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2-2008

NEMO News, Volume 4, Issue 3

UNO Library Science Education
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Recommended Citation

Education, UNO Library Science, "NEMO News, Volume 4, Issue 3" (2008). *NEMO Newsletter*. Book 38.
<http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/nemo/38>

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Marcia Dority Baker

for her recent publication in the February 2008 Edition of AALL Spectrum! The article is titled "Leading landlords the the law library: How to use ALA's @ your library campaign as an outreach tool to local communities".

The article can be viewed at http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0802.asp

Comprehensive Exams -Summer 2008

Summer comps will take place **Saturday, June 14 through Sunday, June 22**. A pre-Comps meeting will be held via LisRadio on **Friday, April 25, from 3-4 p.m.** If you plan on taking comps in the summer and have not yet notified Amy Adam, please do so immediately. (adamae@imssouri.edu).

Comprehensive Exams -Fall 2008 (Draft -dates not yet confirmed!)

The tentative dates for the fall comprehensive exams is **Saturday, October 25 through Sunday, November 2**. The tentative date for the review session is **Friday, August 22** from 3-4 p.m. The review will be held via LisRadio. We will confirm these dates when we receive the appropriate information.

SUMMER AND FALL 2008 REGISTRATION

Heads up everyone! Registration opens up on March 3, 2008. Consult your course schedules and plans of study and be ready to register right away. Classes fill quickly -please don't delay! Visit http://mudirect.missouri.edu/_catalog/index.asp to register.

GRADUATION REGISTRATION- INFORMATION

The process for registering for graduation has changed! During the semester that you are planning to graduate you must register by visiting the following web address: <http://gradschool.missouri.edu/policies/commencement/self-graduation.php> . If you do not follow this process for registration by the appropriate date, you will not be eligible to graduate that semester. Keep an eye out for Mizzou email that provide the cut off date.

SPRING 2008 GRADUATION INFORMATION

Commencement will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mizzou Arena in Columbia, Missouri. Prior to this ceremony, SISLT is hosting a reception from 3-4 p.m. on May 16 in the Townsend Hall Lobby.

If you are planning to attend the festivities, you need to book a hotel room IMMEDIATELY. All the hotel rooms in Columbia are already booked. We suggest booking a room in a nearby town.



Photo taken from www.geocities.com

ADVANCED CATALOGING -Fall 2008

Missouri students who wish to work in technical services departments are advised to take Advanced Cataloging which will be offered by Corinne Jacox in Fall 2008.

Since Missouri has removed Advanced Cataloging from their course list, NEMO students wishing to take the course will be admitted and register for the course at UNO and transfer it to Missouri when completed. If students do not have this course on their plan of study, Dr. Pasco will assist them in completing paperwork for the change in plan of study.

The process is as follows:

1) Get admitted into UNO as a Secondary Education Unclassified student (The unclassified status allows you to take any UNO graduate course you want – the secondary education designation doesn't matter and is just a convenient "umbrella" so that Dr. Pasco is assigned as your advisor.)

2) You can get admitted online at <https://ebruno.unomaha.edu/php/admissions/graduate>

Fill out the form, check the Secondary Education Unclassified box (and nothing else) – indicate you want to enroll in Fall 08 – give them their admissions fee (\$45 I think).

3) You'll receive a letter welcoming you to UNO Graduate College with a student number and login that you'll use to register for TED 8756 Advanced Cataloging.

4) Course dates/times will be:
TED 8756 - 850 Advanced Cataloging
Sundays 1-6PM
Criss Library 204

Jacox

August 24, September 21, October 26, November 16 and December 7.

Let Dr. Pasco know if you have any questions!

PLAN OF STUDY

If you have 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 can not graduate if you haven't fulfilled the plan outlined in your plan of study. Do not procrastinate as these processes often takes months to approve.

DO YOU NEED TO TAKE THE GRE? SEE NEBRASKA TEST INFORMATION BELOW.

Test Locations:

Columbus
Grand Island
Kearney
Lincoln
Omaha

Most locations offer the test multiple times per week. For more information on test preparation, registration, and scheduling a test visit the GRE website at www.ets.org/.

Once on the site select GRE and then REGISTER FOR TEST. This will provide you with information on locations and test times. The site also contains information about acquiring preparatory materials, as well as links practice tests (see Test Takers –Prepare for the Test-GRE-GRE Practice General Test).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Its 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. So set aside 5 minutes every week to visit <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/jobsandcareers.asp> and check out who is looking to hire here 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.

