

MSLA Forum: January 2012

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President's Message

A new year is upon us, but I really cannot say that it "crept" up on us. Rather, it seems to have a flash, a blur, and with an element of surprise. That it is now 2012 seems almost incredible to with that, the "21st-century" skills movement becomes even more urgent than ever. We certainly cannot say we are preparing for the Twenty-First Century. It is here now. Not only is but we are well past the beginning stages, moving quickly into the middle part of the century. does this passing of years mean for school librarians?

I am relatively sure that no one has a crystal ball for what the future holds for school libraries, librarians, and school library programs. We are experiencing the continued struggle for budget and positions in schools. Justifying what we do and how we support student learning is more today than it ever was. Therein lies the key, in that simple word "justify". How does one go justifying the profession of school librarianship? Through circulation counts? Class visits? Teacher/School Librarian collaborative projects and lessons? It has to be all of these, and School libraries in 2012 need to become part of the social and cultural fabric of the school. Think about dismantling so ideas around school libraries. Invite students in to simply be in a safe place, lounge in comfortable seating, and explore through art and music. Host events, invite parents, have food and drink, and downplay rules and regulations. Student use the space more, and turn to you as a respected and valued teacher, adult, and mentor. Through all of this, the 21 we value so highly will become valued by our students, and made a natural part of their learning experiences.

Staying current in our profession is crucial to all of the above. Most of us are a department of one, sometimes in a school often than not these days, in an entire district. Reaching out for professional development and new ideas can be difficult. Library journals and periodicals keep us current, as do online webinars, library-focused blogs, and RSS feeds. However, we might agree that often the best professional development opportunities happen face-to-face. Over the past six years, I have been involved with the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) at the national level, attending both of the AASL National Conference (ALA), Midwinter Meeting in January and the Annual Conference in June. I have been privileged to also attend the National Conference every other year in October, as well as School Library Journal's Leadership Summits each fall. These have lifted my professional experiences to soaring heights. Seeing famous speakers, authors, even Barack Obama before he became a glimmer on the presidential landscape, was personally and professionally uplifting. Sitting in on conference sessions where the latest developments in our profession were discussed, and meeting people from all parts of our country were experiences I will never forget.

Why am I sharing these experiences? Simply because I would like you to have the same. MSLA's annual conference, "Our Future," will surely offer you the chance to hear and interact with the not only school library greats, but with your colleagues across New England. Come to hear the best of the best in our profession. Sunday features Ross Todd, Tim Green, Alaric, and Susan Ballard, our very own New Englander poised to take the helm of AASL in June. On Monday, come to hear Joyce J. Krosoczka, Christopher Harris, Buffy Hamilton, Michelle Luhtala, and many others. Attend the closing session on the



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libraries with many of these same speakers.

PLEASE mark March 4 and 5 as an opportunity of a lifetime. Come for both days and enjoy the newly-renovated Hyanis Reso Conference Center. Register online at www.regonline.com/msla2012

You owe this to yourself, your students, your teachers, and your administrators. Return to your school rejuvenated and ready on any challenge 2012 will pose. See you all there!

With wishes for a productive, positive and learning-filled 2012.

From the Editor Ann Perham



Developing this issue of the MSLA Forum has been very satisfying and I'm excited to share it with MSLA readers.

Our conference takes top billing, with the entire lineup of regional authors for our "Meet and Greet." We have some very well-known authors (Christopher Bing, Andrew Clements and Mitali Perkins) but who knows of the 16 others will be hugely famous? New this year is the judging of the 2012 Bookmark Contest at the conference. Our authors will do the judging and conference attendees will have the fun of watching drama unfold. Who knew that bookmark judging could be a spectator sport? I'm predicting that this new for the Bookmark Contest will take it to a new level.

This Forum offers a wide range of opportunities for replicating the success (and fun) of others. Combining the great outdoors reading is the epitome of splendor and Nancy Kelleher's "Story Walk" article will inspire members to replicate this creative event in other settings. Try the QR codes that Newton North High School (Jennifer Dimmick and Kevin McGrath) used for a tour....use ideas from Galvin Middle (Nancy Stockwell-Alpert) and the iPad grant...how about "going green" like the Fenway High/Boston Academy grant (Deborah Lang Froggart)....try the "Exit Tickets" that Deborah Owen uses at Hudson High...or you could even use the pedal pusher from the Belmonte Middle School (Sharon Hamer).

Get inspired! The Open Learning Exchange by Elizabeth Gartley is an example of global need. Take a workshop through MSLA or enroll in one of the AASL eAcademy courses. Without saying, the most obvious inspiration is available right here in Massachusetts at our own Annual Conference – register now at www.regonline.com/msla2012

Many thanks to the column editors who devote their talents to the Forum, issue after issue: "MLS Connection" by Susan Babcock; "PULSE" by Kathleen Porter; "Member News" by Nancy Stenberg; "Off the Shelf" by Audrey Borus; "Working Smarter" by Leslie Schoenherr.

If you have ideas for an article or a column, please contact me. I'm always recruiting!

Author Meet & Greet: Sunday

*The 2012 MSLA Conference features a blockbuster lineup of regional authors and illustrators. They will be in our Exhibit Hall to speak with you and to sign books. It's a perfect opportunity to meet these celebrities and to schedule visits to your schools. Monday authors will also serve as judges for our **2012 Bookmark Contest**.*

These authors and illustrators are enthusiastic supporters of school libraries and attend our conference to promote u

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our programs. Thank you!

SUNDAY Authors: Sarah Brannen, Jacqueline Davies, Andrew Lapham Fersch, Mark Peter Hughes, David A. Kelly, Suzanne LaFleur, Marcella Pixley, Irene Smalls, Sarah Smith, Tui Sutherland

MONDAY Authors: Christopher Bing, Jeannie Brett, Andrew Clements, Kathleen Duple, Jack D. Ferraiolo, Jarrett Krosoczka, Brian Mitali Perkins, Heidi EY Stemple

AUTHORS APPEARING ON SUNDAY, March 4th



Sarah Brannen

<http://www.sarahbrannen.com>

...has illustrated over a dozen books for children. She is the author and illustrator of *Bobby's Wedding*, which was the eighth most-challenged book in the country in 2008. She has also illustrated *The Pig Scramble* (Islandport Press, 2011); *Mathias Franey, Powder Monkey* (Twin Lights Publishers, 2011); *The ABC Book of American Homes*; and *Digging for Troy: From Homer to Hisarlik*, both for Charlesbridge Publishing. Forthcoming books include *The Very Beary Tooth Fairy* (Scholastic Press) and *The Ugly Duckling* (Sterling Publishing, 2013). Sarah also writes for icenet.com and *Skating Magazine*.



