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american libraries

JULY/AUGUST 2013

MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

2013 Annual Conference Wrap-Up

PLUS

- Making Sense of Business Reference
- Libraries Under Sequester
- Ramping Up Summer Reading

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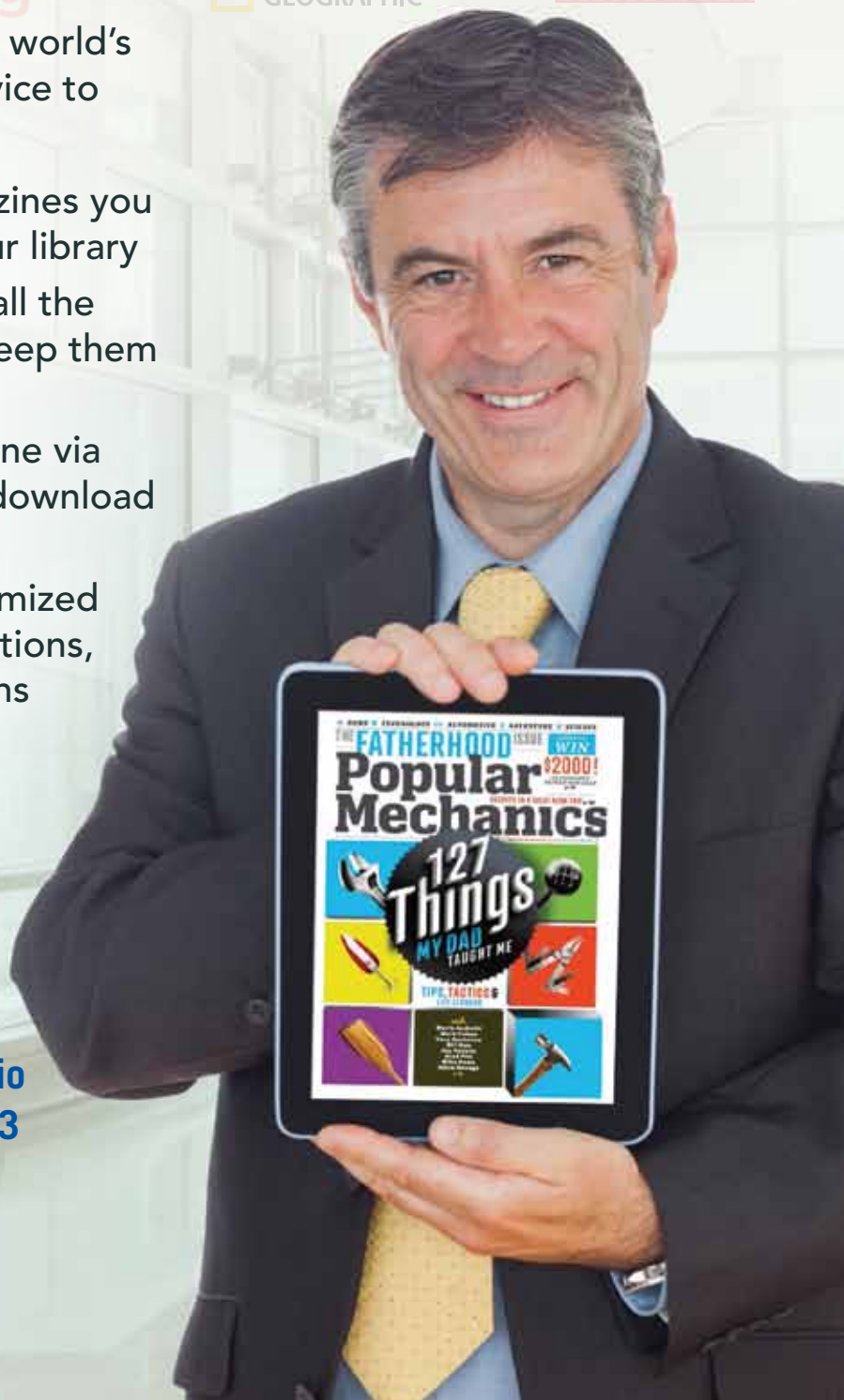
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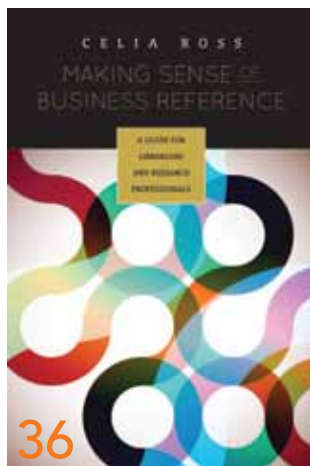
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Moving Along

by Laurie D. Borman

Each year, ALA Annual Conference hovers like a beautiful and tempting hot air balloon, ready to take us off on an amazing ride, filled with excitement, ideas, and a chance to see old friends and meet new ones. I observed ALA Council sessions this year, met with advertisers, and perused new products in the Exhibit Hall. I laughed with Steven D. Levitt, Ann Patchett, and Olivia Spencer. I've already started reading Ann's recommended list, and I swear she knows my taste in novels. My one tradeoff: missing the Friday Blackhawks victory parade.

And then, it was over all too soon, with so many follow-ups to make and actions to implement. It's a rough landing, isn't it? Here at *American Libraries*, we're still getting over the frenzy of blogging and photo-taking, and spent our post-conference days putting together this issue of the magazine.

Your life flashes before
your eyes when you go
through such a move.

If you want to review highlights of the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, check out our wrap-up beginning on page 26. Marshall Breeding walked the Exhibit Hall aisles for us to share his perspective. Be sure to see his

feature on pages 32–35.

At the conclusion of the conference, we watch one president wrap up his or her year as a new one takes the helm. It must be a bittersweet time, watching the finale of a year's efforts. There's a lot for Maureen Sullivan and others to be proud of accomplishing in this past year—one of transformation, reimagining ALA goals and direction—and a lot for Barbara Stripling to look forward to building on.

I know this feeling well, as I'm sorting and packing through my house of the last 13 years and downsizing to a city condo that's a third the size. Your life flashes before your eyes when you go through such a move. Two out of every three things must go. So many books to donate, and which to keep? We kept family heirlooms, some with hand-tooled leather covers, and the Cheerios-encrusted Curious George and Berenstain Bears titles for another generation to enjoy. Most went into the donation pile, as I know I can revisit old favorites at the library.

Joe Jane's column on page 23 about clicking "I agree" without thinking also resonates with my life in transition. We're signing a lot of documents many times without reading the fine print. It takes a huge leap of faith that everyone is doing the right thing. Hopefully, though, the value proposition balances for all of us, online and in real life.

Finally, be sure to check out the ALA Editions excerpt *Making Sense of Business Reference* by Celia Ross on page 36. The seasoned business reference workshop instructor answers some of the top stumper questions she's been asked by librarians and researchers.

And now, if you'll excuse me, I've got to get packing. ■

american libraries

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ALA American Library Association

50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611
americanlibrariesmagazine.org
email 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 and Publisher

Laurie D. Borman • lborman@ala.org • x4213
Managing Editor

Sanhita SinhaRoy • ssinha@ala.org • x4219

Senior Editor

George M. Eberhart • geberhart@ala.org • x4212

Senior Editor

Beverly Goldberg • bgoldberg@ala.org • x4217

Associate Editor

Phil Morehart • pmorehart@ala.org • x4218

Associate Editor

Mariam Pera • mpera@ala.org • x5282

Advertising and Marketing Specialist

Katie Bane • kbane@ala.org • x5105

design and production

Managing Editor, ALA Production Services Chris Keech

Senior Production Editor Kirstin Kruttsch

Senior Production Editor Krista Joy Johnson

publishing department

Associate Executive Director Donald Chatham

Marketing Director Mary Mackay

Rights, Permissions, Reprints Mary Jo Bolduc • x5416

columnists

Ernie Cox, Meredith Farkas, Joseph Janes,

Will Manley, Karen Muller, Bill Ott

membership development

Director

Ron Jankowski

advisory committee

Sandy Hirsch (Chair), Ernie Cox, Jennifer Amy Maddox

Abbott, Brenda Pruitt-Annisette, Marc Truitt,

David Tyckoson, Susan M. Weaver

Intern: Molly Krichten

Editorial policy: ALA Policy Manual, section 10.2

advertising representative

Doug Lewis • dglewis@ala.org • 770-333-1281

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indexed

Available full text from ProQuest, EBSCO Publishing, H. W. Wilson, LexisNexis, Information Access, JSTOR.

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Libraries and other institutions: \$45/year, 6 issues in print and online, U.S., Canada, and Mexico; foreign: \$60. Subscription price for individuals included in ALA membership dues. 800-545-2433 x5108, email membership@ala.org, or visit ala.org. Claim missing issues: ALA Member and Customer Service. Allow six weeks. Single issues \$7.50, with 40% discount for five or more; contact Charisse Perkins, 800-545-2433 x4286.

published

American Libraries (ISSN 0002-9769) is published 6 times yearly with occasional digital supplements and one online-only issue by the American Library Association (ALA). Printed in U.S.A. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Personal members: Send address changes to *American Libraries*, c/o Membership Records, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. ©2013 American Library Association. Materials in this journal may be reproduced for noncommercial educational purposes.

Who We Are

Membership Myths, Membership Realities

by Keith Michael Fiels

Each year, I spend a good deal of time speaking to various groups about libraries and the Association. Often, I talk about library myths.

One of the most widespread and persistent myths is that younger people are not joining the Association. Data, however, shows that this is just not true.

In a 2009 study conducted for ALA, researchers compared the ages of US-based ALA members to US Census data on librarians with a master's degree or higher education level. They found that the ALA membership has a younger age structure than librarians as a whole. This is due in part—but only in part—to the number of younger student members.

Today our nearly 9,000 student members represent 17% of our total personal membership. With an estimated 19,000 students currently enrolled in library and information science programs, this means that roughly half of all LIS students are ALA members nationwide.

ALA's Office for Research and Statistics estimated that there were about 122,000 professionals with master's degrees working in libraries across the nation in 2012. If we just look at the ALA personal members who have master's degrees—about 42,500—this represents about 35% of all professional librarians. That means that about a third of all librarians are ALA members, but half of all library school students are members.

In talking about younger members,

the distinction between “new” and “young” is a topic of much discussion.

Traditionally, the median age of new librarians has been significantly older than that for many other professions. This is due to the fact that so many librarians come to the profession after having worked in libraries for a period of time, or are entering librarianship as a second career. The median age of a library school student currently stands at about 35.

About 8,000 new members joined ALA this past year, which is typical. Many of these new members join in conjunction with registration for ALA and divisional conferences. At the most recent AASL conference, 50% of all attendees were first-time attendees; for PLA, the figure was 40%. For ACRL, the figure was one third of all attendees, and for ALA the figure was one quarter (5,000) of all attendee registrants at this year's Annual Conference in Chicago. This means that conferences play a key role in bringing in new and younger members.

The challenge here is that while many new (and mostly younger) members join each year, many do not renew. Our biggest single membership challenge as an association is figuring out how to convince new librarians to retain their membership once they have gotten their first job, and to convince first-time conference attendees to retain their membership



A widespread myth is that younger people are not joining the Association. This is just not true.

once the conference has ended.

Recognizing the importance of student members, ALA's 2015 Strategic Plan specifically calls for “increased leadership and

career development opportunities for Library and Information Science students.” This means we are now working much more closely with the 56 student chapters, and a new student e-newsletter now highlights issues of importance to students, including landing that first job, advancing one's career, and how to get involved in ALA. Programs such as Spectrum and the Emerging Leaders are involving more and more students and younger members in Association work and leadership positions.

We also understand that the many members who cannot attend an ALA, AASL, ACRL, PLA, or other division conference can now be engaged virtually—through online webinars and virtual conferences, and through online communities that support networking, career development, and the exchange of innovative and practical ideas.

The younger members are there. Our challenge is to use new technologies and innovative approaches to make every student and conference attendee into a lifelong member. ■

KEITH MICHAEL FIELS is executive director of the American Library Association, headquartered in Chicago.

Libraries Change Lives

Individuals and communities have a right to libraries

by Barbara K. Stripling

As a child, I dreamed of changing the world. And then I encountered Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy: "You must be the change you want to see in the world." I realized that dreams become reality only when we take action. So I embarked on a lifelong path to "being" the change through librarianship.

I am deeply honored to be president of the American Library Association. My presidential initiative, Libraries Change Lives, is based on a fundamental principle that we, as individuals, communities, and a democratic nation, have a right to libraries. The initiative is designed to build public goodwill for America's right to libraries and to highlight and sustain ALA support for three areas of transformative practice in our libraries, where we are changing lives every day: literacy, innovation, and community engagement.

Literacy might be called the cornerstone of all libraries. Certainly literacy is much more than the act of learning to read. Literacy in libraries means that we pay attention to individuals and help each of them unlock the doors of discovery. How can ALA help our libraries change the literacy lives of those we serve? In my presidential initiative, we plan to strengthen ALA literacy initiatives and collaborate with the ethnic affiliates on family literacy models. We hope to host a national summit on digital literacy and libraries in the spring.

The second strand of Libraries Change Lives is innovation. Libraries are leading innovation by providing opportunities (both physical and virtual) for collaboration, invention, and creation and by transforming our own practices.

Libraries are becoming innovation zones. Libraries Change Lives will enable libraries of



Libraries are leading innovation.

all types to share their innovative practices through webinars, stories of makerspaces and learning labs, and TEDx talks and forums.

The third strand of my presidential initiative will continue ALA's focus on community engagement by building on the Promise of Libraries collaboration with the Harwood Institute and enabling libraries to turn outward and facilitate conversations with community members about their aspirations and priorities.

Americans have a right to effective school, public, academic, and special libraries. As a part of Libraries Change Lives, we have developed a Declaration for the Right to Libraries to serve as a strong public statement of the value of libraries to empower individuals, strengthen families, build communities, and protect our right to know. Libraries are the Great Equalizer, preserving our nation's cultural heritage and helping us better understand each other. In the next year, libraries will hold signing ceremonies where community members can visibly declare their

right to have vibrant school, public, academic, and special libraries in their community.

Two other issues will be ALA priorities this year. ALA has been involved in substantive conversations

with publishers and authors for the last two years on issues surrounding the availability of and access to ebooks in

libraries. ALA leadership, in collaboration with the very effective Digital Content and Libraries Working Group, will continue to be a national voice for equitable and fair access to e-content through our libraries.

School libraries across the country are at a critical point. ALA is planning a multifaceted campaign for school libraries. The bottom line for our school library campaign is our shared understanding that all types of libraries form an ecosystem that impacts the success of whole communities and the individuals within them. We must stand together and demand strong school libraries. No child in America should be deprived of that right.

Join me on my presidential initiative journey. We know that Libraries Change Lives. We must take action, tell our stories, and build the public will to demand every individual's right to a library. And we must start today. ■

BARBARA K. STRIPLING is assistant professor of practice at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY. Email: bstripling@ala.org.

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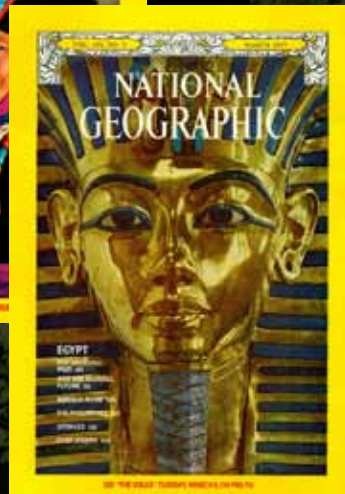
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Federal Libraries

I am writing to thank you for the May 2013 issue of *American Libraries*. The article "Greetings from America's National Park Libraries" was great, and I was also thrilled to see a picture of Andrea Davis of the Naval Postgraduate School on page 10.

There are well over 1,000 federal libraries located around the globe. These libraries range from the very large to the very small, and many contain unique content. They range from classified information centers to

public library-like facilities. In addition, there are many major abstracting/indexing and publishing services provided by federal libraries and agencies. If we were to consider all of the federal

libraries and related services as one collaborative funded by Congress, it would be the largest and most complex library system in the world.

Outside of federal libraries, there is also a great deal of information acquisition and service going on through federal laboratories and other facilities. We conservatively estimate that in FY2012 the United States government spent approximately \$600 million on content for its agencies. The amount of federal money spent on the

federal libraries dwarfs the amount spent on the Library Services and Technology Act and other library support programs. This is often overlooked when we discuss federal support of libraries.

I feel that federal libraries are often ignored in the professional literature and that we, as federal librarians, don't have much status in our professional associations. I am including all of the associations here, not just ALA. Please consider publishing additional articles about federal libraries in the future.

