

LIBRAS Conference Report  
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*True North: Illumination, Inspiration, Information* was the theme for the annual conference of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL) held on the campus of Northwestern College in St. Paul, MN from June 7-11, 2010. There were around 185 conference attendees who were primarily from private, faith-based institutions of higher education.

The conference offered 36 workshops to choose from. The seven workshops I attended were:

- *The Importance of Library Programming*  
Dora Wagner, Northwestern College
- *Back to the Basics: Finding Your Way in the Uncharted Water of Prison Christian Librarianship*  
Jo Ann Rhodes, Columbia International University
- *Administering a Church: Where Do Pastors Turn for Information?*  
Joshua Lambert, Missouri State University
- *Shine as Lights: Christian Librarians in Christian Colleges*  
Carol Reid, Free Will Baptist Bible College
- *There and Back Again: Searching PRIMO and Adapting Its Tutorials to your Institution*  
Rory Patterson, Liberty University
- *Brother North, Northampton, and the Old North Church: Assisting the Genealogical Researcher*  
Lori Thorton, Carson-Newman College
- *What Works and What Doesn't: Online Learner Services Roundtable*  
Sandra Yaegle and Robert Sivigny, Regent University

Even though the workshops were really good, the topic of the opening keynote was excellent. The speaker was Ms. Erin Walsh and the title of the keynote was *Why Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide to the College Student Brain*. During the keynote Ms. Walsh shared information on brain development, especially on the development of the adolescent or young-adult brain. She then connected how digital technologies impact adolescent or young-adult brains. With the foundational belief that, "Digital technologies are not inherently good or bad, they are powerful," she outlined the positive aspects of using technology along with some cautions. For example, technology can increase efficiency, but efficiency can be negatively impacted by too much multi-tasking because the brain is wired to focus on one task at a time. The keynote ended with a discussion surrounding the following question, "What can we do to equip students with the skills and capacities to maximize benefits and minimize the harms of digital technology's impact on student health and learning?"

In addition to the keynotes and workshops, the conference also offered many additional features such as business meetings, poster sessions, and vendor exhibits. All meals were provided in the cafeteria of Northwestern College, which encouraged networking beyond the workshops. It was a very busy, informative, and helpful conference.

I extend a sincere thank you to LIBRAS for the continuing education grant.