

# Online News

## NEW HAMPSHIRE EDUCATIONAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION



»» Greetings from NHEMA President »»

It is an honor to be serving this profession in the capacity of President. Since many of our communications are brief email messages that lack tone or personal connection, I would like to begin by introducing myself.

I grew up in Poughkeepsie, NY where I can trace an early passion for constructivist learning. For a high school science fair project I created and observed a sealed aquarium with a balanced environment that sustained life for over 4 months without interference. The idea for this project was a small, "suggested activity" that I had come across in a book. While I would not have known what to call it at the time, a result of this experience was that I began to develop a passion for essential questions, research, and the kind of constructivist learning that school libraries support when they are at their best.

My educational background includes a BS from Elmira College, Elmira, NY where I majored in Elementary Education. My husband and I lived for three years in the Bronx, NYC during the 1970's where I worked in a branch of the NY Public Library. During the next decade my husband and I moved to Troy, NH, built a log cabin, and started a family. For a few years I worked in a small private school teaching students in grades 6-12 and all subjects. That turned out to be a good background for library reference work. Working at Franklin Pierce College, Rindge, NH as a Library Assistant, got me started on my new career. While working there for two years, I commuted once a week to the University at Albany, SUNY to work on my MLS. Since that time I have worked at one college, 1 middle school, and 2 high schools. This year I am exploring different options and devoting some time to NHEMA.

"This year the NHEMA board welcomes a number of new faces. I am looking forward to some great conversations and teamwork."

*Diane Beaman*

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*How did I get involved with NHEMA?* After working for several years in a middle school library, just trying to keep my head above water, I can remember thinking that there must be others out there who had already solved some of the same issues that I was facing. I had attended annual conferences but my real involvement with NHEMA began with attending Technology Committee meetings. Gradually, I found that I could speak and contribute at these meetings. There were so many times that I just had to say, "Wait a minute, I have no idea what or who you are talking about." There were all those acronyms! Because I had no knowledge of the history of some issues, my comments and questions sometimes helped the "regulars" to see things through the eyes of someone who was new to the field. That seemed to be welcome, so I felt good about getting involved.

In 1998, *Information Power* was updated and I was excited about the implementation of Information Literacy Standards in NH and in my school. That was when I joined the Information Power Committee. From there, I began to help with the NHEMA web site and served as Vice President, Conference Chair, and now President. This year the NHEMA board welcomes a number of new faces. You will be hearing more from each of them over the course of the year. I am looking forward to some great conversations and teamwork.

*Diane Beaman*

## W e l c o m e

The NHEMA board members would like to take this opportunity to welcome all NH school library media personnel to their professional organization. 2006—2007 year.

We are passionate about what we do and the benefits we can bring to students. While we enjoy having variety, creativity, and purpose in our jobs, having to do it all at once and the scope of our responsibilities can be overwhelming. Working as the only library paraprofessional or LMS in our building or sometimes in several buildings or district, can lead to isolation from support and ideas.

Involvement in this organization can become a life-line. Activities in the organization such as writing, volunteering help for the conference, or joining a discussion on the list serve, can be strategies that support your professional development plan, provide comic relief, and develop friendships with like-minded folks.

The NHEMA board has identified some goals for the

1. Professional development for all members;
2. Strengthening our connections to regional and national library organizations;
3. Enlisting and empowering grass root support within our own membership;
4. A Survey of NH School Libraries;
5. Communication with other NH educational organizations and leadership.

Our standing committees are Intellectual Freedom, Information Power, Technology, Awards and Scholarships, Member Services, Advocacy and Government, and Standards and Certification. Please contact the various chairpersons if you are interested in attending a meeting of any one of these committees. The people who head up the committees are listed with photos on <http://www.nhema.net/Executive%20Board.htm>.

## A A S L H i g h l i g h t s

### AASL Vision Summit

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will be hosting a "Vision Summit" this December to bring together leaders of the profession from around the country to explore the school library media program of the future, and to identify what needs to be done to achieve that vision. The ideas generated at the AASL Vision Summit will support the development of new guidelines for the profession.

