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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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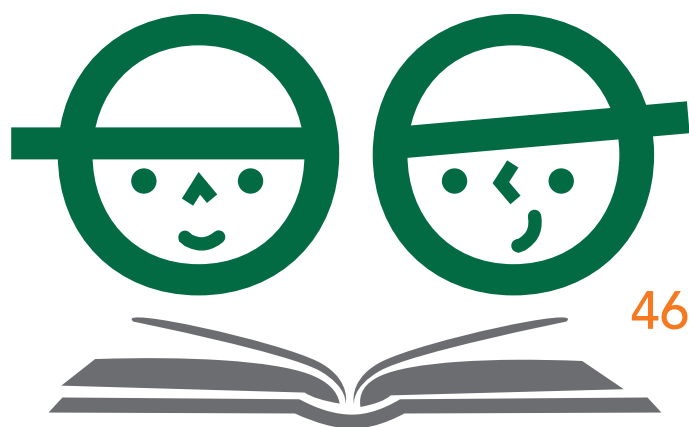
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Acquisition in Times of Trouble

by Leonard Kniffel

By most measures, one of the things that ALA has always done well is recommend books. Through review periodicals and an elaborate awards system, the Association, from its inception, has been in the business of recommending and celebrating not only superior writing but also illustration and nonprint media. The Newbery and Caldecott awards are the gold standard for children's literature. A *Booklist* starred review is a publisher's dream.

This year, *American Libraries* has pulled together a list of many of ALA's award-winners, including outstanding reference sources—representing the best of the best for children, teens, and adults. Why would we choose to highlight books you should buy at a time when acquisition budgets are being slashed everywhere?

Years ago, when I worked in acquisitions for the literature department at Detroit Public Library, I remember keeping something we called a “want

list.” This list consisted of books we had missed or been unable to buy in previous years but that were essential to the collection. When we did have the money, we would purchase from the want list, often from used book dealers, and happily fill gaps in the collection. It was one way to deal with a mission that cannot

succumb to the vagaries of the economy.

Giving us the inside scoop on what's happening with the economy and its effect on libraries and ALA are Emily Sheketoff, director of the Washington Office, and Keith Michael Fiels, executive director of ALA (p. 26 and 8). It's been a rough month, with staff reductions happening across the county (p. 17) including at ALA Headquarters (p. 12).

Also in this issue, two ALA Editions authors give us sneak peaks at their new books. Michael Sullivan offers ideas for making book groups appealing to boys (p. 46). and Rob Reid explains the importance of family story-time (p. 44).

Lastly, our cover story about the life and career of Judith Krug offers perhaps our greatest lesson in acquisition during troubled times (p. 40). The director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and founder of the Freedom to Read Foundation died April 11 after a long battle with cancer. An unflagging crusader for the First Amendment, Krug led the charge against censorship for more than 40 years, founding Banned Books Week and putting ALA on the national map as a defender of the right to read without government intrusion.

For Krug, troubled times were times in which censorship prevailed, times in which the Supreme Court supported internet filtering in libraries, and times in which extremists organized to prevent libraries from offering accurate yet controversial material about sexuality. There can be no finer tribute to her dedication and resolve than for the rest of us to pick up the mantle and continue to defend, with our purchases, the right to read. Krug believed that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, and she was right. ■

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ALA American Library Association

50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611
www.ala.org/online/ • e-mail americanlibraries@ala.org
toll free 800-545-2433 plus extension
local 312-944-6780 • fax 312-440-0901
online career classified ads: JobLIST.ala.org

editor in chief

Leonard Kniffel • lkniffel@ala.org • x4215

senior editors

Gordon Flagg • gflagg@ala.org • x4213
Beverly Goldberg • bgoldberg@ala.org • x4217
George M. Eberhart • geberhart@ala.org • x4212

associate editors

Pamela A. Goodes • pgoodes@ala.org • x4218
Greg Landgraf • glandgraf@ala.org • x4216
Sean Fitzpatrick • sfitzpatrick@ala.org • x4219

design and production

production director
production editors

Benjamin Segedin
Jennifer Palmer
Taina Lagodzinski
Carlos Orellana

publishing department

associate executive director
marketing and sales director
publishing technology director
joblist classified advertising/ad traffic
rights, permissions, reprints

Donald Chatham
Mary Mackay
Troy Linker
Katie Bane
Mary Jo Bolduc
800-545-2433 x5416

columnists

Meredith Farkas, Joseph Janes, Will Manley, Bill Ott,
Jennifer Burek Pierce, Mary Ellen Quinn

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Editorial policy: ALA Policy Manual, section 10.2

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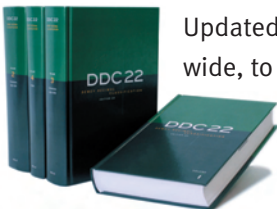
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Judith Krug led the charge against censorship for more than 40 years.

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Educating the Teachers

Member input sought about task force recommendations

by Jim Rettig

In recent years, the American Library Association has repeatedly looked at library education. Most recently, a Task Force on Library Education, appointed by former ALA president Leslie Burger in 2006 and chaired by former ALA president Carla Hayden, carried the discussion further with a final report (tinyurl.com/cthc2z) submitted during January's Midwinter Meeting in Denver. The most visible product of the task force's work is a set of eight competences that define "the basic knowledge to be possessed by all persons graduating from an ALA-accredited master's program." The competences were approved by the governing Council at Midwinter. I urge every ALA member to read the report.

The task force also submitted recommendations to the Executive Board that address accreditation standards. The board referred the recommendations to ALA's Committee on Accreditation (COA), whose charge is to formulate standards of education for library and information studies.

The recommendations state:

1. That the Association incorporate the core competences and ALA's Core Values of Librarianship into its Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies . . . together with specific recommendations on those standards as listed below.

2. That the standards be revised using imperatives and in the active voice—stressing that adherence to them is required for accreditation.

3. That the standards be stated to be prescriptive, not indicative—mandates, not suggestions.

4. That the standards use the terms "program" and "school" with exactitude to make it crystal clear that they are concerned only with programs and not with schools, except in areas in which the activities and policies of the program are inextricable from those of the school.

5. That it is made clear to programs seeking accreditation that the Association is not interested in prescribing a "core curriculum" (though it should be clear that the core competences are the bedrock of the curricula of accredited programs). Accordingly, the standards should be written to concentrate on the outcomes of the education received in accredited LIS programs and that these outcomes not only be achieved, but documented in the accreditation process.

6. That the standards prescribe that a majority of the permanent full-time faculty teaching in the program are grounded in librarianship by virtue of their educational background, professional experience, and/or record of research and publication.

7. That the standards prescribe that the full-time faculty of ALA-accredited programs are sufficient in number and diversity of specialties



I have asked the Committee on Accreditation to engage members in conversation about the Library Education Task Force recommendations.

to carry out the major share of the teaching, research, and service activities required for accreditation.

8. That the standards prescribe that temporary and part-time facul-

ty of ALA-accredited programs are appointed to balance and complement the teaching competences of the full-time faculty, not to replace them in their teaching activity.

9. That the standards make it inescapably clear that assessment processes must be such as to show that the outcomes dictated by the standards are achieved demonstrably—that is, with sufficient objective evidence to show that those outcomes are achieved by all graduates of the program.

COA has well-defined responsibility and authority; however, as part of a member organization that values participation, it welcomes member comments on the recommendations. I have asked COA to engage members in conversation.

Send your thoughts to ALA Office for Accreditation Director Karen O'Brien at kobrien@ala.org; type "TF Recommendations" in the subject line.

Let the discussion begin! ■

ALA President JIM RETTIG is university librarian at Boatwright Memorial Library, University of Richmond in Virginia. Visit jrettig.org



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Coping with Reduction

ALA will rally resources to maintain service

by Keith Michael Fields

There's just no way to put a happy face on losing your job. In April, 10 staff members at ALA were told that their positions had been eliminated. Even though severance packages were as generous as we could make them, it didn't take away the pain. We're talking about people's livelihoods, and the fact that similar scenarios are unfolding all over the country doesn't make it any easier.

Since the beginning of the year, we have been updating our budget projections for the fiscal year, which ends on August 31, and we concluded that revenue was dropping so drastically, especially in ALA Publishing, that we needed to take action immediately.

Like libraries all over the country, we have been following the recession as it rapidly unfolded, updating our budget projections on a monthly and sometimes weekly basis. By March, it was clear that revenue was dropping so dramatically, especially in areas such as advertising, that we needed to take action immediately.

It could have been worse

The good news is that Annual Conference registration is strong, even ahead of registration for last year at this point, and we expect a very exciting and successful conference in Chicago in July. Membership also remains strong and growing, and every dollar in member dues is still matched by a dollar from publishing, conferences, grants, and ALA's endowment. But, like thousands of

libraries, the Association had to make some tough decisions. In anticipation of the shortfall, we were forced to eliminate positions, and every ALA employee will be taking five unpaid furlough days this fiscal year (which saves an additional five positions). We are also leaving another half-dozen positions unfunded in 2010, and cutting costs everywhere we can.

The most important thing is that, in each instance, we have made every effort to minimize the impact of cost-cutting measures on services for members, libraries, and the public. Advocacy support continues to be job number one. We know that libraries with strong advocacy traditions and support groups will fare better as state, county, and municipal budgets are cut. These efforts will save thousands of jobs in libraries nationwide, and preserve vital services for the library users who need them more than ever.

Public awareness is also critical. We have worked hard to make the media aware of the increase in library usage, which has spurred some very high-profile national coverage. ALA's I Love Libraries website is receiving 13,000 hits a day, and a new @your library website for the public has just been launched. The "En Tu Biblioteca" radio campaign has reached nearly



We have made every effort to minimize the impact of cost-cutting measures on services for members, libraries, and the public.

half of the Latino population in the country, and a new campaign encouraging parents and children to spend quality time together at the library is in the works.

We're also looking at ways to help librarians who have

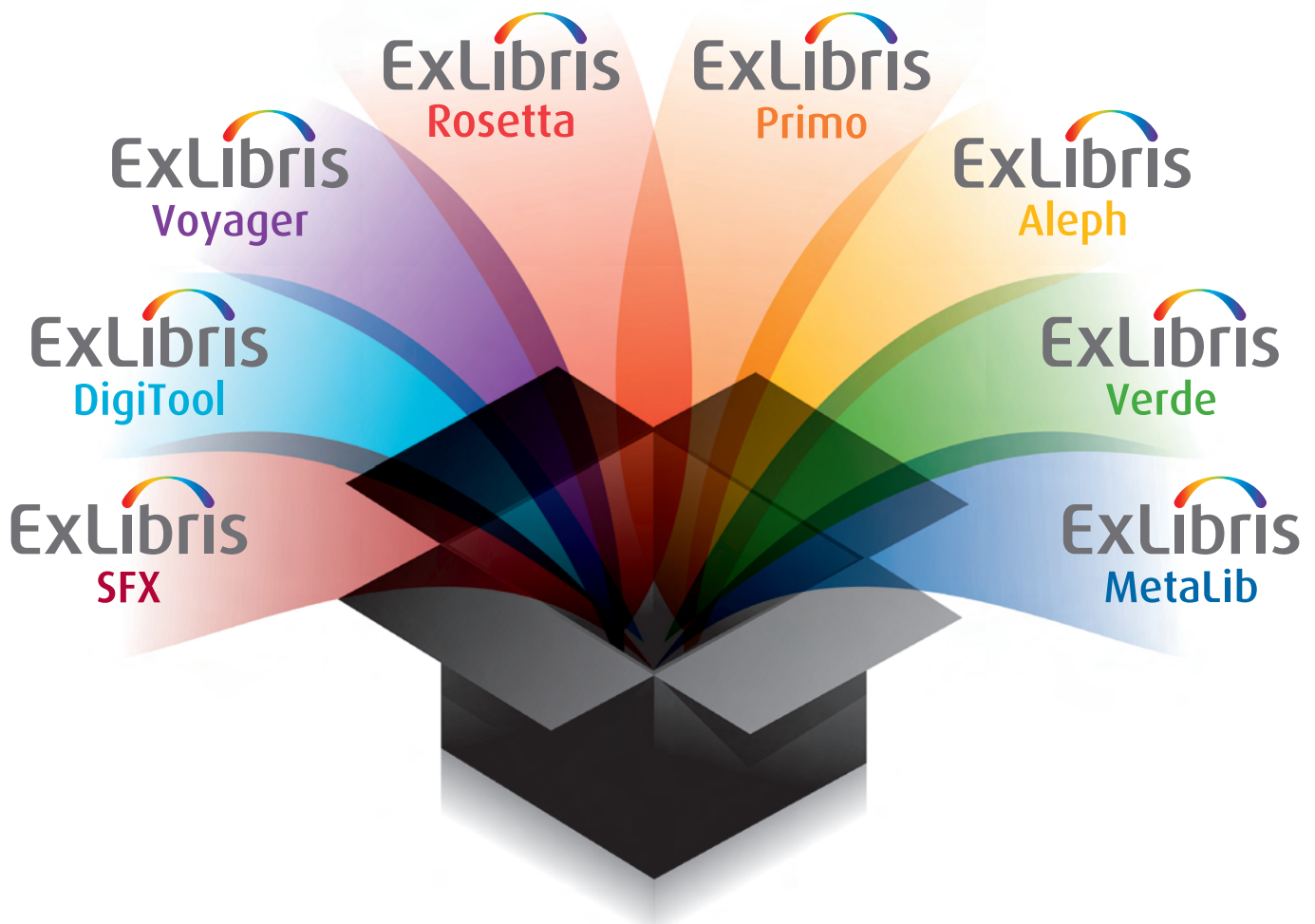
lost their jobs and new library school graduates facing the toughest job market in decades. A new toolkit on "getting a job in tough times" as well as new mentoring programs will soon be rolling out.

With travel budgets shrinking, virtual participation in a wide variety of Association activities is a top priority. This summer, those who can't join us in person in Chicago can participate virtually—and interactively—for the first time. Wireless in hundreds of meeting rooms, along with support from ALA's Library and Information Technology Association's Library 2.0 group, will help those who can't participate in person to join in committee and discussion-group meetings. And ALA Connect, the Association's much-anticipated social networking site, launched last month.

This is just the beginning of the long list of new programs and improved services that are moving ahead despite the cutbacks. Like libraries, ALA is trying to meet expanding needs with decreasing resources. Like libraries, we must do whatever it takes. ■

Is your library trying to redefine what it means to be innovative?

If so, you should contact us!



The Ex Libris open-platform program allows libraries to break free of traditional, closed systems, and take control of their environments. Using our open interfaces, you can easily enhance our functionality-rich products with open source extensions and make sure your library services are customized, branded, and integrated with local systems. Focus on what matters most: your end users and their needs.

Letters and Comments

Copyright Know-how

Melanie Schlosser's On My Mind column on long copyright terms and "The Copyright Mummies" (Mar., p. 33) concludes with a call "to honor the creative process by ensuring a meaningful dialogue between creators—past, present, and future." In light of the reality of long copyright terms, what can any of us do to further that dialogue in the course of our everyday work as librarians?

It is important for all of us to know about copyright—as creators, as users of copyrighted work, and as those who manage those works.

Here are some ideas: Realize that almost all of us create and consume copyrighted material. Under the current copyright law, creative expression is copyrighted as soon as it is fixed in tangible form. If you have written a paper,

painted a picture, or taken a photograph, you are probably a rights-holder.

Now that you know you are a copyright holder, think about what you are doing with your copyrights. Have you ever signed an agreement to publish an article without really understanding what happened to your copyright under the agreement? Educate yourself on the subject, and don't hesitate to ask questions as they occur to you.

A good place to start getting that education is the Copyright Advisory Network, sponsored by ALA, where you'll find a blog with

news and forums where you can ask those copyright questions (librarycopyright.net/wordpress/).

One of the most important limits to copyright-holders' exclusive rights is fair use, which, within the confines of its four factors, allows collaboration and reproduction for a host of socially important functions, such as artistic works, parody, and educational use. Fair use must be exercised to stay viable. Learn more about fair use through sites such as Stanford's Center for Internet and Society and its Fair Use Project. Consider a Creative Commons license for your copyrighted work, when it is appropriate.

Digital media, social networking, and the internet are making it easier than ever to create copyrighted work and share it. It is important for all of us to know about copyright—as creators, as users of copyrighted work, and as those who manage those works.

Anne Gilliland

Ohio State University, Columbus

Melanie Schlosser's call for changes to copyright law that would favor the general public over artists and their families is an argument I've heard before in library literature. In fact, it is the reason I do not belong to any professional library association.

I will not have my dues go to the furtherance of such nonsense that favors a nonproducing penny-pinching public over producing artists. I'll quote a line from "Inside Job," a song about disappearing rights by Don Henley: "While you are look-

ing the other way, they'll take your right to own your own ideas."

In addition to being a librarian, I'm also a stand-up comic. It took about 15 years from the time I started performing until the time I released my first CD. It will take more time still before CD sales reach a level that the monthly check might cover the same month's mortgage bill or a car loan.

My hope is that when I pass on, my body of work will be an inheritance to my children, that one of them might even become a performer and build on my work. Why shouldn't my son benefit more than a stranger from the fact that I was one of the better comedians and comic writers of the time?

Schlosser thinks it's unfair that she should have to pay for the right to own, for instance, a certain piece of copyrighted music, but she's not alone in her feeling. Most contemporary students also believe that they shouldn't have to pay for music, movies, or anything.

I saw a local news story a few years ago where a university professor basically threw up his hands. He was teaching a class in ethics and his complaint was that the current crop of students had no idea what ethics were—in particular that they couldn't see that there was anything unethical about using an internet service that allowed users to download copyrighted music for free.

Schlosser seems to suffer from the same malady those students did. She bemoans a complete "locking-down of huge swaths of creative output," as if she is entitled to that output having had nothing to do with it more than the desire to see it for free.

Richard Gagnier

Chili Public Library
Rochester, New York

The editors welcome letters about recent contents or matters of general interest. Letters should be limited to 300 words. Send to americanlibraries@ala.org; fax 312-440-0901; or *American Libraries*, Reader Forum, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795.

Kindle 2, Amazon, and Us

An addendum to "Amazon Lets Publishers Silence Kindle Audio" is needed (Apr., p. 24). I was correctly quoted as saying that the Sparta Library had purchased a Kindle 2 to supplement the two that we have had since November 2007 and we were happily awaiting its arrival.

Since that time, we have returned the Kindle 2 to Amazon. New Jersey requires that vendors doing business with municipalities submit a business registration certificate. Every vendor we use submitted one—except Amazon. We were told that they were "not interested" in filing the certificate. It is absolutely their right to do so, but it sure cut us off at the knees content-wise and our patrons were disappointed.

Maybe one day Amazon will figure out how to do business with libraries. We can dream!

Diane S. Lapsley
Sparta (N.Y.) Public Library

Breaking the Monopoly

I read with interest ALA President Jim Rettig's column "Making Connections" (Mar., p. 6) about the librarians he met at various schools. Other than the subtitle for the article and the title of Ann Martin's organization, Rettig never uses the term "school librarian." He refers to "school libraries and librarians" and "librarians and teachers" but no "school librarian."

In California, to work in a public school, you have to have both teaching and library media credentials. Only then can you work as a school librarian. Librarians, those of us with an MLS but not the precious teaching credential, are specifically excluded from working in school libraries.

This impacts us in two ways. First, even though they are required to have two credentials, school librarians are

paid at the same rate as teachers with one credential. This says to me that the education profession places no value on librarianship. Second, because of this dual credential requirement, fewer than 20% of school libraries are staffed by school librarians. This goes directly to the point Rettig seems to be making: We need librarians in school libraries.

Librarians—true librarians, as Rettig points out—teach and educate children and adults every day in public, academic, and, yes, special libraries. Our master's degree should be placed at a higher level than a teaching cre-

Our master's degree should be placed at a higher level than a teaching credential, not subservient to it.

credential, not subservient to it. I think Rettig and ALA should work to break this monopoly. Let's take school libraries away from the teaching profession and put them back where they rightfully belong, in the library profession!

Patrick Moloney
California Men's Colony
San Luis Obispo, California

Remembering Evan Farber

The obituary for Evan Farber (Apr., p. 63) prompted me to surf a bit on the internet, where numerous tributes and remembrances are accumulating on library and college blogs.

I noted reminders of Farber's pioneering work in collection development, bibliographic instruction, and advocacy of the library as central to the mission of his college and community.

