

## **Professional Development**

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LIBS 676: Library Media Services and the Curriculum

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## **Session Name: Resilience: The Power of Stories**

### **Keynote Speaker: Anne Blankman**

I chose this keynote address because I have found that story telling has become a vital part of many parts of life. Conferences in my previous careers of healthcare and fundraising have focused on the importance of storytelling to inspire emotions and reflection. Many sectors of the professional and personal worlds are using story telling to remember, reflect and inspire. I wanted to learn from Anne Blankman about stories for resilience and how this author incorporated stories into her world.

I found many parts of this session that could be applicable to the future and to planning lessons in the library. One idea would be to have information about the behind the scenes of a book as a lesson. It was interesting to hear how Anne Blankman came up with the idea of the book. This could be inspiring to the students and make them reflective of their own experiences if they had heard this story. It also could encourage creativity and imagination to hear how an author comes up with a story. Another idea is to use a fictional story that includes an event that really occurred and do an inquiry project related to that event. A lot of books have a background whether it's an event, location, theme that occurs in real life that could be part of an inquiry project. Thirdly, a way to use this session was to consider how books affect the students' lives and how to use them to relate to what the students are going through or what is going on in the world. The presenter really highlighted how to use books to deal with emotions and stresses in life. This idea could be incorporated into a psychology or sociology class. This is something that I will definitely explore more. Lastly, I liked the idea of the diverse reading and using a food plate or something like that to encourage students to read different books. It can be difficult to branch out and try something new, this session definitely made me realize how

important it is to encourage this for students. The food plate could be a good way to start an orientation into the library. It could help orient students to choosing books and all the sources the library has to offer. It could also be used to choose books in areas that the students are learning about in classes.

## **Session 1: Centering Collaboration in Your Library**

**Carina Haywood, Angela Floria, and Rose Stephens**

I choose to listen to this session because of the importance of collaboration in the library. This class has highlighted the importance of collaboration between the classroom and the library. It is very different from the stereotypical library that I was accustomed to when I went through school. The collaboration is so important and the library is not in a silo. I was interested to get tips and information on collaboration.

There were many ideas to utilize from this session. The idea of thinking of ideas that have an impact of the students' critical thinking and "real-world" impact is important. Many of the ideas shared in the session tied to classroom lessons but also students were able to problem solve, critical think, work in collaboration and develop many other skills. The examples of how to integrate math into the library were especially helpful with the origami and guess the jelly beans. This is an area where I needed help understanding how the library could provide support to math. The jelly bean contest included the learning objectives of volume, probability and many more. In addition, the science examples of the circuit cards, Harry Potter wands and Keva blocks would be easy to implement. These ideas can be tied to science, art, English and technology curriculum. In addition, the idea of the bookmarks and the book tastings was beneficial to learn about. These are ideas that can make reading an interactive activity and

include the use of the makerspace as well as inquiry models. Some of the ways to collaborate that were mentioned was attending the team meetings and thinking creatively. Attending team meetings will be very important as a new librarian in a school and as well as to continue to grow the program. It is a useful way to learn what it is going on in the classroom and be able to connect the library objectives to the coursework. Putting the origami project with both art and math was a creative combination. Another important think to consider from this session is to evaluate. It is important to assess the students' learning but it is also important to evaluate the program. This session was useful in offering real examples of collaboration activities that can be done and highlighted the relationship that the library can have with the classrooms and teachers. One of the best parts was when the teachers needed help reinforcing an area of learning, they reached out the librarians. The librarians then came up with the breakout puzzles as a solution. This exemplifies a school that values its library and librarians and that the library is considered an important part of teaching.

## **Session 2: Embracing Brown and Black Books**

**Tanisha Taylor, Tiffany Cannon**

I choose this session to learn more about curating a collection of diverse books. I think it is important to have a diverse collection but have never pulled together a collection myself. And admittedly I have not been a diverse book reader which puts me at a disadvantage for knowing different books. I was interested to hear from the presenters on how to embrace these books and ensure that they were incorporated into the library. Also as I take the classes for my teacher certification, my eyes have been opened to the disparities that individuals of different cultures and races face.

The first lesson that I will take from this session is the embracing of brown and black books. It was important to hear that it is not enough to have them available but a librarian needs to promote and be enthusiastic about brown and black books. It made me realize how important a librarian features, discusses and integrates the collection into curriculum. Another important part was about culture. The recognition and attention to different cultures in the libraries are very important. I would like to have culture information on the walls of my library as a constant reminder of the differences of those I serve. Also to highlight different cultures throughout the year that align with curriculum. National months, historical events and holidays are some opportunities to tie culture into curriculum. I am glad that the presenters addressed book banning, as this is a worrisome issue that is currently taking place. The most important part of this session, was something that I hadn't considered. This important part was about not having books that stereotype an identity or cause an individual to question an identity. The four factors that the presented reviewed were something that I will use when evaluating books. Before this, I would have thought that having books with brown or black characters was sufficient but I know realize that the content and context of the books are essential. The content and context of the books needs to be diverse as well. This can be important when teaching and utilizing resources to ensure that different viewpoints and sources are represented within a certain culture.

**Session 3: Like, Subscribe and Turn on Notifications! Follow us for Tips on how we increased student engagement.**

**Courtney Porter, Megan Moore and Rachel Fiery**

Social media is an area of weakness for me. I am not on social media and do not have a lot of experience with it. I chose this session to increase my knowledge of social media and to see how it is used within a school library setting. I wanted to learn more about how to engage

students and how to get them interested in what was going on in the library through social media. I also wanted to learn more about the different social media platforms available.

This session provided many practical and easy ways to engage students in the library through social media. I do not think there was one idea that I would not utilize that they shared. The ideas were very innovative and could be done with all grade levels. I realize in this session that they used social media to engage with their learners but they also had to consider how to have the students use the facility and incorporate it into curriculum. I liked the speed dating activity to learn about different authors and books. This could also be done within a theme that related to a learning objective or coursework. I think this would be great to have teachers participate in this as well. This way teachers would understand different sources available in the library and how to include different sources into the curriculum. The book bento box was a great updated way to do a book report and can be used at any grade level. The collections and book club were a great way to reach a targeted audience and to cater to the students. There are so many clubs and organizations at school that a library could provide a book club. From robotics, to leadership groups to future farmers, the library would have a book for any of them. Even those these clubs are voluntary in participation, the library objectives can still be used to help the students learn. The library should not just consider that the learning objectives can only reach students in the classroom. The collections are a great way to expand a student's awareness of resources and authors. This could be beneficial at any grade level and could focus on an upcoming assignment or inquiry project. For example, if all the civics classes do an assignment on political figures, then a collection could be curated and marketed to students to help them find sources.

References

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