Each AASL affiliate was invited to nominate a leader from their state to participate in this summit. AASL will provide travel and lodging. Participants are expected to work collaboratively and commit to required pre- and post- work.

Diane Beaman was nominated to rep-

resent NHEMA, the NH affiliate organization. She hopes to be able to articulate the ideas of NH school library media specialists. Susan Ballard, also a NH LMS is going as the representative from NEEMA, New England Educational Media Association. We are fortunate to have two people from NH going.

In NH, where we have recently fought for the language of the Minimum Standards for Public Schools to continue to require a LMS in schools; where the 2005-06 technology surveys reported that 26 out of 136 responding districts have no library automation software; where LMS have sometimes taken on larger roles with ICT literacy and technology integration without adequate support staff; where there is no a librarian employed at the department of education, and where many elementary

school libraries have only the part-time services of a LMS or paraprofessional; a Vision Summit may be thought by some to be unrelated to our local needs. However, a shared vision can build hope and strength. Many of the factors that affect the environment in which we work are national in scope. This Vision Summit is an opportunity to look ahead and devise strategies to get where we want to go with the support of our national organization.

The Vision Summit will be held December 1-3, 2006 in Chicago. If you have "visionary" thoughts, comments, rants, etc. Diane would love to have them before that date. Please email her. [dbeaman@metrocast.net](mailto:dbeaman@metrocast.net). She looks forward to reporting back to NHEMA members.

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## I C T a n d t h e L M S

A September 2006 article printed in the NHSTE newsletter, *Connections*, "Electronic Portfolios: Part of Information and Communication Technologies," by Meghan McPhaul, gave an excellent introduction to the important 2005 addition to the NH State Requirements for Public Schools standard - ED 306.42. If you are new to the discussion of ICT Literacy Skills you may wish to get a copy of this article or go to the following web site for an introduction. <http://www.nheon.org/oet/standards/ICTLiteracy.htm>. The article that follows here will serve as an update for NHEMA members with regard to summer events. The questions and answers may help us to explore the role of the LMS with regard to the ICT Standard.

**On July 12 – 13, 2006 a Taskforce of 6 NHEMA** members met at the NH Department of Education and worked to draft an alignment document showing the connections between the NH Reading GLEs, the AASL Information Literacy Skills, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacy Skills, and the NH ICT Literacy requirements. The document that was created includes an introduction and a glossary. A copy is posted on the department of education website at <http://www.nheon.org/ictliteracy/index.htm>. The link is "**GLE Reading & Literacy Skills Alignment**" under ICT curriculum. This work was requested by Cathy Higgins from the Department of Education in preparation for the ICT Institute which followed on July 17-19, 2006.

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## A A S L H i g h l i g h t s C o n t i n u e d . . .

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### No Child Left Behind

AASL is moving forward with introducing legislation ensuring that School Library Media Specialists are "highly qualified." At the September Board of Directors Meeting of NHEMA, a vote was taken showing support for this endeavor. Individual AASL members may also voice their opinion through Irene Kwidzinski, AASL Director – Region 1, New England. [kwidzinskii@new-milford.k12.nh.us](mailto:kwidzinskii@new-milford.k12.nh.us). She reports that over the last five years we have seen the need to be a part of the NCLB law. Essential points of the AASL effort are these:

- NCLB will be opened once for reauthorization, beginning in January 2007.
- Being aware of the various differences in each state, we have put together suggested wording to be inserted in NCLB.
- The main objective is to encourage every school to have at least one school library media specialist and that school library media specialist would be highly qualified.
- Highly qualified would mean "a bachelors degree or higher; state certification; and a mastery of information literacy."

In the future each state agency would work to improve the quality of school library media specialists in the state through the state certification process, so each state would move at their own pace.

If you would may share comments with any NHEMA board member or directly with Irene. AASL is interested in the following:

- Are you supportive of the revised wording for NCLB?
  - If you cannot be supportive, why not?
  - What are your major concerns?
  - What do you see as the major issues we must overcome?
- Other specific comments.

More detailed information including the suggested wording to the legislation is available from NHEMA board members. Nothing has been said about contacting representatives at this time. That will come later, when the legislation is proposed.

