Welcome, Friends!

Creating and maintaining a place where everyone feels especially welcomed
WHO AM I?

And now that song is stuck in your head.
You’re Welcome, Friends.
Yeesh - Does she ever stop talking?!

Don't make eye contact. She might go away.
FORGETFUL FEBRUARIES: 2017 & 2018

Funny story: apparently neither Natasia nor I remembered to take pictures of her great February decor in both 2017 and 2018! Okay, not so funny, but more-er, adorable?

So I’ll keep this short ‘n sweet.

What survives from 2017 is the prep for February’s window and the scavenger hunt. The theme was *Toss Kindness Like Confetti*.

The month prior we had this set out at our circulation desk:

![Help Decorate!](image)
It's Bizarro Jean Valjean.

Valjean Jean?

Jean Jeanval?
Not Tribble-ations
Otterly Exhausted

I will always have energy for bad puns
(Artist’s depiction of our staff meetings)
Oh, the Places I Did Go!

Waffle World

United States of America

St. Louis Chicago Boise Phoenix Las Vegas Denver

Atlanta Hollywood Albuquerque

Dallas Nashville Omaha Cleveland

Waffle World

New York Portland

New York Montana North Dakota Minnesota Wisconsin

San Francisco Nevada Arizona California

Denver Colorado Kansas Oklahoma

Miami Florida Georgia

St. Louis Chicago Boise Phoenix Las Vegas Denver

Atlanta Hollywood Albuquerque

Dallas Nashville Omaha Cleveland
Oh, the Places I Did Go!
Oh, the Places I Did Go!
Oh, the Places I Did Go!
Diverse
Inclusive
Accepting
Welcoming
Safe Space
For Everyone
Oh, the Places I Did Go!
Oh, the Places I Did Go!
Hello
My name is...

Borders
The store that must not be named
So much drama llama ding-dong!
Such an otter failure
[in Just-]
by e.e. cummings

in Just-
spring when the world is mud-
luscious the little
lame balloonman

whistles far and wee

and eddieandbill come
running from marbles and
Me overseeing things!
Super Amazing Awesome Children’s Librarian
IT'S OKAYS ES THAT YOU USES THIS LIBRARY BOOKS AS TEETHTINGS RING.

YOU DIRTY PATRONS ES!!! OVERS TO THE COLLECTIONS AGENCIES GOLLUM SENDS YOU, AND BANSES YOUS FROM THE LIBRARIES!!!
The Top 5 Reasons I Haven't Been Blogging

It has been a long time since I last blogged! Feeling inspired by Abby the Librarian's blog, I decided to confess my blogging sins rather than continuing to feel guilty about it. Here are the reasons of the things that are keeping me away from this blog:

1. We are short staffed. We're all just trying to keep our heads above water after losing a professional position last year, being without a manager for six months, and having another professional position leave in May. Luckily our new manager started in February and the second professional position will be getting replaced after summer.

2. Our Reading. We are an intensive approach this year and we are seeing a huge volume of people participate this year. So the amount of work is taking up a lot of time.

3. Our summer reading program. The amount of hours that goes into planning and setting up for this program is huge. This year we had a Pink Patrol program which expected 75 in attendance and ended up with 175. It was chaos.

4. The amount of time that goes into writing blog posts is huge. I know I meant to write a few posts yesterday, but it just doesn't happen. I'm a bit behind on my library's blog as well.

5. Life in general. I'm not going to break a sweat and write about my personal life, but the stress of having a job and a family and responsibilities is taking its toll.
Bryce Kozla

It takes a village, but it’s nice to have a blog.

Presentations

Accessibility Series Submissions

Live! From Access to Advocacy: The Disability Community

The people I meet and the stories I hear about disability are named here. They are not true, but they can be tough to read.

I've been presenting "From Access to Advocacy: The Disability Community in the Library", a webinar at the AARP. They have an awesome free archive of continuing education, by the way!

Never Miss a Post!

Follow by Email

Email address...

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Search

Blog header and background by...
If you haven’t already, then be sure to read this series. It’s awesome.

This post is really relevant to our interests.

Friday, August 26, 2011


(Author’s Note: check out the follow up post I wrote a year later for more child management.)

In the middle of the children’s department at my library, there is a boat.

Yup. A boat.

Thismonstrosity lines the entire right (ern, starboard) side of the room with bright colors, steps and a facade that clearly screams: PLAY ON ME!

I hear it used to be worse. It used to have a steering wheel and I think paddles, and like, canoes, or something. Its safety has increased (there is now vinyl lining the steel sides, and the wheel was taken down after only two kids’ heads got stuck and started bleeding).