Blane K. Dessy
Executive Director
Federal Library and Information Network
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

Being the Change

To me, this boils down to one main point: knowing your community. The ALA initiative "Promise of Libraries Transforming Communities" is a fantastic steppingstone from which to launch a powerful conversation on the expectations of your community and your relationship to its goals ("Defining 'Transformation,'" *AL*, May, p. 6). It's a great way to establish partnerships, build strong relationships, and link your future goals to your community's aspirations.

Ken Stewart
Kansas City, Missouri

Indeed, libraries are transforming in new and exciting ways and with demonstrable benefit to staff,

customers, and communities. A similar transformation has been taking place in professional associations. It would be useful to see a parallel discussion of what innovative associations are doing to engage and support members, reducing hierarchies and bureaucracies, creating strategic relationships, and becoming nimble and flexible.

Ken Haycock
West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Transformation Buzz

One of the latest buzzwords, "transformation," seems to be inextricably linked with new technologies. Further, transformation may be exceedingly disruptive. There are too many fake participative processes facilitated by high-priced consultants. There are too many administrators who instruct consultants on the already-determined broad outlines of desired final reports. Such processes sap staff morale and can cause months of unproductive behavior, leading to resignations and retirements of important grounded librarians. I detect a widespread feeling of unease and devaluation among front-line librarians. Shouldn't we be advocates for our own quality of worklife?

Transformation can easily lead in the wrong direction. We need to keep up with new useful technologies, but let us keep in mind that technology should be a means to an end, and not the reverse. For example, don't public libraries put poorer library users at a disadvantage when they remove large quantities of physical materials (books, CDs, and DVDs) in favor of digital downloads? Don't academic libraries put talented students and faculty at a

"We need to keep up with new useful technologies, but let us continually remember that technology should be a means to an end, and not the reverse."

disadvantage when they hire technologists instead of librarians with deep subject expertise?

It is a difficult time to be a librarian. Our profession, along with others, is changing rapidly in unpredictable directions. Libraries are situated within the larger society, where economic policies are creating wider and wider disparities in income, wealth, and physical and mental health. Library administrators are wittingly or unwittingly likely to favor the haves over the have-nots, often using technology as an end instead of a means. It is no wonder that the quality of our work lives is in jeopardy.

Al Kagan
Urbana, Illinois

Preservation Ain't Easy

This is a remarkable historical acquisition and a delightful account of the work you do in acquiring and preserving these materials ("Cultivating a Special Collection," *AL*, Mar./Apr., p. 54–56). I've worked with many Scopes Trial-related archives as a historian, and many of my history students fail to appreciate the work that goes into discovering and publicizing the materials that we can work with.

Adam Shapiro
London, England

The Hype Cycle

I've used the Hype Cycle in my Information Literacy class (for returning adult students) for years ("Spare Me the Hype Cycle," *AL*, May, p. 23). I warn them about being part of the bleeding edge of technology. The lesson I allude to is how, in Ohio, Facebook pages were overhyped until the state budget crisis, where they were well used for grassroots politics.

I try to emphasize like you did: Keep the basic communication need in mind, which channel is the least expensive and use that; keep your eye on where the next big thing is going but don't be compelled to be a leader unless you're flush with time and money, which none

of my students are. Nor are many libraries these days.

Ed Rossman
Cleveland, Ohio

Perspective about hype can be gained by going even further back in library history and reviewing the enthusiasm surrounding microform technologies. One "inexpensive compact Microcard Reader" was advertised as "slightly larger than a pack of king-size cigarettes," offering more efficient service "to three or four of a library's patrons simultaneously." Kodak offered "your personal microfilm information center," and microbooks were touted as a "new library medium."

Awareness of these overhyped technologies of yore helps one maintain a gimlet eye when approaching the latest, greatest must-have that just traveled down the pike.

Stuart Hinds
Kansas City, Missouri

I'd like to see reasoned, impartial discussions work their way back into the professional discourse wherever tech is concerned. Our role is not to divide into dichotomous camps for or against technology as if adoption were a game. (Or worse, politics.) Our role is "to evaluate trends through a critical lens and examine the environment in which we operate," and that necessarily means taking the time to think about and discuss each technology's promises and pitfalls. Taking time means slowing down and this is

anathema to tech pundits and promoters. Wherever the fever grip of the new takes hold, let our mantra be "Remember Second Life."

Michael Hughes
San Antonio, Texas

"Our role is not to divide into dichotomous camps for or against technology as if adoption were a game. (Or worse, politics.)"

The Big Leagues

In hindsight, I see how collecting baseball cards led me to librarianship. It began with organizing the cards and finding statistical information.

I was pretty specific about where I wanted to go when I graduated from library school ("The Applicant Pool," *AL*, May, p. 21). I can definitely understand why new candidates would be less so. They have to adapt to the job market.

Rick Roche
Downers Grove, Illinois

Our Values

In response to, "Report from Manhattan: Librarians Navigating the Digital Revolution," by Maureen Sullivan, *E-Content* blog, Apr. 19:

The report of the ALA delegation's meeting with publishers and other key players in New York is interesting, and somewhat comforting in terms of showing some progress being made in the ebook/library arena. I would, however, not characterize the reported suggestion of a "buy-it-now" button on a library's waiting-list webpage as an example of not "compromising our values."

Clayton Blackburn
Douglasville, Georgia



SEE MORE COMMENTS at americanlibrariesmagazine.org, or use a QR code reader app on your smartphone to scan this bar code.

ALA Calls for Accountability in Surveillance Laws

The American Library Association has called upon Congress to provide more accountability and transparency about how the government is obtaining and using information about innocent people.

“The library community welcomes a renewed public debate on how to balance the need to fight terrorism and the need to protect personal privacy and civil liberties,” said ALA then-President Maureen Sullivan on June 6. “Millions have had their personal phone records released to the government without their knowledge

and without allegations of specific facts supporting the relevance of their records to a federal terrorism investigation. We must demand more accountability and transparency in all of these issues. Our nation’s libraries are a tremendous information resource for those who want to better understand the issues and a place to begin debates about these issues.”

The response follows reports that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has been, for the past seven years, renewing an order to obtain phone records of all Verizon customers. Under Section 215 of the Patriot Act, the government may obtain

“business records and other tangible things,” including phone records about who made and received a call and where they were located. Section 215 became known as the “library provision” because of the library community’s concern that it could be used to obtain patrons’ records (*AL*, Dec. 2001, p. 12–13).

“The lack of transparency is symptomatic of the growing trend in our secret laws and we must correct the flaws,” said Barbara Jones, director of ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom. “Are these new revelations just the tip of the iceberg? The public needs to know.”

ALA Urges Senate to Protect Public’s Privacy

The American Library Association has joined the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Media and Democracy, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Reddit, and 34 other organizations to urge the Senate to protect Americans’ privacy when drafting new cybersecurity legislation.

Submitted to Congress on June 25, the letter asks that new cybersecurity information-sharing legislation maintain privacy protections outlined in Title VII of the Cybersecurity Act of 2012. “The newly disclosed NSA programs clearly illustrate that the government will interpret any surveillance laws aggressively,” the letter states. “Any new legislation to permit government access to Americans’ communications information must include robust and

meaningful privacy safeguards to avoid intrusions into our civil liberties and constitutional rights.”

The letter urges the Senate to maintain a number of provisions from Title VII: that data shared with the government as a part of a cybersecurity program be directed only to civilian agencies; that information not be used for general criminal prosecutions or national security purposes unrelated to cybersecurity; and that companies make efforts to remove personally identifiable information irrelevant to cyber threats before they share the data.

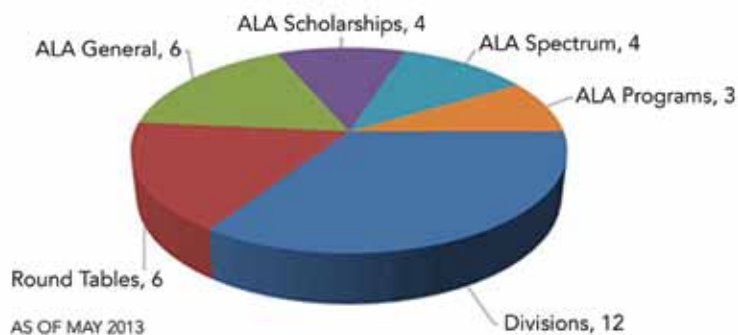
The letter is posted in full at districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Coalition-Letter-Urging-Privacy-Safeguards-For-Senate-bill-6-25-13.pdf.

Website Offers Tools to Safeguard Liberties

The American Library Association has launched ALA Liberty, a website that contains tools libraries can use to host educational sessions and public forums to help Americans understand their First and Fourth Amendment rights. The launch comes as a response to revelations that the US government has obtained vast amounts of data on the activities of millions of Americans.

Protection of readers’ privacy and communication records is part of ALA’s long-standing principles to protect and foster First Amendment rights and the privacy of library users and others. “When we spoke out in 2001 against the passage of the Patriot Act, we were fearful that the government would come into libraries without warning and take library records of individual patrons,” said ALA President Barbara

PLANNED GIVING SHAPES THE FUTURE



Designating a planned gift enables ALA Legacy Society members to make an impact in a way that is most meaningful to them, whether it is to their favorite division, round table, or a program of ALA. As of May, 35 planned gifts from ALA Legacy Society members, totaling approximately \$3.18 million, have been pledged with targeted guidelines for their use. Out of those 35 planned gift designations, 50% (18) are directed toward divisions and round tables. Nearly 25% (8) of all planned gifts are directed toward Spectrum and general scholarship support. Visit the Legacy Society at ala.org/offices/dev/plannedgiving/pg-personal to find out what motivated members to make a planned gift.

Stripling. “Even the most cynical among us could not have predicted that the Obama administration would allow a massive surveillance program to infringe upon the basic civil liberties of innocent, unsuspecting people. We need to restore the balance between individual rights and terrorism prevention, and libraries are one of the few trusted American institutions that can lead true public engagement on our nation’s surveillance laws and procedures.”

ALA Liberty contains guides and tip sheets for libraries interested in informing the public about their civil liberties. They provide an overview of the deliberative process and outline ways that the public can demand government oversight and transparency. Additionally, ALA Liberty contains tools from Choose Privacy Week, a campaign that provides libraries with materials to educate and engage users and give them resources to think critically

and make informed choices about their privacy. To view the privacy toolkit, visit ala.org/liberty.

PLA Seeks Proposals for ALA Annual 2014

The Public Library Association (PLA) is now accepting preconference and program proposals for the 2014 ALA Annual Conference, to be held June 26–July 1 in Las Vegas.

Proposals should showcase emerging trends and examples of risk-taking in the areas of community engagement, managing space, marketing and advocacy, digital content, technology, programming, leadership, funding, staffing, collections, and outcome measures. The PLA Annual Conference Program Committee will review all submitted proposals and select programs based on their relevance to the profession and general interest to conference attendees who work in public libraries. Submitters will be notified whether or not pro-

posals are accepted beginning in November 2013.

Proposals will be accepted online through 11:59 p.m. Central time on September 1. Faxed, emailed, or

CALENDAR

ALA EVENTS

Aug. 17–23: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, World Library and Information Congress, Singapore, conference.ifla.org/ifla79.

Sept.: Library Card Sign-Up Month, ala.org/library/cardsignup.

Sept. 22–28: Banned Books Week, ala.org/bbooks.

Sept. 25: Banned Websites Awareness Day, ala.org/aasl/bwad.

Oct. 13–19: Teen Read Week, ala.org/teenread.

Oct. 20–26: National Friends of Libraries Week, ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek.

Nov. 16: International Games Day, ngd.ala.org.

2014 EVENTS

Jan. 24–28: ALA Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia.

June 26–July 1: American Library Association, Annual Conference, Las Vegas.

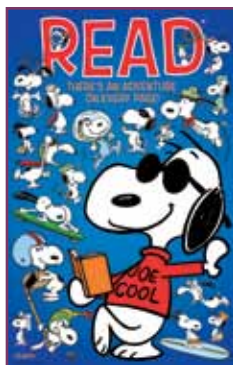
mailed proposals will not be accepted. Submit a proposal at ala.org/pla/education/alaannual/proposal.

Workshop Helps Librarians Serve Deaf

ALA Editions is offering an online workshop to help librarians better serve deaf patrons. In "Serving Deaf Patrons in the Library," host Kathy MacMillan, librarian and certified American Sign Language interpreter, will teach how to make the library a welcoming place for the deaf community.

MacMillan will present an overview of the different ways deaf people communicate; how to understand and meet a library's legal obligation to serve the deaf; strategies for communicating with a deaf or hard-of-hearing person; and tips for finding, hiring, and working with interpreters. Each session will last 90 minutes, and will take place

SNOOPY FLIES INTO ALA



Thanks to Peanuts Worldwide LLC, Charles Schulz's famous cartoon dog Snoopy will be helping kids discover the wonders of books and reading as he graces posters and bookmarks, now available exclusively through the ALA Store. Snoopy library and reading stickers will be available as well. Use them to support Library Card Sign-up Month, special events, and other programs. Explore all of the posters that ALA Graphics offers at www.alastore.ala.org.

at 1:30 p.m. Central time on Wednesdays, September 18 and 25. Register at www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=3665.

Sinclair Lewis's Home Declared a Landmark

United for Libraries, in partnership with the Minnesota Association of Library Friends (MALF) and the Sinclair Lewis Foundation, declared

the boyhood home of writer Sinclair Lewis a Literary Landmark July 16. Lewis is the author of the novels *Main Street*, *Babbitt*, *Arrowsmith*, and *Dodsworth*, and the first writer from the United States to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, in 1930.

MALF and the Sinclair Lewis Foundation dedicated Lewis's boyhood home, located at 810 Sinclair Lewis Ave., Sauk Centre, Minnesota,

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EMERGING LEADERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

at a ceremony held during Sinclair Lewis Days, an annual festival celebrating the community and its famous son. Jim Umhoefer, president of the Sinclair Lewis Foundation's board of directors, served as emcee, and MALF president Mary Ann Bernat and Lewis biographer Roberta Olson delivered short addresses, followed by a keynote from local publisher and Lewis historian Dave Simpkins.

More than 120 Literary Landmarks across the United States have been dedicated since the program began in 1986. For more information or to learn how to nominate a location, visit ala.org/united/products_services/literarylandmarks.

Nominations Open for Oboler Award

The ALA Intellectual Freedom Round Table is seeking nominations for its 2014 Eli M. Oboler Memorial Award, which is presented for the best published work in the area of intellectual freedom. The award is named for Eli M. Oboler, the Idaho State University librarian known as a "champion of intellectual freedom who demanded the dismantling of all barriers to freedom of expression," and consists of \$500 and a citation. Submissions may be single articles (including review pieces), a series of thematically connected articles, or books or manuals published on the local, state, or national level in English or English translation.

Nominations are being accepted through December 1. For additional submission criteria and a nomination form visit ala.org/ifrt/awards/final/oboler/oboler.

Gov Doc Kids Group Wants Your Help

The Government Information Committee, a standing committee of ALA's Government Documents

At ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, the 2013 class of Emerging Leaders presented their final projects. One group addressed the question: "Emerging Leaders: What Difference Does It Make?" Team G, comprised of Jessica Clemons, Joe Filapek, Ana Elise de Campos Salles, and Berika Williams, surveyed past and present Emerging Leaders and determined that the program does make a difference. Ninety-two percent of those surveyed by the group said they would do it all over again if given the chance. Gaining management and leadership skills was touted by a majority, as was learning more about ALA structure. Seventy-seven percent said they had a better understanding of ALA thanks to the program, and 69% said they have been involved with ALA committees. The surveyed Emerging Leaders spoke of the bonds they formed, as well as the opportunities to network with peers and ALA leaders. Many more reported having doors opened within ALA, their state associations, and within their respective jobs. Read all of the team's findings at alaemergingleaders.drupalgardens.com.

Applications for the 2014 class of Emerging Leaders, the program that puts new librarians on the fast track to ALA and professional leadership, are now being accepted. Emerging Leaders gain first-hand knowledge of ALA structure and experience with library leadership by participating in projects, networking events, and other activities throughout the year. The program is open to librarians of any age who are new to the profession and who have fewer than five years of experience working at a professional or paraprofessional level in a library. For more information and to submit an application, visit ala.org/educationcareers/leadership/emergingleaders. The deadline for submissions is August 2.



2013 Emerging Leaders Team G: Jessica Clemons, Joe Filapek, Ana Elise de Campos Salles, and Berika Williams.

Round Table (GODORT), seeks librarians and library school students to join in the activities of its Gov Doc Kids Group.

