Winter Newsletter

January. February. March. 2017

Hello Friends!

Highlights from this winter:

Teen Digital and Media Literacy Internship Program. The Providence Community Libraries and Media Smart Libraries collaborated on an internship program to empower teens to share their knowledge and skills in digital and media literacy with youth. The teen interns gained valuable leadership skills by developing after school clubs in conjunction with mentorship by PCL librarians, MSL cohort members, and GSLIS students. The interns also joined a teen library advisory board where they were introduced to the field of librarianship as a possible career path, made connections with the University of Rhode Island's Talent Development program, and engaged in more advanced digital and media literacy training.

New cohort of Media Smart Librarians. An increased awareness in the importance of Media Literacy fueled a demand to open a second cohort of 22 school and public librarians into the digital badge program. They have been participating in workshops through the winter to earn badges in five digital and media literacy competencies, 2) Access & Use, 2) Analyze & Evaluate, 3) Create & Collaborate, 4) Reflect, and 5) Take Action. By using Submittable, a slick platform to upload and track evidence, the badge awarding process is going very smoothly.

New models of learning. We have been fortunate to tap into the expertise of the previous cohort members and other educators to offer a robust series of professional development learning opportunities. Of special interest, MSL is piloting is a new multi-step learning experience. First, the participants engage in learning and discussion either face to face or virtually with a facilitator, then they are given a task to complete in four weeks, and finally they meet again virtually to share their project and get feedback. Rich conversations and deeper learning have been the result of this new model.

Check out the workshops below to see what we have been doing!

Best,
Mary Moen
Program Director

Raspberry Pi

Media Smart Libraries ran two workshops on Raspberry Pi: a Raspberry Pi basics workshop facilitated by the Rhode Island Computer museum and a Sonic Pi musical workshop facilitated by Lee-Ann Galli of Narragansett Public Library. Participants learned the basics of Raspberry Pi programming and making music with the single-board computer.

Oral Histories with Podcasting

Oral Histories with Podcasting was a resounding success as librarians gathered to learn the basics of podcasting, how to use equipment, ethical considerations that come with interviewing, and how to implement these types of programs in their libraries.

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Twitter for Libraries

Media Smart Libraries was excited for Catherine Damiani of Weaver Library to repeat one of our most popular workshop topics: Twitter! This time around participants were asked to design and implement a twitter-related plan and then present that plan at a follow-up online meeting. Participants agreed that synthesizing their learning through this activity helped them to clearly understand how twitter can function as a professional network and community outreach tool.

Providence Children's Film Festival

As one of our official partners, the Providence Children's Film Festival is a week Media Smart Libraries looks forward to. This year's festival included a series of free film screenings at Rhode Island libraries as well as a special MSL sponsored screening of the film *My Life As a Zucchini.*
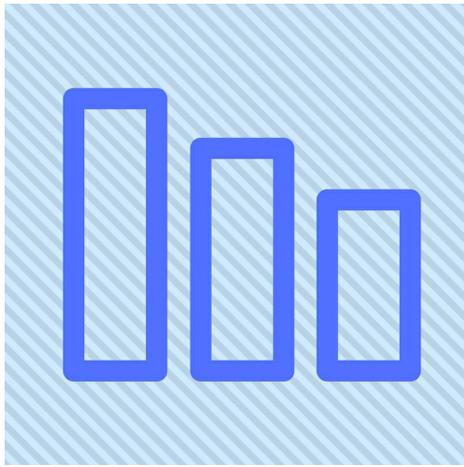
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Social Media Literacy

Lynette Owens, Founder and Global Director of Internet Safety for Kids and Families, facilitated the workshop Social Media Literacy where librarians learned how to help their students and patrons to navigate the growing online world of social media. Topics covered included apps, privacy, online habits, and digital citizenship.

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Seeing is Believing: Understanding Data Visualization

Lauren Plews, State Data Coordinator for OLIS, facilitated Understanding Data Visualization, where librarians learned how to represent their data visually and share that data with stakeholders. Charged with creating their own graphical representation, participants were invited to a virtual follow-up session to share their creations.

Makerspaces: Lessons Learned

Media Smart Libraries sponsored two sessions at the School Librarians of Rhode Island Annual Conference. Each session focused on makerspaces with one focusing on elementary while the other focused on secondary. The sessions each included a panel of librarians implementing making in various ways.

Makerspaces Lessons Learned Elementary School Libraries

Media Mentorship in Libraries Serving Youth

Be a Media Mentor

Harnessing the power of the webinar, Media Smart Libraries was able to host Claudia Haines all the way from Alaska! Haines spoke to librarians about how to be a media mentor for students and parents, how to curate and display resources, and how to implement programming. Participants will then create a plan for incorporating media mentorship into their practice and present their plan at a follow-up virtual meeting.

Online Reading Comprehension: Challenges and Opportunities

URI's Dr. Julie Coiro facilitated a workshop on Online Reading Comprehension from a new literacies perspective. Participants learned about current research and strategies for helping students and patrons with reading online.

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