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NEMO News

An e-newsletter for University of Missouri-Columbia MLS students living in the Nebraska area

NOVEMBER 23, 2005

Fall Semester 2005

Volume 2, Number 3

*" It's never too late
to be what you
might have been."*

~ Anonymous



Thanks & Giving

Giving thanks, being appreciative, is one of our most over-looked investments.

Every genuine "thanks" you express, every heartfelt affirmation you offer is an investment in humanity.

Not only has the person receiving benefited, but you do too. Sooner or later, it all comes back to you, in one form or another.

Remember to give "thanks" to those that have helped you along your journey.

I wish I would've known... /I'd sure like to know...

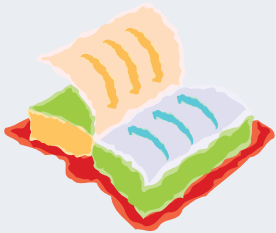
Share your hard won knowledge and ask for help from others that have "been there, done that". Email Joyce at jkm84@mizzou.edu with your questions or your wisdom. I will not reveal my sources!



I'd sure like to know, from those who have already graduated, is it worth the trip to Columbia for the ceremony?

- Absolutely! It was one of the best decisions I ever made. I didn't know if my family would want to travel that far, but they all came, and were very glad they did.
- Going to the ceremony made everything that much more real for me. It had taken such a long time to get to this point, it was nice to just relax and take it all in.
- I was glad I had the chance to shake hands with all the faculty in Missouri that I had only known virtually. I definitely recommend going!

*"One sure window
into a person's soul
is his reading list." ~
Mary B. W. Tabor*



Get involved with NLA and NMRT!

Following is an invitation from Chris Jorgensen, NMRT Chair.

As you work on your MALS degree, it's a good time to become active in local professional organizations. Membership in the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and the New Members Roundtable (NMRT) of NLA is a great way to get connected to the library community.

NLA Membership provides a number of important benefits including reduced rates at the annual state conference (an amazing networking opportunity!), a subscription to the Nebraska Library Association Quarterly (to find out and keep up with what's going on in the Nebraska library world), and the opportunity to join a section or roundtable that reflects your interests. You can find out about even more benefits of joining NLA at <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org>.

NMRT is a roundtable of NLA that is especially for up-and-coming librarians. It provides a unique opportunity to meet other librarians new to the profession or the state and focuses its programs on topics that are of interest to new librarians. It's also a great place to start getting involved in NLA! For more information on NMRT, visit <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/NMRT/> or email NMRT Chair, Chris Jorgensen at chris.librarian@gmail.com.

Student Spotlight

Terry Wingate is our spotlight for this month. Thanks, Terry for sharing with us!

Q: What is your education/library/professional background?

Education – I have a B.S. in a field that doesn't even exist anymore! Home Economics has, I believe, "morphed" into Family and Consumer Science – at least at my Alma Mater of Eastern Illinois University. My professional experience is in retailing. B.K. (before kids) I was a buyer for Brandeis and Dillard's, but that was a long time ago. I've worked in the Performance Improvement department at Methodist Hospital for the last ten years. I've never worked in a library, but I have lots of experience being a library patron.

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

For the last several years, I've "specialized" in mysteries and legal thrillers. I don't read anything too heavy or intense anymore, because I just don't have that kind of time. I do tend to find an author I like, then read everything by her/him. Right now I've got 42 things stacked up, mostly waiting for Christmas break. I do enjoy working my way through an audio book in the car while I run kids around, though. Right now I'm listening to the entire Elizabeth Peters "Amelia Peabody" series in order. I get through about one book per month this way. I also like the legal thrillers John Grisham and Lisa Scottoline write. Just this summer I discovered Virginia Rich and her fun little culinary mysteries. I've been a fan of Diane Mott Davidson's food mysteries for years, too. Other things in the stack include the Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger, The Portable Renaissance Reader, a book from 1961 called "The Game of Kings" by Dorothy Dunnett, and a Margaret Truman mystery. I read my kid's books, too – also in the stack are "Eldest", "Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors" and "The Perks of

*"He is wise who knows the sources of knowledge -- where it is written and where it is to be found."
~ A.A. Hodge*



Being a Wallflower." My high-school daughter and I go on an occasional "let's read a banned book" kick. I'm on a daily email service from the Omaha Public Library called "Dear Reader". (Go to <http://www.omahapubliclibrary.org/events/bookclubs.html> to see about these.)