Gov Doc Kids, which promotes the use of government information by kids, was conceived during a summer 2006 meeting of the Kansas Library Association's GODORT and now has a national and international

presence. It publishes articles, makes presentations, and holds an annual Constitution Day poster contest.

Gov Doc Kids is currently encouraging state GODORT groups to become more involved and to offer activity recommendations for K–12 students. For more information visit govdocs4children.pbworks.com.

Four Libraries Receive Black Caucus Grants

Four libraries have received the 2013 “Reading Is Grand! Celebrating Grand-Families Telling Our Stories @ your library” grant, awarded by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. The grants were announced during the 2013 ALA Annual Conference.

The program, originated by ALA Past President Camila Alire in 2010 as part of the Family Literacy Focus initiative, is a celebration of the important role grandparents play in the lives of children. The winning libraries were selected based on the level of creativity and originality in their programs, their action plan, the level of involvement of grandparents in the activities, and the impact of the program on the community.

The winning libraries are Bridge-

port (Conn.) Public Library, Friends of Oxon Hill (Md.) Library, Inglewood (Calif.) Public Library, and Forsyth County (N.C.) Public Library. Each library will receive \$500 to supplement its “Reading Is Grand!” program budget.

For details about the winning libraries and the “Reading Is Grand!” program, visit ala.org/news/press-releases/2013/07/american-library-association-black-caucus-unveils-reading-is-grand-celebrating.

Members Match Gifts to Stonewall Awards

Mike Morgan and Larry Romans are matching all contributions of \$25 or more (\$10 for text donations) to the Stonewall Book Awards up to \$15,000 in a year-long effort to grow the Stonewall Book Awards Endowment Fund. The endowment supports the first and longest-enduring

book award series for LGBT literature. The awards are administered by the ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table (GLBTRT).

This contribution from Romans, a long-time GLBTRT member and former member of ALA’s Executive Board, and Morgan, his partner of more than 40 years, is a continuation of their commitment to sustain the awards. In January 2012, the Stonewall Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award was named for Romans and Morgan in recognition of a significant gift to the GLBTRT endowment.

To donate to the Stonewall Book Awards, please visit ala.org/giveala. Donors can also make \$10 donations via SMS by texting “ALASTONE” to 20222. Romans and Morgan will match donations through June 30, 2014. ■

Banned Books Week Sept. 22–28, 2013

Celebrate the freedom to read in your school, bookstore, or library during Banned Books Week with these new designs that encourage you to “discover what you’re missing.” Use these products to help emphasize the importance of the First Amendment and the power of uncensored literature.

For more information about Banned Books Week, please visit www.ala.org/bbooks.



Visit alastore.ala.org/bbw to order your Banned Books Week items now.

Tax Battle in the Bluegrass State

Recent lawsuits against libraries in Kentucky are reverberating across the state.

In two separate circuit-court rulings handed down in April, Campbell County Public Library and Kenton County Public Library were found to have improperly raised their millage rates since 1979 and 1967, respectively. The decisions stated that the libraries did not follow state law, which mandates that libraries formed by petition can seek tax hikes only by petitioning and gathering voter approval. Lawyers for both libraries claim otherwise, maintaining that House Bill 44, passed by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1979, gives libraries taxing-district status and allows them to raise tax rates by 4% without petition. The libraries were directed to follow HB 44 by the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, although Campbell County Circuit Court Judge Julie Reinhardt Ward and Kenton County Circuit Court Judge Patricia Summe both stated that HB 44 does not nullify the statute requiring petitions for tax hikes.

The decisions could potentially force the libraries to roll back their tax rates to those in place when the libraries were founded. The move would slash the libraries' rates in half: Campbell County Public Library rates would fall from 7.7 cents to 3 cents per \$100, and Kenton County Public Library rates would fall from 11.3 cents to 6 cents per \$100. The funding cuts could lead to service cuts and even library closures.

Campbell and Kenton County Public Libraries are appealing the rulings, after the Kentucky Supreme Court denied on July 5 their motion to present their cases jointly to the state's high court. A Motion to Stay is in effect during the appeals process, which enables the libraries to maintain status quo budgets for the next operating year.

Kentucky attorney Brandon Voelker filed the class-action lawsuits against the libraries on behalf of several individuals, all of whom are members of the Northern Kentucky Tea Party. The group has been an active supporter of the suits. "No one in the Tea Party is against libraries," a person identified as Legate Damar wrote in April at nkyteaparty.org. "Opponents of a library might as well be against literacy, and no one wants that. The plaintiffs in the case only want the libraries to follow the



Tom Sparough, the Space Painter, entertains youth at Kenton County (Ky.) Public Library.

law as it was written and allow the taxpayers to have a voice in the decision to raise taxes."

Nonetheless, lawsuits against other libraries have been filed. Montgomery County Public Library became the latest library to come under fire when a group of plaintiffs filed against it in June. Anderson County Public Library was sued by individuals represented by Voelker in May. Seventy-nine of the 120 counties in Kentucky have libraries that were formed by petition, and the Campbell and Kenton County rulings may affect

"Libraries will be in jeopardy for all of us if this case is lost."

them all. Libraries not formed by petition are in jeopardy, too. On April 3, a client of Voelker's filed suit against Boone County Public Library even though it was formed by a ballot initiative.

As lawsuits mount, Kentucky libraries have their hands tied. The Kentucky Library Association has hired a consultant to help strategize and is working with Friends of Kentucky Libraries and the Kentucky Public Library Association on statewide advocacy. Kentucky authors and local chambers of commerce have also been contacted as potential partners in the fight. Petition drives asking voters to approve future funding were discussed but were ultimately rejected because libraries would have had to collect more than 55,000 signatures in 90 days.

Voelker has presented monetary settlements to Campbell and Kenton County library officials on behalf of the plaintiffs, but the offers were rejected. "This is bigger than settling with a few people," said KLA President Lisa Rice. "This challenges the way we operate. No library is interested in anything other than a clean decision. Libraries will be in jeopardy for all of us if this case is lost." —Phil Morehart ■

Expanding Privacy Legislation to Include Ebooks

While privacy continues to be an issue on the national scene, at least two states—Arizona and New Jersey—have taken steps to expand their library privacy laws to include ebooks.

Arizona House Bill 2165, which was enacted in April, adds digital books and electronic records to the state's existing privacy law, stipulating that anyone who releases infor-

Libraries have always been held sacred in terms of privacy.

mation about a user's library activities will be charged with a misdemeanor.

"Over the years we've dealt with internet privacy for many different reasons, including identity theft," Arizona Rep. Bob Robson (R-Chandler) said. Robson cosponsored the bill, along with Rep. Jeff Dial (R-Chandler) and state Sen. John McComish (R-Chandler). "Libraries have always been held sacred in terms of privacy. We want people to have the assurance that what they read and access in a library remains their business."

Robson also expressed his concern about businesses being able to track information about patrons' ebook usage, and buying or selling that data in the future.

"Who has my information and why? You don't go to the library to give businesses information about your activities."

"The Arizona Library Community appreciates the efforts of House Representatives Dial, Robson, and Sen. McComish for sponsoring HB 2165, which supports intellectual freedom," said Brenda Brown, legislative committee chair for the Arizona

Library Association. "AzLA actively advocated for this bill and was provided with opportunities to review and suggest specific language, which was included in the final version."

In New Jersey, the Reader Privacy Act (A-3802), which goes beyond libraries to also protect the privacy of readers and purchasers of books and ebooks, was introduced in February by Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly (D-Paterson) and Assemblywoman Mila M. Jasey (D-Maplewood).

The bill stemmed from Jasey's interest in libraries, and the significant role they play in communities.

"Our library—the South Orange Public Library—doesn't even keep a list of books that a patron checks out. Reading material in any other format deserves the same sort of protection," said Jasey.

She said that under the First Amendment anyone could go to an independent or chain bookstore, pay cash for reading material, and have their identity remain unknown—and that libraries should be no different.

"As technology changes, it's important to change laws to be certain that no loopholes are inadvertently created which would include a compromise to an individual's privacy. And reading is front and center in this matter," Jasey said.

Eileen M. Palmer, president of the New Jersey Library Association, said that while NJLA's Public Policy Committee has not had the chance to review the legislation in detail, "our preliminary assessment is that this bill will have a positive impact



on providing protection for reader privacy."

Arizona and New Jersey follow in the footsteps of California, which in 2011 passed the Reader Privacy Act, extending library records protections to print-book and ebook purchases. The California law also includes requirements for any disclosure to government agencies and law enforcement, the possibility of a \$500 fine, and a stipulation that "no evidence obtained in violation of this section shall be admissible in any civil, administrative, or other proceeding."

Although the Arizona bill was in the works before the recent leaking of National Security Agency information became an international news story, Robson explained that this bill had no problem getting through the legislature and gaining bipartisan support. He said he wanted to continue to be proactive in ensuring that the government isn't giving away people's information.

"That should be the same for ebooks. I would hope other legislatures would take a step and look at this bill. It's a good piece of legislation about library protection."

—Mariam Pera ■

Speaking Up for Libraries at National Library Legislative Day

Library advocates gathered May 8 for a policy briefing in Washington, D.C., at the start of the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day (NLLD). Close to 400 librarians, patrons, parents, educators, and other volunteers discussed key library issues with congressional representatives, and nearly 1,400 others contacted their legislators via phone calls, email, and social media as part of the day's virtual component. Now in its 39th year, NLLD focuses on supporting federal funding for the nation's libraries and other legislation that affects library services.

This was the 30th NLLD for Rhode Island advocate Joan Reeves and the first for 10-year-old Emma Chow, who came from North Carolina with her dad, seasoned advocate



Emma Chow (left) and her dad Anthony Chow talk with lawmakers about libraries.

Anthony Chow. "It's really important for kids to use libraries," said Emily, adding that she came to tell legislators about how cool libraries are for kids. "Legislators see librarians all the time, but they rarely talk to the patrons, so I decided to bring my daughter with me," said Anthony. His state delegation plans to invite advocates from outside the

library community to next year's NLLD, including county commissioners, business leaders, teens, and students. "We want to bring different people because you can't recreate stories. They have to be told."

The personal touch of such stories sets the library groups apart from the plethora of advocacy groups that meet regularly with Congress—not an easy feat since legislative offices meet, on average, with 10 groups every day. Perhaps that's why lawmakers considering a large appropriation "can't put a personal face on it," said Steven Potter, director and CEO of Mid-Continent Public Library in Independence, Missouri.

Speaking with Rep. Ron Barber's legislative staffer Jeremy Wilson-Simerman, Arizona State Librarian Joan Clark talked about the ways that libraries function as technology hubs for their communities. "As budgets tightened, we realized that people were just struggling to survive," she said. "During the economic downturn, many people canceled their internet and came to the only place in the community that could help them: the library."

Elsewhere, Harrisonville (Mo.)

THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA IN 2013 FOR LIBRARIES

- Funding for the Library Services and Technology Act;
- Passage of the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act to ensure open access to scholarly journal articles written about federally funded research;
- Inclusion of public and school libraries in all e-rate funding;
- Ensuring that any reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act includes a goal of access to an effective school library program for every student;
- Passage of the Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act to redefine "effective school libraries" as having certified school librarians and up-to-date materials and technology;
- Funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program, the only source of federal dollars for school libraries;
- Inclusion of libraries in the Workforce Investment Act.

Middle School librarian Curtis Clark discussed some of the digital literacy issues that students face, using as an example how they now learn the US map and the names of state capitals. “Remember the map test?”

A reference librarian told how libraries support working single moms—a key constituency for her representative.

For weeks before NLLD, library supporters produced customized fact sheets and district-specific newsletters about library usage, and seeking new ways to align their Hill

Clark asked Erik Rust, legislative assistant to Rep. Ann Wagner. “Well, a lot of schools are moving tests like that online and students need help.”

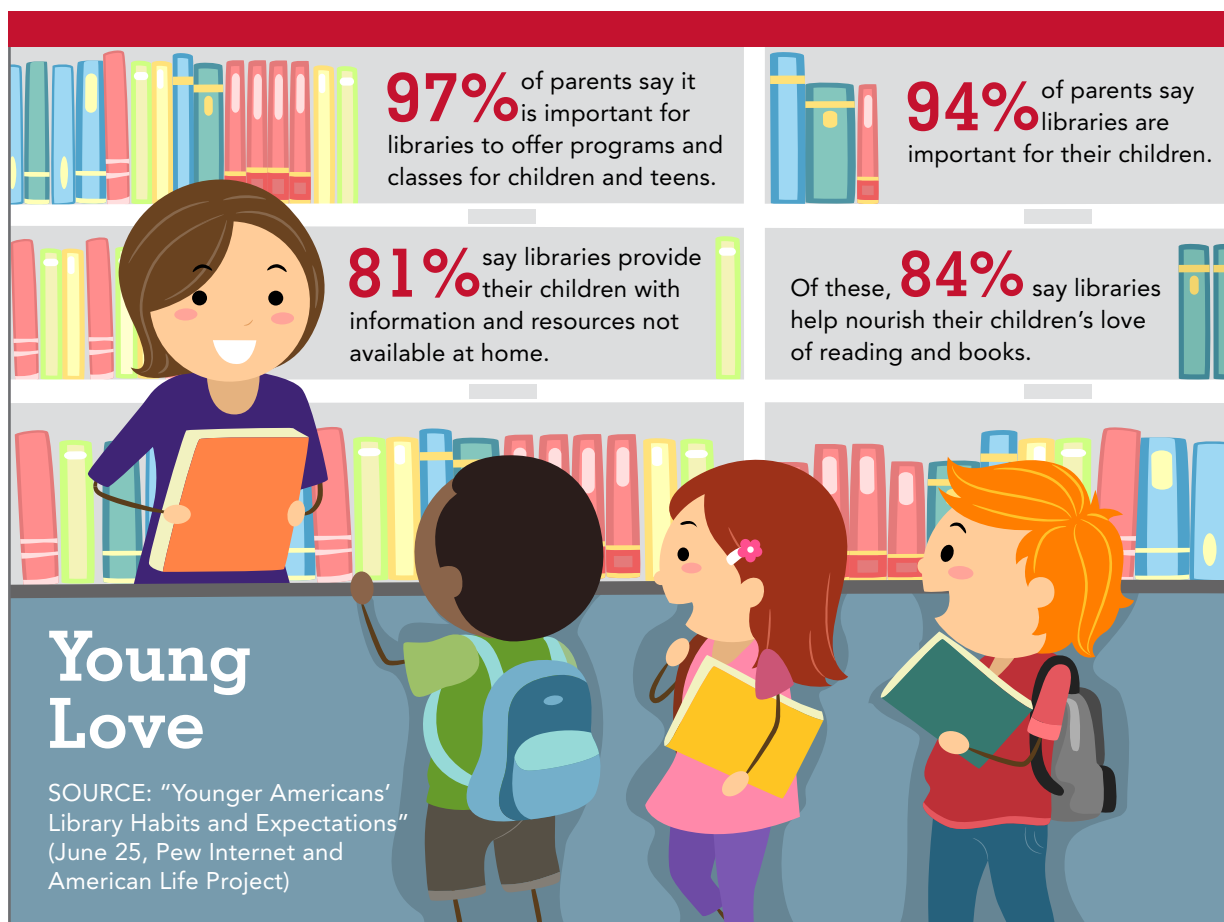
presentations with their representatives’ policy initiatives. Nevada delegation member John Crockett brought along an iPad so legislators and staff members could interact first-hand with an online job assistance program available at libraries. Peggy O’Neal Ridlen, reference librarian at Fontbonne University in St. Louis, steered the conversation in Wagner’s office to how libraries support working single mothers—a key constituency for the lawmaker.

