Hello from Information Matrix Camp,

Whew! Camp has barely begun and we have already done so much! Today all of the campers and counselors arrived at ORU and settled into our lovely accommodations. After receiving an informational packet, campers headed up to their rooms and enjoyed some free time till dinner. We all gathered in the “living room” and walked over to the dining hall. Diner was delicious and refreshing (this heat is no joke!). Later we played the name game. The campers did an amazing job and I think some lifelong nicknames have been created. We wrapped up our first night with an intriguing hat game! Each camper donned a hat representing a different variety of librarian. One of our sponsors Sharon, with the aid of the campers, eloquently described each hat. After the game we hung up our hats and drifted off to more free time and then lights out! Today was a blast and I think tonight everyone will be dreaming of the thrilling activities to come!
Hello again dear friends,

If yesterday seemed quick, today went at warp speed. We began our journey at the Librarium. This technologically-advanced library dazzled the counselors and campers alike. There is an automated bookshelf that allows patrons to simply place their book on the shelf….AND…boom! The book is checked in. A plethora of electronic devices are also available to patrons, ranging from 3D printers to Nooks and Kindles. All of the checkout is done by the patrons on sleek, white self-service machines. These machines are not only beautiful, but easy to operate. The Librarium also contains a maker space!
After being wowed at the Librarium, we all loaded onto the bus and headed to the TCCL Tech services. At tech services we followed a book from start to finish. We were particularly interested in the new sorting machine. A conveyor belt automatically sorts books into carts meant for each library within the system. Some campers wanted to take a ride, but it looked a little too unsafe. TCCL Tech services was also kind enough to feed us lunch. We feasted on tasty sandwiches and chicken followed by some amazing homemade desserts.

Full from our lunches we made our way to the ORU Learning Resources Center. The building itself enticed us with its grand architecture and sparkly gold finishes. The collection held within the library was even more impressive to us. The ORU library has a complete model of a school library media center that education students can use for practice. One unique aspect of the ORU library is it’s plethora of taxidermied animals. The campers particularly enjoyed getting their photograph by the zebra and the lion.

When we completed our trip to the African desert/ ORU library, we walked back to the dorm to hear an enthralling speech given by Google employee David Barr. He shared with us
Google’s message “to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful”. We polished off the night by listening to some amazing book talks given by three librarians involved with youth services from TCCL. They presented books that many of the campers then wanted to read immediately. The night was not over yet! We were all given a gift! The lovely librarians gifted us each with a copy of *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos. Mr. Gantos will be visiting the Hardesty Library on August 22 for a talk and a signing. I saw many of the campers eagerly cracking open their book as soon as it was handed to them. I think Mr. Gantos just got 23 new fans! We had an amazing day and can’t wait for the next four!
Hello from Information Matrix Camp,

Buckle your seatbelts! Today was another wild and fabulous day! We began our journey at Barnes and Noble booksellers. We got a tour of the facility, including a sneak peek in the shipping dock. We also got to hear about information management from a seller’s perspective. After we toured Barnes and Noble everyone (including counselors) had the opportunity to pick out four picture books. The picture books are going to be used in a special project later this week! Stay tuned for more information on Thursday’s blog! The campers also each got to pick out a book for themselves thanks to Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO)!

Loaded down with all of our new and wonderful reading material we headed over to the Rudisill Public Library. We were lucky enough to be shown around by Cher. We learned more about the teen page of the TCCL website and then got a tour. The story time room in Rudisill is lovely! It made everyone feel as if they were deep sea diving!

Rudisill is home to the African American Resource Center. The library paid homage to this wonderful collection by displaying some African tribal artifacts. Rudisill also kindly provided us with a tasty lunch and recorded performances of an anti-bulling play acted by local teens.
Next we landed on the doorstep of the Williams Center. We had a wonderful tour of the data center. Our tour guide was informed and hilarious. He even handed out candy to campers who answered questions correctly! The data center was arranged in a very tidy grid. It showed us how information can be organized in a variety of ways. We took a fast speed elevator up to the 51st floor and were treated to an amazing view!

We could even see the ballpark we will be visiting on Friday. We also got to hear about various information jobs available within Williams, including business intelligence. The speaker started with one of library schools favorite questions: “What is the difference between information and data?” I think all the counselors had to sit on their hands to keep from jumping up!

We ended our day at the Hardesty Library. We were introduced to the various databases available to TCCL members. The campers also got the chance to play Minecraft. After a hardy bout of wandering in computer generated rain we all took a tour of Hardesty’s gorgeous facility. We were all dazzled by their children’s reading room. The faux tree seemed so real I could almost feel its shade. The mural was also stunning and made the whole room feel mystical.
After our tour we went to a meeting room and did a mosaic art craft. We made our art out of real Mardi Gras beads! After a full and wonderful day we took a brief dip in the pool and went to bed. We need our rest for all of the wonderful things planned for tomorrow!
Hello again from Information Matrix Camp,

Today Matrix campers wrangled fire into beautiful glass flowers at the Tulsa Glassblowing School. Everyone had a chance to create their own flower masterpiece. We were even gifted with a demonstration of glass blowing.

