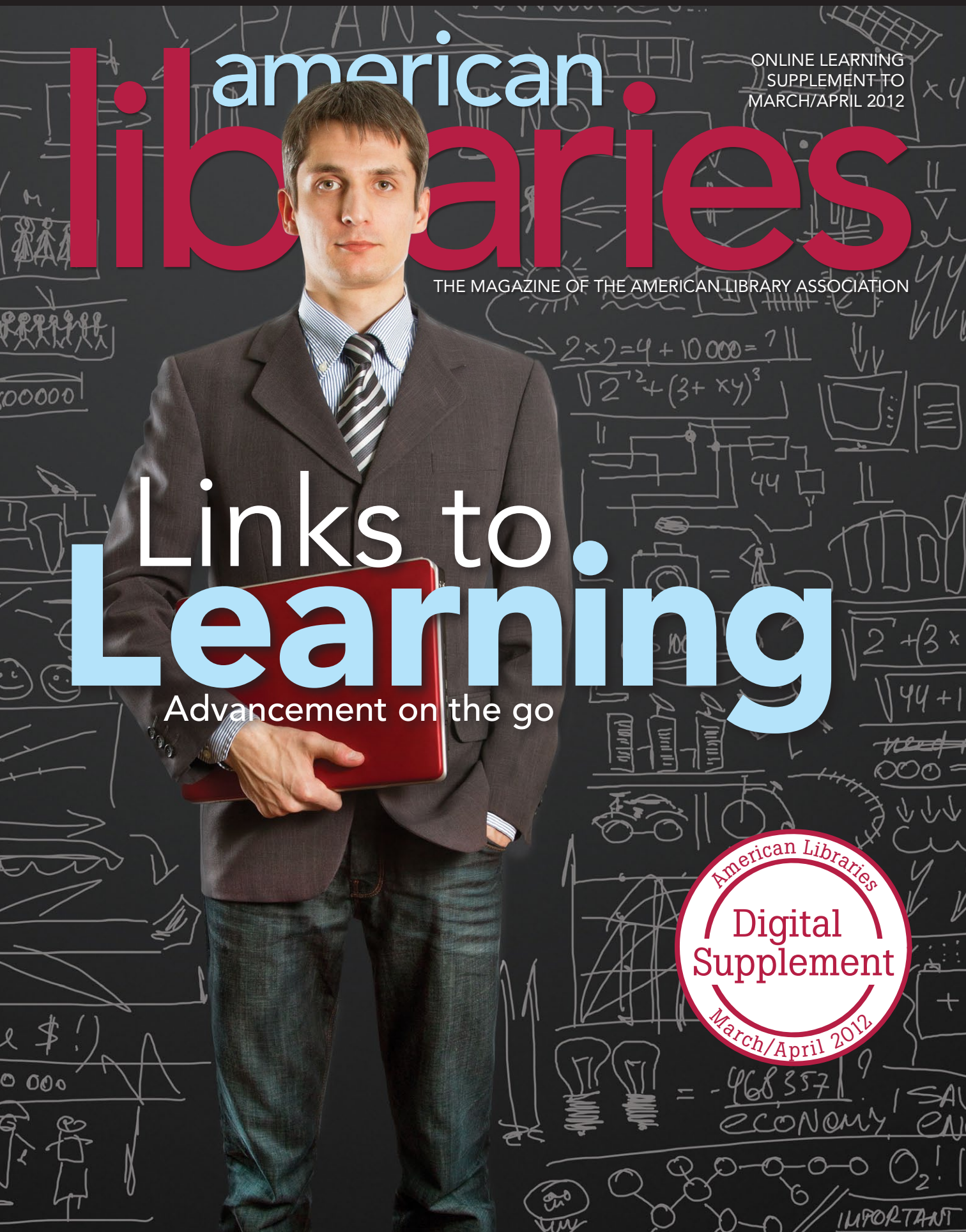
EXTRA CREDIT from ALA ■ **CHAR BOOTH** Reflective Teaching

american libraries

ONLINE LEARNING
SUPPLEMENT TO
MARCH/APRIL 2012

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



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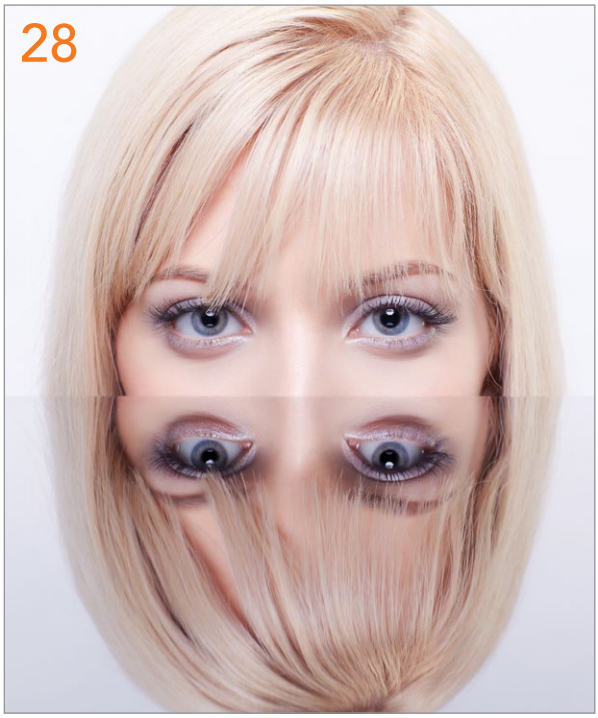
BY CHAR BOOTH



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Credit Where Credit Is Due
BY JIM NEAL

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Credit Where Credit Is Due

by Jim Neal

Library workers in all types of workplace settings require continuous learning to better serve their communities. Since its founding in 1876, the American Library Association has been an essential source of professional and staff development with that goal in mind. I'm happy to report that ALA can now award CEUs for participation in its diverse array of educational offerings, thanks to the Association earning the prestigious status of Authorized Provider as designated by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training.

This approval is a critical benchmark and achievement, but more importantly, as ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels has noted, "a great benefit to our members, who can now receive national recognition for their participation in ALA online and face-to-face workshops." To achieve it, ALA completed a rigorous application process, led by Kimberly Redd, program officer for scholarships and education for ALA's Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment. She spearheaded substantial research into the feasibility and standards for awarding CEUs, as well as what it would take to create a uniform process among the Association's diverse group of CE providers.

ALA can now award CEUs for its diverse array of educational offerings.

The decision to conduct this research stemmed from conclusions drawn by delegates to ALA's Second Congress on Professional Education (COPE2) in 2000, which I chaired. First, they recognized significant drivers to continued learning: the pace of change in libraries, the complexity of the information environment, social changes such as diversity and globalization, pressures for organizational and personal accountability, and economic and budget pressures—trends that continue to challenge us.

Then COPE2 delegates focused on ALA strategies in the continuous learning arena and identified some key issues as fundamental: cost effectiveness, convenience, competition, quality control, organizational support, instructional and network technologies, personal advancement, and certification. ALA has made good progress on many of these fronts, and the ability to now award CEUs to participants will expand the visibility and attractiveness of the Association's programs.

COPE2 participants also saw that professional and staff development embraces: CE courses and workshops, training and skills development, intellectual nourishment, forums for reflection and debate, exposure to new ideas, work experience, research and publication, professional reading, Association activity, and personal networking. Earning CEUs proves personal growth and achievement in such areas.

Online Learning at ALA extends the Association's ability to advance its goals of advocacy, excellence, leadership, participation, and service.

—Jim Neal, ALA treasurer, and vice president for information services and university librarian at Columbia University, New York City

