

ALA CONFERENCE 2005/Chicago

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As always, the ALA conference was exciting and filled with enthusiasm. What follows are highlights of this year's conference.

I met with various vendors who gave me some quick updates on their products. We subscribe to *CQ Researcher* online and one of the representatives helped me to trouble-shoot a problem we were having in creating persistent links.

I was reminded of the usefulness of the periodicals published by Information Today. Some of their titles include *Searcher*, *Online* and *Computers in Libraries* and help to keep us all up-to-date and well-informed.

The poster sessions were great and just loved how one college is using E-Bay to locate materials for their archive. Brilliant!

During the Live Stage sessions, it was wonderful to see an author who is the daughter of good friend! Time to celebrate!

A lunch break gave me time to reconnect with a colleague who is a librarian at a middle school in Glenview, IL. We realized that educational institutions share a common mission and many of the same values. We also realized that we can learn so much from each other...it's easy to transfer the knowledge to suit our institution's specific needs.

The NSLS (North Suburban Library System) recognized NSLS librarians who who received awards during the year. It was nice to celebrate the achievements of my colleagues and especially of Susan Maltese. Susan won the leadership award from EBSCO and since I worked with her at Oakton Community College for 24 years, it was especially meaningful.

The ACRL President's Program "Time For A Reality Check: Academic Librarians in a TiVo-lutionary Age" was very interesting. The creators of the Beloit College Mindset List presented a history of the list; however, I wish they would have devoted more time to a discussion of the implications for those of us who work in academic libraries. But, I have shared the list with our vice-president who also found it very interesting. In addition, David Silver, founder of the Resource Center for Cyberculture at the University of Washington presented the many ways the librarians at his institution are connecting with their students in this "TiVo-lutionary age".

I was both pleased and proud to be present at the award ceremony/reception for the ACRL Academic Research librarian of the year and celebrate the achievements of all the award winners.