

The Basement Blotter



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American Library Association — Student Chapter

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Celebrate Banned Books Week!

Rebecca Marrall, Co-Editor

The week of September 27 through October 4, 2008 sees the 27th anniversary of *Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read!* Since 1982, the last week of September has been designated BBW, with the purpose of educating the public about the privilege of personal freedom to select books to read without censorship. The American Library Association states:

“Banned Books Week (BBW) celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one’s opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them” (www.ala.org).

Many books have been challenged, where the initiator of the challenge declares the book unsuitable for a specific reason. However, relatively few of these books have been successfully banned, thanks to the efforts of librarians, booksellers, and others who love books. Challenged books run the gamut from Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* to the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling.

With such an important issue at stake, how can we support The Banned Books Week endeavor? The American Library Association provides three suggestions to promote awareness:

- 1) Sign the Banned Books Week Proclamation to make a statement about how you value your choice

to read. You can find it at the ALA website.

- 2) Educate yourself and others – know the history of BBW so that future materials are not censored.
- 3) Read a Banned Book! There’s no better way to defeat censorship than read a great book that almost didn’t make it.

The American Library Association prepares a BBW press kit that includes buttons, bookmarks and other promotional materials that can be purchased at their site. They also have a brief history of the BBW and a comprehensive list of the most challenged books by the decade. For further details, go to:

www.ala.org. 

Reflections on Attending the ALA Annual Conference

Neneng Rosmy, Contributor

I felt lucky to have been able to attend the ALA annual conference this June for the first time. The conference was so huge, with so many sessions/events going on at the same time that I was confused about which ones to attend. No wonder there was a session for the “first time ALA conference attendee”, designed for the first timer to better prepare their conference plan/schedule.

I only spent the weekend in Anaheim and did a little bit of sightseeing in the city, trying my best to make the most out of this opportunity. I probably only attended one-third of the many good things available at the conference, but all I remember are the joys and excite-

ment of attending the sessions and programs.

Here is what impressed me about the conference and what I have learnt so far:

- There are so many aspects of librarianship that one could further study, develop, and then present on. It does not have to be a long research project or a dissertation. Professional and personal experiences can be a topic of presentation, too. I was so amazed by the fact that under one umbrella of librarianship, there are many division of topics that I did not know about before. All seem very inter-

esting and surely will develop in the next coming years.

- The exhibitions were overwhelming, yet very organized. I visited some publishers and vendors’ booths and had a chance to talk to their customer services. They were eager enough to answer my questions, even though they knew that I was not a librarian yet.
- I also went to see the ALA placement service; a place where I could browse many available job opportunities in the USA. I didn’t attend their workshops, but talking

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ALA-SC american library association

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to their representatives was enough for me.

Last but not least, I also had a chance to build a small network. Exchanging contact information was something I could do at the very least. In fact, I had a long talk with one presenter from the National Library of Singapore and two other academic librarians from Indonesia. They said, "When are you graduating? Please contact and join us once you finished your school." What a very nice offer, but I do not know yet in what county my boat is going to be stranded. What I do know now is that I am already half way in the program, but there are many other things I still need to learn. This field of librarianship is just too lively, full of endless challenging knowledge and skills that I need to possess.

That's all I can share after attending and I hope to be able to participate in other ALA conferences again in the future. Who knows, I might be presenting a paper next time... 

Heads Up from Hui Dui

If you want to find out more about what Hui Dui has been up to, please visit the wiki at <http://huihui.wetpaint.com>. There you can find out what suggestions have been made through the suggestion box – AND the Program responses. You can also learn how to enter the Hui Dui logo contest, and see pictures of our rummage sale in August.

We will soon be selling beautiful beaded bookmarks (see photo) as a fundraiser, and if you are graduating this semester, you might want to know that the Dinner to be held in your honor will be hosted on Saturday, December 6, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Wai'oli Tea House in Manoa.



Come Join the New LIS Book Club!

Tired of only reading class assignments? Wanna read something for fun?

