Something to Think About -- Positive Dreaming

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Something to Think About

Positive Dreaming

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I guess all of us have done our share of dreaming — even at work while doing routine tasks. No? Well, it’s a good thing to do, because it is a relaxation and meditation technique that allows us to function in our jobs without undue stresses. What are your dreams? Exotic or rural locations with water/snow/sunsets/or more? Wild times? Quiet times? I could name so many scenarios that would make you excited from a rush of adrenaline. But … could you name some work dreams? When I came for an interview here, I arrived early to look around. I began to make a mental list of all the things I wanted to do to give the library a more professional appearance in the serial and microfilm sections. When I was hired, I typed those dreams in black and white, put them on my Outlook task list and began work. Every day I see the list as I check my email, and it is a reminder to me that there is always something important to do. We have worked on the binding — to increase the amount done each year; we are weeding the collection to make more room and “lean” it out; we are almost finished labeling a microfilm cabinet that never had labels; our two inch wide plastic boxes have just arrived to replace the four inch wide ones in our Special Collections, and we will soon have that inventory completed as well as picking up eight shelves of empty space. There will be other dreams too. What else could I want? A dream I have always wanted to could I want? A dream I have always wanted to design and carry through, is to write and obtain a grant that will allow us to scan our World War II airplane factory employee newsletters. There is so much history in these publications that will soon be lost to all of us because they are deteriorating into brown debris and dust. The activities, quantity and quality of work, as well as the people’s creative abilities are placed in the archives of these newsletters to remind us of the cultural changes and supreme human efforts during wartime. Once our collection has been scanned onto CD’s, I would hope that other universities having similar collections of these and other factories would join into the program and complete their scanning as well. Perhaps between us, we would be able to expand all of the holdings of these materials and share the results with innumerable institutions with the same needs. It is a dream, but the good vibes are getting stronger and the positive nature of this project is being heard by others who have similar emotions about the doomed material and may some day “light the fire” that will make it a reality. That, I think, is something to really think and dream about! How ‘bout you? Do you have a dream too?