like trouble-shooting problems-with technology, or a research topic, or whatever comes my way on any given day. Finding a solution to benefit my students or staff is also very rewarding. Collaborating with my staff is one of the highlights of my day. I

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(Grojean cont.)

like working with a teacher to plan a project and see it through to the end. With the teacher's expertise on the content and my knowledge of resources that are out there, we have planned some great activities that benefit student learning. It is all very exciting to watch the learning take place. Ultimately, I like to help others and find it very rewarding when I can do so.

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

Persistence. I am exhaustingly persistent. I don't give up very easily. This persistence has enabled me to exhaust all possible sources and required me to be creative when searching for a solution to a problem. I am also persistent when it comes to working with my students and staff. I like to ensure that they are successful and make numerous attempts to check in with them and their progress. I think this has helped me be successful as an information professional because I find creative ways to solve problems and my students and staff know that I will not give up!

What one issue should future librarians be prepared to address?

2.0 tools into the classroom in a way that is safe and manageable for student use. Teacher librarians should be involved in this process and should be educated on what tools are available and appropriate for educational purposes. I think teacher librarians should play a role in educating staff, students, and parents about these tools and should be seen as a resource in a building/district.

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

A new teacher approached me with a Powerpoint project that she was going to have her students do on the elements of the periodic table of elements. I asked her why she chose Powerpoint and she said that she, "didn't know what else to do." So I asked her if she would be willing to try a different presentation tool called prezi.com. Thankfully, this first year teacher was willing to take a chance and we worked together to tweak her project criteria/rubric for the students to use Prezi.

I relied on her knowledge of the content (since I am a former English teacher) and she relied on my knowledge of the tool. She made an example Prezi and I presented on how to use Prezi to the class. The students were in awe of her Prezi and were excited to make one on their own. I was able to work with her and her students for a few days while they were creating the project and the final products were very fun for the students to present. Oftentimes, after the students presented other students would ask how the presenter had made Prezi do a certain "cool trick."

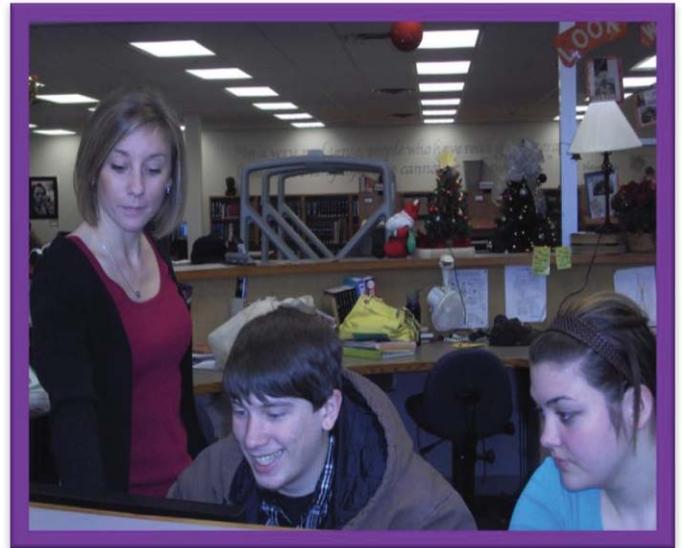
This was a great teaching and learning experience overall. I was able to establish the trust of a new staff member for future collaboration. We were able to utilize a new presentation tool because the project wasn't too content heavy and the only
(continued on page 3)

(Grojean cont.)

resource was the textbook. The learning continued throughout the presentations and beyond. Word spread throughout her department and we are doing similar projects in the science department now. As a side note, we still allowed the use of posters and Powerpoint for differentiation purposes.

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

For my "lighter" reading, I like Nicholas Sparks and Richard Paul Evans. My book club has gotten me hooked on the Stieg Larsson books (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*). I also like to read the hot YA books and I'm really into the dystopian books like *Unwind* and *Hunger Games*. I'm usually listening to a book in my car and reading 3 or 4 others at a time. There isn't enough time in the day!



