Scale It or Hack It to Work for Your Library

Minnesota Library Association Conference

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Presenters: Kathleen James, MELSA (kathleen@melsa.org)
Bethany Winter, Henry Sibley High School
Lisa Gearman, Chaska High School
Sara Swenson, Edina High School
Who’s been to Teen Lit Con?
Collaboration:

★ Public Libraries
★ School Libraries
★ Multitype Library
★ Bookseller
Must Have: Something for Everyone

- Welcome Panel
- Keynotes
- Exhibit Hall
- Book Signings
- Breakout Sessions
- Evaluation

TLC14: David Levithan, Ally Condie, Maureen Johnson, Derf Backderf
Authors: Scale or Hack?

- Bring in one author - focus on creative process as much or more than a reading
- A lot of really good authors will Skype for very little cost
- Panels are tricky if you bring in multiple authors. Try an interactive game like Book Feud: Teens v Authors (spoiler alert: Teens always win)
Teens are interested in the authors as people: Did they go to prom? Which Hogwarts house are they in?

Consider any genre - you’d be surprised!

TLC 2016 - Monica Ropal, John Coy, Pete Hautman, happy Chaska HS student
Breakouts: Scale or Hack?

- Pie Club - Blind/Speed Dating
- Booktalks - Page Warriors
  book talk the new books.
- Teen Advisory Boards
- Trivia - School trivia
- Poetry
- Writing Workshops
- Literary games
- Publishing
Exhibit Hall: Scale or Hack?

★ Book Genies

★ Games
  ○ Jumbo Connect 4
  ○ Twisted Twister
  ○ Clue & BINGO
  ○ Dictionary Racing

★ Personal Poetry / Typewriter Poetry

Connect-4-Letters hacked from TLC19 for Read & Ride Day at the MN State Fair
Exhibit Hall: Scale or Hack? cont.

★ Book Crafts
  ○ Word Nerd Buttons
  ○ Laminated Bookmarks

★ Community Projects
  ■ Comic Together
  ■ StickTogether© (Demco)
  ■ Puzzles

Comic Together TLC19
Evaluation: I wish it lasted longer! Maybe a two day thing.

Did you discover any new authors whose books you want to read?  Y  N
Did you learn anything about writing or publishing today?  Y  N
Did you create any book art today?  Y  N
Did you discuss books with other attendees?  Y  N
Would you attend another author program like this one?  Y  N
What was your favorite part of the day and/or where do you see a need for improvement?
I loved exploring new books with my friends and listening to authors speak about their book and their writing process.

I loved it all. The Pie one is really fun!

The genie book because it gave me a lot of info about the books I would be interested to read.

The buttons and bookmarks it was very fun.

N/A for improvement. I love this event. Loved Poetry with Strangers.

I really liked all the advice I was getting from different authors and hearing about different books.

When I got to meet - THE BECKY ALBERTALLI! I cried and she gave me a hug, (she is so nice by the way!)

I loved getting to know people with the same interests as me. I LOVE THIS

Meeting my favorite authors and seeing so many books. Also seeing all the creativity in this Con.
Needs Improvement:

Common:

★ Food: selection, price
★ Lines
★ More games
★ Have to make choices

Uncommon:

★ More boys
★ More staff
★ 2 o’clock when nothing really happened
Awkward Growing Pains and/or Perennial Challenges:

★ Teens first
  ○ Adult management
★ Over managing participation
★ Scheduling the day
★ Influenced by giant national fests
★ Annual popular activities
  ○ Pie Club, BINGO, Buttons
★ New popular activities
  ○ Bigger BINGO, H Potter Trivia
★ Popular but not sustainable
  ○ Personal Poems > Typewriter
  Poetry > Drop in Poetry > Poems for Strangers

Lessons Learned

★ Keep it same but different
★ Don’t need an auditorium for a successful event
★ Gaff tape solves a lot of problems
★ Remember goals
★ Forget the vision and let the day happen

Lessons Identified but not Adopted

★ Too many to list
★ Anyone? Anyone?

★ Contact kathleen@melsa.org, if you think of something after the conference