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NEMO NEWS

ADVICE FROM THE FRONT LINES

Shawn Hartman-Assistant Director of Public Services, Chadron State College

What is your education/library/professional background?

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Accounting from Chadron State College, a Master of Education in Business Administration also from Chadron State College, and a Master of Library Science from Texas Woman’s University.

After I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree, I moved to Denver, Colorado and worked at Swedish Medical Center in the Payroll/Business department. It was a great experience, but I discovered the city wasn’t for me, so I moved back to Chadron. Prior to working at Chadron State College, I worked at the District Court Probation Office, the Chadron Community Hospital, and subsequently owned and managed a ladies clothing boutique. When our first son was born, I decided I wanted to be a “stay at home” mom. This lasted for about two months!

I started working at Chadron State College eighteen years ago as an Assistant to the Library Director. After finishing my MLS coursework, I was offered the Interim position as Assistant Director of Public Services. On July 1, 2009, I was officially appointed the Assistant Director of Public Services.

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

When I have time, I like to read scholarly articles on library anxiety, first year college students and, information literacy. I have read several articles by

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Barbara Fister, an excellent author, who has written extensively on these subjects (primarily library anxiety). As far as recreational reading, I’m currently reading Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde. Favorites - I’m really not picky, anything except science fiction/fantasy!

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

As a librarian, I think it is important to keep abreast on all aspects of the library world – new electronic/Internet resources, library issues and advocacy, effective marketing strategies, library tech trends, academia marketing, censorship, and so forth. Since I am a member of ALA and ACRL, I receive *American Libraries* and *College and Research News*, which are both superb publications. *American Libraries* is an excellent resource that offers discussions on professional library news and issues. *College and Research Libraries* provides articles on the latest trends and practices affecting academic and research libraries.

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

Every night after work (weather permitting) I go for a run. I enjoy the exercise and it’s a terrific remedy for stress relief! Music is another one of my hobbies (listening to jazz, classical, golden oldies, and also playing piano). I play for weddings and funerals, and I’m also the organist for the Chadron United Methodist Church. Cooking is fun. I get a kick out of trying new recipes and also making up my own (sometimes it works out and, well, sometimes not)!

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

Ten years ago if someone had asked me if I wanted to be a librarian, I would have told them they were nuts, absolutely nuts!!

Also, I’m a junk food addict - particularly chips (any kind, but my favorite is nacho flavored Doritos). And, because of this crazy addiction, our oldest son’s name is Chip, no joke (it’s a long story)!

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

Not only do I truly believe in libraries, but I also thrive on challenging projects and discovering new knowledge. Being a librarian involves, or at least it should, a constant learning process. If our intention is educating our guests to be information literate, then we need to be. We must not only possess a love of knowledge, learning, scholarship, and teaching, but also a love for students. One of the many reasons I decided to pursue my career in library services was to make a difference, to improve the reputation of libraries by making them an inviting and exciting place to be. Also, I care. I care about libraries and I care about the students. I want the students to have a great experience when they visit the library and I want them to succeed. It is so important to realize that a librarian’s attitude has a huge impact on not only the library’s reputation, but also the success of the institution.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Decide what you want to get out of the program, set your goal(s), focus on the area of librarianship that most interests you, don’t ever be afraid to ask your instructors for help and/or advice when and if you need it, and finally, if possible, find a mentor that is willing to help you throughout your coursework and establish a close learning relationship with him/her.

When I started working on my MLS, I knew public service was the area of librarianship that most interested me. I read extensively on marketing libraries, library anxiety, and

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information literacy – all important aspects of public services. And then, I set goals for myself: 1) to become an assistant director (particularly in public services), and, ultimately, 2) to become a director of an academic library.

The reason I mentioned not being afraid to approach your instructors is because I was so lucky to have great instructors (well, most of them – *smile*) that were always willing to listen and or give me advice when I asked for it. I was also fortunate to have an absolutely brilliant mentor – my boss, Milton Wolf. I cannot even begin to express my gratitude to him for what he has done for my professional growth. He has taught me so much (and continues to do so) about the many facets of libraries - the importance of clear and concise written policies, faculty/librarian liaison partnerships, information literacy, getting the most out of “limited” funds, administrative politics, and so forth. Since he became the Library Director, the changes that have occurred in our library the past five years are absolutely incredible - it makes coming to work fun...each day is truly an adventure!

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

A significant challenge faced by libraries is the sentiment that because of the Internet, libraries are becoming obsolete. While the Internet certainly has affected libraries, those of us who work in academic libraries are aware of the misconceptions users and the larger communities have about libraries. Many believe that the World Wide Web now provides access to all of the world’s accumulated knowledge

and that a simple “Google” search will provide all the relevant information a person may desire about a topic. Unfortunately, what these users do not understand is that not all the information the Internet provides is peer-reviewed, scholarly, and/or reliable literature.