But the worst part about it, is it’s a memorial. So that means, no matter how many times the staff can be like “seriously, there’s a boat in our library” it cannot be taken down.

I wish I was kidding or even remotely hyperbolic about any of this. Maybe there weren’t any canoes (the only things that would give those powder monkeys any responsibility at all) but really, that’s it.

At any rate, the staff have had this ongoing battle with the boat for like 15 years. I’ve heard that so much it’s become just a number, but when you really think about it, this poor staff has been dealing with running, screaming children in the middle of the library every day since I began 9th grade. Seriously, the lead singer of the band in that link has become famous, fallen into obscurity, shamed his entire family and then be famous AGAIN in this amount of time (oh, and he finally got to stop calling him Hootie). So obviously, some change had to be made.

When I started here, kids were being rewarded for reading the boat, which was what the dept wanted them to do. Reading on the boat, rather than screaming and running in the middle of the library, was not. I gathered, a completely unthinkable task that required special restraint on the part of the child. As young as three, children can be expected to obey social conventions on their own, once they realize or are reminded what those social conventions are.

A former educator, I saw something happening that was a huge no-no in the education world: kids were being rewarded for expected behavior.

Think about that for a second: imagine checking in books for a patron, and you notice that they turned their book in on time. Great! In fact, it’s such a good behavior that you’re going to give that patron 10 dollars (the going adult currency conversion for a temporary tattoo, I imagine). Why?

The Return of the Iron Fist: Child Management Part 2

Lately I’ve noticed a discussion on a list-serv I follow about child management in the library. I wrote a successful post last summer that has been helpful to many, but this debate made me realize I didn’t go far into the use of the negative in rule-making in the children’s area.

Tuesday, September 07

Fist Sold Separately): Welcoming environments

My be a shift in my blog away from reviews and more toward what’s going on in the library. Things are going, my experiences as a #Diabolistanian, etc. I notice I get more comments when I just stuff like that, but it’s not just that. I feel like I get more out of stuff when I document it. It’s sorta you all the time. Reader!

I’m my life and I can do what I want!

Even though I haven’t been reading chapter books lately (with no real detriments to my reading abilities, though I have yet to suggest Calvin Coconut to anyone, so maybe it’s actually for the better), I have read:

- The Secrets by CJ Omololu
- Spaz by Ron Koertge
- A Rock and a Hard Place by Aron Ralston

I picked up two more books to read in the next few weeks:

- Vacuum by Christopher Moore (yes I saved myself like 50 dollars by reserving that book at the library)
- How I Tried to Explain Away the Unexplainable by Steve Volk

So just make a goodreads or librarything widget for my books. Any preference? Never used this before.

The Beatings Will Continue Until Morale Improves.

This week I’m glad to join the many awesome people posting for Show Me the Awesome. 30 Days of Self-Improvement.

This week I’m glad to join the many awesome people posting for Show Me the awesome. 30 Days of Self-Improvement.
“Hi friend! I betcha didn’t know [fill in the blank].”
(True Story)
Uh oh! The mean librarian will get me in trouble!

Wow! The librarian is my friend!
The Hand Can't Touch This
The Commander's Family of Restaurants Culture
Make good memories.
It's right there.
Sorry that it's tough to see.
Make good memories.
Empower your patrons with information.

Don’t assume that they know the basic rules.
Not all people have a good association with libraries.
STORY TIME!
She was referring to this original library building.

**Moving a Library, Book by Book**

Gretna Elementary School students got out in the nice weather on Thursday, April 2, and helped move books to the new Gretna Library. The new library is scheduled to open on Monday, April 13.

The children formed a human chain to expedite the transfer of books. And what's better is that they all had such a good time doing it!
How I imagine it went down.
I double-dog dare you to try saying this to at least two patrons when you get back to your library:

“Welcome back! It’s so nice to see you again.”
Look for ways that your space is either welcoming or disheartening. Err on the side of welcome.
Sooo much better than the previous “do not shelve items” signs.
Since posting this sign, we rarely hear parents say “those aren’t real books.”

(This sign was created by the Seattle Public Library)
LIBRARY EXPECTATIONS:
⭐️ be nice to ourselves
⭐️ be nice to others
⭐️ be nice to the library
LICK

STAMP

REPEAT
Make Good Memories For Yourself!
(you aren’t)
Kitty Cafe
Bubble Mosh Pit!!!

BiblioBop
Movement Storytime
Bragging = Advocacy
(unless you’re obnoxious about it)
AS A TEAM WE ARE AWESOME!
YOU’RE AWESOME!

AND YOU’RE AWESOME!

AND YOU’RE AWESOME!

YOU’RE ALL AWESOME!!!!!!
Make good memories!
Make good memories!

MUDDY