

american libraries

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Midwinter **PREVIEW**

+ ATLANTA DINING GUIDE

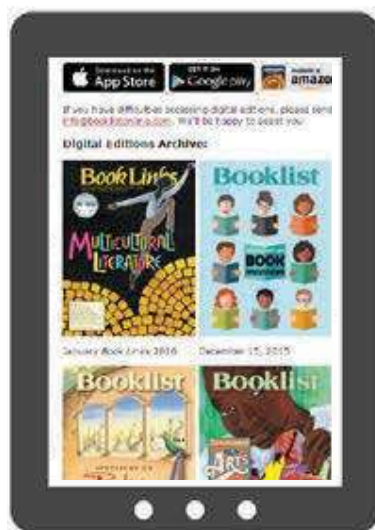
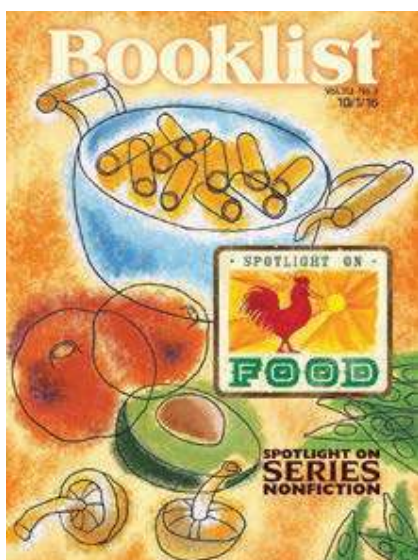
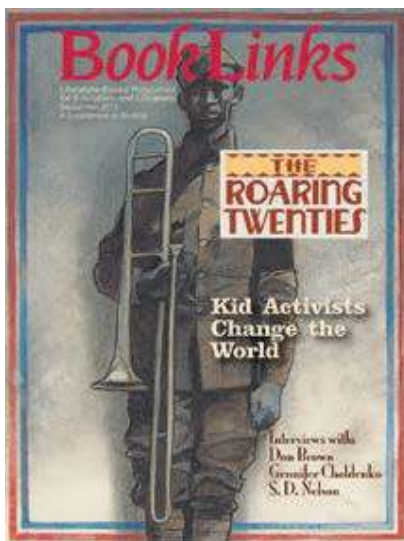
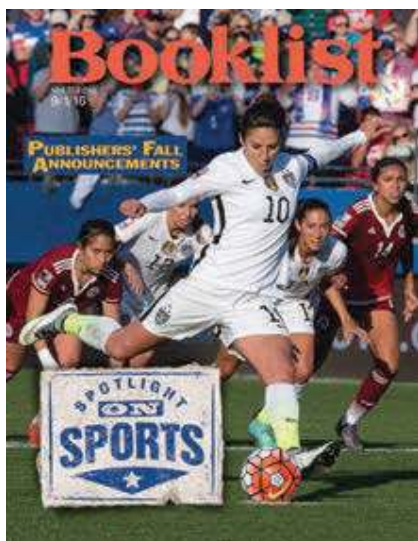
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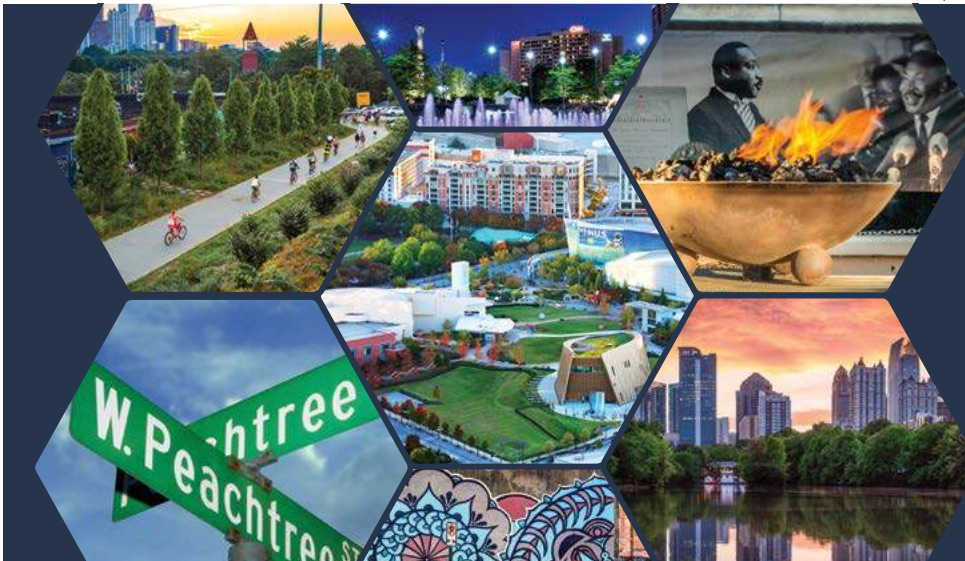
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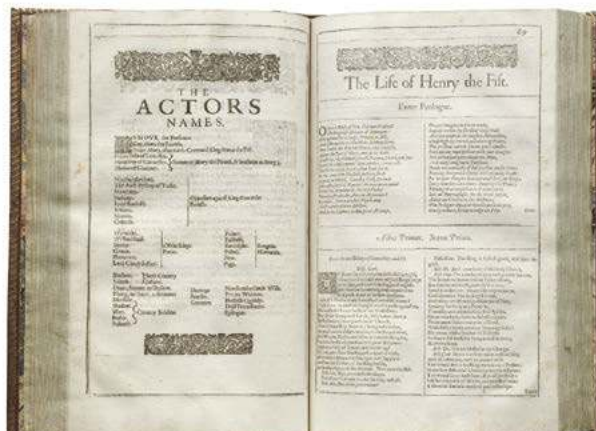
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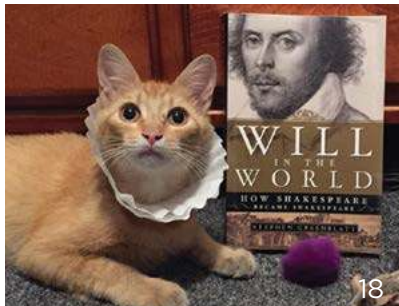
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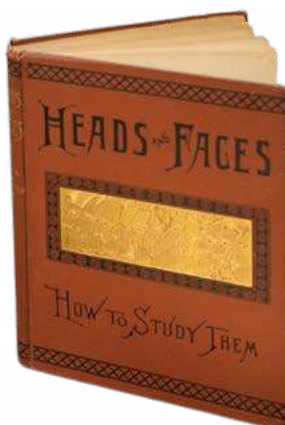
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TRANSFORMING RDA

The RDA Toolkit Restructure and Redesign Project

will be a major focus of discussion at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The project aims to significantly improve the functionality and utility of RDA Toolkit and will include revisions to RDA based on the IFLA Library Reference Model.

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DATE January 21
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ROOM GWCC-B407

RDA TECH FORUM

DATE January 23
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ROOM GWCC-B405

LEARN MORE AT [**RDAToolkit.org/blog/3RProject**](http://RDAToolkit.org/blog/3RProject)

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Looking Out for Communities



Laurie D. Borman

Last year was a banner year for the library world as well as for *American Libraries*. In October, everyone cheered as Carla Hayden was confirmed as Librarian of Congress. We were privileged to interview her in our last issue. We introduced *Dewey Decibel*, our new podcast, in April. If you haven't checked it out, you need to download it and listen soon! We've also increased our online content—such as our Latest Library Links feature, updated several times daily—so you can get more information about library happenings sooner. Be sure to see our year-in-review feature for other library world highlights, beginning on page 32.

