

Day One

Keynote • 9:00 – 9:30 am

“Stay Grounded, Dream Big: Inspiring Purpose in Your Library”

– Kristen Mattson

The best conferences leave us inspired with new ideas and fresh energy for the work we do every day. But the real magic happens when that inspiration connects to what matters most—our students and school communities. In this keynote, Kristen Mattson will spark your thinking and help you anchor the next two days in clarity and confidence. You’ll walk away motivated, focused, and ready to make every idea you gather work for *your* library and *your* learners.



“Informative and inspiring day. Thank you so much!”

– Jodi Scalise,
Special Education Teacher

MORNING SESSIONS • 9:40 am – 12:10 pm

Choose **ONE** Full Morning Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions • *One mid-morning break*

Full Morning Session • 9:40 am – 12:10 pm

A-1: Feeling Overwhelmed by the Responsibility of Digital Citizenship Education? You’re Not Alone! – Kristen Mattson

In our increasingly digital world, it is more important than ever for students to learn how to be safe, responsible, and ethical digital citizens. But as a school librarian, you can’t do this work alone. In this half-day session, you will learn how to position yourself as a leader in digital citizenship education. You will learn how to create a comprehensive approach to teaching digital citizenship that meets the needs of all students. This session is for school librarians who are ready to take on the challenge of digital citizenship education. By the end of the session, you will have the tools and resources you need to be a leader in this important work.

First 70-Minute Morning Sessions 9:40 – 10:50 am

CHOOSE ONE: A-2 or A-3

A-2: Sticky Notes to Success: Kanban in Your School Library

– Crystal Trice

Bring clarity and focus to your busy library with the power of Kanban! This easy-to-use visual system helps you manage projects, track tasks, and show off the incredible work happening in your program. Discover how Kanban boards—whether digital or with sticky notes on a whiteboard—can streamline book orders, program planning, collaborations, and more. Learn simple strategies to set up your own system, keep priorities visible, and share your progress with colleagues and administrators. Don’t miss this chance to make Kanban your go-to tool for organizing, prioritizing, and celebrating all that you do in the library!

A-3: Author/Illustrator Visits? I’d Love To! But How Do I Do That? – Christina Dorr

Sparked by a request from an attendee, Christina, who has hosted over 25 years of author/illustrator visits, will take you on a journey of how to make a visit to your school the best day of the school year! From choosing the best author/illustrator for your students, to raising the money, to preparing the kids (and teachers), to having a grand day, to following up after, Christina will give you ideas and options to spark enthusiasm and make any author/illustrator visit an educational, motivational, and unforgettable day!

Second 70-Minute Morning Sessions 11:00 am – 12:10 pm

CHOOSE ONE: A-4 or A-5

A-4: Stronger Together: Volunteers and Events That Bring Your Library to Life – Crystal Trice

Transform your library into the heart of the school community! In this session, you’ll discover practical strategies for welcoming student and parent volunteers into your program, from setting up clear roles to creating meaningful opportunities for them to contribute. But that’s just the beginning—explore exciting whole-school activities like Birthday Books, Booked for Lunch, mock Caldecotts, costume character days, and even fundraisers like library sleepovers. These programs not only bring joy and excitement, but also strengthen connections between students, families, and the library. Walk away with ready-to-use ideas that will help you build stronger relationships, showcase the library’s value, and create a vibrant community around reading and learning.

A-5: 35 New, Fabulous Fiction Picture Books – Christina Dorr

Picture books, despite what the publishers designate, span a wide age range, and pack a powerful punch when it comes to understanding topics, teaching literacy skills, and just plain spreading the love of reading! In 70 minutes, Christina will share 35 new, fabulous fiction picture books that you’ll be able to take into your libraries tomorrow, use as read alouds or encourage to be used as read alones, or recommend them to your classroom teachers.

