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It's a typical Nebraska autumn! Leaves are turning and snow is falling. Take a few minutes to enjoy this beautiful season.

Advice from the Frontlines –Kathy Jacobs (South Sioux City Public Library Director)



Inside this issue:

Advice from the Frontlines –Kathy Jacobs	1
Student Spotlight – Dianne Keiter	2
Alumni Spotlight – Joyce Keber	3
Announcements	4
Contact Information	5
Motivational words	5

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

Interacting with patrons of all ages is what makes all of the other tasks I do worthwhile. That is truly the “front line” of a library. Being able to discuss books they have read or a program they have attended, taking suggestions on how to improve our services, or chatting about themselves and their families are conversations of great importance. We must make patrons feel they are appreciated and they are the one and only reason libraries exist.

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

This is an interesting question. I wrote my answer, my organizational skills and the ability to multi-task, and shared it with a friend who stated that what others see in me is my professional air that tells them I know the business of the library itself and that of our field. And I have the skills to communicate to others my philosophies and beliefs in both written and

oral form. I am passionate about my beliefs and philosophies and am willing to work tirelessly for our profession and my community. After thinking about my friend’s statement, I smiled and said, “Yes, that along with my organizational skills and my ability to multi-task!”

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

I believe freedom of access will continue to become more challenging for libraries to provide. Because of laws and the direction our country seems to be moving, the importance of citizens’ rights, a principal this nation was founded upon, is being weakened. The mission of libraries should be to provide free access to all in a multitude of formats, and the information should be balanced so that people can make their own decisions based upon the best information libraries can give them. If we are constrained from providing information, we are no longer fulfilling our mission.

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

Last year, the library was a

part of the planning committee which included the South Sioux City and Sioux City Public Libraries, Morningside College, Western Iowa Tech Community College, the Orpheum Theatre Film Institute and Barnes & Noble as we planned and implemented our first One Book One Siouxland. We chose the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* and centered events around the book and its themes. We sponsored book discussions, a seminar on human rights, the movie, and several appearances by Mary Badham who played Scout in the movie. Because of our unique location, we were able to involve people from three states, Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. The program was very successful and with the collaboration of so many key players in our communities, we were able to reach people of all ages. Currently these partners are in the process of cementing programs for this year’s book.

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

I love thrillers, with my favorite author being James Patterson. I also read quite a bit of nonfiction and I enjoy juvenile fiction. And, a very important read for me is *Huskies Illustrated!*



• Librarian at work...

Student Spotlight –Dianne Keiter



What is your education/library/professional background?

I have a Bachelor’s degree from the University of NE – Kearney (2002) in Organizational Communications with a Music Minor and Spanish Track.

I worked at the UNK Calvin T. Ryan library during college all 4 years in the serials department. I started working at the Kearney Public Library & Information Center in 2000 as a library clerk and worked there 4 ½ years. I am currently employed at Yellow Van Cleaning Services as Marketing Manager and Office Manager (2002-present).

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

I have an extensive ‘wish list’ to read. My holds at the library regularly get their own shelf! Current favorite authors include Karen Kingsbury, Max Lucado, Meg Cabot, Janet Evanovich, Vicki Lewis Thompson, and I’ve just discovered Mary Balogh. Can’t forget L.M. Montgomery, Lousia M. Alcott, Dee Henderson, Robin Jones Gunn, Stephanie

Grace Whitson, and many others!

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

I enjoy the Library Journal the most. It tells me the latest trends and thoughts (whether I agree or not), as well as reviews on hot topics/titles/authors and spotlights on otherwise ‘ignored’ books.

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

I love music – listening to it, singing, playing (piano mostly, but someday guitar too). I am the pianist for 2 parishes in town, so I play at services on the weekends (when I’m not traveling to Omaha for class!). I also give piano lessons 1 night a week. So I get to be both the teacher and the student

Also, I love to read (duh!). The list I mentioned earlier also tracks all of my titles that I’ve read, and how long it took me to read it. I wish I still averaged a book every other day, but that’s just not happening with school and work and life.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

The deepest secret would be how many books I own. Only 2 people know that (plus my movers). But I will tell you that I have 8 book-cases.

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

My passion. I am an advocate for information. I don’t think there is anything more exciting then a person who gets to live their passion.

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Trustworthy and honest people

have told me that there is light at the end of the tunnel. I believe them. I also feel that it is important to enjoy the process. Yes, we have goals and timelines and big plans for the ‘real world’ or for when we graduate, but enjoy the moment and the journey. Absorb it all and incorporate the everyday things with your classes and vice versa. It’s not a race, or at least there won’t be a ‘winner’ – it’s about enjoying a quality life. So be sure and define quality for yourself.

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

Marketing libraries and information resources. I am excited about the experiences at my current job with marketing and target audiences, etc. Typically, librarians do not excel at hooking ‘customers’. Definitely a challenge that needs to be addressed.

Thank you for your thoughts, Dianne. Keep up the good work!.

I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library. ~Jorge Luis Borge



Alumni Spotlight – Joyce Keber *****

What is your education/library/professional background?

First, let me just say that this feels incredibly "weird" and "wrong" to be the one answering these questions instead of asking them! My undergraduate degree took many twists and turns and about 25 years to finally achieve. I started with a Forestry major, which morphed into a Meteorology major, which collided with motherhood and finally ended in 2004 with a Bachelor of General Studies in Library Science. I think I received my MALS from the University of Missouri-Columbia in June this year, just a minute let me check again for the 100th time - yep, that's my name and that's the degree - o.k. it's really for real. My library experience began as a volunteer in our public library coordinating the Summer Storytime program, because I wanted my children to have that experience. I was the Elementary Library paraprofessional for four years while finishing my undergrad., then went to full-time graduate school and part time jobs at Luther Library on the Midland Lutheran campus as night supervisor and GA for Dr. Pasco. I'm currently employed as a Library Assistant at the UNO Criss Library working in circulation, reference and interlibrary loan .

