The President’s Column

Crystal Gates
North Little Rock Public Library, crystal.gates@lamanlibrary.org

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln

Part of the Information Literacy Commons, Scholarly Communication Commons, and the Scholarly Publishing Commons

Recommended Citation
Gates, Crystal (2024) "The President's Column," The Southeastern Librarian: Vol. 71: Iss. 4, Article 13.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.62915/0038-3686.2056
Available at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol71/iss4/13

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by the Active Journals at DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Southeastern Librarian by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.
The President’s Column

Recently I was asked why celebrities and speakers veer into politics or social justice or faith when on stage. I explained about using their platform to advance or address topics of importance to them. It got me thinking about our own platform and how we are using it. It has been known as far back as I remember that librarians and library workers collect, enjoy, and share stories – as long as they aren’t our own. We talk up the latest releases and give great readers advisory to get our community members onto a new author or genre. We advise them to check out the best database for their next paper. We tend to focus on everyone we serve, but forget that our stories are important, too. This led me to remember a conversation at LLX with Sam Helmick regarding our stories. In fact, their platform is Our Stories Are Worth Sharing. Now, this isn’t a political ad or me endorsing a candidate. It is, however, me using this platform to remind us of all that we all have an opportunity to share our library values with our communities. I challenge us all to DARE to share our stories. Be brave and visit your local civic club and share what your library is doing. Schedule that sit-down meeting with your stakeholders and decision makers. Share the story of the gentlemen coming in to use the computer and internet to apply for, interview for, receive, and then accept an offer for a job. Share the story of the young family coming in to check out DVDs because they don’t have sufficient broadband access. Share the story of the student using a study area to prepare for the MCAT. Share the story of a colleague being recognized at your library association for publishing a book, for sharing a poem, for volunteering to donate gently used items to the VA, decorate the bulletin board, and more. Just Dare to share.

“Power is given to those who dare to lower themselves and pick it up. Only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to dare!” - Fyodor Dostoevsky

Crystal Gates
North Little Rock Public Library System
president@selaonline.org

Interested in joining SELA or need to renew your membership? SELA has special new member and student rates.