

Paul M. Christensen, Ed.D.

Lecturer

School of Library & Information Science

San Jose State University

San Jose, California

EDUCATION

Dr. Christensen holds a B.A. in History from the University of Washington, an M.L.S. in Library Science from Brigham Young University and an Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Curriculum Development from Brigham Young University.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITIES

Dr. Christensen holds degrees from the University of Washington and Brigham Young University. He began his career as a teacher and library media specialist at the American School in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. For thirty years, he worked in the public school system in Washington State, primarily in the North Kitsap School District, until his retirement in January 2007.

In August 2011, Dr. Christensen began working as a Peer Discipline Reviewer for the Fulbright Scholar Program of the Council on the International Exchange of Scholars which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

In January 2008, Dr. Christensen began as a Faculty member at San Jose State University, San Jose, California. He is a member of the Master's degree faculty of the School of Library & Information Science. During the past three years, Dr. Christensen has taught Reference and Information Services, Collection Management, International and Comparative Librarianship, Digital Divide and Theory of Librarianship.

- In February 2007, Dr. Christensen began working as a Fulbright Scholar at the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional Francisco Morazán in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The University is implementing a new Master's degree program in Information Science and Librarianship, the first in Honduras. In addition, he is collaborating with the National Library on a study of the public library system in the country. Dr. Christensen has been working with the professional library association in Honduras (ABIDH) to create a strategic plan for professional development and development of libraries.

- Dr. Christensen served as an adjunct faculty member for Seattle Pacific University teaching courses in “School Library Administration” as part of the undergraduate course requirements for Washington State Library Media K-12 school endorsement.
- From 1994 – 98, Dr. Christensen was a member of a teaching team for City University, instructing students in their Master’s of Education program. This program, the Integrated Core, instructed professional educators on how to increase their capabilities as classroom teachers. Dr. Christensen was the instructor for ECU 520, Reflective Practice II: Quantitative and Qualitative Research. Students gained the skills to evaluate research and conduct a formal review of the literature on a selected research topic. Dr. Christensen had additional responsibilities as a teaching member of the 16-credit core team.
- From 2003 to 2007, Dr. Christensen served as the building leader for the Washington Digital Learning Commons <www.learningcommons.org>. A task force of educational, business and governmental leaders in Washington created the Digital Learning Commons to help with Washington State’s Educational Vision:

All students in the state, regardless of location, background or district resources, will have access to more than merely online courses; they will have access to great courses in every subject they wish to pursue and to great tools and resources to maximize educational and career opportunities.

North Kitsap High School was a key to the initial development of this on-line community and a successful leader of the initiative. Dr. Christensen was an integral part of the team.

- Dr. Christensen was one of the original 70 cadre leaders who were chosen, statewide to participate in Learning Space <www.learningspace.org>. In 1995, U.S. West announced a 1.6 million dollar grant to a group of early telecommunications enthusiasts and the Washington Education Association (WEA) to improve telecommunications in Washington State classrooms.

That grant translated into laptop computers and additional training for the 70 cadre members as they embarked on a massive statewide training program and website development. The following summer 500 additional teachers were trained and given laptop computers. Additional summers brought greater training opportunities when Seattle’s Kingdome was used as the training location for thousands of Washington’s teachers involved in the Learning Space experience.

- Dr. Christensen served as team leader for the ten-year self-study process for school accreditation three times.
- Dr. Christensen was a presenter at the national American Library Association Conference, Research forum. He was asked to present on the topic of “Characteristics of Exemplary Library Media Specialists.”
- He served as Vice-President of the Washington Library Media Association (WLMA) (1991-1996) and President of Region II of the Washington Library Media Association.

As part of his responsibilities as Vice-President of WLMA, Dr. Christensen held an annual leadership conference for the regional elected officers of the organization. This conference served to train officers in their responsibilities, give additional helps and advice on successful regional activities.

