

Lesley Mason is (On the Loose) in the Staff Spotlight



Also inside...

B&N Nook:
A Review

The Skinny
on SkillSoft

Geometry of
Reflection

Request to Buy:
Easier Than Ever

Lesley Mason is (On The Loose) in the Staff Spotlight

This edition of the Learning Newsletter's Staff Spotlight features, Lesley Mason, Teen/YA Specialist at the Hagerstown Branch of the Washington County Free Library. Next month will feature one of our colleagues at the Allegany County Library System. Stay tuned!

Julie Zamostny: Hi Lesley, thanks so much for agreeing to this interview. As one of the newest additions to the Washington County library staff I thought this would be a great venue for folks across the region to get to know a little more about you and children's librarianship. Why don't you start off by telling us about your current position, what your primary responsibilities are, and what you like best about your job?

Lesley Mason: I was hired back in June to join the Children's Department as a Teen/YA Specialist. While I support the Children's Department, I try to spend as much time as possible on Teen/YA topics. I help out with Storytimes, and spend time helping patrons at the reference desk. But my primary job responsibilities revolved around Teens. Currently, I am working on developing the YA collection, and organizing innovative Teen Programming. Did you hear about the cool Teen Read Week promotion?? Check out the Teen Page online! I also want to revamp the Teen volunteer program. What do I like best about my job?

You mean besides buying books and video games, and hanging out with the Yu-Gi-Oh crowd? I work with great people. I spent 10 years "out in the world" and have worked with everyone from politicians to professors and I have to say, I really enjoy the people that make up Washington County Free Library and the Western Maryland Regional Library.



JZ: Tell us more about how you came to be in Washington County. Where were you working before? Where did you go to school for your MLS?

LM: I'm originally from the area. After living in Baltimore for 10 years, I decided to come back home to be closer to family. Before coming to WCFL, I was working in the Public Outreach office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Baltimore Branch.

While at the Fed, I obtained my MLS from Clarion University.

JZ: How did you decide to specialize in children's librarianship?

LM: As an undergrad, I studied to be a high school teacher. So I've always been interested in education for teens. It wasn't until I worked at the

Port Discovery Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library that I realized I could actually do this for a living. People joke about all of the different and varied jobs I've held over the years, but one constant has always been outreach and education, especially for teens.

JZ: I just learned from Jeff how you studied under the Mother Good On the Loose author, Betsy Diamant-Cohen. Could you tell us what it was like learning from such a pioneer in the field and maybe talk a bit about 2-3 of the most important lessons you learned from her?



Lesley Mason is (On The Loose) in the Staff Spotlight

LM: Betsy is really amazing. One of the most important things I learned in using the Mother Goose on the Loose program is that even the youngest patrons can really appreciate books and learning. I learned how to take the basic outline of the MGOL program and tailor it to fit program themes and audience. Betsy's interactive programs teach sharing and build self esteem. The MGOL program is a great way to establish an appreciation and life long relationship with the library.

JZ: How do you see the field of children's librarianship evolving over the next 5, 10, or 15 years? What will that mean for library staff who work with children?

LM: Children and teens are more

tech savvy than ever. And we need to embrace that. Social media, online resources, ebooks, and downloadable materials are going to become the norm as libraries evolve to meet the demands of this demographic. Staff will also need to embrace some of the new technologies so that we can continue to be a bridge to information.

JZ: When it comes to working with children and their parents, what are some of your go-to resources (print or online), how do you use them, and why?

LM: Teens are a tricky group, as they rarely want to directly ask for help. So mostly I see frustrated parents of teens that have projects due in a few days. Since they are usually in a time crunch, I always mention

the E-Library page on our website. Often teens are willing to listen or read an ebook, especially if a hard copy isn't readily available. The Learning Express library database is also a great resource since it has practice tests and college prep tests on the same database. And I always use EbscoHost and the Student Resource Center there.

JZ: I recently met Winston, the Paws To Read Golden Retriever. What can you tell us about him and his future plans at WCFL?

LM: Jeff has been working with Winston to have him available, by appointment, for reading sessions. In Hancock, Winston is available the first Wednesday of the month from 3:30-4:30pm. In Hagerstown he will be available on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month from 2-4pm. Patrons can call to register their readers.



Children and teens are more tech savvy than ever. And we need to embrace that.

