

MSLA Forum: Fall 2011

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President's Message – Valerie Diggs

As the holidays approach, we all turn to thoughts of family, food, gift-giving and for some, travel. As we immerse ourselves in these holiday preparations, we must also remember that our organizational work continues, albeit tempered by these preparations. MSLA marches forward in working toward its legislative efforts, professional development commitments, and public awareness goals.

Judi Paradis has been working with Legislation Chair, Julie Farrell to refine the legislative wording created by Sean Garballey, Judi's representative from Arlington, asking for the creation of a "...special commission to study Massachusetts Public School Library Programs..." This commission will investigate staffing, including support staff, library hours, collection size and funding, among other items. Revisions to this proposed legislation are now being considered by MSLA's Executive Board, and the document will then be returned to Sean for filing at the State House.



Library Legislation Day will be held this spring on April 30th. Please mark your calendars and join your colleagues for a day "on the hill." Meet your legislators, join in on the Bookmark Contest Awards ceremony, and have lunch in the Hall of Flags as library users, both school and public, speak to the importance of libraries in their lives.

And, finally, would you be willing to host a Legislative Breakfast in the spring? Not much work, but a huge feather in your cap! Consider hosting, and contact Kathy Lowe for more information. Complete information on the schedule and location of the Legislative Breakfasts will be posted on our website after the New Year.

Our conference planning is heating up, and we have already received numerous registrations. Register soon to take advantage of our super early bird rates by December 31, and remember that your MSLA membership is included. Our roster of speakers includes Joyce Valenza, Ross Todd, Alan November, Michelle Luhtala, Buffy Hamilton, Susan Ballard and Christopher Harris, just to name a few. This is professional development at its best. New this year will be the bookmark contest judging, to be held on Monday. Of course, the venue in Hyannis and dates of March 4 and 5 are new, so please join us and come away with fresh ideas, and a renewed working spirit.

MSLA's Executive Board has been talking to Dan Hunter, of the Hunter Higgs Consulting Firm. Dan was instrumental in getting the Creativity Challenge Index Legislation passed here in Massachusetts, an index hoped to be used with schools and districts across the state to measure the opportunities for creativity in the school experiences of our students. The board is talking with Mr. Hunter to explore the possibility of working with him on improving the image of school librarians here in Massachusetts. Further discussions will occur this winter around what our public image is now, and how we might want to see that change.

Kathy Lowe, our Executive Director, and I met with Greg Pronevitz and Carolyn Noah of the Massachusetts Library

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System on November 17th to discuss organizational goals, continuing education opportunities, and ideas around how to generate more involvement from school librarians in the work of MLS, including the newly-created strategic planning process. It is important that our voices be heard, as well as those of public, special, and academic libraries.

And, lastly, but most importantly, the Executive Board will be considering revising our Program Standards and Evaluation Rubric with new ideas and updates in mind. Committees will be formed to accomplish this work. Please look for an announcement of these opportunities on the listserv and step forward to add your thoughts and words to these document revisions.

Visit our website for more conference information, including online registration, as well as other useful links and resources. Stay healthy and safe during this holiday season, and know that your professional organization is here to help and support you, always.

From the Editor



Indicators of Health [and Hope]

by Ann Perham

Without question, this is a tough time to be a school librarian. What are our members concerned about? Take a look at the MSLA listserv discussion threads for indicators: budget cuts, loss of jobs. But...we are NOT sitting back, waiting for the budget axe to fall. **We are taking action with vibrant programs and promotions of our school libraries.**

The summation of the [Justification for a Professional Librarian](#) question posed to the member discussion offers an informal list of arguments. Leigh Barnes offers an impressive graphic of the many facets of a school librarian's responsibilities. Putting the "perceived" and "actual" [illustrations](#) side-by-side is SO graphic! These are very HEALTHY responses to misconceptions about our profession.

Reading in Leslie Schoenherr's [Working Smarter](#) column, there are two more indicators of how our members have learned to promote their work. Sharon Hamer urges her collaborating teachers to [Spread the Word](#) and mention their work to the administrators, especially if there is a situation of being a non-professional. [Promote Your Work to Administration](#) is Leslie's advice; Leslie routinely uses midyear and year end reports to impress her administration with the work of the library program.

Within the Forum are many indicators of the HEALTH and vibrancy of our programs, our profession, and our organization.

A new column making its debut in this issue is [Off the Shelf: Listserv Hot Topics](#), edited by Audrey Borus. Our members are keeping abreast of the exciting (mind-boggling) developments in library technology: eBooks, eReaders, tablets, Kindles, iPads, laptops, iPod touches. Our members are asking, probing, weighing....*all very healthy indicators of our profession.*

A decade ago, [holding a meeting using Skype](#) would have seemed to be a chapter out of *Brave New World*. Sharon Hamer and Chris Steinhauser are leading by example, setting the bar for their Northeast Region.

The incredible lineup of speakers for our [March 2012 conference](#) is a showcase of the biggest forces in school

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librarianship. The MSLA Conference Committee has conjured a "hit parade" for our members' professional development. In the rankings of healthy indicators, this is BIG!

MSLA has made its mark on the national scene, evidenced by the members' outstanding contributions at the [AASL Conference in October](#). Presentations by MSLA members were numerous, from the Exploratorium to workshops and vendor hall demonstrations. I had the honor of presenting the MSLA Bookmark Contest in the Exploratorium. Attendees were impressed with our unique combination of student work, library promotion, and legislation advocacy. Truly, our [bookmark contest](#) is a prescription for boosting "PR" for school libraries.

The memory of [Gerri Fegan singing "L4L" at the AASL closing celebration](#), backed up by "The Dispositions" (including our own Kathy Lowe) is an all-time favorite. I remember the announcement (in 2005?) that AASL would launch a redesign standards to replace "Information Power" and recall the hope that it would be a shot in the arm for school libraries. Learning4Life has met the expectation and exceeded hopes. Gerri's animated delivery of her poem in song format was amazing!

We are not kidding ourselves; school libraries have been squeezed, cut and morphed as a result of the economic downturn. Looking at the Massachusetts school librarians' aggressive advocacy as well as their constant work to stay up with current trends, my diagnosis is that ***we have reasons to HOPE.***

I know that you will enjoy this issue of the MSLA Forum.

Who's Who at the MSLA 2012 Conference

MSLA has a veritable "Who's Who in the World of School Libraries" lined up for our 2012 conference.

You don't need to go any further than Hyannis to hear the most respected voices in our profession. [REGISTER](#) for a superior experience in professional development.

SUNDAY March 4, 2012

[READ Sunday's Workshop descriptions, speaker biographies:](#)

Alan November
Ross Todd
Tim Green
Susan Ballard



MONDAY March 5, 2012

[READ Monday's Workshop descriptions, speaker biographies:](#)

Joyce Valenza
Jarrett J. Krosoczka (author) and Jordan Brown (editor)
Christopher Harris
Buffy Hamilton
Lori Cooney
Kathy Lowe
Karen Brennan
Michelle Luhtala



...and more!

Advocacy: Why have a Professional School Librarian?