### Information Power Revision

An AASL taskforce is currently hard at work on a draft of revised guidelines for school librarians. The last update of *Information Power* was published in 1998.

*Sharon Silva & Diane Beaman*



### Library Automation Gap Revealed

Are you in one of the 26 out of 136 Districts without an automated collection? Would you like information, support or advice as to how to move forward with automation? If so, contact our NHEMA Vice President, Sharon Silva [shsilva@comcast.net](mailto:shsilva@comcast.net).

## I c t a n d t h e l m s c o n t i n u e d . . .

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**On July 17 – 19, 2006 the ICT Institute** was held at Loon Mountain to assist NH schools with developing digital portfolios for ICT Literacy. A number of Library Media Specialists participated. There was follow-up work done collaboratively on a Moodle web site. The output of the Institute was the creation of 6 case studies for developing digital portfolios and six model student portfolios. These were based on 6 different school or district scenarios from weak tech to rich tech and small population to large population. The results of this work are posted on the Department of Education web site at <http://www.nheon.org/ictliteracy/index.htm>. Meghan McPhaul's article mentioned above gave a great description of digital portfolios and the July institute at Loon.

**Q. What should the role of the LMS be with regard to these digital portfolios?**

A. Many school librarians are currently supporting technology and information literacy integration in their schools. Those NH schools that have a full time, flexibly-scheduled Library Media Specialist, have a strong ally for building digital portfolios. Where the school LMS is on a fixed schedule or the school library is staffed by a paraprofessional, there can still be opportunities to be a help with 21st Century Skills integration. The model of working collaboratively with teachers is the goal of many LMS. The national IL (Information Literacy) Standards dovetail and overlap the NETS standards in many areas and the American Association for School Librarians (AASL) has been working closely with the Partnership for 21st Century Literacy Skills <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>.

**Q. The teachers in our school are focused on teaching the reading GLEs. How would you suggest integrating ICT Literacy Skills including Information Literacy into the reading curriculum?**

A. The alignment document that was created by the NHEMA Taskforce this summer is a great place to start.

You can use it to show teachers how they can meet the state requirement for including ICT literacy skills while working on the Reading GLEs.

**Q. Is the NH state ICT Literacy Standard for K-12 Students a curriculum standard?**

A. No, the state ICT standard is a part of the new (2005) NH State Minimum Standard for Public Schools – Administrative rule, ED 306.42 <http://nheon.org/oet/standards/ICTLiteracy.htm>. The ICT Standards refer to several curriculum standards including the NETS standards from ISTE, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacy Skills, Information Literacy from AASL, and Standards for Technological Literacy from ITEA. It also mentions various subject area curricula into which ICT Literacy Skills are to be integrated.

**Q. What should the LMS do about helping to assess these digital portfolios?**

A. Portfolios will have to be assessed at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and again at the end of high school, but assessments should also be made of artifacts all along the way. There is a great opportunity here for the LMS to assist teachers with assessing individual items of student work. Assessment rubrics can also be used as teaching tools, showing the way to improving work. Information Literacy assessment rubrics would be helpful for teachers who are assessing individual artifacts. It would help teachers to understand how to recognize and build these skills if they saw them detailed in a rubric.

**Q. The ICT Literacy Skills seem to largely emphasize the integration of technology tools. Cathy Higgins has said that districts should have a broad view of ICT Literacy to include the strategies and higher learning concepts that are the focus of Information Literacy. How do we make sure this happens?**

A. Some of the scenarios that were created in July make this point. The LMS may have a golden opportunity with school-wide digital portfolios to integrate Information Literacy Skills into all areas of the curriculum.

**Connecting NH Libraries**, the New Hampshire Libraries Conference, will be held on May 17 & 18, 2007. We are going back to the Mount Washington Hotel! Save the date and check the conference web site for more information. <http://www.nhlibconf.org/>

## New Hampshire School Library Survey

NHEMA, in collaboration with the NHDOE, will be conducting a state-wide online survey in the near future in order to obtain much needed baseline data about New Hampshire public school library media centers. The resulting data and analysis will help inform decision made by the NHEMA Board and the Information Power Committee as it plans future directions, conventions and actions. Perhaps even more important, the data and analysis could be used to help inform decisions made by policymakers and educational leaders at the local and state level as well.