How did libraries fare in the 2016 election? Director of the Office for Research and Statistics (ORS) Kathy Rosa and ORS program officer Kelsey Henke found a lot of community support for libraries, and they share the news in Referenda Roundup on page 36.

Of course, there were some low moments. Post-election, there was much unrest, and from my new home in Indiana, I saw a lot of it up close and personal: swastikas painted on bike trails behind a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood as well as on an Episcopal church. But libraries and librarians can counter the messages of hate. The school librarian who helps kids to learn what a fake news site is, the libraries that add diverse books to their collections, the ones that offer a safe haven lift us all. Libraries are places for community gathering and conversation and can be the neutral space for diverse views and people. ALA offers a resource page on how you can help: ala.org/advocacy/diversity/libraries-respond/2016election.

One other way libraries are bridging communities is through assisting prisoners with resources as they prepare to reenter society. Megan Cottrell's story of these librarians and their efforts begins on page 50.

If you're attending Midwinter, don't miss our Midwinter Preview, with selected event highlights, including the new Symposium on the Future of Libraries, speakers W. Kamau Bell and Neil Patrick Harris, and great tips on where to eat in our dining guide to Atlanta's restaurants. It all begins on page 56.

Laurie

Are library cats on the decline? Learn more about this trend on page 18.

american libraries

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ALA American Library Association

Address: 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611
Website: americanlibrariesmagazine.org
Email: americanlibraries@ala.org
Phone: 800-545-2433 plus extension
Career Ads: JobLIST.ala.org

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Laurie D. Borman
lborman@ala.org | x4213

MANAGING EDITOR

Sanhita SinhaRoy
ssinhaRoy@ala.org | x4219
Center for Civil and Human Rights

SENIOR EDITORS

Amy Carlton
acarlton@ala.org | x5105

George M. Eberhart
geberhart@ala.org | x4212

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Terra Dankowski
tdankowski@ala.org | x5282

Phil Morehart
pmorehart@ala.org | x4218

EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Anne Ford
aford@ala.org | x2157

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

Carrie Smith
casmith@ala.org | x4216

ART DIRECTOR

Rebecca Lomax
rlomax@ala.org | x4217

ADVERTISING

Michael Stack mstack@ala.org | 847-367-7120

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PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

Bill Ott, Acting Associate Executive Director
Mary Jo Bolduc, Rights, Permissions, Reprints | x5416

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Ron Jankowski, Director

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Joseph M. Eagan (Chair), Helen Ruth Adams, Ernie J. Cox, Lee A. Cummings, Christine Korytnyk Dulaney, Tina Francis, Jasmina Jusic. Interns: Tom Bober, Lucy Kelly
Editorial policy: ALA Policy Manual, section A.8.2

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Rod Wagner

Director | Nebraska Library Commission

Many of these resources are currently available through state libraries in AR, DE, ID, IL, KS, MI, MO, NE, NJ, NV, OK, SC, SD, TX, UT, VT, and WI – contact United for Libraries to gain access. If your state is not listed, contact your state library to request that your state make them available.

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Moving Forward Together

Standing up and speaking out on our vision and values is key



Julie B. Todaro

As a profession, we have remained consistent in our beliefs, no matter the difficulty or challenge.

The American Library Association (ALA) represents not only thousands of professionals but also hundreds of thousands of constituents in more than 120,000 academic, public, school, and special libraries. Our professionals strive every day—in often challenging circumstances—to build community and help transform the lives of those in our community.

Being all things to all people, however, is impossible. This is why the Association steps in, to set the vision and tone for professionals to follow throughout their working days, though it is not always easy. In the past months I have experienced the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, and I have at times felt helpless during one of the most sustained, vitriolic election seasons in our nation's history, watching as policy issues affect our communities and our very institutions.

Because of this, I released a statement in late November, stating, “ALA believes that the struggle against racism, prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination is central to our mission. We will continue to support efforts to abolish intolerance and cultural invisibility, stand up for all the members of the communities we serve, and promote understanding and inclusion through our work.”

I meant it.

As a profession, we have remained consistent in our beliefs, no matter the difficulty or challenge, and we must continue to do so.

Some have chided me for saying we must move forward, because they think it means acquiescing in our vision and values. To me, moving forward means carefully planning for how we take our next steps. We can't ignore where we are now, but we must educate others as to what our ideals are and what our values mean. We must continue to be inclusive beacons for meaningful and equitable public discourse, push for social justice, champion intellectual freedom, fight for equitable access to resources and services for our

constituents, protect privacy, commit to diversity, and strive to ensure that we help build and sustain a literate constituency.