The MSLA membership was very articulate in responding to a request for help in formulating an argument to keep a professional School Librarian:

- There are great resources for advocacy available on the MSLA web site:
 - ["What kids miss by not having a librarian in their school"](#) in the 2011 Forum PLUS.
 - Peruse the AASL and ALSC division sites at [ala.org](#)
 - Remind them of the free services that will no longer be available to your students through the MBLC and regional library offices – like the free databases – which have a big-dollar impact. [Diane B. Hallisey, Plymouth River School, Hingham]
- Do you facilitate interlibrary loans for the students? That's a skill that the kids often can't navigate themselves...[Jennie Sandberg]

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- Does your school take advantage of the databases provided by the MLS? Those come with a certain dollar figure and require a certified librarian in the building. [Nancy Loiselle, Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School, Worcester]
- Here is the link to the "[School Libraries Work](#)" monograph from Scholastic.[Cheryl Kosmo, Williams School]
- Good library programs creates strong readers. You cannot stress that enough especially at the high school level. Good research skills are another reason we need a qualified librarian. Google is not the answer to research. [Devika Muruga, Nessacus Regional Middle School, Dalton]
- I have a 3-ring binder from when I tried to convince a school committee that school librarians are important. [Julianne Toomey-Kautz, South Elementary School, Andover]
- For librarians with certification, full time school librarians receive a benefit of our area's Southeastern Massachusetts Library Association free database and support. The Massachusetts School Library Association has advocacy and legislative information and I imagine that you could write to them and ask for some statistics or some measurable information that you could use in your defense of your position. [Sandy Mott, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School]
- Having been cut myself from 2 positions over the last few years due to budget issues, I feel your pain but took the opinion that once a decision is made there was nothing I could do about it. (Sorry for being so blatantly honest.) I applaud you for considering writing a letter as it at least lets people know that what we do is not just shelving books which is what I think outside people don't understand. I would provide data if you have it about: # of class visits, # of independent student visits, # items circulating, # of projects and how you assisted.
- You may want to let the board know the school could lose its accreditation if it does not adequately staff the library. Under NEASC Standard 6: Library/media services are integrated into curriculum and instructional practices and have an adequate number of certified/licensed personnel and support staff who:
 - are actively engaged in the implementation of the school's curriculum
 - provide a wide range of materials, technologies, and other information services in support of the school's curriculum
 - ensure that the facility is available and staffed for students and teachers before, during, and after school are responsive to students' interests and needs in order to support independent learning
 - conduct ongoing assessment using relevant data, including feedback from the school community, to improve services and ensure each student achieves the school's 21st century learning expectations. [Christine Burke, Rockport Middle/High]
- You might find this a one-stop site: <http://www.lrs.org/impact.php> [Carol Kelly, Salem State University]
- Can you document and present your program as well as giving her a copy of *School Libraries Work*? [S. Devine, Andover School of Montessori]
- I'm sorry to hear your news. I can relate - They cut my library position at my private school to 50% last year. I think they might have cut it out entirely if it weren't for the Massachusetts Library Network requirement that there be a professional librarian on staff in order to receive the databases, etc., from the network. In our school it meant that they needed to schedule teachers during their free periods in the library, in order to keep the library open all day (we are a 7 - 12 school). It's where they decided to cut the budget. [Susan E. Akie, Mt. Alvernia High School, Newton]
- Two points:
 - Last month's SLJ describes the latest research from Keith Curry Lance and Linda Hofschire: <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/home/891612->

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[312/something_to_shout_about_new.html.csp](#)

- The MSLA Advocacy Wiki has a page of materials to use specifically with administrators and school committees/boards: <http://mslaplanning.pbworks.com/w/page/21876639/Administrators%20-%20SC>. The wiki is rich with [documents and links](#). [Kathleen Porter, Foxborough High School]

- *2009 Letter from Suzanne Wargo to her Administration [Millbury Jr/Sr High]:*

I am writing to express my disappointment in the decision to make me part time in two schools. While I understand the financial hardships of the district, this decision will have a profound effect on programming that I am not sure you realize.

This decision will mean that Millbury Junior Senior High School and I as their fulltime media specialist can no longer be a member of the Central Mass Regional Library System. This is a huge financial loss for the school. I am providing you with the cost breakdown of the value of the state services that are provided to schools that have a full time media specialist. Each year as our teachers incorporate these databases, that value increases. I easily triple the value of my annual budget by belonging to the regional system.

We get the following services and will lose those same services as of August 2009: [Listing and description of MLS databases]

**The average age of our current school collection 1985. NEASC strongly recommended that we fix this area of our library when they came. Therefore we cannot provide in-house adequate support for these issues in print form.*

I regularly have access to books that are given away by the regional system. This gives us between 50-100 new trade books per year to boost our collection and encourage the love of reading. I will not longer have access to that pool of books.

During our NEASC evaluation, the biggest gains that needed to be made were in the library media center. Now, that we will no longer have a full time media specialist, we will no longer be able to continue making progress or so we any longer meet the standard for a having a full time media specialist for a school our size. Without access to database services our programs are set back at least two years.

Students are now regularly accessed the ability to use these databases in college and often are given tests on how to use a modern library. All the colleges in Massachusetts as well as any college in the US expect students to have access to databases and know how to use these services. In Change Magazine a higher education magazine in the March-April 2009 states "most students, confident Google users, fail to realize that Google searches only the free Web, missing specialized resources the library licenses and faculty expect students to use..." The article continues to talk about the inadequacy that students have arriving in college without knowing how to create citations, critically think about and evaluate information." Even colleges realize that school librarians are essential to preparing students for a 21st century world.

Access to the public library system as alternative: Our students have access to the Millbury Public Library and the Worcester Public Library. Last month our students logged over 7000 minutes on the Infotrac databases, the Millbury Public Library logged zero. Access is opportunity. Students use it greatly because we provide on the spot access. There are 4 computers in the children's room and one computer in the Young adult area. This has become a Mecca for the 10-12 year old who goes there to play on their MySpace pages. School work is rarely done and computers can only be used for ½ hour increments. The Millbury is a great resource for the community but has a different mission than the school and does not specifically support the curriculum nor do they have the

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reference materials that are in the database package. The Worcester Public Library does have a wide selection of materials but our students are not used to using such a big facility and the young adult area is over run by gangs of unruly kids that would make using Worcester unattractive for our students. (My son works there..I know well the environment). Police regularly have to break up fights and disperse students. With the economy in a decline the use over the entire Worcester Public library has risen so greatly, that rarely are computers available. So while, there is an assumption that the public libraries will pick up the slack for the high school, this will not be the case.

Confidentiality: as a part time person in the high school, I have to protect student circulation records. Students come to me with expectations that their requests for confidential information and materials be protected. Student or other volunteers who check books create a lack of confidentiality in an environment that I have strived to achieve and protect.

I hope you will reconsider your options. A scenario worth considering is that Elmwood could easily be run by parents. There has been no professional in that position for 6 years. There is no library media curriculum that is being taught or followed. The biggest pool of parent volunteers exists at that level. Parents can volunteer and also bring along siblings and still fulfill a volunteer obligation. This pool of volunteers greatly diminishes as parents begin to take jobs outside of the home. Finding enough parent volunteers to run a 3.5 day program will be prohibitive.

I appreciate your time in reading the materials I have provided and that you will reconsider the library configuration and return the high school to full time. Our students and staff deserve access to as much material as possible that makes them have a competitive edge.

