4-2010

NEMO News, Volume 6, Issue 4

UNO Library Science Education

University of Nebraska at Omaha

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ADVICE FROM THE FRONT LINES

Cathy McMahon - Youth Services, Keene Memorial Library – Fremont, NE.

What is your education/library/professional background?

I have a Bachelors degree from UNO in Library Science.

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

I am currently reading SHIVER by Maggie Stiefvater. I love to read mysteries/suspense and of course romance and anything written by Simone Elkeles. Recently I read Graceling and Unwind and enjoyed both of those also!

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

I love to cook and bake and of course READ as much as I can!

What deep dark secret would you like to share? If I share it, it’s not a secret anymore, right?

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

Without a doubt I am here for the kids and want to be an active advocate for them.

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

I like to read VOYA and School Library Journal. Why? They both have interesting articles that actually pertain to my job! I think their book reviews are, for the most part, pretty accurate.

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What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

GOOD LUCK!

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

One challenge we face here at Keene is getting the older kids interested in coming to the library, letting them know it belongs to them too. I try very hard to open up a dialogue so they can have a voice in what effects them.

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

I hope my legacy/remembrance will be that I am passionate about literacy and literature and love to share that passion!

Any Last Words?

None that I can think of!
Expert Interviewing Tips: The Final Preparation

By Gayatri Trivedi

From creating an outstanding resume to the way you present yourself to prospective employers, these final preparations will eventually determine your success or failure at acquiring the job. The biggest mistake you could ever make is to not be completely prepared for your interview.

1. You know for whom you will be interviewing, so select attire that matches the culture of the organization. Make sure that your clothing is clean, well ironed and comfortable. It would be wise to do a test run in order to determine the comfort level. Also, accessories usually distract others and should be kept to the minimum.

2. If possible, go on a drive to the location of the interview. Plan out a schedule whereby you should arrive at least 10 minutes ahead, keeping in mind the traffic, parking difficulties, and the possibilities of getting lost.

3. Carry a neat bag with you, a small book and a folder with extra copies of your resume.

4. Look confident, greet everybody with respect, and be prepared for any type of questions. While speaking, it could be a good idea to navigate the discussion towards those topics you are particularly confident about and those which highlight your skills.

5. Prepare a brief sketch of your background. You need to display the fact that you are a well-balanced, intelligent, motivated, and a result oriented individual and that you strive to grow both professionally as well as personally.

6. Once the interview is over, shake hands with all the interviewers and ask them if they require additional material from you and when you will be notified. Establish a friendly connection in these last few minutes.

7. Do not forget to send a thank you note to all those individuals who interviewed you. You could either email them or send a formal business letter of thanks. Utilize this note to restate what you can do to bring value to the company.

The bottom line is to do everything within your power to make the interview a success. Portray yourself as an enthusiastic and sincere individual who has the caliber to take on additional responsibilities, leadership roles, and team work, as well as function effectively in fast-paced, high-stress conditions. Since an interview is the final stage in your job search, do not be afraid of anything, prepare yourself well, give it the best shot you have got, and success will be on your side.

Full text can be found at

IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

Registration
Registration for Summer and Spring 2010 classes begins March 1. continues. Consult your Plan of Study and course schedules. Summer 2010 precomps meeting will be April 23rd from 3-4 p.m.

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 Hearnes Center
Friday, May 14, 2010 8 PM
If you are graduating in Spring 2010 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, May 14, 2010, 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.

Missouri SISLT Summer Comps -
Summer 2010 comps will take place from June 12-June 20.

“Live” Summer Comps Review:
This session is for those interested in participating in the "live" review with the Missouri professors.

Face To Face Summer Comps Review:
Tuesday, May 4th, at 7:00 p.m. in Kayser Hall, Room 520 Conference Room.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:  Sam Shaw

What is your education/library/professional background?