Wendy Grojean working with students from Bellevue East.

***Thank you, Wendy,
for sharing your
professional insights!***



Wendy Grojean working with student from Bellevue East.

“The length of your education is less important than its breadth, and the length of your life is less important than its depths.”

Marilyn vos Savant (1946-) National columnist and author. Executive at Jarvik Heart, Inc.

Student Spotlight: Lisa Schwartz ***Librarian, Council Bluffs Community Schools***

What is your education / library/experience background?

In 1983, I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Special Education. I earned an M. S. at Creighton in Learning Disabilities in 1989. I have taught for twenty-eight years, all in Council Bluffs. After teaching special education 4th-9th grade for fourteen years, I moved to general education classes teaching 1st-3rd grade for the next twelve years. Approximately three years ago, I heard Council Bluffs was going to hire elementary teacher librarians, and I LOVE libraries, so here I am having just completed my certification as a teacher librarian!

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

I have been reading a lot of books of interest to intermediate grade levels lately because I have been doing book clubs. They include: *The Jacket*, *The Graveyard Book*, *Big Nate*, *The Boy in Striped Pajamas*, and *The Unfinished Angel*. In my adult life, I enjoy reading Nicholas Sparks and Richard Paul Evans. Some of my favorite classics include *The Shepherd of the Hills*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. My neighbor, Lorna Seilstad,

recently authored her first published book called *Making Waves*. It is from the Lake Manawa Summers series. Since I was born and raised in Council Bluffs, I'm excited to read her historical fiction novel about our great community. Someday, when I have lots of time, I want to read the Harry Potter books!

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

I have read many lately, but I would recommend *Library Media Connection* because I feel the articles are current issues and topics, and I enjoy reading the reviews on new books.

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

I enjoy watching high school and college football. My teams are the Iowa Hawkeyes, Northern Iowa Panthers, and the Notre Dame Fightin' Irish. Sorry, all you Nebraska fans! I enjoy movies, cooking, scrap booking, and reading, but my favorite thing to do is travel. It is my personal goal to travel to every continent before I meet my maker!

(continued on page 5)

(Schwartz cont.)

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I am curious about past lives, and if I had past lives, where and when did they happen? Just thinking...was I an Egyptian princess, or a woman of the Westward movement? Maybe that is why I love books. They take me to those places and times!

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

By nature, I'm very helpful and patient, and a family trait is the smile, so I guess those would be two of many important personal qualities beneficial for a library information specialist, welcoming and helpful. I have never been afraid of new academic pursuits, which keeps me current in what is going on in preparing people to navigate their way through the ever-changing 21st century. I am fascinated with what technology can do for us, and in helping others see how it can help them.

What advice do you have for other students who are currently enrolled in Library Science studies?

Well, never put off until tomorrow, what you can do today! Life can be overwhelming at times, but I find it is just best to dig in and you'll be amazed at what you can accomplish! Never lose the desire to learn. At 50, I feel I'm just beginning when it comes to embarking on the 21st century!

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

Keeping up with all the information out there and the ever-changing technology is huge! There is something new all the time, therefore, if you slow down for a moment on what's out there, you get behind in the game quickly. I feel it is important for me to attend as many professional development opportunities as possible. Of course, money will always be a barrier to what schools can do because the technology is expensive. We need to be mindful consumers of how and what we do with the money we have.

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

I hope the fact that I have been in school nearly every year of my life is witness to how much I value education. Libraries are an important asset to every school. Since school libraries have not been a priority in Council Bluffs for a while, I hope that I will be remembered as someone who fought to keep school libraries as an integral part of our schools. I know that the teacher librarians in Council Bluffs must advocate for our libraries, as well as the importance of being collaborators to help move students and teachers in the acquisition of 21st century skills. Currently the school libraries in Council Bluffs are viewed as only places that have someone checking in and out books. Our libraries need to be viewed

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(Schwartz cont.)

as an important center of information resources, with teachers who are viewed as the information specialists of the school. We don't know everything, but we know how to go out and show folks how to get the information they need. We need the support of our district, and administrators won't know what we need if we don't tell them.



Lisa Schwartz, Council Bluffs Community Schools

Thank you, Lisa, for taking the time to share your talents and your ideas!

Collaboration, instruction, interaction



Lisa collaborating with a teacher from Bloomer Elementary School, Council Bluffs



Lisa working with a student from Bloomer Elementary School, Council Bluffs

“Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.”

Laura Bush

Announcements: ***Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation***

Scholarship Opportunities

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 continuing education scholarships to school librarians who wish to gain additional professional training in the field on a full or part time basis. For more information, visit NEMA at:
<http://schoollibrariesrock.org/scholarships.html>

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). The scholarship process is open annually from October-March. Applications and reference forms are available during that time period. Instructions and general information remain available year round. For a complete list of available scholarships, visit the ALA
<http://www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/scholarships/index.cfm>

P.E.O. Continuing Education Grant

The Program for Continuing Education is a grant providing financial assistance to women whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to resume studies due to changing demands in their lives. They must have a need for financial assistance with their educational expenses to improve their marketable skills. Eligible women must be a citizen of and studying in the US or Canada, must have had at least 24 consecutive months as a non-student in her adult life, is within 24 consecutive months of completing her educational goal, and is not enrolled in a doctoral degree program. Grants may be awarded for academic or technical courses. Maximum grant is \$3000. No matter the amount awarded, the grant is for one time only. All applications must be received at least 10 weeks prior to beginning of the term for which the grant is requested. If interested, please contact Mary Kay Nelson 308-785-2193 or
marynelson@amykirchnerdesign.com

New Grant Opportunities

Internship Grants from the Nebraska Library Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission is now offering **internship grants** (range: \$500 - \$1,000) to accredited Nebraska public libraries who wish to increase awareness about library professions and education and the opportunities for employment in Nebraska libraries. This internship grant program achieves several goals -- **Interns** see what goes on behind-the-scenes and are introduced to the varied and exciting work in libraries. **Libraries** often find they can expand services and programming. **Community members** appreciate seeing fresh faces and knowing that "one of their own" is working locally. Public

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(Scholarships, Registration... cont.)

libraries may choose to partner with other libraries to offer a greater variety of work settings. The online application is due **February 28, 2011**. Visit <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Internships.asp> for details and to apply. The Nebraska Library Commission's internship grant program is funded through a Laura Bush 21st Century Skills program grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and offered in partnership with the Nebraska Library Association. Contact Kathryn Brockmeier, kathryn.brockmeier@nebraska.gov, 800-307-2665, for more information.

Elementary Education, Secondary Education and Reading Comprehensive Exams

Comprehensive Exam Deadlines

Selective Retention must be submitted and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. Please make note of the following registration deadlines.

Summer 2011:

Elementary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **May 6th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Summer 2011 semester**. **Elementary Education graduates** must attend the **Comprehensive Exam meeting on May 18 (Tentative date) at 8 pm**. Approximate due date, **June 21st**.

Reading Majors: The registration deadline is **April 18th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Summer 2011** semester.

Reading graduates must attend a **Comprehensive Exam meeting April 27th**. Approximate due date, **June 20th**.

Secondary Education Majors: The registration deadline is **May 6th** for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the **Summer 2011** semester. The **Secondary Exam** will be given on **June 25th** in Kayser Hall.

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

Registration

Summer 2011 Registration

The **Summer 2011** class schedule will be made available online on **3-30-11**. On **2-15-11** advising flags for **Summer 2011** and **Fall 2011** will be posted on Mavlink. Summer registration dates are as follows:

4-11-11	Graduate Students
4-12-11	Seniors
4-13-11	Juniors
4-14-11	Sophomores
4-15-11	Freshman
4-18-11	Open Registration

Fall 2011 Registration

The Fall 2011 class schedule will be made available online on 4-01-11. Registration dates are as follows:

4-18-11	Graduate Students
4-20-11	Seniors
4-22-11	Juniors
4-26-11	Sophomores
4-28-11	Freshman
5-02-11	Open Registration

Classes fill up quickly, so be sure to register on the appropriate dates to increase the probability of getting into the classes you need.