american libraries

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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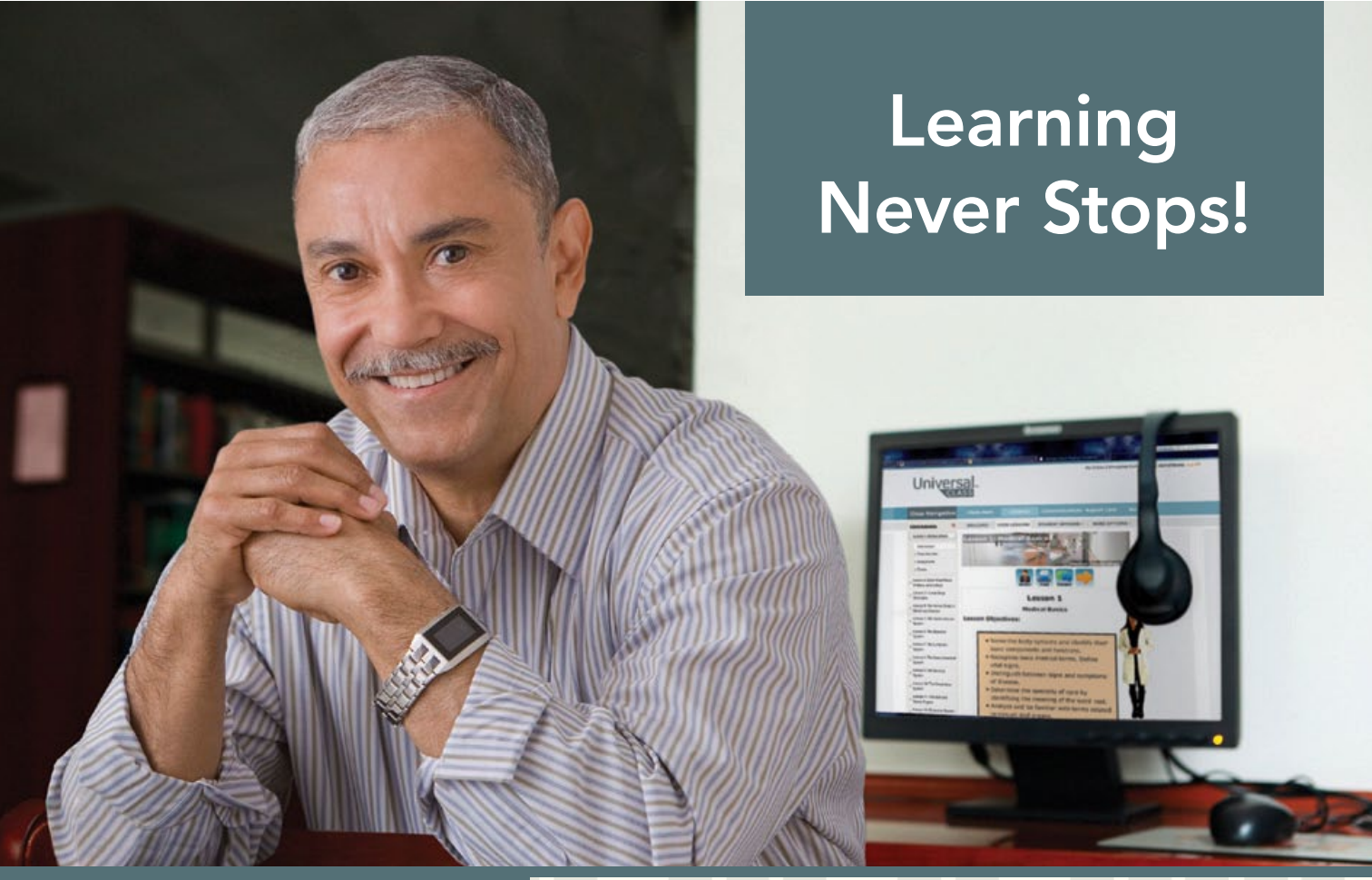

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The American Library Association provides continuing education in a variety of venues and formats for librarians, library support staff, and library trustees. Check out the course list that follows for a sampling of offerings from ALA's 11 divisions as well as its Publishing Department; find even more professional-development classes and workshops online through the ALA website's Online Learning section.

AASL

The Path to Collaboration: Making It Happen

MARCH 19–APRIL 13

This course is designed to help school librarians identify and analyze the factors that contribute to successful collaboration with teachers. Topics covered include: the culture of the school, the role of the school librarian, qualities of successful leaders, and the various facets of the collaboration process. School librarians will learn what to bring to the collaboration table and how to develop and initiate an action plan to encourage teachers to join them.

COST:

- $75 per person for AASL student members
- $99 per person for AASL members and retired members
- $149 per person for ALA members
- $225 per person for nonmembers

REGISTER HERE

Learning4Life (L4L) Webinars—AASL Learning Standards

ARCHIVED

Focused on the four strands of AASL's *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner,* these four webinars will help advance your school library program to meet the needs of the changing school library environment. "Skills and Content Standards: Let's Mash 'Em Up!"; "Teaching Responsibilities: It's our Responsibility"; "Dispositions of the Exemplary School Librarian"; and "Information Literacy Self-Assessment Strategies" will help guide you towards implementing AASL's learning standards and program guidelines.

COST PER WEBINAR:

- $19 per person for AASL student members
- $29 per person for AASL members
- $59 per person for ALA members
- $79 per person for nonmembers

COST FOR SERIES:

- $69 per person for AASL student members
- $99 per person for AASL members
- $199 per person for ALA members
- $279 per person for nonmembers

REGISTER HERE

Learning4Life (L4L) Webinars—Empowering Learners

ARCHIVED

Focused on the four chapters of AASL's *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Programs,* this series of four webinars will help advance your school library program to meet the needs of the changing school library environment. "Developing Vision for Learning"; "Teaching at the Intersection of Reading, Information, and Technology: The Guidelines"; "Engage, Interact, Immerse, Learn"; and "Building a Strong Leadership Foundation through Transformational Leadership Practices" will help guide you toward implementing AASL's program guidelines.

COST PER WEBINAR:

- $29 per person for AASL student members
- $39 per person for AASL members
- $69 per person for ALA members
- $99 per person for nonmembers

COST FOR SERIES:

- $104 per person for AASL student members
- $140 per person for AASL members
- $248 per person for ALA members
- $356 per person for nonmembers

REGISTER HERE

Fundamentals of Management: Practical Approaches for Successful Managers

MARCH 5–23

Many library managers are hired or promoted on the basis of potential and have had little exposure to the fundamentals of management. This multiweek course provides a practical approach to becoming a successful library manager, including strategies for planning, organizing, staffing, and evaluating library departments and programs. Through a series of readings, discussions, and exercises, participants will gain real-world tools for improving their management skills and develop confidence in their ability to supervise and manage.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- March 5

COST:

- $60 per person for ACRL student members
- $135 per person for ACRL members
- $175 per person for ALA members
- $195 per person for nonmembers

REGISTER HERE

Humanities on the Map: Discovering Spatial Humanities

MARCH 12–30

Disciplines within the humanities have always been studying space as a metaphor or means of interpretation, but the rapid development and ubiquitous nature of geospatial technologies has led to the emergence of a new subdiscipline often called the spatial humanities or the geohumanities. The use of these technologies allows humanities researchers to visualize and analyze information in geographic space like never before. Religious studies students can analyze the patterns of dispersion of a particular religion, history students can "see" how land elevation influenced wars, and Egyptologists can recreate ancient settlements on a map in 3D. Humanities librarians are beginning to encounter students and faculty who want to include such geographic components in their papers and research, and need to be aware of the different approaches to introducing geography and the study of space into other disciplines. Through a variety of readings, resource assignments, and project evaluations, this multiweek course will provide an overview and awareness of the spatial humanities, useful resources for assisting students and faculty in this emerging subdiscipline, and discussions about the role of librarians in facilitating patrons' research in this area.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- March 12

COST:

- $60 per person for ACRL student members
- $135 per person for ACRL members
- $175 per person for ALA members
- $195 per person for nonmembers

REGISTER HERE

The Library's Role in Ensuring the Success of International Efforts on Campus

MARCH 13, 2–3:30 PM EASTERN

According to data in the 2008 Open Doors report, the number of international students studying on US campuses is at an all-time high. Approximately 7% of US college students are international students (national average), while on some campuses, as many as 22% of the total student body is international. These students bring with them special skills and insights, but also present unique challenges for our educational systems. Libraries can play a critical role in connecting these foreign students, not only to our universities and colleges, but also to the information literacy skills they need to succeed. Many foreign students have not previously had librarians available to assist them with their research, so it is critical that we clarify the role that libraries and librarians can play in their educational careers.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- March 13

COST:

- $40 per person for ACRL student members
- $50 per person for ACRL members
- $75 per person for ALA members
- $90 per person for nonmembers

- $295 for a group of any size watching the webinar together; one individual in the group registers, logs in, and keyboards on the group's behalf during the event with the one user login provided

REGISTER HERE

Embedded Librarians: Integrating Information Literacy Instruction at the Point of Need

MAY 1, 2–3:30 PM EASTERN

Embedded librarians work closely over a given time frame with nonlibrarian groups, whether by joining a semester-long course; maintaining an ongoing presence in online courses; participating in broad curriculum planning efforts; or joining the staffs of academic departments, clinical settings, or performing groups. In coining the term in 2004, Barbara Dewey wrote: "Embedding requires more direct and purposeful interaction than acting in parallel with another person, group, or activity. Overt purposefulness makes embedding an appropriate definition of the most comprehensive collaborations for librarians in the higher education community."

More and more libraries are adopting embedded librarianship as an approach to creating an integrated and sustained library instruction presence in classes across the curriculum. In this webcast, embedded librarians will describe examples of successful embedded projects across the range of academic levels and departments, including both online and on-campus instruction. They will share strategies for implementing, sustaining, and assessing embedded librarianship. The discussion will include best practices learned from multiple institutions, as well as issues to consider when planning an embedded initiative.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- April 12

COST:

- $40 per person for ACRL student members
- $50 per person for ACRL members
- $75 per person for ALA members
- $90 per person for nonmembers
- $295 for a group of any size watching the webinar together; one individual in the group registers, logs in, and keyboards on the group's behalf during the event with the one user login provided

REGISTER HERE

Instructional Design for Online Teaching and Learning

JULY 16–AUGUST 10

In this hands-on course, the intellectual focus will be on using good instructional design and web page design principles. Participants will also be introduced to web-based teaching techniques and materials using standard web pages and the Moodle LMS. This course requires a significant amount of hands-on learning activities, project work, and readings, which will result in a completed instructional design plan for an instructional unit—course/workshop/tutorial—for a learner group of each participant's choice with teacher guidance and approval.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- July 16

COST:

- $60 per person for ACRL student members
- $135 per person for ACRL members
- $175 per person for ALA members
- $195 per person for nonmembers

REGISTER HERE

Implementing Online Teaching and Learning: Using Moodle and Other Web 2.0 Features

SEPTEMBER 10–OCTOBER 5

In this hands-on course, learn about state-of-the-art online teaching and learning technology and its applications. The instructor will review the use of teaching materials created with multimedia plug-ins and classroom communications tools, specifically the Moodle LMS.