Jacqueline Davies <http://www.jacquelinedavies.net/>

...has eight published children's books to her credit. Ms. Davies's books have won numerous awards, including the NSTA "Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12," the "Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award," the NCSS "Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People," the "IRA/CBC Children's Award Notable Book for Fiction," the Bank Street College of Education's Best Children's Books " and the "CCBC Choices Award." She also won a "MA Children's Book Honor Award" for *Lemonade War*.



Andrew Lapham Fersch <http://www.AndrewFersch.com>

... is a teacher first and a writer second (but don't worry, he still puts a lot of love into his writing). Fersch has spent the last four years teaching on the Seacoast of New Hampshire. In 2010, Fersch was awarded the NELMS (New England League of Middle Schools) Promising Practitioner Award and in 2011, he was nominated for the 2012 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year. His new book is *The Rough Draft of My Life Story: An Illustrated Book of Poetry for Children*.

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Mark Peter Hughes <http://markpeterhughes.com>

Mark's novel *Lemonade Mouth* is now a Disney Channel Original Movie musical. The book has won many awards and is a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age. Mark's award-winning first novel is *I am the Wallpaper*. His newest novel, *A Crack in the Sky* is the first in a sci-fi fantasy adventure series. *Lemonade Mouth Puckers Up*, will be released in 2012, and a sequel to *A Crack in the Sky* is also on the way.



David A. Kelly <http://davidakelly.com>

David A. Kelly is an established book, magazine, and newspaper writer who has written for a wide variety of outlets, including a new children's series, *The Ballpark Mystery Series*. He is also a travel writer for the *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Miami Herald*, multiple AAA publications and many more newspapers and magazines. He is also a contributor to *The New York Times* column, "Practical Guide to Practically Everything."



Suzanne LaFleur <http://www.suzannelafleur.com>

In a 2009 starred review, *Booklist* said LaFleur is an author to watch with her debut novel, *Love Aubrey*. *Publisher Weekly's* starred review of *Eight Keys* states, "LaFleur writes with uncommon sensitivity to the fraught period between childhood and the teenage years when friendships balance on a razor's edge and nothing feels certain. *School Library Journal* calls the book "a heartwarming and thoughtful story filled with beautiful line work and ideas."



Marcella Pixley <http://www.marcellapixley.com>

Marcella Pixley's poetry has been published in literary journals such as *Prairie Schooner*, *Feminist Studies*, *Sow's Ear Poetry Review* and *Poet Lore*, and she has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Her first book, *Freak*, received four starred reviews and was named a *Kirkus* Best Book of the Year. Her new book *Without Tess* has also been released to great reviews, has been an SLJ "pick of the day" and is the Junior Library Guild's January, 2012 pick of the month.



Irene Smalls <http://www.irenesmalls.com>

Storyteller, Author Irene Smalls became an author in kindergarten. In kindergarten 5-year-old Smalls was taught the beauty of language through, song, games and dance. "Reading was a thing that you do that is loud and fun." She fell in love with stories, books and reading. Years later a chance reading of a Boston Globe article about Little Brown led Smalls to create her story, she was a fabulous writer and Little Brown must publish her. Little Brown, Simon and Schuster and Scholastic are some of the publishers who have said "yes", to Smalls' stories. She is the author of 15 books for children and three storybook CDs. She is presently working on Literacise a reading program to fight childhood obesity by combining bodies and books. Learn more about Smalls and her creativity at www.irenesmalls.com, www.hairmath.com and www.literacise.com

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Sarah Smith <http://www.sarahsmith.com>

...has been interested in ghosts and storytelling since she was four. *The Other Side* of her first YA book, is inspired by an unsolved Boston mystery, her multicultural relatives, and her love of ghost stories. It won the Agatha Award for best YA mystery of the year and the Massachusetts Book Award for best YA book of the year. She is the bestselling author of an adult mystery series set in Edwardian Boston and Paris; two of the books have been *York Times* Notable Books of the Year, one was a *London Times* Book of the Year, and *Vanished Child*, the first book in the series, is being made into a musical.



Tui Sutherland <http://www.tuibooks.com>

...is the author of more than 30 books for children and teens. She wrote the biography *Was Harry Houdini?* and a Scholastic series about dogs, *Pet Trouble*. Among her books for teens are *Never Bite a Boy on the First Date* and the supernatural/post-apocalyptic *Avatars* trilogy. Her pseudonymous books include *Farmer Boy Goes West* (February 2012) under the pseudonym Heather Williams and the second book in the *Tomorrow Girls* tetralogy, *Run for Cover*, under the name Eva Gray. She is also one of four authors working on the *Warriors and Seekers* books as Erin Hunter. Her newest is a five-book epic dragon fantasy, *Wings of Fire*, launching in summer 2012.

Author Meet & Greet: MONDAY

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SUNDAY Authors : Sarah Brannen, Jacqueline Davies, Andrew Lapham Fersch, Mark Peter Hughes, David A. Kelly, Suzanne LaFleur, Marcella Pixley, Irene Smalls, Sarah Smith, Tui Sutherland

MONDAY Authors: Christopher Bing, Jeannie Brett, Andrew Clements, Kathleen Duple, Jack Ferraiolo, Jarrett Krosoczka, Brian Lies, Mitali Perkins, Heidi EY Stemple

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Christopher Bing <http://www.christopherbing.com>

... won a 2001 Caldecott Honor Award for *Casey at the Bat*, the classic 1888 poem. *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* was called "a remarkable visual interpretation of Longfellow's classic poem" in a starred *Booklist* review. Other title credits include *Lionel Lincoln Shot: A President's Life Remembered*, *The Story of Little Black Sambo* and *The Story of Red Riding Hood*, a rich and exquisitely crafted edition of one of the best-known tales of the Brothers Grimm.



Jeannie Brett <http://www.jeanniebrett.com>

...studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. *L is for Lobster; A Maine Alphabet* was the first book she illustrated. She also illustrated *One If by Land: A Massachusetts Number Book* with author Heidi Stemple, *M is for Mayflower: A Massachusetts Alphabet* and *P is for Passport: A World Alphabet*. Her latest endeavor is her first written and illustrated title, *Little M* and another book that she is writing and illustrating all about bears.



Andrew Clements <http://www.andrewclements.com>

... became a well-known library name after his novel *Frindle* won sixteen state book awards. He has won two Christopher Awards and an Edgar Award. His popular works include *Extra Credit*, *Lost and Found*, *No Talking*, *Room One*, *Lunch Money* and *Benjamin Pratt & the Keepers of the School* series. Clements has earned a solid base of fans among elementary and middle school students. As one reviewer wrote in *The New York Times*, "Few contemporary writers portray the public school world better than Clements..." His books feature the kind of humor that rings true for savvy young readers."