A short excerpt from a book is sent out Monday through Friday. Each day's readings take about two minutes to read, but by the end of the week, you've read a chapter or two and know whether you want to check out the whole book to continue reading. I happen to subscribe to the mystery books, but there are sci-fi, horror, romance, business, and others. I've found some new favorite authors and characters through this service.

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

I like to think of myself as a knitter and a crocheter, but till I can actually wear one of my projects, I'd better not claim to be one. I collect antique cookie cutters, which means I love poking around in antique and secondhand stores. But, mostly, I read!

Q: What deep dark secret would you like to share?

Shhh....I use my kids' library cards to check out my own items – my card tends to be over the limit a lot!

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

Well, I think I'm open, friendly, personable – hopefully, I can be an "approachable" librarian and help customers with their information needs. I want to help every patron have a positive experience so that they come back to the library time after time. I want our patrons to think of the library first when they need information. If I can help them receive the customer service they expect, hopefully they will be loyal and supportive patrons.

Q: What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

1. You **can** do this! You **will** succeed!
2. Time management is a really important skill to develop.
3. If you're lucky enough to be going back to school, while also working and caring for your family, you'll value all three things even more.

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

We need to make sure that our patrons continue to view the library as a viable resource for information. As online resources continue to evolve and grow, a huge challenge for librarians is in helping people understand the limitations of this supposedly "unlimited" source of information. There is so much teaching to be done on legitimacy of internet resources and thorough search strategies. And our patrons are not always face-to-face, so we have to accomplish more and more education via our websites. It's an exciting time to be a librarian, because there are so many more outlets for our professional expertise.

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

One of my favorite things to do is connect books and people. I always seem to be recommending books – just this week, I've suggested books to other moms at the ball game, a co-worker's 12 year old son, and my mother-in-law. I love being able to recommend something new for a friend to read. It may not reach "legacy" status, but it sure is fun!

Q: Any Last Words?

Being back in school this last year has been so much fun. It's been so interesting to meet and talk with all you fellow NEMO classmates! See you around!

Alumni Annotations

Thank you, **Karen Frizell**, for talking with us.

Q: What is your education/library/professional background?

I started off, oddly enough, studying engineering at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. After several years, I changed my major to English with minors in Women's Studies and Political Science. I completed my Masters degree in English and American Literature at Creighton University with the aim of going on for my Ph.D., but I became quickly disenchanted with that career path because of the minimal job prospects. So, after graduating I tried to get a job teaching in local high schools. When that failed, I settled for teaching composition as an adjunct at a small college in Omaha before landing a full-time, albeit, "temp" job at a brokerage firm. It was there answering questions about thousands of anemic retirement accounts that I had, as we say in the literature world, an "epiphanic moment." I remembered that I enjoyed working in the library as a student at Creighton and realized that being a librarian would be a well-paid, professional position in an academic environment. I only wish I had thought of it sooner!

As far as library experience goes, I worked at Metropolitan Community College as a part-time Library Assistant for a year before starting my current position as the Instruction and Public Services Librarian at Dana College. I liked working at Metro so much that I couldn't leave when I got my full time job, so I'm still working with my friends there twelve hours a week.

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

Although I have many favorite classical fiction authors, I am mainly a nonfiction person. I like to read a lot of books about optimism, meditation, health, and motivation (Andrew Weil, Deepak Chopra, etc) But, I have also enjoyed journalistic non-fiction like *Rats* by Robert Sullivan, *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser, and *Stiff* by Mary Roach. I like memoirs too like Nuala O'Faolain's, *Almost there: The onward journey of Dublin woman* and Augusten Burroughs's *Running with scissors: A memoir*. And recently, several people have recommended Khaled Hosseini's *Kite Runner* to me.

