



Jessica Boisclair/Daily Times

Danielle Pucci, the Digital Projects Librarian at Boston Public Library, addresses students from Coventry High School Monday afternoon.

Coventry students get schooled

Boston's Digital Projects Librarian explains her field

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COVENTRY — As part of the guest speaker program at Coventry High School, digital projects librarian Danielle Pucci spoke to the students Monday about her efforts to digitize information at the Boston Public Library in order to not only preserve history but also to evolve with the ever-growing use of technology.

Pucci explained that she had received her bachelor's degree in photojournalism at Boston University. Afterwards she went on to work for Houghton Mifflin, an electronic publishing company.

During her time there she explained to the students that she worked with videographers.

She said that one of the videos that she made was about the process of growing old and what it felt like. She said that she traveled to different nursing homes and interviewed some of the residents and asked them what it was like to grow old.

Pucci told the students that once the information was gathered she cut the video into

Librarian talks to CHS students

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internet. She added that during her time there Houghton Mifflin also made learning tutorials that were put online as well.

She explained that she then went to become a media editor at Worth Publishers but decided to go back to school for Library Information Sciences in 2007.

She said that through somebody she knew she was able to get herself a job at the Boston Public Library after entering graduate school. She explained to the students that having connections is an important ingredient for their upcoming careers.

"Just meeting and getting to know the right people," she said, could be the key to getting a job.

Pucci said that her job at the library is to try and expose research collections to the public.

"I learned that I could put together my original photographic and publishing career and mold those together with user access to find things and put them together," she said. "This would become my career in digital services."

She told the students that digital libraries

are important because everybody does online research in today's world.

She said that Boston Public Library has been an institution since 1848 and has been collecting items throughout the years.

"We have amazing artwork, amazing poster collections, travel posters, lithographs and post cards," she said.

She explained that not everything included in the digital services department is from books but that these items are available as well.

Pucci told the students that the library has a map center which includes librarians and teachers who work to build an educational experience around the maps for students.

She said that while the library waits for the internet space to be set up for the public to view all these artifacts, they are using a Flickr account.

This online photo sharing site gives the library the opportunity to share their data with the public.

Pucci said that the library won a grant last year that will give them the resources to try and put all the information in Mass-

achusetts online database.

She said that currently there are institutions that are involved in this program and that a local high school gave the library its yearbooks dating from 1965 to 2008. She added that the library digitized those yearbooks and put them on the internet.

"Look at where the industry is going—not just where it is right now," she told the students. "You can then position yourself for the future and keep yourself valuable."

At the end of the presentation one of the students told Pucci that she was writing a book and asked if there was any way to publish her book in their digital database.

Pucci said that unfortunately they charge per page and since the book was 20 chapters it may be costly. But she informed the student that Amazon helps with publishing books as well.

When asked what the most interesting items Pucci has seen while working there she explained to the audience that they have a pipe from Boston abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. She also said that they have the death masks from early 20th century anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti.