

Access The Web – Tumblr

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I have covered a number of different social media sites through this periodic column. I realized I hadn't yet discussed Tumblr, which is blogging meets Facebook/Twitter. Tumblr is a recent Yahoo acquisition, which didn't seem to generate the same outcry that Amazon's purchase of Goodreads did shortly before. Tumblr is a mish mash of thematic blogs revolving around every topic imaginable – so beware those NSFW blogs out there. A large number of the blogs that aren't fandom related, are run by librarians and there are a number of blogs specifically on topics related to our field of study. You can follow the blogs you like in much the way you would a friend's Facebook page; and like, comment, and share items in addition to being able to post your own text, links, quotes, audio clips, videos, or images. Built in audiences in the form of communities and linked by the ever crucial tagging element, are one of the upsides to using Tumblr as a social media platform. Like all social media, everything is subject to changing at whim, but the following are a few of my favorites.

Libraries Changed My Life

<http://librarieschangedmylife.tumblr.com/>

Real life accounts from library patrons whose lives have been changed for the better by libraries. With budget woes hounding most all libraries, and the need to justify funding ever present, these stories provide but a small glimpse as to why what we do is so very important. It hasn't been updated since the fall, but I hope to see it pick up again once voting and referendum season comes around. Even so, reading the comments about libraries that people have made when having a down day, really makes you feel appreciated and that your work is worthwhile. If you have a story of your own, you can share by clicking the "Submit A Story" link at the top of the page. I really hope to see more stories soon. Too often we hear only the negative comments, and hearing the positive ones is a welcome change.

A few of my favorite quotes from people that warmed the cockles of my bookish heart:

"A Library is more than just books..."

"Libraries fed my brain when nothing else could"

"I Traveled Everywhere When I Read Books"

The Global Librarian

<http://thegloballibrarian.tumblr.com/>

This is an interesting blog that amounts to a diary of a National Digital Stewardship Residency, currently at the Library of Congress, but previously was doing work in Astana, Kazakhstan. The blog is a mix of descriptions of the author's work, and other random library related posts, and it makes for an interesting read. There is a definite transition from the older posts to the new posts indicative of the author's newest project. I look forward to seeing how this latest venture develops. The author also provides links to international LIS jobs and digital preservation resources that some may find useful.

Librarian Problems

<http://librarianproblems.com/>

This one is guaranteed to make you laugh out loud. Anyone working in a library, and dealing with coworkers and patrons and everything else knows that there are just those things that frustrate us to no end. These delightfully captioned gifs (See Figure 1) will have you agreeing heartily as you relate to the woes of your comrades in books. Regularly updated, this hilarious blog not only provides posts of the problems one must put up with in a library, but allows you to submit your own as well.