Graduation

2011 Spring Graduation

The deadline is **March 5th** for students planning to graduate during the **Spring 2011** semester. The commencement ceremony is scheduled for **May 7th, 2011 at the Civic Auditorium**. (Graduation information is subject to change).

Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and More!

Eastern Library System School Librarian Day

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Come together with other school librarians for a day of fun, food, friendship and learning. **A registration form can be found at the end of this newsletter.**

The registration fee is \$20. You may fax your registration form directly to the ESL office at (402) 330-1859, and pay at the door, or send your check for \$20, written out to ELS, and completed form to 11929 Elm Street, Suite 18, Omaha, NE 68144. For questions please contact Kathy Tooker, at ktooker@windstream.net. Kathy's phone number is 402-330-7884.



NETA 2011 Annual conference

April 28-29, 2011

This year's theme is "e³: empower, encourage, engage." Location: LaVista Embassy Suites & Conference Center, Exit 442, Harrison Street. Registration costs: Full conference (2 Days) \$115; One day, \$80. Find more information at http://www.netasite.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=65

2010 AASL Fall Forum Reflections

Deborah Kendell and Helen Cologne had the opportunity to attend the 2010 AASL Fall Forum, IN FOCUS, held in Portland, Oregon. Here is what they have to say about their experiences.

Deborah Kendall: As a pre-service librarian, the AASL Fall Forum in Portland, Oregon was an inspiring opportunity. The keynote speaker, Paige Johnson from Intel, used the business world phrase "eating your own dog food" to describe the format of the forum. That is to say that, in addition to the wealth of information contained in the presentations, the teachers experienced learning in the manner they expect to use with students. Using social networking technology, the participants actively participated in developing essential questions at the heart of the library sciences. Groups collaborated to choose burning questions related to the 21st Century Skills and the specific needs of the teachers and students in their home schools, created action plans, and engaged in discussions as 'critical friends,' to refine the thinking of the group. Exhausted and invigorated, I returned from the forum with a suitcase filled with notes, more books than I probably should have purchased and, most importantly, the experience of meeting and collaborating with school librarians from

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(forums cont.)

across the country. It was a memorable combination of enduring understanding and the beginning of enduring friendships.



Deborah Kendall

Helen Cologne: The 2010 AASL Fall Forum, IN FOCUS: The Essentials for 21st-Century Learning-- was held in Portland, Oregon on November 5 and 6, 2010. There were four phenomenal speakers, Paige Johnson, Gail Dickinson, Leslie Maniotes, and Ross Todd. Each speaker helped me make connections and adjustments to my own library program, provided insight into ways information literacy can be elevated

for the 21st Century learner, and left me with skills to ask essential questions, check for enduring understanding, and how to use effective strategies.

One essential question posed by Paige Johnson that has plagued me since the conference is, "How do we make learning as relevant, rigorous, and meaningful inside of schools as outside?" She stated that the new reality is that the 21st century learner will need a "portfolio of skills" not just job skills. Paige also highlighted the key skills in the 21st century as "critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity."

It was a wonderful time to connect with school librarians from across the nation to exchange stories, ideas, and friendship. My thanks to Dr. Pasco for providing me with this extraordinary experience!



Helen Cologne

Things To Consider

ALAnews

Stop Having A Frustrating Career

Are you having a tough time in your career? Have you been laid off and are still looking for work? Are you overworked, stressed, and tired in your present position, and are unable to visualize a solution?

Sometimes we believe it is the economy's sole fault that we are having such a difficult and frustrating time. And, we have a long list of evidence to prove our beliefs. People around us are getting laid off or can't find a job. Every day another upsetting story appears that reinforces our fear. We worry about our future, and wonder what will happen to us.

