

WVLS Post-Conference Report

Please note: This report will be shared with the WVLS Board of Trustees and posted on the WVLS website in an upcoming board meeting packet.

Julie Beloungy: School District of Thorp - Library Media Specialist; Thorp Public Library Board Trustee

October 20, 2021, ARSL 2021 - Reno, Nevada

1. *Please highlight three sessions from the conference.*

What were the session topics? Who presented them? What made these presentations effective and meaningful to you?

- Poverty & Privilege: Intersectionality of Race & Class in Young People's Literature. Presenters: Christina H. Dorr, PhD and Brendan Kiely (virtual)

Both presenters in this session were engaging and well-educated on the topic. Brendan is the co-author of 'All American Boys' which is a book I will be purchasing for our high school library. He spoke of the subtle differences and/or challenges people of color face in their everyday lives. Christina provided a background about how poverty, both generational and situational, can affect a students' achievement. Our area is very rural and low income, so this session provided some suggestions to best support students in poverty - most importantly to treat them with respect and attention.

Our area also has very little diversity so it is even more important for adults to be aware of what Brendan calls 'white privilege'. Having conversations about diversity can be difficult but also necessary so that children have access to respectful resources and safe places for those discussions. Branden's newest book 'The Other Talk', may be a great starting point in discussing how race can affect privilege and achievement.

- Overcoming Imposter Syndrome: Leading with Radical Acceptance. Presenter: Patrick Bodily

This was my favorite session, not only because Patrick was a great presenter, but because the topic hits close to home. Patrick provided great background for understanding Imposter Syndrome and offering advice to overcome feelings of inadequacy. His slides were easy to follow and he made the audience feel comfortable in the discussion. Following advice from the book 'Radical Acceptance', he covered four main ways to accept what comes your way in life and used real world examples for how we can incorporate them into our own lives.

After this session, I was inspired to consider possibly presenting at a conference on my own story from a public library director to a library media specialist - but... not quite yet ;) But now I better understand my own feelings of inadequacy and know how to support my staff in their struggles as well.

- Graphic Novels ARE 'Real' Books. Presenter: Deanna Evans

I was excited for this session because I heard this statement just recently at our School's book fair.. "not those comic books, you need to read REAL books". Parents wanted their children to read 'real' books and not just look at the pictures. At the time, I didn't respond because it wasn't a direct comment to me as the librarian, but after Deanna's session, I feel more equipped to offer positive arguments for children to pick up graphic novels.

Her presentation was well organized and informative and she was a clear and engaging speaker. She presented many benefits to reading graphic novels and how important it is to start educating parents and adults about those benefits as well. One big benefit is that 'A picture is worth a 1,000 words', as well as how visuals strengthen observational and inference skills. A reader needs to be able to use visual clues to determine a character's feelings for example, and then understand how those images relate to any text.

Deanna shared ways to incorporate graphic novels and comics into displays, programming and activities. I also now have resources for promoting graphic novels and resource lists for finding award-winning and favorite titles. I plan to add a number of the new titles she promoted and watch for the upcoming awards list.

2. *Please highlight a conference experience, other than attending a conference session. Did you talk to someone you didn't know at a session? Sit next to someone at a luncheon and have a meaningful conversation? Visit with an exhibitor? How did **this** experience affect your overall outlook of the conference?*

I am always amazed at how friendly and open everyone is who attends the ARSL conference. During our lunch on Friday, I sat next to a woman from Washington and we had a conversation about how the school and public libraries work together in our communities. She shared about their program which gives every child in the school a special public library card number so they can bring home books when the public librarian brings books to their school. Some children would never visit the public library on their own so this was a way to get more books into the hands of children and their families.

The other highlight of the conference was talking with the representative from Gumdrop Books. He was showing me the new collection of all 50 state books and I knew we needed to add that set to update our 20 year old set at school. He encouraged me to buy raffle tickets since a complete set was going to be given away at the end of the conference. The money from the raffle tickets went to the ARSL conference scholarship fund so it was supporting a worthwhile cause as well. Because of his enthusiasm and the quality of the books, I added a small number of tickets to the raffle, and it must have been my lucky day, because my name was drawn and I was able to take home the set of all 50 state books (valued at over \$1,000)!!

The many friendly faces and opportunities for discussion always make this a positive and worthwhile conference!

