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University of Nebraska at Omaha

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NEMO NEWS

ADVICE FROM THE FRONT LINES

Rebecca Sims- Director,
Thomas S. Power Library, Offutt Air Force Base

What is your education/library/professional background?

- Bachelors' in music education (French horn & piano).
- Decided to go into librarianship when I was 24 and enrolled at Kent State University. (Cynthia Rylant was one of my pals. We edited the library school newsletter together & I used to babysit her son. She kept me sane.)
- First library job: University of Cincinnati library working on a retrospective conversion project (catalog cards to online)
- Started a library at what is now Lexis/Nexis in Ohio, then moved to DC to work on their international news product. It never did really take off. Worked for them a total of 5 years.
- Moved to the Bureau of the Census Library as head of public services for 2 1/2 years.
- Married a Naval officer and followed him around. This included a year of training as a court reporter, four years at Borders (one of the best experiences for a librarian ever), and putting together a training conference and resource book for the spouses of Commanding Officers and Executive Officers at Pearl Harbor.
- Became director of the Offutt AFB Library in 1997.

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

- Favorites include *Pride & Prejudice*, Lois McMaster Bujold's *Vorkosigan* series, *False Colours* by Georgette Heyer, *To Serve Them All My Days* by R.F. Delderfeld, *Daybreakers* by L'Amour (he got me through grad school when I was too fried to read anything more complex), *On Writing* by Stephen King, *Miss Maggie*

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and *I Had Seen Castles* by Cynthia Rylant, and just about anything by Debbie Macomber (whom I've met and is just as wonderful as you could imagine).
- I like books about writing & language and on the history of the American West,

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(Sims-continued)

and I dabble in just about anything else from quilting to martial arts (not that I can actually do either of them).

- In my professional reading collection, I have Got Game (Beck), The Long Tail (Anderson), Strategic Management for Today's Libraries (Mason), The World is Flat (Friedman), How to Become CEO (Fox) and various other flash-in-the-pan business books.

- I keep saying I'm going to read the Stephanie Plum books and David Weber's Honor Harrington series, but haven't gotten there yet. Some severe visual problems kept me away from anything in print for a long time, but I'm finally getting back to it.

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

- Leaving aside the library periodicals, CIO Insider is amazingly applicable to library management. While much of it is way too technical for me, the articles and white papers on innovation, staffing, strategy, project management and more will often have gems of wisdom that really help. (Several of the "26 Ways to Know Your Software Development Project Is Doomed" can easily be translated into librarianship. Is it named Project Phoenix? Watch out.) And their slideshows are a hoot. (Cool Home Office Gear #4: Write on the walls.)

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

- Visit with friends, play piano, travel, read on the computer (since print hasn't been an option), play games such as Sudoku, Jigzone & Bejeweled 2.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

- Huh. I thrive on chaos? That's probably not a secret to anyone who knows me at all.

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 try to find good people to work for me, train them, then let them do their jobs. As long as we aren't breaking rules or spending more money than we have, I don't care how my staff gets from here to there

... as long as they get where I want and get there on time. After all, they're the ones doing the work, so they should have a LOT of input into how it's done. I'm policy; they're process.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

- Get involved in the world. Those of us who've been in the field for a while need to make sure we keep up with technology; those who are starting out need to make sure they keep up with people. (In person.)

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

- Keeping up with technology will always be a challenge, but the problem will be retaining the personal touch when we're working "virtually" with so many of our patrons.

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

- Easing the base library from the 20th to the 21st century so that it continues to meet the needs of the local military community. I'm honored to serve them.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Sims-continued)

Any Last Words?

- A library is not a building. It's not a collection of books or DVDs or a room with computers or a list of online research services or even a group of people. Don't think of it as a noun; think of it as a verb. You see, a library is a process. It's getting information from wherever it is to the person who wants it, however we can, wherever they are. As long as we understand and remember that, the "library as we know it" will never disappear.

AASL Conference Report –



Shanda Hall, Deanna Reilly and Alyx Knight attended the 14th Annual National Conference and Exhibition in Charlotte, North Carolina. There were more than 100 concurrent sessions and an Exploratorium, all “revving up” school library media service.



Deanna Reilly and Laurie Halse Anderson at the exhibits.

dana boyd opened the conference and was joined by other nationally-known authors and illustrators including James Patterson.



Deanna Reilly, Alyx Knight and Shanda Hall wave for the camera. Each attended various sessions during the conference.

Alyx Knight picked two winners on the conference track: (1) learning more best practices ideas as related to the 21st century standards and (2) addressing student test deficits using data-driven collaboration.

The MILE (Milestones for Improving Learning in Education) Guide exemplifies how teacher-librarians lead the way for better instruction, better questioning and better research.

In lane two, Toni Buzzeo (author and library media specialist) challenged the audience to examine the role in schools, to analyze the test data relevant to the project or assignments and to ask the questions at the beginning of this process. She begins and ends with cooperation---coordination---data-driven collaboration.