Advice from the Frontlines -Paul Christopherson

Young Adult Librarian, Omaha Public Library

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

One of my greatest joys is when visits can be made to a secondary Millard area school and books presented in the classroom which creates excitement in reading. Erin Dietsch, the media specialist at Millard Russell Middle School, communicated with the sixth and seventh grade teachers and with me so a visit to their school was set up in November of 2007. The response from the teachers and staff from the presentations of books was wonderful. Erin came into the Millard Branch Library several days later to tell me that all of the teachers just were thrilled with the presentations! She went on to give me a poster of baseball star Ken Griffey and on the back were signatures of many of the students at Russell who listened to the booktalks and the poster said, "You Were A Hit." This was followed up with sixty-eight thank-you notes. Perhaps much of this was initiated by the teachers, but still many of the comments were quite sincere. Here is a sampling.

"Your speech was wonderful! I loved it when you talked about Things Not Seen. I really want to read that book because it sounds really good. All the books you told us about sounded wonderful. You are great at getting people to want to read books because my friends and I all want to read like five or more of the books." Kamesha "You got me interested in more than half the books." Roger (Ten books were presented). "I personally loved your presentations of the books! My favorite book was Fever 1793 and I ran (to the circulation desk) to get it before it was gone! For the past nights I have been losing track of time reading Fever till I fall asleep with it in my hand. The best part of the presentation was the way you added so much enthusiasm and the way you made everybody a part of the presentation!" Amanda "I liked the time when you quizzed us. Yes, the girls won." Heather. "Thank-you for coming to Russell for us. I got a library card the next day." Your friend, Cheyenne. My greatest joy is when I am able to put great young adult books in the hands of teenagers! It doesn't get any better than that for me.

2. Please discuss one personal characteristic that you feel has contributed to

your success as an Information Professional.

One of the things that has helped me as a young adult librarian is to focus on outreach to the Millard area schools. This takes many forms like visiting the secondary media specialists, presenting books in the classrooms, and even coordinating school projects that have been communicated to me by the area schools. All of this is possible because the strong partnership that has been built between the Millard Public Library and the Millard Public Schools. It didn't used to be that way. Through the leadership of Donna Helvering, the director of Support Services for the Millard School district, has been instrumental in the Millard Branch Library and the Millard Schools working effectively together. This effort has paid off. In 2003, the Millard School District received the prestigious American Association of School Librarians program of the year award. One of the key components of the award was the partnership that had been developed between the Millard Schools and the Millard Public Library.

A key element of this outreach into the Millard Schools is that it is greatly supported by Rivkah Sass, our executive director. She is absolutely passionate about librarians in the Omaha Public Library system reaching out into the community. In fact, in January of 2004, she told the young adult librarians they needed to be making presentations of books in schools as often as once a month, if possible. Since then, this has been the focus of my work. It is not out of the question for me to speak to over 100 classes during the course of the year.

These presentations do make a difference in the lives of teenagers. On time, Rivkah was in a store purchasing some items and the lady helping her noticed her name tag and said to her that her son who did not like books at all was in the audience when some booktalks were presented by me. She said, "There was nothing that I could do to get my son to read. All of a sudden, after he heard the book presentations, he started getting real interested in reading."

This outreach into the Millard Schools has led to noticeable growth in the teen summer reading program. In fact, there is a

direct correlation between the number of teenagers that are presented to in the month of May for the summer reading program promotion in the Millard middle Schools and high schools and the growing number of teenagers that are involved each year in the young adult summer reading program. It is very gratifying and fulfilling to see this kind of growth take place as an "open door" has been provided to me by the Millard School District.

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

Unfortunately, at some point in the future, we need to address the issue of violence in the workplace. If violence has come to high schools, universities, and shopping malls, it is only a matter of time before a library somewhere in the United States is affected by a similar type of violence. I hope it doesn't ever happen and if it does I hope that it never happens in Omaha. To address this subject twenty years ago would be unthinkable. There were other topics that were given a much higher priority. Perhaps it is a commentary on our society; nonetheless, this is a topic that we need to address as librarians in the near future.

We need to be ready and a well-thought through plan needs to be in place when someone seeks to use violence to take away the breath of precious lives in the library. The best way to communicate in a time of crisis like this needs to be implemented. Training needs to be given by law enforcement professionals to library personnel so they know what is the best course of action to take during the threat of violence. It may even call for security guards to be added, in some cases, to make sure that patrons are provided with a safe and secure environment that the library has always provided.

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

Paul Christopherson interview continued...