3. *As a result of attending this conference, what three things do you plan on implementing at your library in the next six months?*
 - With a focus on diversity and inclusion at this conference, I plan to do a Follett Titlewave analysis of our school library collection. That analysis will look at the diversity of books we currently have and highlight areas we need to improve. With the diversity analysis results, I will begin to purchase appropriate titles to fill in areas we are lacking. I want to make sure our students have 'windows' to see and learn about the world outside of Thorp, Wisconsin.

- Because of the Poverty and Privilege session, I would like to get a better understanding of children living in poverty. In looking through *School Library Journal* this month, they have a feature article and recommended book list dealing with poverty. I plan to read the article and begin to better support those students, as well as read one or two of the middle grade/YA books on the list. I hope to learn from another perspective and be able to better relate to those conditions.
- I'm not exactly sure at this point how I will incorporate Radical Acceptance and Imposter Syndrome into my practice, but I would like to at least read the book, 'Radical Acceptance' and start stepping outside of my comfort zone. I'm going to have to spend some time thinking about this one yet!

4. *What kind of support is needed for you to implement these three things? Support from your staff? Your Board of Trustees? Assistance from WVLS?*

- For the Diversity Analysis of our school library collection, I will be using the vendor, Follett Titlewave to complete the process. The CCBC will also have great resources I can utilize for finding diverse books.
- I will be using the *School Library Journal* issue, October 2021 for the recommended reading on poverty themes, as well the article, "Let's talk about poverty; 10 policy ideas to support vulnerable students and eliminate stigma".
- While this support does not match with my implementation of radical acceptance in the next 6 months, I do think there could be more training in our northern Wisconsin area for diversity issues. I might not be looking in the right areas, but I don't see a lot offered for library staff. This support might come in forms of in-person training or webinars. Looking at biases in the collection, teaching how to equitably and fairly treat patrons or how to connect to patrons who are of different race, nationality, or beliefs, etc. could be beneficial to all library staff.

5. *How might your conference experience been improved to be more beneficial/impactful to you?*

- I have put some thought into this question, but I really don't have a good answer.. One small suggestion might be to provide a time for attendees from WLVS to virtually meet after the conference to review the experience or share notes. All of us went to different sessions and have a lot of information to share, but we were not sure how to put all that together in one spot. Maybe if WVLS could coordinate a shared Google Doc or somewhere we could upload our notes. Or maybe have a follow-up virtual meeting with everyone to 'debrief'. I'm afraid if it's not required or planned in advance, we might lose that information since we didn't take the time before we all dispersed from the conference location to make that collection.

Pictures from the Conference:



WVLS Post Conference Report
Teresa Hall
ARSL Oct 20-23, 2021
Reno, Nevada

1. Three sessions:

Library Ethics: What would you do by Gail Santy, Maribeth Shafer & Patty Collins

I have watched these 3 presenters offer this session before. They are engaging and know their material, which is why I decided to go again. I like that they were able to use audience participation so we can feel like it is relative, but knew how to ethically handle the problems. Ultimately, no matter the location of our library, the situations we encounter with our patrons are similar and should be considered ethically. The scenarios presented are to give you an opportunity to get the conversations started with your staff and your board – what would or should we do in this situation or that? Then, make sure your policies are reflecting the answers to those situations or questions.

Being the Boss Burnout by Lisa Cheever

Different situations in our lives can cause burnout. The new challenges in our world have increased and changed the demands in our libraries. The self-care and self-evaluation tips that were given were good reminders that if we don't care of ourselves, it becomes difficult to take care of others that need us. We have to be honest about our shortfalls and our strengths, then act accordingly. Accepting these can change our perspective, our goals and our objectives. The presentation was packed with enough advice to make it almost overwhelming at the time. But once I was able to go back through to reflect on the list, I came up some good reminders to avoid the burnout.

Turning Storytime into Skills-Building Time by Sulin Jones and Sara Schrichte

This session gave the big picture of essential science backed life skills (Focus and self-control; Perspective taking; Communication; Making connections; Critical thinking; Taking on challenges; and Self-directed, engaged learning). Then it broke down specific examples of how we can add to our Storytime's so that children can learn these life skills without realizing it. It reinforced activities we are already doing but gave successful tips on how to expand our activities.