I have a background in law but not a law degree. I was fortunate enough to obtain employment in the Nebraska Supreme Court Law Library back in 1995. I worked up to being the reference/public services librarian there, but I also was the government documents librarian and did a bit of cataloging and other things. Unfortunately, I was laid off from that position just before my 10 year anniversary date. After the layoff, I was offered a position as librarian for the Nebraska Department of Corrections at the Nebraska State Penitentiary and have been there not quite 5 years. I might call it a one-person library, but fortunately I have the help of 17 inmate workers who help serve our population of over 1200 inmates. In December of last year, my librarian duties were combined with the duties of the corrections library coordinator. So now I am responsible for the same library at the penitentiary, but also am the department’s library coordinator for the legal and recreational libraries at the department’s 7 other facilities.

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

I am not reading much right now due to the fact that I decided to enroll in 9 hours this semester while working full-time and with a 3 year old running our household (so she thinks). Not a good idea, but there is a lot on my list once I get back on track time wise. I mostly read non-fiction. Here a few that I have seen lately or have put on my list and have yet to get to:

Switch by Chip Heath
Panzer Commander by Hans VonLuck

Drive by Daniel Pink
Anything from Rick Shenkman
John Adams by David McCullough
Unforgivable Blackness (Jack Johnson bio) by Geoffrey Ward
The Nine by Jeffrey Toobin

For fiction, I like and recommend Raymond Carver, Bukowski, and James Ellroy among many, many others.

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

There is nothing specific that stands out as exceptional, although I am intrigued by the ideas surrounding the semantic web and fiber optic technologies (e.g. fiber to the library).

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

Before graduate school and kids, it was triathlon. I have completed 3 Ironman triathlons over the years and while I will not totally rule out a return at some point, for now I am content to do whatever I have time for as far as workouts. I am running a bit, but I want to get back in the pool and on the bike when I actually do have some “down time”. My plan is to return to marathon running after I graduate. I also like gardening and grow tropical plants, in addition to spending time with my family.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

There isn’t much here, but if revealed, it wouldn’t be a secret, would it?

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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 thing that I have learned from doing triathlon and running marathons is that I have developed a tenacity that has definitely carried over into my professional life. I have a passion for libraries and library services and an interest in the library of the 21st century. Change continues to occur and you have to get on the bus or get out of the kitchen, so to speak. I’d like to not only be at the front of the bus, but perhaps bungee corded to the hood. I want to surround myself with others who think in the same way.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Don’t quit, seek the advice of others, and take one day at a time. Develop networks of people that can help you along the way and never be afraid to ask for or give a favor to your colleagues.

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

There are many and the landscape is always changing. One method of thinking about it is to apply Kierkegaard’s notion of becoming, or rather that ourselves and things never really are, they are in a constant state of becoming (an oversimplification of course). Technology has and will play a key role in the availability of information and its delivery. Libraries need to continue to solidify their place within the community in order to remain relevant.

I get excited when I hear stuff like Cisco’s announcement today (March 9, 2010) in a press release that they have a new router that will make super high speed connections a reality. The author of the article, Gorenstein, quoted Cisco in stating that the new router “enables the entire printed collection of the Library of Congress to be downloaded in just over one second; every man, woman and child in China to make a video call, simultaneously; and every motion picture ever created to be streamed in less than four minutes” (Retrieved from http://finance.yahoo.com).

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

I would like to think I might be looked upon as someone who went beyond mediocrity and actually made a difference. Working in the environment that I am, I have plenty of opportunities for that. I would like to give back to my community in ways that it has given to me.

Any Last Words?

How about a quote attributed to Alfred Hitchcock: “I abhor conflict but I draw the line with my work. It pains me when I see people who don’t live up to their full potential.”
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.

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---
http://mudirect.missouri.edu/index.shtm

Semester Schedules---
http://registrar.missouri.edu/registration-adddrop/index.php

Transcript Request Procedures---
http://registrar.missouri.edu/ (click on “Records, Transcripts, & Degree Audit”)

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