

HEATHER L. TIFFANY

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

JOB SEARCH:

OBJECTIVE: I would like to obtain a full-time position in a suburban or rural public library. My ideal job would involve collection development, reference, readers' advisory, and programming in a library that promotes change and growth.

HOW I AM TRYING TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

- Since the library system I work for does not have any professional openings and because I am hoping to relocate to the Midwest, I will be seeking a job outside of Georgia. I will continue working part-time until I find a permanent position.
- I am currently looking for children's, youth services, adult services, or reference position openings on nationwide job boards, state job boards, and individual library websites.
- Because I am not currently interested in moving into library management, I am looking for a job that will be able to hold my interest, and a position that allows for growth. Specifically, I am seeking a position that involves performing a variety of tasks as well as a library that is open to new ideas and change.
- When I find a promising posting, I examine the library's website to determine what the library promotes or finds important, the particular goals and objectives of the library, and whether the library appears to be a dynamic rather than a static library.
- I am working to create a portfolio and resume that show my skills and qualifications for such a position. I am trying to emphasize skills gained through education as well as through nearly 5 years of library experience.

SKILLS:

OBJECTIVE: To improve my skills in web design

HOW I PLAN TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

- Learn HTML, XML, and CSS
- Use and experiment with various web design and blogging programs through informal training or hands-on experience

OBJECTIVE: To keep my library and information service skills current

HOW I PLAN TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

- Attend workshops or webinars on new technologies or resources
- Read ALA magazines and newsletters, as well as state library association publications
- Consider enrolling in individual online MLS/MLIS courses

OBJECTIVE: To improve my skills in storytelling

HOW I PLAN TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

- Listen to professional storytellers, and read published advice from storytellers
- Find stories I would like to tell to groups and learn them thoroughly
- Practice retelling stories until I am comfortable sharing them with an audience, and then practice them on a group
- Attend formal courses or workshops in storytelling, as well as possible courses in puppetry

GOALS:

OBJECTIVE: To write reviews of youth materials for *School Library Journal* or another professional publication

HOW I PLAN TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

- Read published reviews to determine the style and content of reviews in the publication
- Start a personal book review blog to practice writing reviews
- Work to improve personal reviews posted on Goodreads.com and my blog
- Submit reviewer application(s) when satisfied with quality of personal reviews

OBJECTIVE: To perform as a storyteller

HOW I PLAN TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

- Build storytelling skills as outlined above
- Actively participate in a local or state storytelling association

ORGANIZATIONS:

OBJECTIVE: To participate in professional organizations related to my career and interests

HOW I PLAN TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

- Become an American Library Association member
- Consider joining an ALA Division, such as ALSC or RUSA
- Join the state library organization for the state in which I find a permanent position
- Find a local or state storytelling association to join