Knight plans to rev up her students’ learning with these two winning ideas.

Cover Letters

Why You Need a Cover Letter

A cover letter should **always** accompany your resume in order to explain what position you are applying for, and why you are the best candidate for that position. A cover letter allows you to show an interest in the company that you cannot show in your resume. You can also show more about yourself, while highlighting one or two of your skills or accomplishments the company can put to good use.

Do:

- Address the letter to a specific person (include their title with their name).
- Explain specifically how you can benefit the employer.
- Relate relevant information that is not on the resume.
- Limit your paragraphs to three or four sentences each.
- Sign your name.
- As you may miss errors due to familiarity, have someone else proofread your cover letter before sending it.

Don't:

- Place your needs over those of your potential employer.
 - Make demands.
 - Be too general or vague.
- remain robust.

Elements of a Cover Letter

Your Street Address (or Post Office Box Number)
 City, State, and Zip Code
 The Date
 (enough spaces to center the letter on the page)

Name of Contact Person (including Mr. or Ms.)
 His or Her Title

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IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Registration

Registration for Spring 2010 classes continues. Consult your Plan of Study and course schedules.

Classes fill quickly on a first-come, first-served basis. So be ready to register on your assigned date and time! Visit

http://mudirect.missouri.edu/_catalog to complete your registration.

Graduation Ceremony – University of Missouri Hearnest Center Friday, December 18, 2009 8 PM

If you are graduating in Fall 2009 and planning to attend the ceremony in Columbia, you need to be making your travel arrangements immediately as hotels are filling NOW!

If there aren't rooms available in Columbia, there are also hotels in Boonville, Jefferson City, and Moberly.

School of Information Science and Learning Technologies ceremony- Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, 2-4 PM.

SISLT has its own ceremony earlier in the afternoon in Townsend Hall. The SISLT faculty hosts a reception honoring library science graduates.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Jacob Rundle

What is your education/library/professional background?

I am a graduate of Midland Lutheran college in Fremont, NE with a bachelors in English. I currently work part time at Midland Lutheran college's Luther library as a reference librarian, part time at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont, NE as a children's librarian and grant coordinator, part time as a preschool aide for Trinity Early Childcare Center in Fremont, and as a movie clerk for Family Video.

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

Right now I'm getting ready to read *Born Digital: The First Generation of Digital Natives* by John Palfrey and Urs Gasser. It's a study into the generation of students who were brought up with technology wired into the everyday life. I'm also reading *Blackest Night* comic book run from DC and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Season 8* from Dark Horse. These are the first two series of comic book that have gotten me to buy the new issue every month. I recommend them both.



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

I have been reading *School Library Journal* an awful lot lately, especially their article "When Harry [Potter] Met Bella [Swan]," talking about the legality of fan fiction and if it is plagiarism or not. Another article that I've read recently deals with self-censorship in the library. It was a fascinating look at how librarians will censor their own collection because they do not want to invest the time into fighting a challenge later. I like them because both articles tackle issues that librarians are dealing with all the time. How does a librarian support his student patrons who want to become writers without breaking copyright? Stuff like that would never cross my mind until after the movie studio and J.K. Rowling's lawyers and Stephanie Meyer's lawyers all rolled into the library to put me through the ringer.

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

I'm what I like to call a rainy day knitter. I have a hat and a scarf started on needles at my house, but I only do about twenty minutes of work on it at a time. My hobby coming up in January will be the final season of *LOST*. You cannot even fathom how excited I am for that to come out. I'm also a fan of well written TV shows, cooking with cheap ingredients, and not cleaning my dishes.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I'm a librarian who blogs. I'm blogging about my library school experience. I have another blog for the day to day life stuff. And another blog with a friend of mine about our Midwestern perspec-

(continued on Page 6)

(Rundle - Continued)

tives of pop culture. I'm also terribly addicted to Entertainment Weekly. They are SO SMART! They are the reason I want a Masters in Popular Culture once I'm done with my MLS.

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

Personal Quality: I'm super cheerful most of the time. If you saw me at NLA, you'd know me as the guy playing the "try and greet everyone" game. "Howdy" was my greeting of choice. And I can organize a fantastic potluck party when needed.

Professional Quality: I have a passion for collection development. I came from a library that was diligent about having materials for everyone and ensuring that the newest, best materials were available to patrons. I make it my goal to whip collections into shape whenever I can.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

When you're sitting in class, it's easy to just focus in on what you're learning and then go home. Don't do that. Stay after class. Talk to your professors. Talk to the students sitting next to you. Make a study group or a book club or a "hey you've got homework due Friday" buddy. Librarians in the 21st century need to make more connections, not less. Start now, when you're all still learning the ins and outs of the profession. Friendships in Library school can make lasting partnerships in the real world that can benefit you as a professional and your community of patrons.

