NEMO News, Volume 5, Issue 3

UNO Library Science Education

University of Nebraska at Omaha

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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. The Notice of Intent to participate in comprehensive exams is Monday, February 2, 2009.

Spring Comps will take place from Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 6pm through Sunday, April 6, 2009 at 6:00pm. 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.

Summer 2009

If you plan to take comprehensive exams during the summer. Information will be released in early February on the official dates of the exam as well as the registration and review sessions. Please look for specific information in the next newsletter!

Graduation: May 2009

If you will be graduating this semester, please mark your calendars and begin making plans for attending your graduation ceremony!

Graduate School Commencement:
Friday, May 15, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. at the Hearnes Center

The SISLT Graduation Reception:
Friday, May 15 from 3-4pm in the Townsend Hall Lobby.

*Remember to make hotel reservations immediately!!*

Check hotels.com for availability information. If there aren’t rooms available in Columbia, there are also hotels in Boonville, Jefferson City, and Moberly.

Legislative Day!!

Support Nebraska libraries by advocating for libraries at Legislative Day 2009!

Legislative Day is on Tuesday, February 10th with events beginning at 7:30am at the State Capitol. Registration deadline is February 5, 2009! For information and to download the application, please visit:


Be an advocate - be a leader - support Nebraska libraries!
CONGRATULATIONS to our successful colleagues!

If you are walking down the right path and you are willing to keep walking, eventually you will make progress. - Barack Obama

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There is funding available for students pursuing library studies. Please take advantage of these opportunities. Your educational journey is worthwhile, but it's not free. Let NLA and NEMA help!

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, 2009)

Duane Munson Scholarship
This $250.00 scholarship is available to help practicing librarians pay for continuing education. (Deadline: April 15, 2009).

See http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm 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, 2009)

Duane Munson Scholarship
This $250.00 scholarship is available to help practicing school library media specialists pay for continuing education. (Deadline: August 15, 2009)

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. For more information and to download the application form, visit http://sislt.missouri.edu/documents.php

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 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
1. In your capacity as a professional librarian, what aspects of your job bring you the most joy? When I’m out-and-about and people learn that I’m the Library Director, I hear many stories about how pleased they are with us. Their stories run the gamut from people who love their storytime presenter to those who found exactly the right book to people who got what they wanted from home via the library website. I know that I get a lot of credit for great work that Lincoln City Libraries’ staff do every single day.

On a related note, another joyful aspect of my job is working with others. There’s a particular excitement that comes from people working together, seeing projects and ideas come to fruition. When this works well, it really is the sum exceeding the parts.

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

I work hard to remain positive. What this often means is keeping an eye on the goal, and helping others to keep their eyes there, too. Frankly, by nature I’m sarcastic and critical, and I have a nasty temper. I’ve had to learn how to channel that energy into more fruitful directions.

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

In any workplace, the most successful people have typically figured out how to work especially well with others. Instead of passively accepting the interactions that come their way, they think about how to work well with their colleagues, how to support their supervisor, and how to do well by the people they supervise.

I’ve been giving a lot of thought to what issues are library-specific, because most of the things that come to mind apply to all professions. I’d say that all librarians need to develop deep respect for our goals of service, without developing too strong of an affection for the tools we use to reach those goals. The tools we use change all of the time. What remains is commitment to information access, to the power of literacy, and to democracy.

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

In my most recent experience as Youth Service Supervisor, I developed a relationship with the Lincoln Saltdogs to support our Summer Reading Program. For three summers now, the Saltdogs’ Lincoln City Libraries Summer Reading Program Recognition Night has been one of their best-attended games. The Saltdogs certainly love the way that the library draws people to Haymarket Park, and we love the infusion of energy that they provide for us. It’s a great illustration to the community, when thousands of people involved in the Summer Reading Program attend a ballgame together. As I’m sure you’ve discussed in your coursework, many of the fruits of collaboration fall outside of the actual project. Many of the people with whom we’ve worked have become strong library supporters. Often we’ll learn something about them that will benefit our own services. We’re more likely to be thought of when people are planning the next great thing.

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

When I get home and the work day is over, I check Facebook. I do an annual project of reading the books from the ALA Notable Books list. They’re often pretty heavy, but it’s an interesting variety. I always come across one or two books from the list that I absolutely love, and that I would never have heard of otherwise.

In addition, I love memoirs and many mysteries.

Thank you for all you do for Lincoln City Libraries, Pat!
What is your education/library/professional background?

