ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comprehensive Exams -Spring 2009

If you intend to take Comprehensive Exams in Spring 2009 and have not yet confirmed your intent with Mizzou, please contact Amy Adam adame@missouri.edu immediately to confirm your participation in the exams.

Spring Comps will take place from Saturday, April 4, 2009 through Sunday, April 12, 2008. A pre-Comps meeting will be held via WIMBA voice direct on the Comps Blackboard site on Friday, February 6 from 3-4pm. Kayser Hall Room 520 has been reserved for this meeting. A follow-up face-to-face comps review will be offered on Wednesday, February 11 at 7pm. Karen Hein will be facilitating this meeting and will be available to answer all of your questions about the exams.

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. 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. Spring 2009 Graduation is on Friday, May 15, 2009. Hotels fill up quickly, so make your reservations early!

Top Ten Reasons to Join Your Professional Organization

1. As a student, you have Cheap Rates!!
2. There is no better way to network with other professionals from outside your own circle.
3. Most memberships include a journal subscription supporting professional development.
4. Your dues support the work of your colleagues.
5. They provide great leadership opportunities.
6. They are often the most active source for professional development activities (workshops, colloquia, etc.).
7. Improve your visibility in your profession.
8. Find library jobs, such as through ALA’s JobList.
9. Lean and share skills by attending state and national conferences.
10. Do more to help your community through advocacy on state and national levels.

To become a member of ALA, visit http://www.ala.org/ala/membership/index.cfm
For NLA, visit http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/membership.html
For MPLA, visit http://www.mpla.us/membership/index.html
For NEMA, visit http://www.schoollibrariesrock.org/membershipapplication.html

Attention:

Students Interested in a career in Academic Librarianship

Please Join the Academic Libraries Special Interest group on Thursday, December 11 from 6pm-7pm at Criss Library for a special presentation by Stephen Shorb, Dean of UNO Criss Library, on Tenure for Academic Librarians. This will be very important presentation for those interested in pursuing a career in academic libraries. Please contact Michael Straatman mstraatm@unlnotes.unl.edu, or Erin Willis, nemogradassistant@gmail.com, for more information. A reminder email with more details will be sent early in December.
CONGRATULATIONS to our successful colleagues!

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

Karin Dalziel was hired at UNL as the new Digital Resources Designer.

Mindy Rush was hired as librarian for the Omaha law firm of Koley Jessen.

Beth Steffensmeier was hired as a public services assistant at the Abrahams branch of Omaha Public Libraries.

Great Job and good luck in your new library jobs!

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 NLA and NEMA help!

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

For Nebraska Educational Media Association Scholarships, visit: http://nema.k12.ne.us/mem.dir/award_scholar.html for more information.

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.

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 take 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

CONGRATULATIONS to our successful colleagues!

All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

CONGRATULATIONS to our successful colleagues!

Patsy Arnold, Karin Dalziel, Kathryn Kelley, Lanelle Richards, and Gayle Roberts: We are proud of you! Best of Luck in your professional journey!

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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

Look for details on Spring Scholarship Deadlines in the next NEMO Newsletter!
Advice from the Frontlines - Becky Baker  
Seward Memorial Library, Seward, NE

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

First and most selfishly, I must admit that I really enjoy ordering the new titles our library purchases, and reliving that “Christmas morning” excitement throughout the year every time boxes of new books arrive. There is just something magical about unpacking these treasure troves of information.

From a broader perspective, the ever-changing environment of libraries is something that keeps us all on our toes and keeps the job from ever becoming routine. I like to see changes take place that result in improved customer service, and boy how things have changed. When I started working at the library part-time in 1981, technology consisted of a manual typewriter, an ancient mimeograph machine with that icky black ink, and a donated thermal copier. Typing and filing sets of catalog cards consumed hours of time, and if 150 books circulated in a day, we were overwhelmed. Who could have ever imagined what libraries today accomplish? But thanks to fantastic people working in our libraries, we not only survive, but thrive as we continue to evolve in the ways we provide customer service. If change is not your forte, librarianship is not for you!

Working alongside staff from my library and from other public, school, academic, and special libraries has afforded me great appreciation for the dedication those in our profession bring to the job. The clientele we serve differs from library to library, but the ideals we share do not. We do what it takes to make sure our customers get what they need, whether it is the newest fiction bestseller or the most pertinent health information. It is a privilege to be counted among those providing library services to our citizens.