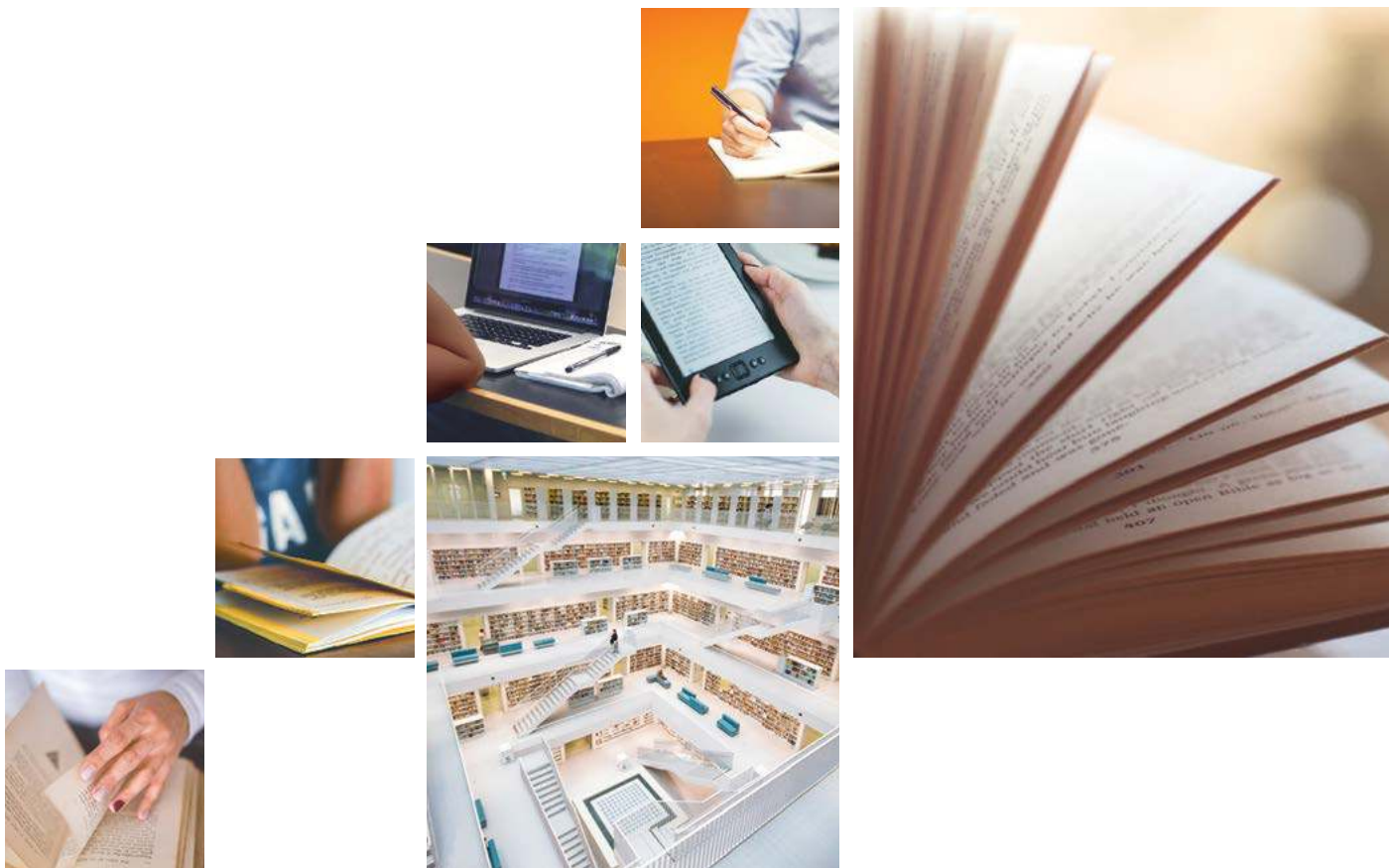
Support through difficult times

Though these difficult times are unprecedented, they are not insurmountable. We need to rethink how we illustrate what we do and the incredible impact we have. This means identifying expertise in our practices and processes and divvying responsibilities. We should commit to supporting those who research and identify; those who create; and those who deliver. When I deliver, and when all of us deliver, we must reaffirm and illustrate that every single message is founded on our longstanding principles.

We have much to offer in the years ahead, creating, for instance, pathfinders to crisis toolkits that ensure equity and diversity; materials and resources that celebrate our differences; links to guidelines for managing harassment and bullying; statements affirming our beliefs; and a wide range of other resources. In addition, we have unique expertise and leadership in our ALA offices and divisions, providing mission statements, goals, and initiatives, not to mention tireless support for us. We also have unique expertise in our member groups—via committees, task forces, and other working groups that advance both general organizational roles and specific projects. And we have unique expertise and commitment from our membership, including librarians, library workers, and stakeholders.

My hope is that decision makers will focus on working together to improve the lives of all Americans, including the most vulnerable. We will continue to work together to aggressively defend what we do and who we are, and we will advance *our* agenda in our communities and transform the lives of our constituents. **AL**

JULIE B. TODARO is dean of library services at Austin (Tex.) Community College.



A shortcut is only a shortcut if it saves you time

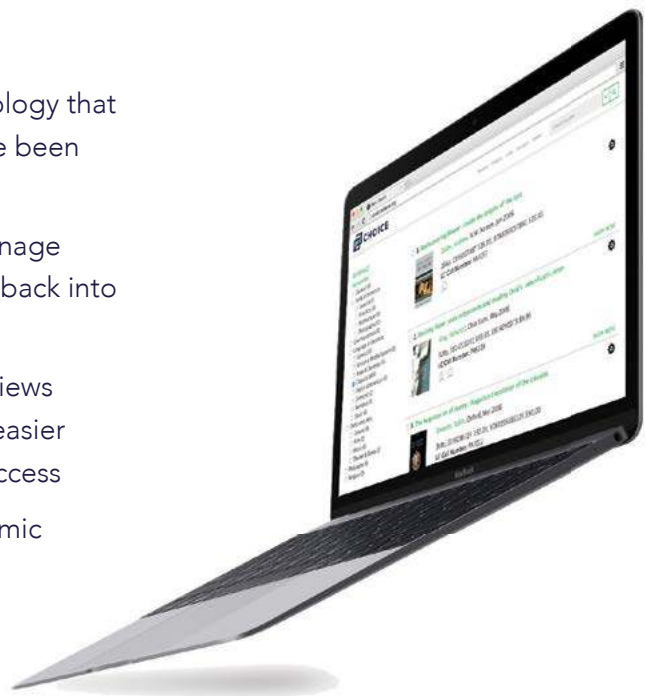
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A Look at ALA's Finances

The Association's budgets reviewed and approved



Susan H. Hildreth

This is my first column as ALA treasurer, and my goal during my term in office is to make sure our membership has a clear understanding of where ALA is financially and that we strategically use the Association's resources to support programmatic priorities.

For fiscal year 2016, which just closed, I am glad that ALA came very close to its budget, with operating revenues of \$50,815,693 and operating expenses of \$51,259,221. It was a rather challenging year. We include a number of activities for our revenue: publishing (\$11,705,837), Annual and Midwinter meetings (\$5,564,072 and \$2,785,904, respectively), membership (\$5,515,846), division activities (\$15,810,609), grants (\$6,329,463), round table activities (\$434,927), and investment income from the endowment and short-term cash investments (\$936,052).

Within this overall budget, revenue sources varied somewhat from original projections. ALA publishing revenue was \$1,193,513 (or approximately 9%) lower than original projections, as were the Annual and Midwinter conference revenue variances of \$720,403 and \$220,646 (11% and 7%, respectively). Within the general fund, these lower-than-projected revenues were partially offset by \$1,164,139 lower expenses than budgeted. Grants were \$1,468,200 higher than projected, as was revenue generated by the divisions (\$155,413 greater than budget). Division expenses were also \$1,400,738 lower than budget.

Given the final revenue results for publishing, ALA management took a close look at the initial projections for the 2017 fiscal year, which began September 1. Ultimately, the ALA Executive Board approved a final 2017 budget that included a \$500,000 decrease of publishing revenue projections that were matched by expense reductions in publishing and the other ALA offices. This revised budget also included

investments that will help grow publishing revenue in the future. Also included in the budget is the increased support for investments in technology, with major systems such as the new ALA e-commerce and e-learning site scheduled to roll out this year. As treasurer, I will be working closely with the ALA executive director, the chief financial officer, and the finance staff to monitor our revenue and expenses over the coming year.

For this reason, one of the most important things that informed members know is that for every dollar ALA collects in member dues, another \$5 is generated through publishing, conferences, grants, and endowment support. This means ALA is much stronger than it could ever be if it were solely dependent on member dues, and it makes our advocacy, information policy, and professional leadership development programs much, much stronger. Every one of those ALA dollars works very hard for us as members, for libraries, and for the public we serve.

Overall, ALA continues to maintain a healthy balance of assets—including the endowment—and liabilities. This financial soundness and the ALA endowment are important for the long-term stability and sustainability of the Association. We expect to be around for many years to come as we face a future that continues to be full of opportunities and challenges for libraries. We are in it for the long run.

