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Good, good, good - GOOD vibrations, people! Summer is almost here.

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Consider taking up a new hobby this summer...

Advice from the Frontlines –Kim Thompson, Professor -University of Missouri-Columbia

What is your education/library/professional background?

I received my master’s of science in library and information studies from the Florida State University (FSU). During my time as a master’s student there my interests focused on usability studies, information retrieval, and multimedia design and production. At the end of my final semester as a master’s student I did a month-long internship teaching web development at the United Nations-founded Sustainable Development Network (SDN) in Managua, Nicaragua. There I taught HTML programming to small non-profit organization directors and created a training module that the SDN could use for future training workshops once I left.

The first year after receiving my master’s of library and information studies I was offered a position as library director at the FSU-Panama campus in the Republic of Panama. As the director of a university library in Panama, I had the opportunity to sit on the National Information Board and work with a national committee of information professionals deciding how libraries and other information agencies might better disseminate information to Panamanians. In this role I caught a glimpse of the vast

international opportunities connected with greater understanding of information behavior. As the year finished, I applied for the doctoral program in the FSU School of Information Studies to continue my studies in library and information science.

I returned to FSU to work with Dr. Elfreda A. Chatman, a professor whose research developed theories of information poverty. During my first year as a doctoral student Dr. Chatman died suddenly and quite unexpectedly and I was forced to change my focus of study slightly to account for the change in the expertise of my new dissertation committee. The second year of study was focused on the social study of information, including research into how information affects development, culture, societies, and individuals. My minor courses focused on human rights, with a particular focus on Asian views of human rights.

My second and third years as a doctoral student I was awarded an EBSCO fellowship which provided me with a research position at FSU’s Information Use Management and Policy Institute run by Drs. Charles R. McClure and John Carlo Bertot. There I was an associate researcher and worked on grants and projects related to public library research. Some of the projects were: a biennial national study of public library Internet adoption, an examination of

federal data related to e-rate and library filters, and usability analyses of beta versions of the Florida Electronic Library web portal that the state library was developing at the time.

After passing my preliminary examination at FSU (thus officially becoming a doctoral candidate) I took a two-semester visiting instructor position at the College of St. Catherine (CSC) in St. Paul, MN. I had been heavily involved in research at the Institute and I wanted to see if I preferred teaching or research or both. I found that at the Institute I missed teaching, at the CSC I missed research, so I decided that when finished with my dissertation I would look for a job such as the one I have now at MU, where both teaching and research are emphasized. I now teach courses related to library management and leadership, information ethics, and libraries as social entities. I’ve been at MU since August of last year and so you and I are on equal footing when it comes to predicting how the story goes from here!

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

I would say my interest in understanding and hopefully contributing to social justice drives what I do as an information professional. The central question in almost all that I have researched and chosen to study

I have now at MU, where both teaching and research are emphasized. I now teach courses related to library management and leadership, information ethics, and libraries as social entities. I've been at MU since August of last year and so you and I are on equal footing when it comes to predicting how the story goes from here!

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

I would say my interest in understanding and hopefully contributing to social justice drives what I do as an information professional. The central question in almost all that I have researched and chosen to study consistently pivots around how information contributes to and/or minimizes inequality, whether that inequality be social, cultural, economic, or political in nature. This inequality may take the form of a "digital divide" (centered on the having or not having of technological means to information) or it may focus on cultural implications of citizens believing they are or are not a "library culture," or it may simply be exclusion from a democratic-based e-government environment because of small world notions that impede one's adaptation to new methods of government. One cannot have equal representation in government if the government is clearly passing one (and all other members of one's small world environment) by. I have attempted to gear my topics of research toward international information issues and try to do research projects that not only allow me to discover a variety of international outlooks on information, but that also will make a difference in the world somehow.

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

I am a broken-record when it comes to urging librarians to make a difference and take on leadership roles in society. Are we a profession of "bookworms" (as the stereotype

goes)? No way! We are "cheerleaders" and "quarterbacks," sometimes rah, rah, rahing information to the public, sometimes strategizing and making spectacular leaps to draw bigger crowds to the information "stadium." Sometimes we are "teachers," providing instruction and social structure for our library users. Sometimes we are "principles," organizing and shaping policy (both locally and nationally). Sometimes we are "janitors," doing physical labor to maintain collections and buildings, or even social labor to keep the library's image attractive and inviting. As we define our role as information professionals within this rich information society, why not dream big?

