

MENTORING MATTERS: MATCHING NLS9 PRESENTERS WITH GLAMR PROFESSIONALS

Presenting in front of an audience can be a difficult task, no matter how much experience someone has as a public speaker. As the ninth New Librarians' Symposium (NLS9) is designed to give rookie librarians the opportunity to present for the first time, the NLS9 Committee saw value in introducing these brave greenhorns to a seasoned galleries, libraries, archives, museums and records (GLAMR) professional to receive advice, tips and tricks.

Therefore, all presenters were offered a mentor match to assist them in reaching their full potential. For those who accepted the offer, the ALIA State Managers stepped in to facilitate. We used ALIA networks to pair presenters with a mentor from their home state and whilst finding mentors can often be tricky, in the case of NLS9 there was no shortage of industry professionals willing to help out.

Once introduced, it was up to the mentors and mentees to decide when, where and how often they would meet, and each participant had their own questions, concerns and unique approach. This design allowed the pairing to be fun and flexible, without being onerous. All of the participating NLS9 presenters were excited to be paired with a mentor.



As this will be my first conference that I will be speaking solo at I figured I should seek all the help on offer and love to hear other experiences. It would be great to hear how they [the mentor] overcame imposter syndrome and/or nerves if they felt them.

Kimberley Dunt @kaellames

I am hoping that the NLS9 mentor program will provide insight into how to approach presenting, and how best to improve my presentation skills. I am excited about attending NLS9 as it will be my first conference-style event and also the first time presenting to a group of peers within the GLAMR sector.

Belinda Dunkley @BelintheLibrary

I'm excited to network, learn and be inspired from NLS9. I decided to take advantage of NLS9's mentor-match so I can have someone act as a sounding board for all my ideas. I am hoping my mentor will give me advice on creating and delivering a conference presentation, as well as increase my self-confidence.

Nikki Andersen @AndersenNikki

This is my debut speaking at a national conference. Through the mentor program, I'm looking for expert guidance and moral support. Seizing this speaking opportunity is exciting, but scary; having extra support will make me feel ready to rock.

Joey Chung @thatcrazyjoey

I opted for mentoring because - why wouldn't you? That's what you do when you are inexperienced isn't it? Gather every bit of info you can and run with it. I'm excited about NLS9 because it just seemed like such a grown-up thing to do, kind of like an 'adulthood' milestone.

Leela Wittmer @ma_petite6

Those involved in the NLS9 mentor-match have agreed to write a follow-up *INCITE* article after NLS9 to discuss their collaboration, their growth and learning, and importantly, and how their debut symposium presentation was received. 🙌

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