I look forward to reporting back to the membership on a regular basis about financial issues that affect the Association, and I invite you to visit the treasurer's page at ala.org/aboutala/treasurerspage for more detailed information on the 2016 results, the 2017 budget, and other financial information. **ALA**

SUSAN H. HILDRETH is ALA treasurer and professor of practice at the Information School of the University of Washington in Seattle. She is former director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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to maintain
a healthy
balance of
assets and
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🐦 Finally got around to listening to @jaslar on @DeweyDecibel. Inspiring and informative conversation. Feeling reinvigorated! #LibraryLife

@CARDIGANHUNTER in response to the *Dewey Decibel* episode, "It Could Happen to You: Banned Books"

Snapchat Engagement

We have a Snapchat account set up for our library, Anne Arundel County Public Library in Maryland, and tend to use the "Stories" feature ("Snapchat in the Library," Nov./Dec., p. 22). Though if a patron sends us a message, we try to respond to keep the conversation going—or at least let them know we are not just robots.

We've had some great readers' advisory moments and fun reactions from customers, like when we posted a picture of the new Doctor Who book and asked library users to tell us which of the doctors is their favorite!

Samantha Zline
Pasadena, Maryland

3D Printing Hazards

There is a somewhat newer study that really helps clear the air, so to speak, about 3D printers, filaments, and what they emit ("The Health Effects of 3D Printing," AL Online, Oct. 11). Researchers at the Illinois Institute of Technology published a comprehensive study in 2016, which you can read in its entirety in *Environmental Science & Technology* (bit.ly/2g4813X). You can also read a slimmed down translation at Hackaday (bit.ly/2fAYUvv).

Essentially, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene filaments are bad, and polylactic-acid filaments are not bad—for now, at least.

Christina Keasler
Glen Ellyn, Illinois



Books for Inmates

I appreciate the work that these books-to-prisoners groups do ("The Freedom of Reading," AL Online, Oct. 31)! I volunteer with one in Canada.

One thing I will say, however, is that volunteer programs are no match for a reasonably funded institutional library or a partnership with a regional or municipal public library. Edmonton (Alberta) Public Library provides a breadth of materials for one correctional institution that we could never match as a grassroots volunteer organization. I'd like to see more public libraries implementing services for citizens who are incarcerated.

Allison Sivak
Edmonton, Alberta

Response to ALA President's Message

The monster to avoid antagonizing is the new administration, not

Trump himself ("A Message to Members," *The Scoop*, Nov. 21). The lobbying arm of the American Library Association (ALA) works hard to protect the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) from budget cuts, for example, which in turn protects state libraries, which in turn protects all the others. Someone in the new administration may think IMLS cuts should be made, especially if ALA offends them.

ALA put out a reasonable public relations message that highlighted what libraries are already doing that aligns with the new administration's plans and explained how they can expand the capacity of those programs with support from the new administration. No core principles were betrayed. There is no justification for ALA to take an offensive stance. If and when a problem arises, ALA will defend our core principles as it always does.

Elsa Kramer
Indianapolis

My primary concern is that the Association—including the staff in Chicago and Washington, D.C., the Executive Board, and the ALA president—are all acting on the same principles and rowing in the same direction on position statements and political action. I understand the penchant to take a midline approach, keeping in mind the diversity of the members of ALA and the communities that we

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serve. But I think we all need to acknowledge that we are operating in a political environment that most of us have not experienced yet in our lifetimes.

Our Association and professional values are clearly stated in Julie B. Todaro's message. I ask that we keep those values in mind when any aspect of ALA is making decisions.

Sarah Houghton
San Rafael, California

the unfortunately released press release and am ashamed that my professional organization and its president chose to normalize Trump's America.

Jane Cothron
Newport, Oregon

I support the original message, which was in no way opposed to ALA core principles. Rather, it opened the possibility of dialogue, which is sorely needed.

Tim McFadden
Edgecomb, Maine

Library patrons are affected by racism, homophobia, Islamophobia—the unholy trinity that elected Trump. Social justice is a library value, and I expect ALA to stand up for that. I read

Not only do I feel betrayed by the Washington Office making promises of support for the administration of President-Elect Trump

on my behalf, I am dismayed by its apparent willingness to effectively disavow the organization's strong record of activism for social justice, in what appears to be an effort to appease the new president and Congress.

As an ALA member of nearly 40 years, and as coordinator of the Social Responsibilities Round Table Feminist Task Force, I ask that ALA President Julie B. Todaro and the Executive Board act quickly to provide the membership with evidence that they will ensure that all Washington Office activities are strictly aligned with ALA core values.

Sherre Harrington
Rome, Georgia

 Some interesting ideas on an aspect of 3D printing most of us are not thinking about! #SafetyFirst

@CMLELIBS in response to "The Health Effects of 3D Printing" (AL Online, Oct. 11)

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ALA Awarded IMLS Grant for Training

The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office has been awarded \$243,922 by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program for a two-year professional development project that will train library professionals in community leadership techniques like coalition-building and dialogue facilitation.

Through “Libraries Transform: Community Engagement Models for Change,” ALA will offer a series of web-based and in-person workshops designed for public and academic libraries, all free of charge for participants.

“In today’s changing library landscape, it is increasingly clear that skills like facilitation and consensus building are vital competencies for library professionals,” said ALA President Julie B. Todaro in a September 9 statement. “ALA has been a champion of community engagement work for years, and we’re excited that this IMLS support will provide libraries and librarians even more resources to aid them in this important work.”

“Libraries Transform: Community Engagement Models for Change” is based on the idea that libraries have a unique capacity to support healthy, sustainable communities. ALA is partnering with several change-making leaders—such as the National Coalition on Dialogue and Deliberation, Everyday Democracy, National Issues Forums, and World Café—to develop and lead the trainings. Courses are intended to meet the needs of various library types and sizes: small, medium-sized, and rural public libraries; large public library systems; and academic libraries. Library professionals serving small and rural communities will be invited to apply for 25 scholarships to defray the cost of travel and lodging for in-person workshops.

Through a partnership with ALA’s Center for the Future of Libraries, all participants will receive digital badges in recognition of their participation. An introductory webinar will be held February 9 for interested participants. For more information, visit ala.org/LTC. ●

ALA Executive Director Announces Retirement

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels will retire in July 2017. Fiels has led ALA since 2002, making him one of the longest-serving executive directors in the Association’s history.

Under Fiels’s leadership, the Association launched several initiatives, including the Office for Library Advocacy and the Center for the Future of Libraries; expanded its publishing division; increased community engagement; and expanded its professional development programs.

Before he came to ALA, Fiels was director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for 10 years. He also served as president of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and as staff consultant for the New York and New Jersey State Libraries.

ALA President Julie B. Todaro and ALA officers have been working with Fiels to

ensure a smooth transition and expect the selection process for the next executive director to last through summer 2017.

In announcing his retirement to ALA staff, Fiels said, “It has been an incredible honor to have served my colleagues, libraries, and the public in this position for going on 15 years, during which we have made significant strides—and weathered a few storms. The staff and membership of ALA are the most amazing group of individuals that anyone could ever ask to work with.”

Scott Walter Announces Candidacy for ALA Presidency

Scott Walter, university librarian at DePaul University in Chicago, has filed as a petition candidate for the 2018–2019 ALA presidency.

An ALA member for 20 years, Walter served on ALA Council 2013–2016, on the ALA Publishing Committee 2014–2016, and numerous committees within

the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Between 2013–2016, he served as editor in chief of the ACRL journal *College and Research Libraries*.