Team Discount

ONE DAY

One Person: \$325

BOTH DAYS

One Person: \$595

**Team of 3+: \$565 per person
when enrolled at the
same time**

Lunch break • 12:10 – 1:10 pm

... “This was great! It was very informative, interesting, relevant, and engaging!” ... 3

Who is BER?

The Bureau of Education & Research is North America's leading presenter of training for professional educators. Our goal is to provide high-quality PD programs, based on sound research, with an emphasis on practical strategies and techniques that can be immediately implemented.



Can't Attend? Online Professional Development Options:

Related Online Courses

Two related On-Demand Video-Based Online Learning courses, *MAKERSPACES: Creating Motivating, Engaging Work Spaces for Your Library*, for Grades K-12, and *Teaching Media Literacy Skills in a Fake News World*, Grades K-12, are available for immediate registration. To enroll, visit www.ber.org/online

Day One

AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 1:10 – 3:40 pm

Choose **ONE** Full Afternoon Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions
One mid-afternoon break

Full Afternoon Session • 1:10 – 3:40 pm

B-1: How ChatGPT and Other ChatBots Can Help With Communication – *Crystal Trice*

Unleash the power of ChatGPT and other chatbots to transform the way your library connects with students, families, and staff! From energizing parent newsletters and faculty updates to crafting social media posts and student announcements, discover how AI tools can help you communicate with clarity and creativity. Learn to design powerful prompts that produce messages tailored to your school community. Explore how chatbots can be your personal coach, guiding you through tricky situations with colleagues or students. Don't miss this opportunity to save time, amplify your library's impact, and showcase your program's successes like never before!

First 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions 1:10 – 2:20 pm

CHOOSE ONE: B-2 or B-3

B-2: Teaching Media Literacy Amidst AI Slop – *Kristen Mattson*

AI-generated misinformation—also known as “AI slop”—is flooding our information ecosystem, making it harder than ever to separate fact from fiction. This session will explore the five major types of misinformation through an AI lens. Learn how AI tools are being used to create misleading content and discover media literacy strategies to help students detect and debunk it. Walk away with practical classroom activities and resources that empower students to think critically about AI-generated media and become more discerning digital citizens.

B-3: There's an Award for That! – *Christina Dorr*

Award-winning children's books are the creme de la creme of children's titles, especially the ones chosen by the American Library Association divisions, roundtables, and affiliates. But did you know that there are hundreds of other awards for children's books worldwide, and many of them target specific topics, identities, and formats? Christina will explore many of the categories of award-winning children's books and how they can meet the varying needs of individual students, units and lessons, and function in a variety of educational topics.

Second 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions 2:30 – 3:40 pm

CHOOSE ONE: B-4 or B-5

B-4: Best Resources for Teaching Digital Citizenship – *Kristen Mattson*

Digital citizenship is more than just password protection and cyberbullying. In this session, you will learn about the latest resources and strategies for teaching students about internet safety, media and information literacy, digital health and wellbeing, and social responsibility. You will explore a plethora of resources, from picture books to pre-packed lessons, bellringers, and integrated units of instruction. Be ready for a fast-paced show-and-tell of ideas that will help you teach your students how to be safe, responsible, and ethical digital citizens. Leave with the most practical strategies for teaching your students about digital citizenship!

B-5: 35 New, Not-To-Miss Nonfiction Books – *Christina Dorr*

Nonfiction titles, from early picture books to more complex chapter books, are the choice of many children in their reading lives. They have topics they are passionate about and voraciously consume books about that interest, often reading above their level, since their passion drives their reading. In 70 minutes, Christina will share 35 new, not-to-miss nonfiction books that you'll be able to take into your libraries tomorrow, booktalk, use in collaboration with a classroom teacher for a particular unit, or share as an exciting new read aloud!