One aspect of his work seemed to be escaping the memorials: the liveliness of his writing. I remember blundering in the stacks across some bound copies of Farber's an-

nual reports and reading several with pleasure. How amazing is that?

Christopher H. Walker
Pennsylvania State University
University Park

IMLS Chinese Grant Response

The following is a response to the letter from Emily Nedell Tuck (Apr., p. 8).

Last year, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) launched a win-win project that will serve some of the 3.6 million Chinese-American citizens and strengthen our relationship with China.

The Think Globally, Act Globally project, supported with a grant to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Libraries (UIUC), will provide workshops for Chinese librarians and library educators, both in the United States and in China, on American practices in library public services. In return, U.S. librarians will learn about publicly available Chinese-information resources that are or could be made available online to meet a growing demand for Chinese-language information about China.

Project partners, which include UIUC's Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, the Library Society of China, and ALA's Chinese American Library Association, will help develop a web-based portal and services for Chinese-language information resources to facilitate access by non-Chinese-language speakers as well as Chinese speakers.

The project is one of the first components of the 2007 cultural accord that IMLS signed with the People's Republic of China, reflecting our commitment to strengthen cross-cultural connections between U.S. libraries and museums and their global counterparts.

Jeannine Mjoseth
Institute of Museum
and Library Services
Washington, D.C.



Continue the conversation at al.ala.org/forum/

\$1.6 Million Shortfall Forces Staff Layoffs, Furloughs

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels announced March 25 that the Association would attempt to close a projected \$1.6-million shortfall in the \$27-million FY2009 general-fund budget by, among other things, eliminating up to 10 staff positions, and imposing a three-day payless furlough and other vacation rules on remaining staff to save a targeted \$500,000 by the end of the fiscal year, August 31. Fiels hopes the Association can fill the remaining gap by tapping into ALA reserves.

Upper management and the Executive Board began discussions about revenue almost immediately after the national economic crisis hit, knowing that it would inevitably trickle down to libraries and to ALA. Fiels pointed out that the drop was precipitous; the financial picture today looks totally different from the way it looked last September. He said it was essential that management move quickly if the '09 budget is to be balanced. A 3% across-the-board expense cut had already been implemented earlier this year.

Fiels explained the situation at an all-staff meeting, noting that in addition to the three unpaid days, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July would be unpaid holidays in 2009. In addition, any vacation days not used by the end of August will automatically convert to sick days; the practice of carrying vacation days over into the next fiscal year will be temporarily suspended. The vacation days and unpaid furlough days will be scheduled in consultation with the supervisors of individual units in order to spread

them out over the remainder of the fiscal year. In addition to the positions to be eliminated, an additional six will be unfunded in 2010. Print publication of the *ALA Handbook of Organization* will also be suspended.

ALA Publishing has been hardest-hit of all ALA revenue-generating units, with advertising down 30%. Although the Association of College and Research Libraries had a successful division conference in March and registration is strong for ALA's Annual Conference in Chicago this summer, they cannot make up for the decline. Membership loyalty is a big factor, and the fastest-growing membership category (student) is one the most positive

signs for the future of the Association. Membership, however, is also unlikely to generate enough revenue to address the short-term situation.

As of April 16, 10 positions had been eliminated. In a memo to staff, Fiels said they were in publishing, staff support services, member and customer services, and human resources. For legal and privacy reasons, the employees' names were not announced. "In each instance we have made every effort to negotiate the best possible outcome for the individuals whose positions had to be eliminated," Fiels said. That includes a period of up to 45 days to examine and sign a severance agreement. —L. K.

Rettig: Omnibus Bill Will Aid America's Libraries

ALA President Jim Rettig said the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama March 11, is a victory for libraries.

"This additional state funding will provide much-needed assistance to our nation's libraries, which are experiencing a spike in usage during the recession," Rettig said March 17.

The \$410 billion spending bill, which includes the nine unfinished appropriations bills from last year, contains \$171.5 million for the Grants to State Library Agencies program within the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

This funding level is an increase of more than \$10 million from last year and allows for full implementation of a

2003 law to provide a more equitable distribution of state formula grants.

"Last year, libraries hosted more than 1.3 billion visits and are now averaging 175 million visits a month," Rettig said. "As Americans deal with the weakened economy, they are turning to their libraries more and more—not just for no-fee access to the internet and free books, CDs, and DVDs—but also for assistance with online job-searching, résumé-building, 21st-century job-skills training, and e-government."

Rettig credited many members of Congress with working to ensure this funding was secured, specifically Sen. Jack Reed, (D-R.I.), whose leadership was essential to reaching this funding level.

ALA Submits Letter to President Obama

"Libraries are perfectly positioned to disseminate information relevant to the issues and challenges that face us as a nation, the same key issues which your administration is seeking to address," ALA President Jim Rettig said in a March 18 letter to President Barack Obama that addresses library issues that the Association's membership earmarked at a Membership town hall meeting held during January's Midwinter Meeting in Denver.

Included in the correspondence is language that reinforces the importance of the administration's understanding that libraries are essential institutions of lifelong learning and play an important role in serving and assisting virtually every segment of the population. It also highlights the increased usage

MEMBER ALERTS

ALA CONNECT FIRST PHASE DEBUTS

ALA Connect (connect.ala.org) launched its first phase of operation April 6, providing every Association group the ability to utilize posts, online docs, a group calendar, surveys, polls, chat rooms, and discussion forums. Members who log in to Connect using their regular ALA website username and password will find that their records are automatically synchronized with the membership database. Each group's homepage automatically displays the latest content posted, upcoming events, and the five most popular

items from that group. Members can also create their own communities.

STAY UPDATED VIA TWITTER

ALA News, the Association's weekly electronic news service, can now be followed via Twitter at twitter.com/alanews.

In addition to regular ALA and National news updates, the feed provides ALA-related video and photos, and Public Information Office and Campaign for America's Libraries posts, as well as Visibility @ your library (pio.ala.org/visibility) blog posts.

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PRIZES FOR ALL



Members of ALA's Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) Steering Committee (from left) Kenneth Yamashita, Gladys Smiley Bell, and Karolyn Thompson show off the prizes that were raffled during a Midwinter Meeting fundraiser, hosted by ALA President Jim Rettig, for JCLC 2012, which will be held in Kansas City, Missouri (*AL*, Apr., p. 13). For more information contact Marcellus Turner at mturner@jefferson.lib.co.us.

of libraries, the need for more funding, the USA Patriot Act, the Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries (SKILLs) Act, and the No Child Left Behind Act. For more information, visit www.ala.org/washoff.

Honorary Member Nominations Open

Nominations are being accepted for ALA honorary membership, the Association's highest honor, which is bestowed on living citizens of any country whose contributions to librarianship or a closely related field are so outstanding that they are of significant and lasting impor-

tance to the whole field of library service.

Honorary members are elected for life by vote of ALA's governing Council upon recommendation of the ALA Executive Board. Nominations will be reviewed during the Executive Board's 2009 fall meeting and presented to Council for vote during the 2010 ALA Midwinter Meeting. Newly elected honorary members will be formally recognized at the Opening General Session during the 2010 ALA Annual Conference.

Members who wish to forward nominations must complete the online ALA Honorary Member Nomi-

nation form (www.ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/awardsrecords/honorarymembersh/NominationForm3-07.doc).

The completed nomination packet, with all attachments, must be received no later than September 1. Posthumous nominations are not eligible for consideration. Submit nomination packets to: Honorary Membership, c/o Eileen Hardy, Executive Board Secretariat, Office of ALA Governance, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Additional information about ALA honorary membership, plus a complete list of all honorary members elected since the designation was first awarded in 1893, is available at www.ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/awardsrecords/honorarymembersh/honorarymembership.cfm.

Candidates Sought for 2010 Election

The ALA 2010 Nominating Committee is soliciting nominees to run on the 2010 spring ballot for the offices of ALA president-elect, treasurer, and councilor-at-large.

The committee will select two candidates to run for president-elect, two candidates for treasurer, and no fewer than 51 candidates for the 33 at-large Council seats to be filled in the 2010 spring election. The president-elect will serve a three-year term (as president-elect in 2010–2011, as president in 2011–2012, and as immediate past president in 2012–2013). The treasurer will serve a three-year term, beginning after the 2010 ALA Annual Conference and ending at the adjournment of the 2013 Annual Conference. Councilors-at-large will serve three-year terms, beginning after the 2010 ALA Annual Conference and ending at the adjournment of the 2013 Annual Conference.

Those elected will also serve in corresponding roles in the ALA–Allied Professional Association (ALA–APA). Individuals considering ALA–APA office are encouraged to consult with their employers regarding any restrictions regarding lobbying activities or service on the governing body of a 501(c)6 organization.

Members who wish to make nominations should submit the following information: nominee name; present position; institution; address; telephone; fax; and e-mail address to any member of the committee, chaired by Nancy Allen, dean and director, University of Denver, Penrose Library, or e-mail nancy.allen@du.edu. Self-nominations are encouraged. All potential nominees must complete the Potential Candidate Biographical Form available at cs.ala.org/potentialcandidates/. Nominations and forms must be received no later than August 15.

To encourage diversity and leadership development, the committee will refrain from nominating any current Councilors for election to another term. Those who wish to continue their service are encouraged to file as petition candidates. Petitions are available from Lois Ann Gregory-Wood, Council Secretariat, ALA, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL 60611, lgregory@ala.org, or during the 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago or the 2010 Midwinter Meeting in Boston. Petitions require 25 signatures for names to be included on the 2010 ballot.

Barthelmiss Named ALSC President-elect

In accordance with the bylaws of ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), Thom Barthelmiss has been selected as the division's new vice president/president-elect, replacing the late Kate McClelland, who was killed, along with ALSC member Kathy Krasnie-

wicz, in a car crash at the end of January's Midwinter Meeting in Denver (AL, Mar., p. 50).

Barthelmiss, curator of the new Children's Literature Center at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois, has served on the ALSC board for two years.

More Than 500 Attend PLA Symposium

A total of 539 participants attended the Public Library Association's (PLA) Spring Symposium April 2–4, in Nashville, Tennessee, which featured six day-and-a-half-long workshops.

Program titles included "Everyday Library Ethics: How the Right Thing Is the Better Thing for Your Library and Community," "Service Responses: Selecting and Implementing the Right Mix for Your Library," "Silk Purses and Sow's Ears? Assessing the Quality of Public Library Statistics and Making the Most of Them" and "Today's Library: From the Inside Out."

Participants also had the opportunity to network with their peers and enjoy social events including the opening general session and reception with musician Tom Chapin, and an author luncheon featuring writer Ann Patchett.

In addition, more than 100 PLA members attended a free bonus advocacy training workshop, "Turning the Page: Building Your Library Community," developed with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Visit the PLA Blog at www.plablog.org for more information.

New Woman's Day Resources Available

Woman's Day magazine is once again partnering with ALA's Campaign for America's Libraries, this time to promote the library as a key resource during tough economic times.

Libraries interested in promoting

CALENDAR

ALA EVENTS

May 7–8: LITACamp, Dublin, Ohio. www.ala.org/lita.

May 11–12: National Library Legislative Day, www.ala.org/washoff.

July 9–15: ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, www.ala.org/annual.

Oct. 1–4: Library and Information Technology Association National Forum, Salt Lake City, www.ala.org/lita.

Oct. 18–24: Teen Read Week, www.ala.org/yalsa.

Nov. 5–8: American Association of School Librarians National Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina, www.ala.org/aasl.

Jan. 15–19, 2010: ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston, www.ala.org/midwinter.

Mar. 23–27: Public Library Association National Conference, Portland, Oregon, www.ala.org/pla.

Aug. 4–10: National Conference of African American Librarians, Birmingham, Alabama, www.bcala.org.

Sept. 23–25: Association for Library Service to Children National Institute, Atlanta, www.ala.org/alsc.

Visit www.ala.org/ala/online/calendar/calendar.cfm for American Libraries' full calendar of library events.

CHANGING SPACES



Choice, the publication of ALA's Association of College and Research Libraries, began operations March 23 at its new 7,365 square-foot third-floor Liberty Square condominium unit in downtown Middletown, Connecticut. The three-story building has retail space on the ground floor, office rental space on the second floor, and was designed in accordance with green building principles.

asking women ages 18 and up to submit stories in 700 words or less about how the resources at their library have helped through tough economic times. Up to four stories will be featured in the March 2010 issue.

Fiore ALSC Leadership Fund Created

ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) has established the Carole D. Fiore ALSC Leadership Fund, made possible by a donation from ALSC past president Carole D. Fiore.

Proceeds from the fund may be used to enhance programming at division leadership meetings or provide other new opportunities for leadership development.

For more information, visit www.ala.org/alsc. ■

this initiative are encouraged to visit www.ala.org/womansday to download new promotional materials, including a flyer and a new icon that

libraries can use to link to the *Woman's Day* website or ALA's website for the public (ilovelibraries.org). Through May 18, *Woman's Day* is

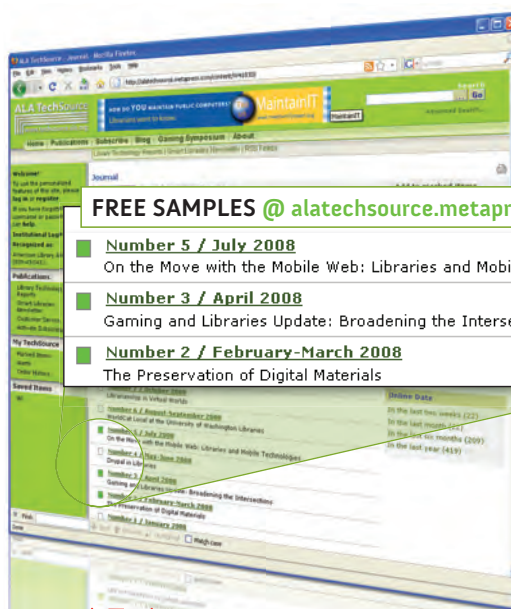


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The Preservation of Digital Materials

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Budget Cuts Continue to Loom Over U.S. Libraries

What's good for library use is bad for library budgets. The same economic climate that is driving recession-minded Americans to libraries in droves is

also forcing those libraries to slim down. Many major library systems, including Baltimore, all three systems in New York City, and Concord, New Hampshire, faced shrinking budgets in March and April. Cuts, closures, and reduced hours seem inevitable.

"It's amazing is what it is," said Carol Scheffer, president of ALA's Public Library Association. She told *American Libraries* that the significant cuts to city and county budgets all over the country have prompted libraries to make serious cuts to public services—ironically, at a time when libraries everywhere are seeing increased usage.

According to ALA's 2009 *State of America's Libraries Report*, library usage is up more than 10% both in checked-out items and in library visits, compared with data from the last economic downturn in 2001.

Queens (N.Y.) Library Director Thomas W. Galante called this "the worst possible time to scale back our hours and service," warning that "we'll be forced to close the doors on millions looking for a hand up and way out

"We'll be forced to close the doors on millions looking for a hand up and way out of despair."

—Thomas W. Galante,
Queens Public Library

of despair." Representatives from Queens and the other two New York City systems, Brooklyn and New York Public Library, testified on the likely effects of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposed 21% funding reduction to libraries, to be finalized in June. The Queens

Library faces a proposed cut of \$17.2 million, which would close every community library all weekend long, leaving some open fewer than five days per week.

The other two New York City systems would see similar reductions under the proposed budget cuts. New York Public Library faces the loss of \$28.2 million, and Brooklyn Public Library would see a loss of \$16.1 million in city funding.

The cuts to NYPL would necessitate a reduction in operating hours from an average of 52 hours per week to 32, NYPL spokesman Herb Scher told *AL*. He also anticipated reductions in materials purchases and the loss of as many as 475 jobs, 415 of which would be a result of forced layoffs.

Brooklyn Public Library Executive Director Dionne Mack-Harvin said management is considering a wide range of scenarios to address its possible cuts, all of which would force a significant reduction to public services.

In Concord, rumored cuts are similarly severe. A few

PUT UP YOUR DUKES



Amateur heavyweight boxer Deontay Wilder, winner of a bronze medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics, poses with staff and patrons at the Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Public Library. Wilder, the only U.S. boxer to medal at that year's games, came to his hometown library March 20 for its "Knock-Out" program.

city leaders have said that Mayor Jim Bouley has been talking about shuttering the capital city's library to narrow Concord's projected FY2010 budget deficit of up to \$4.8 million by \$1.7 million. However, Bouley said in the March 24 *Concord Monitor*, "You could cut the whole library and you still don't come close to the numbers you need to meet the deficit."

The Concord library is one of the few city-funded services not mandated by law. "Everything is going to be affected—the library, recreation, police, fire," Bouley said.

In Baltimore, Mayor Sheila Dixon, attempting to address budget shortfalls, suggested March 18 amid a host of proposed layoffs and cuts to city services that the Enoch Pratt Free Library cut its branches' operating hours. The cuts, which would go into effect July 1, would

bring all branches to a five-day-per-week schedule. The mayor's proposal would also affect city recreation centers, swimming pools, and the fire department and could result in as many as 153 laid-off workers, according to the March 19 *Baltimore Sun*.

"The cuts libraries would have to make are enormous," said Scheffer, noting that libraries are past the point of trimming fat. "The fat's been gone for a very long time. It's got to be something big that goes," she said. Decision-makers everywhere "are between a rock and a hard place," she added, going on to echo Mayor Bouley's statement about Concord's possible reductions: "If they cut all the library funding in all the cities and counties, that still wouldn't get them where they need to be."

25 YEARS OF MANGO



Author Sandra Cisneros reads from her work during an April 3 Mango Street Block Party sponsored by San Antonio Public Library to celebrate the 25th anniversary of her popular book *The House on Mango Street*. An adopted San Antonian, Cisneros received official proclamations from the city, the county, and the state of Texas, honoring her contribution to young adult literature.

Out of harm's way

Some city governments have been able to shuffle money around from other areas, leaving libraries largely unharmed. In Austin, Texas, the fire department came to the rescue, offsetting proposed library cuts by \$200,000 with reductions to staff overtime. Austin Public Library would save an additional \$80,000 by using temporary employees in unfilled positions.

In San Diego, last November's proposal to temporarily close seven branch libraries as part of Mayor Jerry Sanders' attempt to close a \$43-million budget deficit (*AL*, Dec. 2008, p. 22) resolved on a positive note April 14, when the mayor announced there would be no service cuts. Instead, the FY2010 budget includes a 6% reduction in overall compensation to the city's approximately 10,500 employees.

In a recent turn of events in Philadelphia, which has been struggling with the proposed closure of 11 library branches since December 2008 (*AL*, Jan/Feb., p. 19), Mayor Michael Nutter has proposed a 1% addition to the city's sales tax over the next three years to preserve essential services. That tax hike is part of a \$3.8-billion budget proposal and a five-year plan to address the city's fiscal crisis that also includes property tax increases, the elimination of 250 municipal positions, and changes to the city's pension and health-care plans, the Associated Press reported March 19.

When will public libraries in the United States reach the bottom? Sheffer conceded, "It will be a long time for a turnaround to be felt." She also suggested that this current trend will represent a permanent change in the way libraries lobby for and justify their spending—"a greater sense of accountability all around."

The silver lining, Sheffer said, is that the severe cuts and surge in usage have led to increased media coverage for libraries across the nation. "We're at the table now," she added. "That makes the average resident think about the library."

—S.F.

Economy Is the Undoing of Libraries for the Future

When the national nonprofit organization Libraries for the Future announced March 18 that it had ceased operations after 17 years, Executive Director Bruce Astrein blamed the economic meltdown that has overtaken the country. “We have accomplished so many of our initial goals to re-establish the role of libraries at the center of our communities,” he said, but “there is more work to be done, and it is unfortunate that the current economic climate has made it impossible for us to continue.”

Astrein added, “We’ve been hearing from many libraries that the economic downturn has increased demand for library services just as it is squeezing library funding. We are hopeful that public libraries can draw upon LFF’s legacy of programs and resources to mobilize community support for their critical services.”

That legacy will live on, according to Diantha Dow Schull, who served as LFF president from its founding in 1992 to 2007, through her role as a

teacher, writer, speaker, and consultant. “I am applying my experience in public programming, institutional planning, professional development, and grantmaking to help ensure that cultural institutions remain vital, relevant, and sustainable,” she said.