In the fall, it will be difficult to offer Google, Yahoo, Wikipedia (5th grade skills by the state of MA) and a 30 year old book collection as resource materials. Students will not take us seriously and our students will no longer have the edge that prepares them exceptionally for college. [Suzanne Wargo, Milbury Jr/Sr High]

What does a School Librarian Do? Perceptions vs Actual

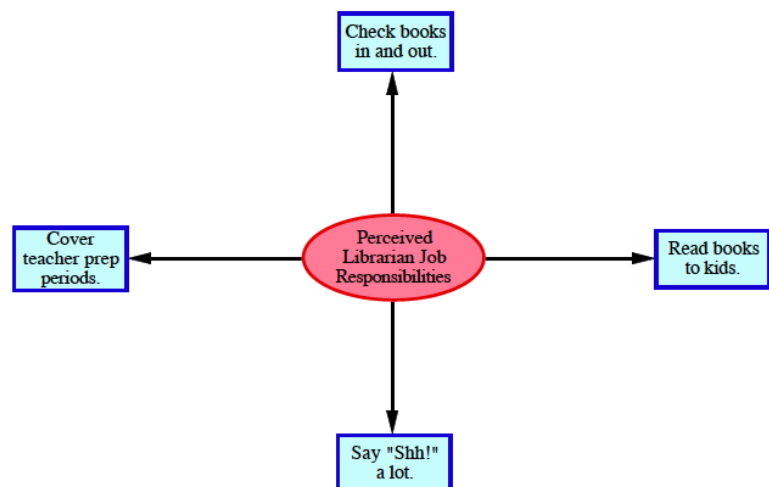
By Leigh Barnes, Allendale and Capeless Librarian, Pittsfield

Editor's Note: Download the formal Job Description of a School Librarian, approved by the MSLA Executive Board in the spring on 2011. It is posted on our website, under Resources.

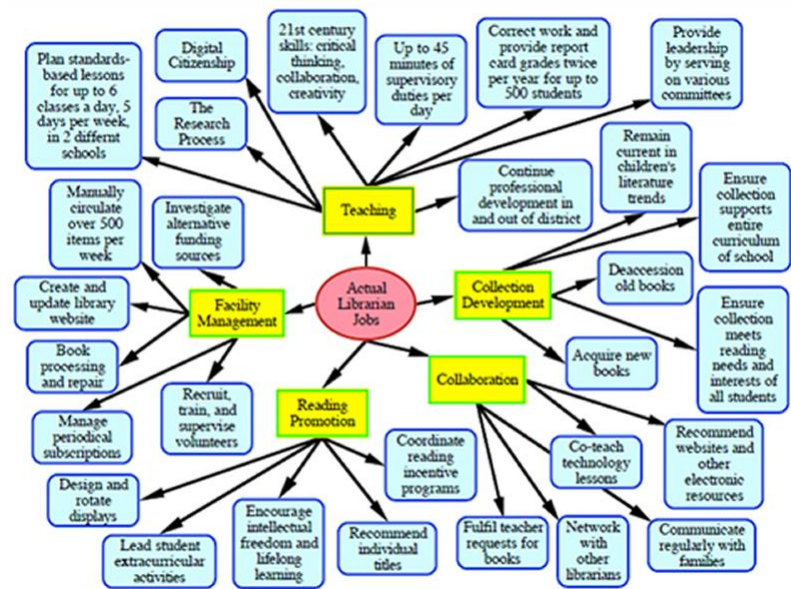
"What Exactly Does a School Librarian DO?"

We've all heard the question...and I decided to create a graphic answer.

In the elementary schools in our district, all classes visit the library once a week while the teacher has a prep period. Most people are under the impression that our only job is to check books in and out



....but as we know there are many other tasks to accomplish in running a high-quality library program:



Working SMARTER



Editor:

Leslie Schoenherr

Leslie is the School Librarian at Lexington Christian Academy in Lexington.



ARTFUL COLLABORATION

submitted by Carol Holley, Gardner High School

I coordinate with the art teacher at the start of school on an art project that is a win-win for both of us. Her first assignment for the beginning drawing class is to design and draw a poster for Teen Read Week. Some of the posters have been spectacular and they are posted hither and yon throughout the building for maximum impact.

SPREAD THE WORD

submitted by Sharon Hamer, Belmonte Middle School Learning Commons, Saugus

Don't you hate it when someone walks into the library and says something like "it's so quiet in here" because a

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class has just left or is about to come in!!! When I am new in a school and a "non-professional" employee (what used to be known as untenured), and I do something a teacher likes and compliments me on, I ask that teacher to tell someone "important." I ask them to tell the principal specifically what I did and why they liked it, so that the principal can get constant feedback about how I'm doing. That way, even if the principal sees the library when it is "quiet," he/she is hearing all the time about how active it is.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

from Sharon Hamer's email

"The Library should be more of a kitchen than a grocery store."--Joyce Valenza--TED Talk

"It is more than ironic that school districts are willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on reading programs and staff development which have had limited success in boosting test scores, but are unwilling to invest in school library programs that show such direct correlations to student success," researcher Douglas Achterman wrote in a 2008 study of California school libraries.

TABLETS VS. LAPTOPS

Question posted on the MSLA Listserv by Margaret Phoenix, Notre Dame Academy in Worcester

My tech was planning on ordering 6 laptops to augment the 18 desktops in my library. Now the powers that be want her to investigate tablets instead. We are a PC environment. Does anyone have any insights, pros/cons, advice, relative merits/shortfalls of each from personal experience? I'm hunting through the journals (thank you PowerSearch) but some hands on experience would be great.

RESPONSES:

We have netbooks...five on one cart and twenty five on another. They are wireless which is great if you have good wireless signal. They are very small, very portable! Ours don't work well when you have more than one Internet window open....they get very s...l...o...w and then freeze up! Probably more of an issue with bandwidth in our district. They are little HP's and are networked so to use them students need to log onto the network with a username and password.

I have ten iPads in the library that I loan out to students. I have a Bretford cart (\$2500, through Apple) that makes life much easier – last year I didn't have the cart -- so that I can sync them all then charge them all at the same time. They definitely do NOT operate the same as the HP desktops that we have. They are fine for internet browsing, searching online databases, reading eBooks, using the OPAC, etc, but you can't run any Microsoft products, which makes opening attachments interesting. You also can't run Firefox, which I find mildly annoying. At FHS we recently switched to a Google environment; that has been helpful because we keep a lot in Google Docs, which operates fine on the iPad. That being said, word processing isn't exactly easy, and I would never want to type an essay on it. Printing is an issue that we are currently trying to address, but as of today my students can't print from the device.

If you are looking to add laptops/tablets as additional units to your desktops (i.e., you have 22 kids in a class so 4 kids are left without a computer), I would not go with the iPad. They are totally different "animals" with features that are intended for different uses. If you are looking to add the tablets as eBook readers, to run apps, as mobile devices, etc, then I think the iPad is a fantastic choice.

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At Wilmington High School, we had bad luck with laptops. They were forever not logging onto the network and they were fragile and students, even with teachers watching and students signing out the laptops, broke off keys, dented the laptops, etc. We have a wireless network but students and teachers are not allowed to access it with their own equipment. Too bad! In our situation, desktops are the "hardest" technology.