Online Learning

BER offers educators a wide range of online courses that are affordable, fun, fast, and convenient. BER is now offering On Demand Video-Based courses. You may earn optional graduate-level credits for most courses. See the catalog of available courses at www.ber.org/online

Day Two

MORNING SESSIONS • 9:00 – 11:40 am

Choose **ONE** Full Morning Session OR **TWO** 75-Minute Sessions
One mid-morning break

Full Morning Session • 9:00 – 11:40 am

C-1: If You Build It, They Will Come – *Christina Dorr*

What's the one most important piece of wisdom Christina has learned over the 30 years she's been a school librarian? To listen to her students. In doing so, she's created a space that kids want to come to, don't want to leave, and are fully engaged while they are there. From lunch time talent shows to battle of the books, from NASA scientists to internationally award-winning author visits, Christina has taken on the challenge to bring the widest of world experiences to kids to the one most flexible and creative space in the school: the library. And you can do it too! Christina will share ideas and techniques—from how to gather support and how to tie to the curriculum and so much more—in this ½ day session that will leave you feeling empowered!

First 75-Minute Morning Sessions 9:00 – 10:15 am

CHOOSE ONE: C-2 or C-3

C-2: Design Challenges in the Library – *Crystal Trice*

Bring books to life with fun, fast design challenges that embed STEM learning into library time! In this session, you'll discover simple, ready-to-use activities that pair literature with hands-on building and problem-solving. Whether it's constructing a bridge for the Three Billy Goats Gruff, designing a better chair for Goldilocks, or creating a new house for the Three Little Pigs, these quick challenges engage students' imaginations while strengthening critical thinking and collaboration. Explore how to weave design challenges seamlessly into your schedule—even with limited time—and watch your library become a place where stories spark creativity and innovation.

C-3: Visual Literacy in the Library: Helping Students Be More Than Just Readers – *Kristen Mattson*

In today's world, students are bombarded with images, memes, videos, and all sorts of messages that appear in formats other than the printed word. It is more important than ever for students to be able to critically analyze and evaluate visual information. This session will provide librarians with the tools and resources they need to help students develop visual literacy skills. You will learn about the importance of visual literacy, how to teach visual literacy skills, examples of easy-to-replicate activities, and must-buy books for visual literacy. This session is for librarians who want to help their students be more than just readers. Join Kristen and leave with the tools and resources you need to help students develop the visual literacy skills they need to succeed in today's world.

Comprehensive Digital Resource Handbook

You will receive an extensive digital resource handbook, specifically designed for this conference. Included in the handbook are resource materials for ALL conference sessions, even those you don't attend. These materials include:

- Lesson plans and ideas to immediately implement in your classroom and library
- Lists of digital resources for you to access after the seminar
- Ways to support and encourage students to be enthusiastic readers
- Websites that enhance the reading experience for all students
- Practical ideas to keep you up-to-date with the latest trends

Second 75-Minute Morning Sessions 10:25 – 11:40 am

CHOOSE ONE: C-4 or C-5

C-4: Thriving in Your School Library: Strategies for Better Days and Renewed Energy – *Crystal Trice*

Does it sometimes feel like you're just getting through the day in the library instead of truly thriving? You're not alone! Between circulation duties, collaborating with teachers, supporting student learning, and juggling school-wide programming, it's easy to feel stretched thin. In this energizing session, you'll discover practical strategies to bring more satisfaction and joy back into your daily work. Learn how to manage time and tasks with less stress, navigate common workplace conflicts with confidence, and reconnect with the parts of librarianship that first inspired you—whether that's sparking a love of reading, building community, or creating welcoming spaces for discovery. Don't miss this opportunity to rediscover your energy, embrace your role with purpose, and set the stage for thriving in your school library career!

C-5: Empowering Parents to Guide Their Children in the Digital World – *Kristen Mattson*

In today's digital age, it is more important than ever for parents to be involved in their children's technology use. This session aims to provide you with the necessary tools and resources to empower parents and caregivers to more confidently and successfully guide their children in the digital world. Throughout the session, you will learn about the importance of parental involvement in technology use and explore various programs and resources that can help parents navigate the digital world with their children. Additionally, we will discuss the research conducted by the National PTA, which uncovered what parents truly want and value in education around digital-aged parenting.