Libraries for the Future was built on the vision of writer and activist Harriet Barlow and a small group of advocates who wanted to work for the perpetuation of the public library system in the United States. In subsequent years, LFF’s agenda was to help libraries navigate the transition to the digital age, build community partnerships, and provide a lifetime of services to patrons, all under Schull’s leadership.

Close to 100 funders contributed to Libraries for the Future over its 17 years, including major support from the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Bill

and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Library partners, such as the Middle Country Public Library in New York, are planning to continue to oversee their joint Family Place Libraries initiative.

In addition to its advocacy work, LFF hosted forums connecting experts across disciplines, published reports on library use and potential, and developed and oversaw programs that have run or are running in close to 400 libraries in 33 states. LFF programs were aimed at helping libraries address a wide array of issues including early childhood literacy, physical

and brain health across the lifespan, the desire of active older adults for meaningful work and community connections, the urgent need for free and reliable consumer health information, and strengthening the role of libraries as vibrant community centers.

The demise of Libraries for the Future follows on the heels of ALA’s establishment of the Office for Library Advocacy and the merging of its Association of Library Trustees and Advocates division with Friends of Libraries USA into the new Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends, and Foundations (ALTAFF).

“While we are sorry to lose an organization like Libraries for the Future,” said ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels, “ALTAFF is ready to fill in the gap and we look forward to working with all the devoted library advocates who gave us 17 years of advocacy through LFF.”

Schull is also writing a book titled *Longevity and Libraries: Unexpected Voices*, forthcoming from ALA Editions, and has launched “The Re-Imagining Age Project,” a national public awareness initiative. —L.K.

“There is more work to be done, and it is unfortunate that the current economic climate has made it impossible for us to continue.”

—Bruce Astrein



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Congress Revisits NSLs, Digital Privacy

With the Patriot Act due to sunset at the end of 2009, Congress is considering several bills that would collectively impact the ability of law enforcement to access, amass, and warehouse digital data about the activities of private citizens.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) introduced March 30 the National Security Letters Reform Act of 2009, which would limit the issuance of an NSL to cases in which the FBI attests that “specific and articulable facts” point toward the target of the investigation being a “foreign power or agent of a foreign power.” H.R. 1800 would also require judicial approval to extend an NSL gag order beyond its initial 30-day scope; compel the Justice Department to destroy data collected through an NSL that was wrongly obtained; and give those who were investigated erroneously the right to sue the issuer of the NSL for up to \$50,000. The thrust of H.R.

1800 is similar to an identically named bill Nadler sponsored in 2007 (*AL*, Sept. 2007, p. 25–26).

The use of NSLs to surreptitiously obtain patron records has been of concern to library groups since the Patriot Act became law in 2001 some six weeks after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Since it was enacted, the use of NSLs to access patrons’ records has been challenged in court by the Connecticut consortium Library Connection (*AL*, Aug. 2006, p. 8–9) and the Internet Archive (*AL*, June/July 2008, p. 29–30). In both cases, the FBI withdrew the NSL.

H.R. 1800 has been referred to the committees on the Judiciary and Financial Services.

A month earlier, lawmakers in both the House and the Senate introduced the Internet Safety Act (or, Internet Stopping Adults Facilitating the Exploitation of Today’s Youth Act). The legislation would require that all Wi-Fi providers and end users, including libraries, “retain for a

period of at least two years all records or other information pertaining to the identity of a user of a temporarily assigned network address the service assigns to that user.”

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Tex.), who cosponsored H.R. 1076, wrote in a February 19 guest editorial in the *Dallas Morning News* that he and Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.), who introduced the identical Senate companion bill S. 436, sponsored the legislation to “help law enforcement officials identify who is uploading, viewing, and distributing explicit child pornography” and that privacy proponents should not be concerned because the legislation would “simply allow [the government] to match the IP address of a suspect to an individual” just as phone companies do with telephone numbers.

Both versions of the Internet Safety Act have been referred to the respective congressional Judiciary Committee.

“The retained records would be available not only for child porn in-

DESPITE THIS, ONLY A PAR FOUR



Students get creative to tackle one of the tough stairwell holes at the fifth annual disc golf tournament hosted by Calvin College’s Hekman Library in Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 6. Thirty-six teams came to the library after hours to finesse their Frisbees through the stacks. To prevent damage, lamps were relocated, computers were protected by no-fly zones, and additional penalties discouraged wild throws.

vestigations, but for all types and kinds of investigations, including private civil lawsuits seeking information about users who post anonymous comments or who are suspected of violating copyright,” cautioned Deborah Caldwell-Stone, deputy director of ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, noting that “the ability to read and publish anonymously, without fear of government surveillance, is the foundation of our First Amendment right of free expression.”

Bill Exempts Books from Lead Limits

U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.) introduced legislation March 24 that would exempt “ordinary” books from the lead-limits provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. Librarians and booksellers had faced the prospect

of banning children from their facilities or testing books for lead content until a one-year stay of enforcement was announced January 30 (*AL*, Mar., p. 16).

ALA’s Washington Office reports that H.R. 1692 states that CPSIA was not intended to apply to ordinary books that are published on paper or cardboard, printed by conventional publishing methods, intended to be read, and lacking inherent play value. It states that testing has shown that finished books and their component materials contain total lead content at levels considered nondetectable and that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that there is little risk to children from lead in ordinary books.

“Books are safe and should not be regulated by this law.”

—ALA President Jim Rettig

“We are grateful for this bill since it supports what the ALA, libraries, teachers, and parents know to be true: Books are safe and should not be regulated by this law,” said ALA

President Jim Rettig.

“Reading is critical to child development, and libraries should be free to continue providing services to children without the fear of having to comply with unnecessary and expensive testing,”

Rettig added. “Rep. Fortenberry’s bill corrects the CPSC’s misinterpretation that would deny our children access to books and limit their opportunities to learn.”

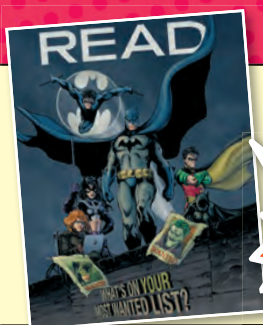
Man Gets Life for Child Rape in a Library

A Massachusetts man was sentenced April 2 to life in prison for the 2008

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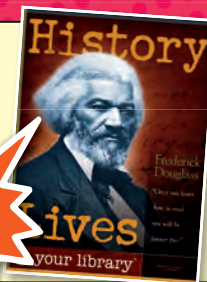


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LET THEM READ CAKE



The University of Cincinnati Libraries celebrated the eighth annual International Edible Books Festival April 1 with 22 entries baked and decorated by staff and students, including this pop-up-book rendition of Homer's *Odyssey*. The event is celebrated internationally on that date to mark the birthday of Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755–1826), a French politician and epicure who authored the book *Physiologie du goût* (The Physiology of Taste).

rape of a 6-year-old boy in the magazine room of the New Bedford Public Library, according to the April 3 *New Bedford Standard-Times*.

Corey Deen Saunders, 27, who was on probation for a 2000 assault at the time of the 2008 incident, pleaded guilty in February to several charges of rape and threatening to commit a crime. A victim of childhood abuse himself, Saunders had told the 6-year-old that he would come to the child's house the day after the library attack and assault him again, court records stated (*AL*, Apr. 2008, p. 24).

As a result of the attack, library trustees have modified NBPL's patron behavior policy to prohibit adults from speaking to a minor inside the library "unless the adult is a parent, other close relative, or caregiver of the minor." Officials also reconfigured the room in which the assault took place to maximize unobstructed sight lines. During the time of the attack, the boy's mother was sitting at a computer terminal some 20 feet away from her child; the boy was apparently intimidated by his attacker into keeping silent.

Ohio Principal Judges Magazine by Its Cover

The removal last fall of an issue of a gaming magazine from a media-center collection has attracted the attention of the local teachers union and the American Civil Liberties Union, which has sent a cautionary letter to the school board president.

Shortly after the 2008–09 school year began, Brian Sharosky, principal of the Cleveland Heights–University Heights (Ohio) City School District's Roxboro Middle School, instructed school librarian Amy Bloomberg to pull the November 2008 issue of *Nintendo Power* magazine from the shelves of the school library. Sharosky said he objected to the cover, which showed what he characterized as a "violent figure"—a videogamelike rendering of woman holding a large handgun—by way of promoting a feature about the release of *Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars*.

Bloomberg objected on the grounds that Sharosky had failed to follow request-for-reconsideration procedures set forth by the school board. Sharosky removed the magazine anyway, asserting that the material was neither age appropriate nor educationally suitable for mid-

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SUNSHINE STATE ADVOCACY

dle-school students. Bloomberg told *American Libraries* that Sharosky had not read the issue until she asked him to do so as part of the removal procedure.

The Cleveland Heights Teachers Union then met with the board and issued a position paper December 16 calling for the magazine's reinstatement. Three days later, the board responded, defending its authority to ban the magazine. In a January 16 posting on the union website, CHTU President Tom Schmida called Sharosky's action a "dangerous precedent" for the district. Schmida told *AL* that his concern was not about the content of *Nintendo Power* but the way in which Sharosky removed it.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio stepped into the fray March 18, calling the magazine's removal "a violation of the First Amendment as well as the written



Alachua County (Fla.) Library district supporters join state Speaker of the House Larry Cretul (fourth from right) March 18 during the Florida Library Association's annual Library Days, when state funding for libraries as well as construction grants topped the agenda. The district's state funding allocation has decreased \$220,000 since FY2001; this year, its budget was cut \$105,000.

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policies of the School Board.” The letter points to a school board policy that “requires that there be a procedure whereby citizens, staff, or pupils may challenge materials.”

ACLU attorney Michael Honohan told *AL* that the civil-liberties group is seeking that the school board reinstate the magazine and clarify or amend its policies. He said the magazine’s removal is both a violation of the First Amendment and a violation of “students’ freedom to be educated.” Honohan also maintained that school administrators’ involvement in the library’s selection process undermines the librarians’ role as professionals.

However, the school board continues to support Sharosky’s decision

The principal said he objected to the cover, which showed what he characterized as a “violent figure.”

even as it underscores that it values the First Amendment and the diversity of ideas. “In point of fact,” board spokesman Michael Dougherty told *AL*, “the issue here involves an incorrect reading of the board’s policy [by the union and the ACLU], which would remove the authority of a building administrator to make necessary judgments

about age inappropriateness in a timely fashion.” Dougherty said that school district officials do not anticipate further action regarding the incident.

Protested Meeting at Library Becomes Brawl

Police were called to Clifton (N.J.) Public Library’s Allwood branch March 21 in response to a brawl be-

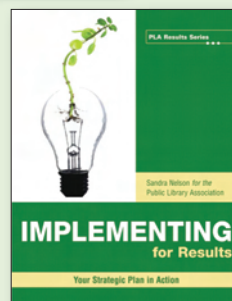
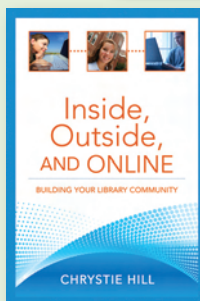
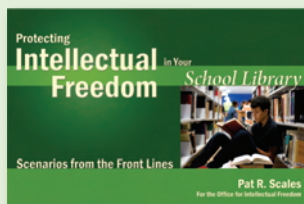
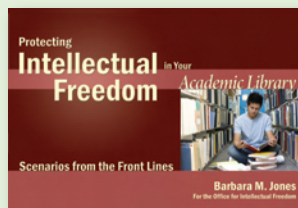
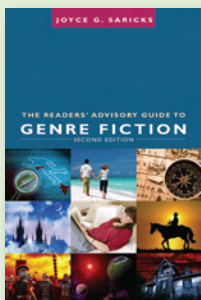
tween five protesters and about 15 members of the League of American Patriots, a white supremacist group. No one was arrested and while one man claimed to have been assaulted, he did not file a complaint.

The group had met at the library’s main branch at least twice before without incident, although it had reserved rooms under the name “Polish-American Issues Forum,” the *Bergen Record* reported March 25. Library Director Christine Zembicki told the paper she didn’t know that the group had misrepresented itself until after the fight.

Zembicki said that she would review the library’s policy on community room usage, but that she could not ban groups based on their beliefs. “If we’re going to restrict anybody then we’re going to have to restrict everybody,” she said. “If it was a discussion group, they

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certainly have the right to talk about what they want to talk about.”

In a blog posting on its website, the league said that it continued its meeting at another location and has “already settled on a secure venue for our future metro N.Y. area bi-monthly meetings.”

Board Head Charged with \$135,000 Theft

The former president of the Posen (Ill.) Public Library District was in-

dicted April 1 for allegedly stealing more than \$135,000 to fund her gambling addiction. Susan Quirk, 58, was charged with withdrawing money from the district’s accounts by writing checks to herself, later spending the money at riverboat casinos, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported April 2.

The district does not operate a facility but reimburses Midlothian Public Library for use by Posen residents. In 2007 Quirk aroused suspi-

cions by writing Midlothian a check for less than what was due. She initially told Posen trustees the money was missing and appeared to have been transferred elsewhere, but at a board meeting last August of last year, she admitted taking the money to fund her gambling addiction and then resigned, the state’s attorney’s office said.

Quirk, who has pleaded not guilty to all charges, was held in lieu of \$20,000 bond. ■

GLOBAL REACH

UNITED KINGDOM ❶

A claim by literary scholar Stanley Wells that a 17th-century painting from the family collection of Alec Cobbe held in Ireland is a “life portrait” of William Shakespeare was widely publicized in March. However, art experts quickly challenged both Cobbe’s identification and the painting’s provenance. National Portrait Gallery Curator Tarnya Cooper said the portrait more likely represents the courtier Sir Thomas Overbury (1581–1613).—*The Times*, Mar. 10, 18.

SWEDEN ❷

Two child-welfare organizations filed a report to Stockholm police April 6 accusing the Swedish National Library of possessing and distributing child pornography. The large collection at the library was built up in the years between 1971—when the possession, distribution, and display of child pornography was legalized in Sweden—and 1980, when the law was repealed. Hand in Hand and the Association of Relatives of Sexually Abused Children argue that the collection should be restricted to legitimate researchers.—*The Local (Stockholm)*, Apr. 6.

FRANCE ❸

On April 21, the Library of Congress, UNESCO, and 32 partner institutions launched the World Digital Library at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The site features manuscripts, maps, rare books, films, sound recordings, prints, and photographs—available unrestricted to the public and free of charge—from libraries and archives around the world.—*Library of Congress*, Apr. 6.

MADAGASCAR ❹

Muskingum College librarian Cherie Bronkar and Antananarivo librarian Lanto Rakotoarison have set up a Malagasy People’s Library project to get English-language children’s books into school libraries on the island. English is being taught for the first time in the 2008–09 school year as a way for the country to improve its trade and tourism.—*Malagasy People’s Library*.



ITALY ❺

The April 6 earthquake that centered on the medieval town of L’Aquila has caused significant damage to the region’s cultural heritage. The cupola of the 18th-century Baroque church of St. Augustine collapsed, flattening the prefecture that held the state

archives. The L’Aquila city library and a primary-school library in Goriano Sicoli were also destroyed.—*Corriere della Sera (Milan)*, Apr. 8; *ASCA*, Apr. 15; *La Stampa (Turin)*, Apr. 16.

CHINA ❻

The Hong Kong Book Fair is offering a Free Pass Program for Librarians for its 20th annual fair, scheduled to be held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, July 22–28. The fair is offering to provide selected librarians from the U.S. and Canada who collect Chinese-language materials four nights of hotel accommodation, free registration, and an invitation to a cocktail reception. ALA members can apply by June 12 through the ALA International Relations Office.—*Hong Kong Book Fair*.

AUSTRALIA ❼

Workers at the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney have rediscovered a carbon typescript copy of the list of 801 Jews saved by German businessman Oskar Schindler that inspired the 1982 novel *Schindler’s Ark* and the 1993 Oscar-winning film *Schindler’s List*. The 13-page document was found in the papers of the novel’s author, Thomas Keneally. Library Curator Olwen Pryke said the library had no idea the list was among boxes of material acquired in 1996.—*Agence France Presse*, Apr. 6.

GUYANA ❽

St. Margaret’s Primary School in Georgetown opened a new library March 31, thanks to a \$1 million (\$4,880 U.S.) grant from the Ministry of Education. The library was one of the first projects approved under the ministry’s new literacy program. St. Margaret’s is one of the top-ranked schools nationally.—*Stabroek News*, Apr. 1.

Stimulate Your Library: Local Use of Federal Funds

Congress made history with the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed by President Obama February 17 (*AL*, Apr., p. 19–20), and now libraries have their turn.

The ARRA will ultimately release an unprecedented level of federal spending—\$787 billion—into the U.S. economy in an effort to put our nation back on track through saving or creating 3 million jobs; providing tax relief; and investing in needs such as health, energy, and education.

“Libraries are already a part of the mission to help

Americans get through this hard time in our nation’s economy, and we must seize upon this historic opportunity to obtain federal funding available to libraries in the stimulus to further our mission of assistance,” says Lynne Bradley, director of the ALA Office of Government Relations (OGR).

“We may never have another chance like this to secure federal dollars to improve and continue the services libraries are providing to the public and to students throughout the country,” she observes. “It is important that librarians learn all they can about the opportunities in the ARRA and communicate with their state and local governments about the benefits of investing stimulus funding in libraries.”

Bradley also says she hopes governors and mayors will take their lead from President Obama, who has frequently voiced his support for libraries. In presenting his FY 2010 budget to Congress, the president declared that “to give our children a fair shot to thrive in a global, information-age economy, we will equip thousands of schools, community colleges, and universities with 21st-century classrooms, labs, and libraries.”

The provisions for libraries in the ARRA demonstrate the president’s regard and understanding of the role libraries serve in communities, notes OGR Associate Director Melanie Anderson. “It may seem to some that Washington is on a spending spree,” she says. “But in truth, it is a very competitive time, and libraries are for-

tunate to have a leader in the White House and many other leaders in Congress who understand that investing in libraries is an effective use of taxpayer dollars.”

Specific provisions libraries can benefit from in the stimulus include \$13 billion for Title I, \$650 million for Enhancing Education Through Technology, \$7.2 billion for Broadband, \$53.6 billion for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, an additional \$120 million for the Senior Community Service Employment Program, an additional \$130 million for the Rural Community Facilities Program, and two separate programs of \$4.24 billion and

\$1.33 billion for Military

Libraries to try to access. ALA has posted information on how these provisions can benefit libraries at www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus.

Yet while these opportunities are available to libraries, they won’t be handed to them. That is why it is critical to reach out to state and local leaders and remind them that at a time when consumer confidence is low, libraries are the ideal place to invest federal dollars.

Americans trust their libraries—and rightly so, considering that the only “agenda” a library ever has is to enrich the lives of the public and equip them with the information they need. And over the last year, libraries have pow-

erfully demonstrated their return on taxpayers’ investment: According to ALA research, nationwide, libraries hosted more than 1.3 billion visits last year. Over 62% of libraries report aiding job-seekers last year, up from 44% the year before.

Libraries know their potential to close the digital divide and bring internet technology into unserved or underserved communities, and more members of the public are learning that libraries offer more than free books, DVDs, and CDs; they offer help with job-searching, résumé-building, skills-training, financial literacy, small-business development, e-government services, and much more. With the support of Carnegie Corporation of New York, ALA recently launched a new @ your library website aimed

“We may never have another chance like this to secure federal dollars to improve and continue the services libraries are providing.”

—OGR Director Lynne Bradley

Libraries have many advantages that could increase their chances of securing funding despite the broadband free-for-all.

at demonstrating exactly that to the public.

The challenge before librarians and library advocates is effectively communicating this message to local and state government officials and, in many cases, informing them about the opportunities available for libraries in the ARRA.

OGR Associate Director Anderson says that time is of the essence for advocating on behalf of libraries, because one of the largest pieces of the stimulus open to libraries—the \$53.6 billion for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund—is now being distributed from the Department of Education, and governors are being urged to promptly spend the money. The ARRA directs governors to use 18.2% of the state's allocation from the State Stabilization Fund for public safety and other government services, which includes public libraries.

“Many libraries are already reaching out to their governors and encouraging them to use the State Stabilization Funds for libraries, and we have been working with state librarians and the ALA chapters to encourage them to put together a libraries' needs list for their states,” says Anderson.

Alan Inouye, director of ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP), agrees that without action, many opportunities could pass libraries by, as other communities, groups, and businesses will be standing in line as well—especially for a piece of the \$7.2-billion broadband pie.