For more information, or to register for any of the training events advertised in this newsletter, please contact Julie Zamostny.

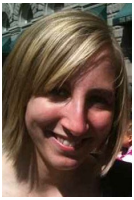
Phone: 301-331-3821

301-739-3250 ext. 171

Email: jzamostny@washcolibrary.org

Twitter: @jzamostny

The Barnes and Noble Nook: A Review



*Julie Zamostny, WMRL,
usual suspect.*

For the past two weeks or so, I've had the pleasure of experiencing the Barnes and Noble Nook, an ebook reader similar to Amazon's Kindle, to the point where I feel I am able to share my two cents with you.

Out of the box, and with the help of the Quick Start Guide, I found handling the Nook to be a fairly easy task: turn it on, plug it in to charge the battery, touch the touch-screen to see the menu options, and enjoy.

This process is all fine and dandy if I was happy with only reading the Nook Tour or the Nook Users' Guide which came pre-loaded. It's quite another story if I want to add other titles to My Library of Nook books.

The Nook is definitely not plug and play—at least, not at first. When you first receive the Nook, you must download the freely available software, Adobe Digital Editions (ADE), onto your computer. This software makes it possible to transfer books from Overdrive, and other ebook databases, onto the Nook.

Installing the ADE software has been the most arduous process of my entire Nook experience. So much so, that I'm creating a video tutorial which will take you through

the steps of downloading and installing the software as well as signing up for an Adobe ID, in an attempt to minimize the urge to quit before you're ahead.

Bottom line: hang in there! Once the ADE software is installed and you have your Adobe ID, transferring books from Overdrive or even the Barnes and Noble store is quite easy.

Reading on the Nook takes some getting used to. The eInk (magnetic ink) is legible and since there's no backlight, I've found it to be easy on the eyes. However, no backlight means that there's no late night reading in bed without the assistance of an external light source—which is no different from reading a print book. Although, it would be nice if a backlight were an option that could be toggled on or off as needed.

Another [small] thing that bothers me are the Page Turn Buttons. Maybe it's just me but I catch myself thinking that the buttons on the left side should, when pressed, flip backwards in the book and that the buttons on the right should, when

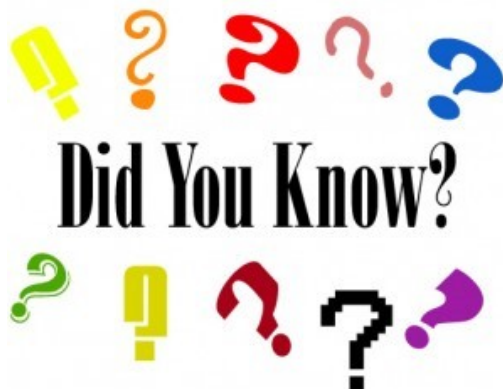
pressed, flip forwards. But instead the Nook as a left and right arrow on both sides of the Reading Screen which causes me to accidentally press the forward button with my left thumb when what I really mean to do is to flip backwards.

The touch-screen is similar to other equivalents out there but it is less sensitive than the Apple touch-screens (iPad, iPod, etc). I find that I really need to press and slide rather than lightly sweep my fingers across it as I'm used to doing with my iPhone.

In addition to navigating through menu options, the touch-screen allows you the ability to mimic highlighting and note-writing as one would in a print book. The process is a bit cumbersome and takes thirty seconds or more to complete the entire highlighting process but at least it's an option.

Bottom line: If you can survive the ADE download and installation process, and you're not a compulsive highlighter or note writer, and you like to download free books from Overdrive, you'll enjoy the Nook. Diehard Apple fans will probably get frustrated from touching the Reading Screen to no avail and should probably stick with the iPad as their primary eReader—and sunglasses to cut the glare. Ω



