

Conference Report

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Unfortunately, due to scheduling issues, I was unable to attend any of the conferences that I was originally slated to attend. In turn I utilized the AASL's online learning library to watch various archived webinars, and will report on three of them. The first one is *Collaborate with Content Areas for Deeper Learning* by Jill Slay. The second one is *Comics Librarianship: Essential Tools for the School Librarian* by Amie Wright, Christina Gavin, Ashley Kronsberg, Diana Learned, and Tim Smyth. Finally, the third webinar was entitled *Addressing the Gatekeepers: How to Turn Comic and Graphic Novel Skeptics into Believers* with Emily Ratica, Betsy Gomez, John Jennings, and Chloe Ramos-Peterson. All three of these webinars are geared directly to the school library.

The first webinar I attended was, *Collaborate with Content Areas for Deeper Learning*. This webinar discussed how best to go about starting to collaborate with content teachers using AASL, ISTE, and Future Ready standards to create lessons that are more engaging, and allow students to make deeper connections to the content. One of the main things that the presenter mentioned, was that collaboration helps to build a relationship between the classroom, and the library, as well as those teachers. It was also interesting to see how she accomplished collaboration in her school, and how communication is key to this type of thing.

As I was watching, I was struck by how similar starting a collaborative partnership is with advocacy. A lot of the information she presented seemed to me to be about selling yourself. She mentioned that one of the things you need to do, is show the teachers what you already

know. One other great point she made was about sharing what you've done. I think this is key. Once other teachers see what can be done more will be willing to follow. All in all, I think this was really useful.

The next webinar I watched was, *Comics Librarianship: Essential Tools for the School Librarian*. This webinar was put on by the ALA's Graphic Novels & Comics Round Table. I was very interested going into this webinar for a couple of different reasons, first, I am a huge comic book, and graphic novel fan, and second, I have been tasked with creating a comics and graphic novel section. One of the most interesting things about this webinar was that while they had the Marketing Manager from Diamond Book Distributors on the panel, she did not seem overly pushy when it came to purchasing. She gave great information about what was available through Diamond as far as recourses for advocacy, and collection management. A lot of the webinar seemed to focus on advocacy, however, there was a fair amount spent on programming, and collection development as well. I found this webinar fairly interesting.

The final webinar I viewed was, *Addressing the Gatekeepers: How to Turn Comic and Graphic Novel Skeptics into Believers*. This was another webinar put on by the GNCRT. This webinar focused solely on advocacy, and provided a lot of links to resources to aid in this. Unfortunately, this webinar did not provide a lot of printable information. Using the links provides these things; however, in the other webinar, the panelists added things like infographics, and quotes that were easily available to use. This isn't a major issue, but it does create an added step.

Since I was unable to attend anything live, I was unable to do any networking, although I have began to follow many of the presenters on Twitter. I am a member of the GNCRT, and have

also reached out to a couple of the presenters on those panels in order to get some other ideas.

After reading Tweets, and reaching out to panelists, as well as our ESU's reading specialist, I have started to have discussions about what types of graphic novels, and comics we should be carrying. I have also started to put a plan together to begin coming up with a collaborative project with a couple of our elementary teachers.