This course is primarily asynchronous and requires a significant amount of hands-on learning-activities, project work, and readings that will result in a completed instructional unit (e.g., short course/workshop/tutorial) implemented on the teacher's Moodle LMS or on an LMS or simple website of the students' choice.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- September 10

COST:

- $60 per person for ACRL student members
- $135 per person for ACRL members
- $175 per person for ALA members
- $195 per person for nonmembers

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ALCTS

Fundamentals of Collection Assessment

MAY 14–JUNE 22

This introductory six-week online course is designed for those who are responsible for or interested in collection assessment in all types and sizes of libraries. The course will introduce key concepts in collection assessment including: the definition of collection assessment, techniques and tools, assessment of print and electronic collections, and project design and management. This fundamentals course will appeal to anyone interested in the topic and does not require any previous experience.

Course instructors: Cory Tucker, head of collection management at the University of Nevada Las Vegas Libraries; and Reeta Sinha, senior collection development manager at YBP Library Services.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- May 4

COST:

- $109 per person for ALCTS members
- $129 per person for nonmembers

REGISTER HERE

For a complete list of archived webcasts (both free and for purchase), visit the ALCTS website.

RDA Webinar Series

Catalogers and other library staff, including department heads planning to implement RDA and directors who need to understand the benefits and importance of implementing RDA, should reserve an hour for an ALCTS webinar.

COST PER WEBINAR

- $39 per person for ALCTS members and international registrants
- $49 per person for nonmembers
- $99 for a group of any size watching the webinar together at one access point

COST FOR ENTIRE SERIES

- $125 per person for ALCTS members and international registrants
- $156 per person for nonmembers
- $337 for a group of any size watching the webinar together at one access point

RDA and Moving Images

MARCH 14

An overview of the cataloging of moving image content using RDA, focusing on areas that differ from AACR2, are challenging to interpret, or are in need of community consensus. Examples include DVD, Blu-ray, streaming video, and video games. Presenter: Kelly McGrath, metadata management librarian, University of Oregon.

Cataloging Three-Dimensional Objects and Kits with RDA

MARCH 28

Highlights of RDA instructions related to cataloging kits and three-dimensional forms (objects) such as models, toys, artifacts, and naturally occurring objects in an educational setting. Presenter: Kelly McGrath, metadata management librarian, University of Oregon.

Rare Materials and RDA: Exploring the Issues

MAY 23

Are you unsure about how (or whether) to apply RDA to rare materials? This webinar will present an overview of RDA provisions related to rare materials, including both bibliographic and authority records, and will explore how well RDA and Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (DCRM) can be used together to describe rare materials. It will reflect work sponsored by the Bibliographic Standards Committee of ACRL's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, including a white paper prepared by presenters Robert L. Maxwell, senior librarian and chair of the Special Collections and Formats Catalog Department of Brigham Young University's Harold B. Lee Library; and John Attig, authority control librarian at Penn State University.

Archival Materials: Using RDA with DACS

MAY 30

Overview of RDA provisions related to archival collections, including both bibliographic and authority records. Explores the possible connections between RDA and Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS), and their potential application as supplementary standards. Presenter: Cory Nimer, manuscripts cataloger and metadata specialist, Brigham Young University.

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ALSC

Every Child Ready to Read—New Conversations on Research, Relationships, and Partnerships

MARCH 8, NOON–1:30 PM EASTERN
APRIL 12, 7–8:30 PM EASTERN

Every Child Ready to Read @ your library (ECRR) continues a commitment to research and introduces the powerful concept of constrained and unconstrained skill sets to facilitate librarians' conversations with parents and caregivers. This new webinar utilizes natural language and a flexible format to encourage a more interactive way for library staff to work with caregivers and to create new ways for parents to interact with their children. Community and staff partnerships are a staple of ECRR, and this 90-minute webinar will discuss research and new ways to relate to library customers, partners, and community members using new ECRR tools.

ECRR is a parent education initiative by the Public Library Association (PLA) and the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). It stresses early literacy begins with the primary adults in a child's life. The ECRR toolkit empowers public libraries to assume an essential role in supporting early literacy within a community. See the ECRR website for more information.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

- March 7
- April 11

COST:

- $45 per person for ALSC or PLA members and students
- $55 per person for nonmembers
- $195 for a group of any size watching the webinar together; one individual in the group registers and logs in on the group's behalf with the one user login provided

REGISTER HERE

Between Storytime and the Prom: Tween Programming Fills the Gap

MARCH 8, 7–8 PM EASTERN
APRIL 6, 11 AM–NOON EASTERN
MAY 14, NOON–1 PM EASTERN

Would you like to establish or enhance tween programming at your library? In this webinar, we'll discuss key elements of successful tween events and how to promote your programs and manage registration, group size, and materials. We'll look at tried and true tween events in detail, including planning checklists, handouts, and specific activity outlines. You'll finish this webinar ready to put some of our ideas into practice for tweens in your community as well as develop new tween programming ideas on your own.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

- March 7
- April 5
- May 13

COST:

- $45 per person for ALSC members
- $55 per person for nonmembers
- $195 for a group of any size watching the webinar together; one individual in the group registers and logs in to the event

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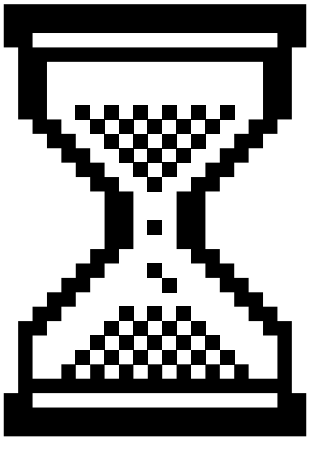

Storytelling 2.0

MARCH 19, 7–8 PM EASTERN

Bridging the digital divide is critical in education as more and more schools turn to ebooks and web 2.0 technologies. This expands far beyond the classroom, spilling over into library services as well. This webinar explores how digital resources and tools like websites, social media, iPads, digital cameras, and computers can be incorporated into traditional storytelling and programming techniques to enhance library users' experience. We'll also cover the basics of storytelling as well as storytelling as a marketing tool.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- March 18

COST:

- $45 per person for ALSC members
- $55 per person for nonmembers
- $195 for a group of any size watching the webinar together; one individual in the group registers and logs in to the event

REGISTER HERE

Making Every Day a Día Day: Incorporating Día into Current Youth Programming

APRIL 12, 2–3 PM EASTERN

An effective way to really make Día (El día de los niños/El día de los libros—Children's Day/Book Day) a part of library programming throughout the year is to introduce multicultural literature and bilingual literacy into any and all programs and events at the library where it might apply.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- April 11

COST:

- $45 per person for ALSC members
- $55 per person for nonmembers
- $195 for a group of any size watching the webinar together; one individual registers and logs in to the event

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Give Me Something to Read! When Social Networking Meets Readers' Advisory

APRIL 24, 7–8 PM EASTERN
MAY 16, 2–3 PM EASTERN
JULY 10, 7–8 PM EASTERN
AUGUST 9, 11 AM–12 PM EASTERN

Readers' advisory has grown beyond booklists. Now there are all sorts of online resources that are part readers' advisory and part social networking. Learn how websites like Goodreads, LibraryThing, Your Next Read, and others help to not only keep track of various books, but also provide a medium for sharing opinions and gathering book suggestions.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

- April 23
- May 15
- July 9
- August 8

COST:

- $45 per person for ALSC members
- $55 per person for nonmembers
- $195 for a group of any size watching the webinar together; one individual in the group registers and logs in to the event

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Every Child Ready to Read Sneak Peek Webinar

ARCHIVED

This free hour-long webinar, cosponsored by PLA, provides a review of the early literacy research that led to the development of the *Every Child Ready to Read® @ your library* 2nd Edition; an overview of the toolkit's components; and an opportunity for participants to ask questions. The ECRR program provides public libraries and other early literacy centers with tools to help prepare parents/caregivers for their critical role as their child's first teacher.

REGISTER HERE

Día 101: Everything You Need to Know about Celebrating El Día de los Niños/El día de los libros

ARCHIVED

Every year hundreds of libraries and schools celebrate the multicultural family literacy initiative El día de los niños/El día de los libros, informally known as "Día." Whether your library has celebrated in the past or plans on celebrating this year for the first time, this practical webinar will help you get a head start. We'll cover Día's history, explore program ideas big and small, discuss recommended resources, and hear the true story of a librarian's very first Día.