Each day we get more and more discouraged. And, many of you have given up. (Even if you have not admitted this to yourself yet.) Here's something to think about: If you believe that a disappointing career is the best you can expect, it will become your reality (and your future.) Your career gets better when you make it better. It may not be easy, and you will have to overcome your fear of the unknown, but it is possible to get what you want in your career despite what is happening around you. So, How Can You Get What You Want In Your Career? Follow These 5 Steps Below:

1. Stop Talking About What Happened (Or, What Is Happening)

Are you unable to forget the day you were laid off? Are you still upset about it? Are you still steaming inside? Yes, we all know what happened to you. (We've heard it a thousand times.) And, we understand and feel your pain. But the more you talk about the situation, the longer you will be stuck there.

2. Stop Believing You Are The Only One With Problems

No matter how dire your career may seem right now, there is someone worse off than you. What are you grateful for? Some people do not even have as much as you. Who can you help? Making a difference in other people's lives is one of the reasons we are here on this planet. Helping others will keep your mind off your troubles and allow you to feel better about yourself.

3. Stop Over Thinking Everything

Our careers are not as complicated as we make them. Is there a career goal you want to reach? Make a plan and then execute it. What stands in the way of you doing something so straightforward? Fear, worry, and a need to make sure everything will work out first? Life is not about guarantees. You do the work first, and you receive the rewards second. It is not the other way around. It's always a good idea to consider your alternatives before making a decision, but over thinking and over analyzing before you take action, will keep you from reaching your goal.

4. Stop Making Excuses

Are you a busy person? Yes. Do life and responsibilities get in the way? If you let them. It's time to tell the truth. You do not have what you want in your career. You can say an outside force distracted you, or you have been trying hard and getting nowhere, but have these sentences gotten you any closer to your goal? Maybe you haven't been ready to go after what you really want. Or, you need a new approach. Maybe you were not sure a certain direction was the one you wanted to take. Uncertainty is understandable. But uncertainty holds you back. Do not put faith in your excuses; take responsibility for creating them, so you can move forward instead.

5. Start Moving

At times you will not feel like sending out one more resume or making one more phone call. At times you will not feel like dealing with all the work and stress at your present position. Usually the one thing you do not feel like dealing with is what brings you the solution you are seeking. Nothing worthwhile is easy in the beginning. But over time, you will see results, if you start now.

Brown-Volkman, D. (2011). *Stop having a frustrating career*. Retrieved from http://www.jobsjournal.com/articles/312008717/Stop-Having-A-Frustrating-Career/?utm_source=WNW&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=20110120-15328-MinedAtomic-31200003

**School Librarians' Day
March 26, 2011**

**University of Nebraska @ Omaha, Kayser Hall
Sponsored by Eastern Library System, Nebraska Educational Media Association,
University of Nebraska at Omaha**

Join your friends and colleagues for a fun day of great information and networking!

8:00-8:25 am Coffee and Refreshments

Session I (8:30-9:20)

_____ **Policies: Why Schools Need Them - Nancy Larimer, Lincoln Public Schools**

Session II (9:30-10:20) Book Reviews

_____ **Elementary - Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission**

OR

_____ **Junior/Senior High School - Paul Christopherson, Omaha Public Library**

10:30-10:45 Break

Session III(10:50-11:40 am)

_____ **Guide to Integrated Library Services - Mary Reiman, Lincoln Public Schools**

11:45-12:15 Lunch

Session IV (12:20-1:20 pm)

_____ **Talk Tables (morning sessions topics) -20-minutes per table**

Session V (1:30-2:20 pm)

_____ **The Future of Reading - Joy Harvey, Lincoln Public Schools & Anna Bley, Papillion La Vista South High School**

Session V (2:30-3:20pm)

_____ **What Can You Do with an iPad? - Sara Churchill, Blair Public Schools**

Cost—\$20 (includes lunch). Please register by *March 18th*. Make checks payable to *ELS* and mail form to:

**Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144**

**Name _____
School _____
Email Address _____
Phone _____**

**For further information contact
Kathy Tooker at 402-330-7884 or ktooker@windstream.net**