ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comprehensive Exams - Fall 2008

Fall comps will take place **Saturday, October 25 through Sunday, November 2**. Those taking Fall Comps should already be registered and in the process of preparing for this exam. Good luck to everyone taking Comps this semester.

Comprehensive Exams - Spring 2009

The tentative date for Spring Comps registration is **February 4, 2009** with a comps review date tentatively scheduled for **February 8, 2009**. We will send exam dates when the information becomes available.

Spring 2009 REGISTRATION

It will be here sooner than you think! Registration opens up on October 27, 2008. There have been some changes in elective courses, so please be sure to consult your course schedules and plans of study and be ready to register right away. Classes fill quickly - do not delay registration!

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](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 an email from Mizzou providing the cut off date. Fall 2008 Graduation is on **Friday, December 19, 2008** and Spring 2009 Graduation is on **Friday, May 15, 2009**. Hotels fill up quickly, so make your reservations early!

Veronda Pitchford to speak to Library Science Students!

Veronda Pitchford, Assistant Director of the Metropolitan Library System in Chicago defines herself as a "Die-hard library chick"! Veronda is one of the 2008 American Library Association's "Movers and Shakers" and has been recognized for her work in Advocacy and Recruiting. Veronda is going to speak to Nebraska Librarians at the Fall 2008 Colloquium the evening of Thursday, October 29th at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. Veronda is very interested in speaking to library science students - so - Dr. Pasco is inviting all library science students to join Veronda for lunch in Omaha on Friday, October 30th at 12noon, restaurant TBA! Dr. Pasco will buy lunch for those library science students who'd like to meet with Veronda so an email RSVP to Erin Willis by Monday, October 27th is required to give those involved time to make arrangements. To learn more about Ms. Pitchford, check out her video interview at [www.libraryjournal.com](http://www.libraryjournal.com).

Register right away for this very important conference! Student rates are very affordable for this essential experience. If you register before Sept. 30, you will pay only $35 as a full-time student. The price is $45 from Oct. 1 until the beginning of the conference. Visit the conference site at: [http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/index.html](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/index.html) Please be sure to visit the Missouri booth to say ‘hello’ and to meet your professors visiting from Mizzou!
CONGRATULATIONS to our successful colleagues!

We are very proud to announce the following new jobs and promotions:

- **Stephanie Viola** was hired at UNO’s Criss Library as a Public Services Assistant.
- **Claudia Moore** was promoted with the City of Omaha to a Secretary II position.
- **Todd Schlechte** was promoted to Library Director of Gretna Public Library.
- **Ramona Ratliff** was promoted from Staff to Faculty status at York College.
- **Jill Owens** was hired as the new director for Columbus Public Library.
- **Susan Skinner** was hired as the Library Media Specialist for Cedar Bluffs Public School.
- **Emily Nimsakont** was hired as cataloging librarian for the Nebraska Library Commission.

*Great Job and good luck in your new library jobs!*

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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!

For Nebraska Library Commission Scholarships, visit: [http://www.nlcc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Scholarships.asp](http://www.nlcc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Scholarships.asp)

For Nebraska Library Association Scholarships, visit: [http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm)

For Nebraska Educational Media Association Scholarships, visit: [http://nema.k12.ne.us/mem.dir/award_scholar.html](http://nema.k12.ne.us/mem.dir/award_scholar.html)

**DON’T FORGET MIZZOU!**

As Missouri students you are eligible to apply for a Missouri Graduate Scholarship. For more information and to download the application form, visit [http://sislt.missouri.edu/documents.php](http://sislt.missouri.edu/documents.php)

Look for details on Spring Scholarship Deadlines in the next NEMO Newsletter!

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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.nlcc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/jobsandcareers.asp](http://www.nlcc.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.

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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 awhile.

The Plan of Study Form (M-1) and the Program of Study Substitution Form can be downloaded from the SISLT website at: [http://education.missouri.edu/SISLT/sislt_forms.php](http://education.missouri.edu/SISLT/sislt_forms.php)
Advice from the Frontlines - Francine Canfield
Baright Public Library, Ralston, NE

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

The people! The books! And there are so many others too numerous to mention!

I’ve always derived a deep personal satisfaction whenever I have timely connected a person with the idea, book, or information that he or she has been seeking. I enjoyed that aspect in teaching for many years and have enjoyed making connections even more in public libraries through working in public services and in administration – a satisfaction we’ve all experienced when we’ve provided the right book or information to someone at the right time.

Having been a director at three public libraries, I have also had the pleasure of working with staff, boards, community groups, and customers to enhance library services and, thereby, connect people to the library in new ways.

Staying relevant to the community determines the library’s future; the constant challenge to be relevant, to change, is enjoyable, too.

Whether it’s seeing a child delight in holding her new library card, seeing a community embrace a bond referendum, seeing a staff member take charge of a new program, cutting the ribbon on a new library, or seeing the contentment on a reader’s face when handed the current copy of his favorite author – all of these events make my career enjoyable.

