



Newsletter

April. May. June. July. August. September 2017

Hello Friends!

We've had a productive and busy last few months. Here are some highlights.

URI Summer Institute in Digital Literacy. Fourteen cohort members attended this [premier professional development](#) event held at the URI Providence campus. They joined educators, librarians, and others from around the world to deepen their understanding of digital and media literacy and how to best bring it into their practice. Special thanks to the [URI School of Education](#) and the [Harrington School of Communication and Media](#) for their financial support to make this possible.

Curriculum Revision. Thanks to the work of the advisory board members who are also on the Curriculum Revision Committee, we have decided to update two courses in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, create a new course called Media Smart Libraries, and develop a 12 credit post graduate Media Smart Libraries certificate. These initiatives will help reach the grant goal of offering more relevant and experiential learning for our students.

Digital Badge Program. Twenty cohort members completed the digital badge program. Each completer earned a \$1000 digital kit of items of their choice. Sample digital kits include podcasting equipment, 3D printers, iPads, green screens, video production equipment, and electronic Makerspace materials. Many have already shared how they are using them in their libraries.

Media Smart Libraries New England Tour. Co-PI Dr. Mandel and I spread the word about Media Smart Libraries throughout New England by facilitating [Stop Motion Animation workshops](#) in Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Plans to bring our work to Maine are in the works. Everyone loved it and was proud of their creations! Enjoy their fun videos on our [YouTube channel](#).

Conference Presentations. I have been able to share the incredible work of the grant at many conferences. Highlights were the [National Media Literacy Education Conference](#), July 2017 in Chicago; the [IFLA/WLIC Conference](#), August 2017, Wroclaw, Poland; [New England Library Association Conference](#), October, 2017, Burlington, VT; and the [Digital Media and Learning Conference](#), October 2017, Irvine, CA (virtually).

The grant project will be wrapping up in the next few months. I am fortunate to have a new assistant, Elena Hughes, who is a graduate student in the School Library Media track at GSLIS, to help with the closing out of our workplan. We will send a final report later this fall.

In the meantime, check out the information below to see what else we have been doing!

Best,
Mary Moen
Program Director

Teen Library Internship Program a Success!

May, 2017. Media Smart Libraries and [Providence Community Library](#) partnered to provide high school teens with after school internship experiences. Five students from [Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex](#) were selected based on an application and interview process. Each teen designed a theme-based after school club for younger students with a focus in digital and media literacy. Cheryl Space, PCL Youth Services Coordinator, and library staff provided guidance and mentorship. Students also advanced their own digital and media literacy skills through workshops on Sonic Pi music coding and Fake News.



[Read More](#)



Story Times for Children with Special Needs

April 4th, 2017. Providence. Wendy Kirchner of Meeting Street School facilitated a workshop that focused on inclusive library practices for students and patrons with special needs. Cohort member Sandra Savella writes of the workshop, "Wendy began her workshop by telling us that not to feel like you are failing when teaching the special needs population of students, embrace the chaos..." [Read More](#)

MSL Makes Impact on Librarians' Practice

April 5, 2017. One of the best things about the MSL grant is to see librarians take what they learned back into practice. Many people have shared with me the impact of the grant on their work and one great example is Cynthia Alexandre, a Media Smart Librarian and School Media Specialist at Goff Middle School in Pawtucket. She attended the *Seeing is Believing: Understanding Data Visualization* workshop with Lauren Plews, the State Data Coordinator for OLIS. Participants were tasked with creating a visual to display their own data story. [Read More](#)

March Highlights:

Women's History Month display and essay contest - see Mrs. Alexandre for details!

March Madness Tournament of Books - students are voting for Goff's favorite book of 2017!

The moment we've all been waiting for - the Book Fair! It's coming the week of March 27th! A schedule and detailed information will be sent mid-month.



Circulation YTD

February Social Media Recap



Month to Month Comparison



215 # of books checked out in February

1007 # of eBooks views in February



4

of teachers that brought classes in February

1 Science Teacher
2 Inclusion Teachers
1 History Teacher



12

of classes that visited in February

-125 students used the library for project work
-75 students received Readers Advisory



181

of student visits from class in February

That's an average of 13 students per day getting new books and Readers Advisory



836

of Before School Visits in February

An average of 65 students a day CHOOSING to start their day in the library!

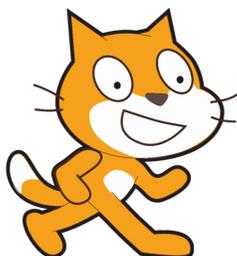


Raspberry Pi Basics

May 1st, 2017. West Warwick. The Rhode Island Computer Museum teamed up with Media Smart Libraries to teach librarians the ins and outs of Raspberry Pi, an affordable, single-board computer ideal for teaching coding and computer science in the library.

Library Advocacy

May 16th, 2017. East Greenwich. Cohort member Kat Lynch helped organize a library advocacy think-tank for Media Smart Libraries and ILART, where librarians of all types were invited to share tips and tricks, voice concerns, and collaborate together on ways to successfully advocate for libraries, and the role they play in increasing the digital and media literacy skills of students and patrons.



Computer Coding with Scratch

June 13th, 2017. Cranston. Back by popular demand, Janice Kowalczyk of FabNewport facilitated a workshop on the popular Scratch Coding program, where librarians were introduced to the program and given time to play around with the free web-based software.

URI Summer Institute in Digital Literacy

July 23-28th, 2017. Providence. The URI Summer Institute in Digital Literacy is back for another amazing summer! Media Smart Librarian cohort members have been invited to join in on a week of innovative professional development at the University of Rhode Island CCE Providence Campus. [Read More](#)



Visit us at mediasmartlibraries.org

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