

MEMO Conference, Oct 1-3 2009

Ho-lee-cow was this an awesome deal! I'm very glad I made the trek all the way from Bagley to Rochester for the MEMO Conference.

Friday's keynote speaker brought forth very interesting comments regarding digital societal shifts and where education fits in there. Much talk between those at each table: "and...go"

My challenge was then to decide which session to attend. That was tough, because there honestly were so many I wanted to see! Ahh, thank goodness for the MEMO site: all the presenter's notes are to be posted there!

First up: Web 2.0 resources for organizing information. Hallelujah! A comparison of Delicious, Diigo, and Evernote was made—and I decided personally to use Diigo (both bookmarking and collaborative properties). Moving back and forth between two school libraries (one MAC, one PC), it will be most excellent to have easy access to my online resources. (I was using Google bookmarks, but due to summer server work the toolbar was lost—and I am not able/allowed to get it back...! Fine—I'll solve my problem another way....) In addition, I am scheduled to teach staff about this cool tool in a couple weeks. Share the joy!

Another really helpful session was 101 (or so) Great Books for the Secondary Student. What awesome, dynamic ladies!! This was an energetic book talk on multiple books that are suitable for the jr/sr high school. I will definitely order many of these titles, based on the outstanding blurbs both aimed at and stemming from a media professional's perspective.

In another session I learned about Voice Thread. I would call that an interactive, collaborative power point. Way cool, and this is something on my back burner, simmering away nicely for the time being.

Saturday's keynote speakers were better than caffeine. (Okay, let's go with a good companion to coffee.) These two gave us all hope and enthusiasm for embracing technology while not losing the literary aspect. Some tremendous examples of using technology tools were given for: media professionals to give booktalks, students to report on books, and media centers to be promoted. We all felt like we could actually do these things using these tools!! I will be making slide shows of students and their books, to be used as a screen saver in the media center. I will make a Wordle of positive media center rules. And I will *definitely* use the interactive fun at Mo Willem's website to accompany the Elephant and Piggie books read in the library!!

From the MYRA session, I now have all the tools I need to implement student reading and voting for the Maud Hart Lovelace award. I know, I know, this one

may sound basic to you all—but I am new in my position and the help makes the entire project feel better!! The booktalks on all the nominees was also very helpful.

The final session I went to was a tremendous source for free, educational, online games. This is something to embrace, and the resource is priceless. Share with all your teachers, and set some students up in the media center with one of these sites. Feel free to, um, explore some yourself—they're good!

The MEMO Conference was well worth the time and distance—a big thank you to Northern Lights Library Network for the scholarship. It was fun to see some familiar faces, and I had a great time meeting some new ones. Special thanks to the Fun Friday Supper Table—you guys rock! See you on the ning, and hopefully in person in the future!

Enthusiastically submitted by gina drellack