Don't forget the purpose/ function for the technology. Tablets are great to play with and view the internet, not so great to produce an end-product such as a tri-fold brochure, posters, and type research project. There is a whole learning curve to just get used to the navigation and typing process too, not to mention learning to use the apps and which apps you should have or need.

If you can get away with it, I'd recommend Nook Colors instead. They do virtually the same thing but you get the benefits of a library in the student's hand along with the other applications.

I was also thinking about getting tablets. I spoke with a number of students that have the iPad, and their consensus was that without flash on the iPad, the Nook or another ereader or tablet was a more useful purchase especially with the network filters.

EASY BIB

Question posted on the MSLA Listserv by Kathy Dubrovsky, Sharon

We are thinking of purchasing EasyBib for the Sharon High School. Is anyone using EasyBib? If you are, could you let us know if it being utilized and you feel that it is worth the price? If you are not using EasyBib but another online bibliographic tool, could you tell how much usage does it get or anything else that you would like to share?

RESPONSES

Eight library teachers replied:

- 1 response for Citation Maker - recommended it.
- 4 responses for EasyBib
- 1 neither positive or negative
- 1 negative
- 2 positive
- 2 responses for NoodleBib both recommended it

Sandy Kelly, Carlisle School Library: I will add that we purchased Noodletools last year and one one 8th grade teacher came to me yesterday and told me: it is changing the way he teaches!!! They are beginning to use the notecard feature and he loves it! Said it is kind of hard and he is slogging through it at first but the kids are doing so much better in their research project! Go Noodletools!

PROMOTE YOUR WORK TO ADMINISTRATION

submitted by Leslie Schoenherr, Lexington Christian Academy

If you are not currently writing an annual or semi-annual report on the library your administration is missing out &

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you are missing out on some well-deserved advocacy. I've been sending administration a semi-annual report since I started working 18 years ago. It includes collection development statistics, circulation statistics, room use statistics, technology updates, teaching and collaboration updates and a look forward at what to anticipate. The former headmaster was so impressed with my first report he shared it with the trustees. The current headmaster prefers a one page "at-a-glance" report to share with the trustees and less narrative. Either way, advocate for the library in a method they appreciate. The best time for me to write the report is during mid-term exams and end-of-year exams. If you keep track of statistics throughout the year, and your circ/cat should do its job here, then the report comes together fairly easily.

FREE ONLINE E-BOOKS AND DIGITAL READING SITES

submitted by Lynn M. Weeks, Bourne Middle School

Many people requested to see the list I am developing. [View webpage](#) (still a work in progress!) - the CLAMS page has lots of great resources, I am still going through & deciding which ones I should also link to directly from my site. I'm also going to check other library network & public library pages to see what they link to. I was also looking at free nook books, kobo, kindle, etc that could be read with apps but haven't linked to those yet.

I also had a few questions about elementary/primary sites. Some of the ones I have used with my own children (some are more preschool):

Tumblebooks (our public library has a subscription, not sure how much it costs - I have also used this with middle school - there are some chapter books - & foreign language classes.

<http://www.storylineonline.net/> (I have also used some of these with middle school)

<http://www.bookpop.com/>

<http://www.wegivebooks.org/>

A Dark and Stormy October at the Norris School

by Pati Mari, Library Teacher – William E. Norris School, Southampton



Eight years ago, I started a scary writing contest in my library called "The Dark and Stormy Writing Contest."

This year, one hundred seventy fourth, fifth and sixth graders competed. Students were assigned to write the first lines of a very scary story – a simple 5-8 sentence paragraph that would leave the reader feeling as cold as a January tombstone. All entries had to start with the words "It was a dark and stormy night." The work could not contain outward displays of violence or gore.

Students were taught and coached along the way about writing in this most scary of genres: horror. Many of the key elements of writing horror can be transferred to other types of writing: writing with the senses, using an economy of words, and using adjectives to paint a picture. It's also great practice in understanding the structure of a paragraph and coming up with an original cliffhanger.

Writing teachers in fourth, fifth and sixth grade helped with the judging. We were frightened by fiends, assaulted by assassins and mortified by monsters. Winners received fabulous prizes, which were paid for by a

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grant from our PTO, and got to read their work over our morning announcements TV show.

This is a fun activity that students look forward to every year. It gives students an opportunity to share their writing in a very unique way. As an extension activity, students can use Garageband, iPod Touches, or other means to record their stories and share them online.

Here is one of our entries, by Barret (Sixth Grader at the Norris School)

It was a dark and stormy night and Nadine Clark walked quietly down her grandfather's hallway. The rain thrashed the roof and the thunder boomed noisily outside the old mansion. She came upon the big oak library doors and walked in regardless of her grandfather's words, "stay out of the library." She examined the old musty bookcases. As she looked around, an odd-looking leather bound book caught her eye. Nadine carefully took the book out and coughed from all the dust. She squinted, trying to read the first page. It read, "Read at your own risk Nadine." She found that weird, but decided to read on. "It was a dark and stormy night and Nadine Clark walked quietly down her grandfather's hallway." Nadine dropped the book and ran just as the thunder cracked.

School Library Journal Leadership Summit 2011

by Lynn Weeks and Sandy Kelly

It was an information-packed two days when we traveled to Arlington, Virginia to attend the 2011 School Library Journal Leadership Summit in September. This year's theme "The New World of Reading: Digital, Networked, Transliterate," covered many of the issues related to eBooks and social media that are often raised on the MSLA listserv. The invitation-only event is a unique gathering of school librarians, educational leaders, and vendors who gather together annually to explore a "hot topic" in the school library field.

Author and illustrator Brian Selznick gave the opening keynote address. Participants were treated to a preview of the upcoming movie Hugo, based on his Caldecott winning book, The Adventures of Hugo Cabret. In an "Oprah" like moment, participants were also given autographed copies of his newest book, *Wonderstruck*. Selznick shared the extensive research and editing process that goes into his books. The drafts of his texts that show the many edits and his struggle through the writing process would be valuable to share with students and he may consider adding them to his website. His description of "learning to ask for help" and perseverance to complete his texts were inspirational (...not to mention his illustrations!)



Buffy Hamilton (who will soon be appearing at the MSLA Spring 2012 conference!) moderated a panel on Transliteracy. Transliteracy can be defined as the interaction between all literacies. It includes the ability to adapt and requires participation. A site you can utilize in your school library includes Inanimate Alice <http://www.inanimatealice.com>. The website description describes the experience as " ... Transmedia - designed from the outset as a story that unfolds over time and on multiple platforms, the episodes are available on all devices capable of running Adobe's Flash Player. 'Alice' connects technologies, languages, cultures, generations and curricula within a sweeping narrative accessible by all. As Alice's journey progresses, new storylines appear elsewhere providing more details and insights, enriching the tale through surprising developments. Students are encouraged to co-create developing episodes of their own, either filling in the gaps or developing new strands."

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Are you ready to take the plunge and utilize social media with your students? School librarians Shannon Miller and John Schumacher shared how they have connected their two schools, hundreds of miles apart, and even do collaborative projects using tools such as Twitter and Skype. If administrative blocks on such technology are preventing you from connecting with others – try sending your administrators to Eric Sheninger’s page <http://ericsheninger.com/esheninger>.