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

Besides reading, I love jazz and like to find live jazz when possible, like local performer Heidi Joy and the world-renown, Karryn Alison, who performs in her native Omaha now and then. I like to meditate and do yoga. I also love different types of food and like to eat at many of the new restaurants in town as well as the older, more obscure restaurants in Omaha like the El Alamo, Bohemian Café, La Sole Mio, and McFoster's Natural Kind Cafe. I enjoy visiting art galleries, going to Broadway shows, seeing indie plays at the Blue Barn, going to the Symphony, and shopping. I also enjoy foreign and independent films and festivals like the Telluride Film Festival or the Seattle Film Festival. I like to walk in wooded areas where the air smells earthy. Since there are no giant redwood forests nearby, I do my best to seek out other foresty areas like Neil Woods. Above everything else, I love to travel and learn about other people and cultures.

Q: What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I once had a job typing up autopsy reports. I love donuts and coffee. I read People magazine.

Q: 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 am not afraid to try new things, so that is helpful in the library world where things are constantly changing. My advisor/mentor at Creighton was also a master chess player; he taught me to think three moves ahead of everything I

*"Always read something that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it."
~P.J. O'Rourke*



"Librarians are almost always very helpful and often almost absurdly knowledgeable. Their skills are probably very underestimated and largely underemployed."

~Charles Medawar



say and do. When I have a new project, I now think in terms of possible challenges and how I would overcome them before I'm face to face with a problem. I like to visualize success every step of the way, and I always try to give 110%.

Q: What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Be an advocate for your professional future. Find someone to be your mentor. Get to know as many people as you can in classes and field trips as they will be your contacts out in the real world. I have had several professional conversations with former classmates, and I know I can always seek out free advice from these friendly people. Also, check the job ads frequently and take mental notes on the expectations for professional positions even if you are not ready to hit the job market any time soon. You'll become familiar with what's expected and will have time to fine tune necessary skills like learning software, learning another language, or learning how to update databases and websites. Also consider finding a website or blog (lately, I like WebJunction and Free Range Librarian) to keep you updated on issues; or find books geared for library science careers.

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

Future trends might involve new technology that will help us manage and inventory our collections. For instance, there are so many new metadata schema being developed to manage digital collections that it may become quite expensive for libraries to keep migrating or remain compatible with these new developments.

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

Someday I hope to work with a manuscript or photo collection in an independent research library like the Newberry Library or the Harry Ransom Center. I'd enjoy helping scholars find resources for their work. I hope that providing a service to scholars can help them create new and important work for future generations.

Q: Any Last Words?

Enjoy life. And consider opening a supplemental retirement account :)

Faculty Focus

Thanks to **Denice Adkins** for taking time away from a very busy schedule to answer these questions.

Q: What is your education/library/professional background?

My bachelor's degree is in History with a Spanish minor, and my master's degree is a bona fide MLS, both from the University of Arizona. After my MLS training for youth services, I was hired for my first job as an Adult Services Librarian in the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. A family relocation brought me to Denver, where I was a temporary reference librarian for Colorado Christian University. After that I got a job as a Branch Librarian at the Denver Public Library, working in two branches located in heavily Hispanic areas. Although I was a generalist, our service population was mostly children and teenagers.

While I was at DPL, I completed my Ph.D. in library science (minor in bilingual education) from the University of Arizona. I got a Visiting Assistant Professorship at the University at Buffalo (NY) and spent a very cold year there before coming to work for the University of Missouri in 2001.

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

As of November 20, my Thanksgiving Break reading list has three strains: Regency romance novels with a Christmas theme, books of suspense that were recommended by www.whichbook.net, and a few books on religious studies. It is my fondest hope to spend the entire break doing nothing but reading!

*"I find television to be very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go in the other room and read a book."
~Groucho Marx*



I don't have a favorite book from adulthood, but my favorite book from my youth is *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll. I liked it much better than *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, but possibly only because it had chess pieces instead of gardens. I do have favorite authors from adulthood. Mary Balogh and Barbara Metzger write very different but enjoyable Regency-era romances; books by the former are filled with angst and emotion, by the latter with word play and humor. Ian Rankin's Scottish mysteries create a scene of grit and despair that I long to experience. Connie Willis plays with history and fantasy and literary allusion, and I wept profusely when reading her *Doomsday Book*.

