

Jason Miltenberger on LATI, eReaders, and Zombie Stormtroopers

Welcome to the July/August edition of the Staff Spotlight. This issue features Jason Miltenberger from the LaVale branch of the Allegany County Library System.

Julie Zamostny: Hi Jason, thank you for participating in this edition of the Staff Spotlight! I'm going to be begin by asking you to introduce yourself to your colleagues across the Western Maryland region. Tell us a little bit about yourself: who you are in terms of your role in the Allegany County Library System—what your primary responsibilities are and perhaps what your favorite part of working at LaVale is.

Jason Miltenberger: Hi Julie, thanks for the interview! I've been working at the LaVale Library for a little over 3 years now as a Circulation Assistant and as a Library Assistant now that I completed LATI this spring. For the most part, my job consists of handling all circulation duties and reference questions while I'm scheduled on the front desk and doing the labeling of the materials that we receive for our branch. I was first introduced to working in the library when I was a student aide at the Fort Hill Library during my senior year in high school. I also worked in the summers at UM-BC's Albin O. Kuhn Library in the Reference Department while I was studying as an English Major there. It's really exciting to work in a field that champions intellectual freedom. Libraries are continuing to evolve and I'm really looking for-

ward to seeing all of the awesome new services that we will be offering to our communities in the coming years. For fun, I love to listen to music, play the drums, and watching baseball. The O's are terrible, but I can't ever see giving them up!

JZ: You mentioned that you're a recent grad of the Library Associate Training Institute. Tell us a little bit about the LATI program and what your biggest take-away or A-ha! moment was.

Getting to know some of your LATI classmates is a great idea too because some of the best ideas and knowledge that you come bring back to your county comes from the discussions that you have with your classmates. They can learn a lot from you as well!

JM: LATI was a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience that I would encourage any new library employee to ask their supervisor about possibly signing up for. I learned a lot about what all the libraries in the state has to offer and it was also a great way to familiarize myself with sources that I might not have thought about using before. It was also good for me to practice answering reference questions on science and math that I really don't get asked about on a daily basis. It's best to be as prepared as possible for all kinds of reference questions so that when a question that you aren't really familiar with is asked to by a patron, you will be able to meet their needs as quickly and efficiently as possible. My favorite part of the

program was getting to see how other libraries in the state operate and what new programs and services they are offering to their patrons. It was also cool to just meet everyone and network with everybody a little bit. We definitely have a lot of awesome people with some really great ideas working in Maryland libraries and it should be exciting to see what the future has to offer as libraries and our patrons needs continue to evolve.

JZ: What advice could you give to your colleagues across the region, who will be participating in LATI in the future, in order to get the most out of their experience?

JM: The main thing is to just embrace the program in a positive manner and to try and keep up with all of your assignments. The program does last for 5 months, so it will be probably a part of your routine on just about a daily basis. I'd recommend scheduling with your supervisor and hour or so every day where you can work on your assignments in a quiet area. Getting to know some of your LATI classmates is a great idea too because some of the best ideas and knowledge that you come bring back to your county comes from the discussions that you have with your classmates. They can learn a lot from you as well!

JZ: I know you usually have an eye on the technology horizon, what technology trends do you see that have a growing presence? Could

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libraries make use of any of these?

JM: Obviously e-readers are the hot new technology in libraries right now. As a Kindle owner, I'm pretty pumped that the Maryland Digital Library Consortium will soon be offering Kindle friendly e-books hopefully sometime in September. I've been telling our patrons about this and they have all been really excited as well. It seems like a lot of them have held off on buying an e-reader because they wanted a Kindle, but we couldn't offer the E-books to them at the time. I definitely see Maryland libraries investing more in digital copies of books to meet the demands of our patrons. Right now you can do a search on the Consortium website for a random James Patterson novel that came out five years ago and surprisingly find 10 holds on it. I think that just goes to show you how library users in Maryland are embracing the convenience of the new e-book technology.

JZ: Have you read anything good lately? Tell us about it. Or if you've read something less-than-good lately, tell us about that too!