Then come join the new LIS Book Club! The first meeting is on Tuesday, October 14th at 4 p.m. We will meet at Ba Le/Manoa Gardens Restaurant at Hemenway Hall. At the first meeting, we will decide a variety of issues like:

- A name – seriously, something's gotta be better than "LIS Book Club."
- What books to read – want to do a literary theme?
- Where to meet and at what time?
- A way to reduce book-buying costs – we're all students on a budget.

So join your fellow LIS students, and have a great time socializing and reading good books! Again, first meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 14th. If you have any questions, please e-mail Rebecca Marrall at: marrall@pdx.edu.

What Not to Do With Your Curriculum Vitae

Rebecca Marrall, Co-Editor

I attended a workshop entitled "Curriculum Vitae: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly," on September 7th. Hosted by the Office of Faculty Development & Academic Support and the Graduate Division, the speaker was Dr. Catherine P. Fulford, a professor of the Educational Technology Department and the Graduate Chair of the program. Dr. Fulford presented thorough and accessible information on how to improve your curriculum vitae - an important skill for graduate students who will be searching for a job at some point.

Fulford organized her presentation into five categories: layout, legibility, readability, emphasis, and motivation. I've included brief highlights of what to do and what not to do in each category. During the presentation, Fulford reiterated several times that a CV should look trustworthy, and a great deal of appearing trustworthy on paper was good, seemingly effortless design. Indeed, Fulford cited statistics that 55% of a first impression is based on how an individual presents their materials and themselves.


For layout, Fulford suggested that simplicity in visual design is always best

for the reader, as it makes accessing the information within easier. Also, remember the audience. If the audience is formal (as will most likely be the case), use a symmetrical layout design. If the audience is informal, use an asymmetrical layout to make things fun.

Legibility is quite important in a CV. Fulford stated that using two different fonts help guide the reader's eyes to the right places on the page for the right information. San-serif font should be used for clearly labeled headings, while serif font should be used for short paragraphs because it is easier on the reader's eyes. Fulford concluded this section by advising workshop participants not to use all caps or decorative fonts, as it is unnecessary and will hinder the reader.

Readability is different from legibility because the former addresses how to access blocks of information, while the latter deals with how to access smaller units of information (like a letter). To improve readability, Fulford suggests using ragged right justification, shorter paragraphs, and to avoid using slashes or parentheses too much. In addition, the structure of the curriculum vitae should be as consistent as possible.

The emphasis of a CV should reflect your entire academic life. The content of your vita should include everything from degrees you've obtained to your bibliography of published works to places you've traveled. However, Fulford advises not to include truly personal information -- like health or marital status, age, etc. -- because it comes across as unprofessional. She also suggests that being politically correct definitely helps in a vita, for it emphasizes your professionalism.

Finally, what is your motivation behind creating a CV? Fulford states that when applying for a particular position, you should know your audience, and tailor the curriculum vitae accordingly. She ended the presentation with this statement: good design is invisible. If you are interested in learning more about improving your CV, please refer to the text *The Curriculum Vitae Handbook: Using Your CV to Present and Promote Your Academic Career* by Rebecca Anthony & Gerald Roe. It is located in the Career Guides Reference Section of the Main Hamilton Library, First Floor. The call number is: **LB 2331.72 .A58 1994.** 

Finding that First Job

Whitney Ross, Contributor

I had heard throughout my time in the MLISc program that it would be difficult to find a job; that it usually took about a year to find a permanent professional position. I was determined to not let that happen to me. I decided that I must have a job upon graduation. I began in the beginning of my last semester by writing cover letters and filling out applications for positions all over the country. I was open to moving and working anywhere.

I have always been quite boisterous and not exactly 100% professional. I heard

that it was important to be one's self in cover letters, so I tried my hardest. My rough draft cover letters were laughable. Filled with ridiculous language and phrases. I cannot even mention some of the things I initially wrote in my attempt to stand out from the stack. Luckily I had a friend read them over and make sure that they were appropriate before I sent them out. I also had every professional librarian I knew read over my resume and give me tips to improve its style and content.