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

I'm untenured; I don't get down time! But I do spend a substantial amount of time reading fiction, attend the gym regularly (at the beginning of the semester, at least!), and up until last year, I did yarn crafts. This year, instead of crocheting snowflakes, I'm volunteering two hours per week tutoring Latino teenagers at the public library.

Q: What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I don't own a TV!

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

If I have any quality that will make me a leader in LIS education, it is the ability to connect my research to the topics that are relevant to practitioners. I am lucky in that the lines of research I find interesting are also interesting to practitioners (though not necessarily to LIS educators). Other than that, everything I have I owe to strong organizational skills and the tendency to work every day.

Q: What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

Pursue interesting opportunities even if you're not confident in your skills, because you may be the best applicant in the pool. I wouldn't have had half the fun experiences that I have had if I had given in to my feelings of inadequacy. Per the Arizona Lottery, "You can't win if you don't play."

Also, remember that people will judge you (sometimes unfairly) based on your command of spelling and grammar. Proofread your own work, and try to give others the benefit of the doubt when you can.

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

I think we'll probably see a lessening of the veneration of information and a greater understanding of the cultural and educational roles of entertainment media – at least at the public library. The current trend suggests that public libraries are buying more fiction and more media. In one way, I think this is good: the profession is recognizing that library patrons don't use the library solely for information. The challenge, though, will be to keep from following the models of the United Kingdom and Australia, where popular materials reign at the expense of informational materials.

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

I hope it will be a broader, more holistic view of how the Latino population uses and experiences libraries. And while it is not my legacy alone, I'd like to help create a deeper appreciation for **research** on diversity issues in libraries.

Q: Any Last Words?

During my MLS program, one of my library school professors gave us this advice during midterms week. Upon hearing it, we were certain she had no understanding of what life was like for graduate students in this competitive era, and we had our doubts as to whether she had looked at her own syllabus recently. But it turns out she was right: "It doesn't matter how busy you are with school work. If you want to read fiction, you can make time to do so."

"Man, who'd have thought being a librarian could be so tough?" ~ (Andromeda episode, "Harper 2.0." ~ Line spoken by Gordon Michael Woolvett as Seamus Harper.)



Important Dates



Fall 2005 Graduation Reception

Now is the time to celebrate all of your accomplishments! Please join us for the SISLT Graduation Reception on Friday, December 16, 2005 2:00 to 4:00 pm in 223 Townsend Hall

You are welcome to invite family and friends. **RSVP to Amy Adam at AdamAe@missouri.edu or call toll free 1-877-747-5868 by Friday, December 9, 2005** (please let us know how many guests you will be bringing).

We look forward to celebrating with you!

If you plan on attending this important event please email me (jskm84@mizzou.edu) and let me know. We want to be able to congratulate you!!



Commencement

This site has all the information that you need to prepare for the commencement ceremony in December and May – ordering regalia, where to stay, parking, etc.

<http://www.missouri.edu/~grads/gradpro.htm>

Practicum Applications

For those who are planning on completing a practicum during the **Fall 2006** semester, please see the information below. If you haven't already done so, you will need to contact Dr. Becky Pasco at rpasco@mail.unomaha.edu in order to arrange your practicum.

As part of the MU MLS program, students are required to complete a practicum. A practicum is required unless the student obtains a waiver from her or his advisor.

Following are the important steps for the practicum process.

1. **Contact Dr. Pasco** and tell her what semester you want to complete your practicum and what type of library you are interested in. You will need to apply for the practicum during early registration for that

semester. For instance, to complete a practicum in Winter 2006, you will need to apply for your practicum during early registration this semester (Fall 2005).

2. Also discuss how many hours/credits you will want to complete. She will handle all of the initial contacts with potential libraries/supervising librarians.
3. Decide which of the two practica courses you need to take. Course 7380 is Practicum in School Libraries and Course 7381 is Practicum in Information Agencies (Public, Academic, or Special Libraries).
4. Make sure that you have taken the prerequisite courses. The courses required for each of the practica are different, so check the guide for the appropriate course – School Libraries (7380) or Information Agencies (7381). These guides are available at http://sislt.missouri.edu/practicum_faq.html - scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the appropriate links. If you will be taking a perquisite course during the semester of your practicum, check with the practicum coordinator.
5. Once the supervising librarian agrees to host you as a practicum student, Dr. Pasco will give you the appropriate contact information. You can then contact the librarian and set up an initial meeting to discuss what you will do during your practicum.
6. Either before or after you meet with your supervising librarian, you may turn in your Practicum Application to the appropriate Practicum Coordinator.