- In 1995, while Vice-President of WLMA, Dr. Christensen conceived and chaired a “Futures Conference,” a statewide conference on evaluation and future direction of the WLMA. Recommendations from the conference were presented to the Board and general membership.
- Dr. Christensen is a regular presenter at the annual Washington Library Media Association Conferences and has also presented at the Oregon Educational Media Association and the British Columbia Teacher Librarian Association annual conferences.
- Dr. Christensen served as Chair of an Annual Regional Teacher-Librarian Conference.
 - 2003 – “The Whole Enchilada,” The Role of the School Library Information Programs and Teacher-Librarians in Quality Schools.
 - 2004 – Beyond Google
 - 2005 – Working in Information Overload? “Let’s Tackle the Challenge Together”
 - 2006 – “What Works: Best Practices to Ensure Achievement”
 - 2007 – (Planning Chair) “It’s Time to Get Serious: Integrating Big 6 Information & Technology Skills into Everyday Student Learning”
- He is a Board member of the Washington Traffic Safety Education Association.

- In a replication of a national study, Dr. Christensen conceived and directed a statewide, two-year study of 350 public and private schools in Washington State to survey and research library media programs. The information gathered was used to update school library media program standards throughout the state. Results were published in Information Power for Washington, Guidelines for School Library Media Programs.
- Member of Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, American Library Association, Washington Library Association and Washington Library Media Association.
- Retired, United States Army/Reserve, 1971 – 2003. Dr. Christensen participated in extensive exercises, operations and leadership opportunities through more than 30 years of service. He was mobilized for Operation Desert Storm, Yama Sakura Japan, Team Spirit Korea, and many other military bases and operations in the United States.

CERTIFICATION

- 1987 Principal Certificate Washington State
- 1984 Program Administrator Certificate Washington State
- 1976 Standard Teaching Certificate Washington State

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Fulbright Scholars Award
- Emeritus Member-Washington Library Media Association
- Innovators Award, Digital Learning Commons awarded by Gov. Gary Locke
- Original Cadre Member, Learning Space
- Beta Phi Mu, National Library Honor Society
- Washington Library Media Association Scholarship
- Brigham Young University Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed:

- Christensen, Paul M. "Characteristics of Library Media Specialists Who Have Exemplary High School Library Media Programs." *School Library Media Quarterly* 19 (Summer 1991): 247-252.
- Christensen, Paul M. Profiles of eighteen Washington State High School Library Media Specialists with exemplary programs. Diss. Brigham Young University, 1986. AAT 8703344
- Christensen, Paul M. Jose Vasconcelos, Philosopher-librarian. Master of Library Science Thesis, Brigham Young University, 1976. ERIC Ed 270 115.

Unrefereed:

- Loertscher, David V. and Paul M. Christensen. *Washington Power! A Parents' Guide to School Libraries*. Hi Willow Research & Publishing, 2005.
- Quarterly column for *Medium, Journal of the Washington Library Media Association*, 1995 – 2002.
- Christensen, Paul, et al. *WLMA and OSPI Essential Skills for Information Literacy*, 1996 <http://www.wlma.org/Instruction/wlmaospibenchmarks.htm>
- Christensen, Paul M. "Futures Conference 1995 Suggests New Directions," *Medium, Journal of the Washington Library Media Association* 19 (Fall 1995).
- Christensen, Paul M. "Information Power through Technology," *Wilson Library Bulletin* October, 1991: 35-37.
- Christensen, Paul M., Carol A. Doll and Lucky Tedrow. *Information Power for Washington, Guidelines for School Library Media Programs*, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Washington Library Media Association, 1991: 53-63.

A survey of 350 public and private schools in Washington State.
- Christensen, Paul M. "Profiles of Library Media Specialists," *School Library Media File, Libraries Unlimited: Littleton, CO.*, 1989.
- Christensen, Paul M. "Old Wine in New Bottles," *Medium, Journal of the Washington Library Media Association* 12 (Fall 1988).

- Christensen, Paul M. "Is there life after Circulation Plus?" Medium, Journal of the Washington Library Media Association 10 (Fall 1986).
- Christensen, Paul M. "Research: Practical Key to the Future." Medium, Journal of the Washington Library Media Association 10 (Fall 1986).