

Hotline / Connections

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

A Division of the American Library Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by David V. Loertscher

Thinking Your Way into Making a Difference

I had a wonderful professor at Indiana University named Margaret Rufsvold. She was criticized mightily during the 1940s for recommending that libraries contain audiovisual materials when libraries obviously should contain only books. One day in a class, we were going over a list of principles for something or other, and she said, "What's not there? You know, half the time it's more important to think about what's not there than what is." I went home from class that day in a reverie. "Half the time, it's not what's there, but what isn't." I don't know how many times since I have used that thinking guidance. Just the other day, I was asked to respond to a questionnaire about

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the steps in information literacy. The question asked was: "Is this a comprehensive view? Are the steps all there?" Applying my professor's advice, it became instantly apparent that glaring gaps existed.

Because I don't have a professor any more to whack me over the head, I have learned over the years to sample the literature outside our immediate profession. Sometimes I

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ALA Offers Library Advocacy NOW! Presenters' Training for School Library Media Specialists

ALA will offer Library Advocacy Now! Presenters' Training for School Library Media Specialists on Sunday, January 21, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, during the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio.

Library Advocacy Now! training for presenters is designed to help you teach others how to be effective advocates for school library

media programs at the local, state, and national levels. Other interests have messages that they advocate forcefully in the media, in executive chambers and legislative halls. Library Advocacy Now! presenters have a key role to play in training and mobilizing library advocates nationwide.

Who should be a presenter?

Those who register for Library
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