JM: I've always been the kind of person that is reading more than one book at a time and it's even more so that I have like a 100 titles on my Kindle at any given time! I don't real-

ly read the "popular fiction" that we check out to our patrons on a daily basis and I've always kind of preferred non-fiction. I've just gotten around to reading Ray Kurzweil's, *Fantastic Voyage* which talks about how nano- and biotechnologies will be able to substantially prolong our life expectancies, and possibly allow us to live forever, if we can stay healthy enough to be around in the next 20 or 30 years. While living forever is a pretty out there notion, using nanotechnology to do things like clear out our clogged arteries is almost surely going to happen in the near future.....really fascinating stuff. I've also been reading David Foster Wallace's, *Infinite Jest* for a while now,

but it's such a weird and challenging book that I'll only read a few chapters at a time and then move on to something else. That's the beauty of being able to carry a bunch of books on your e-reader! I also just finished a Star Wars paperback by Joe Schreiber

called, *Death Troopers*. I grew up watching Star Wars like just about everyone else my age and once I saw that it had zombie stormtroopers, I was like, "Yeah, sign me up for that!" Unfortunately, it was pretty terrible. Han Solo and Chewbacca randomly show up and there really

weren't even a whole lot of zombie stormtrooper action at all....it was just a mess.

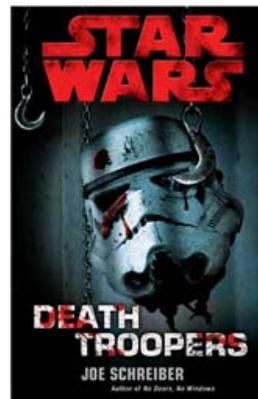
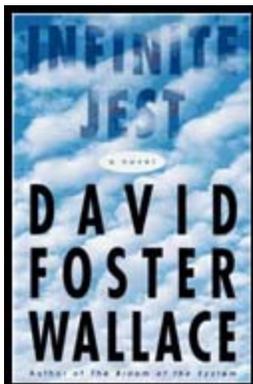
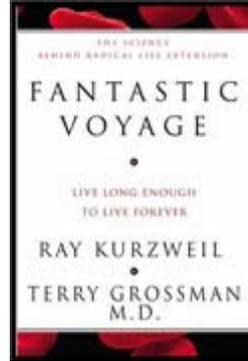
JZ: Wow, you have quite a varied taste in literature and although I know nothing of Star Wars, for some reason I find the notion of a zombie stormtrooper to be hilarious. LOL I'm currently reading *Linchpin* by Seth Godin and in there he says, "If a genius is someone with exceptional abilities and the insight to find the not so obvious solution to a problem, you don't need to win a Nobel Prize to be one. A genius looks at something that others are stuck on and gets the world unstuck. So the question is: Have you ever done that? Have you ever found a shortcut that others couldn't find? Solved a problem that confounded your family? Seen a way to make something work that wasn't working before? Made a personal connection with someone who was out of reach to everyone else? Even once?"

There...that's my question. :)

There...that's my question. :)

JM: You know, I think we all have little glimmers of genius everyday while working in the library. People come here not only for our materials, but to ask our help on questions that they are stuck on.

Interview continues on page 8 ...



For more information, or to register for any of the training events advertised in this newsletter, please contact Julie Zamostny.



Do You Know Yoono?

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with several tabs open. The main content area displays the Western Maryland Regional Library website, which features the logo and the tagline "COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE™" and "Serving Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties". The website content includes a post from Allegany County Library about a "Best of Summer Reading Lists" and a post from Julie Zamostny about reading "Lincoln" by Seth Godin.

On the left side of the browser window, a Yoono social media aggregator interface is visible, outlined in purple. It shows a sidebar with "all networks" and "all Librarians 13". The main content area of the aggregator displays the same posts from the library and Julie Zamostny, along with a "1 person likes this" notification.

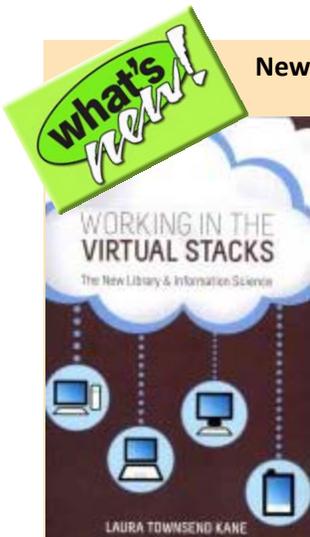
Do you ever feel like there's no way you can possibly keep up with all of the social media that's out there nowadays? So do I. That is, I used to feel that way until I found Yoono. What can Yoono do for you?