COST:

- $25 per person

Family Programs on a Shoestring @ your library

ARCHIVED

Public libraries continue to lose funding and many never had much to start with. Learn how to create memorable family programs using everyday recyclable products, scrap paper, donations from patrons, freebies from local businesses, etc. Discover how networking and local business will help your library with programs that not only entertain your families but also provide a chance to educate them about other services that are available within their community. Family programs need not be expensive nor take a lot of preparation time. Think simple and reduce, reuse, recycle.

COST:

- $25 per person

Leveling Easy Readers

ARCHIVED

What is the best way to organize easy readers—that continually growing collection of books designed to be used during emergent literacy? Is it possible to attach levels to these books that will effectively assist parents and children in selecting appropriate titles? This webinar will consider the philosophical and practical pros and cons of leveling easy readers.

Differences in the three basic leveling criteria—format, language structure, and content—will be explored. Examples of leveling systems designed by other libraries will be shared. Strategies for determining the best approach for your library and community will be discussed.

COST:

- $25 per person

Newbery and Caldecott Mock Elections Toolkit

ARCHIVED

Mock book award programs can develop multiple skill areas, including reading motivation, critical thinking, and interpersonal communication, both for young readers and for professional staff. This webinar looks at the nuts and bolts of developing a mock award program, from initial planning to the final vote. We'll cover book selection, awards criteria, and discussion techniques, and provide tools and examples that you can use and adapt as you develop your own mock book award programs.

COST:

- $25 per person

Sensory Storytime: Preschool Programming that Makes Sense for Kids with Autism

ARCHIVED

Sensory Storytime incorporates theory and practices from sensory integration occupational therapy into a regular library preschool story hour that is fun for all kids and appropriate for young children with an autism spectrum disorder. In this webinar, you'll be introduced to some of the theory behind Sensory Storytime, some options and issues related to this type of programming, and the specifics of how one public library structures its Sensory Storytime program. It will equip you with the information and resources you need to be able to design or modify your own programsto better serve young children with autism in your community.

COST:

- $25 per person

REGISTER HERE

ALTAFF

Baby Boomer Volunteers for Librarians and Friends

APRIL 2

"Meet Today's New Volunteers" provides an overview of this new generation of volunteers. Participants will learn what studies are showing about baby boomers' commitment to community service, what they bring to the volunteer workforce that is unique, and the ways in which they want to spend their volunteer time. This is critical to understanding how libraries and Friends groups need to rethink the volunteer opportunities they have, and develop new strategies to recruit this special group.

"Friends and Baby Boomers—Getting New Active Members for your Group" builds on the information learned in the first webcast, specifically showing Friends how they can attract and retain this valuable workforce to ensure that their group remains strong and viable long into the future.

"Library Volunteers—Bringing in Skilled and Committed Baby Boomers" also builds on the information learned in "Meet Today's New Volunteers," and will give librarians and volunteer supervisors specifics on how to recruit, train, and retain a volunteer workforce that can support the staff and help enhance library services.

COST FOR ENTIRE SERIES:

- $39 per person for ALTAFF members for a single-seat license
- $139 per person for nonmembers for a single-seat license
- $49 per person for ALTAFF members for a multiseat license
- $149 per person for nonmembers for a multiseat license

REGISTER HERE

Trustee Academy

ARCHIVED

The Trustee Academy is a series of five online courses to help library trustees become exceptionally proficient in their roles on behalf of their libraries. Taught by professionals in the field, the courses are available for individual registration or as a full curriculum with discounted pricing per course. In addition, a board of trustees can sign up for further discounts. All courses are recorded webcasts to allow flexibility in completing the courses, which can be viewed on an individual basis or in a group setting.

In addition to the recorded webcasts, trustees are provided with discussion questions and access to a list of questions and answers to further enhance their learning outcome. Certificates of completion are provided for each course.

The five online courses that make up the Trustee Academy are: "Trustee Basics, Part I," "Trustee Basics, Part II," "Working Effectively with the Library Director," "The Library's Budget," and "Advocating for Your Library."

COST PER COURSE:

- $30 per person for ALTAFF members (individual and group)
- $40 per person for nonmembers
- $100 per board for ALTAFF members (individual and group)
- $125 per board for nonmembers

COST FOR ENTIRE SERIES:

- $115 per person for ALTAFF members (individual and group)
- $150 per person for nonmembers
- $225 per board for ALTAFF (individual and group)
- $300 per board for nonmembers

REGISTER HERE

ASCLA

Libraries for Detained and Incarcerated Youth 101

MARCH 13, 2–3:30 PM EASTERN

Library environments for young people who are detained, pending placement, or incarcerated are different from the typical public or school library, and library professionals serving them often find themselves in situations that are completely different from anything for which they are prepared. This is one in a series of webinars focusing on the needs of these youth.

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- March 8

COST:

- $40 per person for ASCLA members
- $50 per person for ALA members
- $65 per person for nonmembers
- $99 for a single login for a group of any size watching the webinar together; $38 per person for multiple logins (minimum of two people)

Digital Preservation Planning

APRIL 16, 11 AM–NOON EASTERN

Introduction to the key concepts for digital preservation planning. Included in the webinar will be an introduction to the standards underlying preservation planning and digital preservation solutions and services.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- April 11

COST:

- $40 per person for ASCLA members
- $45 per person for ALA student and retired members
- $50 per person for ALA members
- $65 per person for nonmembers
- $99 for a single login for a group of any size watching the webinar together; $38 per person for multiple logins (minimum of two people)

Being an Effective Facilitator

MAY 9, 3–4 PM EASTERN

Want to run better meetings or lead better planning discussions? Learn how to improve group participation and productivity, focus groups, staff meetings, brainstorming and learning sessions—all of which require an effective facilitator. Gain knowledge about group dynamics, learning styles, and models for running meetings and group sessions. Discover ways to improve participation and productivity. Both face-to-face and online sessions will be discussed.

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- May 4

COST:

- $40 per person for ASCLA members
- $45 per person for ALA student and retired members
- $50 per person for ALA members
- $65 per person for nonmembers
- $99 for a single login for a group of any size watching the webinar together; $38 per person for multiple logins (minimum of two people)

ala.org/ascla/asclaevents/onlinelearning/onlinelearning

Strategic Planning for Your Online Library Branch

MAY 10, 2 PM EASTERN

In a world where communication is ever-changing, technology advances more and more rapidly, and budgets are shrinking, many libraries are faced with wanting to extend their services into an innovative online branch to provide enhanced and always accessible services to their communities. Strategic planning is a crucial step libraries must take to ensure their online branch meets the business and technical requirements for the organization, while also addressing the needs of their multiple audiences.

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- May 7

COST:

- $40 per person for ASCLA members
- $45 per person for ALA student and retired members
- $50 per person for ALA members
- $65 per person for nonmembers
- $99 for a single login for a group of any size watching the webinar together; $38 per person for multiple logins (minimum of two people)

Creating a Latino-Friendly Library

MAY 17, 3–4 PM EASTERN

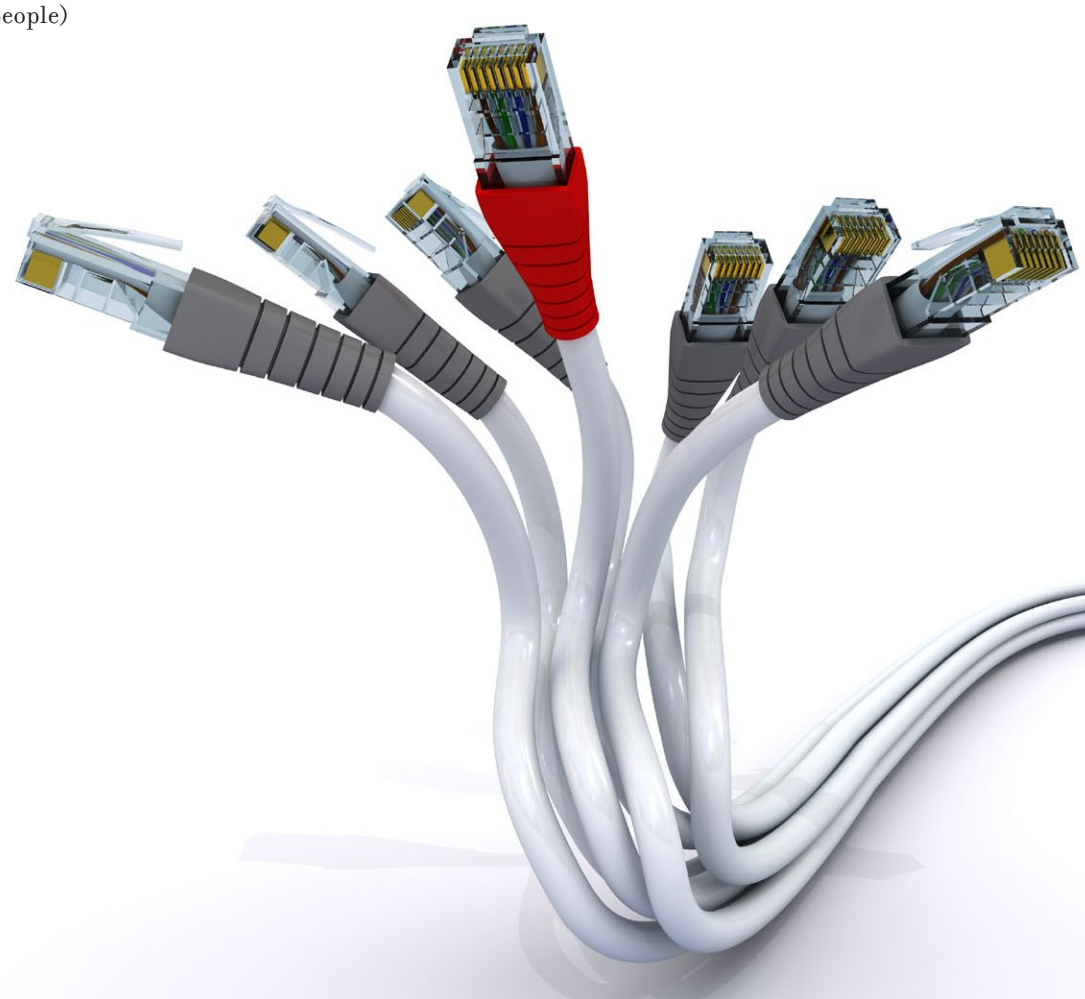
Latino communities continue to grow and we continue to puzzle over how to get this significant segment of our communities into the library. This webinar will introduce practical and simple techniques that libraries of all sizes can use to begin the process of making Latinos feel welcome and comfortable in the library. Participants will learn how to work with and challenge the language and cultural barriers that keep Latinos from using the library.

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- May 14

COST:

- $40 per person for ASCLA members
- $45 per person for ALA student and retired members
- $50 per person for ALA members
- $65 per person for nonmembers
- $99 for a single login for a group of any size watching the webinar together; $38 per person for multiple logins (minimum of two people)



Freedom to Read Foundation

Defending the Freedom to Read: Updates on Current Court Cases

ARCHIVED

FTRF General Counsel Theresa Chmara provides an overview of current court cases involving FTRF, including those in which the organization is a plaintiff, has filed an amicus brief with the court, or is monitoring.

COST:

- free to FTRF individual and organizational members

To become a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation, visit www.ftrf.org/joinftrf. Membership starts at $35 for individuals and $100 for organizations. Student membership is $10. Contact Jonathan Kelley at 800-545-2433 x4226 or jokelley@ala.org with any questions.

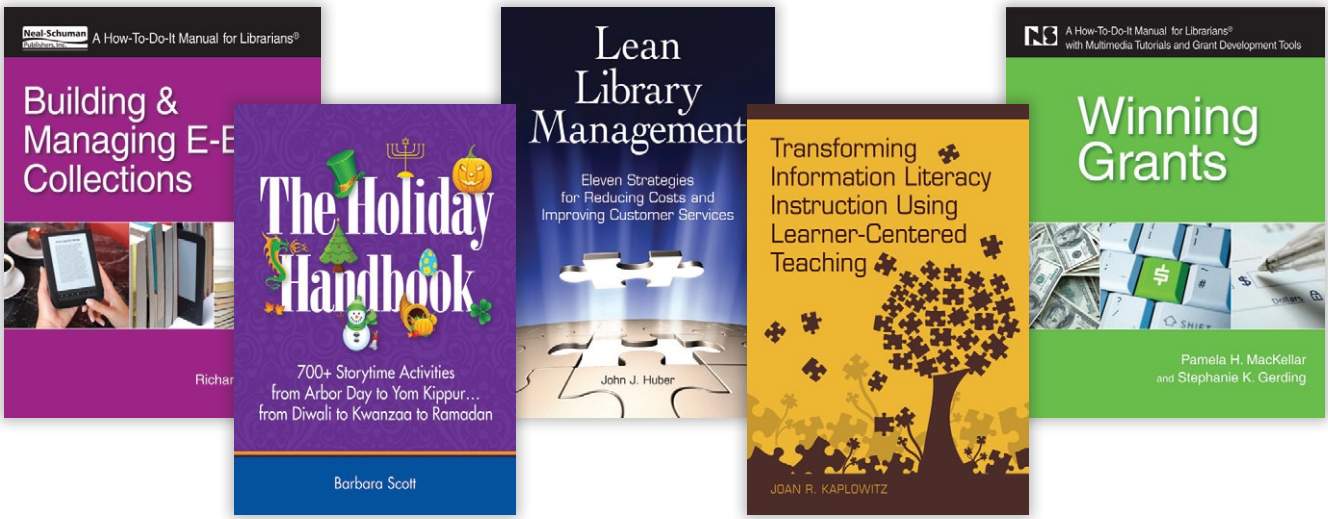
REGISTER HERE

NEW BOOKS FROM ala editions

alastore.ala.org

NEW & BESTSELLING BOOKS FROM Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc.

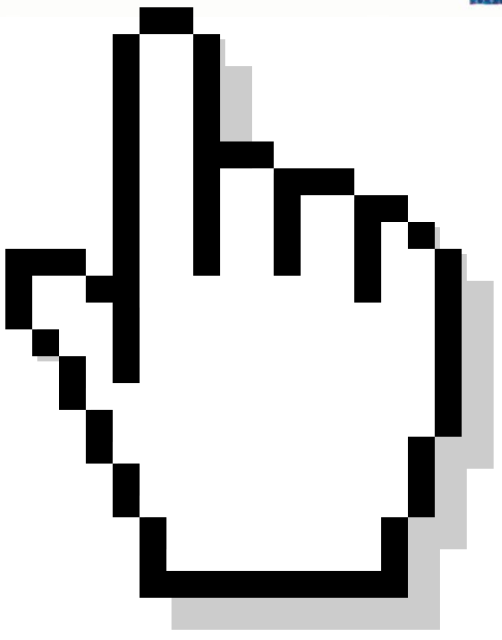
Essential Resources for Information Professionals



neal-schuman.com

Neal-Schuman is now an imprint of the ALA.
ALA Store purchases fund advocacy, awareness, and accreditation programs for library professionals worldwide.

Office for Diversity



Diversity Leadership Online Series

SPRING; LIVE SESSIONS AND ARCHIVED

New courses will provide the foundation for a culture of responsible diversity leadership within the profession. This next series of sessions will address valuing diversity, diversity recruitment, and diversity advocacy.

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- April 16

COST:

- $20 per person for ALA members
- $25 per person for nonmembers
- $120 for a single login for a group of any size watching the webinar together

REGISTER HERE

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Conflict Resolution in the Library Workplace: Coping with Challenges, Censors, and Other Difficult Situations

APRIL 11, 1 PM EASTERN

Many librarians find themselves in tough spots when confronted with challenges to library material, policies, or practices. Whether coming from their higher-ups or governing bodies, or from pressure in the community or from parents, such situations can result in poor communication and decision-making, and the result can be negative for all concerned.

In 1970, ALA created the LeRoy C. Merritt Fund, which provides grants to librarians who lose their jobs, are demoted, or have otherwise been financially burdened in retaliation for their defense of intellectual freedom principles, or because of discrimination. Too often, fund trustees considering applications for assistance have noticed times when, had different decisions been made, the negative result might have been averted.

To help librarians deal with such situations, the Merritt Fund, in cooperation with ALA's Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment and OIF, is cosponsoring this free training session to suggest ways that librarians can turn potential crises into teaching/learning opportunities.

For more information about the Merritt Fund, click here.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- April 10

Note: This webinar is purely informational, and is not intended as legal advice and should not be treated as such. If you have questions about your employment situation, we recommend that you consult with legal counsel licensed in your state with respect to your individual situation.

Choose Privacy Week: Government Surveillance in a Digital Age

APRIL 19, 2 PM EASTERN

OIF will celebrate the third annual Choose Privacy Week May 1–7. This year, the observance will focus on deepening public awareness about the growth of government surveillance and its impact on personal privacy, free speech rights, and civil liberties. This free webinar will review particular topics—such as data mining, social media surveillance, biometrics, and the impact of government surveillance on local communities—and suggest programming and resources that libraries can use to foster community discussions. More information and resources on Choose Privacy Week are available here.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- April 18

Self-Service Holds: Efficiency Doesn't Need to Compromise Reader Privacy

MAY 15, 3 PM EASTERN

The move to self-service holds (also known as open-shelf holds) has enabled many libraries to continue user hold services despite ongoing staff cuts and budget reductions. But many libraries have implemented self-service hold systems that reveal personally identifiable information—including users' full names—that link the user to the specific book or materials on hold, thereby compromising that person's privacy and confidentiality. Such practices violate the ALA Code of Ethics and may, in some states, violate library confidentiality statutes. In response, ALA's governing Council passed a resolution that encourages both libraries and vendors to adopt self-service hold systems that preserve users' confidentiality. This free webinar will explain the legal and ethical standards that support the move to privacy-protective hold systems and discuss those that protect user privacy and save the library money.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- May 14

ala.org/offices/oif/oifprograms/webinars

PLA

PLA 2012 Virtual Conference

MARCH 15–16

PLA is offering a great way to participate in and enjoy the PLA Conference, even if you can't be there in person. The PLA 2012 Virtual Conference will consist of live programming on Thursday, March 15 and Friday, March 16, including five hour-long programs each day, plus author interviews, poster sessions, and opportunities for networking. Programs are chosen from among the highest rated in PLA's session preference survey. Each day also will include a closing session "happy hour" event for attendees to get together and discuss the day's programming.