Sheninger, the principal of New Milford High School in New Jersey, presented about his transformation from a “closed” technological philosophy, to one that embraces Web 2.0 and social media for communication, professional development, and in the student learning environment. His administrative leadership is a good role model for others looking to open access to the learning opportunities that are currently filtered out in our schools.

School librarians, district directors, and vendors all shared their experiences with eBooks. Similar to last year’s summit there are still more questions than answers about the emerging format and supporting technologies. However, many schools and districts have done more “exploring” of these technologies over the past year, and we are able to learn from their success and mistakes as we continue to test the digital waters. More vendors are attempting to find efficient ways for school librarians to access ebooks for our schools. Take a look at :

- * Follettshelf <http://www.flr.follett.com/intro/digital/index.html>
- * Mackin’s Via <http://www.mackin.com/ESERVICES/MACKIN-VIA.asp>
- * Capstone’s myownreader <http://thefutureinreading.com>
- * Rosen’s epointbooks.com



A fun presentation included three graphic novelists in tandem and interacting with the audience. George O'Connor, bestselling author and illustrator of children's literature including *Kapow!*, Eric Wight, author and illustrator of the *Frankie Pickle* series along with our own Jarrett Krosoczka, author and illustrator of children's books including the *Lunch Lady* graphic novel series entertained the crowd and brought lots of laughs. Together they had the audience help to create a graphic novel that they made up on stage. It will be great to have Jarrett back at our own conference in March. This year, he will be making two presentations

to our members. He has become a “rock star” in his own right!

Member News

Nancy Stenberg edits this column. [Please send your news to her](#)

Nancy Stenberg has been selected by MTA President Paul Toner to attend the NEA Women's Leadership Program at the NEA Conference in February.



MSLA Welcomes New Members:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Jaime Lyn Bears | Simmons College GSLIS |
| Elizabeth Rowland | Newton Free Library |
| Brittany Smith Vasquez | Somerset Elementary |
| Alexandra Woznick | Briscoe Middle School, Beverly |
| Julie Durmis | Cambridge College |
| Meg Aust-Anastasi | Springfield City Library |
| Maya Bery | Simmons College GSLIS |
| Kelly Connolly | Beaver Country Day |
| Michel Glennon | Stevens Memorial Library, N. Andover |
| Elizabeth Miller | Stevens Memorial Library, N. Andover |
| Jill Barker | Stevens Memorial Library, N. Andover |
| Melisa Paulino | Cambridge Public Schools |
| Alexandra Caram | Simmons College GSLIS |
| Lisa Wagoner | Neary School, Southborough |
| Johnna Aggelikas | Thorpe Elementary School, Danvers |
| Marilyn Antonucci | Elias Brookings School, Springfield |
| Nancy Baumann | Lindenwood University, Ballwin, MO |
| Hut Beall | Amherst |
| Elyse Caruso | University of Rhode Island |
| Lauren Clark | Simmons College GSLIS |
| Christine Colonero | Whitinsville Christian School |
| Laura DiBacco | Reading High School |
| Tara Draper | Sandwich High School |
| Elizabeth Gartley | Argenziano School, Somerville |
| Kathryn Harcourt | Martha's Vineyard Public Charter, W. Tisbury |
| Emily Houston | Simmons College GSLIS |
| Stacy Kitsis | Arlington Public Schools |
| Stacey Klimkosky | Truro Central School |

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| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Melissa Legg | Simmons College GSLIS |
| Donna Macdonald | Orchard School. South Burlington, VT |
| Dorothy Mael | Salem State University |
| Suzanne Mathews | Trotter School, Dorchester |
| Elizabeth Matos | Simmons College GSLIS |
| Linda McSweeney | Stowe High School Stowe, VT |
| Devika Muruga | Nessacus Regional Middle, Dalton |
| Meghan O'Neill | Pingree School, South Hamilton |
| Michael O'Neill | Author & Photographer, Palm Beach Gardens, FL |
| Tracy Ryan-Doherty | Salem State University |
| Elizabeth Thorsteinson | East Elementary School, Hingham |
| Suzanne Venkataraman | Blackstone-Milville Regional High |
| Katrina Yurenka | Jaffrey, NH |

How Do I Register for the MSLA Conference and/or Renew My Membership?

From MSLA Executive Director, Kathy Lowe



Many of you received an automatically generated reminder from RegOnline that your membership was due for renewal by November 1 and some of you have expressed concern that your membership will lapse before you are able to renew or register for the MSLA conference (which includes your annual dues). Since we are transitioning from a set renewal date for all of November 1 to an annual membership, we will not "shut off" any members who have not renewed until we have passed the conference early bird registration deadline of December 31. After that date, members who have not renewed or registered for the conference will be considered lapsed and removed from the MSLAmembers listserv.

In the meantime, we hope you will take advantage of the low early bird conference rates and encumber your professional development funds early to ensure that you will be able to attend our conference in March. Don't forget that you must register by December 31 to get the lowest rates.

What is MSLA's New Membership Year?

Historically, MSLA's membership year has run from November 1-October 31 for all members, regardless of when you joined. Now, your membership will expire one year from the date you renew, or in the case of new members, one year from the date you joined MSLA.

Once we get through this transition to an annual renewal date, memberships will all be up for renewal on different dates throughout the year, so this will be the last year that the dues will be folded into the conference registration fee. You will still be able to renew at the same time you register for the conference, but dues will appear as a separate item on the registration form.

What Is the Best Way to Register or Renew?

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Use our online registration system, RegOnline.

To renew your membership only: www.Regonline.com/join_MSLA

To register for the March 2012 conference and pay your annual dues:
www.Regonline.com/msla2012

If you're using a purchase order, be sure to provide your PO number. Otherwise, you can use your credit card. The online system is easy and convenient, so we hope you'll give it a try!

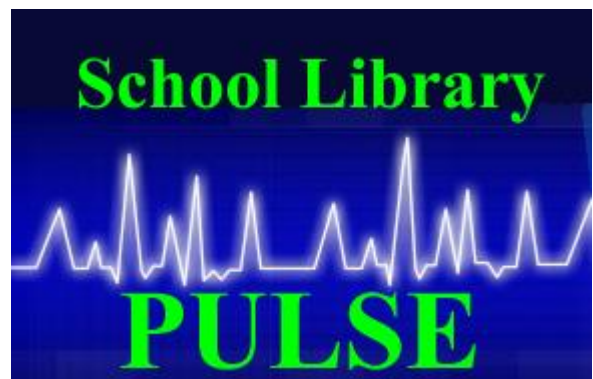
May I Still Mail or Fax in My Registration or Renewal?

Yes, although we prefer you use RegOnline. Print out the forms from the MSLA website at <http://maschoollibraries.org/content/view/918/555/> and return them with your check or purchase order. If you are registering for the conference, be sure to fill out and return both the conference registration and membership forms.

PULSE: News in the School Library World



Kathleen Porter, Editor



The AASL's November/December *Knowledge Quest* focuses on the challenges faced by solo school librarians -- most of us, nowadays. In his President's Column, Carl Harvey reminds us that "Belonging to AASL puts you in a community filled with people that will completely understand your role." That's even more so for our MSLA memberships, as our listserv reading and conference attendance remind us -- we are not alone!

