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UNO Library Science Education
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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L.E.A.D.
Library Education and Development Newsletter

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“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.”
– Sidney Sheldon

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

I find the most joy in helping individuals find the information, knowledge, and answers whenever they need it. This applies to researching and to finding a book to enjoy. My favorite part of this process is supporting students and teachers in learning how the information process works as well as getting what they need. This also involves a level of trust and a relationship that allows a student to take a risk on a new author or a teacher to incorporate a new technology resource into a lesson. Basically, it is teaching them to fish instead of giving them a fish, and they have that skill for a lifetime. I love watching my students learn about something (technology, research, or a new author) and then seeing them run farther than I had ever considered. Along the way, they inspire and support their fellow students in learning, as well. That is probably the most powerful part of what I do because that moment of “I get it” lasts forever.

Please discuss one personal characteristic that you feel has contributed to your success as a school librarian?

I am passionate about everything I do, so I am rarely content with sitting back and letting things happen. I’m usually right out front making a path and supporting others along the way. I am uncompromising in modeling the idea of lifelong learning. I am passionate about always striving for more and staying on the forward edge of our profession. I want my students to understand that even though I have a Master’s degree, I am far from done learning. Knowledge is the journey, not the destination.

The AASL Standards for the 21st Century learner ask today’s school librarians to rethink and redesign their work with students to ensure mastery of the skills and dispositions necessary for personal and academic success. Please share a lesson, unit, or experience that represents the best of you as a Teacher and Information Specialist.

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I love to teach research. It is one of my favorite parts of my job. Teaching students to find solid reliable information is a tool they will use for a lifetime. My third graders recently worked on finding information in World Book online. After several classes, I created an activity on Socrative where they had to look up a topic in World Book to find the correct answer. I love using Socrative because it can be used as a whole class, small group, or individual activity. It also allows me to provide instant feedback to the students when they answer a question correctly. I had a little kiddo who was a reluctant reader, so I was helping to read the questions and guide him toward the right search terms in World Book. When he found his first answer in World Book and clicked that choice in Socrative, a green bar popped up with “Great Job - You Got the Right Answer.” His smile lit up the room and melted my heart. I helped him with another question, and then he dismissed me with, “Thanks, Mrs. S, I got it from here.” His smile is a reminder that he found the confidence in his own ability to find answers when he needs them.

Please share a favorite book you have read recently.

I recently read the YA title, *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell. It caused a bit of a stir last fall at a district in Minnesota. It was one of the most powerful and amazing books I have read, ever. My first two years as a school librarian were at the secondary level, and I really loved connecting with teenagers. I felt like I knew the characters in the novel, and could put faces to all of their stories. It is an intense book, and tells the story of so many of our students who have so much more to deal with than academics.

Please share a favorite website you have used for instruction or professional development.

Wonderopolis - [http://wonderopolis.org/](http://wonderopolis.org/) Our elementary students will be transitioning to a new curriculum which focuses a great deal on nonfiction text. I love Wonderopolis because it helps students to learn great nonfiction reading strategies using crazy questions that we all wonder about.

“All I have learned, I have learned from books.
- Abraham Lincoln

“Knowledge is the journey, not the destination.”
Student Spotlight: Tracy Bye
University of Nebraska at Omaha Graduate Candidate

What is your education / library/experience background?

I received my Bachelor of Science in Middle School Education and Master of Science in Instructional Technology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. During my time in Kearney, I taught high school physical science and middle school math and English. When my son entered Kindergarten, I took time off to stay home. It wasn’t until we made the move to Omaha that I realized I wanted a full-time job back in education and in a library.

I got offered a great job as the librarian and computer teacher at St. Philip Neri Catholic School in Omaha. I immediately began taking classes at UNO to add my library science endorsement to my teaching certificate. I absolutely love what I do, whom I work with and I am lucky to have found such a great place to begin my career in library science.

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

My reading list has been super long this school year. I decided to create a team of 7th and 8th grade students to compete in the Catholic Schools Book Quiz Bowl a month ago. It was a first for our school and we read eleven books from many different genres. My personal favorites from our list of books to read are Wonder by R.J. Palacio and the new series Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25 by Richard Paul Evans.