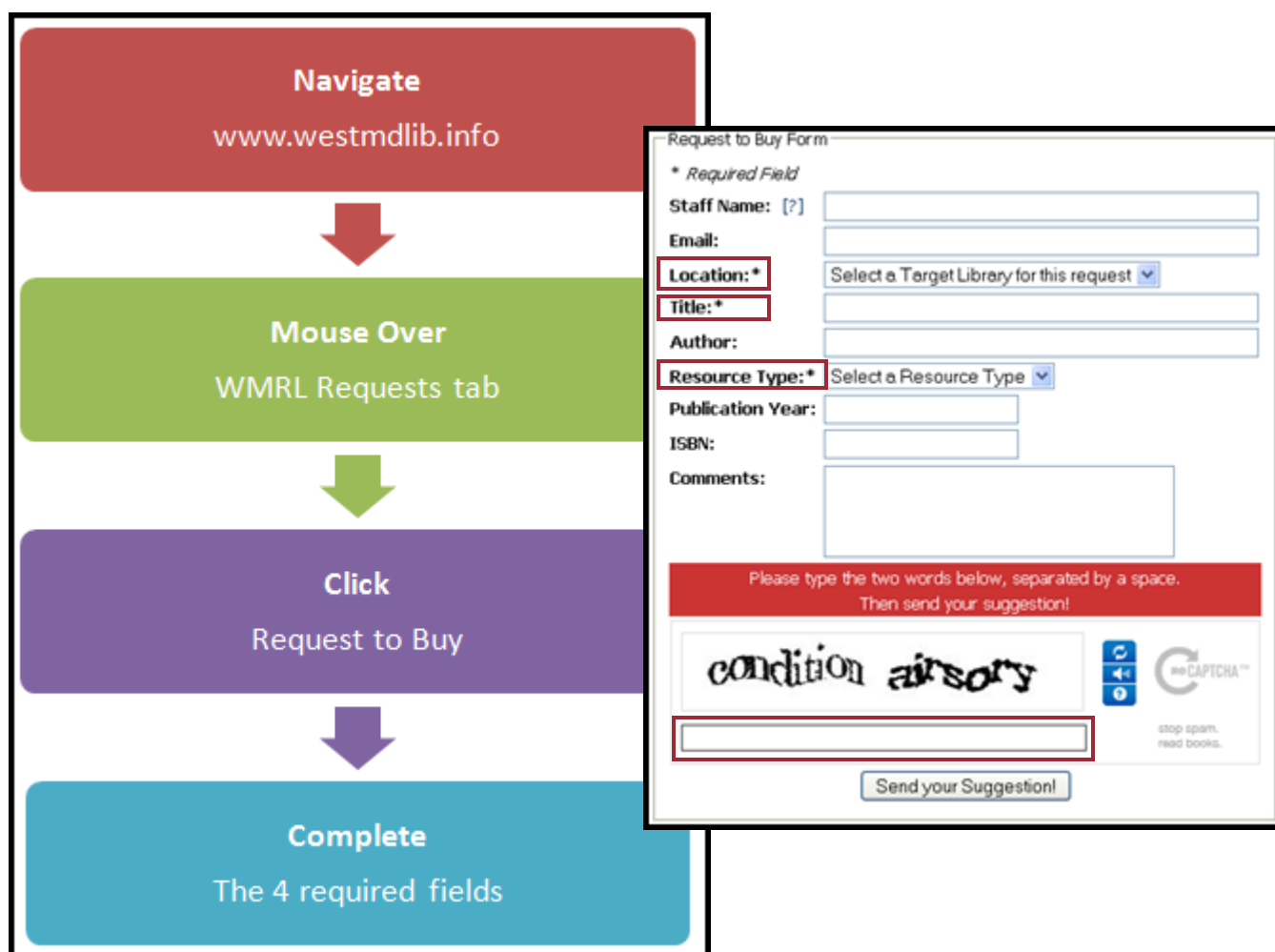


It is now easier than ever for you to customize your branches' deposit collections by using **WMRL's Request To Buy** form!

Use this form to ask WMRL to buy:

- DVDs
- Blu-rays
- Audiobooks
- Large Print titles
- Non-fiction book titles.

Access the form at: www.westmdlib.info and follow the steps below!



For more information, or to register for any of the training events advertised in this newsletter, please contact Julie Zamostny.

Phone: 301-331-3821

301-739-3250 ext. 171

Email: jzamostny@washcolibrary.org

Twitter: @jzamostny

Reading & Listening to Books on an iPhone or iPod Touch



Bill Taylor, WCFL Adult Services, guest columnist

Among the ever-increasing number of gadgets on which you can read ebooks or listen to audiobooks, the iPhone is unique because of its small size and its ability to handle both written ebooks and audiobooks. (By the way, everything I say about the iPhone applies equally to the iPod Touch.) When it comes to written ebooks, the small size has advantages such as its portability and disadvantages such as frequent page turns, but depending on how important these are to you, the iPhone is worth considering as an ebook reader. As a player for audiobooks, of course, it has all the advantages of the iPod, including a good user interface and great portability. With both ebooks and audiobooks, the process of getting free content from our libraries onto the iPhone is pretty clunky, but once you've figured out its quirks, it works okay.