Lunch Break • 11:40 am – 12:40 pm

... “I loved this conference! I learned a MULTITUDE of ideas and resources for my library!”... 5

On-Site Training

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ABOUT BER CONFERENCES

Outstanding Instructors

All programs are led by outstanding, top-rated BER national trainers.

Extensive Digital Resource Handbook

You'll receive an extensive digital Resource Handbook full of practical strategies and resources.

Highly Interactive

You'll be able to ask questions, consult with the instructors, and share ideas with other participants.

Program Guarantee

As we have for 48 years, we guarantee the high quality of our programs. If you are not satisfied, we'll give you a 100% refund.

Day Two

AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 12:40 – 3:20 pm

Choose **TWO** 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions
One mid-afternoon break

First 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 12:40 – 1:55 pm

CHOOSE ONE: D-1, D-2 or D-3

D-1: Teaching Critical Thinking in the Age of AI – Crystal Trice

Critical thinking has always been the heart of the library—and in the age of AI, it's more vital than ever! Join this engaging session to discover practical strategies that help students question, evaluate, and analyze the information they encounter, including AI-generated content. Explore how to empower young learners to tell fact from fiction, strengthen their discernment skills, and become savvy digital citizens who can thrive in a tech-driven world. You'll leave with ready-to-use ideas for library lessons that inspire students to think deeply, ask better questions, and confidently navigate the information landscape of today and tomorrow!

D-2: 35 New, Fabulous Fiction Chapter Books – Christina Dorr

Chapter books, from early chapter books to more complex multi-genre titles, are the mainstay of many children's reading lives. Beginning chapter books can give students pride and a sense of accomplishment, whereas series chapter books can serve to sustain interest in reading, and higher-level chapter books can challenge students to think beyond conventional ideas and themes. In 70 minutes, Christina will share 35 new, fabulous fiction chapter books that you'll be able to take into your libraries tomorrow, use as a First Chapter Friday, booktalk, or include them in a text set for classroom teachers.

D-3: Connecting Social-Emotional Learning and Information Literacy – Kristen Mattson

Information literacy is more than just being able to find and evaluate information. It is also about being able to understand how our own emotions and biases can affect the way we process information. In this session, we will explore how social-emotional learning (SEL) can help students become more critical thinkers and better consumers of information. By the end of this session, you will have a better understanding of how SEL can be integrated into information literacy instruction. You will also have a toolkit of strategies for helping students become more critical thinkers and better consumers of information.

Second 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 2:05 – 3:20 pm

CHOOSE ONE: D-4, D-5 or D-6

D-4: STEAMy AI - Elementary Project Ideas That Integrate the Arts and STEM – Crystal Trice

Step into the creative world where AI, STEM, and the Arts intersect—right in your library! This session will highlight engaging project ideas that help elementary students explore AI concepts through hands-on, multidisciplinary learning. From makerspace activities to library-based collaborations with classroom teachers, discover projects that combine science and technology with imagination and artistic expression. Learn how AI can enrich library programs while building students' creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving skills. You'll leave inspired with fresh ideas to spark innovation and excitement for both STEM and the Arts in your library.

D-5: 35 New, Must-Have Books You'll Want Tomorrow – Christina Dorr

Not every incredible book falls into a single genre—and this session is where the treasures come together! Christina will share 35 must-have titles—from graphic novels and poetry to folklore and beyond—that are sure to excite readers of all ages. Walk away with a list of fresh, ready-to-use books you'll be eager to add to your library and share with students and teachers alike.

D-6: Unlearning Traditional Research – Kristen Mattson

Why are there so many pain points during the research process? Kids struggle. Teachers struggle. Inquiry should be fun and engaging, but so often, it's the opposite. Let's unpack some of the traditional ways we have taught research in schools and recognize where we have to pivot our instruction to better meet the needs of today's learners. After all, they are conducting inquiry in a very different way than we did as students. Let's help teachers ditch those outdated research lessons and empower students with the skills they need to thrive.