Advocates made enduring connections throughout the day. “When we show up, it sparks an interest,” said Brenda Brown, library manager of Chandler (Ariz.) Public Library. “People will share their own library memories during the meeting.” Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, who once worked in a library, asked the Ten-

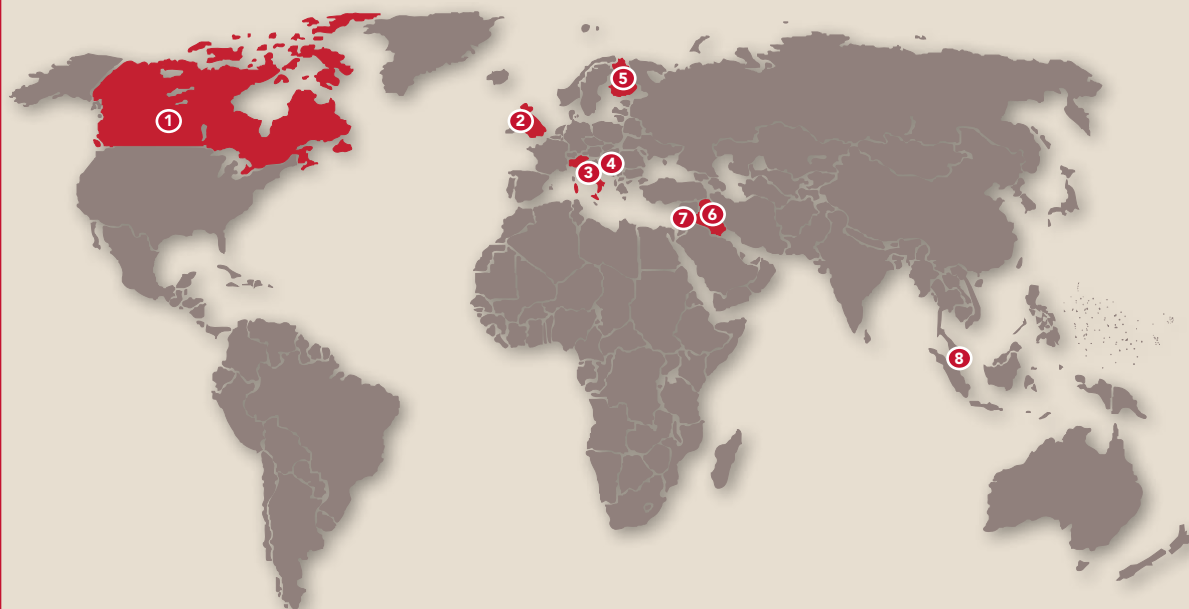
nessee delegation, “Will everything be online?” After hearing how patron expectations have changed since the advent of online services, Fleischmann spoke to his staff about backing level funding for the Library Services and Technology Act.

“These meetings have a tremendous impact on congressional offices,” said Emily Sheketoff, executive director of ALA’s Washington Office. “We’ve seen that offices are much more open to hearing our message for months afterward.” Citing the ALA texting service Mobile Commons, Sheketoff recommends that advocates also phone and email Congress about library issues throughout the entire year for maximum impact.

—Jazzy Wright, press officer
ALA Washington Office ■



GLOBAL REACH



CANADA ①

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in Ottawa has arranged with the nonprofit membership alliance Canadiana.org to digitize millions of its public documents and photographs. The Canadian Association of University Teachers is critical of the plan, because LAC laid off approximately half of its onsite digitizing staff shortly before announcing the deal. Contrary to some press reports, many of the images will be put online for free.—*The Varsity*, July 5; *Ottawa (Ont.) Citizen*, June 13, 15; *Canadiana.org*, June 12.

UNITED KINGDOM ②

Janet Burns Saint Germain, a wealthy American collector, has given Scotland's first free public lending library a rare collection of more than 200 first editions of Scottish books valued at more than £650,000 (\$993,500 US). Saint Germain first visited the historic Library of Innerpefferay more than 20 years ago and decided her collection, which includes works by Robert Burns, David Hume, and John Knox, belonged there. The library was founded in 1680 "for the benefit of all" by David Drummond, the third Lord Maderty.—*The Scotsman*, June 3.

ITALY ③

The oldest Torah scroll known to exist has been discovered in the library of the University of Bologna. The parchment scroll, 36 meters long and 64 centimeters high (about 118 feet long by 25 inches high), had been erroneously cataloged as dating from the 17th century. Paleographic and radiocarbon examinations of the scroll determined it had actually been created sometime in the years 1155–1225.—*Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, May 29; *Melbourne (Australia) Age*, May 29.

BOSNIA ④

The Yunus Emre Institute in Ankara, Turkey, has embarked on a project to classify and digitize Turkish manuscripts and documents in libraries in the Balkans. More than 200 Turkish manuscripts in Bosnian libraries alone have been digitized. Bosnian library officials will be sent to Turkey to receive training in manuscript restoration work.—*Cihan News Agency*, May 28.

FINLAND ⑤

The ALA Architects studio has won an international competition to design a new public library in Helsinki. Entrants were asked to come up with a timeless, flexible, and energy-efficient building to sit opposite the Finnish Parliament building. The winning design calls for public activities and group study areas to occupy an active ground floor, surrounded by curving wooden surfaces, while a traditionally quiet reading room will be located on the third floor and a contemporary media facility and public sauna will be housed on the second.—*Dezeen*, June 14.

IRAQ ⑥

Iraq will soon have a new public library, its first since the 1970s, as part of a "Youth City" plan for part of Baghdad that is intended to inspire the younger generation. Developer Ali Mousawi's design includes space for 3 million books, state-of-the-art computers, and flexible spaces for public events like art exhibitions, film screenings, book clubs, theater, conferences, and workshops.—*GOOD*, June 12.

LEBANON ⑦

The Lebanon National Library in Beirut will open to the public by the end of 2014, officials promised May 10, despite years of political obstruction, logistical setbacks, and missed deadlines. The process of repurposing the old Lebanese University Law School began in earnest in 2011 with a \$25 million grant from the Emir of Qatar. Plans now call for four subterranean levels, three for stacks and one for parking, while the ground level will be replanted as a garden.—*The Daily Star*, May 11.

SINGAPORE ⑧

A green library for children opened its doors May 31 at the Central Public Library. Conceptualized and built with environmental sustainability in mind, the library (called "My Tree House") is said to be the first in the world to be built on environmental principles, from design and infrastructure to the use of sustainable materials. There are some 45,000 books in the library, a third of which are green-themed.—*Eco-Business*, June 3.

NEWSMAKER: KIRSTEN BAESLER

North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction Kirsten Baesler is well aware of the centrality of school libraries in education. Before her election to state government this past November, she served as both library media specialist and assistant principal at two elementary schools in Bismarck—dual roles she saw as complementary because “understanding the whole scope and sequence of our K–6 curriculum as a library media specialist provided comprehensive knowledge I needed in my administrative leadership role.” Beginning her school library career 22 years ago as a paraprofessional, Baesler has served on the NDLA executive board and as president of the Mandan Public School District board. *American Libraries* interviewed Baesler on June 6.



AMERICAN LIBRARIES: Why did you run for the office of state superintendent of North Dakota schools?

KIRSTEN BAESLER: Public education has been my passion my entire adult life. I am passionate about teaching and learning and view myself as a public servant.

How has the reality compared with your expectations? I truly didn't have a preconceived notion of what being state superintendent would entail. I knew it would involve a lot of work, which has been true—especially since my term began just before our state's biennial legislative session. However, advocating for and serving the educational needs of our state's children is very rewarding.

How does your school library background influence your work as state superintendent of schools? For instance, does your programmatic approach toward improving literacy differ from your predecessors? My personal approach—to focus on what's best to prepare students to be

successful in careers or college after graduation—is my primary influencer. A goal of our library media programs is to create lifelong learners and critical users of information.

What are the three most critical issues in K–12 education? Ensuring students graduate on time with the skills they need to succeed in a career or college; consistent academic standards and outcomes that still enable local control; and sufficient resources to accomplish these tasks.

Where do North Dakota school librarians fit in addressing those issues? Literacy is at the heart of ensuring our students graduate on time and with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. Today's school librarians not only foster reading literacy but also life skills such as technological literacy and critical thinking, which help students become better learners and achieve educational goals.

You've been supportive of local control of school curricula within broader

guidelines such as the Common Core State Standards. What's your opinion on restoring the recommendation to ESEA that every school employ a full-time credentialed school librarian? Even the best-intended recommendations have a tendency to become requirements. Having a full-time credentialed school librarian—and the library resources needed to do the job well—is an incredible asset to any school. But in North Dakota's smallest school district, with just three students, a requirement for a full-time credentialed school librarian wouldn't be economically feasible or fiscally responsible. This is why local control is critically important for the success of our students.

What would you say to a school principal who sought your advice about cutting the position of the school librarian for budgetary reasons?

What advice would you give school librarians on advocacy at the building and district level? I would argue that the school librarian is essential to meeting the higher standards that will be expected from our students with Common Core. It is more vital than ever to have quality credentialed school librarians assisting students in selection of suitable texts and directing them toward a robust collection of nonfiction companions to traditional fictional works. My advice to both principals and librarians would be to look for ways to address budgetary issues that achieve outcomes and are still cost-effective: collaborative programs, cost-sharing, and every other alternative they can identify. ■

What They Said

"I hated [libraries] as a kid because they were a place you were forced to go on class trips, and you had to learn the Dewey decimal system, which to my mind was an even less useful life skill than how to make a battery from a potato. It was only later, when my kids were forced to go to libraries, that I developed a grudging respect for them.... That was around the time libraries were starting to die, swallowed by the internet. In the future, information will be more available than ever, but not in convivial places where strangers congregate together, hushed as in awe, not talking to each other but somehow teamed in the grand democratic endeavor of finding things out."

GENE WEINGARTEN, columnist, comparing dogs' favorite outdoor spots with humans' need for public libraries as places for "rich, textured stories about their friends and neighbors," in "Murphy Peruses the Best-Smeller List at Her Special Library," *Washington Post* magazine, Mar. 25.

"Our mission is to prevent summer slide. Especially in poorer areas, if kids aren't getting as many educational opportunities over the summer, they lose ground."

MARIE JARRY, youth services librarian at the New Haven (Conn.) Free Public Library, on a three-year "Reading for the Grade" summer reading program that will provide 40 kindergartners and their families with free books, family dinner reading parties, and eventually a free Kindle and laptop, in "Library's New Approach Hopes to Keep New Haven Kids' Reading Skills Up in Summer," *New Haven Register*, May 26.

"To me, it's a bit like chess. As director, you have the bigger picture and along with the board get to move the pieces (resources like services, things, people)

around to get the most from your library dollar. I like the big picture of how things work but also like knowing a lot of the machinery that goes on behind the scenes."

ALAN HARKNESS, newly appointed director of Chattahoochee Valley (Ga.) Libraries, on why he wants to be a library director, in "Q&A with Incoming Chattahoochee Valley Libraries Director Alan Harkness," *Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer*, May 27.

"Libraries started with the clay tablet—there aren't many of those still around. Libraries have moved on from that. But the doomsayers have also been around for a long time. In the last hundred years, when any new technology came along—along with it came the prediction of the demise of the book and along with that, the demise of the library.... The library as a space, with skilled staff and appropriate learning resources, is more relevant today than ever before. Libraries have a history of adapting to a changing world, and continuing to meet the needs of its community."

LYNN STAINBROOK, director of Brown County (Wis.) Library, on how libraries have always adapted to new technology and the needs of patrons and how they continue to be relevant, in "Libraries Thriving, Not Dying," *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Apr. 28.

"In December, she went to a public library in Lawrence, Kansas. She was looking through books on philosophy and religion, and it struck her that people had devoted their entire lives to studying these questions of how to live and what is right and wrong. 'The idea that only [Westboro Baptist Church] had the right answer seemed crazy.'"

JEFF CHU, author of *Does Jesus Really*

"Every time I turn around, there's some new extravagant renovation going on in the main building. Why? In my mind, the New York Public Library should be focused on keeping small libraries open."

Malcolm Gladwell, author of *The Tipping Point*, on the renovations at the NYPL flagship building, in "Malcolm Gladwell Attacks NYPL: 'Luxury Condos Would Look Wonderful There,'" *Huffington Post Books*, May 29.

Love Me? A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America, on Megan Phelps-Roper, granddaughter of Westboro Baptist Church founder Fred Phelps, leaving the Kansas-based church known for its public protests at military funerals, in "Damsel, Arise: A Westboro Scion Leaves Her Church," *Reporter's Notebook*, Feb. 6.

"The champions who have figured it out tell other librarians who haven't, and they figure it out.'... For comics—which have evolved from a renegade facet of pop culture to a revolutionary art form—being accepted isn't always expected, Siegel says, but cartoonists who have feared rejection have instead been welcomed. 'It's pretty amazing to have libraries on our side,' he says."

HEIDI MACDONALD, editor in chief at *The Beat*, quoting Mark Siegel, creator of the graphic novel *Sailor Twain* (or *The Mermaid in the Hudson*), on how libraries have led to the widespread success of graphic novels, in "How Graphic Novels Became the Hottest Section in the Library," *Publishers Weekly*, May 3. ■

Under Sequester

How military libraries are handling federal budget cuts

by Kathleen Hanselmann

More than 260 librarians and almost 800 library technicians who work for the Department of Defense (DOD) will be furloughed 11 days, one day per week from July 8 to September 27, due to sequestration. While this is a personal financial hardship, we are also concerned about having to cut library services for our patrons: military servicemen and women and their families. This is a time of confusion for many of us, as the situation is complex and constantly changing.

There are approximately 185 library programs within the DOD; larger ones at the Pentagon and military universities and smaller ones that serve posts or bases. Soldiers and their families rely on information we provide to help them through their careers, whether that be language training to prepare for an overseas deployment or continuing with formal education.

Many DOD installations have canceled contracts, curtailed travel, and postponed all purchases except for emergency supplies. Other fiscal cutbacks include a DOD-wide hiring freeze. Many DOD libraries are planning to close, at least in part, on weekends to cope with the lack of staff. The recent trend has been to close military libraries if a local library can serve the population, but many public libraries are facing

their own budgetary constraints. And given that military bases and personnel are often vital sources of economic opportunity for local residents (and the majority of federal employees work outside of Washington, D.C.), sequestration will also have a major impact on those communities.

Military universities are working hard to remain focused on the mission of educating leaders and providing the highest quality services within the constraints presented by the FY2013 continuing resolution and sequestration. In anticipation of the furlough limiting services, university libraries are prioritizing spending and making plans to absorb anticipated cuts to the remaining budget for FY2013:

Two of my staff members at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center have retired and I cannot recruit successors because of the hiring freeze. This, in addition to the furlough, will hamper any progress on our cataloging backlog this year.

Some installations, such as the Naval Postgraduate School, are trying to provide maximum flexibility to support academic programs by focusing on only core library services and reducing hours of operation.

Library staff vacancies at United States Air Force Academy will reduce hours by as much as 20% in the fall. The acquisitions budget has

been cut by 27% and a personnel freeze resulted in a 25% librarian vacancy rate, although no positions have been permanently removed from the authorized personnel plan. The library's digitization project of primary-source manuscripts has been seriously curtailed, and plans for renovating the current facility—last remodeled in the early 1980s—have been suspended indefinitely.

At West Point, all library funds have been returned to the Department of the Army and purchasing authority has been revoked since January. It has suspended all inter-library loans as it cannot pay to ship materials or provide copyright clearance, and also suspended printing in the library as it cannot pay for consumables and is not currently renewing any contracts. It is trying to justify use of gift funds for some resources.

Military librarians understand the importance of our work, not only to our patrons but also to the communities in which we live. The military really believes in information and keeping it (many bases even have historians and archivists on staff), but the financial situation is just too precarious. Without these services, soldiers and their families who don't get library support can't finish their education, and as the military downsizes, this often means they can no longer work in the military. ■

KATHLEEN HANSELMANN is chief librarian at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California. Contact her at kathanselmann@yahoo.com.



This is a time of confusion for many of us.

Exiled by iTunes

What is it that we are signing when we click the “I agree” button?

by Joseph Janes

If you're like me, you've completely lost track of the number of times you've clicked the little “I agree” button—on software, upgrades, website registrations, and the like. We know, as little attention as we pay to such things, that they probably mean something, sorta, and we have that microscopic pang of guilt—or more appropriately, misgiving—about not having read what we've just agreed to, before barrel-



We all just go on, not paying attention, in a fingers-in-ears-la-la-la sort of way.

ing on to the much more interesting and immediate thing we wanted to do/see/read before we completed the involuntarily voluntary agreement. We all just go on, not paying attention, in a fingers-in-ears-la-la-la sort of way, vaguely troubled but not enough to bother with.

It feels a little like a parallel universe, these things we've joined or signed up for, some of which even position themselves as communities (think of dating sites, eBay, and Facebook). And for more than a few people, these are places where they spend a substantial chunk of their time on a regular basis.

Let's peel back a layer or two—without succumbing to digital paranoia, if we can help it—to think more deeply about what's going on.

First of all, yes, it does appear these sort of click-through deals are

enforceable; while court rulings have split on various terms and conditions, several decisions have upheld them, so it's worth assuming for now at least that they hold water. Which is a darn shame for the several thousand people who unwittingly sold their souls to a UK game store as part of an April Fools' prank in 2010.