Broadband bandwagon

The broadband funding is being administered by the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which oversees \$4.7 billion, and the Agriculture Department's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), which will oversee the remaining \$2.5 billion. Although \$7.2 billion sounds like a lot, in reality there is likely to be tremendous competition for these funds from a variety of for-profit and nonprofit organizations and businesses.

Libraries have many advantages that could increase their chances of securing funding despite the broadband free-for-all. Bob Bocher, chair of OITP's Telecommunications Subcommittee and technology consultant for the Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning, says since the core mission of the public library is to provide public access computing, the \$200

million in federal broadband funding to expand “public computer center capacity” is a natural fit for libraries, and

libraries have a number of angles to consider when developing proposals for the broadband program.

The main focus of the broadband provision in the ARRA is to provide broadband access to “unserved” areas and improve the quality of access in those areas considered “underserved,” but these terms have yet to be defined. The program is open to a wide audience, including educational institutions, healthcare facilities, small businesses, telecommunications providers, and, of course, libraries.

Specific funds are set aside for broadband awareness and outreach education. Although many people are already internet users, there remains a segment of the population that lags behind. Libraries are poised to provide access and support to these vulnerable groups.

OITP Director Inouye says that although the details about the funding programs created by ARRA have not yet been defined by NTIA and RUS, there are important steps libraries can take now. NTIA and RUS have until September 30 to spend the \$7.2 billion. The funding will be awarded in three rounds; the first solicitation for applications is expected sometime before June.

Gathering information and developing strategies to ensure libraries are ready to participate in the ARRA broadband programs is critical, Inouye says. OITP and OGR recently posted a top-10 list of steps libraries can take now to begin their efforts to attain broadband funding.

Libraries interested in seeking broadband funding should begin taking inventory of their connectivity as well as that of the surrounding community. They should also assess the library's telecommunications services and identify future needs, as well as talk with campus or school administrators, local government officials, and the governor's office in their state, as well as local institutions and their colleagues in the library community.

Explore the possibility of working with partners—public and private—and specifically to focus on the job/career, employment, and small business needs and resources in your community.

While planning and looking to the future, there is one other thing libraries should remember to do: offer their thanks to their members of Congress and to the administration for including libraries in the mission to

put America on the path to recovery. —Emily Sheketoff, executive director, ALA Washington Office.



For more information visit www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus

Kent State SLIS Opens Picturebook Collection

A collection of over 21,000 picture books from the past 50 years has a permanent, newly designed 1,800-square-foot home in the School of Library and Information Science at Kent (Ohio) State University. Housed on the library's third floor, the Marantz Picturebook Collection in the Reinberger Children's Library Center is a result of Kenneth and Sylvia Marantz's life-

The space housing the Marantz Collection was partially funded by a \$249,000 grant from Cleveland's Reinberger Foundation.

long pursuit of the study, use, and artistic merit of children's picture books and their significance in literature and art.

Author and illustrator David Macaulay was the keynote speaker at the opening celebration and entertained the audience of over 300 with anecdotes about writing his latest book, *The Way We Work*. University President Lester Lefton opened the program, and school director Richard Rubin

shared remarks and unveiled the plaque commemorating the creation of the Marantz Collection with the assistance of Sally Dyer, Reinberger Foundation board member.

Kenneth Marantz, an emeritus professor of art education at Ohio State University, and Sylvia Marantz, retired school librarian, have been reviewing and collecting picture books for over 50 years and have written several resource books on picture books, children's literature, and art.

The space housing the Marantz Collection was partially funded by a \$249,000 grant from Cleveland's Reinberger Foundation and features compact shelving, display areas for rare books and collections, a distance learning classroom, a storytime area, and private study locations. Original artwork, publisher's promotional posters, and character toys are also included in the collection.

Carolyn S. Brodie, professor and recipient of this year's ALA Scholastic Library Publishing Award, and Associate Professor Greg Byerly were the catalysts behind the acquisition of the collection and the design plan of the new space. Brodie and Byerly were also cre-



Ken Marantz, emeritus professor of art education at Ohio State University, and Sylvia Marantz, retired school librarian, at the opening reception of Kent State University's Marantz Picturebook Collection

ators of the Reinberger Children's Library Center, a unique state-of-the-art center dedicated to courses in children's, young adult, and school librarianship that houses a collection of over 8,000 children's and young adult literature resources, artwork, and materials. The facility was opened in 2003.

"The Marantz Picturebook Collection is a perfect partner with the Reinberger Center," said Brodie. "The design connects both areas and allows easy access to the separate collections, yet each room can be used simultaneously for classes, study, and seminars." Jacqueline Albers, a school alumna, has established an endowment for a guest scholar in children's literature through a generous donation.

"Available space is always a problem, but the university library and Dean Mark Weber donated adjacent space to the Reinberger Children's Library Center in order for the Marantz Picturebook Collection to be a part of the center," said Byerly. "As we worked on the design, it became very apparent that this space was exactly the area needed, and we are very grateful."

The Greening of ACRL

The most eco-friendly major event ever held by an ALA division, the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) 14th National Conference in Seattle, March 12–15, may well serve as the model to follow. Two of the most prominent green features were the sturdy, pragmatic, green conference bags made of recycled materials and

collaborative sharing of many resources by many groups. Wikipedia is a good example of people making use of “excess mental capacity,” with the reward of pride in contributing to the world’s knowledge.

Ambiguously ethnic

The Friday afternoon keynote was given by the popular Seattle poet, novelist, humorist, and filmmaker Sherman Alexie, a Spokane/Coeur d’Alene Indian whom *The New Yorker* described as one of the top 20 writers in the United States. Alexie is also an accomplished speaker and knows how to please a crowd, even one composed of academics. His opening words: “I love librarian conferences.

There are thousands of hot, near-sighted women here. . . . Those oatmeal sweaters just do it for me.”

Alexie’s offbeat humor, however, is most often a mask for a serious take on race, humanity, assumptions, politics, and patriotism. In eastern Washington State where he grew up, most people are white and any Indian stands out. “But as I travel the world,” he said, “I’ve become ambiguously ethnic. People generally think I’m half of whatever they are.”

Master storyteller

Closing keynoter Ira Glass made his debut in complete darkness for a few minutes to demonstrate the intimacy and impact of radio. Thirteen years ago, the host and producer of National Public Radio’s *This American Life* figured out that he felt most comfortable giving public lectures in a studio setting, so he came equipped with a CD player and other audio equipment that allowed him to play clips from previous shows and use music as transitions between his stories and his comments about them.

Glass talked about story research and the techniques he uses to create effective storytelling. “We need characters and a plot,” he said, “and we need them to be pleasurable surprises.” He added that “most journalism makes the world seem smaller and stupider and less interesting” because it tries to eradicate the narrative. “But we live in a world where stories provide hope.”

ACRL plans to meet next in Philadelphia, March 30–April 2, 2011.
—G.M.E.

“We live in a world where stories provide hope.”

—Ira Glass

the tangible lack of handouts at program sessions (thanks to presenters making their materials available on the virtual conference web pages).

Seattle itself is on the cutting edge of sustainable practices, which made this conference the perfect place to start. The Washington State Convention Center’s ubiquitous recycling bins and abundant water coolers were constant reminders, and 80% of the 3,263 face-to-face and virtual attendees signed a Green Pledge that committed them to put ecological ideas into practice.

Conference planners also made sure to include an Invited Green Speaker—Robin Chase, cofounder and former CEO of the car-sharing company Zipcar. Described in 2007 by *Business Week*’s Helen Walters as a transportation-design visionary, Chase noted that libraries, as repositories of shared information, are the true precursors of the Zipcar concept and challenged the audience to come up with other ways to engage in Sharing 2.0—the



Ira Glass.



Robin Chase.

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NEWSMAKER: COKIE ROBERTS

Cokie Roberts is a political commentator for ABC News and senior news analyst for National Public Radio. From 1996 to 2002, she and Sam Donaldson coanchored the ABC interview program *This Week*. Along with her husband Steven V. Roberts, she writes a weekly column syndicated in newspapers around the country. She and her husband also coauthored *From This Day Forward*, an account of their now more-than-40-year marriage and other marriages in American history. Cokie Roberts is also the author of the bestsellers *Founding Mothers* and its companion volume *Ladies of Liberty*. Her latest book, from HarperCollins, is *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters*, a 10th-anniversary edition of the *New York Times* bestseller. She is scheduled to speak July 13 at the ALA Annual Conference this summer in Chicago.



American Libraries: In *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters*, you write about women succeeding in professions that were traditionally considered the domain of men. How were you able to develop the confidence and determination it took for you to do so?

COKIE ROBERTS: I was raised by parents who thought you could do anything you wanted to do, and I also was lucky as a girl in the 1950s—when a lot of people were basically telling girls they couldn't do much of anything—to be educated by a very intellectual order of nuns who also had made it very clear that not only could you do anything, but you were expected to do a good deal.

One of the women you profile in the new book is Laura Bush. As a librarian and First Lady she was saddled with two stereotypically female roles. How well do you think she handled them?

I think if you woke her up in the middle of the night and tickled her and said "What are you?" she'd say "a librarian." But she also found in the

White House that there were a lot of other roles that opened up to her, and she became a really energetic and effective fighter for human rights, particularly women's rights, around the world. It's funny because people think of her much more as kind of the "little lady at home," but she's the only First Lady ever to go to the White House press room and take the microphone herself. And, when she did, it was to call for the overthrow of the Burmese regime.

Do you see a strong connection between librarians and journalists? Absolutely. It's kind of interwoven. Not only are journalists finding out what's going on and librarians preserving it and making it available, but also journalists depend on libraries and librarians for information and facts. The library of today might be in your cell phone instead of going to the building itself, but we need the people who are in the building to get it to the cell phones. It's just the delivery system that's different. But the people actually

doing the work and the research are still in libraries.

What do you think are the implications for the human record as more and more of it moves online? It's not just the preservation of the record, it's the creation of the record. It costs a great deal of money to be all over the world gathering news, and somebody's got to pay for that. Until we find a way to get a financial stream going for the information that people receive on the internet, it's going to be very difficult to keep the actual gathering of the record going.

How well are libraries fulfilling their role in society? I have been really amazed and heartened by how well, at least to the naked eye, libraries seem to be doing, given the whole age of the internet. Any time I walk into a library it is lively and full of people and lots of kids and there's all kinds of notices tacked up to the bulletin board, community gatherings that will take place there, so I think they have become a huge resource for the community for all kinds of things beyond what's on the shelf.

What do you want your librarians to do to protect the freedom to read? I want my librarians to try to do their very best to stand up to the people who are generally posturing for political reasons when they start talking about banning books in libraries. I understand that that can be politically difficult for the librarians who are dependent on state funding and dependent on the goodwill of the public. I don't want my librarians to commit suicide in this mission, but I do want them to do the best they can. ■

UMich Press Goes Digital, Will Report to Library

The University of Michigan announced March 23 that its largest publishing affiliate, the University of Michigan Press, will restructure to focus on production and distribution of primarily digital monographs. The reorganized unit will report to the University Library.

"Broadly, the library is very much in the business of making scholarship available to the campus and the academic community writ large," Dean of Libraries Paul N. Courant told *American Libraries*. "It makes a great deal of sense that the library be closely engaged" with scholarly publishing.

Courant noted that the University of Michigan Libraries has had a scholarly publishing office for many years, which, he said, "is very good at producing scholarly work, primarily digitally, in a lean and agile way." He added that the partnership will allow the press to produce works less expensively for the same quality, and often faster.

"Freeing the press, in large part, from the constraints imposed by the print-based business model will permit us to more fully explore and exploit ever-expanding digital resources and opportunities," said University of Michigan Press Director Phil Pochoda in a statement.

"Freeing the press from the constraints imposed by the print-based business model will permit us to more fully explore and exploit ever-expanding digital resources and opportunities."

—Phil Pochoda

The university said that all contracts with current authors will be honored, and some books intended for general audiences will still be published under a traditional model. But Pochoda notes that using a digital publishing model for most titles will allow the press to expand its offerings to include more specialized titles that would not be economically viable in a traditional print run, such as works based on conference pa-

pers. The press also plans to incorporate digital options such as hotlinks and video into its titles.

"Scholarly texts will continue to be subjected to rigorous peer review and will still be available in printed versions, primarily on demand," Pochoda noted.

Neither university press-library partnerships nor university presses exploring digital publishing is unique; MIT Press, for example, opened an e-book shop earlier this year. However, Pochoda said the press's near-total focus on digital publishing "should allow U-M Press to accelerate the universal publishing migration to the digital future, and provide helpful information to all presses about the opportunities and pitfalls lying in that direction."

The board of the University of Michigan Press will be disbanded by July 1 and replaced by a new one with broader oversight and expanded responsibilities.

—G.L.

TECH NEWS IN BRIEF

Social LC The Library of Congress has announced plans to use YouTube and iTunes to publish selections from its collections online. Materials to be made available include century-old films from the Thomas Edison studio, first-person accounts of life under slavery, book talks with contemporary authors, and behind-the-scenes views of the library. The General Services Administration recently reached agreements with YouTube, Flickr, Vimeo, and blip.tv that allow the Library of Congress and other government agencies to use the sites while meeting the government's legal requirements.

Digital Du Bois The University of Massachusetts in Amherst announced April 3 that it will scan, catalog, digitize, and publish online an estimated 100,000 items from civil rights pioneer W.E.B. Du Bois (for whom the main campus library is named). The collection includes correspondence with Booker T. Washington, Langston Hughes, Albert Einstein, and Mohandas Gandhi, as well as more than 4,000 works by Du Bois, many of which are now out of print. Digitization begins in July and will last two years, supported by a \$200,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation.

Poetry to Be Posted The University at Buffalo (N.Y.) Libraries announced March 10 that it has received a \$202,241 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to reformat, catalog, and

Objection to Google Scanning Settlement Filed

The consumer advocacy group Consumer Watchdog has sent a letter to the Justice Department asking to delay implementation of last October's settlement (*AL*, Dec. 2008, p. 30) of lawsuits over Google's scanning of copyrighted books. Concerns from more groups, including ALA, are anticipated before the May 5 deadline for filing objections.

Consumer Watchdog's April 1 letter argued that the settlement's "most favored nation" clause, which guarantees Google the same terms from the proposed Book Rights Registry that any future competitor might be offered, may prevent competition.

"Google has not defined how they will protect reader privacy."

—Corey Williams

"Given the dominance of Google over the digital book market, it would no doubt take more advantageous terms to allow another smaller competitor to enter the market," wrote

Consumer Watchdog's John Simpson. The letter also argued that the settlement protects Google, but not potential competitors, against claims related to orphan works if the rights-holder should ultimately be found.

ALA, in conjunction with the Association for Research Libraries and ALA's Association of College and Research Libraries, plans to file an amicus brief with the court about the settlement. Washington Office Senior Lobbyist Corey Williams told *American Libraries* that "We are not outright opposing the proposed settlement agreement," but that there are several concerns, including equitable access to the Book Rights Reg-

istry, pricing, privacy, and intellectual freedom.

The proposed settlement grants public libraries the right to one terminal that can access the full registry at no charge. "We've got folks coming to libraries in record numbers," Williams said, so many libraries will find managing access to a single terminal difficult. Also, while college libraries get one terminal per 10,000 full-time-equivalent students, school libraries are not included in the agreement at all. For additional access, Google has not yet set pricing for the registry, which Williams said raises another point of concern, particularly if a lack of competition raises prices to inaccessible levels.

Williams noted that since authors can opt out of having their works included, the registry could prove to be a fluid product where materials could disappear at any time. In addition, she said, "Google has not defined how they will protect reader privacy" in an environment where the firm could know not just what books users read, but also which pages and how much time they spend on each page.

Despite these concerns, Williams said that ALA supports digitization efforts generally, and that the proposed settlement does improve access to materials over what is currently available. (In addition to library access, Google will display up to 20% of a book's text to any user at no charge.)

Williams said ALA, ARL, and ACRL are working on a white paper for librarians on the issue, to be available in late May or June. The Washington Office has also gathered together resources on the settlement at wo.ala.org/gbs/. —G.L.

TECH NEWS IN BRIEF

Continued

make accessible 1,340 cassette and reel-to-reel audio recordings of poetry materials held in its poetry collection. The recorded work dates from 1962 to 2000 and falls into three categories: tapes of poetry readings, lectures, and other events that took place on campus; personal recordings that poets made of their own readings; and libraries of tapes collected by various individuals and groups. "Poetry readings by their nature are spontaneous events that can differ drastically from one place and location to another, and recordings of these events offer literary scholars and students in the humanities a host of highly significant resources for research and education," said Curator Michael Basinski.

"Glitch" Becomes Meme Amazon's temporary removal of sales rankings from more than 57,000 items, many with gay and lesbian themes, when they were incorrectly flagged as "adult," earned the company the ire of the social web. The Church of the Customer blog reported April 13 that the news inspired, among other actions, a 1,200-member AmazonFail group on Facebook, coordinated tagging of delisted books with "#AmazonFAIL," active "#AmazonFAIL" and "#glitchmyass" Twitter streams, and a snarky redefinition of "Amazon Rank" that was Google-bombed to the top of the search listings.

Geek Habits *Wired* reported March 13 the "10 Annoying Habits of a Geeky Spouse." Among these habits: Wearing geeky T-shirts to non-geeky places, collecting hard-to-explain toys, or dissecting movies for plot holes and anachronisms. Of course, one could argue that if non-geeks dislike these habits, they deserve to be annoyed. ■

Open Source Public Workstations

Open source software lowers libraries' cost, environmental impact by John Houser

In a time where an economic downturn and concerns about climate change are influencing library managers' decisions, many libraries are looking for ways to save money and reduce environmental impact. Open source operating systems and software applications can decrease power utilization while providing a positive patron experience.

Prior to 1999, mentions of any open source operating system in mainstream library literature were hard to find. Linux might have been discussed everywhere in the computer science world, but no one was writing about using Linux and other open source solutions for desktop computing in a public setting. By 2000 Linux was making headway as a server operating system in libraries. Roy Tennant kicked off the year writing about open source software in *Library Journal*. By mid-decade, discussion of Linux and open source technology in libraries was commonplace. In 2005, these discussions expanded to include use of Linux for desktop computers and public workstations.

Three approaches

There are three distinct approaches to using open source software for public workstations. The first approach is simply to replace the Windows operating system with a Linux distribution on every PC. The second method is to utilize a multiuser configuration, based on

Linux, that supports two to six users on a workstation. The third recommendation is to use the Linux Terminal Server Project (LTSP) software to run a terminal session for every user from a central server or set of servers. This thin-client effort can support a large number of users connected to one server—50 or more, if the server is configured appropriately. It can significantly simplify system administration because the server administers all functions. This approach requires greater technical knowledge but may also result in greater hardware savings, reduced power consumption, and reduced air-conditioning costs.

Organizations using these models report mixed results, but their experimenting with open source public workstations is overwhelmingly positive. They have proven effective in cutting cost and environmental impact.

Two future trends

Two trends that will continue to impact libraries are also likely to help facilitate the introduction of more open source workstations. First, funding issues, particularly in light of the current economic climate, will make it imperative that libraries find ways to spend their technology budgets more efficiently. That alone will continue to encourage interest in low-cost, open source computing solutions.

Second, we can expect to see the continued development of Web-



Open source public workstations are an excellent option for libraries looking for cost-effective alternatives to proprietary software.

based applications for office productivity and other common functions. Cloud computing utilities, such as those offered by Amazon, Google, Sun, and others, make it possible for application developers to utilize a software-as-a-service (SaaS) model without having to create the infrastructure and middleware necessary for such systems. The result is speedier development of scalable Web-based applications and more options for consumers.

Growth potential

Open source public workstations are an excellent option for libraries looking for cost-effective alternatives to proprietary software. Any systems decision in a library is extremely important, so it is vital for decision makers to consider all angles before making a choice. Still, with growing popularity and a growing number of options available, open source workstations are an increasingly important part of the library technology world. ■

JOHN HOUSER is a senior technology consultant at PALINET. This article was adapted from the April 2009 issue of *Library Technology Reports*.

Coping with Convergence

Technological progress brings loss and possibilities

by Joseph Janes

Two pieces of sad news reached me in the last few days. First was the passing of Betty Angelino, who for many years ran the public library in my hometown of Oneida, New York. She led a remarkable life: first woman editor of the *Daily Orange*, the student newspaper at Syracuse University, our joint alma mater; a career with the *Wall Street Journal*, including a stint in Italy; followed by many years of community and library work.