- Stay connected: connect to Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, AIM and many other social networking accounts...all through one interface!
- Sync your statuses: update your status across all your accounts at once!
- Easy sharing: share links, images, and videos across all your accounts—at once!
- Yoono everywhere: available for Windows, Mac, Linux, as well as for the iPhone, iPod Touch, and the iPad.

I've experimented with both the desktop app as well as the Firefox app (outlined in purple on the left ← here). Both downloaded quickly and easily. It took only a minute or two to connect my Facebook, Twitter and Flickr accounts—I just had to type in my login information for each. Once the information is entered it is stored. No having to login every time! I have to say that as a Firefox user, I prefer the Firefox app. It's great for sharing information quickly but I still prefer to go directly to Facebook to read others' posts. ~ Julie Zamostny, usual contributor.

Find me on Facebook, Twitter @jzamostny, and Flickr as Julie Z.

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New to the professional collection: *Working in the virtual stacks: The new library and information science*, by Laura Townsend Kane.

Thanks in part to technology, the boundaries of library positions are dissolving. It is no longer practical to discuss the profession in terms of traditional library types, and in today's library, the relationship between librarians and technology is stronger than ever. In this informative volume, veteran author Kane interviews dozens of practicing librarians who are highly involved with technology as part of their day-to-day jobs. Revealing the full richness of the profession, Kane profiles web-services librarians in all types of settings, from veterinary medicine and law to astronomy, market research, and cataloging; offers insights into career opportunities in the library world by challenging traditional notions of what a librarian does; shows examples of real-world librarianship in the fields of technology instruction, digital futures, virtual libraries, and even librarians as entrepreneurs

Written in a warm and personal style, *Working in the Virtual Stacks* presents an exciting future for librarians, already upon us today! (from <http://www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=3298>)



<p>Joe Thompson is up to:</p> <p>Being the new chair for the Library Associate Training Institute's Oversight Committee. He's also been involved with the WMRL strategic plan, and the annual audit. He reports that the renovations to the WCFL central building are due to complete in November 2012.</p>	<p>Darlene Reimond is up to:</p> <p>Ordering tons of new and hot DVDs:</p> 	<p>Carrie Plymire is up to:</p> <p>Fulfilling the OverDrive order for the consortium while also planning the Polaris migration. There will be lots of training available for all staff! In her spare time she's busy being chair of the 2012 MLA Conference and providing One Maryland One Book training.</p>
<p>Jill Craig is up to:</p> <p>Celebrating (and toiling over) a successful <i>Civil War In Your Attic</i> scanning event that was held in Cumberland in early August. Many thanks to: Renee Mason, Linda Burkey, Janice Beall, Carroll Appenzellar, and Elizabeth Howe for all their help.s</p>	<p>Tracy Carroll is up to:</p> <p>Figuring out how to install Drupal for the soon-to-be renovated WCFL intranet. She is also getting ready to launch the new navigation for the WCFL web site. And in her spare time, she is removing cruft from her web pages.</p>	<p>Julie Zamostny is up to:</p> <p>Scheduling guest presenters for staff development workshops on a variety of topics like: emotional intelligence, workplace safety, and readers' advisory. She's also working with a great group of folks to coordinate the Tri-County Summit on 11/11/11.</p>
<p>Marsha Fuller is up to:</p> <p>Starting a new schedule as of August 29th! Stay tuned!</p>	<p>Naomi Butler is up to:</p> <p>Reviewing books from small publishers. She finds that Dawn Publications and Peachtree publishers have good books. Check them out online: www.dawnpub.com & www.peachtree-online.com</p>	<p>Dennis McPherson is up to:</p> <p>Putting together large print, regular print and books on CD deposit collections for September. For those who enjoy 1960's British programs, Dennis recommends two new DVDs: <i>Man in a Suitcase</i> and <i>The Baron</i>. He says they're quite goovy!</p>
<p><i>What's this all about? Well, we've taken the WMRL whiteboard that lives at Phoenix Color and put it into print form so we can share all of our goings-on with our colleagues across the region! We hope you enjoy it!</i></p>	<p>Susie Poper is up to:</p> <p>Recommending new DVDs to watch: Wanna watch a modern horror movie with old fashioned scariness? Then you gotta watch <i>Insidious</i>! For the <i>Dracula</i> fans out there, WMRL now own the original version of <i>Dark Shadows</i>! Coming soon: <i>The Bad Seed</i>!</p>	<p>Franny Lockley is up to:</p> <p>Recuperating from two-three weeks' worth of audits. She's working on getting back into her normal routine once again.</p>

For more information, or to register for any of the training events advertised in this newsletter, please contact Julie Zamostny.