In August of 2007, an idea was introduced by me at a young adult meeting of the Omaha Public Library to produce an infomercial for the teen summer reading program the following summer. The idea was well-received by the other young adult librarians in attendance. About a month later Jules, a student at Westside High School in Omaha made a presentation to Rivkah Sass, the Executive Director of the Omaha Public Library, about producing a public service advertisement about the Omaha Public Library as a part of a school project. Rivkah thought it was a great idea and so the project was put in motion.

Linda Trout, the manager of the community services department, of the Omaha Public Library, and I then met with Matt Rasgorshek, broadcast adviser at Westside High School, Jules, and two other students who were involved in this project. We nailed down what kind of content that could be implemented into the public service announcement. It was decided that the Swanson and the Millard Branches would be the sites that would be used for filming. It would be a matter of putting slides and a narration together for a presentation that was approximately thirty seconds in length. Once the public service announcement was completed Linda and I returned to Westside High School and were favorably impressed when we were finished viewing the presentation. A DVD copy was made of the infomercial and was placed in the hands of Rivkah who was very pleased with this collaborative effort. Although, this is not what I had in mind originally, it was something that evolved and it caused students from an Omaha area high school to get excited about the Omaha Public Library system.

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

In my first year as a young adult librarian at the Millard Branch Library books would be taken off the shelf and read by me based solely on the quality book cover and the creative title. Beyond that, much of the time my selection of a book to read was based on whether it fit the suspense/mystery genre.

Since that time, about twelve years later, before a title is chosen to read, journals are consulted by me that evaluate young adult literature. The reason for this is because of the limited time in my workday that I can read due to juggling all of my other responsibilities as a volunteer coordinator, providing reference and circulation help, and working with the young adult collection. The journals of choice that are utilized during this process are Voice of Youth Advocates, Booklist, School Library Journal, and Kirkus. If the reviews are favorable then consideration is given to reading that book.

Here are the books that are on my current reading shelf: November Blues by Sharon Draper-November Nelson's boyfriend, Josh, recently died tragically and now November finds out that she is pregnant and Josh's parents want to adopt the baby. Slam by Nick Hornby-Everything is going great in Sam Jones' life until he finds out that his ex-girlfriend, Alicia, is pregnant. Before I Die by Jenny Downham-Tessa finds out that she is terminally ill and doesn't have long to live, so she has a choice to make between staying in bed all day and feeling sorry for herself or finding out what it really means to live. The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt-Holling Hoodhood has to spend every Wednesday afternoon with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, who he is convinced does not like him.

It is always my intention to find the very best books for young adults. This takes endless hours finding, reading, and then putting down the book as the last page is read and hopefully saying, "That is a great book!" When that happens it revitalizes a new passion within me to reach more teenagers with the absolute joy of reading!

Thank you, Paul, for sharing your experiences! Keep up the great work.



Pohoto taken from http://hubertvesterhonda.com/Images/Picture/2007/June/lg_kids-reading.jpg

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!

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/nowhiring/Scholarships.asp> for more information concerning the application process as well as various deadlines. Get busy! The next deadline will be here before you know it.

Nebraska Library Association:

Louise A. Nixon Scholarship

This \$1000.00 scholarship is available to any Nebraska student in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Library Science. (Deadline: April 15, 2008)

Duane Munson Scholarship

This \$250.00 scholarship is available to help practicing librarians pay for continuing education. (Deadline: April 15, 2008). See <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/scholarship.htm> for more information.

Nebraska Educational Media Association:

Continuing Education Scholarship

NEMA awards two \$800.00 scholarships to practicing school library media specialists and paraprofessionals each year. (Deadline: March 15, 2008)

Duane Munson Scholarship

This \$250.00 scholarship is available to help practicing school library media specialists pay for continuing education. (Deadline: August 15, 2008)

See

http://nema.k12.ne.us/mem.dir/award_scholar.html for more information.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT -ROBERT OVERKAMP

What is your education/library/professional background?

My undergraduate degree was a B.A. in psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and from there I went on to work for a software company. After several years of working within the tech industry, I found myself considering school again and after speaking with a library director I decided that library science better matched what I wanted in a career. I haven't regretted that choice for one moment. While I am not currently employed in a library; I am eagerly looking forward to that day.

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

I am reading *The Great Hunt* which is the second book in Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time series. I've heard that Jordan's works are on par with the likes of Terry Brooks, Stephen R. Donaldson, or J.R.R. Tolkien and so I have high hopes that I will enjoy all twelve books. The first one certainly didn't disappoint. After that I shall continue my quest to get my hands on Tom Baker's autobiography *Who on Earth is Tom Baker*. Printed in the U.K. in the late 90's, it's quite difficult to find in this country. To date I've had no luck getting a copy through Interlibrary Loan (used copies sell for \$100-\$150 on Amazon!).