Ballot mailing for the 2017 ALA election will begin on March 13 and will run through April 5. Individuals must be members in good standing as of January 31 in order to vote in the 2017 ALA election.

Learn How to Respond to a Library Security Incident

ALA Editions is conducting a workshop on library security on January 19.

In “How to Respond to a Security Incident in Your Library,” author, security expert, and former police officer Steve Albrecht will show workshop attendees how to respond effectively to security incidents in their library.

Albrecht will take the top 10 security, behavior, crime, or emergency-related incidents that occur in libraries and

Briefs Show Libraries' Impact

The ALA Office for Information Technology Policy released three briefs in November that use snapshots of library programs across the country to illustrate libraries' impact on communities, specifically in the areas of entrepreneurship, services to veterans, and broadband adoption and use.

One Small Business at a Time: Building Entrepreneurial Opportunity in America's Communities details how a Maryland ice cream entrepreneur used library resources to write an award-winning business plan that led to \$50,000 in seed money and the launch of her shop.

Libraries Help and Honor Our Veterans: Employment, Education, and

Community Connection explains how a California veteran received medical benefits and back pay he was unaware of thanks to a library referral.

America's Libraries: Powering Broadband Access, Adoption, and Use shows how families in public housing with school-aged children receive digital literacy training and access to online homework resources and other digital services at libraries.

The briefs' releases coincided with a November 17 event in Washington, D.C., hosted by ALA and the Internet Association, that focused on how to harness the internet and US libraries to increase economic opportunity. The briefs are available in the November 18 edition of *AL Direct* at bit.ly/2fyDaQQ. •

describe the issues, concerns, and responses surrounding them. Many of the scenarios will involve challenging or problem-inducing patrons, and others will discuss responses to events that staff might not always know how to deal with properly.

The workshop will last 90 minutes. For more information and to sign up, visit bit.ly/2fHQ8GW.

Three Literary Landmarks Dedicated in New York

United for Libraries, in partnership with Empire State Center for the Book (ESCB), dedicated three Literary Landmarks in October and November to commemorate the literary heritage of New York. This will bring the number of literary landmarks up to 22 in the state.

The new landmarks are Steepletop, the home of writer Edna St. Vincent Millay, in Austerlitz; the Society of Illustrators

in New York City; and the home of Frank Sullivan in Saratoga Springs.

ESCB, the New York State affiliate for the Library of Congress Center for the Book, works with United for Libraries to dedicate sites that have significant relationships to an author, book, or literary activity. The center has been the lead in the designation of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in honor of Madeleine L'Engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*, and the windmill at the Southampton campus of SUNY Stony Brook, where Tennessee Williams resided for a summer.

More than 150 Literary Landmarks across the United States have been dedicated since the Literary Landmark program began in 1986. Any library or group may apply for a Literary Landmark through United for Libraries. For more information about the program, visit ala.org/united/products_services/literarylandmarks.

CALENDAR

JAN. 20-24

ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits | Atlanta
2017.alamidwinter.org

MAR. 5-11

Teen Tech Week
teentechweek.ning.com

MAR. 16

Freedom of Information Day
bit.ly/1GTd9lw

MAR. 20-24

Public Library Association Leadership Academy
Portland, Oregon
bit.ly/2dVv7Mm

APR.

School Library Month
ala.org/aasl/slm

APR. 9-15

National Library Week
bit.ly/1gUe48B

APR. 11

National Library Workers Day
ala-apa.org/nlwd

APR. 12

National Bookmobile Day
bit.ly/1gUe488

APR. 22-29

Money Smart Week
bit.ly/1DDf2N3

APR. 23-29

Preservation Week
bit.ly/1OYbtqx

APR. 30

**El día de los niños/
El día de los libros**
dia.ala.org

MAY 1-2

National Library Legislative Day
ala.org/advocacy/advleg/nlld

MAY 1-7

Choose Privacy Week
chooseprivacyweek.org

JUNE

National GLBT Book Month
ala.org/glbttbookmonth

JUNE 22-27

ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition | Chicago
2017.alaannual.org



SIBF/ALA Library Conference attendees gather in the Librarian's Lounge at the Expo Centre Sharjah.

ALA Heads Back to Sharjah

Librarians from across the Persian Gulf, Middle East, and North Africa (MENA) gathered at the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) November 8–10 for the third annual SIBF/American Library Association (ALA) Library Conference. The international professional development event supports ALA's global theme, "Partnering to build stronger libraries worldwide."

Approximately 350 librarians took part in three days of programs, training, and networking in both Arabic and English, with translation provided. The conference allowed participants to learn from international experts from the MENA region as well as from the US.

The 2016 conference offered more interactivity and focused on specific topics, including in-depth facilitated discussion sections on how to build stronger library associations in the MENA region; the importance of research impact and writing for librarians; and successes, struggles, and challenges in school libraries and with reading initiatives.

ALA President Julie B. Todaro opened the conference with an update on ALA's Libraries Transform campaign, addressing library transformation as essential to the communities we serve. Todaro, whose ALA presidential initiative includes training and highlighting "the expert in the library," also led a session on how to integrate continuous learning with work. Miguel Figueroa, director of the ALA Center for the Future of Libraries, provided the second day's keynote on the importance of exploring trends and signals, and how they point to preferable futures for our work.

The 11-day run of the 35th SIBF drew 2.3 million visitors to review and buy books and other materials from 1,681 publishing houses offering approximately 1.5 million titles and representing 60 countries.

"SIBF's overwhelming success in attracting such huge audiences each and every day is a testament to the incredible efforts made by Sharjah in the cultural and literary sphere over the past 35 years," said Ahmed Al Ameri, SIBF director and chair of the Sharjah Book Authority.

For more about SIBF, visit sharjahbookfair.com. ●

MARY MACKAY is ALA marketing director.

Transform Your Library into a Bookapalooza

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and the Grants Administration Committee are accepting online applications for the 2017 Bookapalooza Program.

Bookapalooza offers libraries a collection of materials that can be used to creatively enhance services to children and families. The materials are primarily for children up to age 14 and include newly published books, videos, audiobooks, and recordings from children's trade publishers.

Applicants will be judged on:

- The degree of need in the community and in the library where the materials will be used
- How the materials will improve service to children
- The extent to which the plan for using the materials is creative and innovative
- The clarity and effectiveness of the plan to make the materials available
- The library's statement of need

Applicants must be personal members of ALSC, as well as ALA members, to apply. The deadline for submissions is February 1.

For more information about the award requirements and to submit an online application, visit bit.ly/2g4J23y.

ALCTS to Hold Its First Online Forum

In May, the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) will hold its first fully online event.

Part of ALCTS's 60th anniversary, the ALCTS Exchange will celebrate the intersections of libraries, collection management, acquisitions, metadata and cataloging, preservation, and technology with four days of interactive learning opportunities.

The event will employ a range of presentation formats, including virtual poster sessions and lightning rounds. Presenters will host sessions on changes in existing workflows, creative problem solving, developing connections that

impact the experiences of library users, and building skills in preparation for library leadership and management roles. Live session polling, pre-event assignments, and discussion boards that facilitate conversations between presenters and attendees will also be used throughout the event.

Registration for the ALCTS Exchange is now open. Early-bird registration is \$249 for ALCTS individual members, \$319 for ALA individual members, \$359 for nonmembers, \$99 for ALA student members, and \$595 for groups. Registration rates will increase after March 1.