What it means is that we're playing on their field, with their balls, under their rules. In the real world, we live our lives in realms where we get to affect

the rules, by voting and the familiar political and social processes. Increasingly, we spend time in take-it-or-leave-it realms where the rules are promulgated by fiat, and either we pay for that privilege or we have value extracted from us by analysis of what we do there and how we do it and with whom, or both. It feels much more like the world of princes and popes of old; the US government can't exile us, but Twitter or iTunes could.

That parallel universe is very real, much like our own except without all the legal protections we take for granted, like the right to redress a wrong in a court of law, the freedom of speech or assembly, freedom from someone poking around in our business without a search warrant, the right to not be tracked and monitored every living second of the day and having that all saved and mone-

tized without there being a blessed thing we can do about it.

At a recent presentation I attended, a speaker said that yes, Facebook could just unperson you at a moment's notice in an extragovernmental and extrajudicial way, but that wouldn't kill anybody. True for me—though, don't we all know 17-year-olds who might feel differently about that? The prospect of a Facebook death might well be terrifying enough to cow lots of people in all sorts of ways.

An additional layer, closer to home, is the multiplicity of provisions embedded in all those license agreements we sign to procure access to materials and resources on behalf of our clientele. The simple days of buying a book, or subscribing to a journal, and sticking it on the shelf are long gone.

The question is really about value. This is a two-way street. We get access, membership, or use out of something of value, and almost always, value is extracted from us in one way or another in return. But what about the values we espouse so vocally: intellectual freedom, equality of access, the right to informational privacy? How well do those align with this tangle of agreements? And if they don't line up, what do we do about it? Agreeable as we are, perhaps that's worth discussion ... but that's another story. ■

JOSEPH JANES is associate professor and chair of the MLIS program at the Information School of the University of Washington in Seattle.

Data Building Blocks

How Linked Data enables new avenues of research

by Erik T. Mitchell

Imagine a historian who has been particularly successful in her research and has collected thousands of citations, primary-source documents, and pages of research notes. In looking at her collection, she wonders how to make sense of it. Could our historian identify the people, events, and relationships in her data? Could she build a timeline of events? How could she find more information about a tangential topic or subfield? What information is hidden within the digitized text?

In the current metadata world, our historian has a considerable task ahead. She needs to check name authorities and look for alternate spellings. She needs to create a database of resources and dates for her timeline. She must find or create item-level metadata with descriptive notes. She hopes to find common threads, be it a person, an event, or a profession.

This challenge is common for researchers in many domains. They are



Linked Data is made up of four building blocks.

interested in helping computers “understand” the semantics or meaning of data and need to aggregate

data from multiple sources using industry standard approaches. These two goals—automated linking and semantic analysis—are important in the development of semantic web services and are enabled by a type of metadata known as Linked Data.

Linked Data is created by combining four types of information structures, as seen in the table (left):

These four building blocks allow a computer to discover and collect data as well as analyze the data for connections and gaps. Linked Data makes use of external authorities and vocabularies so it can differentiate among people, events, and things. It keeps track of dates, numbers, links, and regular text so researchers can create a timeline or find hidden information.

Working with Linked Data is increasingly important as the library world is reaching a tipping point in adoption. The BIBFRAME initiative (bibframe.org) seeks to transform MARC records into a Linked Data-friendly format. These services are helping to develop the tools and techniques we need to serve our historian quickly and efficiently. ■

ERIK T. MITCHELL is associate university librarian at the University of California, Berkeley, and wrote the July 2013 Library Technology Report “Library Linked Data: Research and Adoption.”

BUILDING BLOCK	USE IN LINKED DATA
Resource Description Framework (RDF)	RDF is a metadata model that enables the creation of metadata through statements like “The title of this book is <i>Gone with the Wind</i> .” It is different from MARC, which focuses on creating records.
Links between resources (e.g., URIs)	Linked Data relies on links to resources with more information. Links should point to information that both humans and computers can use.
Linked Data endpoints on the web (e.g., using HTTP)	An endpoint is a database that contains Linked Data and can be searched using a specialized syntax called SPARQL. SPARQL allows computers to search across data sources using common terminology.
Computer-parsable files	Computer-parsable files (e.g., serializations) allow computers to easily access, merge, and analyze data.

Libraries as Publishers

Our push to change the publishing landscape

by Meredith Farkas

Most libraries currently feel stuck between a rock and a hard place when it comes to providing access to all the materials their patrons seek. Over the years, the prices of content have soared, often well beyond the rate of inflation. At the same time, library budgets have been slashed, which further degrades purchasing power. Through big deals on online database packages, libraries can access much more content, but the amount they actually own has plummeted as the pay-for-access model has come to reign.

Even research libraries with impressively large acquisitions budgets are finding themselves canceling journal subscriptions critical to their patrons as prices rise unsustainably high. Some have taken stands: SUNY Potsdam College Libraries quite publicly cancelled of all its American Chemical Society subscriptions (*AL*, Jan./Feb., p. 28) and Kansas State Librarian Joanne Budler won ebook ownership rights for her state consortium (*AL*, Jan./Feb. 2012, p. 27). But most libraries simply continue to pay the going library rates for ebooks and wind up either acquiring fewer materials overall or trying to meet patrons' collections needs by saving money on things like services and personnel. Either way, many publishers' profits are soaring even as the size of library collections shrink.

At the same time, librarians are

increasingly embracing the concept of the library as a place that enables creation. Some libraries are developing media labs and maker-spaces so patrons can flex their creative muscles using otherwise-inaccessible technologies. Libraries have long offered writing groups, arts and crafts programs, and zine workshops, so these new spaces are extensions of that maker tradition.

With the growth of open access, social media, digital humanities, and self-publishing, we are seeing experiments on the open web with new and exciting publishing paradigms. Since the web enables more atomized and hyperlinked content options, books and journals are no longer the sole vehicles for publication, nor is the journal-article citation the sole metric for measuring impact. In higher education, librarians are often the go-to people regarding open access, altmetrics (weighing the web-based impact of academic writing), and other recent scholarly publishing trends. Librarians are also ideally positioned to advance the integration of new publishing models into the academy.

So it seems only natural that libraries are examining how to make scholarly publishing accessible to content creators and consumers alike. Through activities such as educating patrons about new publishing paradigms, archiving the work

of faculty and students, offering self-publishing platforms, and be-

coming an actual publisher, libraries are helping to disrupt traditional publishing and make their com-

munities' intellectual products more accessible.


My next two columns will explore the role of public and academic libraries in enabling publishing. First, I'll look at how public libraries support self-publishing and/or publish their constituency's work. Although many of the libraries taking on community publishing have significant resources, Provincetown (Mass.) Public Library proves that even those with small budgets (Provincetown's is \$300,000) can create their own imprint. Then I'll discuss academic libraries' efforts to promote, support, and publish open-access work.

Libraries are ideally positioned to spearhead positive changes in publishing to benefit those we serve in the short term and make libraries sustainable in the long run. The examples in my next two columns offer an exciting vision for the future role of libraries in publishing. (Hint: We're not just buying things.) ■

MEREDITH FARKAS is head of instructional services at Portland (Oreg.) State University. She blogs at *Information Wants to Be Free* and created *Library Success: A Best Practices Wiki*. Contact her at librarysuccess@gmail.com.



Libraries are helping to disrupt traditional publishing.



Lyndsay Faye (far right) and Jonathan Tropper (right) sign books after RUSA's "Literary Tastes: Celebrating the Best Reading of the Year" program.

The Transformation Continues

By the Editors

A total of 26,362 people attended the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, enjoying hundreds of programs, speakers, and exhibits June 27-July 2.

The conference drew thousands of librarians, vendors, and other attendees from across the world to meet, network, and engage in conversations about their communities. The recent conference theme, "Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves," continued throughout the programs in Chicago, many of which emphasized community engagement.

Just before the Opening General Session, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel welcomed conference at-

tendees to the city and briefly spoke about the importance of libraries to urban youth and neighborhoods.

The Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction, now in their second year, were awarded to Richard Ford and Anthony Egan.

ALA Council passed a resolution reaffirming ALA's commitment to basic literacy, and attendees participated in conference-wide discussions on various topics affecting the library profession, from privacy to

library advocacy and e-content.

Barbara Stripling was inaugurated the 2013–2014 ALA president at the end of the conference.

Community engagement

Members of the Harwood Institute were partners with ALA in two events. The first was a panel led by ALA Past President Molly Raphael, then-President Maureen Sullivan, and Rich Harwood, Harwood Institute founder and CEO, called "The Promise of Libraries Transforming Communities." The second partnered program was a hands-on session called "Community Engagement Conversation: Advancing Library-led Community Engagement," led by the

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COUNCIL ACTIONS

A special video presentation by President Barack Obama encouraging librarians to help disseminate information about new health care insurance options under the Affordable Care Act opened the Council I session.

Four resolutions were approved at Council I, one of which was later reconsidered:

- A resolution reaffirming ALA's commitment to basic literacy (CD#37).
- A resolution urging that a new nationwide advocacy campaign to gain support for the Declaration for the Right to Libraries be given the highest ALA staff priority (CD#40).
- A resolution commending the Freedom to Read Foundation "for recognizing videogames as a nonprint medium in libraries worthy of First Amendment protections" (CD#47).
- A resolution in support of whistleblower Edward Snowden (CD#39), which was reconsidered the next day during Council II and referred to the Committee on Legislation (COL) and the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC). ALA Parliamentarian Eli Mina stressed that referring the resolution did not rescind its approval, but meant Council had "pushed the pause button" on the resolution. Council I also referred to the same two committees a resolution in support of whistleblower Bradley Manning (CD#38).

After an extended debate during Council II on a resolution on prayer in ALA meetings (CD#44), the resolution passed, 70–64. It states that ALA "as a secular institution in a country that is increasingly diverse religiously, refrains from having public prayers during its meetings. Moments of silence may be observed during meetings."

Also passed during Council II was:

- A resolution on Library Service to the Community in a Disaster



ALA Council discusses resolutions at Annual Conference.

(CD#41 rev.).

- A resolution urging Congress to designate the Government Printing Office as the lead agency to manage the life cycle of digital United States government information (CD#20.5).
- A resolution supporting librarians sued for doing their professional duty (CD#19.3).
- A resolution to decrease printing for Council meetings (CD#50).

However, a resolution on divestment of holdings in fossil-fuel companies and libraries' role in a peaceful transition to a fossil-fuel economy failed (CD#42).

After extended debate, Council III voted to substitute a resolution on the need for reforms for the intelligence community to support privacy, open government, government transparency, and accountability (CD#20.4 and CD#19.2), which were developed by COL and IFC, respectively, for the resolution in support of whistleblower Edward Snowden (CD#39) that passed in Council I.

In other actions, Council III passed several motions recommended in committee reports. From the Committee on Organization: reducing the size of the Scholarships and Study Grants Committee from 11 to 7 members (CD#27.1) and replacing a committee update form with a semiannual report (CD#27.2). From the Policy Monitoring Committee: incorporating into the Policy Manual Council actions from

2011 and 2013, respectively, regarding protecting library user confidentiality (CD#17.1) and guidelines for preparing Council resolutions (CD#17.2). From the Constitution and Bylaws Committee: a few editorial changes in the bylaws—removing the reference to a printed directory and adding round tables to a reference about filling vacancies on an interim basis (CD#25).

Council III received the Treasurer's Report (CD#13.2), approving the annual estimates of income for FY2014 and a total budgetary ceiling of \$63,603,549. It also received reports from each of ALA's 11 divisions (CD#28.1–11).

The following individuals were recognized in memorials: Brooke E. Sheldon, Lillian Miles Lewis, Jack C. Gerts II, Herb Davis, Carolyn Forsman, Russell Shank, Connie Van Fleet, Jacqueline Mancall, Eva Efron, Edward Roy Johnson, Margaret "Peg" Hallisey, Robert O. Ellett Jr., and Fredrick McKissack. Tributes and testimonials included acknowledgment of the 40th anniversary of the Chinese American Librarians Association; the 15th anniversary of the Spectrum Scholarship Program; and Abba Alhadi, a rare-manuscripts caretaker at the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research in Timbuktu, Mali, who saved 28,000 of the 30,000 manuscripts from invaders who burned part of the library and research center.

NOW SHOWING @ ALA



Now Showing @ ALA offered a variety of film and video screenings throughout the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. The selections were diverse, ranging from Martin Scorsese's Paris-set historical adventure *Hugo* to *Ferlinghetti: A Rebirth of Wonder*, a biography of poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and *56 Up*, the latest installment of British filmmaker Michael Apted's long-running documentary series.

Filmgoers were treated to episodes of Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick's Showtime series, *The Untold History of the United States*—the two also spoke as Auditorium Speakers.

One of the highly anticipated offerings was a sneak preview of *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*, a documentary that explores the history, spirit, and challenges of the free public library through the story of the San Francisco Public Library. The documentary is a work in progress, but filmmakers Dawn Logsdon and Lucie Faulknor were on hand to present a quartet of clips that they intend to feature in the finished work. The event also served as an information session for both attendees and the filmmakers themselves, who hoped to gain further insights from post-screening feedback from librarians.

Harwood Institute's Carlton Sears and Cheryl Gorman.

The ALA Washington Office held a special informational session to give librarians a head start on preparing to respond to inquiries from their patrons seeking to enroll for health insurance through the new Affordable Care Act when the open enrollment period opens on October 1.

The session included a video message from President Barack Obama. About 7 million people are expected to sign up for coverage in the new marketplaces, but the heavy emphasis on web-based portals will put anyone without access to a computer at a disadvantage.

That is where public libraries come in. WebJunction, OCLC's

training and service division, and the US Department of Health and Human Services will be disseminating information about the new opportunities. WebJunction, according to senior program manager Kendra Morgan, is offering toolkits and webinars at webjunction.org/explore-topics/ehealth.html.

The panelists recommended three websites as a place to start:

- The revamped HealthCare.gov, managed by the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which is addressed to consumers.

- A new Health Insurance Marketplace (marketplace.cms.gov), designed to guide librarians and other professionals who are helping people to apply.

- MedlinePlus (nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus), administered by the US National Institutes of Health, which presents information on medicine and health care in easy-to-understand language.

Libraries' role in providing access to technology and the internet was also a major component of the conference. During the ALA Washington Office Update, Susan Crawford, a telecommunications policy expert and former White House official, spoke about the US lagging behind other countries in access to broadband internet. She added that libraries should be a crucial part of any discussion about information technology, and that they would need to come together to have any influence on policy.

Featured speakers

Hundreds of authors shared insights throughout the 137th Annual Conference, appearing on Live! @ Your Library Reading and PopTop stages, in the exhibits, at Meet the Author and divisional events, and at the Auditorium Speakers Series.

Jaron Lanier, tech visionary and father of virtual reality, opened the Auditorium Speaker Series by addressing the detrimental effects networking technologies have had on the economy and on humans' quality of life. Referencing his latest book, *Who Owns the Future?*, Lanier cautioned against the ubiquitous nature of digital networking. Using humor to lighten the delivery of his sometimes dire message, Lanier explained that the cycle can be broken by opening access to information.

At the opening of the Booklist Books for Youth Forum "Bleak New World: YA Authors Decode Dystopia," authors **Lois Lowry**, **Patrick Ness**, **Veronica Roth**, and **Cory Doctorow** were asked how they would fare if they suddenly found themselves in one of the dystopian or apocalyptic situations detailed in



Giada De Laurentiis (left). Khaled Hosseini (right).



their work. Some predicted survival. Others were convinced that they would immediately perish. Their answers drew laughs from the capacity crowd for the always-popular Friday-night event, moderated this year by *Booklist* Books for Youth Associate Editor Ann Kelley.

Speaking at the ALCTS President's Program, **Erin McKean**, founder of WordNik and a lexicographer, confessed to being a "data packrat," but expressed her willingness to share. She explained that collecting or "hoarding" words, billions of which are already on WordNik, is not enough to be a lexicographer; there should also be a willingness to engage with different definitions and uses of words, as well as with other people.

In keeping with the idea of unity, Congressman **John Lewis** (D-Ga.) shared stories about his involvement in the civil rights movement during his Auditorium Speaker appearance. Lewis is writing a three-volume graphic novel about his experiences, with the help of his technology policy aide Andrew Aydin and illustrator Nate Powell. Called *March*, it is both an autobiography and a tribute to a generation of young people who were so moved by injustice that they had to "speak up and speak out, fight the good fight as one people, one family, all living in the same American house."

