

LAUREN GRAY, MSLIS

LICENSED K-12 EDUCATOR AND LIBRARIAN/MEDIA SPECIALIST

PROFILE

Dedicated school librarian with diverse experiences working with young people, grades K-12.

Advocate for digital literacy and progressive tech programming. Proponent of inclusive, child-centered, and communally aware school library services.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

2015-2017

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Master of Science in Library and Information Science

Youth Services Certificate

In progress Technology Specialist Certificate

GPA 4.0 / 4.0

2010-2015

Illinois State University

Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude

Double major in English Studies and Art Education

GPA 3.9 / 4.0

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, Center for Children's Books 2015-2017

- Managed the 20,000+ volume collection, cataloged, processed and withdrew thousands of items annually.
- Provided directional and reference assistance for up to 4,000 patrons annually.
- Developed and publicized 20+ events per year including book clubs, faculty presentations, fundraisers, and open houses.
- Recruited, trained and supervised approximately 40 volunteers.
- Solicited community feedback for a large-scale library redesign project.
- Launched initiative to modify library layout to increase accessibility.
- Observed and assisted in management of Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books weekly meetings.
- Assisted with IMLS grant writing; including research and developing marketing material.
- Reached out to community programs and patrons in order to maximize library resources and services.
- Created themed bibliographies and wrote book reviews, highlighting the collection and providing valuable readers' advisory resources.

Research Assistant, App Authors IMLS Grant Project 2016-2017

- Revised and refined the App Authors curriculum, including handouts, instructional videos, and parent guides.
- Taught 3rd-5th graders about coding, app design, computational thinking, and software development.
- Trained librarians at partner sites about the implementation of App Authors curriculum and resources.
- Collaborated with iSchool students and faculty at biweekly meetings to discuss research methods and develop lesson ideas.
- Delegated responsibilities to a team of staff members for maximum productivity.
- Recruited, trained, and supported a staff of program volunteers.

Community Program Site Supervisor, Urbana Park District 2015-2017

- Managed the park district program budget and purchased supplies, organized field trips, and coordinated guest speakers for four art camps (approximately 150 campers).
- Created a gallery space and displayed student work, showing evidence of student development to the community and Park District administration.
- Established an art camp blog and encouraged family involvement in park district programming.
- Planned and taught art lessons to learners ages 5-12.

Art Librarian Assistant, Milner Library 2014-2015

- Networked with librarians and student assistants to make digitized artwork accessible for low-vision and blind patrons.
- Wrote, edited, and recorded visual descriptions of images in Milner Library's International Collection of Child Art.

Children's Department Librarian Assistant, Bloomington Public Library 2014

- Designed displays about current, trending, and upcoming books and authors.
- Encouraged children to join and continue involvement in Summer Reading programming.
- Maintained collections and assisted patrons with reference needs.

PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

Practicum student, Kenwood Elementary School 2017

- Developed, planned, and taught curriculum for students grades K-5.
- Collaborated with teachers to enhance lesson implementation and information literacy.
- Conceptualized, arranged, and organized an emerging Maker Lab and publicized technology tools for student and faculty use.
- Connected library resources with students, faculty, and families to advertise library resources and instill information literacy skills.
- Communicated with families, faculty, and administrators in order to develop community-centered school events.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Illinois School Library Media Association, Conference Presentation, Fall 2016
- University of Illinois iSchool Research Showcase, App Authors Poster Presentation, Fall 2016
- Studio Art Presentation, Art Education Studio Exhibition, Spring 2014
- Student Round Tables presenter, Illinois Art Education Association Conference, Fall 2013
- English Studies at Large presenter, Illinois State University English Department Conference, Spring 2013

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- University of Illinois American Library Association Student Chapter, Youth Services Committee Co-Chair
- Illinois School Library Media Association intern
- Kenwood Elementary School, Media Center and Makerspace volunteer
- Tolono Public Library, Summer Reading craft program planner and storyteller
- University of Illinois Storytelling Festival artist and coordinator

HONORS

- Lowell and Lucille Belcher Scholarship, Fall 2016
- Association for Library Service to Children: Bound to Stay Bound Scholarship Award, Fall 2015
- Taimi Ranta Children's Literature Scholarship for Achievement in Children's and Adolescent Literature, Spring 2014
- Illinois Art Education Undergraduate Scholarship, Fall 2014
- Linda W. Fisher Award for Achievement in Leadership and Art Education, Spring 2014
- Illinois State University University Club Scholar for Achievement in Leadership and Community Service, Fall 2013

SKILLS

Productivity

Microsoft Office Suite
Adobe Creative Suite
G Suite
iWork

Digital media creation

iMovie
Canva
Piktochart
GIMP

Library software

LibGuides
Voyager
Overdrive
Niche Academy

Coding tools

Scratch/Scratch Jr.
Code.org/App Lab
Hopscotch
MIT App Inventor