We finished our art work a little early and headed over to the Center of the Universe. I bet you didn’t know the Center of the Universe was right here in downtown Tulsa? We took some excellent photos and marveled at all of the passing freight trains.

After our intergalactic trip we moseyed over to Guthrie Green to enjoy the food trucks. We had a variety of choices. Someone even tried a Swiss, raspberry jam, and chocolate chip grilled cheese.
With our bellies full of delicious street food we took to
the bus and drove to the Philbrook Museum of Art. We
were privileged to receive a personal tour of the
museum from a very informed docent. The museum
was temporarily holding a traveling Monet exhibit. We
got to see some of Monet’s amazing work created on
the Seine River.

We greatly enjoyed the museum and gardens but we had
places to be. We sojourned over to the OU Schusterman
Library, where we had a quick tour and received an amazing
surprise: We all made paper airplanes! We even got to launch
our planes off of the library balcony. We polished off our night
with the tasty and informative Pizzapedia. We learned all
about how to contribute to and assist Wikipedia while eating a
delicious dinner of pizza!
Day 5

Hello from Information Matrix Camp,

We didn’t let a few rain clouds get us down here at Information Matrix Camp. We were first welcomed by the University of Tulsa Daycare. The campers read a picture book aloud to a group of children. This was fun not only for the children, but also for the campers. Campers tried on silly voices, acted out scenes, and some even sing-songed their books! Each child received their own book to take home with them.

We left the day care full of happy memories and loaded onto the bus. This rainy day was the perfect weather for a car trip to Stillwater. We started our stay in Stillwater at Eskimo Joe’s. They happened to be having an amazing sale of “reject” clothing. Several of us bought sweaters to battle the unusually cold summer day. We then tucked into a marvelous lunch!

Following our mid-day feast, we drove to the OSU Veterinary Library. We had a Q and A with the veterinary librarian, Liz Amos, and then received a tour of the Veterinary school’s hospital. We got to see some amazing things. We looked in on an operation, met a hostile lama, and saw inside of a cow’s
stomach. We returned to the library for a brief tour and some more Q and Q. All in all our trip was wonderful.

We then headed over to the OSU Art Museum. In another life the building had been a post office. The museum did a wonderful job of breathing new life into the old building while keeping up its historical integrity. The students did a tour of the museum and then got to design their own museum floor plan! They chose the art and even arranged (on a 3D model) how they would set up the walls and podiums. I think I saw some cogs turning, and some minds beginning to consider a career in curatorship.

We rounded off our tour of with a trip to the Stillwater Public Library. Well, first we stopped off for some delicious ice cream treats from Braum’s and then we went to the Stillwater Public Library. We began by making motorized toothbrush heads! Pretty nifty!

We then heard about the OSU Library and received a comic drawn by the undergraduate services librarian about why being a librarian is awesome. We also were treated to a glorious dinner of Hideaway Pizza generously provided by the Stillwater Friends of the Library. Full of pizza and loaded down with swag, we then got a tour of the beautiful facility. We were particularly intrigued by their space saving placement of computers on the underside of conference room tables. All a patron need do is push down on the panel on the desk and up pops a computer. After
an amazingly full and wonderful day we all headed back to Tulsa to rest up for our last full day of camp! Time sure does fly!
Day 6

Well Howdie from Information Matrix Camp,

Can you believe it is Friday already? Even though today was our last full day of camp we still barreled ahead with a day full of fun and hands on learning. We started our day at the OSU Health Sciences Center. We heard all about the library and even got to look at cross sections of a brain! We then played a game where we created our very own autobiographies (with the help of a buddy).

Soon we strapped back into the bus and headed over to the main OSU library. We learned more about the Library of Congress organization system by doing a book scavenger hunt. The prize was a comic book and a candy bar! OSU was also kind enough to provide us with a delicious and nutritious salad bar for lunch.

Following our scrumptious meal we drove to the Tulsa Air and Space Museum. We learned all about Tulsa’s illustrious history in the sky. Some of the campers even got to try their hand at flying a model airplane. Other campers got to participate in a simulation of a rocket launch.
Still flying high from the museum we headed over to the Woody Guthrie Museum. This interactive experience held a treasure trove of Woody Guthrie memorabilia. We saw one of Woody’s guitars, and also got a peek into the photographic history of “The Boss” (aka Bruce Springsteen).

The location of the Woody Guthrie Museum was perfect! Following our melodious trip into the world of Woody we strolled over to the OneOk baseball field for a Drillers game. We tucked into a baseball frank and cheered our hearts out. Not only did we end the game with a win but we were treated to an amazing fireworks show.

What an amazing week! Time has flown by. To quote the legendary Woody Guthrie “Life has got a habit of not standing hitched. You got to ride it like you find it. You got to change with it.” I think at the end of this week everyone has been impacted differently but everyone has felt a little change for the better.

That’s all from Information Matrix Camp this summer!

Over and Out,

Rorie Cox-Steib