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

I would recommend the short one page opinion piece in the Jan/Feb 2008 issue of *American Libraries* entitled "The 'i' in Libraries." In it David Dowell reminds us that libraries are complex places and that too often we can get stuck on "information." He challenges us not only to think of ourselves as professionals who solve information problems but that we should also realize that we are called upon to solve imagination and inspiration problems. He argues that when librarians empower users in these two other areas, in addition to information, that it leads to a fourth "i" – innovation. It's a great little piece that reminds us to step outside of the box we can put ourselves in and rethink who we are and what we do.

What do you do in your "down time"?

Your hobbies/recreation, how do you relax?

I enjoy spending time outdoors and my hobbies generally reflect that - Irish Road Bowling, bocce, model rocketry, geocaching, and hunting. My wife and I also enjoy traveling to Renaissance Faires whenever we get the opportunity. Nothing says relaxation more than reclining in the summer shade with a turkey leg in one hand and some Celtic music playing in the background while a bunch of knights, elves, and royally-dressed folk amble by.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

I am huge Doctor Who fan. I own almost all of the Tom Baker (the 4th Doctor) episodes and even have a season 18 replica scarf. At around twenty feet long, the scarf helps me through the Nebraska winters.

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 have the ability to embrace change. We've seen how the rise in technology, over a relatively short time, has transformed every part of society – how we communicate with each other, how we do business, and so on. We don't know what will bring about the next revolution in librarianship but transformation shouldn't bring anxiety if we are prepared to face the challenges it brings. As John F. Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

What advice do you have for current Graduate Students?

If you don't already do so, I recommend a dedicated calendar/weekly planner for keeping track of all of your assignments' due dates. Note everything for the whole semester, keep it close, and consult it often. Many of us have to balance school with full time employment, family obligations, etc. and I find much it is easier to track things this way than pulling out syllabi all semester long.

There is also something very satisfying about marking off each day.

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

Social networking and collaboration software tools will continue to make a big impact. These will definitely provide new and unique challenges regarding information literacy skills. Also as libraries continue to face funding issues and ever-growing competition from bookstores/online vendors, I think there is a going to be a growing debate on viewing libraries as "information businesses." I predict that graduate programs will eventually include a marketing/economics class as a part of their core requirements to address this. We have already heard of libraries trying to tap new revenue streams by incorporating cafes and snack bars and I think this type of "library as business" model is only going to expand.

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

I expect to have been fully engaged in the profession and to have helped move librarianship forward. I hope that I will always have provided excellent customer support/service, maintained high levels of professionalism, addressed challenges head on and worked actively for new solutions, as well as having been an active participant in our communities.

Any Last Words?

Take a breather. Enjoy life. Laugh at your mistakes. As Doctor Who once reminded the Zygons – "You can't rule the world in hiding. You've got to come out on the balcony sometimes and wave a tentacle."

Thank you for sharing with us, Robert. Best of luck as you continue the semester!

University of Missouri Library Science Program Information Meeting!
Missouri Faculty are coming to Omaha!

Please share this information with anyone you know who is considering a library science degree. Current students are encouraged to attend to visit with faculty about their programs, courses, and other items. No RSVP necessary - attendance is open to all interested parties! Help spread the word and let Dr. Pasco know if you have any questions!

Library Science

Omaha Area
Informational Meeting

Master's Degree in Library Science

Join with us as Library Science faculty from the University of Missouri present a special information session about obtaining MU's popular master's degree. Classes are offered in your area, so you can get a degree from the University of Missouri without ever coming to Columbia.

Come and learn about the exciting opportunities available for graduates who have earned a master's degree from an American Library Association (ALA) accredited institution like MU.

Faculty will be on hand to discuss the program and courses, answer questions, and advise current and prospective students.

The session will start with a presentation by our faculty about the Library Science curriculum, and the last part of the session is an open, informal time for you to get your questions answered, so please stop by and visit with us. We look forward to seeing you! Refreshments will be served.



Sunday, March 2, 2008
Noon - 2 pm
204 Criss Library
University of Nebraska-Omaha
6001 Dodge St
Omaha, NE 68182-0237

Library Science
LIS.Missouri.edu



For additional information, please
call our Student Coordinator's office
toll free at **1-877-747-5868**

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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 hearts of men centuries dead.

- Clarence Day

The latest edition to library land...

I'm pleased to introduce you to Eliza Grace Rose, born February 11, 2008.



I dare you not to smile back...



Dr. Pasco (a.k.a. Aunt Becky), is doing some early recruiting for the program. :-)