

Do You Advocate for Yourself on your website?

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“Progress is impossible without change;
and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

--George Bernard Shaw

The electronic mailing list of the American Library Association is a very useful tool for learning about what is going on in Washington DC. [<http://www.ala.org/washoff/alawon>] They do a great job of identifying key issues for library professionals and summarizing topics of interest in a very compact way.

One of these email notes caught my eye in mid-January. The subject of the message dated January 24 said “New Director of Education Dept's Office of Ed Technology Announced.” When I opened the email, it read:

“John Bailey has been named director of the Education Department's Office of Educational Technology. He will advise the department on technology policy related to the nation's education programs.

Bailey replaces Linda Roberts, who served in the post during the Clinton Administration. The job has been vacant for the past year...”

I had heard Bailey speak at a conference last November and liked what he said. In his talk he shared some wonderful stories and some significant quotes. I didn't get some of the quotes down that he had shared. After the conference, I emailed John to see if he would share the details of the quotes. He emailed me back. The quote at the beginning of this article is one that he used in his speech.

After hearing Bailey at the conference and then knowing he had been named the director of educational technology at the U.S. Department of Education, I wanted to learn more about his background. I decided to do a “Google” search on his name. I discovered that John Bailey had his own website. [<http://www.microserve.net/~jbailey/>]. After learning a little more about him, I sent John a congratulatory email and he emailed me back with thanks.

After learning more about John Bailey from his website, I wondered what I might be able to learn about the various people who run California's school libraries. I randomly chose various school library websites from <http://www.school-libraries.net/>. Surprisingly, very few of the websites even mentioned the name of the people in charge.

However, there were a few California school library websites that I found that are good models for the rest of us. Take a minute to view these sites, and then consider advocating for yourself -- tell about the person who runs your school library on your website! It may be the best advocating you do for school libraries in California.

The Valencia High School library website is complete with wonderful library statistics as well as information about those who work there: Edie Wiessner, Library Media Teacher; Sandy Williams, Library Technician; and Maria Palaikis, Textbook Clerk.

<http://www.hart.k12.ca.us/valencia/about/aboutlibrary.htm>.

Debbie Everett, Library Media Technician in San Diego has a website complete with music: <http://powayusd.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/pusdmchs/Library/DEBBIE.HTM>.

The Norris Middle School website in Bakersfield highlights all of the people working in their library: Beth Heisey, Lesly Tait, and Nina Schroepfer.

http://www.norris.k12.ca.us/norris_middle/library/nmsLibraryStaff.html

Finally, read about Steve Grant, the library media teacher at La Jolla High School in San Diego at <http://ljhs.sandi.net/faculty/sgrant/>.