Kathleen Duble <http://www.kathleenduble.com>

Kathleen Benner Duble is a critically acclaimed and award-winning author of many historical novels for children including the highly praised *Bridging Beyond*, *Quest*, and *Bravo Zulu, Samantha*. Her latest title is *Phantoms in the Snow*, the story of a group of skiing soldiers called Phantoms who turned the tide of the war in Italy against the Germans in World War II. "Each of my books, each of my stories, is connected in some way to who I am," says Duble. Kathleen also has two picture books to her credit, *Pillars of Mom* and *The Story of Samson*.

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Jack D. Ferraiolo <http://www.jackferraiolo.com/>

The Center for Children's Books calls *Sidekicks* "An exciting, lightning-paced superhero that is also a thoughtful examination of superheroism." It also received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and *School Library Journal*. Jack also works in animation, winning a 2008 Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing in Animation as the head writer for PBS's "WordGirl," a series he co-created.



Jarrett Krosoczka <http://www.studiojkk.com>

Punk Farm, *Baghead*, *Ollie* and the acclaimed *Lunch Lady* books have boosted Jarrett to national fame. A graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, he has authored and illustrated sixteen books—ten picture books and six graphic novels. His *Punk Farm* and *Lunch Lady* series are both in development to be feature films. Jarrett founded the Joseph and Shirley Krosoczka Memorial Youth Scholarships at Worcester Art Museum in honor of his late grandparents who raised and encouraged him. The scholarships fund an online auction of his work and art courses for kids who otherwise might not be able to attend art classes.



Brian Lies <http://www.brianlies.com>

Brian Lies is the award-winning author/illustrator of the New York Times bestsellers *at the Beach* and *Bats at the Library* and also *Bats at the Ballgame*. He has written and illustrated more than twenty books for children including Eth Clifford's *Flatfoot Fox*. He studied at the Rhode Island School of Design and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston before beginning a career in political illustration and children's books. His award-winning work appears regularly in children's magazines and galleries around the country.



Mitali Perkins <http://www.mitaliperkins.com>

The Kolkata-born Mitali Perkins is the author of seven books. Her award-winning books targeting young adults include *Bamboo People*, *Monsoon Summer*, *Rickshaw Girl*, *Sea Keeper*, and the *First Daughter* books. Mitali speaks frequently about the "transformative power of stories as windows and mirrors, blogs about books between cultures." Her books are widely popular around the world. Some 60,000 copies of *Rickshaw Girl* have been sold in Japan alone.



Heidi EY Stemple <http://www.heidistemple.com>

...didn't want to be a writer when she grew up. It wasn't until she was 28 years old that she gave in and joined the "family business," publishing her first short story in a book called *Famous Writers and Their Kids Write Spooky Stories*. The famous writer was her mom, author Jane Yolen and Heidi is the little girl in the story! Since then, she has published more than a dozen books and numerous short stories and poems, mostly for children. Heidi teamed with illustrator Jeannie Brett on *One If by Land: A Massachusetts Number Book*. Also among her credits are *The Barefoot Book of Ballet Stories* and *Dear Mother, Dear Daughter: Poems for Young People*.

Spotlight: Story Walk

Take a Hike! By Nancy Kellner and MaryEllen Remillard

It all started while walking the dog. MaryEllen Remillard, library teacher at the Zeh School in Northborough, found a story in the woods. No, not the inspiration for a story, an actual story. Walking on the Rail Trail in West Boylston, she came upon the pages of a book, mounted on stakes planted along the trail. She later discovered that she had stumbled upon a StoryWalk™, a project that originated in Vermont and has since been trademarked. The concept was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.



Later that same year, MaryEllen attended a summer workshop to fight childhood obesity. Inspired by the idea of combining fitness and literacy she submitted and won a Corridor Nine Chamber of Commerce grant to create StoryWalks™ for her school and community. In the 2010-2011 academic year she created three walks which were planted both on a popular Northborough trail, at Mt. Pisgah, and on her school grounds. She later shared her passion about this project at a district librarian's meeting.



Meanwhile, Nancy Kellner, Library Teacher at the Peaslee School in Northborough and an avid hiker, was out on the trails herself with a friend from Vermont who started talking about her own StoryWalks™. Remembering MaryEllen's enthusiasm, she decided that she wanted to be a part of the project. This past summer, they approached the Children's librarian at the Northborough Free Library, Laura Brennan. Laura was equally excited and the Northborough StoryWalk™ project was born.

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So, just what is a StoryWalk™? According to the Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition it is “an exciting initiative that combines a children’s story with a popular walking route...(one) selects a children’s book, separates the pages, laminates them, and attaches them to stakes. (One) then drives the stakes into the ground at regular intervals along paths so readers can follow the story as they walk the route. (It was conceived) as a way to inspire parents, teachers, and caregivers to take young children on a short stroll that will be fun for all. StoryWalk™ helps build children’s interest in reading while encouraging healthy outdoor activity for both adults and children.”



Northborough has since hosted two community-wide StoryWalks™. Unlike the previous walks, which were school-sponsored outings, these new walks were made available for an extended period of time so that individuals, families and small groups could visit them on their own.



The first was posted on the Stirrup Brook Trail. Perfect for a pre-Halloween walk in the woods, it featured the book, *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not*

Afraid of Anything. When this walk was dismantled, it was “recycled” at both the Peaslee School and Zeh School (so that classes could visit) and also for the benefit of a local preschool.



The winter offering was placed on the Proctor Trail at the Edmund Hill trails system. Although we haven’t yet had winter snow on the ground (Snowtober notwithstanding!), this season’s selection, *The Biggest Snowman Ever* was a resounding success and has been extended beyond its planned time to remain available until the end of the year.

Based on feedback, we plan to offer StoryWalks™ seasonally, varying the trails and locations. We are also considering creating a walk specifically for our active Senior Citizens, many of whom walk the Northborough trails regularly.



For more information contact:

MaryEllen at mremillard@nsboro.k12.ma.us

or Nancy at nkellner@nsboro.k12.ma.us

or visit <http://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk.html>



My Turn: Galvin Middle

Galvin Middle School Library Enters the 21st Century

by Nancy Stockwell-Alpert



I am the Library Teacher at the William Galvin Middle School in Canton, Massachusetts which was built in the 1980s and still has a 1980s look and feel. In this time of budget cuts, zero percent raises and layoffs it is increasingly difficult to find funding for technology. I am lucky to have computers in the library, albeit old and cranky ones. It is difficult enough to support 21st century learning with computers that take “forever” to logon, frequently break down, and are nursed along with “bubblegum and rubber bands” by our brilliant technology staff. It is even more difficult to justify technology expenses in a climate when teachers are losing their jobs, families are tightening their belts and people are going homeless.