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

I think the challenge right now for the field is coming up with ways of providing the same service as usual while administrators, city budgets and state funding are pulling your funding first and fastest in order to balance a budget. Libraries are trending toward a more open access approach to information as a means to curb this decline in funds. More libraries have a Facebook or Twitter presence and some libraries are leading the charge for digitization. It's a pretty great time to be in the library field. We're the ones playing with new technology and making it work for our profession. You kinda can't wait to see what someone's going to come up with next.

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

I really want to be the librarian that people remember as being helpful and informed. I would love to say I plan to be the head librarian at some land grant institution or a City Library director with 15 branches serving a million people, but I'm content for now to be the guy that can find you the book or the article you're looking for and do it with a smile and a whistle in my step.

Any Last Words?

Get a Google account. Seriously. You'll need it more times than you think during the program. and it's awesome to have otherwise. Google Reader for RSSing all the library blogs. It's pretty much the coolest thing they do.

(Cover Letters- Continued from page 4)

Elements of a Cover Letter

Name of the Company
Street Address (or Post Office Box Number)
City, State, and Zip Code

Dear Mr. or Ms. _____:

The opening paragraph should explain which position you are applying for, and how you became aware of that position. Next, you should write a concise statement that explains why you are interested in the position.

If you were referred to the employer, you should include that person's name and point out that he or she suggested you write to the employer.

The middle paragraph is where you make note of relevant information not on your resume. You should note how you can benefit the company you are applying for.

In the closing paragraph, you should thank the employer for their time and consideration. The last sentence should inform the reader how to contact you if he or she has additional questions or would like to arrange an interview.

Sincerely,
(Your Signature)
Your name, typed
Enclosures (example: Resume enclosed, or
Resume attached)

CONGRATULATIONS to our successful colleagues!

Martha Grenzeback was promoted to Library Specialist at the Milton R. Abrahams branch of the Omaha Public Library.

Erica Rose accepted a position with the Windsor Severance Library District in Colorado. She is going to be their Outreach/Communications Librarian.

Sarah VanRaden -accepted a position as Part-time Young Adult Library Specialist for Omaha Public Library.

Karin Dalziel, Diane Keiter, Martha Grenzeback-Harnik, Sandra Meyer, Robert Overkamp, Benjamin Shorb, Jacqueline Shuster, Mary Smith, Michael Straatman, Sherri Vance, Erin Willis, Kathryn Willis, and Terry Wingate graduated with their MLS this spring and summer 2009.

PLAN OF STUDY

If you 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 cannot graduate if you haven't fulfilled the plan outlined in your plan of study. Do not procrastinate as these processes often take a while.

The Plan of Study Form (M-1) and the Program of Study Substitution Form can be down loaded from the SISLT website at: <http://education.missouri.edu/SISLT/sislt.forms.php>



**2010
Heartland**
School Library
conference

**June
14-15**

*W.H. Thompson Alumni Center
University of Nebraska at Omaha*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Cassandra Barnett
President-Elect
American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

Pam Berger

Publisher and Editor of Information Searcher
& Author of Internet for Active Learners (ALA Editions)



Brought to you by the UNO College of Education School Library Media Programs
in partnership with the Nebraska Educational Media Association and the University of Nebraska - Kearney Library Media Program

Questions should be directed to

Dr. Becky Pasco, UNO School Library Media Program Coordinator, 402-554-2119 or 1-800-858-8648 x2119, rpasco@unomaha.edu



2010 Heartland School Library Conference

Registration Form

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

School District: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Registration Fee: \$50

Registration fee is the same for 1 or 2-day attendance.
NO on-site registration. Lunch & dinner on your own.
Checks and Purchase Orders accepted. NO cash or credit cards accepted.

Day(s) Attending:

____ Monday ____ Tuesday ____ Both Days

Make checks payable to: **University of Nebraska at Omaha**

Mail Registration Form & Payment by **May 1, 2010**, to:

Deanna Reilly, College of Education, 534 Kayser Hall, UNO, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182-0163

Check if you would like more information about how to get graduate credit through attendance at conference and related activities.

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 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.

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://education.missouri.edu/academics/financial_aid/scholarships-graduate.php. Look for details on Spring Scholarship Deadlines in the next NEMO newsletter!

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.

Visit:
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/jobsandcareers.asp> and check out who is looking to hire 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.

Useful Web Sites

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)---
www.gre.org

Graduate School---
www.missouri.edu/~gradschl

Graduate School Catalog---
www.missouri.edu/~gradschl/catalog

MU Direct---
mudirect.missouri.edu

Semester Schedules---
[registrar.missouri.edu/Schedule of Courses](http://registrar.missouri.edu/Schedule_of_Courses)

Transcript Request Procedures---
Registrar.missouri.edu (click on "Records, Transcripts, & Degree Audit")

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