I receive a BA in Anthropology from the University of Florida in December of 2007. Immediately afterwards I began working on my MLS, here in Omaha. I currently volunteer at a new art library which (for the moment) is called the UNO-KANKEO Creativity Library. I am fortunate to be among the 3 librarians who have been on board since the very beginning of the library. When I started the library was purely conceptual and since then I have had the privilege of helping develop the collection, the policies, and the library space itself. The library is now on the verge of opening which is something we have all been eagerly anticipating. I am also looking forward to the new challenges and problems that will need to be overcome as we transition from startup to being a living breathing library.

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

At the top of my ‘to read’ list is A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962 by Alistair Horne. It is historical non-fiction about the Algerian war of independence against France. I find the period a fascinating one in history because Algeria held a special place in French society, unlike other French colonies Algeria was considered as a part of mainland France in both in thought and administration. Thus the Algerian war of independence was handled very differently from other French territories that fought for independence after WWII, like Vietnam.

The last book I finished and enjoyed quite a bit was 1453: The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West by Roger Crowley. 1453 is the year that the Byzantine capital Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks. The book is historical drama that tells the tale of the events leading up to and the eventual fall of the city, from the perspective of all the involved factions. I found it interesting that at the time in Europe relations between the Orthodox east and the Catholic west had become so bad that requests for aid from the besieged city fell on deaf ears. Neighboring Catholic kingdoms, like Hungary, were ready and willing to intervene but were prevented from doing so by the papacy in Rome. The papacy essentially allowed the last remnant of the once mighty Roman Empire and a city full of Orthodox Christians, but Christians none the less to fall into the hands of the Turks.

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

I would have to recommend As We May Think by Vannevar Bush. In my opinion it is a fundamental piece of reading for anyone interested in LIS for two major reasons. First, it offers perspective on the modern information environment. Second, because Bush was not prescient, instead he took a logical look at the technology around him and extrapolated it to its fullest extent. This is a logical process that we can all learn from and use in order to anticipate future trends and problems in our field.

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

When it is warm enough I enjoy biking. In the winter a short walk is all of the Omaha weather I can take in a day. I am definitely a heavy internet user in my free time. I spend a lot of time reading on Wikipedia or playing games online.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I don’t read many books. Most of my reading is done online and to do this I would not be among those lamenting the end of print.

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

If your résumé is like mine, then we list more than a few of these qualities so it almost difficult to talk about them without being at least a little cynical. However, in all honesty I think that a willingness and deep desire to try new things will definitely aid me. In my personal life I love to try new and exotic foods, travel to foreign lands, and see and try different ways of doing things. I expect my professional life to be no different. I hope never to dismiss ideas or approaches simply because they are different, strange, or new. I believe this attitude is in part what led me to my undergraduate degree in anthropology.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

It is important to think about what you hope to get out of this program. Of course we all covet the master’s degree and the opportunities that the degree will afford us, but it is important to remind ourselves that we are here to learn how to critically analyze and approach the problems we will face as professionals. It immediately became clear to me that this program is designed to teach us to think rather than teach us to do. Dr. Pasco is fond of stating that this program is a degree in “Leadership in a library context.” I think that is a great statement and for some of us that will be what they get out of this program. I also believe that this program is designed to give us the tools to think critically about our profession, which enables us to seek new solutions and become innovators. In our field there will rarely be a right or wrong answer so we must have the tools necessary to find the best solution for any situation.

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

I feel it is much too early in my career to be considering a legacy. I only hope that one day I can achieve a position that would allow me to leave a positive legacy and beneficially influence both my fellow librarians and the patrons we serve. Of course, there are changes would like to make and perhaps be remembered for. However, I think it is important to remember that a person’s legacy is created in the minds of those that they influence and as such is not entirely up to us. I hope that by working hard, being who I am, and doing what I think is best for libraries and their patrons that a positive legacy will one day follow.

Any Last Words?

I would like to leave you with a quote from Ovid’s Metamorphosis: “It is right to learn, even from one’s enemies.” It is a simple enough notion but I think that in these times many need to be reminded that we can and should learn from every source of information regardless of its origins. It does not mean that we should trust every source of information but it does mean that in the world today we cannot afford to dismiss information because we don’t agree with the views or policies of its source.

Thank you, Benjamin!
Web 2.0
What is it and how can you use it in your library?

The buzz word and new wave in libraries is Web 2.0 and its wide variety of applications. The following article gives us an introduction to Web 2.0 technologies and the ways that they can be useful in our libraries.


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### What is Web 2.0?

