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## NEMO News, Volume 3, Issue 4

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*"What the world really needs is more love and less paper work,"*  
Henny Youngman



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**Advice from the Frontlines –Kathy Tooker** (Eastern Library System Administrator)

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

While I love books and reading, the people I work with are the very best part of this profession. Librarianship is such a caring and sharing profession and librarians will go out of their way to help colleagues and customers. I don't think most people enter this profession for the salary; I sure don't know many wealthy librarians. I believe librarians and libraries improve and enrich the quality of life for any community, be it a town, school, or campus.

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

I like people and I like connecting people with others so they can get to know each other to cooperate on projects and problems. So the answer is my networking and people skills.

**What one issue should future librarians be pre-**

**pared to address in the workplace?**

Change. Years ago in a management class I read that if an organization doesn't change it will die. The same is true of libraries. We have to understand that our collections will change; our customers will want new technologies and services, so we must change. If we are not willing to accept change and libraries remain the same, then libraries will no longer be useful and won't be needed.

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

I am so fortunate to be able to work with the other regional library systems administrators. This is a group that shares ideas and works together to bring good continuing educational opportunities to our state. One such collaboration is the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute held every other year with the help of the Nebraska Library Commission. Over 100 librarians from all types of libraries have now gradu-

ated from the institute and are making changes in the library world.

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

This week I am rereading an older fiction book, *Patty Jane's House of Curl* by Lorna Landvik for my book club. My favorite books include: *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography* by Kathleen Norris, *Local Wonders* by Ted Kooser, *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by Fannie Flag, *John Adams* by David McCullough, and *Where Rivers Change Direction* by Mark Spragg. I think Viktor Frankl's book *Man's Search for Meaning* should be required reading along with *The Autobiography of Foudini M. Cat* by Susan Fromberg Schaeffer.

*Thank you, Kathy, for all your hard work and wonderful contributions to the profession!*

**Student Spotlight – Ramona Ratliff \*\*\*\*\***

**What is your education/ library/professional background?**

For my undergraduate work, I have a B.A. in Psychology/ Sociology, and I double-majored in elementary education. My true love being libraries, I jumped at the opportunity to work at my hometown college’s library in February 2000. I supervise 18-20 library work-study students, and I am in charge of circulation, reserves and periodicals.

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

I like psychology books, and reading Christian romances for relaxation. Right now I am beginning to read *The Introvert Advantage: How to Thrive in an Extravert World* by Laney. I have recently read *For Women Only: What You Need to Know about the Inner Lives of Men* by Shaunti Feldhahn. I want to read *For Men Only: A Straightforward Guide to the Inner Lives of Women* by Shaunti and Jeff Feldhahn with my husband of course so he can know more about women !!

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

I like *American Libraries* for general articles about library work and *College & Research Libraries* and *College & Research Libraries News* because sometimes they have articles relevant to my work in an academic library.

**What do you do in your “down time”? Your hobbies/ recreation, how do you relax?**

I love reading, singing, traveling, shopping, and watching good movies. This past summer my husband and I got to travel to Colorado to see Rocky Mountain National Park, and Garden of the Gods near Colorado Springs. This past year I got to participate in our York College alumni choir reunion, where we rehearsed for two days and then made a CD. That was great fun for me, since I miss being in a singing group.

**What deep dark secret would you like to share?**

I bite my fingernails when I watch a suspenseful movie. I am resolving to quit again this year !!

**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 passionate about service to our students. I believe that should be what we are all about – service to our students and faculty as an academic support department.

**What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?**

Be sure to invest in a good comprehensive dictionary, thesaurus, and the current edition of the APA manual for help with your citations, and be sure to keep some chocolate close to the computer while you work!

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

In my job, the trend away from print journals and toward more electronic journals will necessitate my learning more about managing electronic resources.

Marketing the library’s value and educating our faculty and students about our resources will become more vital, I believe, for the survival of the library budget.