Another significant challenge faced by libraries is academic dishonesty also known as plagiarism. Librarians need to be aware of this problem and figure out how they can play an important role in the solution. As members of an academic community, we (librarians) foster respect for the work of scholars from whose work we draw wisdom. More importantly, as scholars, we want to create our own ideas and contribute to our professional body of knowledge and, hopefully, instill in our students the same kind of respect that has gone on before. This will hopefully give them the same opportunity as scholars, critical thinkers, and life-long learners as well. As librarians, our lenses must be widened to understand students and their technology-infused world and then use that understanding to model the academic integrity for them.

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

That’s a tough one! I can honestly say I have absolutely no idea what my legacy in the library world will be. I do, however, have three particular goals that I would like to concentrate on: 1) To establish collegiality among the academic faculty, students, and the campus community, 2) To promote information literacy, and 3) To be a genuine library advocate and encourage a love of learning among all users.

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(Hartman-continued)

It is important to develop collegiality with the faculty, students, and the campus community. Working closely with the faculty is a terrific way to educate them, and hopefully, to get them to value our services. Once the faculty discovers the importance of our library, they will potentially share it with our future: the students. I also believe that the library is (or should be) the heart of any institution of learning – information comes from everywhere and anywhere!

I'm also a firm believer that, as librarians, one of our primary responsibilities is to promote information literacy skills and create life-long learners. Being a librarian is somewhat similar to being a parent: as a parent, you want your children to succeed; as a librarian, you want the students to succeed. I'd like to think that at least one student that I've helped throughout his/her college career will look back and say, "Yep, if it wasn't for Shawn Hartman, I wouldn't be where I'm at in my career!"

Any last words?

Librarians are multi-faceted individuals. We serve as a vital bridge between the students, professional staff, and faculty. We have the opportunity to see students outside of the classroom, on nights and weekends, and we need to strive to help them meet their academic responsibilities and become lifelong, critical learners. This is what I hope to do!



IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Registration

Registration for Spring 2010 classes begins on **October 26, 2009**. Mark this date on your calendar! 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.

Graduation Ceremony: School of Information Science and Learning Technologies

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: Susan Yirak

What is your education/library/professional background?

I received my undergraduate degree in English with a creative writing emphasis from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska in 2000. And I began taking graduate coursework toward a master's degree in Information Science from Missouri-Columbia in the fall of 2008. So far I have completed 16 credit hours and hope to finish the program by December 2010. I started working as a library page while in high school for the Omaha Public Library system and later became a library specialist while in college. In 2004 I left OPL for the Creighton Law Library where I am now the Acquisition's Assistant. It was while working for Creighton that I decided to go back for my master's degree.

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

I try to read a wide variety of genres, though I do usually read fiction. One of my favorite series is by Jasper Fforde: the Thursday Next books. They have a ton of humor in them, and so many literary references that even the most well-read person will miss some of them. Anyone who loves books and classics will probably like them. One of my favorite nonfiction books is *River of Doubt* by Candice Millard. It follows Theodore Roosevelt's journey through uncharted areas of the Amazon. The author brilliantly writes the suspenseful trip and brings TR alive again. This is definitely not a dry history book!

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

I read Library Journal and Computers in Libraries as well as a few others. I find particularly useful articles written by Marshall Breeding. He has an annual article in Library Journal discussing the automated marketplace, including reviews of different ILS providers. He also contributes to other journals regarding technology in the information sciences.

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

I read quite a bit, and enjoy going to movies. But I also have an older home that needs constant maintenance, so I work around the house and yard a great deal as well.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I love reading romance novels (not harlequins) and watching Star Trek.

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

One quality is an eagerness to figure out what is just around the corner and how to get our library there.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Be willing to adapt to new trends and don't be afraid to start a new trend yourself.

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(Yirak - Continued)

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

The biggest challenge that librarians will face is defining what their role is as technology changes. We have already been redefining librarianship in the past 30 years, but it will continue to be even more important as the information field changes.

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

I hope that my legacy will be to leave behind an example of how librarians should be able to help their library to thrive and grow with the changing times while remembering that their ultimate purpose is to serve their community (whatever it may be).

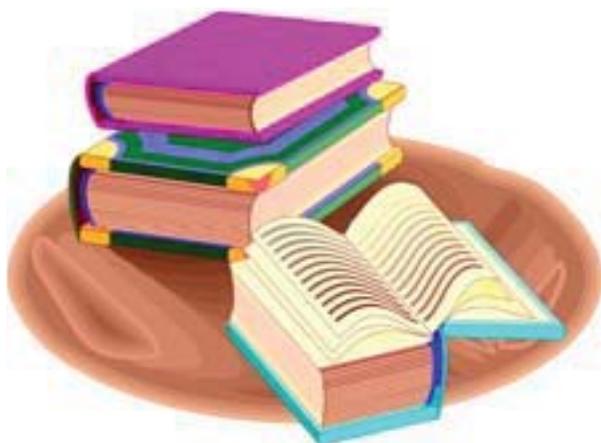
Any Last Words?