September Learning Events

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

			1	2
<p>Good news! SkillSoft has been renewed for another year without a break in serve. Feel free to take as many SkillSoft courses as you like between now and August 31, 2012!</p>				
5	6	7	8	9
				<p>With Amazing push-button Shushing Action! plus BONUS Trading Card & Bookmarks</p>
12	13	14		15
<p>Giving a Fish a Bath: The Untold Story of the Adolescent Mind @Clearspring 10AM</p>			<p>Stop Managing Too Much with Too Little Free Webinar @ 2PM</p>	
19	20	21	22	23
<p>Readers' Advisory and Book Clubs Event With Librarian Action Figure Nancy Pearl!</p>				
26	27	28	29	30
<p>You Can Judge a Book By its Cover LaVale @1PM-3PM</p>				

October Learning Events

Mon

Tue

Wed

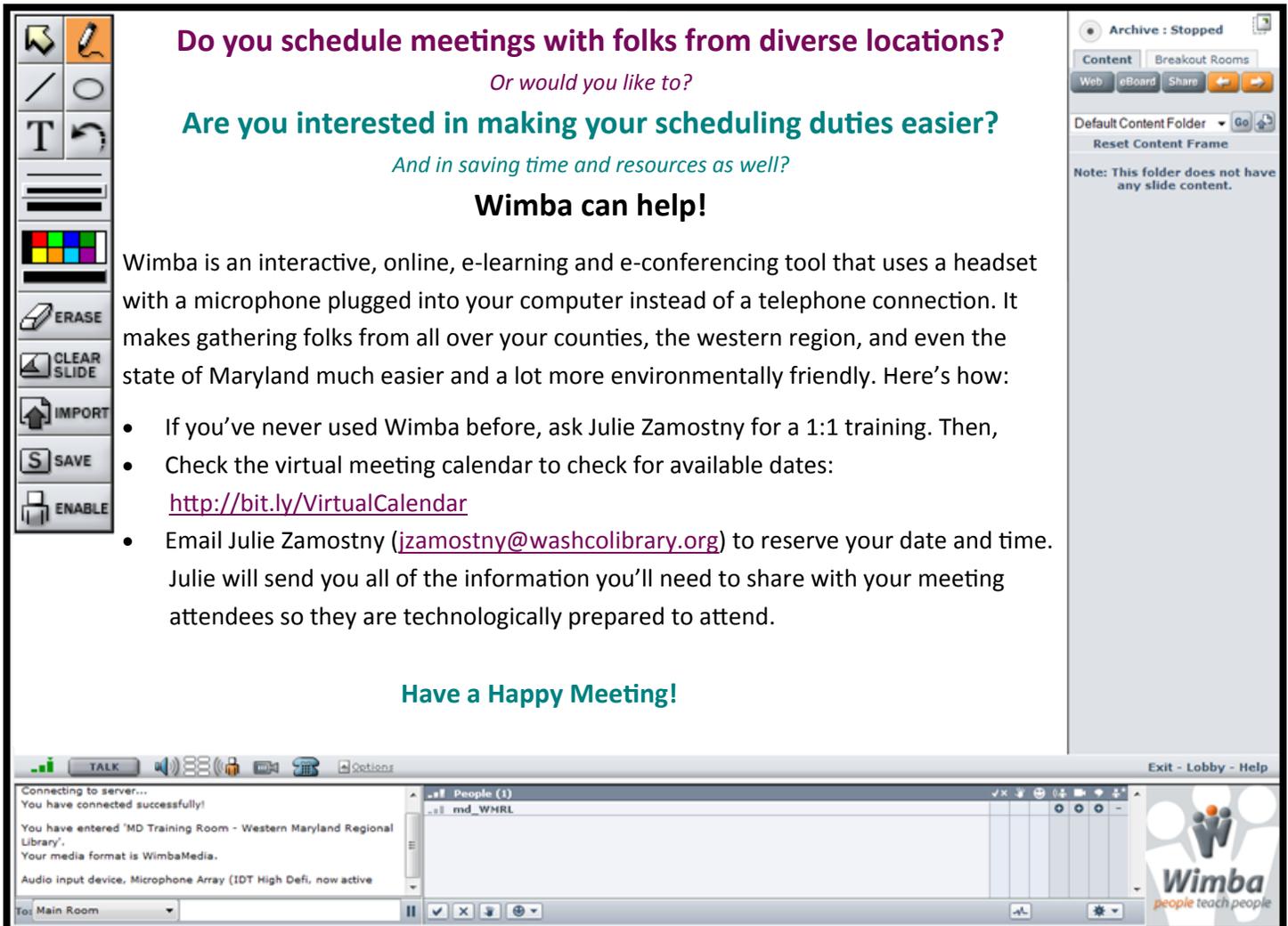
Thu

Fri

3	4	5	6	7
<p>To find out about more upcoming learning events please visit the online calendar: http://bit.ly/LearningCalendar</p>				
10	<p>Advanced MS Word 2010 pt. 1 @HCC Valley Mall 1PM-5PM</p>	<p>Celebrate Freethought Day!</p>	13	14
17	<p>Advanced MS Word 2010 pt. 2 @HCC Valley Mall 1PM-5PM</p>	19	<p>Kids are Customers, Too! Register through MLA 8:30AM-4:15PM</p>	21
24	<p>Staying Safe in a Changing Work Environment With Rosanne Torpey 24th @ LaVale @ 1PM-4PM 25th @ Clearspring @ 9AM-Noon</p>		27	28
31				

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YOU TOO, CAN USE WIMBA



Do you schedule meetings with folks from diverse locations?
Or would you like to?

Are you interested in making your scheduling duties easier?
And in saving time and resources as well?

Wimba can help!

Wimba is an interactive, online, e-learning and e-conferencing tool that uses a headset with a microphone plugged into your computer instead of a telephone connection. It makes gathering folks from all over your counties, the western region, and even the state of Maryland much easier and a lot more environmentally friendly. Here's how:

- If you've never used Wimba before, ask Julie Zamostny for a 1:1 training. Then,
- Check the virtual meeting calendar to check for available dates:
<http://bit.ly/VirtualCalendar>
- Email Julie Zamostny (jzamostny@washcolibrary.org) to reserve your date and time. Julie will send you all of the information you'll need to share with your meeting attendees so they are technologically prepared to attend.

