

Leading 21st Century Learners, the MEMO Fall Conference 2008, was a perfect blend of speakers and sessions - something for everyone. I didn't make it in time to attend anything on Thursday. Author, Patrick Jones, opened the Friday conference with "Leading the 21st Century Student to YA Literature" and author, Jordan Sonnenblick, shared his inspiration for his book at the closing luncheon on Saturday. Joanne Bongaarts and Mark DeYoung wowed us with their "Books! Breakfast of Champions - A Bowlful of Champion Books and Practical Ideas to Use in Your Media Center!" Wendy Pradt Lougee, U of M Librarian and McKnight Presidential Professor, spoke about "The Digital U: Transforming Library Roles in a Digital Age." It will be hard to ever imagine the Kerlan Collection in digital form, as I still have memories of my child literature course in the special Kerlan room of an old vine covered building with a plump, jolly, bearded professor.

Sessions I attended: catchin ^ W hi tek kdz - Lisa and Dave urged us to work with students and parents so all are informed users of the Internet. Received handout of useful websites for more information and videos for instruction. Using Research, MEMO Can Help Empower Parents and Caregivers to Raise Students Reading Ability Forever - Sue Klund stressed the importance of reading to and interaction with newborns, infants, and preschool children. She also used research to present the gains and losses with and without reading during the summer for children in school. I will continue to work with our ECFE teachers and to help them build their family book collection and plan to do more to promote summer reading. Beating the No U-Turn Syndrome - Doug Johnson urged us to be proactive and help teachers legally use materials through "Fair Use" rather than be copyright cops. Real E-Engage - Wendy Wolfe explored free sites for tools such as wikis and Animoto and resources such as free pictures and music. Sessions 5 & 6 were Revisioning Library, Reading and Staff Development for the 21st Century and Standards and Adjusting Our Course to Align With the New AASL and ISTE Standards. I enjoyed these as I reminisced on the many changes I've experienced since I began my library education in 1963 and thought about the many yet to come.

The MEMO membership meeting, MEMO Awards presentation, MEMO store, vendors, author displays, silent auction, Internet Cafe, networking, music, food and refreshments filled the rest of the long and informative, but enjoyable days. Thanks again for this opportunity.

*Laura Pradt*

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