

# **NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2007/2008**

**Karen Zwirtz  
Branch Out 2007  
August 7-9, 2007**

Branch Out 2007 was a wonderful experience for me!

Some of the programs I attended were:

Speed networking: I was apprehensive that this would be of any value but it was fun and interesting to get to know the conference attendees and what they did in their libraries.

Collection development: Mic Golden of Great River Regional Library gave this program. She is the collection development coordinator for their region and gets to spend lots of money! She gave us the criteria she uses to select materials. It will be helpful in my job, as I am responsible for ordering non-fiction and reference material for our branch.

Cultural dos and don'ts: This did not give specifics but it was more of a background into Latino, Hmong and Somali cultures. The main thing I learned was to work with other community agencies to let these groups know what the library has to offer them and find translators within the community to help you communicate with them. Ask questions if you don't understand their traditions.

Wakanheza: This was about making your library and attitude welcoming to all people. Applying it can diffuse volatile situations and help parents and others that are having stressful times. The most important thing I learned in this class was to not judge a person or I won't be able to see how to help them.

Thanks for the grant to attend this conference.

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12/5/2007