**These are just a few examples...**

This conceptual term indicates “the proliferation of interconnectivity and interactivity of web-delivered content” (Funk, 2009, p. 49). These new technologies dramatically change the old ‘one-way’ method of displaying content on the web. The old web consisted of websites that delivered content over the internet and were only changed when a programmer altered the content. Web 2.0 also delivers content over the internet, but the emphasis is on “two-way communication, low costs, and ease of use” (p. 49).

Web 2.0 technologies can be easily utilized, mostly for free, simply with internet access. Many who are intimidated by these web tools might be surprised by how many of the resources they recognize. The following examples of Web 2.0 resources are likely tools that you already use:

- [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) or similar blogging websites
- [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) or other shared wikis
- [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) or other video sharing websites
- [www.myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com) and [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)
- [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) and other photo sharing websites

For additional information and tutorials on utilizing Web 2.0 technologies, [www.commoncraft.com](http://www.commoncraft.com) offers many “short, clear, amusing videos” to explain the gamut of web technologies (Funk, 2009, p. 48).

Many people are now familiar with blogs and wikis and the ways in which they can be useful for librarians. These tools can be utilized for both operational and the PR purposes, and should certainly be utilized by libraries. The following Web 2.0 examples offer suggestions for the less obvious ways that libraries can utilize these resources. Funk (2009) offers the following suggestions for how individuals can begin using Web 2.0 technologies to affect change in their libraries: “Learn their capabilities and limitations. After you’re comfortable with them, start thinking how you could use them in your library. Look at how other libraries are already using them. Go to your administration and demonstrate what could be done quickly, easily, and cheaply. Borrow some ideas and adapt them to your needs” (p. 51).

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### How can you use Web 2.0 in your library?

**Try some of these ideas!**

*Keep track of your contacts and create professional relationships with LinkedIn: “Today, more than 25 million professionals use LinkedIn for their personal database of connections. Here, you can create a profile of your professional accomplishments and invite colleagues to connect to you” (Funk, 2009, p. 49). This resource can be accessed at: [http://www.linkedin.com/](http://www.linkedin.com/).

The less formal, but perhaps more familiar, networking resources include Facebook at MySpace. “Many libraries have created their own Facebook or MySpace pages and encourage their users to ‘friend’ them or become fans of their libraries” (p. 49).

*Keep track of your bookmarks with Delicious: “Librarians love to collect useful websites, but it’s difficult to manage a large number of browser bookmarks and favorites” (p. 49). This problem can be easily managed by signing up for a Delicious account at: [http://delicious.com/](http://delicious.com/). Delicious allows you to tag any site you choose and view popular tags, your friends’ tags. “Social bookmarking is particularly useful for reference librarians. Some reference departments maintain a network of Delicious accounts so their reference librarians can see each other’s collections easily” (p. 49).

*Be efficient in keeping track of the news you care about with an RSS feed: “Many of us get our news online, often through Web 2.0 resources that are updated on a regular basis. Rather than wasting time clicking around and looking for updates; “instead, subscribe to RSS (Real Simple Syndication) feeds, which automatically notify you of new posts by showing you a brief ‘headline’” (p. 50). Many libraries are adding RSS feed capabilities to their home pages or blogs so they can quickly and easily notify their users of upcoming library activities, new additions to the catalog, new issues of the library newsletter, and emergency closings.

*Share photos easily and conveniently: “In the age of digital cameras and digital prints, photo sharing has moved far beyond the days of the coffee-table photo album. “Photo-sharing websites such as Flickr, Kodak Gallery, or Picasa Web Albums are your best bet” for sharing digital photos (pg. 51). As with most Web 2.0 resources, you can choose to keep your photos private, share them with friends, or make them viewable to everyone. “Many libraries use Flickr to share library events with their communities. Just Google ‘libraries’ and ‘Flickr’ to see the wide variety of libraries participating in photo sharing. The Library of Congress is using Flickr to share its massive collection of photos allowing the public to tag photos with identifying names or locations” (p. 51).

Now is the time to begin learning how Web 2.0 can benefit your library!
Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest.

-Lady Bird Johnson

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You can see our students and alums hard at work at many libraries across the state. Here are a few of our Lincoln colleagues making us proud as they work hard in their library.

Sarah Haack concentrates as she works in the Tech Services Department of UNL’s Love Library.

Michael Straatman looks over his multiple task lists in his office at UNL’s Love Library.

Therese Vogle assists patrons at the Walt Branch of Lincoln City Libraries.

Kathryn Kelley visits with Margaret Mering (a cataloging instructor for school librarians at UNO) at UNL’s Love Library.

Karin Dalziel works hard in her new professional position as the Digital Resources Designer at the University of Nebraska Lincoln Libraries.

Jill Von Minden helps a younger patron at the Gere Branch of Lincoln City Libraries.