

July 2009

My Own Private Library: A Peek Inside the Personal Library of a Librarian

Kenneth M. Kozel
Andrew College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>

 Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#), and the [Reading and Language Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kozel, Kenneth M. (2009) "My Own Private Library: A Peek Inside the Personal Library of a Librarian," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 46 : Iss. 3 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol46/iss3/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.



My Own PRIVATE LIBRARY

A peek inside the personal library of a librarian

by Kenneth M. Kozel

My parents were always reading and believed in supporting their local library. They instilled in me the importance of reading, drawing and self-expression. As a child, I can remember many trips to the public library: always not wanting to leave and having to put books back, because I had chosen too many to check out. As a result, my parents have raised a family of bibliophiles who still hunger for books and frequent libraries.

My personal library encompasses many books and collections of materials acquired over the years. Looking back at items I have purchased and the gifts I have received: The books tell an epic story of my life. Many are marked with "Happy Birthday," "Merry Christmas" and "Congratulations" inscriptions, dated to reflect important milestones in my life. Each book has its own story to tell.

My tastes would best be described as vast, quirky and diverse — I definitely have a sense of humor. There are Stephen King and Anne Rice novels coupled with Beatrix Potter and Jane Austen books. Edward Gorey, Dr. Seuss, Gary Larson and Bill Watterson all happily coexist on the shelves with Joyce Carol Oates and John Grisham. Classics by Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor and J.D. Salinger share space with Stephenie Meyer and Christopher Paolini. I would like to say my tastes are more mature, but looking at my full bookcases — I definitely see the kid in me peeking out. I have a vast selection of children's books, most of them Caldecott winners. These were all purchased for their illustrations and as inspiration for my own future children's book I hope to one day write and illustrate. My favorite book as a child was Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*. Two of my recent

Caldecott purchases are *Olivia* by Ian Falconer and *Zen Shorts* by Jon J. Muth. Much fiction, self-help sections, good old classics and, of course, adolescent literature fill my shelves. *Harry Potter*, *Tales of Narnia* and the *Golden Compass* series are my latest editions.

Before entering the library field, I earned my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting and graphic design. Most of my collection deals with art, illustration and classical literature, interspersed with mysteries, horror, and children's classics. My love of books is coupled with my love for movies and music — must be all of that self-expression as a child. I love fantasy, science fiction and any genre that transports me elsewhere. You could definitely say I live and travel through my books.



In this new age of Kindle electronic devices and digitized manuscripts, I am still confident

that the tried and true, classic bound novel will always remain. Books have a tactile pleasure that I enjoy: from the colorful dust jackets, the bound parchment to the black ink and even the typeface — nothing comes close to replacing them.

As I age, my library becomes more personal and important to me. Certain books are reread and cherished, while others are pushed to the side. I believe books should be shared; so, many are re-gifted to new fans, friends and family. Also, periodic weeding of my library makes room for more new purchases. ►►

Kenneth M. Kozel is a summer 2009 graduate of the Valdosta State University MLIS Program and an assistant librarian at the Pitts Library at Andrew College in Cuthbert.