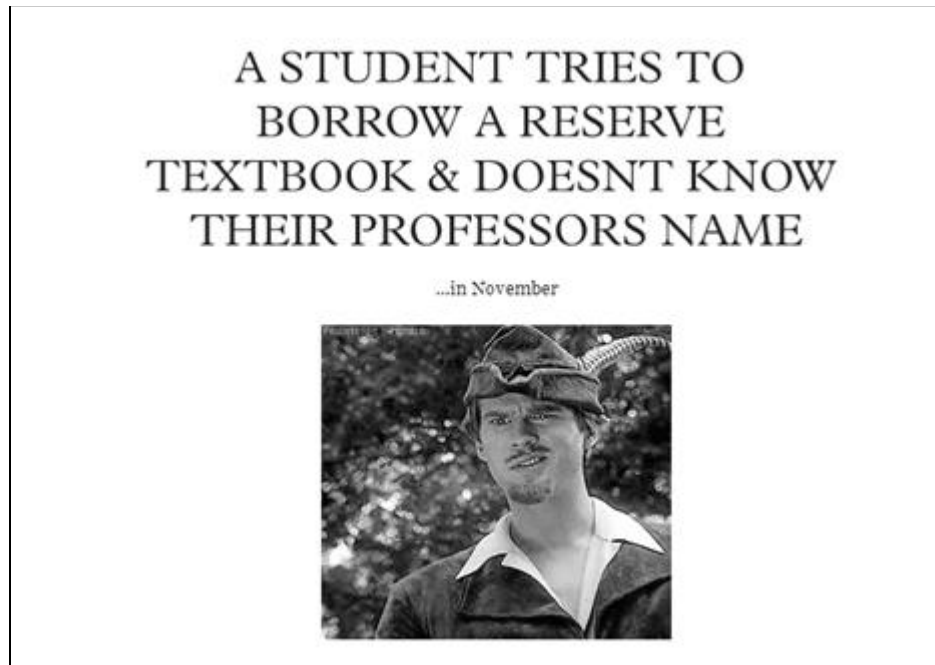


Figure 1

Librarian Facts

<http://librarianfacts.tumblr.com/>

While it hasn't been updated in a little while, this blog is a treasure trove of humor, quotes, and images (See Figure 2) related to librarians and libraries. The archives alone make this one worth a look, though I do hope that posting will resume. The site also provides a "Submit" link where followers can submit their own material for the page, which has a scrapbook like arrangement that mixes quotes, images, and text with numbered "librarian facts."

Librarian Fact #616

Australian librarians carry their young in pouches, and have venomous spurs on their hind feet capable of causing severe fines to patrons who don't return recalled books.

Figure 2

This Is What a Librarian Looks Like

<http://looklikelibraryscience.com/>

<http://librarianwardrobe.com/>

You don't have to work in libraries long before you become familiar with the all too common stereotypes of the profession. Most stereotypes fall under the old lady with glasses on a chain and bun trope, or else the young sexy librarian that can barely contain her lust and leaves work every day letting down her hair and ripping off her glasses in a Superman-esque transformation. Poor male librarians are virtually ignored in these tropes, but if not ignored are often emasculated. Not only are we stereotyped as people, but even our wardrobes are subject to stereotypes-usually portrayed as glasses and cardigans and sensible shoes. There are a lot of different looks for those in libraries that don't fit the usual views of our profession. These two blogs challenge those stereotypes one post at a time. You can browse the posts or submit your own post for inclusion. The first focuses more on the person and the second on the wardrobe, but both serve a similar purpose and are well maintained blogs.

Oh, so you're a Librarian?

<http://ohsoyourealibrarian.tumblr.com/>

Very similar to Librarian Problems, this blog uses a picture with caption theme to discuss library events (See Figure 3) - both those that cheer us and those we dread. I enjoy the tongue in cheek captions, and some of the tagging is funny in its own right. Also, this blog is written by two archivists, so some of the jokes include special collections and archives, which I think gives a unique angle to their humor. While they don't have a "submit your own" feature like some of the Tumblr blogs, they do provide an email address for submitting suggestions, giving it the interactivensness of other blogs that I think is one of the things that makes Tumblr fun.

WHEN I HAND A PROBLEM PATRON OFF TO SOMEONE ELSE



Filed under archives, libraries, evil laughter, yours now, have fun, snow white

Figure 3

Endless Libraries

<http://endlesslibraries.tumblr.com/>

A favorite blog of mine though it definitely stirs up my library envy. This blog is comprised of photographs of libraries from all over the world - and of all types. The only description provided by the admins of the blog is as follows: "Public libraries, college libraries, school libraries, and home libraries. We all love to spend time being surrounded by books and a relaxed atmosphere." So sit back, relax, and lose yourself in the endless photographs of these stunning libraries. You can also submit your own photographs of libraries you know and love.

Vintage Libraries

<http://vintagelibraries.tumblr.com/>

Vintage Libraries is very similar to Endless Libraries, except the pictures are historical - an homage to the way things used to be done in libraries. I could get lost on this blog looking at the stunning libraries of

yesteryear. The administrator of the site is very good about ensuring that all pictures are captioned so that the source can be determined. Since so many picture blogs lack this leaving you wondering where in the world that wonderful place is, this is a refreshing inclusion. There isn't a clear way to submit any pictures of your own historic libraries that is made obvious, but there is a link to email the administrator if you wish to ask about anything on the blog or perhaps inquire about making your own submission.

My Daguerreotype Librarian

<http://mydaguerreotypelibrarian.tumblr.com/>

Modeled on the popular "My Daguerrotype Boyfriend" blog, which features old daguerrotypes of handsome men, this blog features the pictures and biographical information of historic librarians. In their own words the administrators describe it as "a tumblr dedicated to literally or figuratively hunky and bably librarians from the past." Those that were rebels or radicals earn bonus points. I appreciate that though this blog is focusing on appearances they clarify that "though we are looking for examples of all genders, we are NOT looking for "sexy librarian" stereotypes." I also appreciate the biographical information for each of the entries, as many photo based blogs on Tumblr don't include much information with the picture leaving me wanting to know more. Submit your own pictures or just enjoy browsing the blog, but I wouldn't miss out on this one, which highlights some very interesting individuals in from our profession's past.