I learned a lot from Betty, who hired my mother and who knew how to keep the board and the public happy while running a pretty darned good library. We also shared a certain geological filing system on our respective desks, neither of which my mom appreciated.

Then we learned that the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, in print since 1863, won't be any more. The Hearst Corporation, after failing to find a buyer, has switched it to a web-only entity. We're not alone in this; in February, the *Rocky Mountain News* went belly-up, and who knows how many others might be gone by the time you read this.

There are some curious convergences here. I found out about Bet-

ty from an old high school friend who just found me on Facebook, and that was just days after hearing that social networking and blogs had overtaken personal e-mail in popularity, accounting for one in every 11 minutes spent online, according to Nielsen. The last printed *P-I* was March 17, 14 years to the day since the Internet Public Library opened.

The "new" *P-I* is going to be something of an experiment, not just a continuation of the newspaper's existing website, although it is keeping the same URL—and the

same building, for that matter—but with a staff of 20 rather than 150. Those remaining staffers, augmented by some local notables as columnists, will now do everything.

They won't have specific responsibilities; everyone will write, take pictures, do design, and so on. A lot of experience, not to mention files, has exited those doors forever, which seems sad.

And yet, maybe they're on to something. If you take this idea at face value, maybe there's room for both this brave new thing and the traditional daily newspaper. Obviously, for reasons technological, economic, social, and otherwise, we're at the cusp of lots of dramatic change. Those changes can be wrenching, but they can also be in-

vigorating and produce things otherwise not possible or even imaginable.

Looming changes afoot

I'd love to be able to tell you that I've got some sweeping way of bringing this all together, but I don't, at least not yet. What I can say is that something big is obviously afoot, beyond what we've been chewing over for a decade and a half now about the impact of the internet, beyond the current economic crises and their fallout around the world, beyond the debates over what libraries are and have been and ought to be. I do know this: Our time to act is limited and the need for us to get it right is great.

One more convergence: Almost on the same day, I found several cousins on Facebook, including pictures of my favorite and recently deceased uncle's great-grandson and namesake, Calvin, whose mom works for the local newspaper, recently merged and downsized. They all live within spitting distance of the houses in which they all grew up, a handful of miles away from the library Betty ran and Mom and I worked in, and a continent away from here. Seeing baby Calvin's picture brought a smile on a dark day; in ways simple and complex, we are all connected . . . but that's another story. ■



Those changes can be wrenching, but they can also be invigorating and produce things otherwise not possible or even imaginable.

JOSEPH JANES is associate professor in the Information School of the University of Washington in Seattle. Send ideas to intlib@school.washington.edu.

My Office in the Cloud

Web-based office applications enable collaboration

by Meredith Farkas

It's become increasingly common to work collaboratively from a distance, whether you're writing an article with others, planning an important project, or developing a budget. I can still remember trying to write a paper in graduate school with four other geographically dispersed LIS students. We used a traditional desktop word-processing program and ended up e-mailing approximately five different versions, which we later had to reconcile. It probably would have taken us less time in the end had we each individually written an entire paper.

Traditional desktop programs aren't the perfect tools for collaborating since all of the real work takes place on each individual's computer. Even when you can track changes made by others in a document, you can end up with several versions because people are working on copies of it at the exact same time.

Get off your desktop!

Now, in the age of cloud computing, we have access to web-based office applications, which can facilitate effective group work from a distance. Instead of working on your desktop, you are working on the web, and others in your group can be working with you in the same space at the same time. Instead of ending up with five documents that have to be reconciled, you will all be editing and adding to a single document that reflects a consensus view.

In a perfect world, everyone working collaboratively on a document would respect everyone else's work and it would be easy to achieve that consensus view. However, it's possible that someone will delete your favorite passage or you'll do the same to someone else. It's difficult to have trust in this medium if one's work can be irrevocably lost.

Fortunately, the best web-based office programs allow you to view the entire revision history of a document and revert to a previous version if someone makes a mistake or a change you don't like. You'll still have to duke things out with your group members, but nothing you contribute can be irrevocably lost.

Offline to online to offline, seamlessly

There are dozens of web-based office applications, the most popular being from Zoho (zoho.com) and Google (docs.google.com). Zoho offers a huge suite of productivity tools, but is best known for its office suite, which includes spreadsheet, word-processing, presentation, and note-taking applications. Google Docs also enables users to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations online. With both products, you can upload existing desktop documents to the web for



Geographic distance is now far less of an issue, making collaborative work with anyone possible.

collaborative editing or download web-based documents in a variety of formats (.doc, .html, .pdf, etc.).

With both Google and Zoho, the interfaces

look quite similar to traditional desktop office applications, though with these web-based versions you can easily share your documents (with just a few people or with the world), as well as track the history of revisions to the document. Thanks to Google Gears (gears.google.com), you can even use Google Docs and Zoho Writer in your browser while you're offline and then sync your content with the web version when you go back online.

Web-based office applications seem to be the future of how we will work, especially in light of the fact that so much of what we do these days is collaborative. Even Microsoft is working on web-based versions of its entire MS Office suite, so the concept is certainly becoming mainstream. When you can work so seamlessly in the cloud, geographic distance becomes far less of an issue, making collaborative work with anyone that much more possible. ■

MEREDITH FARKAS is head of instructional initiatives at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, and part-time faculty at San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science. She blogs at *Information Wants to Be Free* and created *Library Success: A Best Practices Wiki*. Contact her at librarysuccess@gmail.com.

How the World Sees Us

"The librarians have waited years to get on the list of school initiatives in a district that has spent more of the past decade making cuts rather than program improvements."

The Oregonian reporting on a shortage of certified librarians in Portland schools. Seven campuses have no library staff at all, and the majority of the rest have only clerks and assistants. "Most Portland schools don't have certified librarians," *The Oregonian*, Mar. 21.

"I have no doubt that Mr. Toast was the cleanest person I knew at the time, although he never bathed anywhere but at the library."

Writer JOHN WRAY describing how his friend Mr. Toast taught him to bathe at the Brooklyn Public Library during a period of near-homelessness, when he had no private bathroom. "How Mr. Toast Took a Bath," *New York Times*, Mar. 13, 2009.

"We have been observing librarians for a long time now, and if we know anything at all, it is that no one suffers more than the librarian when trouble befalls a library."

March 10 *Denton* (Tex.) *Record Chronicle* op-ed columnist discussing librarians' loyalty to and love for their collections after Lake Cities Library in Lake Dallas, Texas, suffered water damage.

"She used to be quite shy. Now she sings lead vocals in front of guitar player Chris Pendley, 16, and heavy metal screamers Brian Deleonard and Jason Dolinger...."

The St. Petersburg (Fla.) *Times* reporting on New Port Richey Library's Garage Jam sessions, an after-school activity that invites students to rock out at their libraries. "New Port Richey Library offers budding teen rock musicians a place to jam," *St. Petersburg Times*, Mar. 25.

"I like reading to the dogs because they are warm and soft."

Eight-year-old MOLLY WILKINSON, participating in the Fowlerville (Mich.) District Library's therapy dogs program, where students boost their reading comprehension by settling in and reading to dogs. "Library Dogs Encourage Reading," *Ann Arbor* (Mich.) *News*, Apr. 3.

"Book burning has never worked. Sooner or later people find the books and the ideas they want."

Columnist DAVID B. OFFER commenting on a 16-year-old who has confessed to a March 6 attack on the C.M. Bailey Public Library in Winthrop, Maine. "Attacks on Books, Libraries Don't Stop the Spread of Ideas," editorial, *Waterville* (Maine) *Morning Sentinel*, Mar. 31.

"I guess I'm not really used to people with tears in their eyes."

Reference librarian ROSALIE BORK from well-to-do suburb Arlington Heights, Illinois, commenting on the patrons' noticeable stress during the economic downturn. "Downturn Puts New Stresses on Libraries," *New York Times*, Apr. 2.

"I realized there was a person sitting there and his job was to help people with their résumés and interviewing skills."

MITCH BAUCUS, who had been using the Flushing branch of the Queens (N.Y.) Public Library as a virtual office after losing his job in legal research, realizes that his library offers more than just free internet: librarians themselves can provide him personal résumé-writing and interviewing help. "It Has Computers, Gives Advice, and Is Free," *New York Times*, Mar. 26.

"Living in a free country means accepting the fact there's stuff out there you don't like."

DAN CARSEN speaking to Vestavia Hills (Ala.) Public Library's decision not to remove a book about Lynyrd Skynyrd because of a patron's claim that the book made Skynyrd seem racist and neo-conservative. "No One Qualified to Ban Books; Don't Presume to Limit What Others Can Read," editorial, *The Birmingham News*, Mar. 29, 2009. ■



Barack Obama against a bookcase, captioned on PunditKitchen, where users create captions for photos of politicians. Librarian blogger Sarah Faye Cohen reposted this image, saying, Obama makes "libraries cooler by the second." PunditKitchen, March 24.

THE LIBRARY

Where all the cool kids hang out

PunditKitchen.com

Squeezing Out Specialists

Questioning the need for a second graduate degree

by Katelyn Angell

Following my college graduation, I could not decide whether I desired to travel the road of librarianship or psychology. However, with joy I discovered that avoidance of this fork was possible by becoming a psychology subject specialist at a university library! Thus, I applied to and was accepted at St. John's University's MLIS program, where I learned a stark truth: An MLIS is generally not the only prerequisite needed to work as a research librarian. Typically, employers expect potential hires to hold both an MLIS and an additional subject-specific master's or PhD.

Upon learning this daunting fact, two pressing questions immediately formed in my mind: How can people on a librarian's salary afford to earn multiple graduate degrees, and why disregard strong undergraduate credentials or field experience? In order for the former to occur, several scenarios are possible: Independent wealth is one (albeit a route inapplicable to most). Another possibility is a non-subject specific library position at a university that offers free classes to its employees. This latter case can be problematic, as people should work in generalized library positions because of their interest in the job itself, not because of the allure of free classes; otherwise the library risks both high turnover and a lackluster attitude toward the job.

In order to resolve these serious problems, practical and sustainable

solutions must be generated and applied. In order to keep people from taking generalist university library jobs in order to receive a free education, universities offering library graduate programs should create joint degrees. While some schools have already taken this progressive step—such as Pratt, with its MLIS/JD—widespread collaboration and implementation is definitely not the norm. This union would greatly aid persons wishing to become subject-specialist librarians, as it would permit them to receive two master's degrees for the price of one. Another option would be to create more work-study trades like the graduate assistantships offered at my own generous university, St. John's. Such programs fight classism by focusing on an individual's intellectual worth rather than his/her finances.

Serving two master's

On the other hand, it can also be posited that requiring a person to have a subject-specific MA or PhD in addition to an MLIS is inflexible and even unrealistic. Undergraduate study in the pertinent subject, as well as additional work-related experience, should be given more clout. During my time at Wesleyan University, I worked as a psychology research assistant for three years; additionally, I maintained an A-average in the discipline and wrote an



Requiring a person to have a subject-specific MA or PhD in addition to an MLIS is inflexible and even unrealistic.

honors psychology thesis. Despite this hands-on experience and a BA in the field, the chances of me receiving a

job as a psychology research librarian are slim unless I receive a master's in psychology. Alternatively, a university library could hire an MLIS graduate with relevant subject experience for a specialist position with the clarified stipulation that the employee must receive a (free) subject master's from the university in a fixed amount of time.

While there has been much attention in library literature given to the debate over the necessity of the MLIS, much less time has been devoted to questioning the legitimacy of requiring graduate-level subject-specific degrees. Such expectations can truly be a challenge, as the financial reality of the average American often does not include room for two expensive graduate degrees.

In order to refrain from maintaining a practice primarily at the disposal of the wealthy, it is necessary for librarianship to both address and assess this problem. Failure to adopt methods of resolution are detrimental to the profession, as people possessing passion and dedication but lacking dollars become the librarians left behind. ■

KATELYN ANGELL is a library and information science graduate student at St. John's University in Jamaica, New York.

Judith Krug believed that no one has the right to tell other people what they can or cannot read. When asked where libraries should draw the line when it comes to stocking controversial material, she always had one answer: “The law.” She understood that we are a nation living under the rule of law, and that creating, enforcing, or overturning the laws of the land is the single most important way to safeguard the freedom to read for all Americans.

In establishing the Freedom to Read Foundation in 1969, Krug based the organization’s mission firmly in the First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

When Congress did try to make laws “abridging the freedom of speech,” her tenacious involvement in court battles was the stuff of legend. From the triumphant Supreme Court decision that overturned the

Communications Decency Act in 1997 to the court’s stubborn upholding of the Children’s Internet Protection Act in 2003, Judy Krug never gave up the fight. Many disagreed with her, but none disrespected her.

On April 11, after a long and courageous battle with stomach cancer, Krug died as she had lived for 40 years, as the proud director of the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF), still leading the charge, still presiding over Banned Books Week last fall, as she had done since founding it in 1982.

Krug often said that when ALA established OIF in 1967 and put her in charge, then—Executive Director David H. Clift sat her down and told her to “put that office on the map.” Rallying her BA from the University of Pittsburgh (1961), her master’s in library science from the University of Chicago (1964), and her natural gifts as a writer, speaker, and progressive thinker, she set about to do just that.

“From time to time, and especially in periods of great stress or social upheaval, a variety of real or imagined evils



Judith Krug 1940–2009

The First Amendment lost a champion with the April 11 death of the director of ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, who fought censorship for 40 years with courage, intelligence, and wit. A look back at the career of a library legend.

by Leonard Kniffel

have been attributed to the reading of obscene and pornographic works,” she wrote in the April 1968 issue of *American Libraries* (then called *ALA Bulletin*). “The words ‘obscurity’ and ‘pornography,’ which in themselves cause considerable emotion, are often applied indiscriminately to materials containing ideas, acts, and words which one or another group may find reprehensible,” she added, setting the stage for placing the American Library Association often on the same side of the censorship battle with the likes of *Hustler* magazine’s Larry Flynt and *Playboy* mogul Hugh Hefner.

A suburban Chicago mom in her private life, Judy Krug was no prude, and she understood ALA’s obligation to defend the right of Americans to publish and read what she personally thought of as “sleaze,” a word she used to describe Madonna’s 1992 book *Sex*, which many libraries refused to purchase. Call it sleaze she did, but with the caveat that it should be available in every public library. Krug understood that people have the right to make up their own minds, without librarians exercising a kind of prior restraint by refusing to buy controversial materials.

Frequently attacked by would-be censors, Krug defended what they often called her liberal agenda. She said in an interview in the September 1995 issue of *American Libraries*, “If I have an agenda, it is protection of the First Amendment. Libraries in this country cannot operate unless we can stand foursquare on the First Amendment. And if that becomes a

partisan position, well, OK, I guess if I have to be partisan I will be partisan on behalf of the First Amendment.”

Although she was a liberal Democrat in her personal political leanings, Krug was well aware that, as she put it in the same *AL* interview, “Our threats come from across the spectrum of social and political thought . . . We have gone through periods where our biggest threats have been from the left of center, where people have wanted to remove materials that did not portray, for instance, minority groups in the way that they thought minority groups should be portrayed.” She also believed it was the librarian’s responsibility to listen respectfully to those complaints.

She was speaking from experience. One of her greatest challenges as OIF director came in 1977, when she and ALA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee produced a film titled *The Speaker*, tackling censorship by telling the story of a library’s decision to allow a racist to speak. Designed to serve as a focal point for library discussions about the First Amendment, the film ironically became a divisive issue at the 1977 ALA Annual Conference in Detroit, denounced by some librarians who called it “insulting in its characterization of black people.” Then-ALA Executive Director Robert Wedgeworth, her boss at the time, calls the moment one of



The Freedom to Read



the Association's most dramatic. "It split ALA wide open," he said, and "there was a lot of pressure for me to fire Judith."

Whatever the arguments in favor of censorship were, Judy Krug had the rebuttal. "She was always ready for confrontation," Wedgeworth recalled, "and she was such a good debater she could win almost any argument."

Cooler heads prevailed in the case of *The Speaker*, said Wedgeworth, "but we had underestimated the fact that discussion of race was the one issue that people could not accept with respect to the First Amendment." He noted that "true to her convictions, Judith stuck by the film."

Handling controversy was an innate talent that Judy Krug possessed. "She invented what they now call media training," said Art Plotnik, former editor of *American Libraries*.

Krug debated the Equal Rights Amendment in Kentucky with conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly in 1990, drawing cheers from a Berea College crowd for articulating "the librarians' view," while Schlafly inspired booing.

Krug refined her communications skills to yet another level when dealing with the media frenzy over sexually explicit material online, a furor that erupted as internet access began becoming available in public libraries.

For Krug, one of the greatest triumphs of her career was the Supreme Court ruling that overturned the Communications Decency Act. Under her leadership, ALA filed suit in 1996, challenging the CDA, a provision of the Telecommunications Act that President Clinton had signed into law, as an unconstitutional violation of the free speech rights of adults while failing to accomplish its intended purpose of protecting children from inappropriate online content.

Perhaps her greatest disappointment was the 2003 Supreme Court ruling that the Children's Internet Protection Act was constitutional, ending a battle over internet filtering that cost ALA over a million dollars. Adults, the court decided, could ask that filters be turned off for unrestricted access and Congress could require libraries to install filtering in exchange for funding. It was a decision that Krug had fought hard.

"She was a purist, uncompromising," said Plotnik. "Anyone else would have caved with the exceptions people would throw at her." He recalled working many a late night across the hall from Krug. "I never remember her turning



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away a cold call from a librarian who needed help,” he said. “She would stay long hours to give the most elaborate advice to people calling from the field.”

Krug believed that it was ALA’s role to help libraries set standards and create policies. “If I’ve done nothing else in my career but convince people that they have to have policy and then help them develop good policy, I will have considered my career a success,” she said.

Judy Krug famously attributed her open-mindedness to her unflappable mother, revealing that at the age of 12 she had obtained a sex education book and was reading it under the bed covers with a flashlight when her mother suddenly threw back the covers and asked what she was doing. Young Judith shyly held up the book. “For God’s sake,” her mother said, “turn on your bedroom light so you don’t hurt your eyes.”

But Judith Krug wasn’t doing her job just for librarians; she was doing it for her country, and for the rights and privileges her children and grandchildren enjoy as Americans. From the beginning of her career as a librarian, she thought big, and she inspired countless librarians to do likewise. She shattered the image of libraries as the benign sanctuary of the meek, and she forever altered the image of librarians, from bespectacled guardians of the respectable to articulate and unyielding defenders of the freedom to read. ■

MEMORIES OF JUDITH KRUG, INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM FIGHTER:

1. Debating a state ban on the film *I Am Curious (Yellow)* at a Maryland Library Association meeting, 1969.
2. Debating the Equal Rights Amendment with Phyllis Schlafly at a 1990 Berea College symposium in Kentucky.
3. Accepting the Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Award from Playboy CEO Christie Hefner and Stanley Sheinbaum of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California, 1997.
4. Hard at work, in an early undated photo circa 1970.
5. At an Intellectual Freedom Committee meeting during the ALA Annual Conference in Dallas, 1971.
6. Undated screen shot from a *Today Show* appearance.
7. Undated photo, circa 1970.
8. Formal portrait, 2001.
9. At a conference cocktail reception, 1969.
10. Early photo in her office at ALA, undated.
11. With then-ALA president John W. Berry at a fundraiser for ALA’s federal lawsuit against the Children’s Internet Protection Act, 2001.
12. With friend and fellow censorship opponent, the much-banned author Judy Blume, 2008.
13. Tango lessons at IFLA in Buenos Aires, 2004.
14. Banned Books Read-Out in Chicago, 2007.
15. With author and friend Studs Terkel and ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels, 2002.
16. With lead counsel Bruce Ennis (left) and Bill Burrington of America Online, explaining why the Communications Decency Act is unconstitutional, National Press Club, 1996.
17. Banned Books Week Read-Out, Chicago, 2008.
18. Receiving the Lippincott Award, 1998.
19. Freedom to Read Foundation Honor Roll, 1995.
20. With members of her staff: Jen Hammond, Nanette Perez, Jonathan Kelley, Deborah Caldwell-Stone.