For details and additional information, visit bit.ly/2gBLzT2.

YALSA Selects Winners of Its Programming Challenge

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has selected the winners of its Symposium Programming

Challenge. A total of three first-place winners and one honorable mention were selected.

The challenge took place at YALSA's 2016 YA Services Symposium November 4–6 in Pittsburgh, via a *Shark Tank*-like scenario where attendees pitched ideas to a panel of judges.

Seventeen programs were proposed in which each program had to:

- Relate to the symposium's theme, "Empowering Teens to Increase Your Library's Impact"
- Include something learned or experienced in one of the symposium sessions
- Closely align with YALSA's Futures Report, Organizational Plan, and Teen Programming Guidelines

The winners and honorable mention recipient were Gabbie Barnes and Tricia George from Hartford (Conn.) Public Library; Gail Bruce from Laurel (Del.)

Public Library; Oscar Gittemeier from Atlanta-Fulton (Ga.) Public Library System; and Devera Chandler from Winder (Ga.) Public Library (honorable mention).

Winners received \$1,500, and the honorable mention recipient received \$500. Winning programs will be included on YALSA's programming site. Funding for the challenge was provided through a grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

To learn more about the Teen Programming HQ and how to contribute, visit hq.yalsa.net.

Nomination Window for the ALA Trustee Citation Still Open

United for Libraries is accepting applications for the ALA Trustee Citation through January 9.

Established in 1941 to recognize public library trustees for distinguished service to library development, the

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UPDATE

citation symbolizes and honors the best contributions and efforts of the estimated 60,000 Americans who serve on library boards. Trustee service may have been performed on the local, state, regional, or national level or at a combination of levels. Equal consideration is given to trustees of libraries of all sizes.

The citation will be presented at the 2017 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago. To nominate a trustee for the award, visit bit.ly/2fE0riZ.

Choice Launches Newsletter for the Publishing World

On November 11, *Choice*, a publishing unit of ACRL, launched *Academic Publishing Weekly*, a weekly newsletter created specifically for the academic publisher market.

Curated by *Choice* editors, the newsletter aggregates updates from around the industry—from mergers and

Potter Posters for Your Library

Wizarding world Magizoologist Newt Scamander knows where to find something fantastic—the library.

Celebrate the release of Warner Bros. Pictures' new feature film *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, with posters and bookmarks featuring Oscar winner Eddie Redmayne as Scamander, the latest character to spring from J. K. Rowling's magical realm of Harry Potter. Use these posters and bookmarks to encourage patrons of all ages to discover something new and extraordinary at the library. Find the posters, along with a slew of additional new products, at alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=11907. ●



acquisitions to research reports, major product launches, and “people on the move” items—in a convenient, single-source format that is emailed to opt-in subscribers.

To subscribe to *Academic Publishing Weekly*, visit conta.cc/2fpnJ9z.

Explore YALSA's Teen Tech Week Website

YALSA's Teen Tech Week 2017 website is now live.

Teen Tech Week 2017 will take place March 5–11, with the theme “Be the Source of Change.” The theme encourages teens to take advantage of the digital resources offered through the library to make a positive change in their life and community.

Library staff, after-school providers, and educators interested in learning more about Teen Tech Week and how they can participate can register for free on the site to access resources, materials, and themed artwork.

Teen Tech Week is supported in part by Best Buy, which will cohost YALSA digital literacy events in communities across the nation. For more information, visit the 2017 Teen Tech Week site at teentechweek.ning.com.

Booklist Celebrates 50 Years of Young Adult Novels

Booklist magazine will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the young adult

(YA) novel throughout 2017. (The novel commonly considered the first proper YA novel, S. E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*, was published in 1967.)

Celebrations in the magazine will include special features and spotlights such as *Booklist*'s “Top 50 YA Novels Ever”; monthly guest appearances by YA authors to share insights and favorite titles; a decade-by-decade retrospective with Michael Cart in his Cart Blanche column; love letters to YA from librarians and publishers; a librarians' top 50 list; a fresh look at past YA reviews and features; and best YA audiobook coverage. The June 2017 double issue of the magazine will focus on YA books.

Online content related to YA and the anniversary will be posted regularly on the Booklist Reader, and *Booklist* will host a free “50 Years of YA” webinar. Other interactive opportunities will be announced throughout the year. Live celebrations at the ALA 2017 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Atlanta and the Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago will include presentations and a panel discussion, giveaways, author interviews, contests, and more.

For information about the celebrations, visit bit.ly/2g6YXML.

LIS Students Encouraged to Apply for LITA Writing Award

The Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) is offering an award

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for the best unpublished manuscript submitted by a student or students enrolled in a graduate program.

Sponsored by LITA and Ex Libris, the award recognizes superior student writing and enhances the professional development of students. The manuscript can be written on any aspect of libraries and information technology. Examples include, but are not limited to, digital libraries, metadata, authorization and authentication, electronic journals and electronic publishing, open source software, distributed systems and networks, computer security, intellectual property rights, technical standards, desktop applications, online catalogs and bibliographic systems, universal access to technology, and library consortia.

The award consists of \$1,000, publication in LITA's journal, *Information Technology and Libraries*, and a certificate. It will be presented at the LITA President's

Program during the 2017 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago.

The deadline for manuscript submission is February 28. Applicants must be enrolled in an ALA-accredited program in library and information studies at the masters or PhD level when the unpublished manuscript is submitted.

For more information on submission guidelines and to fill out an application form, visit bit.ly/2eJsSv8.

Examine PLA's First Project Outcome Annual Report

The Public Library Association has launched the first Project Outcome Annual Report, a free toolkit designed to help public libraries understand and share the impact of library services and programs.

Since launching in June 2015, Project Outcome has had more than 2,000 participants representing more than 1,000 public libraries across the US and Canada

register to be a part of the initiative. The Project Outcome system aggregated over 40,000 patron surveys, and found that nearly 80% of surveyed library users reported that library programs and services have had some kind of positive impact on their lives in the past year. According to the surveys, people come to the library not just for books but for programs that will help them learn a new skill or make a specific life change.

The Project Outcome Annual Report allows libraries to use this data and to conduct their own surveys. Librarians can use the toolkit to analyze survey results, learn what patrons benefited from most, and see what Project Outcome and participating libraries did in the first year to make it a success. Project Outcome also provides resources and training support.

