



BREAKING NEWS

Quarterly News from the
Library Support Staff Certification Program

May 2013

Candidates and Graduates

Library support staff continue to enroll in LSSC. As of May 7th, 350 current candidates are enrolled and 43 candidates have received the LSSC. Candidates and certification holders come from 46 states.

Enrollment Assistance Awards

On April 1st, LSSC awarded 72 Enrollment Assistance Awards of \$175 to new LSSC applicants. This Award pays half of the cost of the LSSC application/enrollment fee. LSSC worked with state libraries in Idaho, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, Missouri, Washington, and Wyoming, with the Colorado Library Consortium, and with the Texas Library Association in providing the Awards.

Cooperation with Colleges and State Libraries

LSSC recently signed a Letter of Agreement with the [City College of San Francisco](#), so that graduates of their library program are automatically eligible for immediate certification. Chris Knox, Director of the Program comments that the process was great, one that “*influences the design of student and program learning outcomes.*” Influencing the education of LSSC is an important outcome of the work of LSSC.

Ann Joslin, the Director of the Idaho Commission for Libraries, wrote a letter in support of LSSC that reads in part:

“In Idaho eleven individuals within the library community have discovered LSSC and realize it is their opportunity to move forward with their professional development goals, with the LSSC competencies serving as a standard. Previously, these goals were only a distant dream because of geographic and financial limitations. Idaho does not require a statewide certification for library staff, or even a prerequisite amount of continuing education. However, these individuals and others within the library community recognize the importance of education in librarianship as libraries gain stature in being anchors for community economic and social development.”

Well-trained staff enhances a library's contributions as a community anchor and helps to improve library services. Therefore, we appreciate and support the efforts of the LSSC program to make professional development opportunities accessible and affordable to library support staff in our rural state."

Shirley Biladeau, also from Idaho, wrote:

"The Idaho Commission for Libraries has purchased seats in LSSC vetted courses provided by Amigos Library Services and Infopeople. Any member of the Idaho library community interested in taking these courses may apply to be considered, however LSSC candidates are given priority in regard to the limited number of seats. Applicants must demonstrate that they have the support of their supervisor, library director, or board during the time they are taking the course."

New webinar offered: Conversations with Graduates

LSSC had developed a new webinar, "Conversations with Graduates" that provides a very basic overview of LSSC and provides an opportunity for LSSC graduates to share their personal stories: why they became LSSC candidates; which competencies they chose and why; whether they took courses or prepared portfolios and why; how they approached portfolios to be successful; and, ultimately, the concrete benefits and value of LSSC. LSSC plans on offering this webinar regularly. Watch for it on the LSSC schedule. Many thanks to Debbie Odum and Kristine MacNeil, LSSC certification holders, for participating in our first webinar. The initial webinar was recorded and archived [here](#).

Reports from the Field

LSSC regularly asks our candidates and graduates to identify the impact LSSC made on their library work. Here are some recent responses (edited for length):

Kathy Jordan writes: *"I have been working on the LSSC program this past year. Our curriculum Director has been watching my progress during my Library classes. She has given me the title of Team Leader for our School District Library Vertical PLC meetings. I am responsible for creating a plan for each meeting. Since I have been doing this, the side-tracked conversations have halted, during the meetings. I have learned so much while researching the Competencies. I am a K/1 elementary school library para with 300 students in my classes each week. I am the only person in this library....and I love it! Without the LSSC program, I was lost much of the time. Now I have more confidence in the everyday dealings."*

Kathy Clevenger writes: *"I just received my LSSC Certification within the last couple of weeks and I'm really excited about opportunities that I feel will be open to me due to the LSSC. The*

greatest aspect I noticed was the feeling of accomplishment that I have now that I am finished. I also am able to understand Libraries from various perspectives rather than just my niche of work in circulation. Many of my fellow workers have congratulated me and my Director has been very supportive during my classes as a mentor and was very excited about the LSSC accomplishment. At this time, there is no financial reward for the LSSC in our library, but the personal rewards far outweigh the financial support.”

Heather Lanier submitted what she called “small thing, but every little thing helps”: *“Because of the cataloging class I took for LSSC, I now have a basic understanding of material records. As the circulation supervisor, my staff often asks me about potential cataloging errors. Now, I can answer some of those questions – thereby alleviating some of the burden on the cataloging department and reducing the time that the materials would be unavailable to our patrons.”*

Julie Schumacher writes: *“I interviewed for a part-time job in an academic library last summer and the interviewer was impressed with the LSSC program. I got the job”*

Carrie Dumar writes that she had two part-time jobs after she received her Associates degree from Highline Community College and adds: *“When I was working my two part-time jobs I received my LSSC. Even more good things started happening. I was feeling very confident in with my skills and talents. I asked and received training to be a Library Assistant Substitute. Then I received a permanent position as a Library Assistant. Now, just in the past few months I applied and was promoted to a full-time Assistant Operations Manager for King County Library.”*

Deborah Mitchell writes: *“I have been able to plan Women of Influence programs [for my library] and now have the opportunity to have my program work posted on the official Facebook page of the Mattapan Branch Library. The Women of Influence programs have been well received by the community.”*

Cynthia Morgan Nichols writes that the LSSC program has *“opened many doors for me into areas that have traditionally been reserved for faculty librarians.”* As a result of her completion of the Reference and Information Services Competency Set, she has had work published on the library website, a “libguide” was adopted as a desk manual, and she “earned a seat on an all-faculty chat reference team and on an instructional services librarian search committee.”

Upcoming Webinars

May 13th, 2pm Central Time – [An Introduction to the LSSC Program](#)

May 14th, 12pm Central Time – [Preparing a Portfolio](#)