

OELMA NEWS

Summer 2008

Vol 1, Issue 2



Dear Melinda,

Summer is nearly upon us...so here's the Summer Issue of the OELMA E-News! There are several timely and important articles in this issue, so take some time during your lunch break to learn about OELMA's recent Strategic Planning Session, the new Evidence-based Practice workshops, plans for the 2008 Conference, and much, much, more. Questions? Contact OELMA at oelma@assnoffices.com. Enjoy the summer!

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President's Message

Real Strategic Planning: The Process of Transforming OELMA for the Future



What is a "BHAG?" What is more fun than a root canal? It's Strategic Planning - a weekend of new ideas, a re-examination of our goals and vision, a process to redefine our direction. It might have been waylaid by the March blizzard, but OELMA's Strategic Planning weekend was a great introduction for transforming our organization and repositioning ourselves to be the best association we can be! Our facilitator Bob Harris, CAE, gave us the tools to jump-start and continue this plan which should serve us well for the next 3-5 years.

History shows us that the organization made several attempts towards a unified, action-oriented plan. At conference 2003, Past President Joanna McNally employed the considerable skills of Becky Schreiber and John Shannon to do an environmental scan for us. Thank you, Joanna- you were a plan champion! More recently, past regional director Pat McCauley, chaired the Strategic Planning Committee and led a well-informed workshop for new board members. Unfortunately, as time passed, Pat's group became a committee of one. Pat McCauley's tireless commitment was my motivation for bringing Strategic Planning back to the fore! In planning terminology, Pat was my "plan champion," a person responsible to report on & keep the plan in the forefront of meeting agendas and budgets. So, Pat, your work is finally done because this plan is owned by the OELMA board and other member/leaders who committed Mother's Day weekend to transformation. OELMA members, you, too, must become cheerleaders for moving our plan forward for it is nothing without YOU! We will need your input as we put this plan into action. We will need you to populate the committees and ad hoc groups that spring from our new goals.

Your board is here to serve you and to do so effectively, you will be asked in the near future for data related to your needs and wants and dreams for OELMA. That's the definition of a "BHAG," A Big Hairy Audacious Goal. I invite you to email me or post to the blog- what should our BHAG be? Dream, think big, and be courageous in your reach for the future!

That Mother's Day weekend found your leaders working hard at transformation. We all need a bit of updating after 30 + years, and OELMA is no exception. However, no root canal was needed with this group of leaders! They worked from 6-9:30 PM on Friday evening after putting in a full day @ work and then they reconvened at 7:30 AM for more! I thank our facilitator, Bob Harris and these impassioned people who are serving you so well: Krista Taracuk, Liz Deskins, Jan Warden, Kathleen Cybulski, Kristen Roope Sears, Dawn Sullivan, Susan Dominique, Stacy Simonyi, Deb Logan, Susan Yutzey, Anne Schaller, Sue Rahn, Sue Subel, Sheila Benedum, Cythnia DuChane, Vicky Schmarr, and Kate Brunswick.

We now have draft documents for a new mission, vision, set of core values and 5 goals. We had 10 goals back in 2005 and through planning; it is now a manageable number. These goals will have strategies, timelines, desired outcomes, key performance indicators, committees that spring from them and accountability! This work will continue this summer and be ongoing. Your current and future OELMA leadership team is devoted to moving OELMA forward to transform us from being a good association to being a great association! We want to advocate for you as you work to educate Ohio's students for success! Transformation takes time and effort, but I know that TEAM OELMA is up to the challenge.

Vice President's message



The theme of this year's Conference is School Libraries: Transforming Lives. And your conference planners have been working on a program that will help you transform your library into a 21st Century learning space. Get ready to transform yourself by listening and interacting with prominent authors, entertaining speakers and by attending informative presentations.

Our conference schedule is not complete, but many speakers have already been signed. You won't want to miss seeing and hearing these great presenters.

[Doug Johnson](http://www.doug-johnson.com/) (link- in case name isn't hyperlinked <http://www.doug-johnson.com/>)
Director of Media and Technology- Mankato MN Public Schools
Doug Johnson's teaching experience includes work in grades K-12. He is the author of four books, including The Indispensable Librarian. Doug is also the author of the Blue Skunk Blog. His articles have been featured in over forty books and periodicals. You won't want to miss Doug's informative and entertaining sessions!