As you probably know, the Western Maryland libraries get online books through the Maryland Digital eLibrary, provided by OverDrive. (Washington County also gets books from NetLibrary, which I'll discuss below.) OverDrive provides both ebooks and audiobooks, but the OverDrive ebooks aren't compatible with the iPhone, whereas the audiobooks are.

To use OverDrive audiobooks, you have to download the free software OverDrive Media Console. This software, on your computer, manages the downloads from OverDrive and the transfers to the iPhone. The iTunes software from Apple also needs to be on your computer, but I assume it already is, since you have an iPhone or iPod Touch.

To find audiobooks, you search or browse on the Maryland Digital eLibrary website. Find a book you want, check its detailed listing to make sure it's compatible with an iPod, then click the links and follow the instructions to add the book to your cart and check out with your library card. At this point, the Media Console software should start automatically and manage the download. Once the download is finished, plug in your iPhone if you haven't yet, let iTunes start up but ignore it, then select the book in the listing on Media Console and click the "Transfer" button. Media Console will detect the attached iPhone and ask if you want to transfer the book there. After a few more steps, the book should be on the iPhone, ready to play. It will show up in the Music player like a regular album, with each part of the recording as a separate "song."



It's also possible to do the whole process directly from the iPhone, bypassing your computer. For this, you use OverDrive's Media Console app, which you can download for free from the Apple app store. Once that's installed on your iPhone, use the phone's browser to go to the Maryland Digital eLibrary and search for books, add them to the cart, and check out. After you have checked out, click the button to download the book, and the Media Console app on your iPhone will open and handle the download. You then play the book directly from the Media Console app. There's one significant drawback when using this approach: the iPhone app is only compatible with the mp3 format and relatively few of OverDrive's audiobooks are in this format. For the best selection, browse and download with your regular computer, then transfer to the iPhone. Using that method, you have access to many more (though not all) of OverDrive's audiobooks.

Meanwhile, if you're in Washington County, there's another online service for ebooks and audiobooks called NetLibrary. This system is quite a bit simpler than OverDrive. WCFL doesn't subscribe to written ebooks from NetLibrary, so that's not an issue. Also, special software is not required on your computer. It is available, but if you're using an iPhone or iPod as your player for audiobooks, you don't need it. Instead, you simply download the book onto your computer, as you would any →



Reading & Listening to Books on an iPhone or iPod Touch cont.

other sound file, and then import it into iTunes. From there, you can transfer it to the iPhone. NetLibrary has audiobooks in two different formats, but only the ones in mp3 format can be used with iTunes and an iPhone, so check the format when you're searching and choosing books.



That's about it, as far as our libraries' services are concerned. There are many other free services making audiobooks and ebooks available on the web, in formats that can be transferred to the iPhone. Probably the best known (and best organized) for free audiobooks is LibriVox (<http://librivox.org/>). These are recordings of books in the public domain – anything published before 1923 – including such perennial favorites as Dickens, Austen, and Twain. The recordings are made by volunteers, so different people may read different chapters of the same book, and the quality varies but they're usually pretty good. To transfer the books to an iPhone, just download the mp3 files from LibriVox and import them into iTunes.

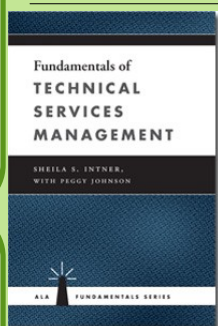
As for free ebooks: since the ones our libraries provide don't work with an iPhone, you'll want to download a reader app onto your phone, which you can use to get free books. The technology website ZDNet has a review of numerous options at <http://tinyurl.com/zdnet-ereaders>. Mashable, another tech site, reviewed them also – see <http://tinyurl.com/mashable-ereaders>. Both these articles recommend an app called Stanza, which I've been very happy with. It can connect you to several independent stores to purchase ebooks, but it can also connect to sites for free ebooks, such as feedbooks.com. These are generally e-versions of books that are in the public domain, although a few contemporary authors are making their work available for free in ebook form.



