

**American Association of School Librarians National Conference
Minneapolis, Minnesota
October 27-30**

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Thank you so much for funding part of my expenses to attend the national conference of AASL. It was amazing to be there with about 2,500 school librarians from around the United States. Here are a few highlights:

Our first night was MEMO night with a **Children's Literature Network Readers Theater**. Minnesota authors who read from their books, "readers theater style," were Stephanie Watson, David LaRoche, Lisa Bullard, Marsha Wilson Chall, Maryann Weidt, Mary Casanova, Kurtis Scaletta, John Coy, and Margi Preus. It was a great introduction to books I hadn't read and authors I didn't know. Now I can put faces and personalities with their names—at least a little bit. Mary Casanova had made an author visit to my school so it was fun to visit with her again.

I attended a session on ***Collaboration: The Cornerstone of a Successful Library/Technology/Classroom Partnership***. The two presenters shared many ideas about organizing activities, working around schedules, and planning for action. As a library/media specialist, I try to sort out what will work and what might not in the school I'm in with prep times, blocks, and resources. It's always good to get ideas from others, then adapt, if need be.

The Best Websites for Teaching and Learning: Inquiry, Standards and Curriculum was one of the fastest presentations I think I've ever attended. My, did they ever spin through those sites at warp speed! I'm glad I have lists of websites from the class so that I can explore them on my own and get a grip on what makes them so exciting. These lists were shared with other media specialists in our district on a staff development day when we had some time to meet about media issues. I've had a chance to try some of them but many more are left to explore.

Our district has adopted Response to Intervention this year so the class entitled ***Finding our Place: Librarians and Response to Intervention*** was a must to attend. Three of us from our district attended the class together. About halfway through it, we realized that we have been doing a lot of the recommended activities for a long time but we picked up new tips and helpful suggestions. It was a good feeling to know that we've been on the right track in helping our students and staff.

One of the frustrations of a conference like this is that a person has to choose from a menu of lots of good classes and can't get to everything because several of them are in the same time slot. One of the joys is meeting librarians from all around the country while visiting, breaking out for group discussions, or just standing in line. We all wear so many hats in our careers.

I always appreciate the vendors who take time and spend a lot of money to be part of conferences. They were very generous with book donations and, at the end, reduced their books to amazingly low prices so they wouldn't have to ship them back. The three of us who attended together loaded the van with wonderful books and DVDs for our schools—all at great savings. Our district only paid for our registration but they got a lot more than that back in the value of the materials we were able to buy for our schools. Again, THANKS!