[Angela Johnson](http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?tab=22&pid=354823) (link- in case name isn't hyperlinked
<http://www.simonsays.com/content/destination.cfm?tab=22&pid=354823>
)

Award winning author Angela Johnson will also be a featured speaker at our conference. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the Coretta Scott King award for Heaven in 1999 and Toning the Sweep in 1994. Angela's characters deal with issues that transcend cultural lines but what readers walk away with from all her stories is the importance of love.

[Rosemary Wells](http://www.rosemarywells.com/) (link- in case name isn't hyperlinked <http://www.rosemarywells.com/>)
Join us in welcoming Rosemary Wells to our 2008 OELMA Conference. Author of over 60 books for children and young adults, Rosemary will be our featured speaker at our Award Luncheon on Friday, October 24. Come meet the creator of Max and Ruby at one

of her sessions on Friday.

Margaret Peterson Haddix (link- in case name isn't hyperlinked

<http://www.haddixbooks.com/home.html>)

Conference attendees will also be able to hear best selling author Margaret Peterson Haddix at OELMA's annual conference. Her work has been honored with the International Reading Association Children's Book Award, ALA Best Books for Young Adults and Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers citations. Her newest book *Found*, has just been published and is the first book in her new series *The Missing*.

[Chris Sperry](#) (link- in case name isn't hyperlinked

<http://www.ithaca.edu/looksharp/about.php>)

Director of Curriculum and Staff Development for Project Look Sharp at Ithaca College. Chris Sperry has taught middle and high school social studies in Ithaca, New York. He was the winner of the National PTA and Cable Leaders in Learning Award in 2005. Curriculum kits Chris has authored include *Media Construction of the Middle East* and *Soviet History Through Posters*. His sessions will be full of ideas for your media literacy lessons.

[David Staley](#) (link- in case name isn't hyperlinked

<http://history.osu.edu/people/person.cfm?id=1692>)

Director of the Harvey Goldberg Program for Excellence in Teaching- The Ohio State University

In addition to his work at The Ohio State University, David Staley is also the president of the Columbus Futurists, the local chapter of the World Future Society. He is the author of *Computers, Visualization and History: How New Technology Will Transform Our Understanding of the Past and History and Future: Using Historical Thinking to Imagine the Future*. Plan on attending Dr. Staley's sessions that will help you understand the role of technology in K-12 education today.

[Gary D. Schmidt](#) (link- in case name isn't hyperlinked

<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/catalog/authordetail.cfm?authorID=2696>)

Two time Newberry Honor Book and Printz Honor Book award winner Gary Schmidt will be a featured speaker at OELMA 08. His most recent novel is *The Wednesday Wars*, just won the Newberry Honor Book Award this year. In an interview with *Children's Bookshelf* in 2007, Gary commented on his writing: "I have this stronger sense that I better not mess around, that I've got some responsibilities to my audience, and I need to take that responsibility very, very seriously because what I want to talk to them about are things like hope, and community, and you can't be screwing around when you're talking to kids about hope."

Look for additional speakers to be added to this list soon. In addition to our regular conference presentations, we will offer two preconference sessions on Wednesday, October 22 at 4:00 at the State Library of Ohio. Doug Johnson will help you design a plan to build library support in his session- "All Aboard! Evaluate, Plan and Report to Build Library Support". Our second preconference session will feature Beachwood School Library Media Specialist Jennifer Schwelik presenting "Using SchoolRooms to Meet 21st Century Standards". On Thursday and Friday, October 23 and 24, over 50 information sessions will be presented by OELMA members to help you transform yourself into a 21st century librarian. Don't become the film in a digital camera world- TRANSFORM!

Check the OELMA web site www.oelma.org for the complete schedule and registration

information.

OELMA EBP Summer Institute

The 2008 Advanced Institute for School Library Media Specialists will offer two workshops on Evidence-based Practice (EBP). Module I: Can You Find the Evidence-based Practice in Your School Library covers the theory of EBP and discusses several practical applications that participants can use immediately in their practice. Module II: Developing Strategies for Establishing Evidence-based Practice in Your School Library is designed to take those who have completed Module I a step further on their evidence-based practice journey. This module is hands-on and participants will learn how to utilize several evidence-based practice tools. The first module will be offered July 29, at Hyatts Middle School in Columbus. The second module will take place the following day at the same location. Attendees MAY register for both EBPI and EBPII, and receive a substantial discount. [Click here](#) for the registration information.