With planning and the right resources, novices and seasoned children's librarians alike can deliver quality cross-generational programming

by Rob Reid

FAMILY STORYTIME



I find myself in front of dozens of family groups each year, entertaining them with stories and songs at libraries, schools, festivals, and literacy programs. I thoroughly enjoy audiences where young children are joined by older siblings, parents, grandparents, cousins, and friends.

This togetherness is in sharp contrast to my first introduction to public library story programs, in the early 1980s. I volunteered at my local library and was told, "Whatever you do, don't let the parents in!" The mind-set was that the parents were disruptive and the children needed to learn independence. I followed orders—for a while. Then I let one parent sneak in. I enjoyed her presence. She got into the stories and was able to interact in a positive literary manner with her child. I let another parent in . . . and another. It was about this time that I got my first job as a youth services librarian, at Pueblo (Colo.) Library District. I created the library's first family story program. Two families attended. By the time I left Pueblo, two years later, we had crowds of 80 in attendance on a regular

REID'S READ-ALoud TIPS

basis. I moved to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and began a new series of family story programs there as well. Today, I can't imagine conducting a story program without adult family members in the audience.

When parents and caregivers are present, the enjoyment and educational aspects of the story program are heightened. The adults become positive role models for the children for reading, reading-readiness activities, and becoming life-long library users. Adults learn proper techniques for reading aloud. They learn stories, fingerplays, songs, and activities, remember them from their own childhood, and are thrilled to learn new ones.

There is a growing pool of resources available to librarians for intergenerational story programs—from picture books to movement activities to songs to crafts—more varied than what is available for a traditional pre-

school storytime. Authors such as Doreen Cronin, Margie Palatini, Adam Rex, Jon Scieszka, and Mo Willems consciously speak to adults in their picture books. The child will enjoy the story at one level, older children will pick up some aspects the younger children will miss, and adults will catch all types of humor and sophistication

not normally associated with children's fare.

The last decade has been a rich period for both children's books and children's music. I've learned about many from my students at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. Camp counselors have a wealth of musical and movement activities that can be altered to fit the different program themes. But I also encourage everyone to create their own original material or set new words to traditional songs.

To conduct successful storytime programs, I like having lists on hand to keep the overall program in mind. The list can include an opening song for each program theme. I like to play music as families enter the story program area. I often find that an adult will walk up to learn the name of the artist. Once the program begins, I like to have a lively mix of picture books and supplemental activities, such as fingerplays, music, movement activities, and poetry. I also like to choose picture books that lend themselves to audience participation, usually with the audience members providing sound effects. I typically construct the program so that the more active stories and songs occur near the end of the program and the quieter, longer pieces are shared near the beginning. I encourage you to alter the programs to play to your strengths.

Storytime themes are timeless, and I like my programs to be noisy and active. I liken family storytimes to family

■ **Know your audience.** They may prefer a specific type of book. Some audiences may not be able to handle scary books, while another audience may clamor for more. Many younger groups can easily handle titles recommended for slightly older groups. I would not hesitate to read Kate DiCamillo's book *The Tale of Despereaux* to certain kindergartners even though the book is recommended for children in grades 2–5. Other groups of kindergartners, on the other hand, may not be able to handle the book.

■ **Challenge your audience.** Share a book that some kids may not normally choose on their own. Two great examples are Shannon Hale's books *The Goose Girl* and *Princess Academy*. The latter title was my favorite fantasy of 2005, the year I served on ALA's Newbery Award Committee. I knew boys would love both titles but wouldn't necessarily pick them up on their own because of the titles and jackets. Once the stories started, however, I found that both girls and boys were captivated by the exploits of Hale's lively, strong characters.

■ **Challenge older audiences** to listen to younger material they may have missed when they were younger. There's no reason not to read a book such as *Elijah of Buxton*, by Christopher Paul Curtis, to high-schoolers, even though the book isn't marketed to this age group.

■ **Entertain your audience.** Choose books you yourself have read and enjoyed. Your enthusiasm will carry over into your reading. Be prepared so you can handle vocabulary, names, and foreign phrases that are new to you. Don't read a book you haven't read in advance. Project your voice. Make sure the person in the back can hear your every word, even during the quiet, serious passages. Add variety to your vocalization. Trust the author's words.

reunions. Many families have busy schedules and are hard-pressed to have time together. By offering a family story program series, you will be a valuable partner creating many memories for many families. ■



ROB REID teaches courses on children's and adolescent literature and a variety of library topics at the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. He writes regular columns for ALA's *Book Links* and *LibrarySparks* magazines. His latest titles, published this year by ALA Editions, are *Reid's Read-Alouds: Selections for Children and Teens* and *More Family Storytimes: Twenty-four Creative Programs for All Ages*.

I can't imagine conducting a story program without adult family members in the audience.

Book GROUPS the Way Boys Like 'Em

by Michael Sullivan

How to appeal to a notoriously elusive audience

Book groups often appeal more to girls than to boys, but that may have much to do with how we run them. Book groups can be a great way to share and support reading, but to make them more boy friendly we may need to be open to making some drastic changes to make them less like what we think they should be and more like what boys are known to respond to.

Consider physical layout: We set up chairs around a table or in a circle and set kids to talking about the book. Understand, girls tend to speak face-to-face; boys often speak best shoulder-to-shoulder. Consider men hanging at a Little League field, sitting on the bleachers, elbows on their knees, chins resting in their hands, or lined up and leaning against a fence, staring into left field, speaking to nobody. They are, of course, speaking to the men beside them. Speaking face-to-face has an aura of communicativeness and intimacy; speaking shoulder-to-shoulder conjures shared activity, even if the men are doing nothing. Do not put kids facing each other and expect boys to open up. You may not want to sit them down at all. Often when librarians attempt to do a boy-focused book discussion, they discuss the book then move on to some engaging activity; by then you have already lost. Do the activity, and let the discussion rise of itself.

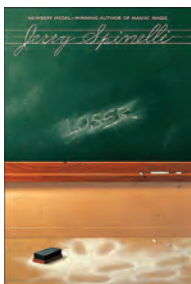
The books chosen will affect boys' response to a book group. Many boys respond well to nonfiction, fantasy, humor, and action/adventure stories—what I have described as “boys literature”—but that is a generalization. To best match the needs of your readers, allow them to choose. Rotate the job of nominating books among the members, and have them vote on which book they will read. Such choice is important: It selects books that actually interest the readers and assures them they have control of their reading. And they do not have to all read the same book: Once or twice a year, have everyone read a book of his choice and present it to the group. This can inspire extra reading in all the members and become a way of choosing the books for the coming sessions. You can also turn such a meeting into a writing project, with the kids creating reading guides for other kids.

Finally, distance a book group from classroom discussions; the group shouldn't be a way of assessing kids' reading. Fight the urge to needle them with questions to make sure they really read the book; they are there talking about the book, and that is enough.

Activities for losers

This sample book discussion will help to emphasize these points:

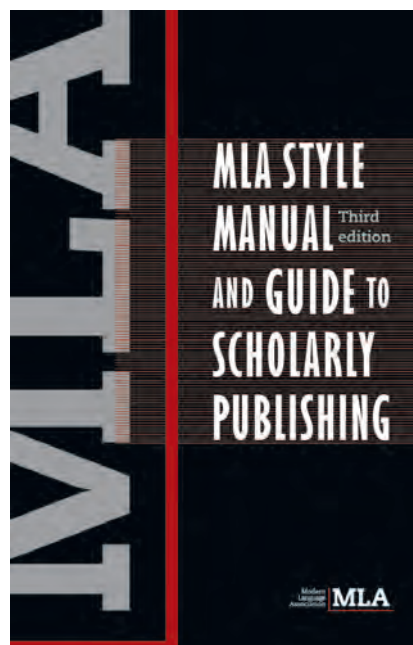
The Loser Olympics (*Loser* by Jerry Spinelli. Harper-Collins, 2003)



Loser is about Donald Zinkoff, a boy who is, without a doubt, a loser. This is no Disney-type ugly duckling story where the character thinks he is a loser, but we find out in the end there is a hero within. Donald is a loser. He wears a four-foot-tall giraffe hat to kindergarten. His handwriting is so bad it is unreadable. He idolizes his dad and

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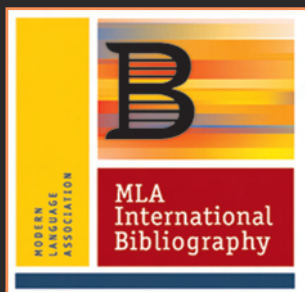
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Rotate the job of nominating books among the members, and have them vote on which book they will read.

wants to be a mailman just like him. He cannot play any sport to save his life, despite his unquenchable excitement to try and fail. His teacher, in an attempt at inclusion, makes Donald the anchor leg of the relay race at field day. He is handed a huge lead, runs with arms and legs flailing, and goes nowhere. Everyone passes him and Donald's class comes in last. Donald Zinkoff is a loser.

Think of the standard book group approach:

"Was Donald Zinkoff a loser?"

"Oh, totally. Can we have cookies now?"

Instead, consider hosting "The Loser Olympics," a series of events based on the book.

■ **Gather large boots from the community—work boots, waders, galoshes, whatever will fit over a kid's shoes.** Make each participant pull a pair of boots over his shoes and make the kids run a course around the library children's room or down a school corridor. Make sure there are at least a few sharp curves. They'll run flailing like Donald Zinkoff, with similar results.

■ **Duct-tape oven mitts over the children's hands and have them throw footballs to each other in pairs starting inches apart.** They can hand the football to each other from there. Some will still drop the ball, and those teams are out. Then have each child step back and toss the ball. Keep stepping back until only one team is left that has not fumbled themselves out of the competition.

■ **Have a writing contest using everybody's weak hand; watch out for lefties who will try to cheat.** Print a quotation and give it to the first player on each team to copy. They then give the paper to the next team member, who must copy it again, and so on through the whole team. The team whose final product is closest to the original wins.

There are no limits to the number of events you can host in a Loser Olympics. Pick any scene from the book and use your imagination. The key is how involved each member of the group is, and how many colorful ribbons you can give out for prizes.

It is not enough to have books that appeal to boys; we must put those books in boys' hands. We must promote books in ways that speak to boys. Allow for a certain amount of physicality in connection with reading, connect boys' reading with the things that interest them, and lead boys to books by modeling a love for reading through the powerful tool of book groups. ■



MICHAEL SULLIVAN is a former librarian and a boys' reading advocate. He is the author of *Connecting Boys with Books: What Libraries Can Do* (ALA Editions, 2003) and *Connecting Boys with Books 2: Closing the Reading Gap* (ALA Editions, 2009). Find him on the web at www.talestoldtall.com.

Read This Now



ALA's award-winners represent
the best for library collections

For decades, the American Library Association, through its divisions and roundtables, has recognized outstanding works of literature with its prestigious book and media awards. This year's class of winners offers a host of diverse experiences, from eerie to inspirational, and from whimsical to historical. They also represent a perfect starting point for librarians looking for the most bang for their buck in selecting titles for their library collections.

For more ALA book- and media-award winners, as well as booklists of excellent titles for specific audiences, visit www.ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/. Watch video of award committee chairs discussing their selections at alfocus.ala.org.

John Newbery Medal

First presented in 1922, the John Newbery Medal is awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. The 2009 winner is Neil Gaiman for *The Graveyard Book* (HarperCollins Children's Books), a tale of an orphan marked for death and his spirit protectors. "The *Graveyard Book* was just exciting," Newbery Committee Chair Rose Treviño told *American Libraries*. "It's a delicious mix. It's kind of creepy, it's sometimes terrifying and haunting, and at times it's just hilarious. And then there are so many surprises."



Randolph Caldecott Medal

The Randolph Caldecott Medal is awarded annually to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children. The 2009 winner is *The House in the Night*, illustrated by Beth Krommes, written by Susan Marie Swanson (Houghton Mifflin). Detailed black-and-white scratchboard illustrations illuminate bedtime verse to reassure young children of the warmth and comfort of home and family, even in the darkness of night. "With her clear artistic vision, Krommes has created visual poetry," said committee Chair Nell Colburn.





Dartmouth Medal

The Dartmouth Medal recognizes a reference work of outstanding quality and significance. "This year we awarded the Dartmouth Medal to Greenwood's Pop Culture Universe," committee Chair Jeff Schwartz told AL, noting that this is the first time an online-only source has won. "This was the most outstanding electronic source of the year," he added, citing its interactive, Web 2.0-inspired features.

Coretta Scott King Book Awards

The Coretta Scott King book awards recognize African-American authors and illustrators of outstanding books for children and young adults. The 2009 author award went to Kadir Nelson for *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* (Disney–Jump at the Sun). "The Coretta Scott King jury was very impressed with Kadir Nelson's debut as a writer," jury member Darwin Henderson told AL. "We felt that this was a true piece of storytelling in the African-American oral tradition and that Kadir Nelson's words fit the tone of the illustrations."

Floyd Cooper won the 2009 illustrator award for *The Blacker the Berry* by Joyce Carol Thomas (Amistad). In the book, Cooper uses an oil wash subtraction technique to portray the diversity of African-American children in pictures accompanying Thomas's poems. "The committee was very excited to see the consistency of the paintings of the children within that book," Henderson said. "There was a sense of joy, and there was a sense of radiating happiness and children celebrating who they were as African Americans."



Schneider Family Book Awards

The Schneider Family Book Awards honor authors and illustrators for the artistic expression of the disability experience for child and teen audiences. Awards are presented for three reading levels. The winner in the birth-through-grade-school division is Robert Andrew Parker for *Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum* (Schwartz and Wade). "That book is a beautifully illustrated biography of the young years of jazz musician Art Tatum, who was born with very low vision and became blinder as he got older," said committee Chair Marti Goddard. "It's a wonderful, affirming story of music and his life."

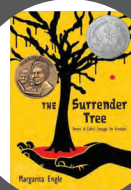
Leslie Conner for *Waiting for Normal* (HarperCollins) was the middle-school category recipient. While the book is about a girl with learning disabilities, "the most important part about *Waiting for Normal* is that the normal that she's looking for is a stable home and a stable family life," Goddard said. "Through the book we see the resiliency and creativity of a wonderful girl finding her way to a safe place."

The teen winner was Jonathan Friesen for *Jerk, California* (Speak), the story of Sam's cross-country journey of self-discovery. "He takes back a name that he lost with a bad stepfather, and as he goes on a quest to learn about his own father from whom he inherited Tourette Syndrome, he finds a lot of strength," Goddard said.

Pura Belpré Award

The Pura Belpré Award is presented to a Latino/Latina author and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience for children. The author award went to Margarita Engle for *The Surrender Tree* (Henry Holt), which tells the story of Cuba's 19th-century fight for independence from Spain in free verse poetry. Committee chair Claudette McLinn described Engle's work as "a hauntingly beautiful story of the struggle of freedom of the Cuban people."

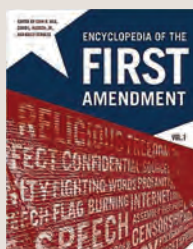
Yuyi Morales won the illustrator award for *Just In Case* (Roaring Brook Press), a book he also authored. "It's a whimsical, beautiful story—part ghost story—about the events of the journey of Señor Calavera as he picks up gifts for Grandma Beetle," McLinn said.



RUSA OUTSTANDING REFERENCE SOURCES

The times, they are a-changing: Almost all of this year's Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Outstanding Reference award winners are available as e-books. Much can be said in favor of e-books, but some of us will miss the multisensory experience of using a good encyclopedia in print. The new-book smell, the crisp ink on paper, the heft of a heavy volume in your hand, the opportunity to delve serendipitously into the contents cannot be matched by words on the screen. We are in a period of transition and this year's Outstanding Reference Sources reflect this change. Below, the committee highlights three of this year's winners. For complete listings and descriptions, see www.ala.org/alonline. —Theresa Mudrock, 2009 chair, RUSA Reference Sources Committee

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT. EDITED BY JOHN VILE, DAVID HUDSON JR., AND DAVID SCHULTZ. 2 VOLS., 1,218 PAGES. CQ PRESS (978-0-87289-311-5), \$275 PRINT.



The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and petition, and this encyclopedia covers the ways in which these rights have been challenged and affirmed in American life. The traditional A-to-Z arrangement is supplemented by seven introductory essays. Scholarly yet accessible, entries range from a couple paragraphs to several pages and explain how even tattoos and bumper stickers have had their moments in the First Amendment spotlight.

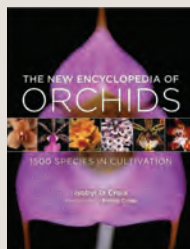
THE GREENWOOD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOLKTALES AND FAIRY TALES. EDITED BY



DONALD HAASE. 3 VOLS., 1,160 PAGES. GREENWOOD PRESS (978-0-313-33441-2; 978-0-313-04947-7 E-BOOK), \$299.95; \$329.95 E-BOOK.

Nearly everything one might need to know to begin study of folktales and fairy tales is contained in these three tidy volumes. The coverage spans two centuries of scholarship and the ever-present popular interest. It is global and multicultural in its point of view, drawing on folklorists, anthropologists, ethnographers, and children's specialists for the articles. One finds motifs and themes from cannibalism to utopia, and coverage from ancient trickster tales to Harry Potter. While there are no tales themselves, this is a fine place to step into the field.

NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ORCHIDS: 1,500 SPECIES IN CULTIVATION. BY ISOBYL LA CROIX. 524 PAGES. TIMBER PRESS (9780-0-88192-876-1), \$59.95 PRINT.



This encyclopedia is written for both the expert and novice orchid grower, with an emphasis on orchids that can be grown in a greenhouse or a garden. Many of the entries include exquisite color photographs as well as detailed information for each orchid species included in the volume.

Indexes offer both scientific and common species names. The glossary, bibliography, and topics selected for chapter-length discussion give this work exceptional authority. All essential information necessary for successful cultivation of orchids is provided for the reader.

Other members of the RUSA Reference Sources Committee are: Kathleen Collins, Danise Hoover, Deborah Katz, Peggy Keeran, Jacalyn Kremer, Stella Terrazas, and Patrick Wall.

Sophie Brody Award

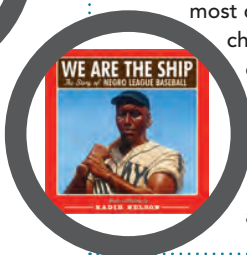
The Sophie Brody Award recognizes outstanding achievement in Jewish literature. This year's winner is Peter Manseau's *Songs for the Butcher's Daughter* (Free Press).

"It's a sweeping historical epic that spans centuries in Russia, Poland, Israel, and the United States," committee Chair Barbara Bibel told AL. "It's a fabulous interwoven story of a Yiddish poet and the young American-Irish Catholic author who translates his work."



Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal

Kadir Nelson also won the Sibert Medal for *We Are the Ship*, awarded to the author and illustrator of the most distinguished informational book for children of the year. "Nelson speaks in an everyman language that is personal and just riveting," Sibert committee Chair Carol Phillips told AL. "He worked for eight years on this book, and it's evident in every word that he writes and every picture that he draws."

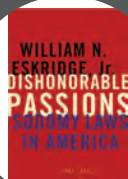


Stonewall Book Awards

The Stonewall Book Awards honor books of exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered experience.

The Barbara Gittings Literature Award went to Evan Fallenberg's *Light Fell* (Soho Press), the story of a father of five's reconnection with the family he had left 20 years earlier.

Dishonorable Passions: Sodomy Laws in America, 1861–2003 (Viking) by William N. Eskridge Jr. received the Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award.



William C. Morris Award

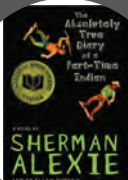
New this year, the William C. Morris Award honors the outstanding book for young adults published by a debut author. The winner is *A Curse Dark as Gold* by Elizabeth C. Bunce (Arthur A. Levine Books), a retelling of Rumpelstiltskin set against the backdrop of the Industrial Revolution, in which Charlotte Miller bargains with the malevolent Jack Spinner to save her family's mill. "It's beautiful writing, it's wonderful character development, and it's an absolutely fascinating story," enthused committee Chair Bonnie Kunzel.



Odyssey Award

The Odyssey Award is given to the producer of the best audiobook for children or young adults. This year's winner is Recorded Books for *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*,

written and narrated by Sherman Alexie. "Alexie is really the only person who could do this book," committee Chair Pam Spencer Holley told AL. "It's got all his foibles and interesting way of speaking."



