

ELLEN WILLIAMS

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Language Literacy and Culture | UMass Amherst
Expected 2026

Master of Science in Library and Information Science | Simmons University
2016

Bachelor of Arts in Art History | UMass Amherst
2011



RESEARCH INTERESTS

Critical literacy, youth services librarianship, early childhood education, professional learning in public libraries, diverse children's literature.



ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

FYS 191: Pathways to College Success
University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025

LIS 483: Library Collections & Materials for Young Adults
Simmons University West Campus, Greenfield. Fall 2024

EDUC 378: Children's Literature
University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Summer 2024

EDUC 377: Multicultural Education
University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Summer 2022

EDUC 3704: Issues of Diversity & Multiculturalism in Children's Literature
Elms College. Spring 2022

EDUC 204: Multicultural Children's Literature
Elms College, Spring 2018 & 2019



GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS | UMass Amherst

Commonwealth Honors College Writing Coach
Jun 2025 - present

Student Parent Programs Graduate Assistant
Jan 2024 - May 2024

Center for Student Business Graduate Advisor
Aug 2023 - Jan 2024

SBS Pathways First Year Seminar Graduate Advisor
Aug 2023- Jan 2024

University Programming Council Graduate Advisor
Oct 2022 - Jan 2024

Teaching Assistant
Jan 2022 - May 2022



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant

Freelance | Jan 2022 - Present

- Write and review awards and grant materials.
- Collaborate with local non-profits on education and reading initiatives.
- Organize, attend, and present at professional development opportunities for educators.

Substitute Librarian

Jones Library | Amherst MA | Jan 2025 - Present

Montague Public Libraries | Montague MA | Jun 2024 - Present

- Provided flexible and responsive library services across multiple branches, ensuring continuity of youth services, circulation, and reference support.
- Delivered readers' advisory and information literacy assistance to patrons of all ages, with a focus on welcoming and inclusive service.

Temporary Children's Services Assistant

Montague Public Libraries | Montague MA | Jan 2025 - May 2025

- Developed and facilitated early literacy programming and storytimes across three library branches.
- Supported community outreach efforts, including surveys and focus groups to identify emotional and functional drivers for families and teens.

Children's Services Supervisor

Springfield City Library | Springfield MA | May 2018 - Jan 2022

- Implement and coordinate services, outreach, and programming for youth and families of Springfield, an urban city with population of 155,000 residents.
- Oversee purchasing of youth materials for all Springfield City Library locations totaling over \$90,000.
- Engage and partner with community groups and schools for outreach events, storytimes, and other activities; serving more than 1,700 people per year outside of the library.

Reference Librarian

Springfield City Library | Springfield MA | Jul 2016 - May 2018

- Provided reference services, technology instruction, and readers' advisory for patrons of all ages at a busy branch library.
- Worked collaboratively with community organizations, with funding from the National Library of Medicine, to institute health programming and services at the library.
- Collaborated with schools and community organizations on special programming.

Children's and Young Adult Department Assistant

Forbes Library | Northampton MA | Aug 2014 - Jul 2016

- Managed daily operation of children's circulation and reference desk including supervision of work-study students from nearby Smith College.
- Implemented and publicized creative and educational programming for toddlers to teens and families.
- Selected materials for collection development and maintenance.

Temporary Library Associate

Bay Path University | Longmeadow MA | Feb 2014 - Aug 2014

- Functioned as assistant to Library Director Michael Moran.
- Ensured all acquisition functions for library materials.
- Produced financial reports to track allocated funds for materials budget.

Teen and Tween Coordinator

Meekins Library | Williamsburg MA | Jan 2013 - Aug 2014

- Facilitated weekly Teen Advisory Board and other programming.
- Advocated and improved services for young adult patrons.
- Supported all functions of circulation desk.



COMMUNITY WORK

Executive Board Director

Massachusetts Library System | Marlborough MA | January 2021 - Feb 2022

- *Contributed to strategic decision-making and collaborated on initiatives focused on member engagement, professional development, and equitable library services.*
- *Helped to shape the strategic direction of the organization and advancing initiatives in diversity, equity, inclusion, and sustainable service delivery.*

School Library Volunteer

Jackson Street School | Northampton MA | Nov 2015- May 2016

- *Assisted in catalog digitization by barcoding each item in collection and creating records in new ILS system.*
- *Assessed each material item based on CREW guidelines in collection overhaul.*



PUBLICATIONS

Botelho, M. J., Hohmeyer, G., Whitfield, M., & Williams, E. (2025). Re/Contextualizing Picturebook Design with Whole Book Approach and Critical Multicultural Analysis: A Book Case. *Journal of Children's Literature*, 51(1), 24–34.

Kelley, C. and Sulzycki, E. "Hoop City Blooms: Mason Square Community Garden and Public Health Initiative" *Library Collaborations and Community Partnerships: Enhancing Health and Quality of Life*. Ed. Henry Cunningham, Ed. Fannie Cox. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2020.

Various book reviews through *School Library Journal*.



GRANTS & AWARDS

National Network of Libraries of Medicine-New England Region

Community Engagement Project: Project Wellness (2018) - \$3,500

Urban Libraries Innovation Award

Honorable Mention: Planting the Seeds of Health Literacy (2017)

Springfield Safe Neighborhoods Initiative

Certificate of Appreciation (2017)

National Network of Libraries of Medicine-New England Region

Community Engagement Project: Health in the Square (2016 - 2017) - \$8,000



PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Educational Research Association

Member, 2022 - present

American Library Association

Member, 2015- present

Association for Library Service to Children

Member, 2015 - present

Quicklists Consulting Committee, 2018 -2020

Massachusetts Library Association

Member 2015-2021

Youth Services Section Member at Large, 2018 - 2021



CONFERENCE AND SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

Presentations

Community and School Partnerships for Early Literacy

Library Journal
Oct 2025

Unmasking Inequities: A Critical Evaluation of Collections Through a Diversity Audit (Poster)

American Library Association
Jun 2022

Cross-Sector Collaboration Panel

Campaign for Grade Level Reading
Oct 2021

Community Engagement Panel

North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries
Nov 2019

Process Art at Your Library

Massachusetts Library Association
May 2019

In It Together

Massachusetts Library Association
May 2018

Blossoming Opportunities: Making Organic Connections

New England Library Association
Nov 2017

Health Happens Here

New England Library Association
Nov 2017

Conference Organization

Building Bridges

Reading Success by 4th Grade
Oct 2021, March 2022

Winter Speaker Series

Professional Learning Network: Children's Literature
Jan-Mar 2021

Graduate Student Conference

UMass Amherst - Language Literacy and Culture
Nov 2020, Nov 2021, Dec 2022

Multicultural Children's Literature Summit

Professional Learning Network: Children's Literature
Feb 2020