When it comes to commercial services, where you pay for ebooks and audiobooks, there is such a wide variety that I couldn't begin to cover them. One thing to note: if you have a dedicated e-reader, such as a Kindle, a Nook, a Kobo, or a Sony, you can get a corresponding app for your iPhone, and read your purchased books on the phone as well as on your device. You can even do without the device and just put the app on your phone to purchase and read books.

So – that's at least a quick introduction. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me: wtaylor@washcolibrary.org.

New to the Professional Collection: Fundamentals of Technical Services Management

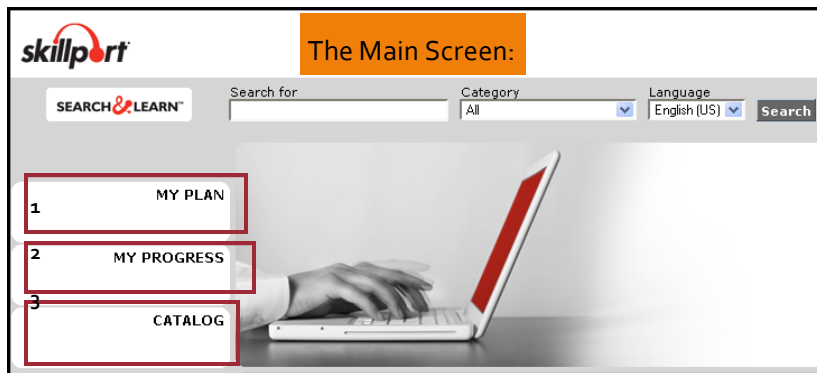


The processes for acquiring, cataloging, and preserving resources have undergone dramatic changes in the last decade, and library technical services departments have had to evolve quickly in response. Often, librarians asked to take on technical services management roles find themselves both under-prepared and without guidance from their institutions.

In *Fundamentals of Managing Library Technical Services*, seasoned expert Sheila Intner makes sense out of the chaos as she examines the roles and responsibilities of the technical services manager. This authoritative handbook:

- gives new managers the tools necessary to effectively run the technical services department
- Provides guidance on working with and evaluating staff, vendors, and department outputs
- Suggests ways to boost department visibility
- Offers easy-to-scan tips, lists, and sidebars, including numerous “tales from the field”
- Includes chapter-level bibliographies for more in-depth study

For more information, or to register for any of the training events advertised in this newsletter, please contact Julie Zamostny.

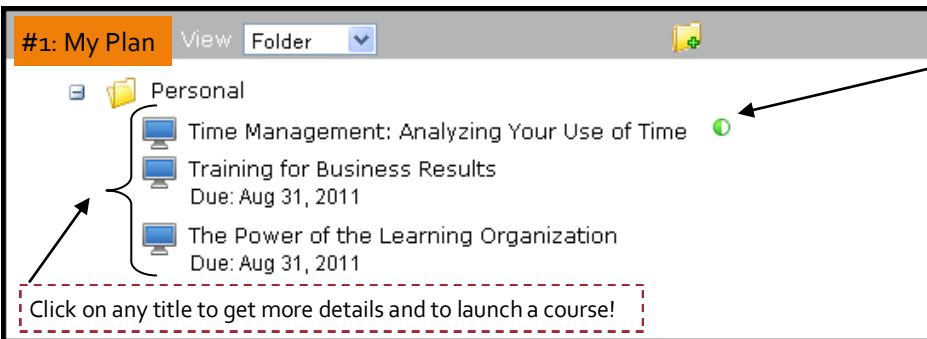


Video Tutorials are available without signing into SkillSoft.