KNOWLEDGE QUEST

Knowledge Quest Poll

What strategic activity should solo librarians first pursue to best assist them with school library programs?

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Collaboration
Co-teaching
Professional development
Advocacy
Other



Login in to AASL's Knowledge Quest page and then click the pie chart to vote!

LITA's **Top Technology Trends** group has created a YouTube channel. **Jason Griffey talks about 3-D printing and the implications for libraries** . Does your school have a 3-D printing program through CAD or other tech classes? Jason's ideas relate to the metaphor articulated by several hipster librarians (was it Joyce Valenza first? "The school library should be less like the grocery store and more like the kitchen!")

Google Images: now with Sorting!

Read all about it.

http://images.google.com/advanced_image_search?hl=en



For ideas on working with ebooks, check out the AASL Essential Links wiki page

at http://aasl.ala.org/essentiallinks/index.php?title=E-books/_E-readers or see the site's Table of Contents: http://aasl.ala.org/essentiallinks/index.php?title=Table_of_Contents for more ideas.



MassONE, the Massachusetts Online Network for Education, continues to upgrade their servers to improve service for Massachusetts teachers and students. This free program from the Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education allows teachers to share materials with students in grades 5-12 online in a controlled environment, and allows students to store educational materials securely in a cloud operated and maintained by DESE. The state provides online PD and links to Teacher's Domain and Thinkfinity through MassONE. For more information, visit <http://www.massone.mass.edu>



My Turn: Waltham High



by Kendall Boninti

Editor's Note: Waltham High has undergone a major makeover, thanks to an energetic school librarian, Kendall Boninti. Her story is all on her webpage - pictures, videos, graphics. Kudos to Kendall, and also to her Library Director, Sandra Roby, and the WHS administration. Waltham High School is the "MSLA Spotlight Library" for November. Congratulations!

[View this Extreme Makeover!](#)

<http://walthamlibrary.wikispaces.com/Total+Library+Makeover>



Framingham State University, NASA Partner on Educator Resource Center

by Kim Cochrane, Curriculum Librarian, Framingham State University

Framingham State University has announced the creation of a NASA Educator Resource Center on campus, the result of a collaborative effort between NASA Education and Framingham State University's Christa McAuliffe Center, Curriculum Library, and Educational Technology Office. The new NASA Educator Resource Center will provide Massachusetts teachers and preservice teachers with guided access to NASA's vast collection of digital educational resources, and training in using those materials in the classroom. In addition, opportunities for internships and externships for educators are planned. A kickoff event on October 17th included a panel discussion with several STEM education leaders, and a demonstration of the NASA Distance Learning Network.



Through direct online access and workshops, Framingham State's ERC will support teachers as they consider which of the many materials will best enhance their preK-12 curricula in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Teachers will be able to work directly with NASA experts, both virtually and in person, as they develop new strategies for promoting the sciences in schools.

The new NASA Educator Resource Center is well-timed, as state and local education officials are developing a state STEM plan to address the need for improved teacher content knowledge and student engagement. The ultimate goal is to increase student interest in STEM area careers. As Raji Patel of MIT, co-director of NASA's

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Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium stated at the panel discussion, "STEM is the future for this country." The new resource center is an exciting development for Massachusetts, Dr. Patel said. The NASA Educator Resource Center will support teachers as they help our students increase their STEM competency.

The first workshop is already scheduled: on January 21st the McAuliffe Center will present a workshop on Global Climate Change Using NASA Data (limited to 20 participants). Contact Evan Pagliuca at the McAuliffe Center at 508.620.1220 X4132, or epagliuca@framingham.edu for registration information.

Take a look at the new FSU NASA ERC website:

<http://www.framingham.edu/henry-whittemore-library/curriculum-library/fsu-nasa-erc.html>

For more information about the NASA ERC at Framingham State, and upcoming workshops, contact Kim Cochrane, Curriculum Librarian: 508.626.4657; kcochrane1@framingham.edu

Skype Your Meeting!

By Sharon Hamer and Christine Steinhauser, Northeast Area Directors



In Saugus, Mary Gaeta (left) and Sharon Burke (right) "meet" with the group in Reading: Chris Steinhauser, Nancy Snow, Donna Maksian, Leslie Schoenherr, and Karen Ghirard. Picture taken by Sharon Hamer.

As we were trying to come up with some meetings that would interest our Northeast area teacher-librarians and also reflect the thrust towards a digital environment that our society has taken, we realized that some people might be put off by the driving and gas usage that a meeting would require. Chris came up with the great idea of having a Skype meeting to not only show how easy it is to meet by Skype (and how economical) but also to query our area people about what kind of professional development they would like. The meeting would be held in two locations: A.W. Coolidge Middle School in Reading and Belmonte Middle School in Saugus. Skype would connect us. Luckily both Chris and I have access to computers with cameras attached. We also have SmartBoards which are not necessary but make it easier for a group to see. In preparation for the meeting, we had to download the Skype software to our computers and connect. Most importantly, we ascertained that neither school blocked Skype. We both had Skype accounts, and getting an account is free and easy. We tested the connection ahead of time, and we were ready to go.

We sent out invitations to our area school librarians. At the appointed time, Chris called me with Skype, we enabled the video and there we all were; people at my school and people at hers. After working out a few kinks with camera and microphone placement our discussion commenced. We were able to hear each other

pretty well throughout, and if there was a problem, we simply re-adjusted. We talked about many potential discussion topics including a meeting at the Panera Community Room or Barnes and Noble on Route 1 and about having a One Book—One Northeast Area read.

All the participants were pleased with the Skype meeting. There are several authors who offer short but free Skype interviews with students. Learning how easy it is to accomplish communication via Skype is as close as your nearest computer.

Working Group for Educator Excellence (WGEE)

by Sandy Kelly, MSLA~WGEE Liaison



Last spring, MSLA accepted an invitation to become an active member of WGEE. The Working Group for Educator Excellence is a state-wide coalition of educational stakeholders committed to ensuring that every student has access to high quality teaching. The coalition includes representatives from unions, professional associations, educational organizations, higher education, business associations, advocacy groups and members of the legislature working together to provide a complete and systematic approach to support high quality teaching across the Commonwealth. Begun at Teachers21 and spearheaded by Jon Saphier and other prominent educational leaders, The Working Group for Educator Excellence organizations and individuals are united in the belief that the most effective way to provide every child with an excellent education is to take a systemic approach to influencing what teachers and educational leaders know and can do.

WGEE proposed a plan to develop a steady pipeline of skilled educators by promoting a comprehensive system to reform personnel policies for teachers and school leaders, from training to induction to retention. "This approach draws on research and national best practices. and the result will be consistent standards, better support, and more rigorous accountability for teachers and school leaders, with improved student performance and long-term cost savings for Massachusetts." The work is based on "Nine Levers of Influence" which include educator preparation, rigorous licensure standards, effective recruitment, strong induction programs, high quality evaluation practices, professional development, relicensure based on mastery, strong culture in the workplace environment and providing a career ladder that encourages educators to stay within the profession.