**Contact information
for 7380:**

Linda Esser
EsserL@missouri.edu
573-882-1023

**Practicum Coordinator for
7381:**

Anita Phipps
Randaph@aol.com
573-446-8716

7. Your Practicum Coordinator will approve your practicum application and will give you permission to enroll in your practicum.
8. In addition to your application, you will need to submit a learning plan for your practicum. This document will describe your learning objectives and projects that you will complete at your location. More detail about learning plan requirements is provided in your practicum guide. If you have trouble writing your learning plan, don't worry! E-mail your Practicum Coordinator, Dr. Pasco, or the current grad assistant (the practicum coordinators are very helpful, so don't be afraid to send them and outline or draft of your learning plan – they can offer suggestions).
9. Once you have completed your learning plan, send a copy to your practicum coordinator via e-mail. You will receive a response – it will either pass approval or you will be told what to change/add. If applicable, send the revised copy to your coordinator.
10. Once the coordinator approves your learning plan, you and your supervising librarian will need to sign and date the form. You will then send the signed form to your practicum coordinator.
11. You're done with application process!

Please contact Joyce Keber at jshm84@mizzou.edu if you have any questions about the practicum process.

Scholarships

NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: LOUISE A. NIXON SCHOLARSHIP

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm>

DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2005

BASIC REQUIREMENTS *(see complete list on the scholarship web site):*

1. Accepted into an ALA accredited graduate school of library/information science
2. Must meet one of the following criteria:
 - a) Resident of Nebraska for at least one year.
 - b) Member of NLA for at least one year.
 - c) Employee, past or present, of a Nebraska library for at least one year.

NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: DUANE MUNSON SCHOLARSHIP

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm>

DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2005

BASIC REQUIREMENTS *(see complete requirements on the scholarship site):*

1. Applicant will offer proof of acceptance for study.
2. Must meet BOTH of the following criteria:
 - a) Employee of a NE library or educational unit for at least one year.
 - b) Member of NLA for at least one year.

NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: 21st Century Librarian Scholarship: Master of Library Science

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/mls/mlsscholarships.html>

Application Deadlines: All application materials must be postmarked by:

- March 15 for Summer Semester/Quarter
- May 15 for Fall Semester/Quarter
- November 1 for Winter Semester/Quarter or Spring Quarter

The Nebraska Library Commission established this scholarship to provide financial support to eligible Nebraskans seeking a master of library and/or information science degree. This scholarship fulfills the requirements of the grant awarded to the Nebraska Library Commission by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians.

The Nebraska Library Commission will award ten to twenty scholarships of **\$2,500** each year for tuition, course-related materials, and fees associated with the graduate program. Scholarship funds may be used for any ALA-accredited graduate degree program in library and/or information science.

Each applicant can apply for and/or receive only one scholarship of \$2,500 during a one year period from the date of the scholarship award. Scholarship funds may be used for more than one academic semester or quarter. Applicants may receive a maximum of two scholarships during their graduate program. Scholarship funds will be deposited in the recipient's student account at the library/information science school. The first scholarships will be awarded in Fall 2005 for Winter/Spring coursework.

To Apply: Applicant must complete and submit the application form and all required materials.

Scholarship Award Notification:





- April 15 for Summer Semester/Quarter
- June 15 for Fall Semester/Quarter
- December 1 for Winter Semester/Quarter or Spring Quarter

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Current Nebraska residency.
- Demonstrated acceptance by or application to an ALA-accredited graduate degree program in library and/or information science.

Applicants, after obtaining a graduate degree in library and/or information science, agree to:

- Seek employment in a Nebraska public, school, institutional, academic, tribal, or special library in a professional librarian.
- Be willing to serve as a formal library mentor for 12 months in the Nebraska Library Commission's mentoring program after obtaining a graduate degree in library and/or information science.
- Be available for follow-up interviews by the Nebraska Library Commission for scholarship program evaluation.

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