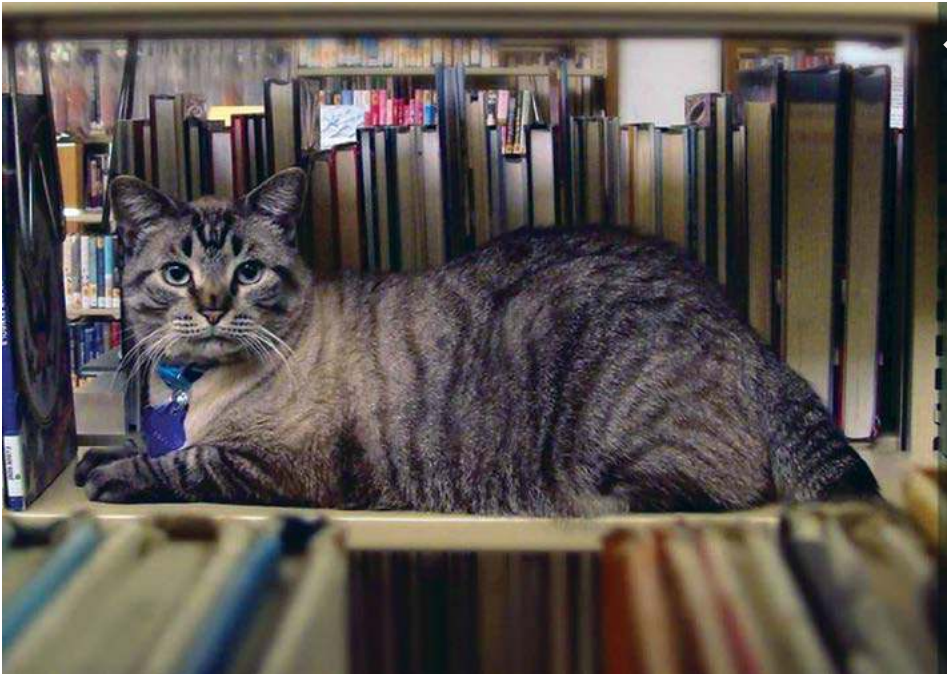
To learn more and register for free, visit projectoutcome.org. AL



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Browser, the live-in cat of White Settlement (Tex.) Public Library, survived a city council vote to remove him.

Library Cats Leave Some Sneezing, Others Feline Fine

Libraries face hard choices as resident kitties grow scarcer

BY Anne Ford

When Browser, the live-in cat of White Settlement (Tex.) Public Library, nearly got furloughed last year, public outcry was tremendous.

The city council voted to remove the popular kitty—who had lived in the library for nearly six years—after council members cited potential allergy issues. The story was picked up by ABC News, the Huffington Post, and the Associated Press; support poured in from as far away as Australia; and more than 5,000 people signed a petition to let Browser stay. In the end, the council turned tail, and Browser got to keep his job.

Though everything turned out all right for the lucky kitty, the incident illustrated just how contentious having a cat in a library can be, even when the cat is popular with patrons. Perhaps that's why the number of library cats in the United States has declined drastically in recent decades.

About 20 years ago, filmmaker Gary Roma researched library cats all over the world for his documentary *Puss in Books: Adventures of the Library Cat*. At that time, he counted 201 cats living in American libraries. In autumn 2016, inquiries made through the heads of each ALA state chapter yielded

a count of 39 library cats across the country.

One of those cats is Pages, a black-and-white female who began her tenure at the Valley Center (Kans.) Public Library six years ago after being found as a kitten under a bush outside. Pages has access to the entire library but prefers to hang out in the foyer; when she gets tired of being petted by her fans, she retreats to a book cart for some downtime.

"The board has been supportive, and for the most part, people have been very agreeable," says Library Director Janice Sharp. "She's created excellent goodwill. Patrons obviously like her."

In an attempt to minimize the allergens present on library materials, staff members swipe each book with a Clorox wipe. Still, Sharp knows patron allergies are an ever-present concern.

"From time to time we do hear complaints," she says. "We tell them that we're sorry they're affected, and if people cannot come in the library [because of the cat], we offer to select books for them and take them out to their car."

Allergies have not been much of a problem at Litchfield (Ill.) Public Library, home of Stacks the cat, says Library Director Sara Zumwalt. Stacks is thought to be the only library cat in the state allowed access to patron areas. "She goes wherever she wants and sits wherever she wants," Zumwalt says. "She likes to greet people when they come in, and she likes to ride the elevators."

Before adopting Stacks in 2009, Zumwalt consulted local veterinarians about allergies. “They said that as long as we kept the hair vacuumed, we really shouldn’t have any problems,” she says. “We have a good janitor, and our building has hot-water heating and cooling, so we don’t have any air that recirculates and blows the hair around. We really haven’t had a lot of allergy complaints. I have more people who say, ‘I’m allergic to the cat—but I love her, and I have to hold her.’”

Like most library cats, Stacks generates tremendous press for her surroundings. She’s appeared in *Cat Fancy* and the *Chicago Tribune*, and more than once, Zumwalt has introduced herself at a library conference, only to hear: “Oh, you’re the library with the cat!”

“I think everybody thinks of her as their cat,” Zumwalt says. “I think people enjoy having that connection.” That said, “we’ve been very lucky that we haven’t had anyone who’s said, ‘You can’t have her here.’”

The Colon Township (Mich.) Library wasn’t so fortunate with

its former resident cat, Jasper. “Everybody loved Jasper,” says Library Director Julie Genske. “He was always on a lap or busy getting petted. But we had a family who caused a big fuss because a family member was allergic. I wrote them a letter and offered to bring them

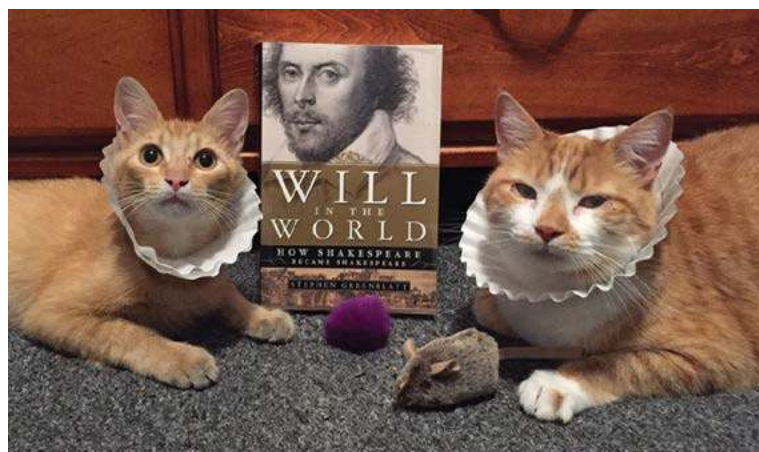
See more
photos of
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from across
the country

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The board didn’t have the money to handle lawyer fees, so they sent Jasper away. He’s been at my house ever since.”

Some libraries compromise by having resident cats who are allowed in staff areas only. At LaGrange County (Ind.) Public Library, for example, Emma the

Continued on page 20 ▶



At Centre County (Pa.) Library and Historical Museum, librarian Lisa Shaffer posts pictures of her cats to the library’s Facebook and Twitter accounts for “Saturday Caturday.” Here, Marmie and Horatio celebrate Shakespeare’s birthday.

BY THE NUMBERS

Atlanta, Host of Midwinter

501

Auburn Avenue address of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birth home. If you’ll be in Atlanta for the 2017 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, be sure to take a guided tour (bit.ly/2gOXeOQ) or attend the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration (p. 58) at the conference.



4

Number of names the city went through—Terminus, Thrasherville, Marthasville, Atlantica-Pacific—before being incorporated as Atlanta in 1847.

2

Rank of *Gone with the Wind*, the 1937 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Atlantan Margaret Mitchell, on the list of America’s favorite books. The book ranks below the Bible—and right above the Harry Potter series—according to a 2014 Harris poll.



1959

Year that Irene Dobbs Jackson, an African-American professor at Spelman College, petitioned Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System’s Central Library for a library card and the same borrowing privileges as whites. Considered a milestone in desegregating the library system, the board voted in favor of Jackson’s request.

