

Session 1 Summaries

Librarians

Date: October 29, 2024

Hosts: Erin Wilson, Heather Wright

Building Connections for Future Sessions

This clearly was a session of getting to know each other and building relationships for future sessions.

Motivating Students to Read with "Toilet Talkers"

The ideas and strategies shared in the groups were realistic and applicable to our situations. For example, students need more motivation to read and promoting good books. Heather suggested her tried and true example of "Toilet Talkers."

Librarians at Heart: Adding Book Covers to Every Activity

We're librarians, of course we are going to add book covers between our activities.



Additional Resources

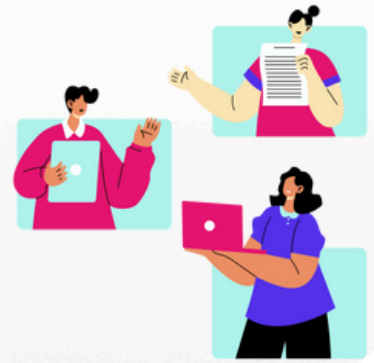
- * [Session 1 Slide Deck](#)
- * [Session 1 Recording](#)
- * [Discussion Thread](#)

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Professionally Hosted Peer Learning Communities



Session 2 Summaries

Librarians

Date: December 3, 2024

Hosts: Erin Wilson, Heather Wright

Warm Ups

Librarians encounter many interesting things in our libraries and find ourselves saying surprising things. We enjoyed sharing and getting to know each other.

"The Good, The Bad, The Ugly"

We shared our library spaces to inspire each other and also seek ideas to fix certain areas of our spaces. Of course we love looking at each others libraries.

End of Year Booklists

This is a great activity to develop our collection development awareness especially for new librarians and to build up our purchasing lists to bring in more diverse titles.

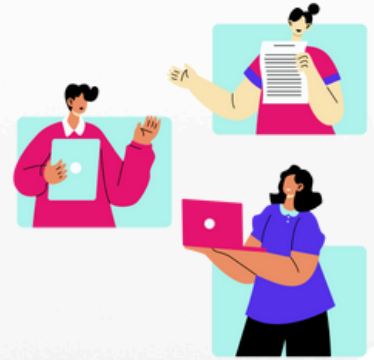


Additional Resources

- * [Session 2 Slide Deck](#)
- * [Session 2 Recording](#)

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Session 3 Summaries

Librarians

Date: March 4, 2025

Hosts: Erin Wilson, Heather Wright

Sharing Lesson Plans to Enhance Library Engagement

Participants shared creative lesson plans aimed at making the library an engaging learning space. Ideas included scavenger hunts to familiarize students with library sections, gallery reading activities, and book tastings to expose students to new genres. Librarians emphasized the importance of interactive elements, such as movement-based activities and collaborative projects, to maintain student interest.

Encouraging Reading Through Community Initiatives

The discussion highlighted strategies for promoting reading among students of all ages. Some schools implemented book voting tournaments to encourage participation, while others used visual book promotions, such as "toilet talkers" (book recommendations in restroom stalls) and teacher-recommended book walls. The group also explored ways to integrate high school students into reading programs by making books more visible and relevant to their academic and personal interests.

Classroom Management and Supporting Diverse Learners

Librarians shared strategies for managing student behavior and supporting students with special educational needs (SEN). Methods included breaking lessons into smaller chunks, incorporating movement-based activities, and offering differentiated learning options. Some librarians used tools like randomizers and digital stickers to motivate students, while others emphasized building strong relationships with teachers to reinforce literacy skills across subjects.



Additional Resources

- * [Session 3 Slide Deck](#)
- * [Session 3 Recording](#)
- * [PeerSphere Librarians Discussion Threads](#)

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Session 4 Summaries

Librarians

Date: April 22, 2025

Hosts: Erin Wilson, Heather Wright

The Importance of Storytelling in Libraries

The session opened with a reflection on the power of storytelling in libraries and our own personal reflections on our earliest reading memories. Participants discussed how books leave lasting impressions on students, shaping their memories of the classroom and library. Sharing stories and series encourages students to discover the joy of reading, making the library a place for inspiration and connection. Heather shared how reading stories aloud creates an environment where students not only learn but also build emotional and cognitive connections.

Use of AI in the Library

AI tools can enhance library management and student engagement. Nicole shared how SchoolAI supports MLA citation tasks and facilitates interaction with students through an AI bot. Other AI tools mentioned included Magic School AI, which helps summarize content and create quizzes, and Poe, which offers personalized AI bots. Participants also discussed the usefulness of ChatGPT for organizing library resources and generating book-related content, while noting the importance of human oversight to ensure AI outputs are accurate and relevant.

Resource Sharing and Professional Development

The group emphasized the value of resource sharing for professional development. Erin introduced Wakelet, a platform for curating resources, and LibraryThing, a tool for cataloging and finding subject headings. Tracy and Heather shared that LibraryThing helps librarians find Dewey numbers and subject headings for books, making cataloging easier. Participants agreed that staying updated with free webinars and resources is essential for continuous growth in the field of library science.



Additional Resources

- * [Session 4 Slide Deck](#)
- * [Session 4 Recording](#)
- * [PeerSphere Librarians Discussion Threads](#)

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