I received many rejection letters. It was

difficult for me. I felt that no one wanted me because I had just graduated, or was about to. Every position wanted an experienced librarian or archivist. I was just starting out and obviously didn't have the experience the job positions called for. When I was finally called for an interview, my first, I was elated. I interviewed myself over and over and I knew how I felt about professional issues, and I had researched the library, the city and people interviewing me. I was confident, but at the same time scared because I had no idea what to expect over the phone. In a

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phone interview it is difficult to know how to gauge one's responses without being face to face with the interviewer (s). After the interview I felt confident, but they did not call me back.

Upon graduation I had two prospects, but no job. When I moved home to Utah I interviewed and was hired by the Utah Career College. The job was both intimidating and exhilarating because I was the sole librarian. I got to do whatever I wanted, but also I had to do everything. The library was small (250 students at the college) and even though I was grateful for the position and I liked the work I did, I still had applications out for other positions. One was at

the Hawaii State Archives where I had completed an internship during my last semester. I had initially applied while interning, but thanks to the state's bureaucracy they disqualified me because I lacked a master's degree (I was within 2 weeks of graduation). In May they called me after the person they had originally hired never reported to work and asked if I was still interested in the position. After interviewing over the phone again I was offered the job. I had finally landed a position I really wanted.

Now as I look back upon my quest for a permanent position I see that the most important aspects of job hunting are

networking, experience, and attitude. In my first job I impressed them because I had a vision for the school's library and my ideals matched their own. In my second position I had already work with them, they knew what kind of employee I would be and the education and experience I had. My advice is to: stay positive even though it is frustrating, find out what employers are looking for by reading job postings, volunteer and get to know people within the community, and know the institution with which you want to work. I wish you luck in your hunting and, we are always looking for volunteers at the State Archives, wink wink!



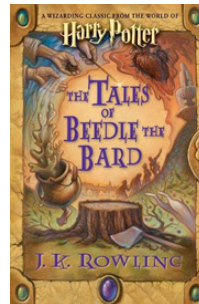
Teen Read Week!

Rebecca Marrall, Co-Editor

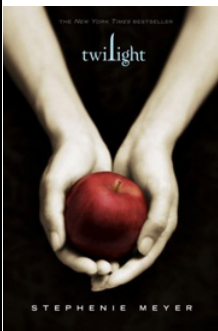
The week of October 12 to the 18, 2008 is Teen Read Week! A promotional event designed to educate teens about good books and encourage them to read for fun on a regular basis, this year's theme is "Books With Bite" – no doubt a nod to the popularity of vampire novels among the teen demographic. However, the theme is not limited to vampire lore; instead, all novels with a supernatural theme are celebrated.



Coraline by Neil Gaiman. A diverse and prolific author, Gaiman's highly praised novel was adapted to screenplay, and is making its film debut this winter.



Tales of Beedle the Bard by J. K. Rowling. A collection of fables from the Harry Potter world, this anthology will not be released until December 4th, 2008. Another reason to read/buy the book?



These days, young adult literature is a force to be reckoned with, as Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight Saga* can attest. And everyone knows the successful *Harry Potter* series. Indeed, it seems that youth literature is a veritable treasure trove of reads. Here is a list of additional young adult novels that are remarkable. In keeping with this year's theme, I've chosen books with a supernatural flavor.

The Summoning by Kelley Armstrong. An urban fantasy, this popular novel combines fast-paced action with drama to make an entertaining read.



J. K. Rowling is donating the net proceeds of the sales to the Children's High Level Group, a non-profit organization designed to advocate for vulnerable youth in Britain.

Tamsin by Peter S. Beagle. A transplanted American teen in rural Britain, the protagonist encounters local mythology coming to life.



The Dreaming Place by Charles de Lint. A combination of Celtic and Native American mythology, de Lint's novel showcases his trademark literary fantasy that fans worldwide love.

Many public libraries are holding events and giving out marketing materials about Teen Read Week, including our own Hawai'i State Public Library System. Check their website for specific details on free programs! (<http://www.librarieshawaii.org/>)