Librarian Shaming

Like the popular dog and cat shaming blogs out there, this is a place for librarians and library staff to come clean about some of those things we all know happen. An anonymous place where librarians from all over the world can unburden themselves of those guilty secrets and commiserate with their peers – usually in picture and caption format (See Figure 4.)

<http://librarian-shaming.tumblr.com/>

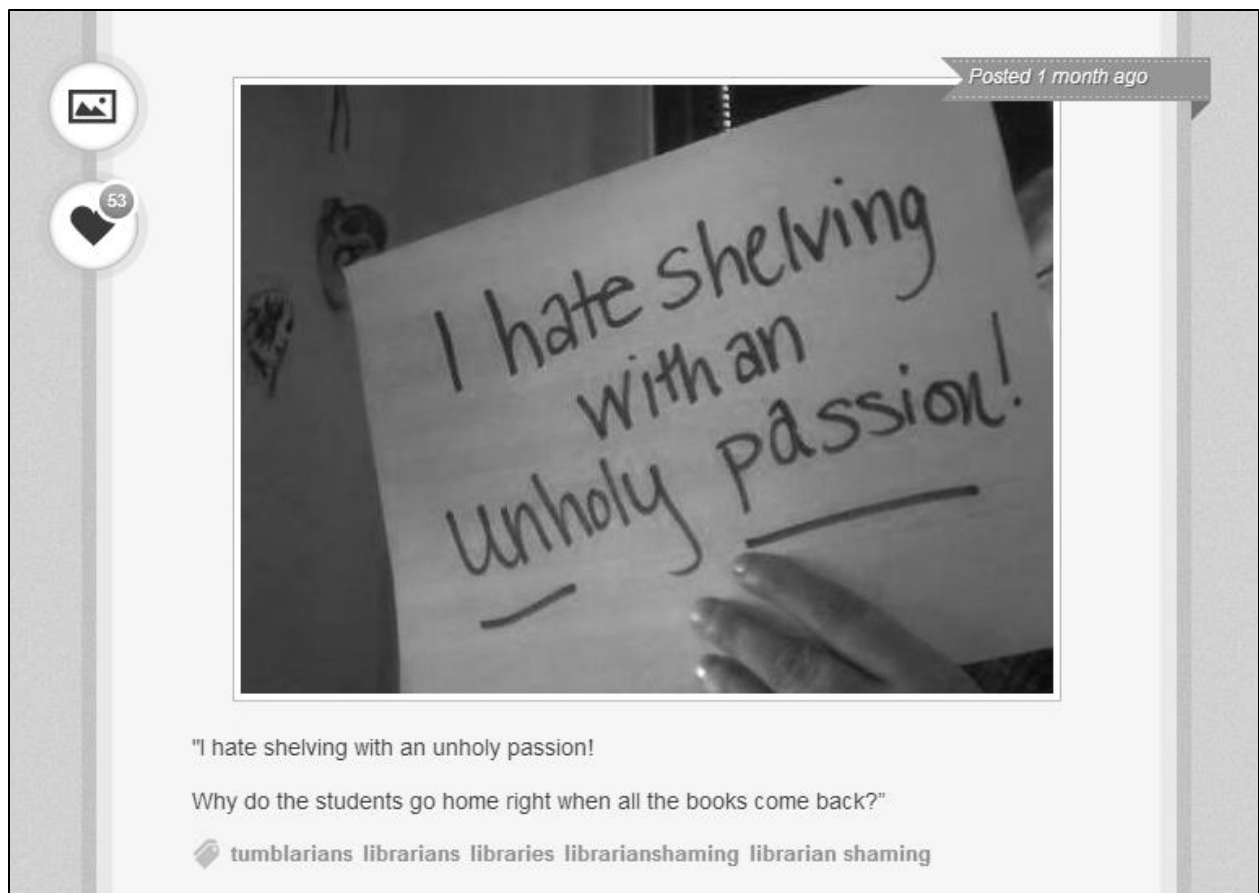


Figure 4

Figure Legend

Figure 1 – Picture about reserves from Librarian Problems Tumblr

Figure 2 – Picture about recalled books from Librarian Facts Tumblr

Figure 3 – Picture of the evil witch from Oh, so you're a librarian Tumblr

Figure 4 – Picture about shelving from Librarian Shaming Tumblr