

NJLA Reference Section Meeting
Drew University's Methodist Center and Archives
March 30, 2009

Lisa Coats, President
Paul Schroeder, Past President
Glynis Wray, Recording Secretary
Michael Maziekien, Coeditor, Newsletter
Jenny Lichtenwalner, Coeditor, Newsletter
Sue Lipstein, Member-at-Large
Cathy Prince, Member-at-Large
Lisa Florio, Member-at-Large
Lynne Hilf, Bernards Township Public Library
Nicolas C. Jackson, Pratt Graduate Student
Susan Kadezabek
Albert Municino, Hudson County Comm. College
Jane Van Wiemokly- Morris County Library
Ingrid Williams
Victoria Wollny, College of St. Elizabeth
Adrienne Tawil, Madison Public Library

- The meeting started with introductions. Minutes from the Feb. 9th meeting at Ocean County Library were distributed for members to read over for approval.
- NJLA Reference Section newsletter

Michael and Jenny are looking for submissions for the newsletter about reference in general, new reference librarians, or just anything interesting or fun. The editors are both from northern and central New Jersey and want to provide good overview of all the libraries in the state. They really want to cover the south so don't hesitate to send them something. The deadline is this Friday April 3rd. The earlier deadline for the newsletter allows us to announce our sessions at NJLA to the Section and to take copies of the newsletter to the conference at the end of April. They asked the speakers at the conference for their bios to put in the newsletter.

Also, the editors would like to make a special request that libraries send them a paragraph or so about things they are doing to assist job seekers. (i.e., Maplewood and Scotch Plains are hosting networking groups). The goal is to end up with a page or two of blurbs that might spark ideas for other libraries in this time of high unemployment and economic uncertainty.

Direct all submissions or questions to the newsletter coeditors:
Michael Maziekien - mmaziekien@bccls.org
Jenny Lichtenwalner - jlichtenwalner@scotlib.org

- The minutes from the Feb. 9th meeting were approved.
- NJLA conference moderators

Lisa discussed the moderators for the NJLA conference. She needs bios from some of them but gave the two she had to the moderators for those sessions. Some of the programs are cosponsored.

Here is the list of moderators:

Making Sense of Business Reference-Preconference (Celia Ross)	Lisa Coats
Helping Your Patrons Understand the Global Financial Crisis: Looming Economic Meltdown or Useful Teaching and Marketing Tool? (Celia Ross)	Cathy Prince
Surviving a Genealogy Reference Interview (Jack Simpson)	Jenny Lichtenwalner
What's a Database Anyway? Promoting E-Resources (Peg Barber)	Sue Lipstein
Reference Excellence Challenges: Realities & Possibilities (Marie Radford)	Lisa Florio
Radical Reference (Eric Goldhagen & Julie Crawford)	Lisa Coats
Tweet What!? 6 Sweet Ways to Connect with Your Customers in 140 Characters or Less (Amy Kearns & Julie Strange)	Michael Maziekien

Other sections moderating –

One is Silver and the Other Gold: Harmonizing Iconic and Iconoclastic Librarianship	Leslie Kahn
To De-wey or Not to De-wey	Ilene Lefkowitz
The Year's Best Graphic Novels 2008	David Lisa

- Discussion

Adult Services Forum in fall 2009

Lisa spoke for David Calvanico. The section is in the planning stages of creating an Adult Services Forum, modeled after the Youth Services Forum. Even though it is scheduled for fall, we are going to get started now. His questions include what are the visions for the day? Would we want to partner with other sections? Possible sections include Readers Advisory, Information Technologies, or Administration and Management.

We need to come up with a theme. Having a theme helps promote the date. One suggestion of a theme was “Reference with a WOW” or Reference with a WOW at your Library. Sue Lipstein offered a nice tagline “Reference stimulus @ your library”.

A possible location for the event is Monmouth County Library. Generally we need about four months in advance to book the location. David will be sending out questions to the group. David did speak with Monmouth County Library. Available dates include:

Wednesday October 28th
Thursday October 29th
Monday November 2nd
Wednesday November 4th

Some ideas for consideration include:

- Customer service behind and out front of the desk
- Staffing of paraprofessionals
- Print reference versus online reference and what do we purchase
- Weeding

Michael Maziekien suggested a program on media advisory. The number of questions about film and music are increasing. The session might include a training session for getting acquainted with essential site resources or new databases. It might also include web 2.0 review sites.

Discussion continued about how reference librarians are helping jobseekers.

The Summit Public Library, is presenting “How to Get the Tools to Find a Job”. They only have room for 10 computers. They are teaching hour and a half classes, including databases. Lynne Hilf’s supervisor is also doing the class – they don’t have a lab... They are using power point and handouts. Lynn Olver in Morris County is also providing classes. She has packets to give to the attendees. Joan Divor presented on this also
Lisa Florio spoke about Springfield’s one stop center, career counselors in Union County.

Albert thought of ESL, older students and patrons, primer and best practices – a concept of going back to basics. Deconstructing your own knowledge to help the people and service them. Babble fish and Language Line are helpful options for translation services.

What can the library do for you? Job searching, helping people with immigration issues and language barriers are a few options.

Sue Lipstein discussed weeding and the topic of print reference paying for both formats
Print collections can be massive and underused. Some suggestions are to check WorldCat to see if it is historical or if other libraries have it. VALE has a program has a program called last copy—the libraries would check and promise to keep a publication.
Since there are about 200 members on the ref listserv, maybe libraries could offer the valuable discards there.

Lisa discussed the event scheduled for June 12th with Julie Senack. The Atlantic City Free Public Library “Vision for Reference”. It’s a really interesting large space in a large inner city library with an archive room, local history, genealogy ref. with a huge ref desk. They plan to do away with the desk; instead it will be called a “Work Education and Research Center”. The reference desk would be removed. It would involve a concept with a roaming librarian similar to Princeton. It would involve portable phones and portable computers.

Some suggestions for reading. Try and catch the NJLA newsletter, especially the article on page three about innovative programs. Also, NJ Libraries Rock, the cover story which describes really interesting library services from all over the world.

Text messaging with a librarian was also discussed from the C&RL News, February 2009.

Funding and staffing both make a huge difference. It’s much easier to envision, ways to find funding if you try pilot programs, test market for mailing books out.

The Reference Section is probably not going to have another meeting until June 12th. Feel free to contribute through the listserv or send any thoughts to David or Lisa.