Against this backdrop, I recently made a proposal to get our toe in the water of the 21st Century. I am fortunate to work in a community that takes education seriously. We have a strong nonprofit organization, the Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE), which teachers can petition for funding of innovative projects for education. I first proposed a classroom set of e-readers to be shared across the school. I received feedback from the Director of Curriculum and Instruction that CAPE wanted to support a more innovative use of technology. She encouraged me to revise my request to iPads, which of course could be used as e-readers, but would also support the use of apps and the Internet. I collaborated with the Technology Integration Administrator, the

Network Administrator, and the building Technology Specialist to fine tune my proposal. As a result of this collaboration, and a little advocacy by my Principal, my grant was accepted, and I was able to introduce three iPads to my middle school this fall.

The purpose of the grant was to explore new technology and see what innovative uses would support learning in the classroom. So far, I have loaned the iPads to a Social Studies class where they were researching African countries. The copyright dates on nonfiction texts for the project were embarrassingly old, so I looked into geography apps and liked the CIA Factbook for quick look ups of up to the minute, factual information. Students were also able to use the Safari app to access the Internet. This project was featured in the local newspaper and I have displayed both the article and related pictures in the entry to the library. The display is creating quite a buzz with the students, who are eager to share their knowledge about what free to almost free apps I should install. A few of them are so ignited about this that they have spent their free periods advising me about apps for



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math, science, ELA ... and NO GAMES!

As always, collaboration is the key to success in a school. One of the hardest things for any Library Teacher is breaking into a new school and getting the teachers on board with the program. When I started at Galvin I knew I was stepping into some pretty big shoes of a very well-liked long-term librarian and needed to make changes slowly. I worked hard on my relationships with faculty, staff and administration, and looked for opportunities to support them and provide them with information supporting their curriculum, so that when I approached them to co-teach using the Gale databases, to booktalk Massachusetts Children's Book Award nominees or to judge MSLA bookmark entries we already had a well established relationship. I was fortunate to land in a school with a strong reading program where



all 6th graders have a daily reading class. My strongest alliance is with the English Language Arts Department, whose meetings I make an effort to attend regularly. I also make it a practice to attend Department Head Meetings, team meetings, social functions, fundraisers, and performances, all in the effort to foster strong relationships within the school and within the community.

While I am far from my goal of running a Learning Commons at the heart of the school with the go-to technology that brings all the classes in, I am lucky to have the support of a community that is helping me move in the right direction with funding for innovative and creative solutions to our technology needs.

Read the article that appeared in the Canton Citizen in December. Reprinted with permission.

Citation Choices

Subscription-Based Online Citation Tools: A Survey of Massachusetts School Librarians

By Jennifer Dimmick

Library Teacher at Newton South High School

As a new high school library teacher, one of the things I struggle with is providing citation guidance to students, particularly as the array of sources broadens away from traditional print media towards a myriad of digital sources. Teachers and students expect librarians to be expert at creating bibliographies, but there is rarely much time, or patience, available for detailed instruction on this dry, but important topic. Students gravitate towards online tools that can streamline the process for them, but which one is best?



This is why I jumped at the opportunity to learn more by enrolling in a free webinar on [EasyBib offered by classroom2.0](#). Search for EasyBib to find the archived webinar. I came away impressed and convinced that having access to a tool like this would help to demystify the citation process for students and to provide the streamlining that they seek. I also knew, however, that EasyBib wasn't the only act in town. I recognized too that not everyone would agree that paying for a subscription would add adequate value over simply using the free tool. My next step was to ask my colleagues about their experiences and recommendations.

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I started with Ann Perham, my former practicum supervisor and a trusted career mentor. Ann had wonderful things to say about Needham's long experience with NoodleTools, but she hadn't tried EasyBib's subscription product.



To try to get a better-rounded perspective on these two popular tools and their competitors, I decided to take advantage of our great MSLA Listserv to conduct a survey. I used Google Forms to create the survey, a tool that I love because of its simplicity and its ability to embed the survey directly into the body of an email (I also love the "Show Summary of Results" feature—instant graphs and charts!). [VIEW](#) the original survey. Twenty-seven kind souls responded to my survey and provided me with valuable information about their experiences. The [full results of the survey can be found in this Prezi presentation](#) that I created to share with the secondary school librarians in our district. The results of the survey served to reinforce my conviction that subscribing to such a tool would be beneficial to students, faculty and the library.

Reasons to subscribe vs. rely on free versions include:

- Access to note taking tools/note cards and outline features (this was a dominant reason given)
- Access to Chicago style (not often available in free versions)
- Ability to save citations to an account and access them anywhere/any time
- More accurate citations
- Integration with Google Docs
- Also, most respondents were in favor of district-wide adoption of a tool, citing consistency as the primary benefit.

In fact, the only downside to subscribing appeared to be *lack of budget* to do so.

NoodleTools and EasyBib are the clear frontrunners, however, *no clear winner emerged from the research*. It appears that a majority of their features are the same, and that either one will achieve the primary goals of providing a full-featured online citation tool. The benefits of each tool are described in the presentation linked above.

We have decided to trial both tools here in Newton before we determine whether or not to subscribe, and if so, with which tool.

I will conclude with a brief anecdote. I recently spoke with a Library Teacher at an independent school who was able to provide a unique perspective: her school had recently made the switch from NoodleTools to EasyBib. Before I describe her experience, please bear in mind that this is only one school, so it certainly does not indicate a trend, nor are their needs indicative of all schools. That said, her experience tracks with my limited exposure to the tools over the course of my research, namely that students find NoodleTools to be laborious while they find EasyBib simpler, faster, and more enjoyable. Furthermore, the school conducted a test among faculty (a great approach to getting them on board), asking them to create bibliographies consisting of the same sources using the two different tools. Again, teachers overwhelmingly preferred EasyBib for its streamlined approach relative to the lengthy process required with NoodleTools. I love the fact that NoodleTools was created by a school librarian, and hope that she and her team are able to address these issues before EasyBib gets more of a foothold in the subscription market.

Comic Relief



What IS She DOING?

by Sharon Hamer, Belmonte Middle School, Saugus

I don't know about you, but I do a lot of sitting in my job...I do a lot of standing too...and walking around. But the sitting part is the part that impacts my ~~butt~~ body the most!! 30 years of cataloging, typing, searching, writing overdue, making websites, Powerpoints, Prezis, bibliographies—all while sitting down and not moving much of my body around. It has taken its toll. (OK, I eat a bit too much as well.) Anyway, a few months ago I tuned into 5 minutes of the Joy Behar show with Rosanne as the guest. I just heard a snippet of conversation that really resonated with me. Joy asked how she had lost weight. Rosanne said, "Eat less, move more!" Duh!!

I thought it would be great if I could make use of all that sitting time I do. I had once gotten a pedal exerciser while at another school for just that purpose, but it didn't really work under my desk. My knees kept hitting the underside of the desk. But at this school the circulation desk is higher, so I brought it into work and it fit perfectly at my desk, where I do all my work. So I started pedaling away.