2. Conference experience outside of sessions

A highlight of the conference is the Dine-Arounds. Going out to dinner with others and having conversation in a relaxed environment. I met a Director who was taking as many mental health sessions as she could because of a bipolar employee, a foreign exchange student she currently has and a daughter who recently announced she's pansexual. We were able to talk about how those situations can effect what we are experiencing in our own libraries. How do our libraries need to evolve to be aware of our changing society. The dinner also included a Trustee who has been on her board for 2 months. She came to educate herself about the workings of libraries. She had gotten on her board because how political COVID became in her library. We were able to compare and discuss how politics plays a role in our service to the community.

The speakers at our breakfasts and lunches were powerful and enjoyable. While it didn't involve conversations with them, their words made me feel like being a librarian can make a difference in the community. We impact each other more than we realize sometimes.

3. 3 things to implement and 4. Where is support needed

As a result of the conference, I'd like to make sure that our policies are up to date and both ethically and politically correct. I'd like to go over the policies with staff members so we can have discussions about what situations we may encounter where the policies would or wouldn't be effective. Then I would need the support from the board to make the changes to the policies.

As a result of the conference and because we have a new children's librarian, I'd like to concentrate our efforts on StoryTime to make sure we are including activities that can expand a child's skills. Right now we pick our book topics based on National holidays of the day or week or month and we make our craft coordinate with it. How much better it could be if we incorporate an activity to go along with it? I would need the support of my new children's librarian to embrace the idea of being more creative in our time with the children. We need to reach out to the children because they are walking in our doors.

As a result of the conference, I'd like to feel less burnout as a boss. Instead of keeping things bottled up inside where I try to keep it all organized, I need to be more honest with myself and more vocal to others. Maybe I need to keep written lists instead of the lists in my head. I believe I need to set better boundaries for myself instead of being a yes person. I try to be mindful of pleasing others, but I need to be mindful of not being overwhelmed by pleasing the needs of others. I need to be more vocal about what my needs are. Hopefully, I will have the support of others.

4. Where support is needed

Answers included in number 3 above.

5. Conference experience more beneficial/impactful

I am grateful to WVLS for providing scholarships so that we can attend conferences. Being able to have breakfast and lunch with my fellow WVLS librarians made the experience more enjoyable. We were able to compare notes about what sessions we were attending and everyone was willing to share notes when there were 2 sessions being offered at the same time. I don't know that I have anything to add that would make the experience more beneficial or impactful. I do know that I used the time outside of the conference time to do site seeing in the area where the conference was held. For me, this enhanced what I learned at the conference. The memory of the sites around the location add to the experience. I would encourage others to try to do that.

**WVLS Post Conference Report
Kay Heiting ARSL Oct 20-23 2021
Reno, Nevada**

1. Please highlight three sessions from the conference. What were the session topics? Who presented them? What made these presentations effective and meaningful to you?

**Promoting Your Library's Collection: A Plan for Small, but Mighty Libraries
Presented by: Angela Hursh Senior Engagement Consultant Cincinnati, Ohio**

This session was excellent. I took so many notes about how to promote our collection (books, Libby, resources, services) She really focused on making sure that people know what the library can offer and sharing that with email, social media and our community. I would like to set up a series of displays and media posts that share our collection. I am creating a calendar of special days and I will set up displays and posts to highlight those. For example, talk like a pirate day, or chocolate day. She recommends creating bookmarks for certain collections (I like this idea, but it will take some time) . I would also like to try and encourage students, staff and community members to share what they are reading and complete book talks or reviews. I have tried this in the past but might try again. We do have a strong collection here- I just need to make sure people know about it. My library board of trustees was excited when I shared this session with them, even in our meeting several members said "I didn't know the library offered that"

[Marketing your collection](#)

Graphic Design for Small libraries:

Presented by: Suzanne Macaulay Deputy Director Pioneer Library system NY

This was a great session about creating eye-catching flyers and promotional materials. She walked through the basic design elements of color, contrast, negative space, layout and text. These were terms I knew, but it was good to see good and poor examples. She created most of her flyers in Canva, which is a program that I am familiar with and hope to explore a little bit more. I know that creating flyers and social media posts is a vital part of my job as a library director. I need to take some time and create templates that I can use over and over again to save me time in the future. It is important to engage the patrons and highlight what the library offers. Again, my board was excited about this information- they suggested I talk to the Art or Business teachers and see if a student would be interested in doing this conjunction with one of their class projects.