Carnegie Medal

The Carnegie Medal recognizes the best video producer for children. This year's winner is Weston Woods Studios for *March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World*, Christine King Farris's remembrance of the 1963 March on Washington

and her brother Martin Luther King Jr.'s preparation for and delivery of his "I Have a Dream" speech. "Because it's a personal memory, it brings the whole event alive to children today," committee Chair Margaret Tice told AL, noting Michael Bacon's outstanding music and Lynn Whitfield's stirring narration.



Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

The Theodor Seuss Geisel Award recognizes the most distinguished American book for beginning readers published in English. This year's winner is *Are You Ready to Play Outside?* by Mo Willems (Hyperion). "What we're looking for is a book that inspires emerging readers and helps them want to read," committee Chair Joan Atkinson told AL. Traits that do so include humor, interesting and challenging but not difficult language, a good story, bright colors, and type that children can interpret easily, and "the winning book had all of the above," Atkinson said.



Michael L. Printz Award

The Michael L. Printz Award recognizes the best young adult book of the year. This year's winner is *Jellicoe Road* (HarperTeen) by Melina Marchetta, a tale of how young Taylor Markham discovers clues about her past—and reluctantly becomes the leader of the school faction in a local territory war. "We have no idea what the history or the origin of this war is or if the reasons have warped over time, and neither does Taylor, so we all learn together, the reader and the characters," committee Chair Mary Arnold told AL.



Joy in the Written World

How hope and happiness can add up—and spill over

by Jennifer Burek Pierce

Children and young adults latch onto stories of hope,” writer Nikki Grimes recently told an audience of Indiana librarians. “Each story becomes a toehold in the mountain of their dreams.”

These apt, earnest words seem to evoke the spirit Grimes advanced in her bestselling biography *Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope* recently released as an audiobook read by her. The idea is also much in evidence in her newest work of fiction, *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel*. As Grimes explained, “I think life is scary enough. My personal definition of children’s literature is that it involves hope.”

Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel, published by G. P. Putman’s Sons and scheduled for release this month, features illustrations by R. Gregory Christie of the dynamic, optimistic title character. Intended for readers between the ages of 7 and 9, this first book in a projected series introduces Dyamonde, the new girl in school, after she and her mother move from Brooklyn to Washington Heights following the divorce of Dyamonde’s parents.

In addition to evincing a survivor’s savvy and kindness, Dyamonde is smart. Not just smart, but mathematically inclined. “Dyamonde likes numbers, period. This is how we know it’s fiction,” Grimes joked during her remarks in January at the 2009 Indianapolis Youth Literature Conference, cosponsored by the Indiana University–

Purdue University Indianapolis School of Library and Information Science, the local independent Kids Ink Children’s Bookstore, and the Indianapolis–Marion County Public Library.

Grimes doesn’t share her newest heroine’s enthusiasm for quantitative reasoning. “I’m all about words,” Grimes acknowledged. “When it comes to words, poetry feeds my soul.”

One mentor to another

Thanking instructors and authors for their role in her life, Grimes revealed, “The most influential writer in my life was James Baldwin. I was turned onto him by my teacher, and I am so indebted to her for that.” She went on to say, “I was naturally drawn to poetry, but I’m always working on it.” Meeting Baldwin and being mentored by him aided her own development as a writer. “He may not have been a poet, but his language was among the richest I have ever read,” Grimes has written on her website.

As much as she is moved by words, Grimes also has a heartfelt interest in her young readers. She wants to inspire them and to encourage their own dreams. In discussing her book *Talkin’ about Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman*, Grimes observed that “As young readers follow the story of Bessie Coleman, they learn the im-

portance of hope.” This element is essential to literature for young people, whether written for toddlers or teens, Grimes held.

“Stories of hope and inspiration are still needed, and not just by children. Young adults need them as well,” she argued. Grimes recalled meeting

a teen in Chicago who heard echoes of her own losses in *Jazmin’s Notebook*. “Whether she knew it or not, I’d written that book for her,” Grimes said.

Dyamonde, too, seems poised to resonate with young people who contend with common contemporary issues like divorce, loneliness, and a parent’s job loss. *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel* depicts those problems without undue grimness, showing Dyamonde rising above the difficulties of her situation.

Homework and homesickness for old friends and comforts surface, but so does a busy yet attentive mother, a teacher who prompts purposeful inquiry, and a new best friend named Free. It’s a simple, yet clever, story that welcomes readers into its world with a warm and energetic voice—and a happy ending.

Oh, and Free, Dyamonde’s new best friend? He’s a reader. ■

JENNIFER BUREK PIERCE is assistant professor of library and information science at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Contact her at youthmatters@ala.org.



Nikki Grimes
wants to inspire
readers and
encourage their
own dreams.

Currents

■ **Kristin Arnold** has been appointed head of children's services and programming at Warren-Newport Public Library in Gurnee, Illinois.

■ **James Beattie Jr.** recently became associate director for liaison, education, and interdisciplinary services for the University of Minnesota Health Science Libraries in Minneapolis.

■ January 1 **Jodi Berkowitz** became legacy finding aids archivist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

■ The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis appointed **Anne Beschnitt** liaison and outreach librarian for the Health Science Libraries effective February 16.

■ **Colleen Byrne** has been promoted to director of New Providence (N.J.) Memorial Library.

■ April 6 **H. Frank Cervone** became vice chancellor for information systems at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond, Indiana.

■ **Kelly Chambala** is now children's librarian at Maxwell Memorial Library in Camillus, New York.

■ **Shauna Collier** was appointed librarian for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History Library effective February

1, and **Michelle Cronquist** was named North Caroliniana cataloger in the University Library effective February 16.

■ In January **Peggy DeMarco** retired as assistant children's librarian at Hudson (Mass.) Public Library.

■ June 30 **Joseph R. Dionne** retires as director of Nashua (N.H.) Public Library.

■ **Sherri Ervin** has been appointed director of Gary (Ind.) Public Library.

■ May 1 **Frank Ferro** was promoted to director of Norwalk (Conn.) Public Library.

■ March 30 **Lucy B. Gansone** became head librarian of Worcester (Mass.) Public Library.

■ **Jeanne Goodrich** has been named executive director of Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

■ **Nirmala Gunapala** has joined New Mexico State University in Las Cruces as science, technology, engineering, and math librarian.

■ The University of Colorado at Boulder has appointed **Eric J. Harbeson** music special collections librarian.

■ **Paula Johnson** is a new science, technology, engineering, and math librarian at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

■ May 31 **Barbara Jones** will retire as university



Kristin Arnold



Frank Cervone



Joseph Dionne



Sherri Ervin

librarian at Wesleyan University in Middleton, Connecticut.

■ **David Keeber** retired as director of Sedona (Ariz.) Public Library April 3.

■ April 1 **T. Michael Kelly** became head of archives and special collections at Amherst (Mass.) College.

■ **Jennifer Knievel** has been named faculty director of research and instruction at the University

of Colorado at Boulder Libraries.

■ **Joscelyn Langholt** has joined the University of Maryland in College Park as user education services librarian.

■ **Cynthia Mangel** was promoted to director of Somerset County (N.J.) Library System's Mary Jacobs Library May 1.

■ June 15 **Kevin McDowell** joins the University of Colorado at Boulder as

CITED

■ University of California at Los Angeles Information Studies Professor **Christine L. Borgman** has received the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences Distinguished Alumna Award.

■ **Patrick Coleman**, acquisitions librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society, won the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library's Kay Sexton Award for dedication in fostering literary activity in Minnesota.

■ **Dorothy Liegl**, recently retired South Dakota state librarian, is the winner of the 2009 Mountain Plains Library Association Distinguished Service Award.

■ **Michael Stephens**, assistant professor at Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science in River Forest, Illinois, has received the Pratt-Severn Faculty Innovation Award from the Association for Library and Information Science Education.

East Asian research and instruction librarian.

■ **Thomas McNally** was named dean of the University of South Carolina Libraries in Columbia February 16.

■ **Mary Mijares** has been promoted to branch services manager at Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library.

■ **Ann Miller** retired in March as director of Coshocton (Ohio) Public Library.

■ April 30 **Mei Mei Morris** retired as director of Somerset County (N.J.) Library System's Mary Jacobs branch.

■ April 20 **Jennifer Nutefall** became associate university librarian for innovative user services at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

■ **Sandy Schiefer** has joined the University of Missouri in Columbia as government documents librarian.

■ **Ingrid Schneider** has joined New Mexico State University as metadata and authority control librarian.

■ **Monika Seymour** becomes chief librarian at Niagara Falls (Ont.) Public Library May 31.

■ In November 2008, **Scott Spicer** became media outreach and learning



Jeanne Goodrich



Thomas McNally

OBITUARIES

■ **Marilyn Apelian**, 62, acquisitions librarian at the College of New Jersey New Library in Ewing, died of cancer March 11.

■ **Doris J. Batliner**, 80, chief librarian for the *Louisville Courier-Journal* until her 1992 retirement, died March 25. She also was a writer who contributed more than 40 pieces for the paper since her retirement.

■ **Jane Engh**, 67, retired librarian at Minnesota Valley Regional Library and Traverse des Sioux Library System, both in Mankato, died February 26 of injuries from a car accident.

■ **Laura Ruth Konigsberg**, 67, retired head of children's services at New Brunswick (N.J.) Free Public Library, died March 22.

■ **Rodney J. Maxwell**, 66, former director of Sioux City (Iowa) Public Library, died February 18 of cancer. He joined the library in 1973 and became director in 1975, serving in that capacity until 1980.

■ **Mabel R. McKissick**, 87, library/media specialist at New London (Conn.) High School and other schools in the district for 22 years until her 1990 retirement, died March 20. She was a cofounder of ALA's Coretta Scott King Book Award Committee and a founding member of the Connecticut Educational Media Asso-

ciation, and had served as president of the Connecticut School Library Association. She also was a delegate to the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services in 1979.

■ **Patricia Mulgrew**, 81, director of Bosler Library in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, died December 14, 2008. She worked in libraries for more than 30 years, including stints at the libraries in Frederick, Prince George's, and Baltimore counties in Maryland; Flagler County (Fla.) Public Library; Pennsylvania State University; and the State Library of Pennsylvania. She received the Carlisle League of Women Voters Community Service Award in 1987 for her efforts in helping pass a library referendum.

■ **Patricia Owens**, 64, founder of the library consulting firm Timber Crest, died January 9 of a heart attack. Owens was director of library development at the Connecticut State Library for many years, and retired in 1999 while serving as interim state librarian.

■ **Dorman Winfrey**, 84, director of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission from 1962 to 1986, died March 28 after a long illness. He also wrote or edited numerous books on Texas history.

spaces librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

■ February 1 **Christine Stachowicz** was appointed head of e-resources and serials management at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

■ **Janet Steiner** will retire as director of Tompkins County (N.Y.) Public Library September 30.

■ **Michael Steinmacher** has been named director of Barr Memorial Library in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

■ In late spring **Daniel L.**

Walters retires as executive director of Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

■ **Derek Wolfram** will become deputy county librarian for public services at Santa Clara County (Calif.) Library June 1. ■

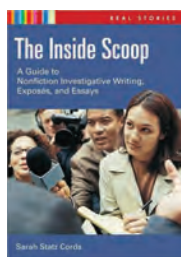
Send notices and color photographs for *Currents* to Greg Landgraf, glandgraf@ala.org.

Librarian's Library

Inside Nonfiction

by Mary Ellen Quinn

Reading interests are getting more granular—or at least, readers' advisory experts are getting more inventive. When Sarah Statz Cords' *The Real Story: A Guide to Nonfiction Reading Interests* appeared in 2006, it was hailed as an outstanding resource to help librarians navigate their way through nonfiction readers' advisory work. Now Cords gives us *The Inside Scoop: A Guide to Nonfiction Investigative Writing and Exposés*. The "investigative writing"



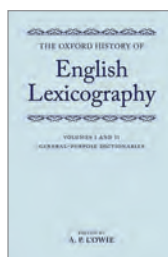
category of nonfiction took up just 30 pages in her earlier book, but here it gets promoted to full genre status with six sub-genres and more than

500 examples. This is the first entry in the new Real Stories series, which will give nonfiction the same treatment accorded to fiction in the publisher's familiar Genreflecting series. INDEXED. 449P \$52 FROM LIBRARIES UNLIMITED (978-1-59158-650-0)

Dictionary History

Not everyone would enjoy curling up with *The Oxford History of English Lexicography*, but if you're a dictionary lover, it's just your cup of tea. The first volume traces the history of general-purpose English-language dictionaries, from the glosses

added to medieval manuscripts to the Oxford English Dictionary Online. The second volume looks at specialized dictionaries, including thesauri, dictionaries of place and personal names, quotation collections, and dictionaries of slang. The story of the OED is well documented in numerous books and articles; now we can get better ac-



quainted with some of its many cousins.

INDEXED. 1312P \$350 FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. (978-0-19-928562-4)

Positive Developments

Instead of considering staff development from a top-down management perspective, why not ask new—and newish—librarians to tell managers what's helped them? That's the idea behind *Staff Development Strategies That Work! Stories and Strategies from New Librarians*. The contributors look at a variety of staff development op-

NEW FROM ALA

Under the general editorship of Robert Kieft, the venerable *Guide to Reference Books* has taken the leap into the 21st century with a new name (*Guide to Reference*) and a new digital format. Among the highlights is a new division for interdisciplinary fields such as Cultural Studies and Gender Studies. And, of course, in its new digital life, *Guide to Reference* remixes its content with powerful browse and search capabilities, regular updating, and tools for interaction and customization. ALA www.guidetoreference.org



Sears List of Subject Headings, the standard thesaurus for small and medium-sized libraries, is now available online as a WilsonWeb database. It contains all the content from the 19th edition of *Sears*, published in 2007, plus new headings that have been added since. In addition to all the advantages of searchability, the online version provides links to MARC records. H.W. WILSON hwwilson.com



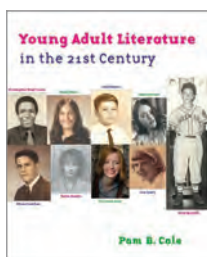
Now Cords
gives us
The Inside
Scoop: A

Guide to Nonfiction Investigative Writing and Exposés

portunities and approaches both inside and outside the library. One chapter addresses Generation X attitudes toward leadership, and another makes a strong case for supporting conference participation. One contributor talks about how he went from paraprofessional to department head. Although all but one of the contributors work in an academic library, most of the strategies could be applied to other settings. INDEXED. 269P PBK. \$75 FROM NEAL-SCHUMAN (987-1-55570-644-9)

YA Lit 101

Although it's designed as a guide for teachers, Pam B. Cole's *Young Adult*



Literature in the 21st Century is a gold mine for librarians, especially those new to working with young adults. It starts out with a few introductory

chapters on YA reading and trends in YA literature, then provides an in-depth look at various genres, from the classics to fanfiction and manga. Every chapter includes several different lists of notable or representative titles, plus copious bibliographies of professional resources, both print and online. An added bonus: 30 well-known YA authors contributed essays, as did a number of experts on YA literature. INDEXED. 702P PBK. \$69.69 FROM MCGRAW-HILL (978-0-07-352593-8) ■

MARY ELLEN QUINN is editor of ALA Booklist's Reference Books Bulletin.

ROUSING READS

SIN AND MICHAEL MALONE

Michael Malone's *Handling Sin* (1986) is one of those special novels that engenders utter devotion in its readers. Meeting a fellow Sin lover at a crowded cocktail party is akin to exchanging a secret handshake with a long-lost lodge member. The story of how (ex-) Reverend Earley Hayes shanghai's his stolid son, Raleigh, into a raucous jaunt to New Orleans, during which the North Carolina insurance salesman is forced to unlearn everything he thought he knew about right and wrong, just may be our finest comic road novel. The road-tripping in the book is done in a yellow Cadillac convertible, and thank God for that. Oversized family cars are an ironic must for a classic American road novel. The family car in the 1950s was a suburban plow horse, designed to support life in a three-bedroom ranch. But take the harness off, hit the highway, step on the gas—no, stomp on the gas—and that drudge of a plow horse becomes a wild stallion. Transforming a family car into a road tripper isn't just stealing Dad's Pontiac; it's turning it into a home wrecker. And that's exactly what happens in *Handling Sin*, except that Dad is doing the stealing, and Junior, at least at first, is a reluctant passenger, worried about whether the milk will spoil while he's away.

In too many road trips, the point of the journey is learning to accept responsibility. The beauty of *Handling Sin*—and, I like to think, the reason for its cult status—is that it's about the importance of shirking responsibility, about lighting out for the territories to avoid being civilized, just like Huck Finn did. But the territories aren't there any more, so the only way to dodge civilization is to keep moving, preferably with a V-8 engine under the hood.

Malone has written many fine novels and stories over the years, but his fans have been waiting for another *Handling Sin*. Finally, the wait is over. His new novel, *The Four Corners of the Sky* (Sourcebooks Landmark, 2009), isn't exactly a road novel, but it's all about movement, from flying jets at mach speed to embracing the uncertain ebb and flow of experience. Just as Earley shanghai's Raleigh, so Jack Peregrine, con artist extraordinaire, must teach his daughter, 26-year-old navy jet pilot Annie, to fly toward life, not away from it. Annie is estranged from her father, who left her with her aunt and uncle when she was 7, but when Jack turns up again, on the run as always, Annie is swept back into the maelstrom of his life. So begins a rollicking roller coaster of a novel that fantails from sleepy Emerald, North Carolina, to Miami, and on to Havana, as Jack's last scam plays itself out.

In our overly circumscribed modern world, we need to be reminded every now and then that the juices of life flow best when we leave the milk out to spoil and hit the road. Thankfully, Malone has given us a much-needed refresher course in how to handle sin. Don't miss it.



BILL OTT is the editor and publisher of ALA's Booklist.



Solutions and Services



chilifresh.com

Chilifresh is a **book review engine** that can be integrated with library catalogs. Libraries subscribe to a database of reviews by library patrons worldwide that reside on a remote server, but they can opt to display reviews from only their own patrons, or their own state or region. Reviews will be formatted to match font, color, and other design elements of an existing online catalog.

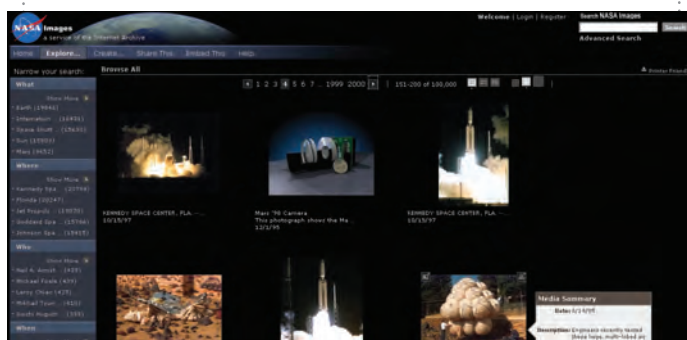
envisionware.com

EnvisionWare's LibraryPDA **RFID/barcode handheld** supports circulation, inventory, item search, patron queries, and more. The 6.3-ounce unit lets library staff check out items, search collections for claims returned or weed lists, verify borrower information, and capture inventory from anywhere the library's wireless network reaches. The unit operates for eight hours on a single battery charge.



lunaimaging.com

Luna's Insight **image software suite** empowers institutions to create and share digital collections. The toolset includes a JPEG 2000 image processor to create derivatives for efficient delivery and support for custom metadata templates and local authorities. Users can create their own media groups, share slide shows, create presentations for playback, embed content in other web applications, and bring in their own resources through a Flickr API.



phifer.com

Phifer's SheerWeave 4000 series **sun control fabric** is one of 21 SheerWeave styles that have achieved Greenguard certification for indoor air quality, as well as Greenguard certification for children's and school applications. The eight styles in the series are available in a range of weaves and yarn choices, and openness factors range from 1–10 percent.



awe-net.com

Advanced Workstations in Education offers the Early Literacy Station, a **computer terminal preloaded with developmental software** designed especially for children. The new Version 6.0 features progress tracking with teacher and parental reports, more than 40 software titles, and networked stations so kids can sign on at any station and pick up from a previous session.



openrfp.com

The OpenRFP **procurement service** from Ringgold is a database of more than 2,500 factual statements about integrated library systems, RFID, print management, and electronic resources management. Libraries can develop procurement requirements by selecting from the statements and adding relative importance values; vendors can then respond by giving their product status for each requirement and adding comment where appropriate.