One subcommittee initiative of interest is the RTTT, Race to the Top, group. Three communities, Attleboro, Brockton and Revere have been selected to receive substantial funding via RTTT grants. School librarians in these districts should make every effort to be part of the programs that the WGEE subcommittee will monitor as these initiatives evolve. It is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate strong leadership skills and to model what good school library programs add to student achievement. See if you can acquire funding through these grants for certified school librarians in each school and offer your programs to collect and compare data. If you are interested in being involved please contact me. There may be opportunities to mentor, collect data and help promote strong school libraries across our state. Remember it takes a village and just one person CAN make a difference. [Read more about WGEE and take a look at their Core documents on their website](#) .

2012 Bookmark Contest

WILD about the MSLA BOOKMARK CONTEST!

by Linda Coviello, 2011 Bookmark Contest Chairperson

Don't miss out...be sure that you and your students seize this opportunity to share just how important your School Library is to your community...the MSLA annual Bookmark Contest is coming soon to a School Library near you. The theme this year is:
I'm WILD about My School Library!

Choose your three best entries for each division:

Division I (grades K & 1)

Division II (grades 2 & 3)

Division III (grades 4-6)

Division IV (grades 7-12)



Schedule your local contest early so that you can select your finalists to send to the state-wide contest. The deadline for entries is **February 17, 2012**. A panel of authors, illustrators, and library administrators will then judge all entries and select state-wide winners. In addition to the winners for each division, judges will select two honorable mentions per division.



Attendees at our Hyannis conference are invited to view the judging on Monday, March 5th. Winners will be announced before the end of the day. First place and honorable mention winners, their families, School Librarians, and administrators are all invited to attend the **MSLA/MLA Legislative Day at the State House in Boston on April 30th for the Awards Ceremony**. After the ceremony in the Grand Staircase, students and families will be treated to lunch and a State House tour.

Check out the [MSLA website for FAQ's and Entry Forms](#) . Contact [Linda Coviello](#), Bookmark Contest Chairperson for any further questions. GOOD LUCK!!!



MSLA at AASL

MSLA was well-represented at the AASL conference in Minneapolis, October 26-30. In workshops, vendor hall demonstrations, the Exploratorium and even at the closing celebration, Massachusetts school librarians were strong contributors to this biannual event. Be sure to check out the [L4L song](#), performed by "Gerri and the Dispositions" at the closing celebration.



Collaboration By the Numbers

Erin Broderick (Zervas Elementary, Newton)

Collaboration is the key to today's successful library programs. This program will explore how two successfully funded grant proposals nurtured and increased collaboration at multiple levels: between library teachers and the classroom teachers, between library teachers and other curriculum specialists and amongst library teachers and instructional technology specialists. This session will also include an exploration of BrainPOP and TeachingBooks, the Internet databases which powered the collaboration and are now supported by district wide subscriptions.

Transform Global Literature Circles with Web 2.0 Tools

Joan Collins (John Glenn Middle School)

Global Literature Circles with Web 2.0 Tools is an initiative to get kids to think globally, while engaging them with Web 2.0 tools. By selecting fiction books with a global focus, we broaden student choice and develop new understandings of cultural differences. Using Web 2.0 tools we recast our classrooms for 21st Century Learning. Animoto, Moodle, Glogster and Skype allow students to collaborate about content, research information, create online projects, and converse with authors.

Reading As a Window To The World: Why Multicultural Literature is Important and How to Move It Off the Shelf

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and Into the Hands of the Reader

Chris Swerling (Library Coordinator, Newton), Patricia Karam (Horace Mann Elementary, Newton) and Rachel Lundquist (Underwood School, Newton)

Students need to see themselves in what they learn and what they read! All too often, however, multicultural literature remains “on display” instead of being checked out and read by children. Workshop participants will learn strategies for actively promoting titles that provide “windows and mirrors” for children and develop empathy. During the workshop participants will collaborate to develop criteria for effectively evaluating multicultural children’s literature titles.

Summer Reading Redux

Rochelle Garfinkel (Frontier Regional School)

How many times have you wished you had the power to change your school’s summer reading program? Well, maybe you do! Come hear the story of one librarian who brought her school’s summer reading program into the 21st century. It is now a program that involves faculty and students with books in a whole new way.

Putting It All Together: The Integration of Print and Digital Resources in the Information Literacy Curriculum of School Libraries

Bob Roth (The English High School) panelist with 4 other presenters

Join this panel of innovative and distinguished librarians and publishers as they share their wide-ranging perspectives on the opportunities and challenges of integrating print and digital resources in the information literacy curriculum. The panel will discuss ways school librarians can use these resources to promote reading, inquiry-based learning, wide-ranging research, and ethical behavior. Attendees will gain ideas for creating dynamic information literacy programs that incorporate a range of resources for student success.

AASL Booth Demos: AASL Lesson Plan Database

Kathy Lowe, AASL Lesson Plan Database Lead Moderator

Learn how the AASL Lesson Plan Database aasl.jesandco.org can help you build lesson plans cross-walked with the Common Core Standards. Four demonstrations are scheduled at the AASL booth during exhibits-only hours.

EXPLORATORIUM:

MSLA Bookmark Contest

Ann Perham (Needham High School) and Kathy Lowe (MSLA Executive Director)

Each year, the Massachusetts School Library Association holds a student bookmark design contest with a school library advocacy theme. In 2011, students’ designs depicted AASL’s L4L theme: Think, Create, Share, Grow. Local authors and illustrators, along with other prominent members of the Massachusetts library community, judge the



entries. Student winners and those receiving honorable mentions, along with their school librarians, are recognized at the State House at the annual Library Legislative Day, where they receive a certificate signed by the judges, a gift certificate from a local bookstore, citations from their legislators, enlarged laminated reproductions of their bookmarks to display at their schools and color copies of their bookmarks to distribute in their libraries.

Reproductions of the winning bookmarks are also published on the MSLA website. [LINK TO BROCHURE](#)



Doing Shots! Using screen Shots and Presentation Applications When Unreliable Connections are the Norm

Sharon Hamer (Belmonte Middle, Saugus)

For many teachers, teaching using the internet can be a boon or a bust, depending on whether the internet connection is reliable. By using screen shots in presentations, you can mimic the live internet without being at the mercy of your unreliable or slow connection. Fully fleshed out lessons can be presented in their

entirety without worrying about whether or not the internet will go down.

L4L Song Fest at AASL



by Gerri Fegan

The song started out as a discussion at ALA Annual in Washington, DC. at a Round Table discussion after Affiliate Assembly. The mood was positive because the L4L standards were becoming very popular and everyone was excited. Susan Ballard, Kathy Lowe, Cecilia Solomon and I were musing that we should celebrate by creating a flash mob at the AASL Conference (which was still a whole year away) and that was just the spark we needed to get the ball rolling. Various tunes rolled on and off our tongues and we played with "our L4L" until we remembered the Village People song, "YMCA." It fit like a glove! All the way home on the plane, I worked on the lyrics for the "flash mob."

Within a month, Cecelia had contacted the Village People's agent and secured the use of the song with amended lyrics for performance, but not for Internet recording. That posed a bit of a problem because the main purpose of flash mobs are to be published on the Internet! Not only that, but getting original choreography set-up, modeled and filmed, sent out online secretly to those who wanted to participate (and volume was key here), and rehearsal were just too overwhelming for all of us. We weren't So You Think You Can Dance! How could we make this work?

