

Kevin Josef Powell

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Conway, AR 72035

tel. 501-450-5438
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Academic Preparation

Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning, Language and Literacy
Georgia State University, 2016

Dissertation: Take me out to the ballgame: Adolescents' insights about engagement with sports texts in a voluntary sports reading club

Director: Ewa McGrail

M.Ed. in Instructional Technology, School Library Media
University of Georgia, 2003

A.B. in English
University of Georgia, 2002

B.S.Ed. in English Education
University of Georgia, 2000

Professional Experience

- *Assistant Professor, University of Central Arkansas*
Conway, Arkansas (2019-Present)

Teaching assignments included Teaching and Learning in the School Library Media Center, Administration of Information Programs, Collection Development, Copyright, Intellectual Property, and Digital Citizenship, and Practicum.

- *Instructor, Georgia State University*
Atlanta, Georgia (2017-2019)

Teaching assignments included Linking Literacy Assessment and Classroom Instruction, Literacy in the Content Areas, and supervision of middle and secondary (grades 4-12) field experiences.

- *Teaching & Research Assistantships, Georgia State University*
Atlanta, Georgia (2011-2013)

Teaching assignments included Reading World Texts in the 21st Century, Concepts and Methods in Language Arts for Middle Childhood Education, and Children's and Young Adult Literature.

- *Teacher Librarian, Rowland Elementary*
Stone Mountain, Georgia (2004-2011)

Emphasized project-based learning and collaboration with teachers at an urban school in which 95% of the students come from African American backgrounds. Planned, executed, and evaluated standards-based instructional activities into the curricular content.

- *Teacher, Sweetwater Middle School*
Lawrenceville, Georgia (2003-2004)

Taught 8th Grade language arts and social studies. Conducted project-based learning opportunities with students on readers' theater, the Civil War, and writing. All language arts students passed the annual statewide 8th grade writing assessment.

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- *Pre-service Teacher, Language Arts, Winder-Barrow High School*
Winder, Georgia (1999-2000)

Stressed critical literacy through inquiry-based projects and planned a variety of lessons to accommodate student learning levels at the 9th grade and 11th grade levels.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Powell, K.J. (2020). Batter Up: Exploring sports texts in the school library. *Teacher Librarian*, 48(1), 28-35.

McGrail, E. & Powell, K.J. (2014). Curation of digitized artifacts in the study of historical fiction. *Teacher Librarian*, 41(4), 37-41.

Powell, K.J. & McGrail, E. (2013). Using artifacts to study historical and realistic children's and adolescent fiction in the classroom, *Language Arts Journal of Michigan*, 28(2), 41-46.

Other Publications

Powell, K.J. (2017). Got a Kid Who Loves Sports? Get Them Reading and Thinking About Sports, Too. *Atlanta Parent Magazine*, 34(4), 58-59

Powell, K.J. (2014). Boys Love Reading!, *Atlanta Parent Magazine*, 31(1), 38-39.

Powell, K.J., Allen, A., Faupel, D., Crowley, S., & Barman, F. (2013). Best books of 2013, *Atlanta Parent Magazine*, 30(11), 30-34.

Presentations and Recognition of Achievement

- Presenter at Community of School Librarians for the Arkansas Library Association (January-April 2021)
Presented and hosted online professional development workshops on children's literature topics including a book club discussion on equity and diversity in children's literature, a book talk discussion on favorite books of 2020-2021, and an author talk with children's author Kristin Gray.
- Presenter at National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference (November 2020)
Titled: "Where Personal and Practical Meet: The Reading Habits of Teachers and Librarians."
Reported interview and survey findings, conclusions, and future directions on a study examining the reading habits of teachers and librarians. Considered how those habits aligned with classroom practices and impacted the development of classroom libraries and library collections.
- Presenter at Arkansas Library Association Conference (October 2020)
Titled: "We Are What We Read: The Reading Habits of Teachers and School Librarians."
Discussed preliminary findings of a study designed to examine the reading habits of teachers and school librarians. The study examined how reading habits connect to collection development and self-censorship of school and classroom libraries.
- Panelist at Arkansas Association of Instructional Media Conference (July 2020)
Titled: "Virtual Book Clubs: A Panel Discussion." Conducted a virtual book club discussion of three books- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konisburg, *Ban This*

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Book by Alan Gratz, and One Mixed-Up Night by Catherine Newman. Shared virtual book club ideas with participants.