She shared a ton of resources in a Google Drive folder. Please let me know if you want the folder.

Crisis Leadership Moving From Reactive Survival to Proactive Planning

Presented by: Krista Riggs Library Director Madera County Library and Connie Urquhart Library Director Camas Public Library

This session really hit home after dealing with COVID. They focused on the 5 C's of leadership. Candor, Compassion, Courage, Communication, Culture and motivation, They offered lots of tips and tricks to be a proactive leader. Reminding us that we as managers need to be open, honest, and caring. We need to lead with courage and create a culture where people feel valued. They also told us that communication is the key to positive interactions. All of these were things that I know, but I really needed the reminders lately. One of the biggest take aways from this session is making sure I, as the manager, schedule "off desk" time. This is something that I struggle with, I want to be part of the patron customer service, but I need to focus on my duties.

[Crisis Leadership](#)

[Crisis Leadership resources](#)

2. Please highlight a conference experience, other than attending a conference session. Did you talk to someone you didn't know at a session? Sit next to someone at lunch and have a meaningful conversation? Visit with an exhibitor? How did this experience affect your overall outlook of the conference?

I really enjoy the networking conversations at the meals of the conference. You meet so many interesting people and get a different perspective about libraries across the country. We chatted a few times with a librarian from North Carolina. She has a very small library and limited staff, similar to my situation, but it was great to hear about her story hour. It draws people from up to an hour away. I am working on building a story hour time and it is going well, but we only have about 10 kids attending, She said that is what she started with too- it just keeps building with word of mouth.

I also enjoyed the conversation with two of the digitization companies. I know this is an important element in the library- making sure our patrons have access to historical documents. However, it is a little overwhelming for me. We have a couple of microfilm from the 1800. They have been in the library unused for several years, but a few weeks ago I had a visitor from Michigan who was looking for local history from that time period. It was so fun to share conversations about what he found. I wished that the information would have been easier to access. I talked to two vendors who offer these services. My board said this is a good idea and they would be interested in pursuing this.

3. As a result of attending this conference, what three things do you plan on implementing at your library in the next six months?

Create a calendar and schedule social media posts to highlight items in our collection and resources we offer.

Create some Canva flyers and templates that I can use to promote our library events and resources. I plan to talk to some students about working on this for the library.

Work on getting our microfilm digitized.

4. What kind of support is needed for you to implement these three things? Support from your staff? Your board of trustees? Assistance from WVLS

The biggest thing that I need is more time. Everything that I learned and thought about came down to not enough time. I could really use some generic PR material that I can customize in a few minutes or post directly to Facebook or other social media. I know that WVLS offers these materials, I just need to make a better plan to get them published as soon as possible.

If WVLS or other system partners has any information about digitizing microfilm or has any experience with Advantage Archives or Innovative Document Imaging I would appreciate any feedback regarding product service, price or customer service. I know there has been some discussion over the past years about digitizing resources, but I wasn't ready for the information at that time.

5. This is something that I put on my conference survey for ARSL. Some of the sessions were a bit short (1 hour) like the Social Media 2.0, Being the Boss Burnout or Marketing your collection. Others were a bit too long- the content didn't need an hour. I imagine this is very difficult for the conference planners to figure out and plan for. There was a lot of time to go look at exhibits, which is great. However, once I talked to the vendors I needed to talk to, I didn't feel a need to go back in. It would have been nice to have a few extra minutes in some of the sessions, or perhaps a few extra sessions added.

Overall I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to attend the conference. It truly is one of the best professional development conferences I have attended. There is always a wide variety of session topics and the networking is very beneficial and enjoyable. Thank you for offering the scholarships so people can attend.