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

My legacy will probably be to do the best job I can in my own library and on our college campus, and hopefully network and share with any other librarians with whom I come in contact. I might get brave enough to volunteer for committee work with the NLA (Nebraska Library Association).

**Any Last Words?**

To those just beginning grad school, take it one assignment and one class at a time, so you will not get too overwhelmed with it all.

*Thank you for your words of wisdom and encouragement, Ramona. Best of luck in Spring Semester 2007!*



*“I don’t understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine’s Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon.” - Author Unknown*

## Alumni Spotlight – Jane Holt \*\*\*\*\*

### What is your education/library/professional background?

My education path, if not actually rocky, does wind and extend a bit. I earned a Bachelor's in Journalism from UNL in 1984. After a year of writing mediocre ads for a local radio station, I returned to college to be certified to teach English and Journalism. About ten years into the teaching gig, Becky Pasco blew open my mind at a NETA conference and thus began what I believe is the final formal path in my education—earning a Master's in Library Science from Missouri two springs ago. I'm now in my 17th year at Lincoln East High School, where I'm a media specialist and journalism teacher. For me, it's the ultimate job.

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

This is my 4th year in the East High Media Center and I've barely tapped its teen-fiction collection. That said, I usually have three or four books at my bedside and try to alternate between teen and adult reads. Favorite non-fiction reads include: *Devil in the White City* (Larsen)—reads like great fiction and has great details about history, architecture, crime; *The Tipping Point* (Malcolm Gladwell)—a fascinating book about social epidemics. I've re-read it, convinced that it holds solutions to myriad societal problems; *A Short*

*History of Nearly Everything* (Bill Bryson)—I take short but intriguing intellectual swims through this book, which sets out to explain science to the average person. Funny and fascinating, more than once this book has cracked open my skull and poured in heapings of incredible information. Favorite fiction includes: *The Life of Pi* (Yann Martel)—a strange and beautiful book that stretches the imagination and includes one of the best endings

I've ever read; *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (Jonathon Safran-Froer)—an amazing post-9/11 story of a young boy's loss and the unusual road to recovery that he takes; *Finding Lubchenko* (Michael Simmons)—I read this book recently in my attempt to fill in the teen guy-book void in my life. A smartly-written bio-terror story of a teen boy and his friends, who travel to Paris to save his wrongly-jailed father.

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

I always look forward to the latest issue of *VOYA*, which gives me confident glimpses into the latest teen fiction and non-fiction titles, as well as into teens themselves. *Edutopia*, available in both digital and print format, focuses on education and technology, and

has provided me plenty of fodder for discussion and thought. Finally, I always enjoy *School Library Journal* for its resources and support.

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

I'm a Scrabble nerd who, thankfully, has other Scrabble nerds in my life. I play a few games of it a week, usually at my dining-room table while the kids scamper about, happy and unattended. Beyond Scrabble, reading and music fill many of my hours. In addition, we bought a hot tub this summer and, just after Christmas, I found myself rolling in the snow with my family between boiling dips in the tub. The hot tub also has re-introduced me to the stars in the sky, something for which I'm quite grateful. I am deeply contented with my dull, low-key life, and am nearly expert in my ability to relax.

### What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I freely use a dictionary while playing Scrabble.

### 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'm an efficient problem-solver who enjoys hearing from multiple perspectives. I also don't take myself too seriously.

### What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Get to know your peers and

professors—they are deep wells of both knowledge and friendship. Pay attention in class and take good notes. Have a good beer every once in a while. Ditto for chocolate.

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

I heard Scott McNealy (CEO of Sun Microsystems) describe this time in history not as the information age but as the participation age. Technology is putting ordinary folks into the driver's seat, which is really exciting to me. I hope LIS personnel are the "driver's ed" teachers of the 21st century, showing people how to use the resources that are available to them, steering those people to the best, the most relevant, the most freeing information and sources available.

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

The word "library" comes from the Latin "to set free." (Someone much smarter than me told me that.) I hope that I can help set a few people free.

