

C&U Professional Development Grant Report  
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2013 SDLA/NDLA/MPLA Tri-conference in Sioux Falls, SD  
September 25 – 28, 2013

In September, I attended the MPLA Annual conference which was held in conjunction with SDLA and NDLA in Sioux Falls, SD.

During the conference I was able to attend the following sessions:

1. The Inclusive Library: Serving Diverse User Populations
2. The Power of Leading to Achieve Great Service
3. Libraries & Change – Digital Production Workflows, Software, Metadata & Best Practice Digital Preservation
4. LibGuides: Tying the Resources that Professor's Love to Designs that Students Love
5. Future Focused – Trends Impacting Library Services: the Minitex Perspective
6. Balancing Copyright Law and Access to Information
7. MPLA Professional Forum
8. Visualizing Library Data: Telling a Better Story
9. Library Tours – Local public library tours

Each of these sessions was helpful in providing me with current library trends and practices that I was able to take back to my own library to share with staff and patrons. Not only did I receive good content, but I met different people that were either already implementing these practices that could share more detail about implementation and success.

I was able to meet with my various committee chairs and the committees from MPLA. We attended the Professional Forum for MPLA, where I volunteered to serve on additional committees and learned how the organization functions behind the scenes. Networking was a major part of this conference to meet individuals from the different organizations and other states.

As part of the conference, we were able to attend local public library tours. We visited the Mikkelsen Library at Augustana College and the Prairie West Branch of the public library. Both libraries had recently undergone renovation, and we were able to view the new concepts and physical layouts that resulted from the renovations. We were privy to see the back operations room of the public library where they had recently automated the return and sort functions with 3M machines. This was simply amazing. They shared how much time they have saved and that they have been able to allocate staff time to more patron-related projects and teaching, rather than spending hours sorting and checking in materials. 3M personnel were also on hand to answer questions about functions, pricing, and setup. We also were able to learn about issues during renovation and what things to look for when managing a renovation project.