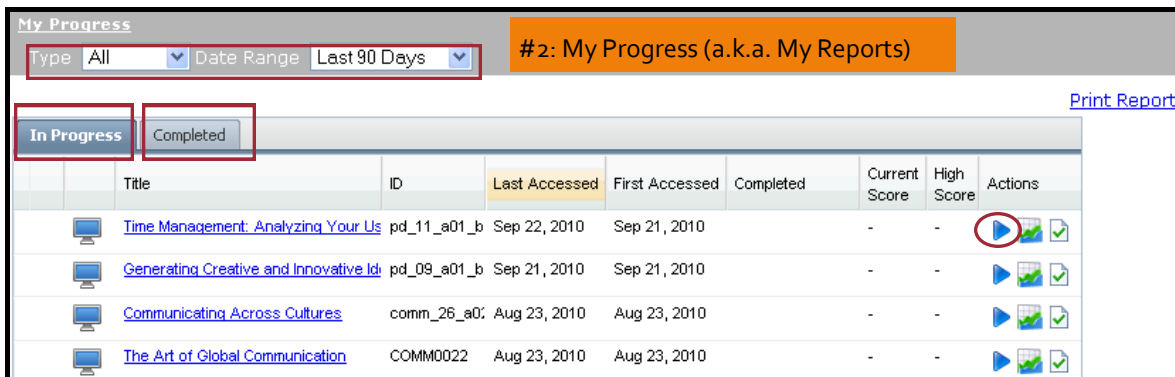
My Plan: tinyurl.com/SS-MyPlan

My Progress: tinyurl.com/SS-MyProgress

Catalog: tinyurl.com/SS-Browse



The small green circle indicates whether you've started a course (as seen here) or whether you've completed a course, in which case the circle would be a solid green.



My Progress is the same as My Reports. Notice at the top how you can specify a date range. Also notice the two tabs: *In Progress* and *Completed*. Click on the Completed tab to complete the evaluations and to access and print your certificates. You can launch any course in the *In Progress* tab by clicking the blue triangle button circle here in red.



#3: Catalog

Click on the plus (+) signs to expand the folders

Business Skills Curricula folders have interesting courses on topics such as Finance and Accounting, Human Resources, Leadership, and Personal Development.

Desktop Curricula folders have interesting courses on software such as Adobe products, Microsoft Office 2007 and 2010, and Windows Vista.

Note You cannot add entire folders to My Plan at this time; you can only add the courses one by one.

For more information, or to register for any of the training events advertised in this newsletter, please contact Julie Zamostny.

The Geometry of Self Reflection



Lately I've been thinking a lot about the transfer of learning and how use of the Learning Journal Blog has dwindled a bit over time. My personal roadblock to posting to the Learning Journal Blog is the time it takes to write the essays and I often wonder if anyone else will find what I have to say interesting.



Then I think about the other more fun things I could be doing with my time and inevitably the blog gets put on the back burner.



However, I think I've found an alternative, one that is colorful, and creative, and less time consuming and less cognitively taxing, and potentially even...fun!

I call it the Geometric Evaluation technique and it involves three shapes: a triangle, a square and a circle.

The triangle is for three things you learned at a training event.

The square is for one thing you squared away, an ah-ha moment, something you connected with your work life.

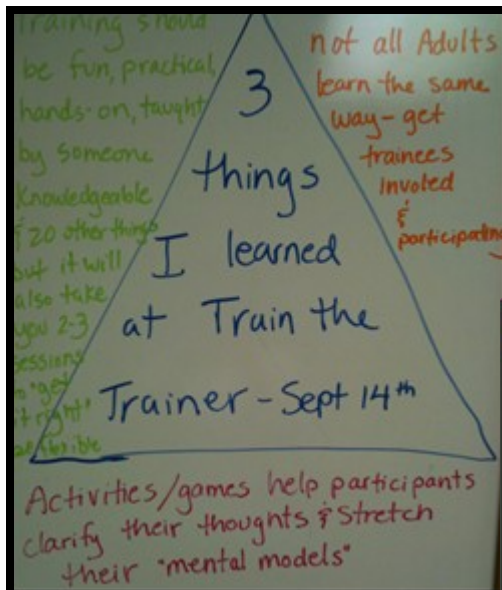
The circle is for one or more things you still need to work on or improve upon in terms of the training topic.

You can do this type of evaluation on a piece of paper with a pen or crayons and then just scan the photos onto your computer. You can

draw the shapes on a whiteboard with colorful markers and take photos of each one with a digital camera or a camera phone. If you're really talented you could draw the shapes using a computer program like Paint and just upload the photos to the blog.

Whichever method you choose is fine as long as it provides a clear indication of the learning that occurred at the training program.

