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A New Professional's Response to the Washington Library Work, Stress, and Health Project

By Elaine Hall, WLA member and MLIS graduate student at San Jose State University.

As a LIS student embarking on a new career in librarianship, I was surprised to learn about the prevalence of psychological aggression in the library workplace as reported in the [Washington Library Work, Stress, and Health \(WLWSH\) Project: Final Report](#). I find psychological aggression in the library as a humanistic, yet professionally conflicting phenomenon. Humanistic in the sense that libraries are organizations employed by people, and with that come the behaviors, personalities, threats and opportunities typically ascribed to human nature. But it is also professionally conflicting in that as a profession we hold high standards for fairness, access, and equality for our patrons – should we not hold that as well for our staff?

While the study focused on the prevalence of psychological aggression in the library workplace, its main objective was to emphasize the impact of preventative programming to reduce aggression within the library and the benefits it can have on employee health, social, and work outcomes. The report is very useful for the profession, and library staff at all levels should read it to become aware of the definition, causes, and impact of psychological aggression in the workplace. With proper training and awareness amongst library supervisors as well as the staff, the WLWSH project emphasizes that psychological aggression in libraries, and its impact on the quality of life of its employees, can be reduced, if not eliminated. [read more...](#)

WALE REPRESENTS

By Jennifer O'Brien, from the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation

While driving home from the 2013 WALE Conference, "Reflections – 22 Years of WALE" at the end of October, I couldn't help but reflect on how many facets of library and Washington State life were represented.

All different levels of library staff had great representation. Pages, public service staff, supervisors, catalogers, librarians, purchasers, IT staff and more all gathered together in Chelan to learn and network and support each other and grow in their library skills.

The wide variety of classes offered represented the vast areas of interest and education sought out by attendees. Class offerings included such topics as Difficult Conversations, Service Excellence, Digitization, eLearning, After School Book Clubs for K-5, Science at Your Library, Microsoft IT academy and many more.

The keynote speakers represented an assortment of authors that appealed to everyone. Robert Dugoni spoke of his childhood experiences in the library (lots of playing tag) and how his mom took her large family of 10 kids there every Saturday morning to both rest and read. [read more](#)



WLA Member Profile: Tim Wadham



Tim Wadham is the “new” (since September 4, 2012) director of the Puyallup Public Library, and a published children’s author. Meet Tim!

Q. How do you like your job as Director at Puyallup Public Library?

A. I love my job. It’s the perfect fit.

Q. How long have you been a member of WLA?

A. One year.

Q. How have you been personally involved in WLA?

A. I hope to be very personally involved in the future.

Q. How have you benefited from being a member of your local state library association?

A. I’ve previously been a member of the Texas, Arizona and Missouri Library Associations, and the benefit from all of those associations has been tremendous, providing opportunities to share programs and ideas. I expect that WLA will be no different.

Q. What is your favorite thing about libraries?

A. Being in them.

Q. What is the last book you read?

A. *The Prisoner of Heaven* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.

Q. What area of the library stacks do you like to browse in for your own enjoyment?

A. Music CD’s, mostly. [read more](#)

UW iSchool to Tahiti: Oral Traditions, Knowledge, and Science

By Mathew Brock, iSchool student at the University of Washington

Between July 25th and August 23rd, 2013 I took part in the University of Washington study abroad program in French Polynesia. Entitled iSchool Tahiti: Oral Traditions, Knowledge, and Science, the project brought together MLIS, anthropology, and communications students for a month of experiential learning. Through readings, interactions with Tahitians, and field trips to locations around the island, we explored the role that oral traditions play in the lives of Tahitians - both past and present.

We sought answers to questions such as: what constitutes an oral tradition? How are oral traditions used? How are they viewed as credible? And what impact is technology and social change having on oral traditions? In short, we looked at the role oral traditions play in contemporary Tahitian society by studying songs, dances, stories, legends, and artistic endeavors. We found that oral traditions are held in the collective memory of Tahitian islanders, are used to store and transfer long held cultural knowledge, and are based on over a thousand years of observation, interpretation, and interaction with the landscape in which Tahitians exist. [read more](#)

UW iSchool to Denmark Exploration Seminar (iDES)

Interview by Korissa Fitterer with Stacey Wyatt, iSchool student at the University of Washington

Q: Where did you go?

A: I went to Denmark; we spent most of our time in Copenhagen, but we also went to Aarhus and Hjørring.

Q: What was the focus of the trip?

A: The focus of the class was instructional design, but I would say that outside of class while visiting libraries much of our discussions were about libraries as innovative spaces and thinking outside of the box about what a library should be like physically and culturally.

Q: What was your favorite part?

A: One of my favorite parts was visiting libraries, it really broadened my perspective of how libraries could be more than books and be part of their community and still be true to their mission. I'd had faith in the idea before, but it was really encouraging to see it in action and in several sizes and kinds of communities.

Q: How did the trip reinforce or change the way you think about your future/current career in libraries/information settings?

A: As I said above, the way we saw libraries evolving to keep up community engagement and meet community imagination was astonishing. I've been working at the Sylvan Way branch of Kitsap Regional Library for six years, and we've spent the last year discussing ways to rearrange our available space. This trip has definitely re-inspired my input on that project and I feel a lot more hope about the potential of libraries in places like Bremerton that have great needs for community cultural spaces. [read more](#)