I really like doing this. I can be checking in materials, designing lessons, checking my email and so many other things while getting some exercise at the same time. According to the Livestrong website "The duration of the exercise and the specific characteristics of the user help to determine how many calories a workout on the Pedal Exerciser will expend. A 135-lb. person performing a 20-minute workout on the Pedal Exerciser will burn approximately 123 calories."² I don't consider what I'm doing a workout in any sense of the word. I am just adding movement to my sitting.

But this is just background information. The real reason I am writing this is to tell you of the effect my simple pedal exercising is having on my school. The Learning Commons is off of the central hallway on the 2d floor of the academic wing. To go downstairs or upstairs, people pass the floor to ceiling windows of the LC. I will describe what people see when I'm pedaling. I am bouncing up and down. Because the pedals rotate, there is a bit of a forwards and backwards motion as well. Fair enough. It looks strange. Really strange. After doing this for a couple of months, the kids can barely keep a straight face. It started with the 6th graders. They had all kinds of ideas about what I was doing. You see, I am very short... VERY short... 4'9"...and I am NOT a 135-lb person. So all that is visible over my desk is my, er, uh, chest area and when they see me bouncing, popping up and down, doing who knows what, they crack up. Some kids think I have a magical ability to sit still and make a certain part of my body move all by itself!!! And it isn't just the students. The teachers and aides are getting a laugh out of this as well. The first time a science teacher saw me doing this, he thought I was having a seizure! And I can't really tell you what some of them have told me it looks like I'm doing. I mean, I really can't tell you because it is not appropriate for this newsletter!!!

If you would like to see for yourself (and enjoy a bit of Comic Relief) [SEE THIS VIDEO](#) . I think providing a good, healthy laugh for some students and staff is just a side benefit of the exercise I am getting. And after 30 years in this career, despite this being a large school, pretty much everyone knows who the librarian is!

¹ from the website: <http://www.activeforever.com/p-20-pedal-exerciser.aspx>

² <http://www.livestrong.com/article/322076-calories-burned-with-a-pedal-exerciser/>

Open Learning Exchange

by Elizabeth Gartley

M.S. candidate Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences: School Library Teacher Program, Simmons College

A few months ago, I found a volunteer opportunity posted on Idealist.org. Open Learning Exchange (OLE) was seeking a school librarian to work with counterparts in developing countries, including Ghana, Uganda, and Nepal, among others, and to help develop the Basic e-Learning Library (School BeLL). I sent in an application and a few days later, I was meeting with Open Learning Exchange founder and CEO, Richard Rowe, at the OLE offices in Cambridge. We chatted about OLE's projects and goals and my own experiences and interests, then Richard mentioned the upcoming OLE general assembly which would begin the following week in Mexico City.



"It will be a great opportunity for you to meet everyone on the OLE team," he told me. And sure enough, the next week I found myself at the Universidad Iberoamericano, meeting education development professionals from around the globe.

During the course of the OLE general assembly in Mexico City, OLE partners from around the globe shared their work promoting universal basic education. Rabi Karmacharya of OLE Nepal www.olenepal.org has done amazing work integrating low-cost technology into schools and developing a digital library with both English and Nepali language content. In Rwanda, the OLE team www.olerwanda.org has seen tremendous success with the help of a handheld learning device called the TeacherMate. I was truly inspired listening to the stories of people who had dedicated themselves to improving education in their countries.

Currently, Kofi Essien of OLE Ghana www.ole.org.gh is spearheading the Ghana LITE (Learning Innovation Teams for Education) project, which focuses on activity-based learning in teams. The School BeLL will be deployed alongside the Ghana LITE project.

The School BeLL seeks to increase access to quality open education resources for students and teachers in the developing world, providing schools with a digital repository of learning materials. The BeLL platform will run on a low-voltage computer that can be deployed in remote locations with little or no access to the power grid, working offline or online and reaching communities that otherwise would not have access to such a wealth of relevant learning materials.

OLE has a variety of opportunities available for school librarians in the U.S., including suggesting learning materials, such as quizzes, drills, games, tutorials, workbooks, and videos, and teacher resources including teaching methods, learning methods, and child psychology. There are also opportunities to work on the School BeLL, help install the BeLL in Ghana this summer, and participate in a "Sister School Library Program" with a Ghanaian school.

For anyone interested in learning more about Open Learning Exchange and volunteering for this project, I encourage them to visit ole.org/bell.

2012 Bookmark Contest

WILD! about the MSLA BOOKMARK CONTEST

By Linda Coviello, MSLA Bookmark Chairperson

This is it...your chance to show just how WILD and wonderful your School Library is. We all are aware that School Libraries have transcended the "basically books" concept, and have moved into full-service 21st Century facilities. So, give your students this great opportunity to enter the MSLA Bookmark Contest. Have them highlight their trans-literacy skills, library lessons, research projects, creative presentations, and of course, their literary experiences.



The 2012 theme is: ***I'm WILD about my School Library!***

There are four divisions, so choose your three best entries for each age-appropriate division:

- Division I (grades K & 1)
- Division II (grades 2 & 3)
- Division III (grades 4-6)
- Division IV (grades 7-12)

Deadline for entries is **February 17, 2012**. You will want your school's entries sooner, so you can select your finalists to send to the state-wide contest.

We've got a stellar panel of authors, illustrators, and library administrators to judge all entries and select one First Place winner and two Honorable Mentions for each division. Authors and illustrators include **Andrew Clements, Mitali Perkins, Kathleen Duple, Heidi Stemple, Jeannie Brett, Jack D. Ferraiolo, Jarrett Krosoczka, Chris Bing,** and **Brian Lies**. Library administrators also judging are **Greg Pronevitz, Marlene Heroux,** and **Em Claire Knowles**. All bring their own unique experiences to help us select the finest entries statewide.

For the first time, attendees are invited to view the judging at our conference 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 30, 2012. Certificates and prizes are awarded in a special ceremony on the Grand Staircase. Students and their families are treated as special guests, with 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!!!

Privacy Survey

For Immediate Release

Tue, 12/13/2011

Contact: [Barbara Jones](#) ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)

CHICAGO - The American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) is inviting librarians and library workers across the country to participate in a survey that will measure librarians' attitudes about privacy rights and protecting library users' privacy. The survey is available online, and takes only 15 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and confidential:

<http://tinyurl.com/ALAprivacysurvey>

The survey, which builds on an earlier [2008 survey](#) assessing librarians' attitudes about privacy both within and outside of the library, will provide important data that will help ALA assess the state of privacy in the United States and help guide OIF's planning for "Privacy for All," ALA's ongoing campaign to engage librarians in public education and advocacy to advance privacy rights. The survey will be available until March 1, 2012.