2008 OELMA Awards Announced

OELMA's Scholarship & Awards Committee recently announced the recipients of the 2008 awards. "OELMA's proud to announce this year's award recipients," said President Kathy Halsey. "Their experience and accomplishments exhibit the highest standards of librarianship and excellence in education."

Jack Porter has been named OELMA's Administrator of the Year. As Superintendent of the Northern Local School District in Thornville, Mr. Porter has demonstrated strong support for school libraries. According to a colleague, Not only does Superintendent Porter believe 'Libraries should be the heart of the school,' but he puts that belief into action: "In a time when many schools are cutting support for library programs, Mr. Porter has made it a priority to have up-to-date materials, knowledgeable instruction, and inviting facilities."

For her long-time commitment to librarianship, Melissa Higgs-Horwell has been selected as the 2008 Award of Merit recipient. Currently serving as the South-Central Ohio Computer Association's Curriculum Integration Coordinator, Melissa's colleagues comment that she has "served Ohio school librarians by providing a vision and the leadership to promote school libraries and their role in helping students with gaining critical information literacy skills and technology skills."

Erin Cassaro will receive the \$ 1,000 OELMA Scholarship. A member of OELMA, Erin is currently pursuing graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Science and working to earn K - 12 library certification. Erin recently completed a student teaching practicum at Hilliard Davidson High School Library.

Nicole Friend, Library Media Specialist at Rodger O. Borrer Middle School, Wilmington City Schools, has been named the recipient of OELMA's Emerging Leader Award. This first-time award is being presented to Nicole because she's an excellent example of stepping-up, getting things done, and making a difference: Nicole has very successfully completed two stints as Volunteer Coordinator at OELMA's Annual Conference.

The OELMA/Follett Library Resources Library Media Specialist of the Year is Debra Kay

Logan, Library Media Specialist at Mount Gilead High School. According to colleagues, Debra "is an invaluable human resource for Mt. Gilead Schools. She works diligently to develop students' literacy skills and research skills. She is a true 'Media Goddess.'" Both building administrators and colleagues praised her highly.

Congratulations! Award recipients will be honored during OELMA's Annual Conference, October 22 - 24, at the Columbus Convention Center.

Members of the Scholarship & Awards Committee include Betty Carter, West; Cheryl Cartwright, Central; Lana Moore, South; Jane Morner, Northwest; Julie Paladino, East; Diana Polston, West; Vicky Schmarr, Past President; Priscilla Sprano-Wiles, Northeast; and Karen Whitney, Chair.

Past President Message



New Group Helps Governor Transform Ohio Education

In his State of the State speech, Governor Strickland enunciated his vision for Ohio schools:

"We must create learning environments that foster and nurture creativity, innovation, and global competency."

How can Ohio's schools be transformed to align with Governor Strickland's vision? These challenges are being explored by the newly-formed Education Leaders Group - and OELMA will be participating in this education reform discussion

Organized by Dr. John Stanford, the Governor's Executive Assistant for Education Policy, the Education Leaders group held its initial two meetings during the first half of May in Columbus. The group's purpose is to provide an ongoing forum for discussion of policy ideas as the Governor develops Ohio's education reform plan. OELMA and many other "stakeholder" groups have been invited to participate.

Our organization was ably represented at the Education Leaders group's initial meeting May 1st by long-time OELMA member Kari Inglis. Kari has ably spoken for Ohio school librarians in prior years, since she served as OELMA's representative to the statewide Education Coalition. Thanks, Kari!

During the group's first meeting, First Lady Frances Strickland was the primary presenter. Her message emphasized that Ohio's educational system needs to better promote student and teacher creativity and innovation, rather than expending too-much time and too-many resources preparing for and taking standardized tests. She explained the Governor's strong belief that an improved public education system is essential for Ohio's economic prosperity. Improving Ohio's education system also strengthens Ohio's economy.

Immediate past-president Vicky Schmarr attended the second meeting on May 15. Vicky notes, "It's important that library-media experts have a seat at the table as Ohio transforms its education system." This second meeting focused on a financial analysis presentation. An Ohio Department of Education representative introduced a newly

developed analytical model to better understand - and to more effectively use -- district-reported fiscal data.

In addition, the Governor and First Lady will host the "2008 Governor's Institute for Creativity and Innovation in Education" June 19 - 21 in Columbus. This 3-day, invitation only conference provides an opportunity for participants to brainstorm essential ingredients to transform the Governor's education vision into reality. President Kathy Halsey says, "I'm honored to represent OELMA at this first-time Institute. Creativity in education can provide the spark that ignites a student's interest in school and instills a habit of life-long learning."