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

In 2001 and 2002 I consulted on a project in Belize for a non-profit organization, the Florida Association of Volunteer Agencies for Caribbean Action (FAVACA). A Jesuit secondary education campus wanted to merge its college and high school libraries. FSU professor Dr. Maria T. Chavez-Hernandez and I went to the St. John's College for a week to assess the library collection and to develop a five-year strategic plan for merging the libraries. They asked us to also make suggestions for adding a computer lab, expanding and reorganizing the collection, improving user services, and helping the College become a benchmark for information provision in academic libraries in Belize. Not a small order for a week's consultation. Certainly not a project we could have done without local collaboration.

Dr. C-H and I did an assessment of student (both college and high school), faculty, library staff, and college administrator information needs using surveys, focus groups, and interviews to collect useful data. We returned to Florida and drafted the strategic plan, which we then sent to the College's library board. They sent back comments and we redrafted accordingly. The following year we did a follow-up visit and saw that they were making good progress. They told us they thought it would probably take ten years to complete the five-year plan, but that they were enthusiastic about making it happen. It was now in their hands, but they knew our support was only an email away should they have any issues or concerns related to the library plan.

All of the changes that transpired during and after these visits were based on collaborative efforts. The College administrators were cooperative. The faculty was interested in improving the library, so they were communicative and involved. The students were excited to see if their suggestions would truly be considered in the renovations, which they were as far as possible. (The suggestion for piping in music and having fountains and tropical birds in the library didn't quite fall within the limits of the College budget for the project, but we did add foliage and fans as suggested by the students, even though the librarians thought the foliage would attract critters and the fans would blow away loose paper. As it turned out, in Belize there are bugs and geckos in the library whether there were plants or not, and the librarians soon decided they liked the greenery too. As for the fans, the students were used to anchoring down their papers with books and other weights because there was a constant breeze in the library through the slatted windows anyway.) It was the collaboration of many people that made the differences that are there today.

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

I don't know if it is a lighter note (smile) but I just finished the book Angel of Harlem, by Kuwana Haulsey. It is a novel based on the life of Dr. May Edward Chinn, one of the first Black female doctors in New York City. Before that I read The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 by Lawrence Wright. Both tremendously good reads. I'm currently reading Peter Hessler's River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze. He was in the Peace Corps in China with me back in 1996-1997, so it sometimes feels like this is a journal he wrote while looking over my shoulder. I'm enjoying reminiscing via his book (and am embarrassed it has taken me this long to get around to reading it!).

Thank you for all you bring to this profession, Professor Thompson!!

Alumni Spotlight -Karen McCoy, Lincoln City Libraries

What is your education/library/professional background?

My undergraduate degree is a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics, Food & Nutrition. I completed my master's degree in Library Science last August. The last five years, I have worked as a library assistant for the Lincoln City Libraries.

In the mid-seventies, I had the opportunity to work at the Kenitra Naval High School Library, Kenitra, Morocco. I found I really enjoyed helping the students connect with materials and information. I, also, enjoyed working with students of multi-backgrounds. Besides the children of the navy personnel, there were some Moroccan students and students from the various embassies in Rabat. This experience helped me decide to be a librarian, when I returned to the work force, after being a stay-at-home mom for many years.

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

The books I currently have checked out to read are *Women & Money* by Susie Orman, and a couple of books that are under consideration for the Golden Sower Award--*Crossing the Wire* by Will Hobbs and *Wing Nut* by M. J. Auch. I

just finished reading *Twilight* by Stefanie Meyer, a young adult book about vampires which was a very compelling read. It is a romantic suspense novel and I felt it showed the main character as a very caring teen. There are options on this book to make a movie and I believe it is the author's first book. Some other books I have enjoyed this past year: are:

The I Hate to Date Club by Elda Minger; *The Lost German Slave Girl: The Extraordinary True Story of Sally Miller and Her Fight for Freedom in Old New Orleans* by John Bailey; *Where the Heart Is* by Billie Letts; Nancy Thayer's *Hot Flash* series

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

I have read *Booklist*, *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal*. I like *Booklist* and *Library Journal* especially for book reviews. The *School Library Journal* has good articles for working with children and teens.