The study is funded by a generous grant from the Open Society Institute and is managed by Dr. Michael Zimmer, an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Information Studies and co-director of its Center for Information Policy Research.

Barbara Jones, director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, encouraged all librarians and library workers to take the survey. "After three successful years working on Choose Privacy Week and related educational programs, it is essential that we test our assumptions for the remaining years of the grant," she said. "We want 'Privacy for All' to create models for programming and services that librarians can use for various constituencies and community groups. We can't do that without your opinions."

The "Privacy for All" initiative features [Choose Privacy Week](#), an annual event that encourages libraries and librarians to engage library users in a conversation about privacy; and a website, privacyrevolution.org, that provides access to privacy-related news, information and programming resources. In 2011 - 2012, "Privacy for All" and Choose Privacy Week will be focused on the topic of government surveillance, with an emphasis on immigrant and refugee communities' use of libraries and youth attitudes about privacy.

Visit www.privacyrevolution.org to learn more about Choose Privacy Week and the resources available to help libraries engage their users in a conversation on privacy.

AASL eAcademy



Heat up your skills this winter with an online class through **AASL's eAcademy**.

Beginning this month, these four-week courses are ideal for developing skills and getting needed credits for recertification. The AASL website has detailed information and online registration on its eAcademy pages:

<http://www.ala.org/aasl/conferencesandevents/eacademy/eacademy>

Design for Understanding Meets the 21st Century School Librarian

January 30 - February 24, 2012

"The course is designed to introduce participants to the Understanding by Design Curriculum framework. Known as the Backward Design model, this framework is unique in that it begins with the end in mind."

More: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/conferencesandevents/eacademy/design>

From 0 to 60: Implement eBooks in Your Library Program in 4 Weeks

February 6 - March 2, 2012

"There are many eBook vendors looking to provide content to school libraries, but how do you know which one is best for you? This course will focus on implementing an eBook collection for your campus/school district in order to meet the needs of your students and staff."

More: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/conferencesandevents/eacademy/ebooks>

The Path to Collaboration: Making It Happen

March 19 - April 13, 2012

"This four-week class is designed to help school librarians identify and analyze the factors that contribute to successful collaboration with teachers."

More: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/conferencesandevents/eacademy/collaboration>

UPCOMING CLASSES dates and registration information TBA

Inquiring Minds Want to Know

"Inquiry and literacy – are they one and the same or complementary processes? In this course, participants will explore different inquiry models and how literacy can be instilled throughout."

More: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/conferencesandevents/eacademy/inquiringminds>

Making a Place, Making a Case for Read-Alouds: A Powerful Teaching Tool for Literacy

"When is a read-aloud more than a great story? When it also ties in critical thinking skills. In this course, participants will learn how to infuse literacy skills while continuing to share the passion and power of a great read-aloud."

More: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/conferencesandevents/eacademy/readalouds>

Tuition:

\$99 for AASL members

\$149 for ALA members

\$225 for non-members

\$99 for retired AASL members

\$75 for student AASL members

QR Codes as Tools

An iPad Tour of the Newton North Learning Commons

by Kevin McGrath, Library Teacher, Newton North High School
and Jennifer Dimmick, Library Teacher, Newton South High School

When the city of Newton's School Committee booked Newton North High School's Learning Commons for its December meeting, the Library Teachers knew not to let this opportunity for advocacy go to waste. Annette Tate, Donna Johns and Kevin McGrath immediately reached out to the committee to see if they might be open to taking a tour of the Learning Commons before the scheduled meeting time, and fortunately the committee liaison agreed. Next, the Newton North Library Teachers reached out to their colleagues at Newton South, Ethel Downey, Marnie Bolstad and Jennifer Dimmick, to invite them to join in the process. These six colleagues schemed over pizza at a departmental meeting, and the concept of an iPad tour took shape.

The NNHS Learning Commons had started the year with 15 new iPad 2s which they opted to purchase in lieu of more desktop computers for students. The iPads circulate to students while in the Commons and to faculty for longer trials. The iPads have proven to be tremendously popular, and we wanted to leverage their novelty in appealing to school committee members to come early to take the tour. We currently use QR codes in both libraries to link to book reviews and recommendations, so it was a natural extension to use QR codes as the basis for our tour. We placed prominent QR codes strategically around the Learning Commons to lure our tourists to each important learning space. Each code linked to a custom page on the Learning Commons website containing a description of the space and the type of learning that it was designed to encourage, accompanied by photos or a video. Here's a sampling of the stops on the tour:



Library Learning Commons Tour <http://goo.gl/4X61B>





NHSH Library Tour <http://goo.gl/kQcyf>



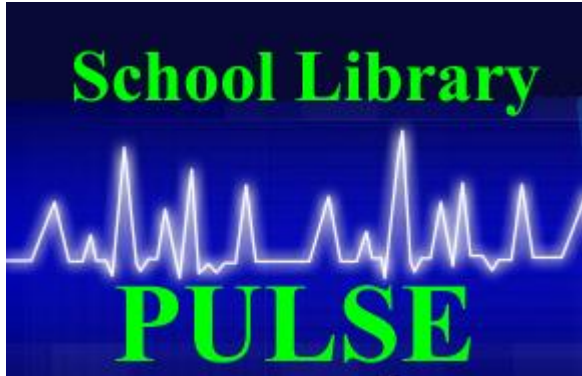
The QR (“Quick Response”) codes are easy to create. We used free QR generators to start: <http://i-nigma.com/> and <http://qrcode.kaywa.com/> We also had some fun as we discovered that you can modify sometimes up to 30% of the QR code with your favorite image editor. We used Photoshop and the code still works; see how we inserted text as an example. A stop on the tour explains how we [used the codes on novels](#) for readers’ advisory.

Since Newton South was not the venue for the tour, we needed some way to try to represent our library so that it would not pale in comparison to Newton North’s state of the art facility while subtly demonstrating the need for some updates to the space. We decided to create an Animoto video to highlight our space and our programming. The video was accompanied by a soundtrack by the the NSHS Jazz Ensemble, and we had it running on a loop on both a flatscreen TV at the Learning Commons entrance and on a big screen in the library classroom. [VIEW the Animoto video.](#)

Finally, we invited our most devoted library students from both schools to join us that evening to accompany each school committee meeting on his or her tour, to help with with the iPads and QR scanning, answer questions, and be ambassadors for the Learning Commons. As added incentive for the students, we plied them with pizza and soda 30 minutes before the committee members were due to arrive. These ten students really ran the tour; they excitedly described each stop to the ‘tourists’. This proved to be the most effective way of showing how students are central to all that happens in the Learning Commons.