Look for further newsletter reports about OELMA's participation in the Education Leaders group, which is scheduled to meet bi-weekly throughout 2008.

Ohio Media Spectrum Call for Articles

Ohio Media Spectrum is a publication of the Ohio Education Library Media Association (OELMA), the professional organization dedicated to educational, literary and technological excellence in library/media services in Ohio's schools.

The Spectrum Editor is currently considering previously unpublished submissions from librarians, graduate and professional students, faculty and practitioners involved with, or of interest to, Ohio school libraries for the Fall 2008 issue.

In addition to full-length articles, the Ohio Media Spectrum seeks submissions for its Notes and Comments section. Notes detailing ongoing research serve to inform the learning community about projects and encourage collaboration. Comments may respond to articles published in the Ohio Media Spectrum or other publications, share observations and ephemera, or detail innovative programs or original research that does not demand exposition in a full-length article.

The editor will consider the following for the upcoming issue:

Features - in-depth articles of 3000 to 4500 words focusing on research, philosophy, partnerships, and other significant issues related to excellence in Ohio's school media centers.

Current Issues - articles of 800 to 2500 words giving a brief overview of a timely issue related to Ohio school libraries and learning; such an article puts the designated issue in perspective, offers insight, and may propose solutions.

Viewpoints - articles of 800 to 2500 words expressing an author's opinion on a subject related to school media centers and learning, one about which there may be some controversy.

Spotlights - articles of 800 to 2500 words describing a teaching technique or tool that has been successful and could be implemented by other educators.

Reviews - articles of 800 to 1500 words reviewing a book, web site, software application, or other resource that may be of interest to the OELMA community. We are also looking for reviews of items that are NOT recommended.

Reader Response - notes, letters of 1500 words or less commenting on an article previously published in the Ohio Media Spectrum.

Submissions should include a photograph (digital, if possible) of the author and a brief biographical sketch and can be sent via email to librarian@columbuszoo.org (Please also copy/paste the article from Word in the text of your e-mail as backup) or by mail. Mailed submissions should include at least one (1) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy in MSWord format. Any article accepted will be edited/proofed by the OELMA editorial staff.

The Editor works cooperatively with authors to plan and develop each issue, so early notification of your interest in participating in an issue of the journal will help facilitate the process. All submissions are peer-reviewed and deadlines have been set to insure ample time for discussion of revision and layout issues before final publication. Ohio Media Spectrum is published twice a year in the early fall and late spring. Deadline for the Fall 2008 issue is July 30, 2008.

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New databases coming to the INFOhio Core Collection

INFOhio's Core Collection of Electronic Resources will be hosting several new databases starting in July 1, 2008. Although some of the current resources will be changing, students, teachers and parents will now have access to Biography Reference Bank (replaces American National Biography); Learn2, a computer skills bank from LearningExpress Library; Science Online by Facts On File (replaces AccessScience); World Book Complete Suite (replaces Encyclopedia Britannica suite) which includes World Book Kids, World Book Online Reference Center, World Book Research Tools Edition, World Book Advanced, Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos and L'Encyclopedie Decouverte. INFOhio's Core Collection is purchased through Libraries Connect Ohio, which is the cooperative effort of OhioLINK, OPLIN, INFOhio and the State Library of Ohio. To learn more about the new resources and their educational applications, please visit <http://www.infohio.org/ABOUT/Announcements/20080428A.html>

Board Meeting Motions

At the January 28, 2008 meeting a series of routine motions were approved.

Motion 2008-1 Schmarr moved and Warden seconded to approve the minutes of December 8, 2007. The motion carried.

Motion 2008-2 Taracuk moved and Roope seconded to accept the newly revised budget

for 2008. The motion carried.

Motion 2008-3 Taracuk moved and Roope seconded to approve the meeting dates for 2008. The motion carried.

Motion 2008-4 Roope moved and Deskins seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

East Region Update

A Visit to the Marantz Collection

East and Northeast OELMA members were treated to a look at the Marantz Picture Book Collection at the Kent State University Reinberger Children's Center on Monday, May 5. Dr. Carolyn Brodie explained how they acquired the 21,000 book collection, which then necessitated the expansion of the Center. With moving bookcases on a track, and creative lighting, and a reading corner seat, the center will be a world showcase for children's books, and one of only three collections in the world, cataloged and shelved by illustrator rather than author. Dr. Brodie expects the completion of the center by the fall. OELMA members are welcome to call and visit the collection at any time.