CASE STUDY

DIGITIZING MICROFICHE

Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, the Canadian national archive, has several million microfiche and microfilm jackets slated for digitization during the next several years.

To accomplish this, the library installed a Digitizer from the German company DRS, in conjunction with North American distributor Ristech, in May 2008.

The machine digitizes a wide variety of information in metric and imperial format. Digitization is as fast as 0.5 seconds for a full-resolution, grayscale image. The machine also features a fully automatic pneumatic feed system that can convert more than 800 microfilm jackets in an 8-hour shift with minimal operator intervention.

The digitizer has a high-resolution charge-coupled device (CCD), full-frame chip camera that stores information as a digital image with up to 256 grayscales. Lighting is provided by specially designed non-wearing LED lighting to improve readability. And the image-recognition and processing software individually surveys, aligns, and crops each document on a microfiche, and can save the file in a number of different file formats for later processing.



The DRS Digitizer.

www.digitizer.info

Career Leads from

Your #1 source for job openings
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Place a Job Ad

Visit JobLIST.ala.org to establish an institutional account in order to place Web-only ads, print ads in *American Libraries* and *C&RL News*, or any combination. Print ads in *American Libraries* cost \$7.50 per line, \$5.50 for ALA institutional members. Display ads range from \$125 to \$2,340. Print ads may be posted on JobLIST for 60 days for an additional \$75, \$65 for ALA institutional members. Complete rate and size information at JobLIST.ala.org.

Print Deadline

May 5 for the June/July issue, which mails about June 1. Ads received after the 5th will be published as space permits through about May 15.

Contact

E-mail joblist@ala.org or call 800-545-2433, Jon Kartman, ext. 4211. Career Leads, *American Libraries*, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; fax 312-440-0901.

Consultants or Classifieds

"Librarians' Classifieds" and "ConsultantBase" are convenient and economical ad sections that put your products and services in front of more than 100,000 readers. See print ad rates above. No ALA institutional member discount. Discounts for multiple insertions: 2-5 months, 5%; 6 months or more, 10%. ConsultantBase appears in the January, April, June, and October issues.

Advertising Policies

A salary range is requested for all job recruitment ads per ALA guidelines. The ALA Allied Professional Association endorses a minimum salary for professional librarians of not less than \$40,000 per year. Job applicants are advised to explore "faculty rank" and "status" carefully. ALA opposes residency requirements and loyalty tests or oaths as conditions of employment. Job titles should reflect responsibilities as defined in ALA

personnel guidelines. ALA requires that organizations recruiting through the Association's publications or placement services comply with ALA antidiscrimination policies. Policy 54.3 states that the Association "is committed to equality of opportunity for all library employees or applicants for employment, regardless of race, color, creed, sex, age, disabilities, individual life-style or national origin." By advertising through ALA services, the organization agrees to comply with the policy. Ads are edited only to conform to standard style. Acceptance of an advertisement does not constitute endorsement. ALA reserves the right to refuse advertising.

Billing

Payment Terms: Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. If pre-approved, net 30 from invoice date. Invoice and tearsheet mailed to the advertiser following publication. Cost of ad furnished upon request.

POSITIONS OPEN

LIBRARY DIRECTOR, Beloit Public Library (www.beloitlibrary.info)—improving the quality of life in our community by supporting lifelong learning. Located in Beloit, Wisconsin, a diverse and growing community near Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago. Serves 250,000 visitors each year, supported by an annual budget of \$2 million. Staffs 47 experienced employees (some union) with a strong commitment to customer service. Overseen by a board of nine dedicated citizens who work with the director. New facility—the pride of the community. The Beloit Public Library Board is seeking a creative and dynamic leader to become our next director. The successful candidate will plan, direct, and coordinate all library activities and should possess a positive, achievement-oriented

attitude. We will select someone with excellent leadership and communications skills, a compelling vision for the library, innovative approaches to organizing and problem solving, strong skills in fostering community relations, knowledge of library trends and technology, willingness to help manage a new facility, and the ability to build a team environment. This position requires an MLS/MLIS from an ALA-accredited school and at least seven years of progressively responsible library experience. Salary from \$70,000 DOQ with excellent benefits. **Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but those received by June 15 will be given priority consideration.** Please send 1) a cover letter that includes your management philosophy, personal goals, and community relations experience, 2) a detailed resume, and 3) three references with contact information to: **Beloit Library Search Committee, c/o**

Elizabeth Cook, 409 Pleasant Street, Beloit, WI 53511 or to ecook@beloitlibrary.info.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The University Librarian is the chief administrative officer of the University Libraries, reports to the Provost, serves on the Academic Council, and will provide dynamic, innovative, and entrepreneurial leadership for the University Libraries and the broader university community. The University Libraries consist of the main campus library: W.W. Hagerty Library; the University Archives and Special Collections; two health sciences libraries, Queen Lane and Hahnemann; and an off-site storage facility. The University Libraries have a collaborative relationship with the Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law's Legal Research Center. The staff of the University Libraries support

FLORIDA LIBRARY JOBS

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in Florida's libraries

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future job positions

<http://FloridaLibraryJobs.org>

Brought to you by LSTA and
the State Library and Archives of Florida

Regional salary guide

Listed below are the latest minimum starting salary figures recommended by state library associations for professional library posts in these states. The recommendations are advisory only. Job seekers and employers should consider these recommended minimums when evaluating professional vacancies. The ALA-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) Council has endorsed a nonbinding minimum salary for professional librarians of not less than \$41,680. For additional information on librarian salaries or to update a salary figure, email salaryguide@ala.org.

Connecticut	\$25.29/hr
Illinois	\$47,235*
Indiana	varies*
Louisiana	\$26,000
Maine	\$31,512
Massachusetts	\$47,957*
New Jersey	\$49,286
North Carolina	\$32,432
Pennsylvania	\$35,132*
Rhode Island	\$41,000
South Carolina	varies*
South Dakota	\$30,554
Texas	\$40,000
Vermont	\$33,025
Wisconsin	\$34,200

*Rather than establish one statewide salary minimum, some state associations have adopted a formula based on variables such as comparable salaries for public school teachers in each community, or the grade level of a professional librarian post. In these cases, you may wish to contact the state association for minimum salary information.



SPEAKING VOLUMES

Library Director

- ✓ Are you ready for a unique opportunity that will change the lives of thousands of people every year?
- ✓ Do you want to make a vital difference in the future of a remarkable American city?
- ✓ Do you have the vision, passion, and ability to lead in creating a world-class, 21st century library system?

If you answered **YES** to all the questions above, take a look at the New Orleans Public Library.

Job Description

The New Orleans Public Library is seeking a Library Director who can provide leadership in the rebuilding of the New Orleans Public Library system post-Hurricane Katrina. This recovering library system, with a budget of \$7.5 million, has launched an ambitious \$30 million capital campaign to rebuild and renovate multiple branches affected by the hurricane. The Director will work with a highly motivated administrative team, a staff of over 120, and report to the Library Board of Directors in the historical urban setting of New Orleans. Responsibilities and oversight will include overall library supervision, strategic planning, budget preparation, building programs, fundraising and grant writing, quality of library services, and working with library staff and volunteers.

Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills

- Progressive management style with a vision for the future.
- Proven library management and strategic planning skills.
- Experience in fundraising and programming.
- Familiarity with library technology and structure.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to interact professionally with staff, the public and local government officials.
- Ability to lead and develop the talent of professional and support staff.
- Experience with a wide range of information technology.
- Demonstrated success in managing projects.
- Ability to track information and technology trends and envision benefits for information access, instructional technology and management systems.
- Demonstrated effectiveness as an advocate and public speaker.
- Demonstrated organizational and planning skills.

Minimum Qualifications Requirements

Master's degree in library science from an ALA-accredited program and 5+ years of professional librarian experience in an administrative capacity, preferably in a multi-unit urban system.

Salary: \$105,000. Benefits include: Longevity Pay, Annual Leave, Sick Leave, Paid Holidays, Health, Life, Dental, Vision Insurance and Pension Participation.

Interested Candidates

Email resume to ghaskell@gno.lib.la.us and visit www.neworleanspubliclibrary.org. To be considered for a meeting at the 2009 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, please provide your materials no later than June 26, 2009.

An Equal Opportunity Employer.

university programs at Burlington County College (N.J.) and at the Drexel University Graduate Center in Sacramento (Calif.), in addition to supporting an extensive population of online learners. The University Librarian is an academic administrative position with the possibility of a joint faculty appointment for the qualified candidate in the appropriate academic unit including the iSchool. Founded in 1891 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Drexel University is widely recognized for integrating cooperative education and technology throughout its curriculum. Drexel enrolls 21,527 (Fall 2008) students and has more than 5,822 employees, including 1229 full-time faculty and 826 part-time

faculty. The University's research grants and contract expenditures for fiscal year 2007-08 were approximately 102 million dollars. Drexel University offers 86 bachelor's programs, 77 master's programs, 34 doctoral programs, a doctor of medicine program and 34 graduate-level certificate programs. The University Librarian and the University Libraries themselves reflect the comprehensive nature of Drexel University. The University Libraries have 40 professional staff, 34 support staff and a combined budget of approximately seven million dollars. The staff is highly qualified, motivated, and dedicated to teaching and serving the user community. Combined, collections include over half



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

New York University Libraries

Director, Knowledge Access and Resource Management Services

This position leads, shapes and oversees the work of 60 staff engaged in acquiring and making accessible the research resources in all formats of the NYU Division of Libraries. The Director is a member of the Libraries senior management team, which shares responsibility for planning, budget allocation, and the development and leadership of major strategic initiatives. In collaboration with senior management colleagues (including the Directors for Collections and Research Services, Public Services, Libraries IT Services, and Digital Library Technology Services), the Director has primary leadership responsibility for intellectual access to materials in a changing mix of user-oriented on-line environments.

The Director oversees the creation, acquisition, integration and lifecycle management of metadata and the supporting processes that enable knowledge access through a suite of discovery and retrieval systems. The Director oversees the operations of the Libraries' integrated library system (ILS), including its use by non-NYU libraries that participate in consortia and related services, and serves as liaison to those libraries. The scope of KARMS units comprises acquisitions, including licensing; serials and electronic resource management; cataloging and metadata production, integration and maintenance. Services are performed for the central and institute libraries, with selected services provided to consortium member libraries. The Director is also responsible for designing and overseeing a wide range of special projects, e.g., with affiliate libraries, digital library collections, specialized resources, and for NYU's developing branch campus in Abu Dhabi.

The Libraries' strategic plan emphasizes the need for continual organizational learning and innovation to meet the challenge of integrating library resources and services with new, ever-changing, powerful networked teaching, learning and research environments. The KARMS Director will have the opportunity to manage significant new service development and to redesign organizational structures and staff roles in this environment.

The Division of Libraries expends \$11.6 million on collections (56% on electronic resources) and adds 90,000 volumes annually. KARMS staff comprises 14 librarians (who are faculty), 3 administrative staff and 43 support staff, as well as 11 FTE of student casuals and adjunct assistants. The Libraries deploys the ExLibris Aleph ILS, using PRIMO as its primary end-user access system; the Innovative Interfaces, Inc. Electronic Resources Management System; and DSpace for its institutional and preservation repositories.

New York University Libraries: Library facilities at New York University serve the school's 40,000 students and faculty and contain more than 4 million volumes. New York University Libraries is a member of the Association of Research Libraries, the Research Libraries Group Partnership of OCLC, and the Digital Library Federation. The Libraries also serves as the administrative headquarters of the Research Library Association of South Manhattan, a consortium that includes New School and Cooper Union. The NY School of Interior Design, New-York Historical Society and the Brooklyn Historical Society also participate in use of the ILS. For the NYU Libraries Mission and Strategic Plan go to library.nyu.edu/strategicplan/.

QUALIFICATIONS: Evidence of vision and leadership in the fields of knowledge access and resource management; substantial successful experience in acquisitions, cataloging, processing, and/or metadata production processes in an academic/research library, including evidence of successful and creative management of staff and operations; operational knowledge of discovery and access methods and systems; substantial knowledge of trends, issues and methods of intellectual access to library resources coupled with a strong service orientation and knowledge of user needs for teaching, learning and research; excellent communications and interpersonal skills; excellent administrative, management, planning, and organizational skills; experience in coordination or management of integrated library system functions; working knowledge of metadata standards; evidence of creative problem-solving and innovative, results-oriented approaches to processes and organizational development; evidence of successful leadership in a complex organization, including demonstrated potential for leading transformational change. MLS from an ALA-accredited program and a second masters degree required to be eligible for tenure.

Salary/Benefits: Faculty status, attractive benefits package including five weeks annual vacation. Salary commensurate with experience and background.

To Apply: To ensure consideration, send resume and letter of application, including the name, address, and telephone number of three references to: **Enrique Yanez, Acting Director of Human Resources, New York University Libraries, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012** or via email to jobs@library.nyu.edu. Resumes will be considered until the position is filled.

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a million print volumes, 27,000 electronic journal titles, over 550 databases, over 117,000 electronic books, and over 2500 linear feet of archival materials and special collections. The Libraries have an Innovative Interfaces, Inc. integrated system, DSpace and other digital library tools and implementations, and an active and innovative library systems department. The University Libraries conducts ongoing evaluations of current systems with recommendations for improvements within and across the libraries. **APPLICANTS MUST HOLD** an ALA-accredited MLS degree and have a minimum of ten years of academic library or equivalent experience with increasing management responsibility, including budgeting, personnel management, and technological implementation. The applicant must also demonstrate: excellent leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills; successful grant writing and other fundraising activities; an ability to work collaboratively with both on-campus constituencies and with various off-campus consortia; a commitment to patron service and ability to serve a culturally diverse University community; an appreciation for current issues and technology trends in academic librarianship and a clear vision of how they apply to academic library services; and a commitment to the electronic delivery paradigm when practicable. A history of scholarly publications, teaching experience, and/or professional involvement is preferred. **Screening by the Search Committee began in mid-April, 2009 and will continue until the position is filled. Applications should include a cover letter describing interests and qualifications, curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information of three references (not contacted unless finalist) and must be submitted electronically to www.drexeljobs.com, Requisition #2979.** Questions should be directed to Dean David Fenske, Search Committee Chair, via email only at universitylibrariansearch@drexel.edu. Drexel University is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from qualified members of diverse groups including women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans. **Additional information about Drexel can be found at www.drexel.edu.**

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Executive Director
Poudre River Public Library District
Fort Collins, Colorado
<http://www.poudrelibraries.org>

The ideal candidate will be an experienced, community focused, strategic leader who will be expected as ED to continue the transition of this former city library into a world class regional library district.

You will enjoy connecting to the Fort Collins community, known as one of the best places to live in America. <http://www.ci.fort-collins.co.us/visitor>.

Your resources will include: A talented motivated staff of 150. An empowered and experienced management team. An annual operating budget of \$8,000,000. A supportive and appreciative community. Three facilities including a traditional Main Library (34,000 sq. ft.) a joint use branch (30,000 sq. ft.) and a newly opened LEED gold certified branch in an exciting retail center (16,717 sq. ft.).

As ED you will work with a seven member governing Board of Trustees (formed in 2007) to develop and execute creative strategies and policies for providing additional services and outlets to serve a growing population and widespread geographic area.

MLS preferred. PRPLD is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Compensation: \$100-\$120K + excellent benefits.

Candidate may submit a cover letter and resume via e-mail to: Lawrence J. Corbus, CorbusLibraryConsultants, corbus@libraryjobs.com, 440-796-1230. Apply by May 11, 2009 for full consideration.

Boone County Public Library
Kentucky (Greater Cincinnati)
www.bcpl.org
Director

Boone County (www.boonecountky.org) is one of the fastest growing areas in Kentucky with a population of 115,000. Home of the Greater Cincinnati/NKY International airport, it offers a very affordable cost of living, abundant housing options from city to rural, and excellent school systems. Across the river from Cincinnati and just one to two hours from Lexington, Louisville, Indianapolis and Columbus, it provides great access to universities, arts, culture and sports.

The Board seeks a director who will be a collaborative community leader with demonstrated management, fiscal and negotiation skills. The new director will manage change while advancing a progressive and successful vision of library service enthusiastically supported by the Board and staff. The new director will be a builder undertaking two funded building projects for a new and a renovated branch. BCPL serves as a central gathering place for the county and is a leader in early literacy in the region; in 2008, it circulated 1.2 million items. As Boone County continues to grow, the director will have the opportunity to develop future plans for innovative services and outlets while maintaining the highest level of customer service. The current director of 24 years retires in July.

Your resources will include: A talented motivated staff of 150 (23 MLS). An empowered and experienced management team. An annual budget of \$8,000,000. A new 75,000 sq.ft. state of the art Main Library and five community branches. Residents who use and value library services.

MLS required. Compensation: \$85,000-\$110,000.

Candidate may submit a cover letter and resume via e-mail to: Lawrence J. Corbus, CorbusLibraryConsultants, corbus@libraryjobs.com, 440-796-1230.

Apply by May 12, 2009 for full consideration.

Company, PO Box 488, Collingswood, NJ 08108; JournalSets@gmail.com; 800-390-1027; 215-701-1853 (e-fax).

FOR SALE

USED STEEL LIBRARY SHELVING. 30 inches, double-faced cantilever, excellent condition. \$135 per section. **Jim Stitzinger, 800-321-5596; e-mail jstitz@pacbell.net; www.booksforlibraries.com.**

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23800 Via Irana, Valencia, CA 91355; 800- 321-5596; e-mail jstitz@pacbell.net.

BOOK FOR SALE

DISCIPLINED FOR OBJECTING to misconduct by a federal judge, attorney Richard Baldwin Cook writes (2009), *May It Please The Court*. \$34.95 on amazon.com (free shipping), **20% discount to libraries: cookrb1@gmail.com.**

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Balancing the Books

Our noble profession counts on change it can save up

by Will Manley

I love the word “library.” It’s a noble word that carries a weighty and serious connotation. It stands for knowledge, learning, and scholarship. It has soul. It is timeless.

Why we in the library profession feel the need to distance ourselves from this word is totally beyond me, but every year I seem to read of a library school that has become a department of information studies or a library that is now an information center. How utterly amorphous, ambiguous, and bureaucratic these new titles sound. Everyone knows what a library is, but what is an information center? Isn’t it the kiosk in the middle of a shopping mall that lists all the stores?

Why in heaven’s name would we abandon a brand that has served us so well for centuries? Is it because it’s been around so long? Are we afraid of being seen as old-fashioned in a world of rapid change?

I also love the word “librarian,” and am tremendously proud of being one. When my career took a detour into city management for seven years, I still identified myself to others as a librarian because it’s a vocation with a unique mission—to usher people into a world of knowledge, learning, and scholarship. What could be more noble than that? We do good work for the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the well-educated, and the poorly educated. We draw no distinctions. We are here for everyone.

Why then are so many of us defensive about our image? It’s true that others like to poke fun at us for being too strict, too serious, too stodgy, and too old-fashioned, but those are some pretty desirable virtues these days. Try to name a profession with a better image than ours. It’s not easy. The once-respected fields of banking and business have certainly taken big image hits lately.

Have you ever heard the expression that a library should be run like a business? Tell me exactly what business we should model ourselves after. Too bad our financial leaders weren’t a little



Is it possible that businesses should be run more like libraries?

stodgier in their choice of business practices. Is it pos-

sible that businesses should be run more like libraries? Because of our relative poverty (institutional and personal), we know how to stretch a dollar and balance a budget.

Yes, our frugality is legendary, and that leads me to my one pet peeve about librarians: Perhaps we’re too frugal. Because I speak at a lot of state and regional library conferences, I often eat out with fairly large groups of librarians (maybe 10–12). It’s always fun. Librarians know how to pick good restaurants, and the conversation is always lively. But the fun ends when the check arrives, and the calculators come out.

What’s wrong with just dividing the bill by the number of people present? I posed that question once and was quite sorry I did. “Why should we pay for Fred’s steak?” was the indignant reply hurled back at me by everyone—except Fred. One librarian pointed out that because Fred worked in administration, he made more money and could damn well pay for his own damn steak.

Then the discussion turned to who should pay for my dinner since I was the guest speaker. To avoid any debate, I said that I, too, would pay for my own damn steak. ■



“Okay Fred, either cough up your share of the bill or Maryellen is going to Heimlich back out your entrée!”

WILL MANLEY has furnished provocative commentary on librarianship for over 30 years and nine books on the lighter side of library science. Write him at wmanley7@att.net.



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