- Presenter at Arkansas Association of Instructional Media Annual Conference (July 2020)
Titled: "Teachers, Too: How to Use Content Area Literacy Strategies in the School Library."
Provided examples of content area literacy across the curriculum, and practical ideas to implement in school library settings.
- Presenter at Southeastern Library Association Conference (September 2019)
Titled: "Research and Strategies for Engaging Boys in Reading."
Shared research and history on boys and reading, a taxonomy of sports texts that can be used with middle grade children, and sports literacy activities in the school and public library settings.
- Outstanding Ph.D. Student in the Department of Language and Literacy Education (2015)
Recognized for outstanding academic achievement, teaching expertise, community service, and a commitment to excellence.
- Presenter at National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference (November 2013)
Titled: "Exploring Open Source Software for Visual Communication." The participants learned ways to use open source design programs in inquiry-based projects that spark student interest in visual communication design principles, so students can better express their understandings of texts in visual ways.
- Presenter at Georgia Conference on Children's Literature (March 2013)
Titled: "Take Me Out to the Ballgame: Using sport texts to explore difficult topics with upper elementary and middle school boys." I offered ways that sport texts not only serve as entry points for reluctant readers, but they also provide opportunities for tying together explorations of difficult fiction and non-fiction topics.
- Presenter at National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference (November 2012)
Titled: "Exploring Online Primary Sources in Literature Instruction." Participants explored the use of online primary sources in literature instruction. Participants dug into primary sources online and free online bookmarking services where users can save links, organize them and share them with colleagues.
- Presenter at Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy (March 2012)
Titled: "Teaching Literature with Artifacts Using Social Bookmarking Services: Encouraging Exchange of Information and Communities of Support." Introduced social bookmarking services, including Diigo and Tumblr, and ways to use them to share, organize, and evaluate the quality of artifacts.
- Presenter at Kennesaw State University's Annual Conference on Literature for Children and Young Adults (March 2012)
Titled: "Using Artifacts to Connect Students to the Literature They Study." Explored the use of artifacts of various kinds (e.g., cultural, historical, political, and geographic) and how the artifacts can aid teachers and library media specialists to enhance student understanding of the literature they study.
- Presenter at Georgia Council of Media Organizations Annual Conference (October 2009)

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Titled: "Using iMovie and Garage Band to Improve Student Writing and Speaking Skills." I provided insight on helping students create research documentaries and character sketches using the Macintosh software applications, iMovie and Garage Band.

Service to the Department, College, and Community

- (2021) Workshop Participant, Disruptive Educational Equity Project. University of Central Arkansas.
- (2020-Present) Chair, Community of School Librarians and Librarian Educators. Arkansas Library Association.
- (2020-Present) Chair, Library Media and Information Technologies Advisory Committee. University of Central Arkansas.
- (2020-Present) Board Member, Arkansas Teachers of English Language Arts.
- (2020) Presenter, Digital Innovator Professional Development for Teaching in a Pandemic, University of Central Arkansas.
- (2020) Committee Member, CAEP: Candidate Quality, Recruitment, and Selectivity Committee. University of Central Arkansas.
- (2020) Reviewer, *Journal of Educational Research*, "The barriers to online teaching and learning of basic education during COVID-19 in China"
- (2020) Workshop Participant, Reacting to the Past. University of Central Arkansas.
- (2020) Presenter, Impacting Tomorrow Summit. University of Central Arkansas.
- (2020) Judge, We the People Arkansas State Competition, Conway, AR
- (2019) Department Strategic Planning Retreat. University of Central Arkansas.
- (2019) Volunteer, University of Central Arkansas Recruitment Event, Little Rock, AR
- (2014) Reviewer, *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, "An Adolescent ELL's Composition of a Multimodal Project"
- (2012-2013) Editorial Assistant/Student Editor *New Methods of Literacy Research* eds. Albers & Flint
- (2012) Reviewer, *English Education*, "Competing Centers of Gravity: A Beginning English Teacher's Socialization Process with Conflictual Settings"

College Level Courses Taught

- Teaching and Learning in the School Library Media Center
- Collection Development
- Administration of Information Programs
- Copyright, Intellectual Property, and Digital Citizenship
- School Librarianship Practicum
- Linking Literacy Assessment and Classroom Instruction
- Literacy in the Content Areas
- Middle and Secondary (grades 4-12) Field Experience
- Children's and Young Adult Literature
- Reading 21st Century Texts
- Concepts and Methods in Language Arts for Middle School Education

Professional Organization Memberships

- American Association of School Librarians
- Arkansas Library Association
- National Council of Teachers of English
- International Reading Association