OELMA members, who traveled from their districts after school, were also treated to a look at some of the newest picture books, as Dr. Brodie highlighted an array of pop-ups, award winners and creatively produced children's books. As always, we enjoyed our time with her.

2008-2009 School Year Regional Workshop Planning

Kathy Cybulski and Jan Warden are planning for the coming school year. We are open to suggestions and ideas from people throughout the region. Visit the Regional Workshops site at the OELMA web page closer to the beginning of the school year for information regarding workshop dates, locations and cost.

<http://www.oelma.org/Professional/EastWorkshops.asp>

We have confirmed our Back-To-School look at YA books with Dave Stout, at the Muskingum County John McIntire Public Library. It will be held after school on Wednesday, September 10th, at 220 N. 5th St., Zanesville, Ohio 43701. More details will be listed at the website soon.

An Evidence Based Practice workshop has been scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 2008, at Hudson High School. OELMA Vice-President and EBP trainer Marie Sabol, will lead members through the very important process of showing how to prove that library programs and practices meet the academic needs of students. The cost and hours will be listed at the workshop site as soon as possible.

We hope to offer a workshop about graphic novels in November. Details to follow.

West Region Update

Collaboration. I'd like that to be the keyword for what's been happening and what will

be happening in the West Region. When asked to write this update it was suggested we use the same theme that will be used at the 2008 Oelma Conference, which is "school libraries transforming lives." To transform means to change in nature. In my opinion one of the most powerful tools for creating a change - whether it be in us, in our patrons or in our program - is to collaborate. What better way to change our nature than to go outside our self to accomplish a set of goals? Collaboration is to work together, to make a joint effort... and that's exactly what librarians are good at. Interacting with others creates a change in both parties.

For example, both Elena Borchers, at Dunbar High School in Dayton Public Schools, and me, at Madison Local Schools, collaborated with public librarians to make possible the formation of teen book clubs at our schools. My book club at Madison Jr/Sr High met on a monthly basis, but the new Dayton Metro Librarian, Gretchen Yonata, came weekly to Dunbar High. She and the students would decide together how many chapters they would read that week. Then Gretchen and Elena would facilitate a trivia game that Gretchen made up based on the chapters. The students really enjoyed this. And all parties have been transformed by this interaction. What they believed about reading and book clubs in high schools before the experience has been altered.

CMC Director Christine Findlay at Centerville City Schools communicated to me that the IMCs there just finished a very successful collaboration with the High School Track and Field Teams. Their head coach approached Chris about doing a book drive for Children's Medical Center. In the end, 2,862 books were collected and donated. Each event at the Warrior-Elk Challenge was named after a YA author (the Chris Crutcher Pole Vaulting Event, for example.) They also broadcast messages between events about the importance of literacy, free choice reading, etc. Details about the project, called Race2Read, are available on the home page of Centerville's web site at <http://www.centerville.k12.oh.us>. Once again, all parties involved in this effort are changed on some level, such as educationally or emotionally for example.

So think about the goals that you want to accomplish, and then look around you to determine if others might be able to help you achieve those goals. Then plan to collaborate. When you reach out you will discover that your goals cannot only be achieved, but that you become a transformed person in the process. And the people you collaborate with will also become changed. Believe me, it's worth the effort.

Diana Polston

Central Region Update

Mark your calendars for the 2008-2009 school year for the following upcoming events in the Central Region. It's a great way to learn practical new strategies while connecting with other professionals.

School Libraries: Transforming Lives

Thursday, Sept 18

2008 NEW FICTION TITLES for elementary & secondary

Presenter:Elementary Librarian and YA Librarian from Old Worthington Public Library

Thursday, November 6

Teaching the teachers: Staff workshops: Tools That You Can Use to Help With Student Achievement

Presenters: Susan Yutzey & Laura Piazza

Thursday, February 5

Model Reference Interview Skills: (Can parrots fly?)

Presenter: Julie Doel

Thursday, March 5

Critical Friends: Need to vent? Bring a problem and find solutions through the Critical Friends Protocol.

Thursday, April 16

Make It; Take It: Share your best practices by bringing a tip, tool or technology idea that makes your work day smoother.

Thursday, May 7 To be determined

The username and password for [*INFOhio's Core Collection of Electronic Resources*](#) will be changing for the 2008-2009 school year. **The new username/password will go live on July 1, 2008. [Learn more...](#)**

The Ohio Educational Library Media Association

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