LIVE PROGRAMMING: PROGRAMS CURRENTLY CONFIRMED FOR THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ARE:

- "Engaging with Teens on A Shoestring Budget"
- "Q&A with Nancy Pearl"
- "iPads in the Library: From Tech Programming to Staff Productivity"
- "Transforming Public Libraries from Institutions of the Industrial Age to Change Agents for the Networked Society"
- "Library-To-Go: Putting Your Library Virtually Anywhere"
- "Can't, Won't, Don't, Couldn't, Shouldn't, Wouldn't: Combating Negativity Nellies in the Workplace"
- "Tracking Children's Early Literacy Skills: Options for Libraries"
- "The Future of Libraries: Trends in Building Design, User Experience, and Community Partnerships"

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- March 2

COST

- $215 per person for PLA and Pennsylvania Library Association members
- $85 per person for PLA student members
- $270 per person for ALA members
- $310 per person for nonmembers
- $549 for a group of any size gathered in one room at one location to participate in the live webinar broadcast; an LCD/LED projector and audio speakers are recommended for larger groups

REGISTER HERE

Turning the Page 2.0

MARCH 19–APRIL 23

Turning the Page 2.0 is a free library advocacy training course developed and presented by PLA with generous support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In this six-week, facilitated course, library staff and supporters will learn how to create and tell their library's story, deliver effective presentations, develop a compelling case for support, and build and sustain partnerships along the way. Participants are encouraged to come with a specific, self-determined advocacy goal for their library. At the end of six weeks, participants will have a complete advocacy work plan for future advocacy efforts.

TURNING THE PAGE 2.0 CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

- In-person kickoff (optional)
- Facilitator-led virtual classroom sessions for one hour each week
- Independent work on Turning the Page online modules (about one hour each week)
- Online community for discussion (optional)
- Completion of an advocacy work plan (about one hour each week)
- One-on-one feedback via email from professional facilitators (free consultancy)

COURSE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Public Perceptions: How voters and elected officials perceive public libraries
- Telling Your Story: Apply data to create your own library story
- You as a Leader: Develop your own leadership skills to become a more confident advocate
- Building Relationships: How to build community networks and relationships
- The "Big Ask": Focusing on effective funding requests

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- March 7

REGISTER HERE

Implementing Choose Civility: A Communitywide Campaign

MARCH 28, 2–3 PM EASTERN

Interested in gaining increased visibility and stature for your library? Learn how "Choose Civility" evolved from an internal library campaign into a successful communitywide initiative that has attracted strong political backing and nearly 100 partners and funders, as well as national and international media attention.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- March 26

COST

- $28 per person for PLA members
- $31.50 per person for ALA members
- $35 per person for nonmembers
- $129 for a group of any size gathered in one room at one location to participate in the live webinar broadcast; an LCD/LED projector and audio speakers are recommended for larger groups

REGISTER HERE

Public Librarian's Guide to Ebooks: A PLA Webinar Series

APRIL 17, APRIL 24, MAY 1, MAY 8 2–3 PM EASTERN

Studies and articles show ebook usage will only continue to grow. To successfully handle the myriad issues related to lending ebooks, your library needs the latest and best information. This four-part webinar series feature ebook innovators, library technology experts, and other public library professionals who will explore ebook technology, trends, and issues. You'll have the opportunity to hear what's new, to share your library's story, and to get your questions answered.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

- All public librarians who would like to increase their knowledge of ebooks, e-devices, and related library issues. and those who are interested in future ebook trends in public libraries.

WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Explore the world of ereader devices and platforms
- Learn about the various ways your lirary can fund an ebook collection
- Learn how to improve customer service related to the ebook lending experience
- Learn what the future may hold for libraries with regards to ebooks

REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

- April 13 for the four-part live series
- April 13, April 20, April 27, and May 4, respectively for each individual live webinar

COST PER WEBINAR

- $28 per person for PLA members
- $31.50 per person for ALA members
- $35 per person for nonmembers
- $129 per person for for a group of any size gathered in one room at one location to participate in the live webinar broadcast; an LCD/LED projector and audio speakers are recommended for larger groups

COST FOR THE SERIES

- $99 per person for PLA members
- $115 per person for ALA members
- $129 per person for nonmembers
- $379 for series registration for a group of any size (as indicated above)

REGISTER HERE

New Lessons in Library Leadership

ARCHIVED

In this free webinar, a panel of three PLA Leadership Fellow Scholarship winners share lessons learned from training that included the "Senior Executives in State and Local Government" program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

REGISTER HERE

Service Response Online Workbooks

ARCHIVED

The 18 workbooks are self-directed online workbooks with tools to assess your current services in a specific area or topic and to identify what would be required to expand those services or add new ones.

COST:

- $15 per workbook per person (less 10% discount for ALA/PLA members)

REGISTER HERE

PUBLISHING

ALA Editions

Demystifying Copyright: How to Educate Your Staff and Community

MARCH 5–26

Libraries are hubs of content, not all of it purchased or licensed from traditional publishers. As libraries move into the roles of publisher, platform-provider, or aggregator, making sure that your staff has basic knowledge of copyright is important. Following copyright best practices can protect your institution from cease-and-desist letters, time-draining threats, and lawsuits. The first step is to develop an effective and practical copyright education plan.

Lesley Ellen Harris, an intellectual property attorney, has trained libraries, museums, and corporations in copyright. In this four-week eCourse, she offers step-by-step guidance on developing a copyright education program for your staff and community.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Understanding the risks of copyright infringement and how to protect your library from lawsuits
- Understanding the need for compliance under U.S. and global copyright law
- Evaluating copyright issues in your library
- Developing a copyright education plan
- Assessing materials, content, and technology in order to equip an instruction team for your institution
- Keeping your educational program up to date

COST:

- $175 per person

REGISTER HERE

Creating Presentations That Don't Put People to Sleep

MARCH 29, 2:30–4 PM EASTERN

Learn how to banish that barrage of yawns, whether presenting to patrons, staff, or the board of directors. The always-engaging Maurice Coleman will show you how to craft presentations that are memorable for the right reasons. An experienced trainer and host of the popular T is for Training podcast, Coleman will share what he has learned from his decades of presentation experience, covering the entire process from planning to delivery.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- How to avoid the common pitfalls of poor presentations
- Understanding yourself and your topic
- Organizing presentations with a laser focus on what you want the audience to know
- What presenters need to know about design
- Surviving disasters with backup plans

COST:

- $50 per person
- $100 for a group of three or more

REGISTER HERE

Web Design Basics for Librarians

APRIL 2–MAY 7

In an era when more and more library content lives on the web, the ability to create and maintain basic web pages is a crucial skill for librarians. This eCourse teaches basic skills that will give participants the ability to create accessible, attractive web pages and HTML documents.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- The ability to compose basic- to intermediate-level HTML documents and to understand and compose basic CSS
- The ability to draft a needs assessment for a website design plan for a web project
- An understanding of accessibility and how to design pages that are accessible
- The ability to use both text and WYSIWYG editors to create web content
- The ability to create tables and basic forms for web pages
- Basic understanding of how content management systems work and their strengths and limitations
- The knowledge to plan and implement usability testing
- Foundation for further self-learning for more advanced web design

COST:

- $250 per person

REGISTER HERE

Free ALA Publishing Webcasts

RDA Toolkit Essentials

MARCH 21, 3:30–4:30 PM EASTERN
MAY 16, 10:30–11:30 AM EASTERN
JULY 18, 3:30–4:30 PM EASTERN

RDA Toolkit Essentials is for anyone new to RDA Toolkit who would benefit from a tour of the product or from a refresher on one or two aspects. The hour-long webinars cover topics such as login, navigation, search, and user-created content, and conclude with a Q&A session. RDA Toolkit Essentials is free and open to everyone.

REGISTER HERE

Guide to Reference Essentials

MARCH 29, 11:30 AM–12:30 PM EASTERN
MAY 24, 3–4 PM EASTERN
JULY 26, 11:30 AM–12:30 PM EASTERN

Join Alison Elms and the Digital Reference staff live as they show you how to integrate Guide to Reference into your reference and collection development work, as well as your LIS instruction. You'll learn how to browse the taxonomy, customize your searches, add notes to titles, save your searches, share your work, and create lists of resources for class assignments, and more.