The whole project just sat there for a year. Susan called me in August and asked if we could just perform it somewhere. That seemed doable, and I recorded the song to send to her. The next thing I knew we were doing it big at the closing event in Minneapolis! We got together "The Dispositions," created the L4L choreography (4 little moves!) and the night was fabulous.

Learning 4 Life Poem

(you can set this to any tune you like)

By Gerri Fegan

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You there, are you the best you can be?
I said, you there, work in a school library?
I said, you there, do your students know
They can Think...Create...Share...and Grow?

You there, are you learning for life?
I said, you there, can your kids get it right?
You can teach them with the best of the best.
You can get them to ace those tests.

They can go far if you use
OUR L4L!
Oh, yes, you gotta use
OUR L4L!
Get them learning for life and partners they'll be
In the 21st Century!

OUR L4L!
Oh, yes, you gotta use
OUR L4L!
Teach them critical skills so that they can succeed
School librarians are what they need!

You there, are you listening to me?
I said, you there, what do you want to be?
I said, you there, you can make all their dreams,
But you've got to know this one thing...
We can't do it all by ourselves.
I said, you there, it's more than books on our shelves.
It's a new way. It's called Learning for Life.
And links Common Core to us, right?

They can go far if you use
OUR L4L!
Oh, yes, you gotta use
OUR L4L!
I can tell that you're ready to "talk the talk,"
But are you ready to "Cross the Walk?"

OUR L4L!
Oh, yes, you gotta use
OUR L4L!
Every child deserves us! Every child gets a chance!
Every school a librarian!

You there, we were once in your shoes.
I said, you there, we were considered old news.

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We felt no one cared if we were around.
No one listened to us call out.
That's when we all came up with a plan
And said, you there, school librarian!
Make a difference- give a resounding cheer!
They will always know we're right here!

They can go far if you use
OUR L4L!
Oh, yes, you gotta use
OUR L4L!
Every child deserves us!
Every child gets a chance!
Every school a librarian!

OUR L4L!
Oh, yes, you gotta use
OUR L4L!Every child deserves us!
Every child gets a chance!
Every school a librarian!



Editor:

Audrey Borus

Audrey is the School Librarian at the Meadowbrook School in Weston.



What are the members talking about on our Listserv? Audrey takes an overview of the conversations and sharing, with a bit of her own commentary. Because she is in an independent school and belongs to both MSLA and CLA (Cooperative Library Association), Audrey brings a unique perspective.

Since the start of school, there have been the “usual” threads on the listserv. Any idea on **bookfair vendors** since The Book Fair Company went out of business? Yes, there appears to be a new game in town: Best Book Fairs www.bestbookfairs.com. What is the **Librarian to student ratio**? MSLA recommends one full-time qualified library support staff person for approximately every five hundred students with additional staffing for extended hours. Thanks to Kathy Lowe for having that information readily available.

Many posts have concerned **new technology for libraries**, particularly, e-readers, e-books and how to manage them.

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Though the jury is still out, it looks as though those of us who are using these devices and have responded to threads on the listserv prefer the Barnes & Noble Nook to the Kindle by a slim margin.

Then there is the issue of **tablets**: Amazon has announced the Amazon Fire, a tablet device with a 7" screen, WiFi only and a \$199 price tag. Margaret Phoenix of Notre Dame Academy posted a query on September 23rd, asking for our collective wisdom on **laptops vs tablets**. Jill Diotte of Falmouth High School answered that "If you are looking to add laptops/tablets as additional units to your desktops (i.e., you have 22 kids in a class so 4 kids are left without a computer), I would not go with the iPad. They are totally different "animals" with features that are intended for different uses. If you are looking to add the tablets as eBook readers, to run apps, as mobile devices, etc, then I think the iPad is a fantastic choice;" in other words, carefully consider what you're hoping to achieve.

Cecily Houston at Littleton High also had questions about **eReader management**. Helpful suggestions came from Paula O'Rourke who suggested visiting <http://edukindle.ning.com> and Devika Muruga who pointed out that the BPL and CWMARS loan ebooks for the Kindle and pointed to a **NY Times pod cast** that highlights the Fire's feature.

The Cooperative Library Association of Greater Boston is made up of independent school librarians. CLA recently hosted a panel of school librarians to speak about **eReaders and other "techie devices"**: Tom Corbett (Cushing Academy), Jeff Smith (Middlesex School), Carol Knowles (Bancroft School), Dorothea Black (The Park School). In a follow up to that meeting, Diane Pierce-Williams (Milton Academy) posted a **very useful e-mail**. It contains information from Carol Knowles about the Bancroft School's iPad initiative, and a list of other helpful links such as Kathy Schrock's "**iPads in the Classroom**" and Carolyn Foote's blog, "**Not So Distant Future**"

Diane also enclosed a list of "good to have" eReader apps and a reminder from Liz Vezina that MLS has some helpful links at their **Workshop handouts page** Thank you Liz and Diane.

Amidst all the discussion of devices, many of us including Amy Veling at Landmark High and Valerie Diggs at Chelmsford High, are asking important questions such as: **what are the pros and cons of going digital?** And once you have the equipment how do you **ensure security, manage and select the applications for them and determine usage policies?** In an email to me, Amy said that response to her listserv post of October 6th had been minimal, though she'd been directed to the work of Julie Coiro (URI) and Don Leu (UConn). Their work is impressive, focusing on the challenges of producing mindful readers in the digital age. But it still doesn't get to the heart of the question: **what's a school librarian to do when the array of delivery devices are enough to make one's head spin and the issue of access looms?**

Meg O'Neil shared her school's policy in a post on October 25th. At Pingree School (South Hamilton, MA), "we have Kindles, iPads, laptops, and iPod Touches. The latter are for audiobooks and multimedia projects that we lend out to students and faculty. We've created a Read Me First document that explains acceptable use. We made this document into an app on the iPads and iPod Touches. We don't require students to sign anything, but all students have received this information via email, morning meetings, etc. and it is reiterated each time that a device is checked out. It is also on the library website with links to video tutorials and a list of apps that are loaded onto the devices." Meg says that when a student damaged a Kindle last year, the policy was enforced without incident.

Information like this is extremely helpful, but I still feel we're a little like the blind men and the elephant: we know there's something big in the room, just haven't quite gotten a grasp on what it is. Interestingly, the Boston Globe published an article in the local news section on 10/20/11, "**Public libraries journey into unmapped e-book territory.**"

Correspondent Brock Parker notes: "Since the beginning of the year, several area librarians said, booming interest in

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e-readers, such as Amazon's Kindle and Barnes & Noble's Nook, has led to dramatic jumps in the number of e-books being checked out." However, Parker continues, public library directors have had to deal with issues of privacy and "inconsistent approaches taken by publishers that are dictating how library patrons can check out their books." Certainly, this is an issue for all of us. And Parker doesn't even mention the questions about the authors whose works are *not* available electronically; to wit, Sherman Alexie has said he will never allow his books to be transmitted electronically and there are some authors who publishers may never deem big enough "hits" to warrant publishing them electronically. Of course, that could have been true for print, but I'm not being a troglodyte when I say it seems as though it will be a lot easier to just forget about writers who are not big names. And what about all the legacy material we now own? Will it be translated into electronic format? What happens when the media changes from e-books to something else? The archivist in me says there is a whole dimension that most of the world seems to have forgotten, and that we as librarians should preserve.