Bestselling author **Khaled Hosseini** discussed his new book *And the Mountains Echoed*, calling it the work of which he is proudest. While noting that his love of books was

fostered in bookstores in Kabul, he also shed light on his realization that leaving Afghanistan as a child and coming back decades later had a profound effect on him and his sense of identity and homeland. Hosseini acknowledged that a big influence in his storytelling is his resolve to portray Afghanistan and its people realistically, in all their diversity.

Without using library terminology like "readers' advisory" or "book-talking," **Ann Patchett** spent the first half of her appearance at the PLA President's Program describing her passion for the former, and the second half displaying her skill with the latter. Patchett confessed she is unapologetically obsessed with books, for which she is grateful to librarians. "I know you're doing things so much more complicated than just books," she acknowledged, "and I'm just representing a tiny slice of it today. But you know, the books made me," Patchett concluded. "With all my heart, thank you."

Chinese-American computer scientist **Ping Fu** came to her Auditorium speech dressed in red shoes, red belt, and white scarf—all manufactured by a 3D printer. As chief strategy officer of 3D Systems, a technical design company founded in 1986 by Chuck Hall, the inventor of 3D printing, Fu is an enthusiastic proponent of maker-spaces in libraries and schools. What's next in the 3D printing world? "Chocolate printers will be in kitchens next year," she predicted. Already there are meat printers,

WHY THEY WENT



"I'm looking forward to authors like Ann Patchett, and to project-based learning for libraries like

different ways of teaching research to students, and better access to information."

—**Laura Klein**, K-12 librarian, University School of Milwaukee, Upper School Library

"It's my first time here, so it's all new to me, but overall I liked the variety of speakers. I can see why it's so popular. Because I work in the section with the cookbooks, seeing Amelia Levin at the What's Cooking @ ALA Stage ("Chicago Chef's Table: Extraordinary Recipes from the Windy City") and having the chance to get feedback from her was great. And the food was good too."

—**Scott Watanabe**, Librarian I, Chicago Public Library



"I'm looking forward to meeting the journal vendors. You always interact with people

via email or on the phone, so it will be nice to put faces to names."

—**Darlene Ward**, medical librarian, Illinois College of Optometry



"This is a great place to connect with authors who may be able to speak with incarcerated teens. When

these kids talk to and meet authors, it gets them thinking about how they can change their lives."

—**Melissa Smith**, senior young adult specialist, Literacy for Incarcerated Teens (LIT) in New York

A Q&A WITH WINNERS OF ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDALS FOR EXCELLENCE IN FICTION AND NONFICTION

Timothy Egan received the 2013 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction for *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher*. Richard Ford received the Medal for Excellence in Fiction, for Canada. The following excerpts are from interviews with the authors conducted by *Booklist* editors Brad Hooper and Donna Seaman. (Read the full interviews at BooklistOnline.com.)



TIMOTHY EGAN, *SHORT NIGHTS OF THE SHADOW CATCHER*

BOOKLIST: To establish what *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher* is about, tell us who Edward Curtis was.

EGAN: Curtis was an almost forgotten American who created a masterpiece. What I was trying to do

with this book was bring his story back to life. This person with no more than a 6th-grade education, who at one time was the portrait photographer in the US—I compare him to Annie Leibovitz—gave it all up to try to document the vanishing customs and faces and lifestyles of the first Americans. He thought it would take him five years; it ended up taking him a lifetime. His accomplishment was called *The North American Indian*, perhaps one of the greatest single bibliographic undertakings in our history. It came to be 20 volumes long. It was Curtis's masterpiece, his magnum opus. He set out to document photographically, but also with anthropological detail, the customs, cultures, lifestyles, social habits, diet, myths, creation stories, all of that; in other words, the complete nation-stories of about 80 Native American tribes.

BOOKLIST: Tell us a little bit about the importance of libraries and librarians in your young life and in your professional life.

EGAN: If I could just take one moment to talk about libraries and librarians in Curtis's life. There is a great end to his story. I don't want to spoil it for too many readers, but in his old age—Curtis lived to be 84—his work was discovered by a Seattle librarian, who went through musty archives and found this masterpiece, and she was just blown away by it. She started a correspondence with the aging Curtis, and over the course of three years, he told the story of his life to the librarian, and these letters move me to tears. This is

where I got a lot of my information, the 40-some letters Curtis wrote back and forth with a Seattle librarian. So we owe a librarian for so much of what we know of Curtis's story.

Now, my connection to libraries. I came from a big blue-collar Irish Catholic family, with little money, but I had two things that changed my life early on. I had a mother who loved books and history, and so she would take me to a bookmobile. It was the greatest day of my week. I'd come home with adventure stories and some Curious George books, and I could escape. The second thing was that I could not have told this story without the keepers of the story, the great archivists in American libraries. We have good ones in Seattle, but there are good ones in every town. As long as people keep our various stories, and that's what so many good libraries do, someone like me can come along and retell one of the stories.



RICHARD FORD, CANADA

BOOKLIST: You've used the phrase "morally provoking" to describe what you hope to achieve in creating your characters. Is fiction a moral laboratory?

FORD: Yes. That's one thing it can be. In the hands of someone else, it needn't be. Fiction can be almost

anything we make of it. For me, part of what interests me in writing stories is that it can be about people making decisions that are either good or bad; either right or wrong; or, in a nuanced way, a little of both. I think that fiction at its best is an experiment in all ways, irrespective of whatever kind of verisimilitude it chooses.

BOOKLIST: Do you remember your first library?

FORD: Absolutely! I remember my first library and I happen to have a picture of it on my wall here in my study. It's the Carnegie Public Library in Jackson, Mississippi, then on High Street. And at the bottom of the photograph is a line from Eudora Welty's *One Writer's Beginnings*, and it says, "Jackson's Carnegie Library was on the same street where our house was." And underneath that, Eudora has written to me, "And your house was." That was my first library. I am a boy from the Carnegie Public Library. It's gone now. It was replaced when I was still under 10. It is now the Eudora Welty Public Library.

which fabricate ground “meat” and dumpling fillings from vegan sources. “One cow can feed an entire nation,” she said, “and there is no slaughterhouse.”

Innovation with societal implications was front-and-center throughout many conference programs, including the Opening General Session. Economist **Steven D. Levitt**, author of *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, told the story of John Szilagyi, an IRS employee who came up with the idea of requiring taxpayers to indicate Social Security numbers for dependents they claim on tax forms. Before that, some taxpayers were listing fictitious children—even their pets—as dependents for the sake of an exemption. The simple change led to \$20 billion in extra revenue, according to Levitt. “Now that is brilliance to me. That is genius—to be able to see things other people can’t see,” he said.

Mark Frauenfelder, founding editor-in-chief of *Make Magazine* and founder of Boing Boing, discussed makerspaces and maker culture before a standing-room-only crowd during his Maker Monday talk. He looked at the rise, fall, and rise again of making in the US from 1900 to the present.

The keynote speaker at the ALA President’s Program was **Dan Cohen**, founding executive director of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), an enterprise that, as he sees it, is “less a technical project than a social project.” DPLA officially launched in April 2013 as an attempt to make the holdings of US research libraries, archives, and museums available to all Americans online and free of charge.

Academy Award-winning writer and director **Oliver Stone** and **Peter Kuznick**, professor of history and director of the Nuclear Studies Institute at American University, discussed their project, *The Untold*



Ping Fu (left) and John Lewis (right).



History of the United States, as part of the Auditorium Speaker Series. A 10-part cable series and a 750-page companion book, *The Untold History of the United States* delves into the dark side of 20th-century American history, spotlighting influential events and unsung heroes swept under the rug by many modern historians. Stone and Kuznick’s talk was moderated by former *American Libraries* editor and publisher Leonard Kniffel. Kniffel asked the two about the inspiration behind the project, the state of contemporary historical study, and what librarians can do to help Americans stay informed about the true state of geopolitical affairs.

Giada De Laurentiis clearly enjoyed her opportunity to speak to librarians as part of the Auditorium Speaker Series. Her new series of children’s books, *Giada De Laurentiis’s Recipe for Adventure*, will be published in September. For her, the books were a “passion project,” rooted in her experience as a child. As an immigrant, De Laurentiis had trouble assimilating but she found that books allowed her to “travel in my mind and make friends.” She wanted to use cooking to replicate that experience for readers.

Author and activist **Alice Walker**, best known for her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Color Purple*, received a standing ovation soon after taking the stage during her Auditorium Speakers Series appearance.

Walker read from her two new books—a poetry collection titled *The World Will Follow Joy: Turning Madness into Flowers* and an essay collec-

tion titled *The Cushion in the Road: Meditation and Wandering as the Whole World Awakens to Being in Harm’s Way*—and discussed current events such as the National Security Agency’s spying program, the Supreme Court’s recent 5–4 decision on the Voting Rights Act, the anti-abortion legislation in Texas and elsewhere, and other events that she said represented a “sliding backward” of the country. Yet Walker remains optimistic. “Librarians offer so much to this culture and to the world,” she said.

At the Closing General Session, ALA President Barbara Stripling spoke with Academy Award winner **Octavia Spencer** about her upcoming kids’ book, the challenges that come with fame, and the value of mentors.

Spencer decided to combine her two passions—mystery novels and martial arts—into her first kids’ novel, *Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective: The Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit*, which she began writing 13 years ago. “There are a lot of thrillers out there for adults,” she said. “There’s not a lot out there for kids where they get to be the hero—and being a hero not by having superhero powers but by using their brains.” ■

Compiled by Mariam Pera from blog posts by American Libraries editors Laurie D. Borman, George Eberhart, Mariam Pera, Phil Morehart, and Sanhita Sinha Roy.

Read more conference coverage at AmericanLibrariesMagazine.org. #ala2013.

Enabling Access, Engagement, and Efficiency

Technologies reflect subtle changes

By Marshall Breeding

Technology, as always, was on display at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. Consistent with the strong attendance figures, activity in the exhibit hall seemed especially brisk this year.

As the largest exhibition of library-oriented technology and content products worldwide, ALA Annual offers librarians a unique opportunity to review the latest offerings from nearly every significant vendor in North America. US libraries spend \$450 million annually on technology products and services, so setting aside some time in the exhibit hall helps buyers make wise investment decisions.

As a general trend, technologies for standard operations seemed a bit more in tune with current needs this year. Library management systems now handle many types of materials, from ebooks to electronic scholarly content. Current tools for patron access go beyond a flat discovery-and-presentation style and include results more tailored to users comfortable with social media. Many of the products and services are taking advantage of the expansive capabilities of cloud-based technologies and breaking free from the constraints of local databases and information silos.

It was a conference absent major or surprising announcements. Rather than news of mergers and acquisitions, more subtle changes were apparent. Transitions made in previous years continued to evolve, as evidenced by increased business integration, brand consolidation, and more unified product development strategies.

Library management and discovery

At the **SirsiDynix** booth, the main attraction was its new BLUEcloud suite of products including eResource Central, which was just put into general release as a product to manage and access electronic resources, especially ebooks, from multiple vendors. The BLUEcloud PAC will provide a new web-based interface for those libraries not yet interested in its premium Enterprise and Portfolio discovery products. These web-based applications operate in tandem with its long-standing Symphony and Horizon ILS products, enabled through a

layer of web services for interoperability. The core message from SirsiDynix emphasizes its commitment to the Horizon and Symphony systems on its development agenda, both in enhancements as well as support for the new interfaces. The forthcoming BLUEcloud Analytics will provide additional reporting, statistics, and other indicators of library performance.

Innovative Interfaces' new library services platform Sierra has seen phenomenal adoption, primarily among libraries already using its Millennium ILS, but also by new customers. More than 450 libraries have committed to Sierra, with Brooklyn Public Library among the most recent. Following the company reorganization that brought SkyRiver Technologies from a separate organization to a unit within Innovative, its bibliographic services continue to attract interest; Black Gold Cooperative Library System in San Luis Obispo, California, recently opted to move from OCLC to SkyRiver for cataloging services. In the now-hot genre of products to support data-driven collection management, Innovative has released Decision Center. New ownership has brought to Innovative a spirit of partnership with other vendors that contrasts with its previous more self-reliant stance. Its

Crowds descend on the Exhibit Hall floor shortly after the Friday opening.

new Encore ES discovery service layers in the EBSCO Discovery Service index as well as integrated ebook discovery and lending enabled through new partnerships with 3M Cloud Library and OverDrive. The company also renewed its relationship with Bowker, a business unit of ProQuest, for integrated images and other content from Syndetic Solutions through an Encore interface.

VTLS came to the conference with news about its second phase of Virtua ILS implementation at the Hong Kong Public Library, one of the world's largest and busiest systems. The company is also preparing to roll out its new Open Skies library services platform, offering functionality for the management of both digital and physical materials. Reflecting its emphasis on emerging library standards, it had on hand demo versions of its products displaying BibFrame representations of bibliographic data.

Ex Libris highlighted its progress on the development and deployment of Alma, now in production in a handful of libraries, including Purdue University. In the genre of library services platforms, Alma incorporates the functionality of ILS products (such as its own Aleph and Voyager), as well as electronic resource managers, link resolvers, and other library management components. With the initial version of Alma complete and its discovery solution Primo now in its fourth major release, Ex Libris is positioned to pull out all the stops in marketing its products to research and academic libraries worldwide. The company also promoted Rosetta, one of the few commercial products to help libraries with the long-term preservation of their digital collections.

Serials Solutions products were included this year in the booth of its

parent company **ProQuest**, a noticeable shift in branding emphasis relative to previous conferences, with Matthew Brine appointed vice president and general manager of the division. Summon 2.0 was on display as a major set of enhancements to the web-scale discovery service first released at the 2009 ALA Annual Conference. Its new three-column display offers a variety of new features that enhance its search capabilities with additional tools and utilities for exploring and extending results. Recent libraries moving to Summon include Yale University and the University of Arizona. Progress toward development

of Intota, the company's future library services platform, was seen in announcements of Intota Assessment, a service bringing together local usage data with ProQuest content components, including Books in Print, Ulrich's, and its e-resource knowledge base to provide a framework for data-driven collection management spanning print and digital materials. Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, is currently working with Serials Solutions and Intota Assessment as a beta test partner, to be joined by five additional institutions.

The latest developments at **Polaris Library Systems** include a new



EBOOK LENDING SERVICES

A key player in ebook delivery, **The Library Corporation** reports that it is the first company to fully integrate its services with Baker & Taylor's Axis 360 ebook lending platform, available through the LS2 PAC interface for its Carl.X ILS and Library.Solution products. The company is extending its reach beyond libraries that use one of its ILS products through its eBiblioFile service, which delivers high-quality MARC records for a library's ebook collections.

The library ebook arena was an area of special interest at the conference. All ebook offerings are now seen through the lens of **ReadersFirst** (readersfirst.org), a library initiative with the goal of ensuring that public library users have the same open, easy, and free access to ebooks as they do with print books.

OverDrive, still the dominant force, faces ever more competition in content provision and technical integration. As the pioneer of library ebook lending, its early products offered many titles, but they were available only through a proprietary lending platform that was universally perceived as overly cumbersome. OverDrive has committed to the release of a comprehensive set of APIs that will allow developers to integrate its content and lending transactions through outside discovery and catalog interfaces. OverDrive has also made remarkable progress on its own platform by reducing the ebook lending process to one or two clicks.

3M Library Services announced the 3M Cloud Library only two years ago at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference and



OverDrive demonstrates its streaming video feature.

has rapidly grown to be a major competitor in ebook lending. It is an eager partner in the catalog-integration arena, working initially with Polaris and subsequently with Innovative Interfaces and The Library Corporation. At this year's conference, the company launched a new subscription program that offers new customers a money-back guarantee, refunding the platform fee after the first year if the library is dissatisfied with the service. 3M also announced the 3M Private Cloud, allowing libraries within a consortium to purchase additional titles and prioritize content according to local preferences.

First-time exhibitor **OdiloTID**, a technology firm based in Spain, has developed a platform that allows libraries to manage and access their print and ebook collections. The high-profile Douglas County (Colo.) Libraries partnered with the company as part of its ebook delivery environment. OdiloTID offers a library automation product, OdiloTT, which includes ebook support as well as traditional functionality for print collections. This also includes the OdiloTK ebook lending platform and OdiloPlace, a platform for publishing digital content based on Adobe Content Server technology. OdiloTID recently opened a new facility in Miami as it expands its operations to the Americas (see odilotid.com).

Community Profiles add-on for its PowerPAC online catalog that searches for and displays events, programs, and information about local businesses or organizations within its search results. The company demonstrated the latest release of the Polaris ILS that has more than 100 new features bundled with it. Polaris is one of the first ILS vendors to fully integrate ebook discovery and lending into its catalog, beginning with a partnership with 3M Cloud Library; similar capabilities are planned for Baker & Taylor Axis 360 and other ebook providers.

