

ALA NMRT Online Discussion Forum – January 2013

Summary by Lizzie Matkowski

We had a very informative discussion about **professional development on a budget** in the month of January.

Time and money are big obstacles to professional development, here are some suggestions from the discussion on how to keep up with professional development:

- Look for free or low cost online courses and webinars, particularly those that meet asynchronously or offer archives after the fact.

Resources: [CPD23](#) (a self-paced 23 things programme for LIS workers and students),
[WebJunction](#)
[Coursera](#)
[InfoPeople](#)
[Ala's online courses](#)
[Library 2.0 online conference \(many archived\)](#)
[Library Juice Conference](#)

- Look for sponsorship/scholarship opportunities that might make it more feasible to attend larger conferences, especially ALA or state library associations.
- Look for smaller conferences in your area that might be cheaper, easier to get to, require less time commitment. In particular, check out what local consortiums, state library associations, etc. are offering.
- Consider alternative ways to participate in professional development. Blogs, twitter, online discussion forums are all ways to learn and keep up with news and technology while also participating in a discussion with other professionals.

A great blog on this subject: <http://practicallibrarian.blogspot.com/2010/08/twitter-is-really-professional.html>

- Make a professional development plan, refer to it often and update it where appropriate. Make learning goals related to long term professional goals.