Below are examples of each shape which show a staff member's evaluation of the MLA Train the Trainer program on September 14, 2010. Ω

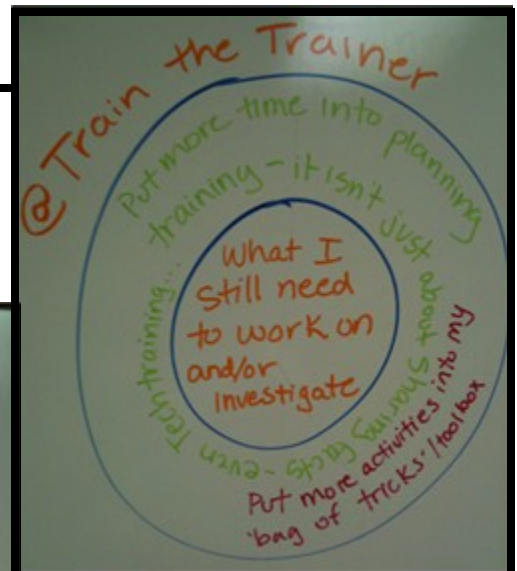
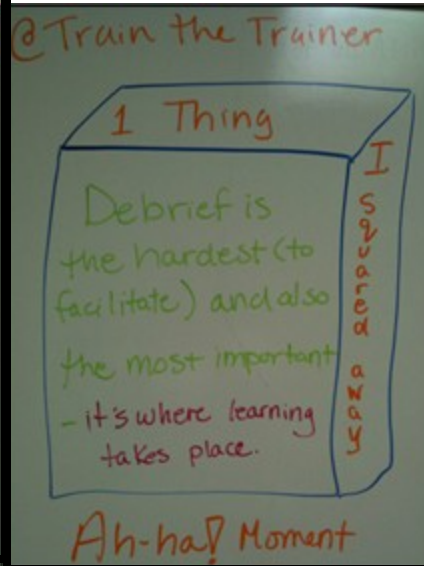


Above.

1. Training should be fun, practical, hands-on, taught by someone knowledgeable.
2. Not all adults learn the same way
3. Activities help participants clarify their thoughts and stretch mental models

Below.

Debriefing is the hardest to facilitate and also the most important because that's where the learning takes place.



Above.

Need to put more time into planning training — it isn't just about sharing facts—even technology training...

November Learning Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 Emergency Succession Planning Free—online @ 3PM	3	4 Serving the YA population: It's not just about video games Free—online	5
8 Screencasting with Screencast-O-Matic @ 10AM and 2PM	9	10 SLRC Fall Conference 8:30-4:30PM @ Enoch Pratt Free Library	11	12
15 SLRC Workshop Readers Advisory @ 1:00-4:00PM LaVale	16 SLRC Workshop Customer Service @ 9:30-12:30PM LaVale	17	18 Writing up a library behavior code Free—online @ 3PM	19
22	23 YAs deserve the best: Using competencies to serve teens Online @ 2PM	24	25	26
29	30			



Date	Time	Title	Register
Nov. 2	3-4PM	Emergency Succession Planning	Registration is <u>not</u> required. Follow this URL to attend the online training: http://bit.ly/c3aGSX
Nov. 4	2-3PM	Serving the YA Population	http://bit.ly/d7QV5L
Nov. 8	10:00-11:30AM	Screencasting with Screencast-O-Matic	http://bit.ly/aYRdzP
Nov. 8	2:00-3:30PM	Screencasting with Screencast-O-Matic	http://bit.ly/bo4XJy
Nov. 10	8:30AM-4:30PM	SLRC Fall Conference	http://bit.ly/dzGHCr
Nov. 15	1-4PM	Readers Advisory workshop w/SLRC	http://bit.ly/bPaeO7
Nov. 16	9:30AM-12:30PM	Customer Service workshop w/SLRC	http://bit.ly/cWnUjY
Nov. 18	3-4PM	Writing up a library behavior code	Registration is not required. Follow this URL to attend the online training: http://bit.ly/cDZN5u
Nov. 23	2-3PM	Young Adults deserve the best	http://bit.ly/98I2ZQ

"Experience: that most brutal of teachers. But you learn, my God do you learn."

~ C.S. Lewis ~

For more information, or to register for any of the training events advertised in this newsletter, please contact Julie Zamostny.

Phone: 301-331-3821

301-739-3250 ext. 171

Email: jzamostny@washcolibrary.org

Twitter: @jzamostny