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."
Groucho Marx

What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all its children.

John Dewey

Banned Book Week September 26 - October 3



CONGRATULATIONS to our successful colleagues!

Rhonda Huisman is now an Assistant Librarian/School of Education Liaison and the Center for Teaching and Learning Library consultant for Indiana University/Purdue University in Indianapolis

Todd Schlechte was promoted to Library Director of Gretna Public Library effective August 23rd.

Ramona Ratliff (Circulation Assistant / Periodicals) is doing the same job she did before at York College, but she has been upgraded from Staff to Faculty status since she graduated in May 2008.

Alyx Knight was hired early August as a Media Specialist at Southwest High School in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Welcome Penelope!

Penelope Rose Willis, born August 1, 6lbs. 7oz., 20 inches long

"Yes- life is crazy and wonderful," says **Erin Willis**.

Six Simple Yet “Must Do” Tips While Preparing For a Job Interview

Posted by Mark in Career, Resources on September 7, 2009

<http://applicant.com/six-simple-yet-must-do-tips-while-preparing-for-a-job-interview/>



Job search isn't easy. There is searching for jobs, narrowing the jobs that you want to apply for and then desperately waiting for a interview call. However, once you get to the interview point, you know that you are a step closer to landing a job. The thing with job interviews is that many people make it too complicated. Of course, it's not easy to appear at an interview and be as calm as one could be, but it is something we all need to master. There are many job interview tips floating around on the web and some of them are way too complex to even understand. It doesn't have to be that hard. Sometimes the solution to the toughest things come in simplest ways. Here are six interview tips that are simple but key to making sure the interview goes the way it should.

1. Who Is The Interviewer

Surprises are nice but not when it comes down to a job interview. If you are called for an interview, don't hesitate to ask who the interviewer will be. Most companies will give you this information. This will help you learn a little more about the individual by researching on the internet or through your network. Even if you can't find out who the interviewer will be, a good research should give you possible answers on what to expect and who to expect. This will give you some idea on what kind of person you will be dealing with during the interview, and will also give you a sense of what kind questions you will be facing.

2. Contact Your References

You may already have permission to use someone as references, but make sure to connect with them one more time before the interview date. It's always a good strategy to make sure things are still the same. Once you have finalized your references make sure to put them all down on a piece of paper. A neatly compiled list of references with their name, address, phone number and the company they work for would be an added bonus when you are at the interview. If the interviewer asks for references, just get the paper with all the information out and hand it to them so they have a copy and can do the necessary digging.

3. Don't Rely So Much on The Web

This tip is in regards to finding address. I personally use many different web tools to find addresses and more often than not the results are wrong. Although this might not be the case for many, it still is a good thing to ask for direction when you are called for an interview. Sure, you can use the web to verify the address, but make sure to ask location and direction to the place when you are called for an interview. no one else but your potential employer can give you the best direction towards finding the interview location.

4. Research, Research and Research

Many of us know that this is critical to ace an interview but still most fail to realize it. Make sure you research on the company that you are going to a job interview for. Finding more about the company will not only help you answer questions easily during interview, it will also give you a sense of confidence. And confidence is key when it comes down to an interview. Make sure to use different platforms on the web and print media to do the digging on your potential employer. The more information you have, the better.

5. The Mirror Approach

I know many people may find this silly but it can work wonders. The mirror approach is where you stand in front of the mirror and answer questions that you have prepared (based on your research of the company and interviewer). Although the questions may not be exact, it's always better to have some kind of idea. Simply grab the questions, prepare your answers and get in front of a mirror and start answering them. Looking at yourself while answering questions gives you an idea of how well your answers sound (not that you can hear), your body language and other things you see in the mirror can help you hone your answers and body posture, etc.

6. Take Your Resume With

It's essential to grab a few copies of your resume just in case the interviewer doesn't have one on hand. A lot of time interviewers will do this on purpose to see if the job applicant has brought copies of resume along. Make sure to grab a few copies of your resume, not just for the interviewer but just in case there are others who would like to see your resume as well. It's always better to be well stocked than not to have any.

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>

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.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Scholarships.asp#Other_Scholarships

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.

2009 NLA/NEMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Join us October 28-30 for three days of sessions at the new Embassy Suites Omaha-LaVista Hotel & Conference Center, off I-80 by the newest Cabela's in Nebraska. For more information, visit:

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2009>

You'll find information about keynote speakers, special events, exhibitors and, of course, registration.

NEMO NEWS CONTACTS

Dr. R. J. (Becky) Pasco
Professor, College of Education
Coordinator, Lib Sci Ed
University of Nebraska Omaha
Kayser Hall 514G
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68182
402-554-2119
rpasco@unomaha.edu
1-800-858-8648, ext. 2119

Karen Hein
Instructor, Lib Sci Ed
University of Nebraska Omaha
Kayser Hall 522D
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68182
402-554-3459
khein@unomaha.edu

Alyx Knight
Graduate Assistant
nemogradassistant@gmail.com