

Reflection of Internship Experience
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Reflection

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In this Internship I did quite a bit of reflecting about my first year as a public school library media coordinator. I gave myself time and space to think about not only the 110 hours spent during the actual internship but about all the hours and days that I had grown into a full fledged librarian. I looked back and saw some pretty awesome achievements, some not so awesome ones, and one failure to communicate. Looking back on my experience after the first year was so very beneficial, I can now plan my next year with the wisdom that I did not have at the beginning of last school year. I started the last school year from the very beginning, I had no assistant librarian who had been there for years; I was on my own to figure it all out. I taught myself how to use the Destiny online catalog, order materials and books, market my services, work with faculty members, and finally how to do inventory. (More or less!)

Analyzing and Describing the Overall experience

Over the past few months I have put to the test the things that I have learned in classes. I found that lots of things that I learned made a lot more sense when I put them to work in a real library setting. For instance, collection development made a whole lot more sense when I had to have a collection development plan for purchasing new materials this year. I realized that I really needed to get a committee to oversee the collection development because right now it is all up to me!

I have become adept at working with all types of people, learned what each faculty member expected out of the library, and made an effort to get them to collaborate with me. Collaboration is an ongoing battle; some of the teachers expressed interest but held back when it came time to putting it all together, others loved the idea and welcomed another voice in their teaching. I am working on some ideas that would encourage the social studies teachers to come in to the media center next year for some collaborative work. I know that I can't change the way things have been done for years all in one year, I know that if I keep suggesting ideas, eventually the faculty will see me as an asset to their teaching.

During the year I tried to have "something new" every month in the media center, something that would draw stakeholders in. One month I helped a student with her graduation project by promoting a "Banned Book Week," that really brought in some curious students! They were surprised to find some of the books they were required to read for class had been banned at one time. Another big project was Graphic Novel Week (month!) where I collaborated with some English teachers, the Literacy Facilitator and some students to bring out all the new graphic novels. The students couldn't believe they were being encouraged to read "comic books!" Near the end of the school year I had a big promotion for all the new fiction that I had ordered. I also set up a special quiet space for the faculty members that included all the professional library materials, a coffee pot, and a comfy chair among other things.

The inventory, done during the internship hours, was a bear!! I had lots of student helpers but since an inventory had never been done since Destiny had been installed in 2006, the

inventory outcome was somewhat of a mystery to me and to the other county media coordinators. I had over 12,000 books marked as missing and looking over the list I found that there were three copies of lots of books listed (all with a different bar code!) in reality there were probably never that many copies of the book on the shelf... so what happened? I guess I will have to place a call to the Follett company in August.

I realize now that the library is more than a place where students come in to check out books it is a social space where they can come to communicate with each other or, using the computers, communicate with the world at large. It is a place where teaching is done, too. I enjoyed teaching research skills to students as they embarked on their graduation project journey. It is a place where anything can be found, with a little help from the librarian!

I found that I really enjoy being the school librarian! It is really the best job that I have ever had; what a great career choice I have made. I look forward to continuing my education through staff development, classes, conferences, and real life experience. I know that my library will be a place that students and faculty will want to come to as often as they can due to the "happy disposition" of the librarian!