

4.5

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

4.5.1 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(Excerpt from Library Learning Walk)

Focus Area	Examples	Wondering/ Observations	Next Steps
Opportunities for professional development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development opportunities available for library media specialist • Professional development opportunities available for teachers on use of library as part of instructional program • Professional development opportunities available for administrators on use of library program to foster student achievement and fulfill goals and mission of school 		

4.5.2 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: OFFICE OF LIBRARY SERVICES

Reasons Why Professional Development Is Essential for Librarians

Professional development is extremely important to the development of school librarians in New York City for several reasons.

Perhaps the most important reason is that we are setting expectations for school librarians and school library programs that are benchmarked against national school library standards. We are creating new instruments for planning and implementing library programs that profoundly impact student achievement -- the Library Learning Walk, the Information Fluency Continuum, and the Library Handbook. Librarians must have the professional development necessary to translate these documents into reality in their schools because their performance impacts the entire school community.

A second reason that librarians must attend professional development is the isolated nature of their role. No one else in their school fulfills the same role. The issues and responsibilities faced by school librarians are common from one building to the next; therefore, the best way to build effective programs is to share expertise through networking and professional development that connect librarians with each other.

Finally, librarians must have professional development because the information field changes every day; technology demands and opportunities are constantly evolving. The very nature of librarians' content changes daily, unlike most classroom teachers whose content is established and stable. We must prepare our students for the information world, because their future success will depend on their ability to access, evaluate, and use information in their careers and personal lives. Librarians must have continual professional development to stay on top of the skills, products, and technology that our students need to know about. We must learn about the changing information environment before we can integrate it meaningfully into our schools.

Throughout the year, the Office of Library Services provides professional development opportunities for library personnel. Some are annual events while others may be offered at any time, including summer. To keep current you should visit the OLS website <http://schools.nyc.gov/library> "News and Notes" section and calendar, check your DOE e-mail and NYCSLIST postings or visit www.pd.nycoit.org. Please note that you must register for all professional development at this site. [See the registration instructions on the page following this section.]

Conferences and Workshops

Fall Conference (City-wide)

The annual Fall Conference is held over two days (one for elementary and one for secondary librarians) and includes workshops, speakers, approximately 50 vendors and

much more. Workshops cover topics in the areas of Literacy, Technology, Inquiry and other Professional Issues.

Spring Workshops (Borough-wide)

Full day workshops are held in collaboration with the three public library systems in every borough. Brooklyn has two – one for elementary and one for secondary librarians. Many high school librarians from other boroughs opt to attend the Brooklyn secondary workshop. The agendas at each meeting are the same so you may choose the meeting that best fits your schedule.

Modules for Newly Assigned Library Personnel

New librarians and teachers-assigned to the library are urged to attend a series of three full-day workshops. These sessions cover the nuts and bolts of librarianship in New York City and are a good way to find support and guidance as well as network with other librarians.

Other Library Professional Development

Technology

NOVEL database training is offered at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels.

Library Automation training or user groups may be offered on an as needed basis.

iQuest is a technology initiative for librarians in cooperation with the Office of Instructional Technology designed to support librarians in becoming technology leaders in their schools. Through this initiative, library personnel are trained and receive mobile computing devices and peripherals.

Continuing Areas of Focus and Special Initiatives

Professional development will be offered on continuing areas of focus and special initiatives as they arise: information fluency, inquiry, reading motivation, literacy strategies, and other areas.

Website

Continuing access to professional information from the Office of Library Services Website is available at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/library>. The Website offers access to foundational documents, resources, and professional development opportunities.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Registration for all professional development provided by the Office of Library Services requires online registration at this site.

- 1) Access the self - registration system at the following site <http://pd.nycoit.org/>.
- 2) Click on "Click here to enter the new online pd registration system."
- 3) **REGISTRATION:**

Existing Users

- If you already have an account, enter your username and password, click on "Login here" to go to step 4.

New Users

- If this is the first time you are entering the system, click on "Click here to register," then follow the steps for creating an account for yourself. Please make sure the information you fill in is accurate, especially a working e-mail account that you check on a regular basis. All confirmations will be sent via e-mail. A DOE e-mail address is preferred.
- Under School Information: Select the region and the school in which you work.
- Under School Information: Select "library personnel" and your specific grades (i.e., elementary, middle, high).
- Click on "Create Registration."

Non Public, Parochial Schools

- Please follow the same registration steps, but please note that your file number will be the last 6 digits of your social security number. Under school information, select "Other" for region, "other" for location, then select "library personnel" for title and your specific grades (i.e., elementary, middle, high).

LMS Graduate Students

- Please follow the same registration steps, but please note that your file number will be the last 6 digits of your social security number. Under school information, select "Other" for region, "other" for location, then select "LMS Graduate Student" for title and your specific grades (i.e., elementary, middle, high).

- 4) Once your registration information is created, select the "class catalog (quick search)" on the right column.
- 5) In the "quick search" box, from the "department" drop down menu, select "school library" and click on "search."
- 6) Scroll down to the workshop day and time you would like to register for.
- 7) Click on "enroll now."

- 8) You will receive a **pending** registration in your e-mail box. You are not confirmed until you receive a **confirmed registration!** Please note it may take several days for a *confirmed registration* to be received.

4.5.3 PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS / OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND NEW YORK CITY

Many opportunities for professional involvement are available from professional library associations. Librarians can capitalize on their membership in these professional organizations by reading their publications, enrolling in their electronic discussion groups, and attending state and national conferences. Conference attendance is especially valuable for librarians who wish to build professional relationships with colleagues in other library environments and to develop an awareness of library issues and exemplary practices across the state and country.

New York City School Librarians Association (NYCSLA)

<http://www.nycsla.org>

School Library Media Section (SLMS) of New York Library Association (NYLA)

http://www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=52

New York Library Association (NYLA)

<http://www.nyla.org>

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

<http://www.ala.org/aasl>

American Library Association (ALA)

<http://www.ala.org>

Attending Conferences Outside of New York City

New York City teachers are entitled to take two days to attend conferences out of New York City. Teachers must complete an **OP 221 Application** To Attend School Meeting Or Convention Outside New York City.