



Building A Better Librarianship: Cross Training Ourselves for the Future

Breakout Sessions

Carl Antonucci, Director, CCSU's Elihu Burritt Library and Mary Etter, Director, South Windsor Public Library

"From Passivism to Activism – Advocacy Through CLA and Other Professional Organizations"

The libraries served by our profession have faced numerous challenges to their financial support at the local, state and federal level. Those challenges will not be going away any time soon, and new ones pop up on a continuous basis. In order to preserve the future of libraries it is up to us to lead the charge for an appropriate level of funding. Carl and Mary are long time veterans of this struggle, and will share with you ways in which you can get involved in order to help ensure that our libraries continue to be a vibrant and essential resource.

Jessica Branciforte, Head of Children's Services and Richard Conroy, Director Essex Public Library

"Second Acts: From Teaching Children and Managing Teamsters to Librarianship"

Jessica Branciforte began her professional life as an elementary school teacher, but soon realized that her true calling was to be a librarian. Her background in education has helped enable her to go from a part time assistant to Head of Children's and Young Adult Services in just a few short years. After graduating with a BA in English, Richard Conroy spent over 25 unhappy years in transportation management positions. He acquired an MLS late in life and found a way to combine his business experience with the skills he learned in library school to eventually become the Director of the Essex Library. They will share the details of their "back stories" and answer your questions about how to make the best use of your own non-library experiences in order to advance your career.

Bridget Quinn-Carey, CEO of the Hartford Public Library

"The Big Leap: From Small Town to Big City Library Director"

In less than ten years Bridget Quinn Carey went from being the Director of the Essex Library to Director of the Buffalo (NY) and Erie County Library System, then Executive Vice President and COO of the Queens, NY Library System, and now CEO of the Hartford Public Library. Learn how she managed to advance her career so far and so fast.

Beth Crowley, Director, Scranton Library, Madison, CT

"Story Times to Board Meetings: Transitioning from Children's Librarian to Director"

When Beth Crowley became a Children's Librarian in 2000 she knew she had landed her dream job. While she aspired to become head of a youth services department one day, she thought that would be the ultimate pinnacle of her career. After reaching that milestone in 2007 however, she discovered she loved the challenge of leadership and five years later became the Director of the Scranton Memorial Library in Madison. You will often hear Beth say that children's librarians make some of the best leaders. She will talk about how her experiences in youth services prepared her to move up the library leadership ladder.

Diana Hellyar and Jillian Maynard, Reference Librarians, The University of Hartford

"Crossing the Bridge from a Public to an Academic Library"

Relative "newbies" to the academic library profession, Diana Hellyar and Jillian Maynard both began their professional library careers in public libraries (specifically the Cora J. Belden Library in Rocky Hill, CT) before working at the University of Hartford. Both continue to work at the Cora J. Belden Library, thus making frequent bridge crossings from public to academic librarianship. Come hear them speak and ask questions about the many benefits of working in both worlds, and how it enhances their skills as librarians on a daily basis.

Maureen Sullivan, Maureen Sullivan Associates, Annapolis, MD

"Leadership Skills and Practices in Difficult Situations"

Most management positions don't come with an instruction manual, and a true leader needs to be much more than simply an authority figure. The sometimes difficult choices and decisions you may be called upon to make should be informed not just by your professional knowledge base, but your life experiences as a person, as well. Maureen will help you understand how the same qualities that make you a good person will also help make you a good leader, especially when the going gets rough.