WVLS Post Conference Report

Janay Ziebell

ARSL Oct 20-23 2021

Reno, Nevada

1. Please highlight three sessions from the conference.

What were the session topics? Who presented them? What made these presentations effective and meaningful to you?

a. Customer Service Matters—Asti Ogletree and Lori Hunt from Arkansas

- i. This presentation was effective because the presenters were funny but also not so funny because some of these “real” scenarios are happening in many libraries. It was so good to hear stories and know and feel like I am not alone in finding the craziest of crazy things that happen at the library! The presenters were very effective in keeping the audience included with small break out pods. Helped hit home that libraries everywhere are dealing with very similar problem patrons ets!

b. Beginners Guide to Being in Charge—Suzanne Macaulay from NY

- i. This session was a good pat on the back to help me realize I am not far off as a beginner to being in charge at our library! There were excellent tips for enjoying successes and not letting the bad become road blocks. It is okay to say No and to delegate responsibilities, and set boundaries as well as take time off

c. Everyday Advocacy—Veronda Pitchford from California

- i. This session gave a good picture of what it looks like to advocate for my library and tell our story. “We Librarians are not good at advocacy because we are buys doing the work”. This presentation was great and by far the session I got the most from! Presenting that making it easy by including everybody in the organization: patrons, media, partners, local businesses, community orgs, doors and legislators. I heard how FRONT LINE STAFF are key to advocacy and I need to create evangelists from my staff to be the library advocates and also to align with mission and vision.

2. Please highlight a conference experience, other than attending a conference session. Did you talk to someone you didn't know at a session? Sit next to someone at a luncheon and have a meaningful conversation? Visit with an exhibitor? How did **this** experience affect your overall outlook of the conference?

I had many non-session experiences highlighted at the ARSL conference! I attended the Dine-Arounds on Thursday and sat with library staff and directors from California, Mississippi, Colorado and Alabama. It was good to hear that many staff and patron concerns are common among the others at the conference! Conversations were meaningful and centered around best practices for helping patrons in hard life situations.

3. As a result of attending this conference, what three things do you plan on implementing at your library in the next six months?
 - a. Spread the word about the library in my community for advocacy. Tell our story and make our library "famous like Kardashian" by pushing our library as a BRAND and helping people reframe stats to experiences.
 - b. Preventing "Being the Boss Burnout" by treating my time like It's \$\$, make a list of accomplishments to look back on when feeling burn out coming on, and choose courage and check bias' in regards to my staff
 - c. Delegate and set Boundaries with my staff take PTO, and don't be afraid to change course
4. What kind of support is needed for you to implement these three things? Support from your staff? Your Board of Trustees? Assistance from WVLS?
 - a. The things I plan to implement are really self sustaining. I would need a little more training and some help from WVLS and staff with telling our story and advocating for the Library. Also, I would like to have our Library board get better versed in telling our story and promoting our library in the community.
5. How might your conference experience been improved to be more beneficial/impactful to you?
 - a. I would like to see our member Libraries have a more local conference and I know the Directors retreat with WVLS was cancelled again. Let's hope the pandemic settles such that we can have a face-to-face meeting with some more in person local meetings! The ARSL Conference was a bit big for my first real in person meeting ever on the job since 2020! So GO AWAY COVID and masks and distancing!!

WVLS Post Conference Report
Tammie Blomberg
ARSL Oct 20-23, 2021
Reno, Nevada

1. Please highlight three sessions from the conference.
What were the session topics? Who presented them? What made these presentations effective and meaningful to you?
 - A. Customer Service Matters: Killing Your Top 10 with Kindness
Asti Ogletree & Lori Hunt
This session offered some really good tips for dealing with difficult patrons. These work with any patron that's annoying to you, not just the really difficult ones that require you to pull out the behavior policy. They explained how to set boundaries, and rely on other staff persons (if possible). Since we serve everyone equally, it really is ok to just say "no" if the patron is expecting more than we would do for others. Since the conference, I've made a point to smile and greet every person who walks into the library, not just the ones I like. Some of the tips were to picture a difficult patron as your elderly grandmother, empathize with patrons who seem to be having a bad day, and to always remember WHY we do what we do.
 - B. Being the Boss Burnout
Lisa Cheever
The most common causes of burnout are lack of control, and unclear expectations. Avoid the problem before it happens by providing staff with definitive goals and good training. Be a mediator instead of a problem solver. Be a good model and have a positive attitude.
I also liked the tips on time management. Treat your time like its money and be careful how you spend it. Reevaluate tasks that take up a lot of your time, and be aware of your own strengths and weaknesses. Practice mindfulness and find time to relax!
 - C. Get the Grant!
Sulin Jones
Having just written a grant three times before I got it correct and submitted, this session was really refreshing for me! Sulin Jones has not only written grants, but she's been on the committees that award the grants. I learned a lot about outcomes and outputs. She gave great tips on how to use narratives to share outcomes and to make outputs measurable. Be specific in your budgets, vague budgets will send up red flags. Always direct the outcomes to your target audience, and never say, "my library will benefit...". She also suggested that if you don't get the grant, see if you can find free or reduced services.

