

Dr. Joni Richards Bodart

Advisor Welcome Transcript

Hi Everybody! My name is Joni Richards Bodart, and I've been a member of the faculty at the School of Information since 2003. For three years I taught part time. And since 2006 I have been full time. I teach in the areas of Youth Librarianship. I teach Materials for Teens and I teach two seminar courses that are offered less frequently than some of my others. One is on Controversial Lit., which I will be teaching in the fall and one is on working with award winning books and encouraging teens and children to read them. And during the summers, I teach Booktalking and Booktrailing and that takes me back to my roots, because that was my major interest and the subject of any number of books that I wrote about how to do booktalking -- something that I am really proud of.

Outside the Youth curriculum, I teach collection management and I teach this basically every fall and spring semester. I also teach readers' advisory work and I teach a psychology of the information user, which some students call Psych for Librarians. It's one of the courses I like best, considering I have a Master's in Psch. I'm just looking at my notes.

So far as publication and research interests go, I'm very interested in working with controversial lit. and defending it. I think that controversial lit. is very important to people who are going to be working with teenagers because teen literature is by definition controversial. And my most recent two books were a scholarly take on controversial literature. One is on Supernatural Monsters in Teen Lit. and the other is Human Monsters in Teen Lit. They were difficult to write because of the subject matter, but I felt they were important enough that I continue to persevere. I use them when I team my course in controversial lit. I've also written a number of books about book talking, as I said, and I have written two books on materials for teens that are likely to be controversial, likely to be challenged in public and school libraries. So that's my major research focus.

And another focus that I haven't been doing much on lately, but I'm interested in getting back to is, on how librarians working with teens can become a trusted adult figure. Teens today are essentially bringing themselves up. They don't have as much parental, as much familial interaction as they did several generations ago. And everybody needs somebody, at least one somebody that they can trust and put their faith in and know that that person will support them no matter what happens. And for many people it is a teen librarian. Trusted adults are also young adult authors and I have written about how young adult authors include in their books information that is controversial and that is personal to them and said, this makes sense to me, this resonates with me.

I really hope that I'll see some of y'all in some of my classes, and you know what they are. My name is Bodart, you pronounce it without the T. Well, I guess that's what I do during the year. That's what I do during summers and those are my great loves. I look forward to seeing you in class sometime soon.