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

I would like to finish "The Time Traveler's Wife", but I find myself constantly looking to professional journals to keep current on best practices and to try and get a feel for what the future might bring. No one has a crystal ball, but if you can at least keep a weather eye on the winds of change, you stand a better chance of keeping your feet planted on the ground and not getting blown away.

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

I try to at least skim through the ALA magazine, and anything from NLA and MPLA. I'm on several list-serves which have become more hindrance than help right now. I'm finding RSS feeds from different sites to be more helpful and less time consuming than the list-serves, especially in the technology field. Library Administration and Management, PC World, and Knowledge Management have also been interesting to peruse. There is applicable information to librarianship which can be harvested from other professions.

What do you do in your "down time"?

Your hobbies/recreation, how do you relax?

Right now I'm actually enjoying spending time with my teenage children (who'd a thought!?). It's very nice to NOT feel the pressure of knowing there is an assignment needing to be done. I am able to relax and just "be with" them, without this impending sense of urgency gnawing at me.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

Hmmm..... this one time (really, just once!), I pulled straight into the Dean's reserved parking place like it was something I was supposed to do. After sitting there a few seconds, I decided that it wasn't nearly as fun as I thought it would be and I backed out, waving politely and respectfully to Campus Security.

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

As someone once told me, (I think it was probably a therapist!) "You have spunk and you're ornery. That will take you places and help you get the job done when you're there. Your wonderful sense of humor can be of benefit to all."

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Realize that you're not alone in feeling overwhelmed.

Procrastination is not your friend.

If you've done all your work, researched and writ-

ten all those papers, then comps will just be a little longer version of what you've been doing all this time.

Do make some time for yourself everyday. It will help to keep you sane (maybe).

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

A key challenge is to keep up with the diversified needs of our patrons. This includes advancements in technology as well as the library as a place. Along with that is the challenge of creating an organizational culture which responds positively to change.

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

I hope I will be remembered as someone whose presence was like a breath of fresh air and whose soaring spirit gently touched those around her.

Any Last Words?

If you are looking for a position where you can learn your job then sit back and relax, content to do the same thing day to day and year to year, you better look elsewhere for employment.

Thank you for sharing your advice and encouragement with us, Joyce. We're proud of the wonderful work you do!

Announcements!!!!

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 its not free. Let NLC and NLA help!

Nebraska Library Commission:

21st Century Librarian Scholarships - The NLC offers \$1000.00 for students pursuing their Bachelor's in Library Science and \$2500.00 for students pursuing a Master's in Library Science.

See <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/scholarship.htm> for more information concerning the application process as well as various deadlines. Get busy! The first deadline is February 1, 2007...

Nebraska Library Association:

Louise A. Nixon Scholarship

This \$1000.00 scholarship is available to any Nebraska student in pursuit of a Master's in Library Science. (Deadline: April 15, 2007)

Duane Munson Scholarship

This \$250.00 scholarship is available to help practicing librarians pay for continuing education. (Deadline: April 15, 2007)

See <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.html> for more information.

WINTER SEMESTER 2007 REGISTRATION:

Early Registration: October 23 through November 14, 2006

Registration: December 11-15, 2006

Its that time again! The time to register is right now. Our wonderful program is growing and so are the waiting lists for some classes. DO NOT wait to register, or you may be wait-listed or have to wait until the next term that the course is offered.

Set aside some time to visit <http://mudirect.missouri.edu/> and view the 2007 Winter Semester courses. Select Course Catalog and then search for courses by selecting Winter Semester 2007 and Department Listing-School of Information Science and Learning Technology. Click on the course link to enroll.

If you have questions or concerns contact Erica Rose at nemogradassiant@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH ADVISORS!

October 25-27 is the NLA/NEMA library conference, which takes place at the Quest Center in Omaha, Nebraska. (<http://www.2006nlanemaconference.info/>).

Faculty from Missouri will be attending the conference. Take advantage of this opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with your Missouri Advisors. Bring along your plan of study, questions about coursework, concerns, or comments. These people would love to see you. Your interaction with them is important. Please try and make the effort to see them.

SPRING 2007 COMPS

This spring's comps will take place April 7-15. A review session will take place on February 9, 3-5 p.m. at UNO in Allwine Hall, Room 309.

If you are planning on graduating in May and you need to take the comps, you must contact Amy Adam at SISLT as soon as possible.

Amy Adam –Student Coordinator
573-884-1391
Adamae@missouri.edu

ICE CREAM SOCIAL POSTPONED!

Please accept our apologies. Due to scheduling conflicts we have had to postpone our Ice Cream Social. Have no fear –it will be rescheduled! (Although we might have to substitute hot cocoa for the ice cream)

Be on the lookout for information to come...



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The world of books is the most remarkable creation of man. Nothing else that he builds ever lasts. Monuments fall, nations perish, civilizations grow old and die out, and after an era new races build others. But in the world of books are volumes that have seen this happen again and again and yet live on, still young, still as fresh as the day they were written, still telling men's hearts of the heart of men centuries dead.

- Clarence Day



Semester workload got you down? Look below for motivational words from wise men. Ladies and gentleman, the semester is half over. You are now on the down hill slope! Keep up your fine work.



"I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor." ~ Henry David Thoreau

"When inspiration does not come to me, I go halfway to meet it." ~ Sigmund Freud