Have a Happy Meeting!

The screenshot shows the Wimba interface with a toolbar on the left containing icons for navigation and editing. The main area displays the presentation slide. On the right, there is a control panel with buttons for 'Content', 'Breakout Rooms', 'Web', 'eBoard', and 'Share'. Below these are options for 'Default Content Folder' and 'Reset Content Frame'. A note at the bottom of the control panel states: 'Note: This folder does not have any slide content.' The bottom of the window shows a status bar with 'TALK' and 'Options' buttons, and a chat window on the left with the text: 'Connecting to server... You have connected successfully! You have entered 'MD Training Room - Western Maryland Regional Library'. Your media format is WimbaMedia. Audio input device, Microphone Array (IDT High Defi, now active)'. The chat window also shows a list of participants: 'People (1)' and 'md_WHRL'. The Wimba logo 'Wimba people teach people' is visible in the bottom right corner.

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Continued from pg. 3...

question off hand, we are able to use the sources that we have to help find them the answer or at least to point them in the right direction. I definitely try to think outside the box as much as possible because the solutions to our problems are often not right in front of us. I actually took my final seminar class in college on the Transcendentalists and Ralph Waldo Emerson has some really great quotes on genius. My favorite one is, "To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men – that is genius." There is just something really great and Zen about that quote and the power of Truth. I think I'm a pretty easy going and fair person, so a lot of times I think I am able to connect with a patron who might be starting to freak out a little bit over a problem with a public computer that is going to be shutting off on them in ten minutes or simply a problem with a lost item or overdue fine. For the most part, I think I am able to connect with someone in a manner so that they know that I am here to help them and that I will do all that I can for them. A lot of it is just putting yourself in their shoes for a minute and being empathetic to their problem or concern. Doing this is a great way to ensure that our patrons are getting the absolute best service that we can give them. Ω