*Thanks for your wonderful words and all your hard work, Jane!*



# Announcements!!!!

## 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/libdev/scholarship.htm> for more information concerning the application process as well as various deadlines. Get busy! The next deadline is March 15, 2007...

### 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, 2007)

#### Duane Munson Scholarship

This \$250.00 scholarship is available to help practicing librarians pay for continuing education. (Deadline: April 15, 2007)

See <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.html> 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, 2007)

#### Duane Munson Scholarship

This \$250.00 scholarship is available to help practicing school library media specialists pay for continuing education. (Deadline: August 15, 2007)

See [http://nema.k12.ne.us/mem.dir/award\\_scholar.html](http://nema.k12.ne.us/mem.dir/award_scholar.html) for more information.

## DON'T FORGET MIZZOU!

As Missouri students you are eligible to apply for a Missouri Graduate Scholarship. The application deadline is March 1, 2007. For more information and to download the application form access <http://sislt.missouri.edu/documents.php>.



## SUMMER SEMESTER 2007 AND FALL SEMESTER 2007 REGISTRATION:

Be on your toes! Summer and fall registration will be here before you know it. Registration times for the two semesters are practically back to back, so be prepared to register for both semesters.

### Early Registration:

Remember, our program is growing and so are the waiting lists for some classes. DO NOT wait to register, or you may be wait-listed or have to wait until the next term that the course is offered.

Set aside some time to visit <http://mudirect.missouri.edu/> and view the 2007 Summer and Fall Semester courses. Select Course Catalog and then search for courses by selecting Summer (or Fall) Semester 2007 and Department Listing-School of Information Science and Learning Technology. Click on the course link to enroll.

If you have questions or concerns about this process feel free to contact Erica Rose at [nemogradassitant@gmail.com](mailto:nemogradassitant@gmail.com).

**NOTE: If you have taken 4 or more classes you need to make an appointment with Dr. Pasco to discuss your plan of study.**

[rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu)

402-554-2119

## RESUME REVIEW

Sometimes it's hard to believe, but eventually we will have a degree. What will separate you from all of the other applicants? A great resume can get you the opportunity for an interview where you can show off all your hard-earned knowledge!

Mark you calendars! On March 7, 2007, 6:00 p.m. our next NEMO meeting is scheduled. During this time Dr. Pasco will discuss how to appropriately format fabulous resumes. Part of the evening will be spent talking with an area library director to get first-hand advice about what libraries are looking for in a resume.

Come hungry (more pizza!) to room 100 at the UNO library on March 7, 2007. Be ready for great information, encouragement, and networking with your fellow students.

# Announcements continued..

## SPRING 2007 COMPS!!

This spring's comps will take place April 7-15.

If you are planning on graduating in May and you need to take the comps, you must contact Rebecca Whiting at SISLT as soon as possible.

Rebecca Whiting 573-882-4546

[whiting@missouri.edu](mailto:whiting@missouri.edu)

**Note: The format of the review session is changing. Instead of a video conference, the review session (on February 9, 2007 3-5 p.m.) is going to be broadcast over LISRadio. Tune in at home at <http://lisradio.missouri.edu/> OR attend the review session in room 204 in the UNO library. If you are planning to attend the review in the library, please RSVP to Erica Rose by February 4, 2006.**

## ATTENTION SPRING 2007 GRADUATES!

Are you planning to graduate this semester?

Students who are planning to graduate in May should receive a packet in the mail sometime before Feb. 15, 2007. This packet contains instructions and forms pertaining to all items that need to be taken care of in order to graduate. If you are planning to graduate in May, 2007 and have not received a packet from Mizzou by February 15 you must contact Rebecca Whiting as soon as possible.

Rebecca Whiting: 573-882-4546

[whiting@missouri.edu](mailto:whiting@missouri.edu)

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

## **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/](http://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 to practice tests (see Test Takers – Prepare for the Test-GRE-GRE Practice General Test).

Email Erica Rose at [nemo-gradassistant@gmail.com](mailto:nemo-gradassistant@gmail.com) with questions.



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

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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



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Happy Valentine's Day.....