REGISTER HERE

Free *Booklist* Webinars

TUESDAYS, 2–3 PM EASTERN

Booklist's free webinar series is growing rapidly, attracting crowds of attendees. *Booklist* editors host leading practitioners, authors, and publishers' representatives at least twice a month on a variety of topics that offer immediate tips, tools, resources, and new ideas for collection development and readers' advisory work.

All webinars are recorded and archived on the Booklist Online webinars page, where you can also find information about upcoming offerings.

REGISTER HERE

ALA TechSource

Managing Electronic Resources in Public Libraries

MARCH 7 AND 14, 1–2 PM EASTERN

Whether you're launching or adding to your digital collections, this new workshop will show you how to build and manage a thriving collection. With sound management of electronic resources, you will make better purchasing decisions and offer more content to your community. Michael Santangelo's work at Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library has contributed to downloadable circulation, including ebooks and music, nearly doubling in a one-year period. A sought-after speaker at both library and publishing conferences, Santangelo will describe how to simplify and implement procedures that can otherwise seem daunting.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Prioritizing your electronic resources budget
- Analyzing usage of your electronic resources
- Understanding and negotiating contract terms
- Selecting and implementing an Electronic Resources Management System (ERMS)
- Keeping your staff informed of changes in your electronic resources collections
- Staying current with new developments in electronic resources

COST:

- $85 per person
- $150 for a group of three or more

REGISTER HERE

Integrating iPads and Tablet Computers into Library Services

MARCH 8 AND 15, 2:30–4 PM EASTERN

Spurred by the launch of the iPad, the use and popularity of tablet computers has exploded. Tablets offer major potential for library services including the ability to increase productivity and improve your library's programs in such areas as reference services, collection management, and library instruction. In this two-part ALA TechSource workshop, Virginia Tech librarians Rebecca Miller, Heather Moorefield-Lang, and Carolyn Meier will share their experiences with a multifaceted program, that guides you step-by-step in building a tablet program, from choosing and purchasing tablets through deployment.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Comparing platforms and features of tablet computers and other mobile devices
- How to select and purchase according to your library's needs and technology environment
- Developing policies related to tablet circulation (among both patrons and library staff), connectivity, and content
- Ways to use tablets to increase staff productivity and enhance professional development
- Using tablets to enhance reference and instructional services, collection management, and administrative responsibilities

COST:

- $85 per person
- $115 for a group of three or more

REGISTER HERE

ALA TechSource

Integrating Ebooks and E-Readers into Your Library

APRIL 4 AND 11, 2:30–4 PM EASTERN

With the exploding popularity of ebooks and e-reading devices, librarians are grappling with how to effectively integrate them into their services and collections. Sue Polanka is back by popular demand to present this two-session ALA TechSource workshop on how to go about it. With her practical guidance, you will learn how to begin purchasing and lending ebooks for your library, and how to purchase e-reading devices for patron use.

SESSION 1: PURCHASING EBOOKS FOR YOUR LIBRARY

You want to buy ebooks for your library, but where do you start? This session will provide a basic primer on acquiring ebooks, covering the following topics with examples from both public and academic libraries:

- Current trends with ebook ownership and lending, including the impact of the HarperCollins lending limits, the new Amazon Kindle/Overdrive lending partnership, and vendor licensing
- How vendors can support your ebook content selection
- Comparing vendor offerings and interfaces (publishers and aggregators)
- Using sample matrices to compare vendor offerings
- Choosing business models, including subscription, one-book checkout, and patron-driven acquisitions

SESSION 2: LENDING EBOOK READERS IN YOUR LIBRARY

Is your library considering lending ebooks readers? This session will provide an overview of the issues and step-by-step advice for establishing a lending program, covering the following topics with examples from both public and academic libraries:

- Examples of the more than 50 e-reading device options: dedicated e-readers, tablets, apps, and screen e-readers
- Practical tips for lending devices
- Navigating file formats, digital rights management, and compatability
- Sources for free and public-domain ebooks for easy loading onto e-readers
- How librarians are interpreting legal questions around licenses written for consumers rather than libraries
- Setting a budget for devices and accessories
- Institutional purchase of ebooks and sharing across multiple devices

COST:

- $85 per person
- $110 for a group of three or more

REGISTER HERE

YALSA

Finding a Place on the Shelf: YALSA Book Awards and the Middle School Library

MARCH 15, 2 PM EASTERN

The middle school librarian faces the unique challenge of building a collection that is appropriate for both teens and tweens. In light of the 2012 YALSA book award announcements, what winners and honor books have middle school appeal? Join Megan Fink, middle school librarian at the Charlotte (N.C.) Country Day School, for a discussion of the YALSA award winners and honorees and their place on the middle school bookshelf.

In addition to discussing the winner and honor books of the Printz, Morris, Nonfiction, and Edwards Awards, Fink will also suggest criteria to use when evaluating these books for inclusion in a middle school library. She will lead a roundtable discussion regarding selection versus self-censorship when evaluating the award winners and honorees. Participants should come ready to share one past YALSA award winner or honoree that they chose to include—or not include—in their library.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- March 14

COST:

- $29 per person for YALSA student members
- $39 per person for YALSA members
- $49 per person for nonmembers
- $195 for a group of individuals watching the webinar together in one location

REGISTER HERE.

Managing Teen Library Behavior

APRIL 19, 2 PM EASTERN

Struggling with teen behavior issues in the library? Join Erin Downey Howerton, young adult specialist and information services consultant based in Kansas City, Missouri, for a discussion on how library staff can build rapport with teens, and how that rapport can be used to discourage misbehavior. Howerton will also address how school and public teen librarians can work with other staff members on ways to address teen behavior issues, as well as how to create library policies that address behavior concerns.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

- April 18

COST:

- $29 per person for YALSA student members
- $39 per person for YALSA members
- $49 per person for nonmembers
- $195 for a group of individuals watching the webinar together in one location

REGISTER HERE

Distance Education Is Closer Than You Think

Emerging technology has transformed our lives, including how and where we learn. No longer do we have to leave jobs and relocate our families to pursue our educational dreams. Now, from the comfort of our homes, we can participate in online courses and even earn a degree without ever setting foot on campus.

Graduate students at the San José State University School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) live across North America, and most never visit the campus located in the heart of Silicon Valley. SLIS offers a fully online Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree, with a convenient approach to learning and an ALA-accredited program rich in choices.

Early on, SLIS recognized the benefits of delivering its courses online, including introducing students to the emerging technology they'll encounter when working in the rapidly changing LIS field. As they interact with peers and faculty from a distance, SLIS students are immersed in sophisticated technology, preparing them to serve clients and collaborate with colleagues who live across town or around the globe.

"We know that tomorrow's information professionals will need to interact with virtual teams and use emerging technology to serve clients," said Debbie Faires, SLIS assistant director for distance learning.

"We're excited about providing students with skills that will make them more employable in today's challenging economic climate."

Technology has opened up a world of opportunities for SLIS students. They present at virtual conferences and participate in research projects, all without leaving their homes. They gain hands-on experience as virtual interns, interacting with host institutions that may be located anywhere on the continent.

The San José State University School of Library and Information Science offers two fully online master's degrees, a fully online certificate program, and a doctoral program: Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS), Master of Archives and Records Administration (MARA), Post-Master's Certificate in Library and Information Science, and the San José Gateway PhD Program.