Miraculously, the evening went off without a hitch. Fortunately, a number of school committee members and aldermen opted to come early for the the tour. They were charmed by the students, captured by the iPads, and most importantly exposed to the important teaching and learning enabled by the Learning Commons. Never miss an opportunity to advocate!

The PULSE



Kathleen Porter, Editor

"Being able to read and write in multiple forms of media and integrate them into a meaningful whole is the new hallmark of literacy."

Literacy 2.0, *Educational Leadership*, March 2009

WHITE HOUSE PETITION

If you've been keeping up with your listserv email or the MSLA Facebook page you'll have heard about AASL President Carl Harvey's White House petition, reproduced below. We need 25,000 signatures by February 4th to get a response from the White House, so we'll want to invite our friends, families and colleagues to sign it, too! <http://wh.gov/Wgd>

WE PETITION THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO:

Ensure that every child in America has access to an effective school library program.

Every child in America deserves access to an effective school library program. We ask that the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provide dedicated funding to help support effective school library programs. Such action will ensure more students have access to the resources and tools that constitute a 21st century learning environment. Reductions in school library programs are creating an 'access gap' between schools in wealthier communities versus those where there are high levels of poverty. All students should have an equal opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to learn, to participate, and to compete in today's world.

The **AASL Knowledge Quest** January/February issue on **FutureCasting** focuses on how school librarians will need to adapt library programs to stay relevant as conditions continue to change rapidly. This issue's poll asks the following:

KNOWLEDGE QUEST

What school library resources or programs are you interested in pursuing in the next few years to stay current with the rapid changes of the 21st Century?

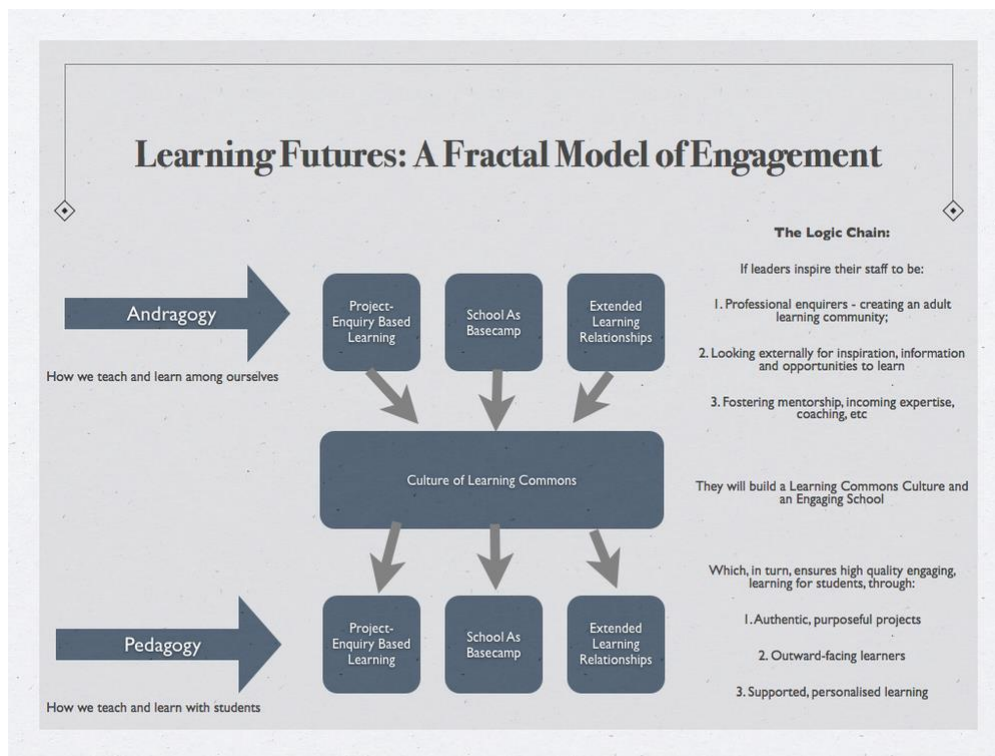
1. E-book and e-readers
2. Collaborations with teachers on 21st century skills for students

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3. Professional development strategies
4. Online information streams for students, such as RSS feeds, news alerts, customized news magazine apps, and book trailers
5. Other resources or programs

MSLA Listserv discussions show that MSLA members are actively exploring or implementing e-readers and bring-your-own-device models in our changing school environments. We find ourselves scaffolding and differentiating tech lessons for our school colleagues, as we learn from them new ways to exploit Web 2.0 tools with students. As we manage ebooks and streaming media we become curators of digital collections, and with our websites and lessons we teach and learn about curating digital content. As poet Mark Strand reminds us, "The future is always beginning now."

Relationships in Today's World Part of the changing landscape of "today's world" includes the fundamental ways we frame our relationships as teachers, students, administrators, and learners. Consider the following infographic from David Price shared with permission to "cut out and keep" (David quips that "'slides' are so 2011"):



BOOK2CLOUD David Loertscher is working towards having our learning commons transcend traditional boundaries. Changing the interface of learner and text is an initiative called **Book2Cloud**. Some of the collaborative digital books in Book2Cloud editions include Judi Moreillon's *Sing Down the Rain* and William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.



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DIGITAL LEARNING DAY

Massachusetts is among the many states signed on as partners for the first-ever national **Digital Learning Day**, to take place on February 1, 2012. ALA is helping to promote this national awareness campaign to “celebrate innovative teachers and instructional strategies” and to “improve teaching and learning for all children.” Foxborough Public Schools, for example, will be celebrating the day by showcasing technology activities and digital learning examples with Technology Parent Night. AASL is showcasing learning with the [Learning4Life in My School Library Student Video Contest](#). See <http://www.digitallearningday.org/> for more information and to sign up.



Register for a Complimentary Webinar on RELEASING YOUR INNER LEADER

AASL is offering a complimentary one hour webinar on spinning 21st century standards-driven evaluations and professional development into stronger school relationships, Monday, February 13 at 7:00 PM CST. Carolyn Jo Starkey, author of the Jan/Feb [Knowledge Quest](#) feature, "Releasing Your Inner Leader" will address how collaborative cultures are transforming professional development in new and inspiring ways. Interested? Register at the [AASL website](#).

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ALA looks forward to welcoming attendees to its [2012 Annual Conference](#) in Anaheim, California, June 21–26. [Early bird registration and housing](#) opened on January 3. Registering early ensures the best rates. New in 2012 are “Conversation Starter” programs, where presenters will share expertise and ideas in 45-minute sessions.



Member News

[Nancy Stenberg](#), Column Editor

Deborah Lang Froggatt, Director of the library shared between Fenway High School and Boston Arts Academy, has recently won a \$5000 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The federal IMLS/LSTA “Going Green” grant will be used for the Green Chem project, a project that helps Fenway chemistry students connect the relevance of chemistry and the impact of urban environment on their personal and community’s health. The grant will finance updated library collections to support this research. Funds will also be used for programming that provides active educational experiences and offers students opportunities to construct their own knowledge of urban Green issues that directly impact their future.