Other big news included the implementation of Polaris on the Illinois Heartland Library System, the largest consortium in North America.

The Library Corporation (TLC), in addition to ongoing development of its Library.Solution ILS sold primarily for public libraries, showed off enhancements to its LS2 PAC public catalog interface. A new partnership with EBSCO Information Services enables it to add enriched content through NoveList Select. A new spin-off of TLC, **boundless** (boundless.ly), demonstrated its services for helping libraries with a

fully integrated and managed web presence.

EBSCO Information Services stands as a major provider of content products and subscription services, and its Discovery Service is one of the four major index-based discovery products. A recent reorganization combined EBSCO Information Services and EBSCO Publishing into a single company. It launched EBSCONET Analytics at the conference, an initial phase of an upgrade of its e-journal subscription management platform that focuses on producing metrics in

support of collection development. In an interesting foray into the open-source arena, EBSCO has become a Kuali Commercial Affiliate so that it can integrate the EBSCO Discovery Service into Kuali OLE as one of its patron-interface options.

The conference provided a venue for the public changing of the guard for leadership at OCLC. Skip Prichard assumed responsibility for the organization as its new president and CEO as Jay Jordon stepped into retirement. OCLC continues to conduct research and development surrounding linked data, a topic frequently mentioned in its conference presentations. The roll-out of products based on its WorldShare Platform continues. OCLC reports that over 120 libraries on three continents now live on WorldShare Management Services; since the beginning of 2013, more than 50 libraries have signed on. In addition to products that OCLC develops on its platform directly, it encourages third-party development. In this vein, a new WorldCat Metadata API was released to enable the creation of new cataloging tools. Work is underway at OCLC to create WorldShare Metadata Record Manager as part of its suite of productivity tools based on the WorldShare Platform.

Noticeably missing at ALA were library automation vendors focused on the special library arena, such as **EOS International**, **SydneyPLUS**, and **Soutron International**.

Social engagement

Another area of special interest includes any technology that offers libraries the ability to add a social dimension to its services. **BiblioCommons**, through its socially enabled discovery service, has been adopted by major public library systems in New York, Seattle, Chicago, Boston, and many other cities. It enables patrons to develop and share

reading lists and integrates ebook discovery and lending functionality. King County (Wash.) Public Library recently opted to implement BiblioCommons with its Evergreen ILS.

Rather than delivering a separate catalog interface, **ChiliFresh** provides its suite of social features through integration with all the major discovery and catalog interfaces. Its partnership with Polaris fully integrates its Social Connections technology and Patron Book Review Engine as a package that Polaris markets as a Social PAC to mutual customer libraries.

LibraryThing for Libraries allows libraries to enhance their catalogs with the tags, reviews, and other metacontent contributed by LibraryThing users, in addition to virtual shelf browsing, stack maps, and other features. The company also offers Library Anywhere, a mobile catalog that operates with all major ILS products.

A number of vendors offered products to help libraries handle their physical collections more efficiently. In addition to its full line of self-service products, **3M Library Systems** demonstrated its new Self-Check QuickConnect, an attractive and content-laden interface for library patrons performing self-service activities. For libraries where self-service dominates circulation

transactions, those kiosks represent a crucial point of contact and opportunities for enhanced engagement. Through a partnership with EBSCO, content from NoveList Select offers book recommendations and the ability to place holds on titles of interest when items are returned.

Bibliotheca, the largest company in the RFID sector globally, had on display its wide array of products for self-service and automated material handling. Missing were any traces of the ebook project announced at last year's conference. **TechLogic** brought a variety of its self-service products and automated sorting systems. Also attracting interest was **MediaSurfer**, a self-service lending system for e-readers or tablets. UK-based **D-Tech International**, known primarily in Europe, demonstrated its self-service and RFID-based technologies to an American library audience. Vendors of larger-scale material handling equipment included **Lyngsøe Systems** and **mk Sorting Systems**.

This sampling of technology on display at the 2013 ALA Annual Conference is by no means intended as comprehensive. At best, it aims to capture some of the key trends and themes in play in the library technology arena. ■

—MARSHALL BREEDING is an independent consultant, researcher, and author.

A Bibliotheca representative demonstrates a self-checkout system.



Making Sense of Business Reference



Deck TK

An
ALA Editions
Excerpt

By Celia Ross

At the beginning of every online business reference workshop that I teach, I ask students to submit a stumper: a business reference question that has them shaking their heads. (Or shaking in their boots!). This is a sampling of some of those tricky questions as experienced by real librarians and researchers.

STUMPERS: Companies

Q

I would like to know how to find a company's market share for a certain product.

This is among my top 10 business stumpers. People are often looking for a company's market share (or, relatedly, market size of Product X). One thing to know is that you're never going to find an exact number. Whatever you can find will be an estimate and it will be based on a certain definition of the market and its players.

Ask yourself, "Would I want my competitors to know this if I were this company?" The answer is no. Plus, companies aren't required to break out their sales by product or market. They have to report only total sales. So, if you want to know the market share of Home Depot in the lumber market, you're going to have to dig for articles, find estimates of total market sizes, look for pointers to other players, and find anything you can that specifically mentions Home Depot and lumber. You may hit the jackpot and discover a trade journal that reports the top players in lumber and their market share, but this is not something you should count on. Also, be careful of the market info you do find: How is the source defining the lumber market? Are you getting market share as a percentage? A percentage of what (in other words, what is the total market size that they have a share of)?

For some products, markets, and companies, this kind of research gets even trickier. Some good resources to start with are Gale's *Market Share Reporter* and *Business Rankings Annual* publications. (These are in print and online.)

A

You can use this question not only to teach yourself but also to point your patron toward useful resources about what P/E is and what other measures are used to compare companies. With this kind of question, if you're being thrown for a loop right from the start (maybe you're not even sure what P/E stands for), then start with a business dictionary. Investopedia has useful explanations and tools, and Campbell R. Harvey's *Hypertextual Finance Glossary* provides even more technical info.

A

People are often looking for a company's market share (or, relatedly, market size of Product X). One thing to know is that you're never going to find an exact number.

Q

My patrons often ask whether they should invest in a particular company. They come for advice I'm obviously unqualified to give; I'd like to confidently point them to the necessary resources for them to make their decisions.

Good question. I want to know too! My colleagues and I used to always joke that we should be rich, given all the access to business databases and other financial info we had. But much as we'd like to think, there's no secret formula to getting rich quickly through investing—or any other way, regardless of what those late-night infomercials tell us. You have the right attitude: Just as you wouldn't diagnose a medical condition or offer tax advice or write someone's history paper, you don't want to start voicing your opinion and giving business advice. You can tell patrons that you're there to point them to the resources and get them started, and they should be happy with that. You'll find that some patrons need a little more hand-holding, in which case,

A

STUMPERS: Finance and Investing

Q

Patrons want to know what significance the P/E (price/earnings) ratio has when evaluating a company and how to use it when comparing companies.

get them set up to begin some research on their own and then make sure they feel comfortable returning to you if they have questions later. That's really all you can do. But if you do have a good tip on a great company, do tell the rest of us.

Q

I asked one librarian about questions that can be challenging, and he mentioned getting information on hedge funds, especially those that are guarded.

I never know what to do with hedge funds, either. Apparently, they are not required to report their information in the same way as other financial instruments are. (Although recent banking legislation like the Dodd-Frank Act have changed some of this: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hedge_fund#Regulation.)

When I'm faced with more advanced financial analysis questions, I often see if there is a library guide out there that will help give me a clue or two. I did a Google search for "hedge funds library guide site:.edu" and found a Harvard Baker Library guide to hedge funds: library.hbs.edu/guides/hedgefunds.html. If nothing else, this would give you a few places to turn (or to know that you don't subscribe to some of the more high-end tools, if that's the case).

A

When I'm faced with more advanced financial analysis questions, I often see if there is a library guide out there that will help give me a clue or two.

STUMPERS: Industry

Q

What information technologies—both hardware and software—are companies implementing in beverage production?

Good stumper. With this kind of question, you'll have to start broadly—by identifying what you can of the industry overall. Within these reports, you will likely find discussion of technology. Don't forget an article search; try a few of the business article

A

databases, such as EBSCO's Business Source Complete. Play around with your terminology and see what kinds of clues you find along the way. Remember that you might need to be flexible: For example, look for "soft drinks and/or beer or milk" instead of "beverages." You'll also likely want to try "software or hardware or technology," and other variations of those terms, to start finding things. You may also discover that you need to break out your search into areas of beverage production—the beverage itself, packaging, distribution. And a quick online search for the beverage industry will point you to several trade journals. Check those for special technology reports, columns, or other ideas on how to adjust your search.

Q

Raisins are big in California's Central Valley, and I've gotten a few questions about the economics of the raisin industry, specifically in this area. I've had a hard time finding info on anything more specific than "grapes."

A quick Google search for "raisin industry" points me to the California Raisin Marketing Board (calraisins.org/about/the-raisin-industry) and also a report from Cornell University on "The US and World Situation: Raisins" (usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/fas/raiswm//2000s/2007/raiswm-07-02-2007.pdf) that cites the USDA as its source.

These are the kinds of clues I'd start to look for: industry associations, tracking back where data is coming from, etc. I'd try to see if any local university has a department or expert in this area too (perhaps there is a dedicated research center).

Also, if the questions come up frequently enough, you may want to consider building a guide. It will help you and your patrons learn about "the raisin situation." ■

*This is an excerpt from **Making Sense of Business Reference: A Guide for Librarians and Research Professionals**, ALA Editions, 200 p., \$52, ISBN-13: 978-0-8389-1084-9. It is available at alastore.ala.org.*



CELIA ROSS is associate librarian at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, and teaches an online course in business librarianship for ALA's Reference and User Services Association. She is past chair of the Business Reference and Services Section of RUSA.

Currents

■ July 1 **Beth Bernhardt** became assistant dean for collection management and scholarly communications at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

■ June 30 **Howard Boksenbaum** retired as chief library officer of the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services. He served Rhode Island libraries in various capacities for 35 years.

■ June 1 **Kimberly Bunner** became director of Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library in Canton, Illinois.

■ July 1 **Tom Caswell**, architecture and fine arts librarian, was promoted to university librarian at the George A. Smathers Libraries of the University of Florida in Gainesville.

■ May 16 **Douglas Crane** became branch public service coordinator for the Palm Beach County (Fla.) Library System.

■ May 20 **John Dorr** became assistant head of research and information services at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

■ June 18 **Corey Freidrich** became director of the Chippewa River District Library System in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

■ April 22 **Gregg Grunow** became manager of Portsmouth (Va.) Public Library's Main branch.

■ May 1 **Elizabeth Hitchcock** became associate university librarian for planning and facilities at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.



Beth Bernhardt



Sara Jones



Patrick McCarthy



Frederic C. Pachman

■ June 30 **Samuel T. Huang** resigned as associate dean for advancement and development at the University of Florida's George A. Smathers Libraries in Gainesville to become curator of the university's rare books collection.

■ July 1 **Ernie Ingles** retired as director of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

■ July 8 **Sara Jones** became director of the Marin County (Calif.) Free Library.

■ June 4 **Axel Kaschte** became product strategy director for OCLC. Kaschte has 20 years of experience working with library management systems and the library community throughout Europe.

■ April 8 **Molly Khan** became college archivist at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas.

■ June 1 **Debra Hanken Kurtz** became director of the Texas Digital Library, a consortium of academic libraries that provides shared services in support of research and learning.

■ June 30 **Carol Lang** re-

tired after more than 20 years at Temple University in Philadelphia, where she served as interim dean of university libraries for the past two years.

■ July 1 **Ann Lindell**, who was head of the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, became university librarian at the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

■ June 5 **Rebecca Lloyd** became education services librarian for the Health Sciences Libraries at Temple University in Philadelphia.

■ July 1 **Joseph P. Lucia** became dean of university libraries at Temple University in Philadelphia.

■ July 1 **Norman Maas** retired as library director of the Norfolk (Va.) Public Library.

■ June 30 **Margaret Martin** retired as children's librarian at Mercer Island (Wash.) Library after 20 years of service in the King County libraries to become a school librarian for Hope International School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

■ July 1 **Brenda Mathenia** became university librarian

CITED

■ May 1 **Carol D. Fiore** received the Florida Library Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for more than 30 years of service, including significant contributions to library services for youth in Florida and across the United States.

■ May 24 **Beverly Lynch** was named the 28th Illinois Library Luminary by the Illinois Library Association. Luminaries comprise ILA's Roll of Honor.

■ June 12 **Frederic C. Pachman**, director of the Altschul Medical Library at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, New Jersey, received the 2013 Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award from the New Jersey Library Association.

at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia.

■ June 17 **Patrick McCarthy** became associate dean, library and information access, at San Diego State University.

■ July 1 **Hikaru Nakano**, East Asian cataloger, was promoted to associate university librarian at the George A. Smathers Libraries of the University of Florida in Gainesville.

■ June 3 **David I. Orenstein** became chief librarian of the Charles Evans Inniss Memorial Library of the City University of New York's Medgar Evers College.

■ May 1 **Michelle Ornat** became manager of Portsmouth (Va.) Public Library's Churchland branch.

■ April 22 **Jen Pace** became children's services coordinator at Polk County (N.C.) Public Library.

■ June 30 **Jo Pinder** retired as assistant director of support services at Baltimore County (Md.) Public Library.

■ June 17 **Kelle Ruden** became director of community relations at Westport (Conn.) Public Library.

■ May 30 **John Spears** became executive director of Salt Lake City (Utah) Pub-



Kelle Ruden



Barbara Wurtzel

lic Library.

■ July 1 **Laurie Taylor**, digital humanities librarian, was promoted to associate university librarian at the George A. Smathers Libraries of the University of Florida in Gainesville.

■ May 28 **Annette B. Thibodeaux** retired as librarian at Archbishop Chapelle High School in

Metairie, Louisiana, after 21 years of service there and 40 years as a school librarian.

■ May 31 **Randy Wilson** retired as director of Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library in Canton, Illinois, after 30 years of service.

■ May 28 **Barbara Wurtzel** became dean of library services at Springfield

library career in 1969 as a library assistant at Birmingham Public Library (BPL) and worked in public libraries until she retired in 2009. At BPL, she served in many capacities, including regional branch coordinator, department head, branch head, and book-mobile head. From 1988 to 1995 she was director of North Shelby County Library. Active in the Jefferson County Public Library Association, the Alabama Library Association, and ALA, Harwell won the Alabama Library Association's Eminent Librarian Award in 2004, for her exceptional and enduring contribution to library service in the state.

■ **Thomas Adner Souter, Jr.**, 82, who retired as associate director of libraries at Virginia Tech in 1995, died May 6. Professor emeritus of library science at Troy (Ala.) University Library, Souter began his library career at Florida State University and went on to serve as assistant director for general services at Indiana University Libraries in Bloomington and head librarian at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell.

(Mass.) Technical Community College.

At ALA

■ July 8 **Raquel Northern** resigned as accounting manager.

■ **Irving E. Rockwood** has retired as editor and publisher of *Choice* magazine, ACRL's review journal for undergraduate libraries, after 17 years of service. ■

OBITUARIES

■ **Ngozi Agbim**, 73, retired head librarian of LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, New York, died June 24. Agbim was walking home from church when she was struck and killed by a tractor-trailer.

■ **Lisle G. Brown**, 69, curator of special collections at Marshall University Libraries in Huntington, West Virginia, died June 14.

■ **Virginia C. Grigg**, 89, who retired as chief of the State Library of Florida's Bureau of Library Development in 1989, died at her home in Tallahassee June 4. In 1976, Grigg received the Public Administrator of the Year Award from the North Florida Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and was honored by the American Library Association's Washington Office in 1995 for her contributions toward library legislative success and improvement of library services for the American people.

■ **Edith Harwell**, 66, former director of Homewood (Ala.) Public Library, died of complications from an extended illness April 4. She began her

Ramping Up Summer Reading

How school librarians can minimize the summer slide

by Ernie Cox

School librarians across the country participate in an annual ritual to mark the end of the academic year. They diligently distribute summer reading lists and encourage students to participate in their public library's summer reading programs. This ritual is not without scholarly support. A 2010 Dominican University study, *Public Library Summer Reading Programs Close the Reading Gap*, assures school librarians that participation in high-quality public library



Great teaching can't overcome a bookless summer.

summer reading programs helps students maintain or even expand their reading abilities

over the bright days of summer. Yet, with poverty at an all-time high in the US, librarians need to be mindful of the study's other finding—that students living in poverty do not share these great reading experiences.