2. Please highlight a conference experience, other than attending a conference session. Did you talk to someone you didn't know at a session? Sit next to someone at a luncheon and have a meaningful conversation? Visit with an exhibitor? How did **this** experience affect your overall outlook of the conference?

I went to the vendor hall during a slow time on Friday so I was able to talk with a few vendors about specific things without a crowd of people waiting to get to the tables. I learned a lot from the Playaway company. I discovered that the old Playaways that we have at the library are very old versions, and that there are newer, more reliable ones available. The company was able to take my old ones on a trade in and give me a 10% discount on the newer ones that I purchased. They're also sending us a free sample of their Launchpads to try out to see if we would like to buy them. I really excited about trying the Launchpad because I've heard good things about them from other libraries. We have an Ipad here already, but I've never felt comfortable circulating it because of the problems with it connecting to the internet and privacy. However, the Launchpad is pre-loaded with themed apps, and doesn't connect to the internet. Resetting it after each patron is as easy as pushing a button. It's always really exciting to me when I find a vendor that has a product or service that really fills a need at my library.

3. As a result of attending this conference, what three things do you plan on implementing at your library in the next six months?

I've already started using Google Docs, and the other Google sites, slides, and forms. I knew they were there, but had never really worked with them before. I learned about those at the Free for All! Session.

Related to the previous goal is to use digital book displays. The pictures of the books would link to the V-Cat record. I don't remember which session suggested this idea, but it would work well to use Google Slides for this.

At Angela Hursh's session on promoting your library, I learned that I need to reactivate our library Twitter account and use Instagram more. Instagram lets you post on multiple social media platforms at once, so it's a time saver 😊

I'm going to download one of the mindfulness apps that I discovered through the Being-the-Boss Burnout session. I need those ASAP!

I also plan on finding and writing grants as often as I can now that I've learned more about grant writing from the Get the Grant! Session.

4. What kind of support is needed for you to implement these three things? Support from your staff? Your Board of Trustees? Assistance from WVLS?

I need to know where to look for grants. "Googling" grants is a good way to get scammed.

WVLS, my Board, and staff have already been awesome in helping me avoid burn out, but I can always use the emotional as well as the technical support to get through these stressful times.

Anne has been a valuable resource and help with all of our website needs. I will need help setting up the digital book display, and working with the Google sources I mentioned above.

Whatever comes up, I value the support that I always get from everyone in the system! They're friendly, quick, and helpful whenever I get stuck on something or just need advice. Keep up the good work.

5. How might your conference experience been improved to be more beneficial/impactful to you?

The conference was amazing, and I really can't think of anything that would have made it a better experience for me. The only complaint I had was that they charged us \$160 for my husband to eat 4 meals with me. The meals were not at all worth \$40 each. We would have been better off having him go out for the 4 meals on his own. Another minor problem was the ARSL cardigan that I ordered way before the conference. It was on backorder and I got it this week. Both of those things were totally out of WVLS' control though.

I just want to take opportunity to thank you all from the bottom of my heart! I had a trip of a lifetime, and it would not have been possible without this scholarship. I was able to travel someplace that I've never been before, see beautiful sites along the way, and socialize with people in person for the first time in a long time. The WVLS group at the conference was awesome too. They let me know up front that if I needed help with anything to let them know, but they didn't hover over me or keep asking. I put in long days, but also had time to rest and recover. I was a little worried about my strength giving out and I wanted to make sure that I participated in enough of the conference that I didn't let WVLS down. The conference itself was rewarding, and I got so many great ideas that I can put into place at the library and in my life. Thank you!

WVLS Post Conference Report
Jenny Jochimsen
ARSL Oct 20-23, 2021
Reno, Nevada

1. Please highlight three sessions from the conference.

What were the session topics? Who presented them? What made these presentations effective and meaningful to you?