Let the learning begin:
slisweb.sjsu.edu

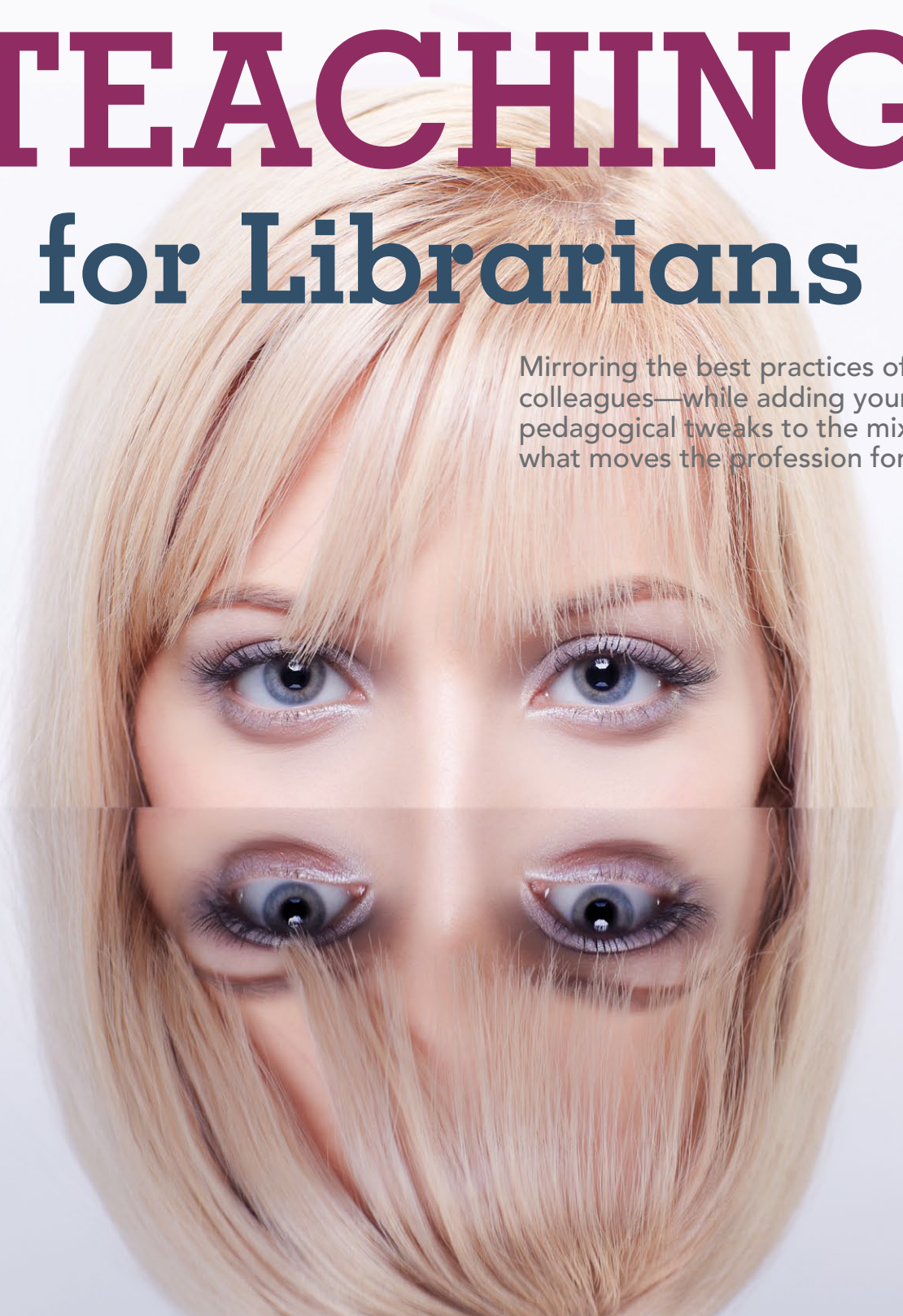
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Reflective TEACHING for Librarians

By Char Booth

Mirroring the best practices of colleagues—while adding your own pedagogical tweaks to the mix—is what moves the profession forward



Most librarians are educators in one sense or another, even when the role is not explicit. The best teachers learn from others and learn by doing. This is a good rule for improving at virtually anything: Seeking inspiration and accepting criticism makes your work richer and more well rounded. Many of the ideas I present here I first observed among friends and teachers whose methods I admired or whose recommendations led me to a new approach or tool. Through mentorship, coteaching, professional organizations, online forums, and other channels, I have expanded my own method base and gained a clearer perspective on my impact as a communicator and designer.

Gleaning

Research and attentiveness build a composite of ideas collected through chance and diligence, which is similar to a reflective concept I call *gleaning*—incorporating the connections that naturally occur through collaboration, participation, and simply moving through the day into whatever you happen to be working on. It is a mindset in which you notice potential solutions to the challenges you face and make use of the resources around you. From DIY to getting things done, popular approaches to gleaning recognize and celebrate the good ideas and tactics of others, and can inspire you to incorporate new skills into your own practice.

Gleaning grows out of a willingness to become an active and interested sponge, and involves four elements: *observation, documentation, integration,* and *acknowledgement.* As you observe others teaching and presenting as well as working with learning objects, you can consciously document how the strategies colleagues use might support your own style. But don't confuse integration with appropriation: If you ask coworkers for an old handout or lesson plan, don't simply copy their approach to make your life easier (which is little better than opportunism). Instead, consider their angle, recognize the work they have already put in, and supplement it with your own ideas. Acknowledging the contributions of others, whether through a citation or a word of gratitude, is essential.

An attitude of constant curiosity and diligent observation helps build instructional literacy in a continuous fashion.

A gleaning mentality encourages an attitude of constant curiosity, one of the surest ways to build instructional literacy in a continuous fashion. Becoming a diligent observer helps you perceive areas of mutual interest or resources inside and outside of your organization, such as a codeveloped workshop, site, or another type of shared effort. Being open to learning and incorporating as I go—planned or unexpectedly, from anyone or in any situation—keeps me engaged and humble in the knowledge that I always have more to learn.

Reliable documentation

One aspect of gleaning that deserves additional consideration is documentation. When you hear about a useful e-learning application or in-class exercise, be prepared to write it down, send yourself an email, create a bookmark in Zotero or a new page in Evernote—whatever it takes to keep the moment from passing. You should always give yourself the means to keep track of the useful things you run across in order to follow up on them after the fact. Effective documentation becomes increasingly possible as cloud and mobile technologies provide innovative multimodal methods for serendipitous information gathering. I used to always carry a Moleskine notebook and a pen, but I now use my iPhone to help me capture things I find useful via photo, voice, or notation.

I started consciously documenting my environment because my memory is dismal, but I quickly realized that keeping a running list of inspirations was an excellent means of bringing greater diversity into my instructional practice. I have also learned that the best insights occur when you least expect them, and often come in the form of absurdly simple solutions to lingering challenges. For example, listening to NPR's *Talk of the Nation* at the gym one day, I heard Princeton neuroscientist Sam Wang discussing intensity in speech and how this affects listener memory. Knowing that I would forget his name and everything he had said within 10 minutes, I stopped what I was doing and typed a few bits of information on the running page of book ideas on my iPhone Notes application.

Ideas come and go, but I have become much more productive at benefiting from them through reliable documentation. Social tools like Twitter and Facebook are perfect manifestations of this just-in-time principle; when you get in the rhythm of setting status updates and tweeting when things come to your attention, documentation has already become second nature. (Disclaimer: Make sure your gleaning methods are reliable and backed up.) Not long after making those iPhone Notes on Sam Wang's NPR interview, I accidentally put my phone through an entire washer and dryer cycle, an experience from which it never recovered. Needless to say, I was knocking wood that I had synced my information to my laptop not two days before. I now tend to use remote storage services such as Dropbox and Evernote, which save automatically to the cloud and further reduce the likelihood of information loss.

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Building communities of practice

In interviewing librarians, I heard many comments along the general themes of mentoring, observation, and collaboration. The comments underscore the basic principle that we are social learners. Our colleagues and peers provide gleaning material. They catalyze shared initiatives, reduce duplication of effort, and build the collegiality necessary to maintain productive teaching and working relationships.

An important caveat: Just as we are social learners by nature, we are also various shades of socially awkward or inept. Communities of practice in instructional development can be as affected by this as any other type of community; not everyone in a given learning group will be objective or interested in participating. It is easy to develop a negative self-concept from the wrong type of feedback. Part of belonging to a community of practice is considering the depth to which you want to engage with it and/or try to draw out its other members.

There are many approaches to peer observation, some more intense than others. You might invite a trusted coworker to watch a face-to-face session and provide feedback limited to a specific area such as the pace of your delivery, or how learners seem to react to your instructional style. It's nerve-wracking to invite commentary, but it always serves you well in the end (either by helping you address an issue or revealing who *not* to ask next time). If you receive harsh or unhelpful feedback, console yourself with the knowledge that it likely was either offered unintentionally or as an unsubtle manifestation of "why didn't I think of that?" syndrome.

Professional associations, conferences, unconferences, and continuing education programs are natural sources to build a community of practice. As the capacity to support rich communication experiences online continues to expand, many digital forums have developed that provide librarians with the means to interface with like-minded colleagues. Professional organizations such as ACRL and the Educause Learning Initiative offer frequent digital learning opportunities, while smaller in-person events such as m-Libraries and THATCamp provide digital resources and components, all excellent for networking and thrift. Using a combination of tools such as webcasting, blogging, tagging, chat, and threaded discussion to create hybridized or all-online learning environments, networking sites, and conferences often allows users to create personal profiles, access resources and programs, and interact with professionals who share similar interests. ALA Connect, the Association's "virtual, collaborative workspace online," provides a space not only for committee work, but for web-based learning communities and interest groups on a range of topics, and the community section of Educause provides a technology-oriented discussion platform.

Social sites and emerging spaces

You can find viral, impromptu, and informal shared learning experiences in many social networks and emerging applications, which not only provide the space for collaboration but are low-cost and lasting channels for identifying and sharing significant content. Responsive and community-defined interactions are a hallmark of the dynamic and user-created technology movement, meaning that community elements are inherent in many of the online spaces available to learners and instructors. Blogs, wikis, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook all have potential as learning communities. Excellent group blogs that often deal with instruction include In the Library with the Lead Pipe and ACRLog. I also turn to nonlibrary blogs for pedagogical and technological inspiration, such as ProfHacker for "tips about teaching, technology, and productivity." There are countless sources for information on instructional design, media, technology, and teaching effectiveness, and finding one typically leads to five others. Last but not least, email lists might seem as outdated as the movie *War Games,* but they are still an active area of professional discourse and an excellent resource for crowdsourcing solutions. Ili-l is an active ALA list focusing on library instruction and related topics. ▮

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