

# Amy C. Odwarka

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## Information Literacy Educator & Librarian

Innovative librarian and educator with 25 years' experience developing and delivering results-based information literacy and library programming through standards based, culturally responsive teaching strategies. Develops and implements formative and summative assessments to measure patron impact and continuously improve teaching methods. Excels at driving collaborative opportunities across disciplines, enhancing the patron/student learning experience. Builds trust and relationships inside and outside organizations with all levels of stakeholder to ultimately create lasting connections with student patrons. Designs creative, engaging events to encourage repeat usage of information services, benefiting patrons and educational institutions.

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### EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Masters of Library and Information Science

Madison, WI  
2019

The Ohio State University  
Bachelors of Science, Elementary Education

Columbus, OH  
1992

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Eastern Illinois University**

**2022 - Present**

Assistant Professor, First Year Experience/ Student Success Librarian

Serves as a conduit for communication between the university library and campus partners, forging relationships that meet the academic and social-emotional needs of students. Orientates new students to the facilities, materials, programs, academic assistance and staff at Booth Library while building students' research, digital and information literacy skills. Invests in engagement events designed to foster a sense of belonging and collaborate with campus partners to engage with students from underrepresented populations. Seeks to collaborate with students beyond traditional academic instruction, supporting their success in college by creating inclusive and welcoming programming designed from a holistic perspective. Positions the library and its partners as agents for success and retention.

- Collaborate with multiple campus faculty to offer information literacy sessions that meet the needs of developing student researchers
- Practice active learning and culturally responsive pedagogy strategies when delivering information literacy curriculum
- Develop and execute projects, programs and events to serve the social-emotional needs of students

#### **Haven Middle School, Evanston, IL**

**1996-2022**

Library Director

2008 - 2022

Directs future ready library program serving 900 students (25+% considered low income) in grades 6-8, as well as 100 faculty and staff members. Key responsibilities include co-teaching information literacy curriculum, developing and implementing patron programming, managing \$17,000 budget from multiple funding lines and overseeing school-wide assessments at local and state level, while furthering the district's commitment to equity and closing the achievement gap.

- Developed and delivered a scaffolded approach for information literacy curriculum in grades 6-8 collaborating with multiple content area teachers, district librarians and curriculum directors in accordance to AASL and ISAIL standards
- Developed and implemented multiple formative and summative assessments both at the local and district level, providing feedback on student achievement and allowing for improvement in teaching strategies

- Pivoted delivery methods of information literacy instruction through multiple online platforms.
- Collaborated with district-wide team of librarians and curriculum directors to evaluate library curriculum and revised based on present-day best practice and updated state and national standards
- Led and implemented the project management of school-wide state testing (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) by collaborating with district and school administrators and organizing a local team of 5 teacher leaders to prepare systems for testing 900 students and completing a battery of 4500 individual tests. Presented multiple staff trainings for faculty, through both 3 large-scale staff meetings and 15 individual coaching scenarios and ran the day to day operations over the course of three weeks, meeting all state and local regulations.
- Established and oversaw site based and district-wide opportunities for student engagement with literature and STEM programs, including the support of multiple student led book clubs, presentations by award winning authors, maker and coding experiences to extend classroom experiences
- Initiated and led yearly student advisory team of thirty 7th and 8th grade volunteers, who determined student need and assisted with public relations/social media campaigns for library programming resulting in an average 12% increase in attendance for the last three years
- Maintained collection of 10,000+ volumes, implementing Equity Audit techniques to support district equity initiatives and spearheaded Ebook collection resulting in 3% increase of materials checkout by students for the last four years.
- Designed and managed a multi-paged library website to inform students, staff and families on library support systems and community building opportunities, resulting in an average of 10,000+ individual visits per academic year
- Served on multiple district-wide committees, including District Technology, District Curriculum Review and State Testing

#### Classroom Teacher

1996-2007

- Implemented both Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum for 6th and 7th grade students
- Transformed curriculum through research-based, student-centered reading and writing studios
- Demonstrated team teaching and interdisciplinary learning
- Participated in multiple school and district-wide committees

#### Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

June - December 2019

##### Internship: Academic Engagement Department

- Analyzed and revised first-year student library tours to maximize time spent with undergraduates, resulting in a 20% increase in student attendance of Wildcat Welcome library tours and connecting to subject specialist librarians
- Developed and implemented summative assessment tool using Qualtrics software to measure success of information literacy program for rising Sophomore researchers as part of the Posner Research Program
- Conducted both formal and informal research interviews with students, faculty and public patrons while working the Information Desk through face to face conversations, electronic chat and by phone.

##### Independent Study: Instruction and Curriculum Support Department

- Collaborated with Head of Instruction and Curriculum Support department, gaining valuable experience analyzing and applying ACRL Framework to current information literacy practices for Freshman Seminar
- Analyzed undergraduate research methods Libguide entitled [“Step by Step Guide: Start Your Research”](#) and redesigned based on current research, best practices and ACRL standards
- Conducted extensive literature review on collaborative efforts between University and high school libraries to support incoming Freshman. Used findings to develop experiential information literacy presentations for Schuler Scholars program, where high school juniors spend a day in academic libraries exploring research at the college level.

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PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Hubbard, T., Neumeier, R., Odwarka, A., & Philippe, K. (2017, October). *Project middle school: Bringing school and public libraries together to benefit students*. Panel presentation at the Illinois Library Association general meeting, Tinley Park, IL.

Hubbard, T., Neumeier, R., Odwarka, A., & Philippe, K. (2018). Student vs. patron: It's all the same. In B. Frett, L. Ochs & R. Shasteen (Eds.), *Linking for learning, 4th edition: The Illinois school library standards*. (pgs 76-77). Association of Illinois School Library Educators.

Selection librarian for Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award, Illinois Children's Choice Award, 2015-2017

Current member of ALA and ACRL

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