- **MiLibraryQuest: A Multi-Library Collaboration Project Across Michigan presented Cindi L. Place.**
 - I would like to try a program like MiLibraryQuest amongst the libraries of Clark County. Five of the librarians on the 2021 ARSL scholarships were from Clark County, I discussed the MiLibraryQuest learning session with them, and through collaboration and creative planning I have hopes of putting together a Clark County Library Quest for the summer of 2022.
 - MiLibraryQuest was developed by the libraries in the state of Michigan as a way to keep teens involved during the Summer of 2020 when libraries had to shut their doors. The quest is simple, the teens visit library websites, find a clue, record the answer, and move on another library website. If the teen finishes the quest they turn in their record log for a small prize or a chance to win one large prize. Michigan has completed four different quests and have added libraries with each quest. The summer quests are themed to fit the Summer Reading Program theme.
 - Tips and best practices:
 - Plan early.
 - Google forms are free.
 - Collaborate with libraries to pool resources (creative writers, pdf adaptive software, graphic design skills, and website editing.
 - Social media packet for participating libraries.
 - Flexible options for teens participating in towns without a home library.
- **Social Media 101 presented Sherry Scheline, Suzanne Macaulay, and Bailee Hutchinson.**
 - Social media is always changing and an increasingly necessary tool for promoting libraries. I attended this session is hopes of learning new tricks for increasing my social media content and decreasing the time needed to post it. I cannot wait to try www.planthat.com.
 - Libraries use social media to connect directly with community members, demonstrate the library's value, and inform the community of upcoming events and programs. The pandemic has changed Social Media use. Short-Form content, quick and easy to digest content that covers a specific area of a topic, rather than going too in-depth or detailed, saw a massive rise in use and popularity. In library posts keep text short, bright images, and add short fun videos.
 - Social Media tips and best practices:
 - The Library needs more than just Facebook. Content shared does not have to be original for each form of social media. Instagram can be used to cross-post to other social media platforms by using www.planthat.com.
 - Use Hashtags. Hashtags are metadata that make social media searchable and enables cross-referencing.

- Post regularly and respond promptly.
- Think before you post and always be kind.
- Check grammar before posting.
- Be consistent, don't try everything trending, stick to your library's brand.
- Don't delete patron comments unless it is backed by your library's social media policy (infringement on free speech).
- Have a Social Media Policy.
- **Scan, Preserve & Engage: Starting a Community Digitization Project presented by Trevor Martinson.**
 - The city of Abbotsford will be having its sesquicentennial anniversary in 2023. A Scan Day could be part of the celebration or part of a committee to record updated history of the town. However, the planning, equipment, and hosting necessary for this project is daunting.
 - The goal of a Community Scan Day is to “preserve and share local history. Community members bring in items from their personal collections to the library to be digitized and then shared online. Trevor Martinson is the Digital Initiatives Specialist of the North Dakota State Library. North Dakota libraries contact him when they want to host a ScanDay and he brings all the scanning equipment with him and the scanned items are accessible on a site host by the North Dakota State Library. However, with the right equipment, a library could host their own ScanDay independently.
 - Staff – About 5 staff members or volunteers are needed to keep the event running smoothly. One person to serve as the greeter and welcome staff. This person can also serve as the photographer of the event. Two people to scan and two people to record the metadata.
 - Equipment- Epson Scanner (recommended V750 or V600), digital camera (recommended Nikon D5100) and a CZUR scanner. A laptop. Mobil Photo Studio Shooting Tent. Flash Drives (participants would receive a flash drive with the data of the item they brought to Scan Day) and cotton gloves for handling negatives or fragile items.
 - Software – Scanning software (This should come with the scanner and be installed on the laptop brought to Scan Day). Image converter or image editor software.
 - Forms – Release and Consent Form stating the person bring the item/s is the legal owner and they are giving permission for the material to be scanned and digitally shared. Metadata Sheet which is used to record information about the items being scanned.
 - Digital Hosting – First check to see if the library's home state offers programs that would host digital content. To host the library's own digital repositories Martinson recommended Preservica (free plan, but caps at 5 GB), Flickr (free plan has ads and only can upload images and videos, all pdf would need to be converted to JPEG format), or Internet Archive Another option is the Internet Archive (free and supports most digital formats).
 - Partnerships – Consider working historical or genealogical societies, museums, schools, or senior centers.