During the school year, I like to read books that suite the needs of the audience at my school. This is a great way for me to relate to my students, recommend books to them, and talk about some great reads. This past summer, I read the book One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia and absolutely loved it. I created a book trailer and showed it to my middle school students and it instantly became a hit. Now, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the second book in this series, P.S. Be Eleven. Until it arrives, I am reading the book The Fault in Our Stars by John Green.

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

I figured that since technology is such a big part of the world today I would recommend a professional blog that I read on a weekly basis and follow on my RSS feed. It is call “Beth’s Thoughts on Technology in the Classroom”. Beth Knittle is the author of this blog. She is a technology integration specialist. The intended audience for this site is other educators. The theme of the blog is to focus on education, technology, and learning. Many of her blog entries are relevant and related to this theme. Her posts offer great ideas. Check it out!

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What do you do in your “down time”? Do you have any hobbies? How do you relax?

When I am not at school or taking classes, I like to spend time with family and friends. We are big Husker football fans and on Saturdays in the fall we live in Memorial Stadium. Also, I enjoy baking, running, Pilates, golf, and traveling.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I do not have one – sorry!

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

Trust and loyalty are just a few of the many qualities that will make me a great leader. Loyalty and trust are important to enable others to do their best and become their best. Leadership is defined by how you relate to the people around you. Building that trust and loyalty is demonstrating that you put others before yourself and that your primary interest is their best interest. You cannot be an effective leader if you are pretending to be something you are not.

What advice do you have for other students who are currently enrolled in Library Science studies?

You will learn many things in the classes you take in the Library Sciences department at UNO. Meeting new people and connecting with them has been an important part of my time here. As a librarian, your job is important and others will look to you to find many answers. You will not always have the answers but others will. Make sure that you create a professional learning network. These people in your network are who you will turn to for advice, information, and support.

“Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.”

– Laura Bush

What do you see as key future trends and challenges for school librarians?

Advocating for our libraries. The library is more than a place to hold books. It is a place of reading, researching, sharing information, collaborating, and learning. Our role as a librarian is important. It is a place where teachers, students and parents

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should feel welcome. It is our job to not only teach our students but also teach other teachers about all the new things out there. It is not our job to just sit in the library and check out books. We need to be out there in classrooms, hallways, teacher’s lounges, and mailrooms promoting our library and all the wonderful things we can offer.

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

Learning is a never-ending process. Technology is constantly changing and affecting our role in the library and classroom. I am a life-long learner. I love technology and learning (many people would say this about me). Being able to constantly learn new things is a big part of who I am. It is important for others to see this and motivate them to what to learn more. Sharing these new ideas and resources with others is my passion.

“Loyalty and trust are important to enable others to do their best and become their best.”

Did you know???

Dr. Melissa Cast-Brede, College of Education Criss Library Liaison, is available in the Roskens Hall Student Lounge on 2nd floor, two days a week for personal, one-on-one librarian/student interactions. No question is too big or too small.

- Need the perfect book recommendation?
- Having trouble with APA citation?
- Need help finding a statistic?
- Need a book or journal not available at UNO?
- Would you like to check out an iPad or Kindle?
- Not sure which journal to use?

ASK MELISSA!!!

Melissa is available in Roskens Hall Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Announcements:
Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

Scholarships

NSLA: Nebraska School Librarians Association
NSLA awards two $800.00 continuing education scholarships to school library Media Specialists and paraprofessionals who wish to gain additional professional training in the field on a full or part time basis. For more information, visit the NSLA website: http://www.neschoollibrarians.org/awards-and-scholarships.html

NLA: Nebraska Library Association
The NLA established the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund to provide $1000.00 to any Nebraska student in pursuit of a Master’s Degree in Library/Information Science, or a Master's Degree in a media program that meets the ALA/AASL curriculum guidelines. The $250.00 Duane Munson Scholarship is available to help practicing librarians and paraprofessionals to gain additional library-related education and training. For submission and deadline information, visit the NLA website: http://nebraskalibraries.org/member-resources/scholarships

Nebraska Library Commission
The Nebraska Library Commission is continuing to offer its 21st Century Librarian Scholarship program for undergraduate candidates. Scholarships may be used for tuition (for coursework contributing toward a certificate or degree), course-required materials, and school-assessed fees.

See http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.ne.gov/scholarships.asp for details and to learn how to apply.

