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2005 ALA Conference – Chicago Louise Aspin

June 23 – 29, 2005

What an incredible foray in to the world of the Public Library. This enormous conference was filled with a huge variety of sessions to satisfy every professional development need and interest. The Exhibitors Floor was nirvana for the reading addict that I confess to be – they actually gave away books – oh my!!!!!! It was really difficult to pack in all of the programs I wanted to attend as the conference was hosted in hotels all over downtown Chicago as well as at the Conference Centre – it seemed a lot of time was spent in travel. In all – a beautiful city – a fascinating conference – and a great learning opportunity.

Favourite Programs:

Barak Obama Opening General Session

Interesting words from an inspirational leader and author.

Book Lust with Nancy Pearl

I completely understand Nancy's perspective - she views the library as a place of joy - hilarious words from a woman who gleaned her memories and vocabulary from the world of literature.

First Author, First Book

An incredible session with authors sharing their experience of the publishing world and the inspirations that propelled their first works. At the end of the session their books were distributed to the audience – I have had a wonderful time reading these books with the knowledge of the author's creative journey. Favourite: "My Dog Marley" by John Grogan – now a best-seller!

Other sessions attended:

Future of Public Libraries

Extreme Makeover: Library Edition – Children's and Teens Sections with Attitude

Living Legacy – Carnegie Libraries Past and Future
Newberry Caldecott Wilder Banquet

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Unconstitutional – Greenwald's Documentary Film of the USA Patriot Act

Gazing Cross-Eyed Into a Crystal Ball

Series Fiction for Elementary Age Children

David Sedaris

And others.....

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