The Information Power Committee is heading up the work on this survey and would be happy to have new volunteers from each area of the state to help with follow-up calls and contacts. Full state-wide participation is the goal!

The survey will be conducted using an online service called *Survey Monkey*. The survey is composed of eleven parts

with a total of 82 questions; each part includes an optional comment section. Those responding will find it helpful to have available 2005-06 data for the following:

- budget
- circulation
- collection
- number of visits to the library media center.

Participants will be notified when the survey becomes available and how to access it. You will be notified when the data and analysis is completed and available to view. Your cooperation in this venture will go a long way toward making it a success. Only good things can come of this.

*Pam Ross*

## NH Center for the Book

The NH Center for the Book at the NH State Library held an Advisory Board meeting on June 13, 2006. Some of the items discussed were:

The NH Authors Room opened at the State Library with reading by NH Poets Laureate and an exhibit featuring NH Poets. The exhibits in the room will change periodically.

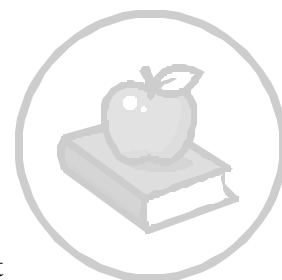
The NHCBC will once again operate a NH booth at the National Book Festival on September 30 in Washington, D.C., featuring the book *Harley & Homer* by Donna Ciocca.

The entry deadline for the 2007 Letters About Literature contest is Dec. 8, 2006. Official guidelines will be mailed to schools and libraries. Cash prizes are given out for the top essays at the state and national level in 3 age groups: Grades 4 - 6, Grades 7 & 8, and Grades 9 - 12.

Dr. Lyonel B. Tracy, NH Commissioner of Education, attended the meeting and spoke about the "Follow the Child" Initiative, the NH approach to the No Child Left Behind which focuses on the uniqueness of each child and stresses art education and physical education. More information about Follow the Child can be found at the NHDOE website.

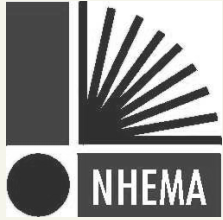
The NHCBC website has been updated with a new look and a revised navigational system. Take a look at it – there is a wealth of information about NH authors, NH books, literary events, literary awards, NH booksellers and publishers, literacy & reading programs and literary organizations in NH.

More information about all of the above and about other programs of the NHCBC can be found at [www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter](http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter).



*Becky Albert*

WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.NHEMA.NET



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
EDUCATIONAL MEDIA  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 418  
Concord, NH 03302-0418



## T e c h n o l o g y

Are you looking for a way to collaborate with fellow librarians who are not in your building? Or maybe you are you trying to find a solution to the problem of students transporting files back and forth between home and school? For either issue, *Zoho* is the solution. *Zoho* is a free online suite of programs that aims to bring the off-line office environment to the web. *Zoho* allows users to share and group edit documents, spreadsheets and slide shows that are saved to the *Zoho* website.

*Zoho's* word processing environment is easy to use and contains a spell check option (which very few other web-based software programs have.)

Work that is done in the *Zoho* environment remains private unless you want to share it with an individual, a group, or the world.

Students can work on documents at home and at school simply by storing them on the *Zoho* website. They can also work on group projects by sharing their files with classmates and teachers.

Go to [www.zoho.com](http://www.zoho.com) to see their other



tools including a planner, a website monitoring service, web editing application, and a poll builder.

*Pam Harland*

**Pam Harland** is the Research Integrator Library Media Specialist at Plymouth Regional High School. Pam is also the new Technology Committee Chairperson on the NHEMA board.

She lives in Rumney with her husband and two boxer dogs. Email her at : [pharland@pemi-baker.sau48.k12.nh.us](mailto:pharland@pemi-baker.sau48.k12.nh.us)