Questions? Contact Kathryn Brockmeier, Grant Program Manager, by e-mail (kathryn.brockmeier@nebraska.gov), or by phone 402-471-4002 or 800-307-2665.

American Library Association
The American Library Association and its units provide more than $300,000 annually for a Master's Degree in library and information studies from an ALA accredited program, or for a Master's Degree in school library media that meets the ALA curriculum guidelines for a National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The scholarship process is open annually from October-March. Applications and reference forms are available during that time period.

Instructions and general information remain available year round. For a complete list of available scholarships, visit the ALA website: http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/scholarships

Program Completion Requirements

To register for comprehensive exams, contact Joyce Jones in the Department of Teacher Education; Phone: 402-554-2212 or 1-800-858-8648, ext. 2212.
Email: jnjones@unomaha.edu

Selective Retention forms should be submitted at the completion of 12 credit hours and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. Please make note of the following registration deadlines.

Comprehensive Exam Deadlines

Secondary Education Literacy/Library Candidates: The registration deadline is September 8th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Fall 2014 semester. The required review session will be held Monday, October 13th.

Reading Candidates: The registration deadline is April 25th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Summer 2014 semester. The required review session will be held Thursday, May 1st.

Elementary Education Capstone

Elementary Education School Library Candidates: TED 8700 Elementary Capstone has replaced the comprehensive exam. Fall 2014 class dates: Friday, September 5th, October 17th, November 14th, and December 5th from 5 to 8pm. This course is by permission only. Please contact Dr. Kathy Danielson at kdanielson@unomaha.edu or contact Dr. Rebecca Pasco at rpasco@unomaha.edu.

UNO College of Education is: Live with LiveText

Livetext is your:
• academic social network
• evidence of meeting program standards
• professional portfolio

Implementation began in Spring 2013!
Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and More!

NETA
Nebraska Educational Technology Association
Spring Conference

April 24-25, 2014
LaVista Embassy Suites and Conference Center

AASL Fall Forum

School Librarians in the Anytime, Anywhere Learning Landscape
OCT. 17-18, 2014 - ST. LOUIS, MO
Spice-Up Your Research Projects with Online Trading Cards

At this point in the school year, you have probably worked with numerous classes on research. Oftentimes, the students are researching to write an essay to meet a grade-level standard or objective. How about spicing up this research task by doing a fun, low-pressure (which they might enjoy amidst the high-pressure state tests) activity with students based on their research? There are many different activities that can be done in the school library (or classroom) that may require students to think critically about their research topics. One that I recently found integrates technology into an already tried and true research activity is the Trading Cards App by Read Write Think. https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/trading-cards/id555742821?mt=8

This app allows students to create trading cards on a variety of different topics (fictitious or real). The app gives the students a character limit on the content that they have to add regarding their topic, which allows students to work on the skill of summarizing.

A wonderful way to differentiate this activity for your more creative students is to have them create their own trading cards on card stock. This is also a viable “plan B” when technology just doesn’t work.

This free iPad app does not require a wifi connection in order to function on the iPad. Those of you with unreliable wireless in your buildings will rejoice! There is also a website for this app that functions the same, but does require the Internet. http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/trading-card-creator-30056.html
For more ideas on how to use this app/website visit: http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2012/11/create-trading-cards-for-historical-and.html#.UzmKBa1dWaA
Things to Consider

What is School Library Month?

School Library Month (SLM) is the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) celebration of school librarians and their programs. Every April school librarians are encouraged to create activities to help their school and local community celebrate the essential role that strong school library programs play in a student's educational career. Read about the history of School Library Month.

The 2014 theme is Lives change @ your library® and Jeff Kinney, New York Times bestselling author of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, has been named the national spokesperson.

“I don't know where I'd be without my school library,” said Kinney. “Our librarians were passionate about putting great books in the hands of kids, and making us into lifelong readers. School libraries introduce kids to whole new worlds and new perspectives and are so important in broadening kids' minds. It's crucial that we support our school libraries, especially in times of tightening budgets. I'm so grateful for the well-stocked libraries and knowledgeable, dedicated school librarians that were a part of my childhood.”

Read full article at http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm


For questions or suggestions regarding the UNO L.E.A.D. Newsletter, please contact:

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