

July 2014

Crossing the Great Divide - Collaboration is The Bridge

Ruth Murray
Portland State University

Bob Schroeder
Portland State University

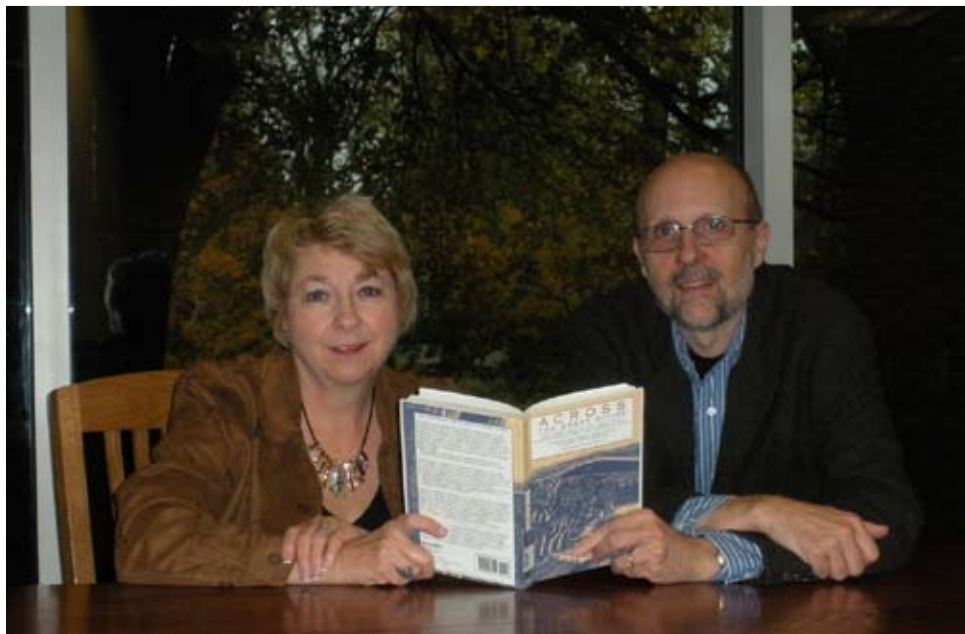
Recommended Citation

Murray, R., & Schroeder, B. (2014). Crossing the Great Divide - Collaboration is The Bridge. *OLA Quarterly*, 15(4), 1. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7710/1093-7374.1255>

© 2014 by the author(s).

OLA Quarterly is an official publication of the Oregon Library Association | ISSN 1093-7374

Crossing the Great Divide— Collaboration is The Bridge!



OLAQ Winter 2009 Guest Editors
Ruth Murray is a retired school librarian and instructor and advisor at Portland State University. She has been on the OASL board for 15 years because she believes in the importance of supporting this state wide volunteer organization. She is currently President-elect of OASL and a proud member of OLA.

Bob Schroeder is a Reference / Instruction Librarian at Portland State University. He coordinates Information Literacy and liaisons with the University Studies department where he teaches library instruction classes to about 2,000 freshmen each year, including many students in local high schools. He's a proud member of both OLA and OASL.

Collaboration is based on shared goals, a shared vision, and a climate of trust and respect (Muronago and Harada).

Each partner fulfills a carefully defined role; comprehensive planning is required; leadership, resources, risk, and control are shared; and the working relationship extends over a relatively long period of time (Callison).

By working to enhance that relationship, trust and that shared vision can be realized.

Ruth:

In school libraries, most of the collaboration centers on how to work with the teachers within our schools. Another important collaboration relationship is between the school, public, and academic libraries. In this issue, we have asked librarians in all areas, to present ideas showing how to make this happen in a successful manner. This collaboration is another important tool to enhance

student achievement K-grad school.

Bob:

Soliciting and reading these articles about successful collaborations has been a lot of fun. Reading them has made me reflect on the role those of us in academic libraries play.

In many of our academic institutions librarians are scholars and we need to do research and perform community outreach—as parts of our jobs or as part of the promotion and tenure process. I've been thinking about how many great questions my colleagues in public and school librarians have. As we librarians in colleges and universities are looking for interesting questions to tackle there are scores of interesting focus groups, surveys, and studies bubbling up all around us in public and school libraries across the state. To my colleagues in academic libraries I would offer the following paraphrase of the Michigan State motto, "If you seek an interesting line of inquiry, look around you."

Ruth and Bob:

We hope you enjoy every article of this issue. By showing you the success stories, we hope to see you duplicate and build on the efforts of these innovative librarians in schools, in public libraries, and at colleges and universities throughout Oregon. The Divide is NOT so great.

References

Callison, D. "Keywords in instruction: Collaboration." *School Library Media Activities* 15.5 (1999): 38–40. Print.

Muronago, Karen and Violet Harada. "Building Teaching Partnerships: The Art of Collaboration." *Teacher Librarian* 27.1 (1999): 9–14. Print.

The Michigan State motto is "Si Quaeris Peninsulam Amoenam Circumspice" or "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you."