

This was the first PLA conference I have attended and I thoroughly appreciated the experience!

The conference was so well organized that it was easy to navigate. We arrived in time to register and visit some of the vendors on Wednesday before the reception. Whether just browsing or finding a specific vendor, the area was a delight to visit! One vendor had a product for covering paperbacks that was more easy to apply and more durable than the product we are currently using and another showed how several machines worked for cleaning and restoring DVDs and CDs. Actually being able to observe these demonstrations was far superior to browsing through a catalog!

I was looking forward to the opening general session with John Wood. Due to travel time, we were unable to attend this. Thus, I am especially appreciative of being able to view this, and other material, on the website. Thank you!

The first seminar I attended was "What Does It Take To Be Good at Reference in the Age of Google?" I am not a "reference" librarian, but I am continually answering reference questions. His information on how to build a website that is user friendly caused me to closely examine our website - and it is quite user friendly! However, by doing a few simple things like changing some of the terminology, like "catalog" and "database", could increase patron use. Also, how to use blogging more effectively was worth trying! Joseph Janes made the hour fly!!

"Sexy Senior Programming" truly did present "way-outside-the-box" ideas for programming for seniors. The presenters emphasized the fact that seniors today are very active and many are even still considering what they want to do when they grow up! Does our library reflect their interests? A number of ideas presented combined children and seniors for some fun events. We also learned how to do a few "laugh" aerobics! It was a very helpful seminar.

The "Dangerous Ideas" seminar presented 10 "what if" questions that were thought provoking. It raised questions about the way things are done simply routinely. It encouraged us to challenge the way we manage our library and to do some creative thinking.

I also was privileged to listen to author Pat Mora and illustrator Raul Colon as they shared their creative journey at the children's author luncheon.

There were several attending the conference from our library and we had a great discussion on the way home about the seminars we had each attended and how some might be implemented at our library. The conference generated many new ideas and concepts that were greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

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