FROM THE EDITOR

MARY DANIELS

It's May, and you know what that means. ~~Endless Justin Timberlake memes.~~ FLA Annual Conference!

I'm always happy to go to conference—it's a nice break from the ordinary, for one thing, but there's so much more to it than that.

Conference is a great time for us to learn from each other. I usually come back to the library the following Monday with a stack of flyers and business cards, more swag than I know what to do with, pages of notes brimming with new ideas, fresh takes on old problems, and a renewed sense of "this is why I do what I do."

More than that, it's a time to connect. It's so important that we take the time to speak with and get to know our colleagues in the field. Especially at a time of such upheaval and uncertainty, it's more important than ever that we build our networks and create that safety net for each other. Something as simple as a mini-vent session or a genuine compliment on someone's most excellent bookish gear (there will be plenty!) can completely alter the course of the day—usually for good.

If you've never been and are dithering about going, I highly recommend it. If this is your first year attending, **get in touch**—in the summer we do our Conference Recap issue and I'd love to feature your thoughts!

I'll even throw in some tips ~~no one asked for~~ as someone who's been going to FLACon since 2014:

- You get out of conference what you put in. Don't be afraid to participate! Largely, this is a field of nerds and introverts. If you're shy, most likely you're not alone! Put yourself out there, make conversation with someone new, and embrace what conference has to offer.
- Visit the vendors! Not only is this a great chance to see what's out there in Library World, but getting to meet representatives from these companies is pleasant *and* beneficial. Be sure to do the Scavenger Hunt for a chance to win great prizes! And this goes without saying: SWAG (be sure to bring some back for your coworkers who did not attend conference)!
- Post your pics on social media! For that matter, take pictures!
- Be sure to visit Poster Sessions. Some of the coolest ideas are demonstrated in poster form.
- Check out the author tables!
- Attend sessions but make time for play, too. The President's Reception is always a good time, plus there are after/pre-hours events, Alumni receptions, and more!

If you see me, stop and say "hi!"

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