As a teacher-librarian in a school serving an economically diverse student population, I find Richard Allington and Anne McGill-Franzen's recent research a compelling approach to transforming the summer reading ritual. *Summer Reading: Closing the Rich/Poor Reading Achievement Gap* (2013) shares the results of a multiyear intervention aimed at stem-

ming the effects of summer slide. No academic gains achieved during the school year can overcome the effect of three months without reading. Allington and his team offered a diverse selection of trade literature, helped students pick books that interested them, and provided independent reading time. The greatest challenge to our traditional ritual is that this approach goes beyond a resources list by supplying actual books for the kids to take home and keep. In Allington and McGill-Franzen's study, building students' summer reading home collections resulted in improved reading achievement.

This year, at Prairie Creek Intermediate School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, we are building on this research. We worked with our elementary educators to identify 4th graders "in the gap." As the first group of students bounded up the stairs to browse the school-sponsored book fair, we immediately saw this was a fresh start. As kids selected their books, they informally conferred with principals, literacy coaches, and library staff about three key points:

- Their book choices, through which we learned about their personal interests, families, and life experiences;

- Whether they could independently read their selections, determined with a 90% comprehension benchmark as kids read aloud from a few of their choices;

- Seizing the opportunity to discuss the library as a collection for the long-term reader if a book proved too difficult for the student who selected it;

- Sending students off for the summer with a bag of 10 books and our encouragement to continue the conversation through social media (paradoxically, many of these kids have internet connectivity), journaling, phone calls, and home visits.

The average bystander watching the book-shopping spree would not have known that this group is the focus of our greatest professional concern. Selections tended towards *SpongeBob SquarePants*, *WWE wrestling* (3D version), and photo biographies of the pop band *One Direction*.

Yet, we must embrace them as the readers they are today if they are to become thriving, literate individuals in the years to come. Long-term success will require school systems and public libraries to collaborate around direct service to these readers most in need of our expertise.

This fall, we'll surely hear about a trove of reading experiences. We also hope to see an early effect on standardized achievement among these struggling readers. Helping them build high-interest home libraries should become integral to school librarians' end-of-year summer reading list ritual. ■

ERNIE COX is teacher-librarian at Prairie Creek Intermediate School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Librarian's Library

Keeping up with continuing education

by Karen Muller

We like to think we're done when we graduate from library school, MLIS in hand. But then we meet the real world and a whole new set of questions and challenges: How, specifically, does your first employer's library really approach customer service? How does it implement new technology? And a little further down the career path, will you need to learn a new skill or integrate a new program into your library's existing offerings? Later on, if you become a manager, will you have a clue what the newly minted MLIS you just hired is talking about?

Over its four editions, *Staff Development: A Practical Guide* has evolved to meet libraries' changing needs. The product of the hardworking Staff Development Committee in the Human Resources Section of ALA's Library Leadership and Management Association, the guide informs readers of the purpose of staff development, considers planning and assessment, and reviews delivery options. The current edition makes a clear distinction between training and staff development and discusses these topics using an analysis of competencies held—and needed—to guide the offerings of a staff development program. It also uses the ad-



vances in instructional design and content delivery to offer ways to fit a program to individual needs and learning styles while considering the organization as a whole. It is, at its core, a guide to building the learning organization.

INDEXED. ALA EDITIONS, 2013.
232 P. \$55. PBK. 978-0-8389-1149-5

Conversely, *Continuing Education for Librarians: Essays on Career Improvement through Classes, Workshops, Conferences, and More*, edited by Carol Smallwood, Kerol Harrod, and Vera Gubnitskaia, stresses the importance of taking personal responsibility to achieve continued growth throughout one's career. The essays cover activities once thought of as "continuing education": formal education, face-to-face, online, and a combination; and attending conferences and workshops, as well as planning and participating in them. Other ways to improve specific skills or to recharge include mentoring, traveling, and teaching (whether in a formal course or as part of a team of educators in a school). There are also essays on balancing professional and personal interests and funding the courses, as well as a delightful final essay on free continu-



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ing education.
INDEXED. MCFARLAND, 2013.
224 P. \$55. PBK. 978-0-7864-6886-7 (ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK.)

Acquiring *The Whole School Library Handbook 2* wouldn't quite be "continuing education for free," but careful and thoughtful

reading of the array of essays would provide an overview of the main issues in school librarianship. The handbook is edited by library professors Blanche Woolls and David V. Loertscher. It does not, however, replace the first edition, as every article is newly selected for this one. Material that is better suited for viewing on a website, such as award winners, has not been included. There are both practical and theoretical discussions on the profession and its issues, collection development, evaluation, technology, operations, programing, advocacy, and accommodating students who are underserved. When the complete essay is not included, the full source is indicated.

INDEXED. ALA EDITIONS, 2013. 176 P. \$55. PBK.
978-0-8389-1127-3

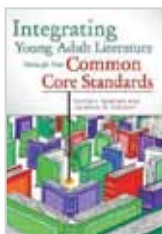
Many of the same issues—collection development, operations, programing, advocacy—are covered in the



fourth edition of *Managing Children's Services in Libraries*, by Adele M. Fasick and Leslie Edmonds Holt. This textbook covers basics and larger issues, with checkpoints for further consideration, and considers the needs of children's services in both public and school libraries. Managers might be able to adapt the sections on collections, planning services, managing personnel and budgets, and working with other community agencies into outlines to guide in-house staff development. INDEXED. LIBRARIES UNLIMITED, 2012. 225 P. \$50. PBK. 978-1-61069-100-0



Integrating Young Adult Literature through the Common Core Standards, by Rachel L. Wadham and Jonathan W. Ostenson, brings the threads of this selection of titles together. The Common Core Standards have been adopted in 45 states. Learning how they will be used in a particular school district is likely to be part of in-service training for teachers and school librarians, and should likely be understood by public librarians working with teachers and their students. The authors embrace the use of YA literature in the curriculum, as many titles can be used for thematic explication; to engage readers in deeper analysis; and to offer a variety of literary forms. They discuss matters of textual complexity, both quantitative and qualitative, as well as what the reader's experience brings to the interpretation. Includes sample unit plans and rubrics. INDEXED. LIBRARIES UNLIMITED, 2013. 260 P. \$45. PBK. 978-1-61069-118-5 (ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK.) ■



KAREN MULLER is librarian and knowledge management specialist for the ALA Library.

ROUSING READS

MARISHA PESSL'S *NIGHT FILM* LEAVES A LASTING IMPRESSION

It's the time of year when all of us connected to the publishing world begin speculating about the season's big books. The major book shows—BookExpo America in May and ALA Annual Conference in June—have come and gone, leaving dozens of potential big books in their wakes. Now comes the predicting, the opinion swapping, and, one hopes, the reading.



After many years of observing this process, of watching hundreds of would-be big books get thrown into readers' hands on cascading waves of publicity and then sucked back into the vast bibliographic ocean as the seasonal tide recedes, I view the spectacle with a melancholy eye, feeling, perhaps, the "turbid ebb and flow" that Matthew Arnold sensed watching the waves on Dover Beach "begin, and cease, and then again begin."

And, yet, despite all that, I do have a book that I dearly hope survives the ebb and flow of opinion making. It's Marisha Pessl's *Night Film*, on the face of it a literary thriller but, like Nick Harkaway's *Angelmaker* and Allen Kurzweil's *The Grand Complication*, so very much more.

It starts like so many thrillers start: with a death. When the daughter of a notorious film director is found dead in New York, an apparent suicide, investigative reporter Scott McGrath throws himself back into a story that almost ended his career. But now McGrath has his "Rosebud" and, like Jedediah Leland in *Citizen Kane*, who hoped to make sense of media mogul Charles Foster Kane by understanding his last word, so the reporter sets out to determine how Ashley Cordova died and, in so doing, penetrate the heart of darkness that engulfs her reclusive father, Stanislas.

Like Pessl's first novel, the acclaimed *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*, this one expands from a seemingly straightforward mystery into a multifaceted, densely byzantine exploration of much larger issues (in this case, the nature of truth and illusion as reflected by the elusive Cordova, whose transcend-the-genre horror films are cult favorites and about whom rumors of black magic and child abuse continue to swirl).

His daughter, piano prodigy Ashley (her notes "weren't played; they were poured from a Grecian urn"), is almost as mysterious as her father, her life and death equally clouded in secrecy and colored with possibly supernatural shadings. Into this maze-like world of dead ends and false leads, McGrath ventures with his two much younger helpers, Nora and Hopper, brilliantly portrayed Holmesian "irregulars" who may finally understand more about Ashley than their mentor, whose linear approach to fact finding might miss the point entirely.

Pessl's first novel possessed a bit of the overindulgence one might expect from a precocious young writer. All evidence of that is gone here; the writing is always under control, and the characters never fail to draw us further into the maelstrom of the story.

Night Film is a long, demanding novel, and it may not be the big book of the season, at least commercially. But I know I'll never forget it, and as the publishing seasons continue to come and go, I also know it's a book I'll read again.



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

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▼ AcademicPub has upgraded its Content Library, a platform filled with eight million items of content from more than 240 academic publishers, so that it can be customized by college and university libraries. AcademicPub Off the Shelf is a new feature that can be tailored to maximize a school's existing content-licensing arrangements. Schools can set and control prices to reflect established university agreements with publishers, and AcademicPub will integrate the institution's pricing relationships into the AcademicPub Content Library, passing on savings to the student. AcademicPub Off the Shelf benefits both faculty and students. Teachers can choose course material from the AcademicPub library at prices that reflect a school's licensing arrangements. Students get lower-priced materials and the ability to access print and digital books on iPads, iPhones, Mac, Windows PC, Android, and other devices.

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Bretford Manufacturing has introduced two new polyurethane edges as standard options with their Explore line of tables for education, casual, and business settings. The durable but stylish reverse knife and quarter-rounded edges lend a refined appearance to Bretford's tables while also extending their life and appearance. The edges are molded directly to the table, creating an almost impenetrable seal around the perimeter. The sealing process makes the edges highly resistant to stains and liquid absorption. The soft, durable edges are shaped on the user side and flat on the others, allowing for clean connections when placed next to other tables. They act as bumpers as well, protecting walls, doorways, chairs, and other objects that may come into contact with them.

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To have a new product considered for this section, contact Phil Morehart at pmorehart@ala.org.

cengage.com >>>

Gale, part of Cengage Learning, has expanded its Nineteenth Century Collections Online program to include four new archives. The massive, multiyear global digitization and publishing program collects rare primary source materials—newspapers, maps, and photographs—from the 19th century to be accessed online. The launch of the new archives brings the total number available in the program to eight and the total number of collections within the resource to more than 170. The new archives include “Europe and Africa: Commerce, Christianity, Civilization, and Conquest,” which uses monographs, manuscripts, and newspaper accounts to document the motivations, activities, and results of the European conquest of Africa; “Photography: The World Through the Lens” assembles collections of photographs, photo albums, and texts on key events in world history as documented on film; “Science, Technology, and Medicine, 1780–1925” consists of journals and monographs on electricity, physics, civil engineering, and American medical history; and “Women: Transnational Networks” features information on European and North American women’s movements from the Suffragists’ era to the present.



BUFFALO INVESTS IN KNOVEL

WHY.KNOVEL.COM

University at Buffalo (N.Y.) Science and Engineering Librarians A. Ben Wagner and Nancy Schiller understand how essential reliable information is to quality research. The internet has made information substantially more available to today’s students, but the validity and usefulness of those sources can be questionable. Wagner and Schiller teach patrons how to enhance their data searches with Knovel’s online technical resources.

The Knovel platform caters to content for engineers. Knovel proactively works with their customers, leading engineers, and an editorial board to develop content across 30 subject areas. The platform is continuously updated to help engineers keep pace with market drivers and evolving industries such as nanotechnology. Information professionals and librarians can also choose specific subject areas to ensure content is based solely on their specific needs.

“They are the first place we look,” says Wagner. “It’s fine to have a tool that gets you 10 million hits, but at times you want precision. And one of the things that I can certainly compliment Knovel on is that it is very precise, particularly in data searching, where it goes down

to the cell level in a table.”

Wagner also values Knovel’s balance between offering great background information as well as deeply specific technical content, which is why he promotes Knovel to faculty as well as students. He recalls a professor who was trying to find solvents with a certain melting point range and other specific physical properties. The faculty member “was very surprised to learn that one can do a search in Knovel by just porting in

property data without first specifying the nature of the materials.” Schiller concurs. “The fact that one of the initial focuses of Knovel was to bring these great sources of properties data online was

amazing to me, and the data search makes it so much easier.”

Wagner and Schiller are particularly grateful for the fact that Knovel represents multiple publishers, which makes it more of a “one-stop shop.” In addition, they appreciate Knovel’s keyword searching, relevance ranking, and the clear, keyword-weighted results. Wagner relates that many of his research colleagues are “quite excited” about Knovel’s interactive charts and graphs. “There’s very little I don’t like,” he said.



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Par for the Course

How to take aim at self-improvement

by Will Manley

I am a firm believer in the value of libraries because I have always enthusiastically accepted the axiom that you can learn how to do anything from a book, even the most difficult of all human endeavors—how to swing a golf club. In the course of my life, I have competed, at some level, in about every sport to which a red-blooded American boy is exposed, so I can say with absolute certainty that nothing compares to golf from a degree-of-difficulty standpoint.

I lived a basically happy life for the first 58 years of my life, and then I retired and decided to take up golf as a way of staying in functional physical shape. A couple of years ago, my playing partner Fred, a retired chiropractor, put it succinctly as we finished yet another round of dysfunctional golf: “Enough torture

for one day.” Forget waterboarding; the military should take captured terrorists out on the golf course and make them play until they break down and confess their deepest, darkest secrets.

When it comes to things that I want to master, I tend to be rather stubborn. So while Fred would head for the golf course cocktail lounge to alleviate his pain, I would head for the public library. There I would find a seemingly endless collection of “how to” golf books and videos. It was just a matter of finding the right one. Hope and change became my mantra. I would change my swing and then hit the little white ball and hope for the best.

The hallmark of golf literature is that every expert has a different theory. One day I would follow the advice of Johnny Miller and hold the club “loosey goosey,” and the next day I would “grip it and rip it” à la John Daley. One day I would swing with a strong right arm (Tommy Bolt), and the next I would swing with a strong left arm (Tiger Woods). One day I would coil my body into a pretzel (Ben Hogan), and the next I would relax and swing easy (Julius Boros). Some days I would tinker with a



Management literature is like golf literature:

Authors' advice varies.

short backswing, and others I would wind the club back as far as I could. Nothing worked.

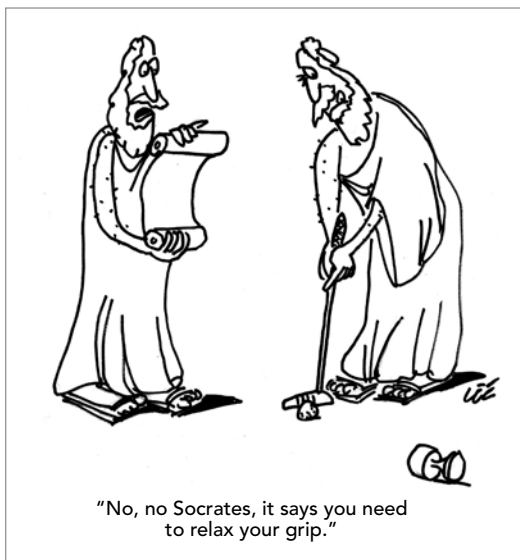
So I got frustrated and decided to empty my head of all the

swing tips I'd learned and do what felt comfortable to me—a medium grip, a moderate backswing, and a left and right arm working in tandem. My scores improved and the game became fun.

It all reminded me of my career in management. I progressed from being the director of a small-town public library in my 20s to managing a good-sized city in my 50s. Like any good librarian, I had to keep up with the times and read the management book du jour. Every author seemed to have a different theory: You should be an intimidating presence, a warm and fuzzy life coach, a wily politician. You should stay the hell out of politics, be on the cutting edge of technology, shun fads and stick with classic principles, take a collegial approach, exert strong leadership, follow the data, go by your instinct, be an extrovert, be an introvert. . . . Management literature is like golf literature.

Was it Socrates who said “Know yourself”? If so, he was the greatest management theorist of all time—and probably a pretty decent golfer. ■

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





When's the Last Time You Found a Rock Star in Your School Library? We Did. *And We Hired Her.*

Missed us at the ALA Conference? Then you missed the big news! Eminent school librarian Joyce Valenza joins Rutgers School of Communication and Information in January 2014.

Rutgers is excited to welcome Joyce to the faculty, where she will lead courses in:

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