

LibraryCrunch

Service for the Next Generation Library: A Library 2.0 Perspective by Michael Casey

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Keeping Up and Making Time

Please go read [Emily Clasper's excellent post](#) at [Library Revolution](#). I hope she doesn't mind me quoting her four points regarding professional development:

1. ***It really doesn't take that much time.*** *I have all of my subscriptions in my aggregator, and I peruse them when I'm on the phone with people, killing a few minutes before a meeting, and (gasp!) at home when I'm not actually "on the clock." If something looks really interesting and I don't have time for an in-depth read, I keep it as new and hit it later. And if I don't have time, I don't sweat it. Or I just dump some of the more expendable stuff. And I don't sweat that, either.*
2. ***We need to keep informed.*** *Sometimes librarians get so busy "doing our jobs" that we forget the responsibility we have to our profession. And a big part of being good professionals is keeping current and well informed, even if it takes you away from day-to-day tasks now and then, and even if it means you have to devote some of your personal time to doing so.*
3. ***We need to rethink our priorities.*** *I think this is true for most of us in life, not just librarians. But when you find that you are missing out on something important in your profession because you "don't have time," I think some of the things that are eating up your time need to be reevaluated. If I could have a nickel every time a librarian who "doesn't have time" explains in the next breath the weird, complicated procedure they use for this-or-that function in their library... Are those strange work-arounds and time consuming procedures so important and necessary? How can you streamline your job so that you can accommodate your professional responsibility to keep current?*
4. ***Employers and supervisors need to support professional development. For real.*** *I think that most of our supervisors talk a good game about how we all need to engage in "professional development" and keep abreast of Libraryworld happenings and trends. So they need to stick to that. If you are a supervisor, what are you doing to encourage your staff to keep themselves informed? If you're a "supervisee," what are you doing to keep your boss honest about this one? And how can we be supportive of our colleagues in this endeavor?*

[Full post.](#)

Posted by Michael on April 27, 2007 09:47 PM | [Permalink](#)

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Of course I don't mind - I'm just glad that I'm not alone in this one. Thanks for the mention!

Posted by: [Emily](#) | [April 30, 2007 01:08 PM](#)

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