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

The ability to discern when to lead and when to manage is important as Warren G. Bennis reminded us that leaders do the right thing and managers do things right. (“Leaders are people who do the right thing; managers are people who do things right.”) One has to know when doing the right thing is more important than doing things right – in big things and in little things. Sometimes it is right to waive a fee rather than to follow policy and demand the fee: it’s evaluating the situation (the context) and then acting accordingly to achieve the library’s goals of good customer service (not to be confused with “the customer is always right”).

Several years ago, as I had listened to colleagues discuss construction issues, I realized that the impending construction of the 27,000 square foot library needed the advantages of construction management rather than the traditional design-bid-build model. My board felt it was the right thing to do and wanted the city council in agreement, too. In the process of gaining the council’s approval (doing things right), I attended a workshop on construction management and talked with various construction management firms who spoke with the city administrator, mayor, and council. The mayor and council approved the concept, and the library board was ready to follow the right procedures of requesting qualifications, conducting interviews, and selecting the firm. (And construction management was the right thing – the project finished early with a short punch list and came in significantly under budget.)

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

The world has flattened, and the glaciers are melting; yet, librarians and our public have some deeply rooted traditions and traditional ways of action and thought. Which traditions to keep? While we’ve adopted technology, there are times that it seems that we’ve simply adapted our card catalogs and registration files to an ILS rather than having the technology adapt to our card catalogs and to the way our customers think.

“Google” is the verb commonly used when someone searches for information on the Internet and certainly not in a “database” – our jargon. In law, medical, science, and other corporate special libraries, authority control and validity are exceedingly important in searching databases, blogs, and wikis; opinions on blogs and wikis can be valuable to researchers. Have you heard your doctor say he googled your condition or drug? (Mine does!)

In this election year, googling the name of a candidate produces a multitude of results that require an experienced eye to determine the validity and authority of the sites - an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of information literacy.

The ease of Google searching and the richness of Amazon will have to be found in our catalogs and databases; and yet, we have to maintain the integrity of the data we provide. Or do we let “good enough” suffice? How do we balance the need to be relevant and contemporary to our communities (markets) while maintaining integrity and validity of the resources we provide? Is it buyer beware?

With those questions and concerns in our minds, most of us are busy reaching out to our communities, providing resources, and developing relevant community-based programs that speak to our constituents. While we may not be able to completely resolve the issue, as long as we question and change what we can, then we will be progressing.

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

Collaboration is second nature to librarians. I’ve been in two situations where I’ve shared the integrated library system. I think we have to move toward more shared systems. As more librarians discover the value of a shared ILS, our customers will have access to more information and materials, and librarians will focus on the customer, not on turf issues – librarians will play nice and let go of their egos.

I’ve also collaborated with various community groups for programming. Currently, I have collaborated with the Ralston School District for our ELL (English Language Learners) outreach. When I learned that nearly 17% of the school district was Hispanic, I knew we had a group to reach. The school’s objective to integrate the families into community resources aligned with the library’s strategic plan for outreach. With the contacts the school could make with the families, we started with Latino Family Nights at the library. While the first were poorly attended, six months later we...
Ms. Canfield interview continued...

Ms. Canfield interview continued...

held a successful night with several families and their children attending because the school’s translator called the families to remind them about the event at the library. The family nights evolved to include representatives from the Mexican Embassy and South Omaha Boys and Girls Club. With grant funds, the school was also taking parents on community bus tours that included the library. On the bus tours, we learned many of the parents already had their library cards. After two years, the collaborative efforts had worked: word-of-mouth marketing was occurring!

We collaborated with other groups for an April 2008 multicultural event so we could be more inclusive. The exclusiveness of our Hispanic Family Nights was initially necessary to achieve outreach and to make the adults and children comfortable at the library.

Now over two years after our first family night, Hispanics new to our area are initiating their library visits because their friends tell them about the library. The schools have invited us to speak at their next parent night in place of the bus tours. The library has begun celebrating Hispanic Awareness Month and a spring multicultural event. Because we no longer needed to focus on Hispanic family nights, we replaced the program with a “bi-lingual café” for all who want to increase their English and foreign language skills.

Collaboration helped start a service, develop it, refine it, and develop others.

Thank you for your thoughtful advice and for all that you bring to the profession, Ms. Canfield!

Student Spotlight - Jill Von Minden

What is your education/library/professional background?

In 2000, I received my BS from the University of Nebraska – Kearney, in Journalism/Mass Communications with an emphasis in advertising and a minor in marketing. While in college I worked in every dept at the Kearney Public Library (I even got to go out on the bookmobile!). After college I worked for 2 years at the McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I also spent few months working as the high school user coordinator and Saturday supervisor at University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Love Library. I wanted to explore more prospects that would let me use my college degree, but also combine my love of books, so I took a job opportunity with iUniverse. Some call it a vanity publisher, we called it supported self-publishing. While there, I was the back cover copy coordinator and wrote back cover and flap copy for hundreds of titles. When I finally figured out that library-land was the place for me, I started the Mizzou MLIS program and waited patiently for a 30-hour/week position with the Lincoln City Libraries.

