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Reflection 4.2

**4.2 Professional development**

Candidates model a strong commitment to the profession by participating in professional growth and leadership opportunities through membership in library associations, attendance at professional conferences, reading professional publications, and exploring Internet resources. Candidates plan for ongoing professional growth.

**Artifacts**

1. [ISTC 789 Journal 2R](../ISTC789/ISTC%20789_Journal_2R.docx)

2. [ISTC 702 LiveBinder](http://www.livebinders.com/play/play/901296)

3. [ISTC 651 Professional Reading Reflections](../../Professional%20Reading%20Reflections.docx)

**Relevance**

Continuously developing your skills and practice, is what any professional should do, especially a school library media specialist. Staying current on technology, exploring new literature, enhancing instructional practice, as well as other areas, should be a focus of professional development for a media specialist. My artifacts reflect my desire to continuously develop my profession, through professional meetings, exploring and archiving resources through LiveBinder, and reading and reflecting on professional articles.

Attending professional conferences, where you can learn more about your profession from experts and other professionals is a great opportunity to develop your skills. I had the opportunity to attend a countywide professional development during my high school placement in Howard County. While I was there, I learned about curriculum trends and how media specialists are integrating them, technology tools, and much more. I attended a “flipping the classroom” session during this meeting, and I learned so much from the other media specialists in the room. I learned about other applications to use for this technique, like Screenr, Educreations, ShowMe, and more. I was even able to share a few of my favorites, like Voicethread. Being able to collaborate and learn from each other is such an advantage to a professional development session like this one. I plan on attending as many professional development meetings as possible, where I can not only learn from the instructor of the session, but from the other professionals at the meeting as well. By sharing our experiences, it makes the learning more meaningful and authentic, and you learn so much more this way. Even if I am not able to attend these meetings, or if they are not offered, I want to be able to learn collaboratively through online learning communities to continue to advance and extend my knowledge and professional practice.

There are so many resources and articles to keep track of that focus on professional development for school library media specialists. During my coursework, I discovered a technology tool that could easily organize all of the resources I found to help me develop my skills: LiveBinder. On this LiveBinder, I have subheadings for different focus areas, such as leadership, assessment, emerging technology, strategic planning and more. Whenever I look through articles or websites that I want to refer back to in the future, I put it into a corresponding tab. This is a great way to keep everything organized and in one place. Even after I finished this course, I have continued to add resources to it to archive my learning. I will create more tabs or LiveBinders to help me keep track of everything I learn either online or elsewhere, so that I can use it as a reference or reinforcement tool later on. I would also recommend this tool to other professionals as a way to develop and enhance their professional development and archive new information.

I was fortunate enough, in my coursework, to read a multitude of professional readings pertaining to current issues and trends in the school library media community. I focused on topics like, collection development and curation tools, E-Readers, information literacy and fluency, and more. These topics are extremely important to stay current with, because new information is constantly emerging and changing. By writing a reflection on each article, it enabled me to really think about how I could apply the information from the article, into my future practice. We also had the opportunity to discuss our articles and topics with peers in our classes. That paved the way for in-depth discussions and meaningful conversations about these important library topics. I will continue to look through online databases and scholarly journals to find new information on current issues and trends that are occurring in school libraries across the country. Joining Twitter, has been a great way for me to find even more journal articles and reflect on these issues, in addition to discussing them with other media specialists across the country. I also plan on sharing the information that I learn from my article readings with other professionals so that we can improve our practices together and enhance our students learning.