

## ALA NMRT Online Discussion Forum – October 2012

Summary by Jessica Critten

Our NMRT Online Discussion board had a great discussion in October about **professional development for library school students**.

Many of you shared suggestions about ways that library school students can get more involved in the larger professional community. Here's a list for quick reference:

-Margaret Driscoll's blog on PD opportunities: <http://beyondlearning-md.blogspot.com/>

-ALA's Student to Staff Program:

<http://www.ala.org/groups/affiliates/chapters/student/resources/studenttostaffprogram>

--Email Kate Kosturski ([librariankate7578@gmail.com](mailto:librariankate7578@gmail.com)) for more information about SASCO, the NMRT Student and Student Chapter Outreach Committee. This committee connects ALA to student chapters.

--Kate also reminded us that any student can volunteer for ALA committees and Emerging Leaders. Keep an eye out for calls for volunteers! Here is a list of volunteer forms from ALA, and it might change: <http://www.ala.org/groups/getinvolved/volunteerforms>

Info on Emerging Leaders:

<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/leadership/emergingleaders>

As a part of our discussion of taking the initiative to seek out Professional Development opportunities on one's own:

-23 Things for Professional Development: (UK) <http://cpd23.blogspot.co.uk>; (US) <http://cpd23.blogspot.com/>

As a part of our discussion of how library school students can become involved through social media:

-Hacklibschool, a blog where students can contribute to the larger conversation about how library school students fit, and can enact change, within the library profession: [hacklibschool](http://hacklibschool.com)

-#libchat, a twitter meeting on Wednesday nights at 8pm, a place where librarians at all levels get together and discuss issues (and network.)

Other tips:

--Library school is, like conferences, a valuable place to start making professional connections!

--Make use of opportunities provided by your student chapters to see and interact with speakers.

--School/student chapter listservs are great places to find opportunities

Overall, we seemed to agree that library school students should not devalue their perspectives and seek out professional-level experiences. It can be difficult to assert yourself as a student, but NMRT is a supportive place to start. In addition to the opportunities provided by library schools (which seem to vary to quality and quantity) students may want to seek out social media as a place to network and stay abreast of important issues in the professional community.