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

I absolutely cannot tolerate talking something to death without taking action, and while some feel that moving quickly on an issue may be risky, I believe that the inability to take action is deadly. That is not to say I don’t plan, that I don’t anticipate, that I don’t talk to others who know more than me. However, there is a time for the talking to finish and for action to commence. And hand in hand with being willing to take action is believing in yourself. Fearing to fail has kept more good ideas from being implemented than anything I can think of. There are few things we undertake in the library that can’t be undone if they don’t turn out as planned, and we always learn from our actions whether they succeed or not. Being stuck in a rut is certainly the easy way to approach your work, but it is also the place you will get run over by someone who is more motivated to act than you. Being an action figure means more than posing as a superhero!

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

This is a tough one – to address only one issue, that is. While budget cuts always loom, problem patrons are frequent customers, and intellectual freedom challenges seem to regularly occur, I believe an overriding concern for all librarians is the need to become better politicians. We must become more involved in plotting the future of our libraries rather than just accepting what is given to us, which traditionally means whatever is left over. We must advocate, we must brag about what we do, we must learn from those who know how to play the game. We can no longer rely on our established reputation of being the good but quiet agency in our community to earn us the budget we need to fulfill our mission. Too many are competing for the same pot of money for us to sit by waiting for good things to happen. This is far outside most of our comfort zones, but something that cannot be brushed aside. We must nudge our libraries up to the table however we can, no matter what position we hold in the library.

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

Over the years that I’ve been involved with libraries I’ve had many opportunities for collaboration – particularly with libraries in my county and with the Southeast Library System and its members. An exciting collaboration that we have focused on over the last few years is with Seward’s business community. The library has made a real effort to become more active in promoting our downtown businesses by taking part in and even originating local promotions. When the local bookstore hosted a Harry Potter midnight release party, the library sponsored a life-sized chess game on the street in front of the store to help draw an audience. During National Library Week library staff wanders through local stores giving away cash to those who can produce their library card in a “Get Carded” campaign (money comes from the Friends). Chamber of Commerce members take turns hosting “Business After Hours” events for other members and the library takes its turn, hosting a wine and cheese party last year and a fiesta (with margaritas) this year (with permission of our Mayor, of course). These are just a few examples of the many things that have happened recently.

In turn, I believe our local businesses have begun to view the library differently. In the past we were usually the ones with our hands out, asking for money or summer reading prizes or other kinds of support. Now the support goes both ways. What is good for our downtown businesses is good for the library – keeping our downtown area vibrant can only mean more business for us as well.

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

I am 100% a fiction fan, and the fantasy genre is by far my favorite. I can’t even begin to recall how many times I’ve read The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings trilogy, but I love them more every time I allow myself the hours needed to become reacquainted with them. Series by Terry Brooks and Stephen R. Donaldson are also on my list of favorites, and I also really like Anne McCaffrey, though she writes science fiction rather than fantasy, and YES, there is a difference!
There is a great deal of difference between an eager man who wants to read a book and a tired man who wants a book to read.
-G.K. Chesterton
2008 NLA/NEMA Conference: In Your Own Words

The NLA/NEMA conference was a huge success! Thank you to all of you who visited the UNO and Mizzou exhibit booths. The winner of our iPod drawing was Melissa Tiemann. Congratulations, Melissa!

There were lots great seminars - RSS, Strategic Planning, Archival Finding Aids, Archival Software and lots more. I always come away with new ideas and an inspired, renewed appreciation for this profession. We librarians are intelligent, energetic and enthusiastic, and we're always willing to try new things to assist our patrons!

[Conference] is also a really great time! It's fun to reconnect with people I haven't seen for a while - past classmates and work associates I don't see often. This was the third conference I've attended, and it's always been a great experience. - Terry Wingate

The NLC's Michael Sauer and MU student Karin Dalziel gave an entertaining and thoughtful presentation on Creative Commons use and how libraries, increasingly called upon to both create and present creative content, can use CC and adhere to copyright issues. - Kathryn Kelley

"Presenting the "Running a Gaming Tournament" session at this year's NLA was really special. First, I was able to see the interest and genuine enthusiasm in incorporating gaming at locations all across Nebraska. Many libraries have already introduced gaming as programming and many others are considering the circulation of games and gaming equipment. Together, these two aspects of gaming support are gaining traction with our customers and staff. Libraries have made a firm commitment to expanding our appeal to teens and tweens while remaining true to ourselves and our mission. As with any new service or change, enthusiasm and support fuel the early adopters and reluctance tempers many of the others. I feel confident that in the next few years our expanded base and increased awareness of our customer's wants and needs will allow libraries to continue to provide unparalleled access and service to our customers". - Sean Story

“I enjoyed meeting with Missouri Professors Kim Thompson and Denice Adkins, who led an informal discussion for Nebraska students in the program. It was very interesting to hear about Dr. Thompson’s and Dr. Adkins' research interests, and they offered great advice about how to get the most out of the distance learning experience”.

-Sara Kammer
The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painful extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.

-Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*