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

I almost put this under the “deep dark secret” question, but I’m dying to read Are You There Vodka? It’s Me, Chelsea by Chelsea Handler. I’m also a huge fan of the Left Behind series. I’ve been working my way through the One Book One Lincon titles and still need to read Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield because patrons will inevitably ask me about them and I like to give an informed opinion. As for The Memory of Running by Ron McLarty, I’d say don’t waste your time. We have quite a teen group that patronizes the branch where I work, so over the summer I read the Twilight series by Stephenie Meyer.

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

Well, I read (go figure) and LOVE to watch Jeopardy! and What Not To Wear. Since I started school and now work approximately 2 weekends a month, much of my down time has gone to staying in touch with or going to visit family and friends. My friends tell me I live on a strange block (they used to refer to it as Wisteria Lane), in that I know and socialize with almost all of my neighbors. Everybody watches out for everybody’s kids/pets/property, and keeps a general watch over the neighborhood. As soon as the weather gets warm in the spring, we all throw open our garage doors and sit in various driveways just chit-chatting. And then there’s always Miller time …

What deep dark secret would you like to share? I’m a conservative Republican.

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 guess it would be my willingness to learn about working in different areas of a library. I’m a big believer in library directors/assistant directors having a working knowledge of the entire operation if they’re going to do an effective job. Plus, working in one area can help improve your performance in others.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

In this type of degree program, I think it’s very important to not rush through the work or load yourself down with too many responsibilities. Err on the side of caution to make sure you give yourself adequate time to process and learn all the information available to you. Listen to your classmates’ perspectives, which provide valuable insight into different aspects of librarianship that you may or may not be familiar with.

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

Technology, technology, and more technology. This is also the trend that is probably the most daunting and my least favorite aspect of working in a library. With so many new technological developments happening so quickly, it’s hard to know where they all fit in the scheme of a library, or if they should be used in a library at all. But I do think that technology will shape how we serve patrons and run libraries going forward.

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

I like to think that I’ll have some fabulous new invention or way of doing things that will take the library world by storm. Since I haven’t thought of any brilliant ideas just yet, I just hope to be known as a librarian could deliver – one who could answer any question.

Any Last Words?

One of my favorite movie quotes, from character Evelyn Carnahan in The Mummy: “Look, I… I may not be an explorer, or an adventurer, or a treasure-seeker, or a gunfighter … but I am proud of what I am….. I… am a librarian.”

We are a proud profession. Thank you for reminding us, Jill!
**The Importance of a Powerful Resume**

There is a plethora of resources on resume writing skills and how to ‘make yourself look good’ in the space of a few pages, but you may be missing the basic elements of a great resume. Before you even worry about the line-by-line details of your resume, consider this advice from Will Manly, and strive to write an honest resume that is truly reflective of yourself! The narrative of these tips can be found in ‘The Manly Arts’ Column of the August 2006 edition of *Booklist*. Check it out!


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**CLEAR AND CONCISE WRITING**

This is a basic element of good grammar and good English, but it is often forgotten in resumes, where many often think that puffery and inflated language are more apt. It is not recommended to abandon good English rules for the sake of embellishment. Your achievements should speak for themselves!

**A GOOD EDITOR**

Authors of traditionally published books are constantly under the scrutiny of review by knowledgeable third party evaluators. Editors and reviewers are ruthless in their critical remarks, and book writers must write to appease even the most vicious critic. Find an editor who will criticize your resume until it is perfect! This will help you find the motivation to write, rewrite, edit and reedit.

**HONESTY**

A resume should reflect your best self, but should not be an exercise in excessive egoism and distortion for the sake of an embellished persona. The resume is essentially the place for an honest reflection on your life, work and achievements. Honestly and concisely provide relevant information without inflating or enhancing, exaggerating or elevating information that distracts from your actual achievements. Write in honest, clear language, and your resume will stand out in comparison to many modern resumes that abuse language to misguide potential employers.

**THE ELEMENTS**

Consider the necessity of everything you include on your resume and whether it applies to the job you are applying for. This article is not the place to find step-by-step instructions on the structure of the resume, but it does emphasize the need to eliminate extraneous information and embellishments. Consider the following when you are writing your resume:

- **The position for which you are applying.** If you are applying to be a reference librarian, you do not need to elaborate on the metaphysical aspects of yourself, important as they may be to you. Stick to what is important and relevant to the position you are applying for.

- **Your job experience.** Be honest. You won’t fool your employer by inflating your job title to make yourself seem more experienced than you really are. Write an accurate description of your work. Be concise and keep it to a page.

- **Your educational experience.** Less is more when it comes to writing your educational experience. This is an easy place to be factual and concise, and employers do not want to read pages of description about your academic history.

This witty and sarcastic article will make you laugh and will make you think realistically about the professional resume. While this is not a how-to description of resume writing, this practical advice will start your resume in the right direction!
Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.

- Charles W. Eliot

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Congratulations and Good Luck to the 2008 Spring and Summer Graduates. You make us very proud!

Pictured from left are: Erica Rose, Dr. Rebecca Pasco, Eliza Rose, Kristin Echtenkamp, Ramona Ratliff, and Kate Freeman