

ALA NMRT Online Discussion Forum – June 2013

Summary by Ariel Orlov

Thanks to everyone who participated in the NMRT June Online Discussion on **networking**. Hopefully the ideas presented were helpful to those who attended ALA, or will be useful for future conferences.

Some of us have had luck using what I called "corporate" networking tactics and some haven't. However, everyone agreed that doing some work before attending a conference makes networking once you get there more productive and less awkward.

Ideas included getting in touch with other librarians through LinkedIn, Twitter, or Facebook, and serving as a moderator or presenter and wearing the name tag ribbons that go along with those roles. Cultivating the contacts you make was also discussed--following up with personal notes and links related to your conference conversation, and keeping in touch after the first round of post-conference emailing.

Finally, whether you're networking at conferences or at home, be ready to contribute to the relationship and figure out what you can offer. That might be hard to figure out when you're looking for a job yourself, but even a link to an article on something you spoke about keeps you in the conversation.