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This interdisciplinary, year-long initiative began with a campus-wide assembly and a keynote speech by civil litigation environmental attorney, Jan Schlichtmann. The federal funds will be used to add to the library's eBook, DVD and online database chemistry resources, procure a data projector that can be used for the student science fair, and support a presentation from the Silent Spring Institute about their research on breast cancer, the environment and the use of personal health care products.

Congratulations to Debbie Froggatt on this wonderful achievement.

Jamison Hedin from Ludlow High School writes "I am just about to wrap up a second term on the [YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers](#) selection committee. I was appointed to Quick Picks in February 2010 and have worked on two lists. I'll be attending meetings at ALA Midwinter in Dallas to put together the 2012 Quick Picks list and then I'll rotate off the committee. It's been a great experience! Prior to Quick Picks, I served on the YALSA Great Books Giveaway Award Jury and the Website Advisory Committee. I'd be happy to talk to anyone who is considering a YALSA selection committee or jury volunteer position."

Jamison is running for a slot on the YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award committee this year when the ALA elections are held in March/April. This is the first elected office he has run for in a professional organization and confesses that he's a bit nervous! Let's rally the support of any MSLA YALSA members!

Rochelle Garfinkel started reviewing books for VOYA last spring.

WELCOME, NEW MSLA MEMBERS: *[list not included in this re-posting]*

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Audrey Borus, Column Editor

Although it is a very busy time of year, the listserv has been buzzing during the past two months.

Many of us continue to grapple with the issue of **e-readers**, **e-books** and the like. On November 11, Librarian at Lincoln-Sudbury High Paula Myers, posted some interesting information ["eLearning: Results so far"] about what librarians around the state are noticing in terms of **integrating technology into school curricula**.

Responses came from Medford to Weymouth. Just to give you a taste of what librarians are doing: at Abington High the librarian reports that online classes are available through Virtual High School and library/information technology is taught via Wiki. Acton-Boxboro has a new program using Mobi, and Wayland High is piloting a one-to-one iPad initiative.



A lot of us had **thought-provoking articles** to recommend. Valerie Diggs's post of October 21 points to an article in the Seattle Times about the 2012 Washington State Teacher of the Year and his crusade against "truthiness;" that is, "truth" that a person feels intuitively "from the gut" or that "feels right" without regard to evidence, logic, intellectual examination, or facts." Read the article and I'm sure you'll agree. It's a familiar scenario: Librarian: "How do you know the Northwestern Tree Octopus is real?" Student: "I read about it on a blog." Rita Fontinha in her December 28th post called our attention to an ad in the December 21st issue of *USA Today* in which writer James Patterson squarely places the onus on parents (not schools) to get their children interested in reading. Along the same lines, someone in another library listserv to which I belong sent a link to blogs maintained by school librarians: <http://www.teachercertificationdegrees.com/top-blogs/school-library/>

There have been questions about **licensure**. If you are going for an instructional technology license, see Carol Kelly's post of November 11 ("FW: Instructional Technology Licensure") for some information about what Salem State has to offer.

Another thread concerns **online resources**, in particular posts asking for suggestions regarding reference material. MK Eagle of Holliston High School sent out a post on November 29 inquiring about online reference subscriptions. Of the respondents, the majority seem to be continuing their subscription to *Worldbook Online* even though MBLC has ceased to provide it. For example, Medford High School, paid \$1,127.00 for 1500 students in 2011. *Britannica*, *Country Reports*, and *Grolier* were also mentioned.

Annmarie O'Neill the librarian at Weymouth High posted on November 21 to ask for input regarding **usage surveys**. To date, she hasn't gotten any response, so if you do have some guidance, please write her at amoneill@comcast.net.

Questions about **converting legacy systems** to Follet Destiny continue to pepper the listserv. People are still eager to know the nuts and bolts of conversion.

Finally, know that your comments are invaluable. I know I've gotten great advice from my peers and believe that it's our collective wisdom that makes us truly great. All the best for the New Year.

Working SMARTER



Editor:
Leslie Schoenherr

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



EXIT TICKETS ALUMNI DISPLAY GET 'EM BACK!

EXIT TICKETS

Contributed by Deborah C. Owen, School Librarian, Hudson High School

Tip for quick and easy gathering of evidence of learning: exit tickets. When you have a class that is working on a research project, at several points during their visits to the library, hand out a small sheet with only one or two questions about their research for that day; they can't leave the library until they hand it in! Get them THINKING about what they are learning and how they are learning it. Not only does this force them to evaluate how they are progressing in their research and provide them with metacognitive opportunities, but it also gives solid feedback to both you and the classroom teacher about how to "tweak" your instruction. It's a great formative assessment.

Some examples of questions I have used:

EXIT TICKET

1. On a scale of 1-5 with five as the highest rate of being focused, please rate yourself:

I was focused and on task throughout the entire class period today.

My rating _____.

2. Explain below why you gave yourself this rating and, if necessary, how you could improve your score for your next research session.

EXIT TICKET

1. Cite one specific source that you used today. (Title, author if given, and type of

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source)

2. Explain one significant detail that you learned from this source.
3. On a scale of 1-5 with five being the highest, rate the significance of this information in relation to your topic.

EXIT TICKET

1. I liked or disliked using the source _____ because ...
2. Using the information that I have found thus far, I would now like to know ...

EXIT TICKET

1. I'm having the most success with ...
2. I could use some help with...

ALUMNI DISPLAY

Contributed by Leslie Schoenherr, Librarian, Lexington Christian Academy

For our fall homecoming, our Development Office pulled together some alumni artifacts and photos for the attending reunion classes. They had 3 letter jackets, sports banners and photos of classes and buildings from the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. I enjoyed looking at them and thought our students would too. The wall right across from the circulation desk was perfect and the display has drawn much attention from students, faculty and prospective families touring the school. The display will be retired after our January Open House for prospective families. Then it will be time to highlight student artwork!

GET THOSE LIBRARY MATERIALS BACK!

Contributed by Leslie Schoenherr, Librarian, Lexington Christian Academy

It makes more sense for our library to have due dates for library material at the end of a term. That way students with projects don't need to renew due material after two or three weeks. Material is due before the Thanksgiving break, before January mid-term exams, before March break, and before exams in June. The two times that give me some clout in getting material back are the exams. If students have not returned library material they don't get to take exams until it is returned. Administration needs to back you up on this! Two weeks and one week before exams I send out reminders of material due, which helps remind students of what is owed. Many students return material when they are done reading—which is what we want! But for students who keep material and can't remember what they have checked out, this system works for them and me.