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

In my down time, I like to read, cook, walk, and watch movies with friends.

What deep dark secret

would you like to share?

I enjoy watching the television show, *Dancing with the Stars*; and I would like to be able to dance as they do.

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 team player open to new ideas. I like to collaborate with my co-workers in finding better solutions.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

My advice for current graduate students is to go through the program at your own pace --take time for networking, relaxation and life.

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

With more use of the Internet, I see a need to assist people in knowing what resources are available that are good and reliable, and assisting people in how to use them.

I feel one of the continuing biggest challenge in LIS is funding.

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

I think my legacy in this profession will be that I have made individuals feel comfortable in asking their questions. That I have done my

best to help individuals learn how to find the reliable information/materials they want or to get the information/materials they are seeking for them.

Any Last Words?

Personally, I found working in a library while going to school made classes easier and more meaningful. I often could put what I learned to use almost immediately.

Library Information Science is a rewarding field. I am always learning something new; and, I enjoy helping others.

We appreciate your work, Karen. Thank you for sharing with us!

Take some time to make a few great memories this summer...



Student Spotlight -Michael Straatman, University of Nebraska Libraries

What is your education/library/ professional background?

I have been employed at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Libraries for almost 15 years, almost exclusively in public services. My most recent position is as Stacks Manager, wherein I'm responsible for the physical aspects of the collection that numbers approximately 3 millions volumes, with an annual growth of about 40,000 pieces.

My baccalaureate degree is in History, with minors in Religious Studies and Anthropology. I have two Masters Degrees from UNL, one in English Literature (Plains and Canadian Literature) and the other in Museum Studies (specifically Archival Management).

I'm about halfway through the Mizzou program at UNO.

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

My current reading list is pretty dry. Besides the coursework, I'm also reading the "Library Disaster Planning and Recovery Handbook" edited by Camila Alire. The editor is very versed in actual disaster response and is a leading contributor in the field.

For non-professional reading, I'm currently working my way through "East of the Sun: Conquest and Settlement of Siberia" by Benson Bobrick. I've always been enthralled by the notion of a boreal frontier; and Bobrick's overview of the conquest of Siberia is a fascinating read. I enjoy drawing comparisons and contrasts between America's frontier and the Russian one.

As for books to recommend, one that I finished recently was "It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own" by Richard White. It is a history of the American west from a variety of newer historical approaches that encompass all manner of traditionally marginalized voices that will definitely reshape how you look at the expansion of America.

Admittedly, I don't find a lot of time to read fiction, and with coursework, even the non-fiction reads tend to be rather slow endeavors, so I can't really say what is next on my reading list.

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

The professional journal that I read most often is "American Libraries", the publication of the American Library Association. Plenty of others come by that have interesting articles, but I find that "American Libraries" almost always has something interesting.

The article that immediately comes to mind is actually an essay piece by Kenneth Foote, printed in "American Archival Studies" edited by Randall Jimerson. This particular article, titled "To Remember and Forget: Archives, Memory and Culture" has been the foundation for much of the focus of my information career. In it, the author explores the purpose and focus of cultural institutions such as libraries, archives and museums as the "collective memory" of the human race.

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

In my spare time, I participate in several forms of historical recreation and reenactment. I focus a lot on the Viking Age in Northern Europe and am continually building kit or items that might have existed in the period, with historically accurate tools and methods. I serve on the Board of Directors for a Viking Age farmstead that is currently beginning construction in northern Missouri.

I also dabble in several other time periods, including Muscovite Russia and recently Trajanic Rome.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I think that is what the preceding paragraphs covered.

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 like to think that I try and keep in mind the cultural history and theory that forms the basis of our occupation, as we move forward. I think it is all too easy to forget the overarching scope and purpose of our information centers, as we get caught up in the new technologies, systems, budgets, and other dramas that are inherent in any evolving profession or organization. By keeping our purpose and the road taken to reach our

current position, we can better contextualize our movement forward; and make our resources count towards the big picture.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

That is hard to say, since I'm also on the inside, so to speak. Mostly take it easy and slow. It is better to take your time and maybe finish a semester or two later, and increase what you actually learn, instead of what needs to be absorbed to finish a class. The two are very different results, and the former provides a much richer and useful education.

