

SSLA Online Learning Events

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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Teacher-librarians are facing an exciting future as leaders in the digital world. This was the message of two recent online learning events organized by the Saskatchewan School Library Association. In September, a number of teacher-librarians from across the province participated in two interactive presentations by Dr. Joyce Valenza, a well-known and highly-respected teacher-librarian of Springfield Township High School in Pennsylvania and the author of the NeverEndingSearch (<http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/neverendingsearch>) blog.

Presentations by Dr. Joyce Valenza

The first presentation focused on ten important “things” that, according to Valenza, teacher-librarians must teach. Valenza discussed skills that teacher-librarians need to be teaching students in order to help them be successful in the 21st century world: managing their digital footprint, using Creative Commons licensing as a consumer and a producer, conducting meaningful and interactive research, using primary sources, and harnessing the power of communication and collaboration. Valenza provided participants with a vast array of online tools and programs that will help teacher-librarians model these skills for teachers and students.

The second presentation focused on the curation of digital collections. Joyce Valenza shared her belief that teacher-librarians should serve as leaders in areas of online research and the organization of information. Valenza emphasized the importance of students knowing and learning how to filter information so that it is both useful and relevant. Curating and organizing information are basic skills required in the 21st century, but teacher-librarians cannot assume that students know how to critically select the best information. Participants learned about a number of online tools and resources to implement in current practice in order to prepare students and staff to become curators of their own digital collections.

Participants in both events had the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences with these technologies. The attendees also received a link and audio file of the presentations, so that the material could review and revisit all the shared ideas. Discussions following the presentations revealed that the teacher-librarians were excited to return to their schools and implement many of these tools into their practice.

Upcoming Learning Events

There is still time to register for the two upcoming online learning events. On November 22nd, Dr. Joanne de Groot from the University of Alberta will be discussing ways to develop a reading culture using technology. On January 18th, professor and author Dr. Scott McLeod will discuss what school leaders need to know about digital technology and social media. These interactive sessions are delivered online through the learning platform, Elluminate (www.illuminate.com/). The registration fee of \$80 includes entrance to both events. Participants who are not Saskatchewan School Library Association (SSLA) members are required to pay \$110, to include membership fee. For more information, please visit http://www.ssla.ca/learningevents/learningevents_2011_2012.htm.