2. Please highlight a conference experience, other than attending a conference session. Did you talk to someone you didn't know at a session? Sit next to someone at a luncheon and have a meaningful conversation? Visit with an exhibitor? How did **this** experience affect your overall outlook of the conference?
 - Librarians are helpful. It is in our nature and it is very visible when we assemble as a group. Librarian helpfulness made its way into the speeches of two of the Keynote speeches. One, joking about how when she found herself needing a Band-Aid, a fellow librarian was more helpful than the gift store clerk. The second the author of "Beautiful Country" who brought a crowd of librarians to tears as she told us librarians make a difference, even if are not told, we make a difference through the safe spaces we offer, the stories we help share, and opportunities we make possible. Helpfulness was visible in the daily to-and-fro of the conference. I was on two bus shuttles that each filled full with one person left standing. Both times it happened, half the bus offered to stand in place of the last person who got on the bus. I got to registration early, I couldn't not offer to help set up and as each new early librarian arrived, they too joined the group setting up. I also got to help by obtaining a bookbag for a fellow librarian. It seems silly, but it was one of my favorite moments of the conference. I found myself at the head the line to the entrance of the exhibit hall. It was like Black Friday, a line of librarians pushing in from behind, ready to rush the gate. The two items the crowd was rushing for, the Blackstone audio bag and the Baker and Taylor bag. I did not have a strong desire for either item, however, two of my dine-a-round dinner companions the night before had expressed a strong desire for the Baker and Taylor bag. They were from the Douglas County Public Library of Nevada. The home of the original "Baker" and "Taylor" library cats. In 1983 this Nevada library named their library cat Baker because he liked to sleep in the Baker and Taylor boxes the books came in. The library sent a picture to Baker and Taylor and the publishing company helped the library purchase a friend for Baker, named, of course, Taylor. The two cats went on to become the mascots the library world has come to know and love. As I stood at that head of the line I could see the Baker and Taylor booth and I decided I would get one of the bags and hopefully find one of the two Nevada librarians to give it to. The rush was exhilarating. The gate came down and the crowd pushed forward. I speed walked toward the booth and got a bag! Later that day I found my dinner companions. They had not yet got a bag. Secret librarian mission accomplished! I helpfully gifted them the bag. To me it was a welcome trade for all the local knowledge to two ladies were able to pass on about mountain road travel tips, sights to see, and places to eat. Helpfulness happily given, shared, and returned.
3. As a result of attending this conference, what three things do you plan on implementing at your library in the next six months?
 - Adopt a Social Media Policy and update the library's Collection Development Policy to make sure it covers equity, diversity, and inclusion.
 - Increase social media on the library's Instagram and learn how to cross post through Instagram and add one more social media platform.
 - Develop a Clark County Summer Reading Online Library Quest.
4. What kind of support is needed for you to implement these three things? Support from your staff? Your Board of Trustees? Assistance from WVLS?
 - Policy changes would be run by staff for added opinions, need to be approved by the Abbotsford Board of Trustees, and then would need to be implemented by staff.

- Library staff could be asked to assist with the added social media presence. A posting calendar/checklist could be created to assist staff in ideas on what to post.
- I would first need input and agreement to participate from fellow Clark County Libraries. Assistance from WVLS would be most welcome for the Library Quest challenge, mostly in technology help. The quest logo with clue would need to be posted to each participating library's website. The pdf "adventure log" the teens would visit needs to be made text searchable. I have not made many google forms, I would like a second party reviewer to verify that the answer sheet the teens fill out is correct and can be submitted to different libraries. Lastly, it would be wonderful if the Quest had a its own website, although if needed the Abbotsford Library could host the starting web page describing the quest.

5. How might your conference experience been improved to be more beneficial/impactful to you?

I, unfortunately, became slightly unwell my second day in Nevada. Due to change in elevation, stress, allergies, or just a cold; it resulted in a loss of voice and a slight cough. Before I felt I could attend the conference I went out Thursday morning to purchased a rapid Covid test, which thankfully was negative. While I felt up to attending the conference, my scratchy voice made me to be hesitant to talk with other librarians and so I know I missed out on some good story sharing opportunities. The Whova ap was a wonderful addition to the conference that was not present the last time I got to go to ARSL. Although I missed being at the opening keynote in person while waiting for results, I was able to watch the opening speeches live with the ap.

I think the conference could benefit from repeated learning sessions. The top two learning sessions that I wished to attended where scheduled at the same time. I saw that one was going to be a live feed so I choose the other. Unfortunately, there has been no recording added to the Whova app on the session I did not choose, so I think it did not get recorded.