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

Obviously, technology is the largest thing. Not only adapting to its presence, and using it to replace older systems, but rather truly integrating it. It is easy enough to replace paper with electronic, to change subscription formats, or storage and retrieval systems; but rather how do we accommodate the changes in such a way that integrates them in their own paradigm, rather than simply replacing another.

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

I gave up, some time ago, trying to figure out where I was going to be, either in the near or far future. So far all of my predictions have been incorrect, so I stopped trying to ascertain what the future held for me.

Rather, I hope that it will be that I have had an opportunity to continue providing information resources to a diverse population; making my own small contribution to the advancement of mankind by helping great minds have the information that they need to make the world a better place.

Any Last Words?

That last part sounded really cheesy, didn't it?

Thanks for providing me with the opportunity to contribute!

Thanks for providing me with the opportunity to contribute!

Thanks, Michael. Keep up all your interesting, good work!

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 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>.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Three cheers for our May 2007 graduates! *Evelyn Bingel, Julie Humphrey, Rienne Johnson, Jason Kaspar, Jill Owens, Ashley Phillips, Misty Prochaska, and Joy Stortvedt* have successfully completed this portion of their educational journey. Whew! Its wonderful to see so many names on that list -this program is growing!

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.



YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

Once again, there have been a few minor changes to the course schedules. Below is a list of Fall 2007 courses. Take a peek at these to be sure these changes don't impact your fall schedule.

- 7301 -Introduction to Information Technology
- 7305-Foundations of Library & Info Science
- 7314-Reference
- 7315-Management of Info Agencies
- 7381-Practicum
- 9432-Automated Reference (NEW!)
- 9443-Academic Library
- 9452-Library Use Instruction
- 9410-Social Constructs
- 9410-Leading in Library Environments

Announcements continued..

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

It's 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.

PRACTICUM DETAILS

All NEMO students are expected to do a practicum in the final 9 hours of their program. Practicum waivers for any reason are STRONGLY FROWNED upon by the Nebraska Library Community who hire NEMO candidates as these directors want to ensure candidates gain a more inclusive picture of "life on the front lines" via the practicum. You'll gain much from a practicum no matter how long you've worked in a library (in fact - the longer you've worked in a library - the more important it is for you to do a practicum to widen your perspective, develop skills in areas outside your "box" in your own organization, etc.). Practicums have often turned into job offers, put lines on a resume that one can't achieve where they currently work, allow you to meet colleagues with services and skills you need in your educational and employment pursuits, and set you up for a current letter of reference from a well-respected Nebraska library professional. Now that's that way to complete your program!!!

Students MUST contact Dr. Pasco the semester before they intend to do their practicum to set up a meeting to brainstorm what genre of library and what kinds of activities they want to pursue in their practicum. Dr. Pasco will contact the library director, talk to the library director about what positive and proactive mentoring means for a library science student, and will work with students develop strong learning plans that will move them towards their career or other professional goals.

If you intend to do a Fall 2007 or Spring 2008 practicum, contact Dr. Pasco soon for a good discussion of your career goals and a practicum placement that will help get you there!

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 to practice tests (see Test Takers – Prepare for the Test-GRE-GRE Practice General Test).

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

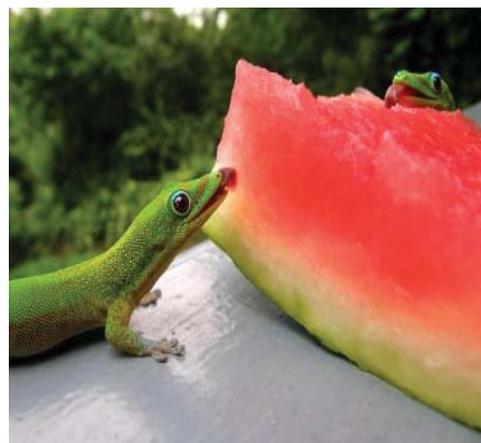


Photo taken from <http://www.zampanosbits.com/images/animals/summertime.jpg>

Mmmmmm-summertime treats!

Dr. R. J. (Becky) Pasco
Associate Professor, College of Education
Coordinator, Library Science Education
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Kayser Hall 514G

Phone: 402-554-2119
E-mail: rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu

Erica Rose –NEMO Graduate Assistant
nemogradassistant@gmail.com



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

School's Out for Summer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Take a load off and enjoy yourself -we'll see you in the fall.

