

The PLA conference in Minneapolis was one of the best I have ever attended. Workshops, keynote speakers and networking were all inspiring and motivating.

My first workshop was "Why do we DEWEY?" It gave me lots of ideas to make the nonfiction section of our library easier to navigate and understand for the average customer. I think the ideas I gathered will improve the visual organization and market our nonfiction collection better.

The next workshop was "The disconnected: Who they are." Many of the regular library users fall into this category; 16-24 years of age, including dropouts, truants, pregnant and young mothers, drug users and other victims. Mainly, we need to find ways to welcome them and reach out to them to provide materials and resources that can help them increase their life skills.

"Sexy senior programming" gave ideas on how to serve the fastest growing population group in the US. One was to provide aging center resources, another intergenerational programming. Their outreach was to try a story hour at a nursing home with a group of children. The final idea was a Laughter Club and we got a taste of how to do it, it was great fun.

Other workshops I attended were:

Great Libraries for Dummies- gave 10 points a library must do to achieve excellence and 5 ways to do it.

When the Story is true- nonfiction readers advisory

Off your seat and on your feet: proactive reference customer service- This one encouraged us to examine and reallocate duties so that we can get out into the stacks and serve the customers better and to teach them how to use the tools the library has to get information themselves.

Thanks for the help to attend this conference!

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