500

Number of puppets and artifacts donated by Jim Henson’s family to the Worlds of Puppetry Museum at the Center for Puppetry Arts. ●



Chinatown branch, Chicago Public Library, from the 2016 Library Design Showcase.

Wow Us with Your New Library

American Libraries is now accepting submissions for the 2017 Library Design Showcase, our annual feature celebrating new and newly renovated or expanded libraries of all types. The showcase will appear in the September/October 2017 issue.

We are looking for libraries that are shining examples of innovative architecture and that address patrons' needs in unique, interesting, and effective ways. Previous submissions have ranged from beautiful restorations of historic buildings to vacant structures that have been repurposed into libraries to colorful kids' sections and high-tech facilities with audio and video production studios.

If your library is on the cutting edge, we want our readers to know about it. To be eligible, projects must have been completed between May 1, 2016, and April 30, 2017. The submission deadline is May 31, 2017.

To have your library considered, send a completed submission form (bit.ly/2gdOmVo), along with at least five high-resolution digital images with photographer credits, to *American Libraries*, Attn: Library Design Showcase, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Submissions can also be sent via Dropbox to pmorehart@ala.org. Unfortunately, not all submissions can be featured.

View last year's showcase at bit.ly/2cDhv8Q. For more information, email pmorehart@ala.org. •

◀ Continued from page 19

calico enjoys free rein of the staff offices. "That gives her plenty of room. We don't put her out in the public area; there are lots of people with allergies," says Library Director Richard Kuster. "Giving her the run of the library was not anything that anybody was going to permit, given the potential public backlash." This way the staff, at least, can enjoy the calming effects of Emma's presence (when she's not walking across one of their computer keyboards).

Other cat-loving libraries are skirting the allergy issue by finding alternate ways to include kitties in their PR efforts. The Centre County (Pa.) Library and Historical Museum doesn't have a cat on its premises at all; instead, librarian Lisa Shaffer includes photos of her five cats in the library's Saturday Twitter and Facebook posts. Each "Saturday Caturday" post features one or more of her cats posing with a book and often wearing an accompanying costume. One post celebrating Shakespeare's birthday, for example, saw orange tabbies Marmie and Horatio flanking a copy of *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* while sporting fetching Elizabethan ruffs fashioned from coffee filters.

Frannie Shue, Centre County library director, is a big fan of "Saturday Caturday," saying, "It's a nice alternative for libraries that do not have cats—but love cats as much as books." **AL**

Stacks the cat lounges at the Litchfield (Ill.) Public Library.

ANNE FORD is a writer based in Evanston, Illinois, and editor-at-large for *American Libraries*.



Photos: Jon Miller/Hedrich Blessing (library); Litchfield (Ill.) Public Library (cat)



Grow ALA and support the future of libraries! Join the 1876 Club to leave a legacy of your values and vision to ALA, through naming ALA or one of its divisions, offices, round tables, or programs as a beneficiary of your will, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other planned giving vehicle.

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The future of ALA is in your hands! As a member of the 1876 Club, you can help fund the growth of ALA into the next generation – and beyond. Contact the Development Office to learn more about ways you can make a planned gift to ALA.

Interested in leaving a legacy to ALA, but the 1876 Club isn't the right fit for you? Please consider joining the ALA Legacy Society. Contact the ALA Development Office to learn more:

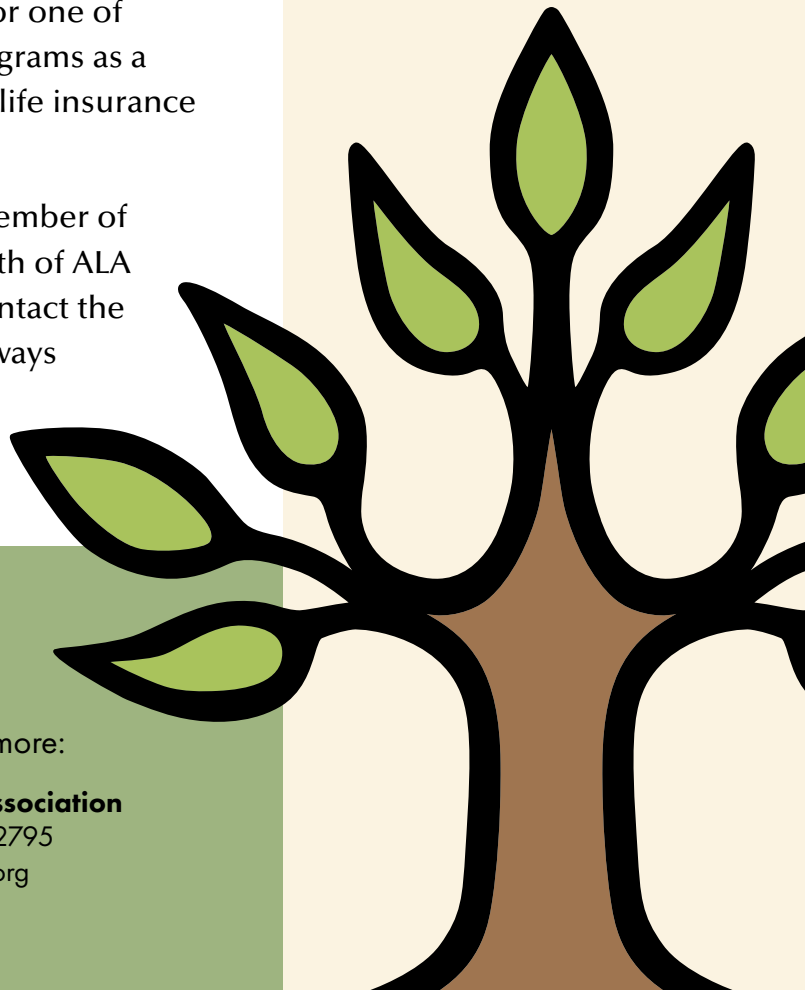
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The Future of Library Cards

Technology makes library resources more accessible

BY Kaitlin Throgmorton

If libraries are the door to knowledge, library cards are the key. Once a mere slip of paper bearing a patron's name, the library card is evolving into a technologically sophisticated tool that can help patrons access information more quickly and easily than ever before.

At many libraries, digital "cards"—which usually consist simply of numbers that patrons use to access digital items—have become standard. The Harris County (Tex.) Public Library (HCPL) introduced its version, the iKnow Digital Access Card, as a way to "reduce as many barriers as possible," says Library Director Edward Melton.

iKnow card holders can access the library's digital collections—including ebooks, streaming video and audio, magazines, and research databases—within minutes. Acquiring an iKnow card is as simple as registering via an online form, which is viewable only within the state of Texas, and which accepts only registrants who have ZIP codes in or adjacent to Harris County. Currently, nearly 50,000 people, or

about 4% of HCPL's total patrons, hold an iKnow card.

"It's a very sparse, spread-out county. We have people in rural areas, maybe in isolated areas, who don't have access to a physical library," says Melton. "We needed to provide access for those who might not be able to get to our physical space." The digital card offers other benefits as well. Users never have to worry about late fees since digital items are returned automatically—a perk for parents whose children might not be ready to manage the responsibility of returning physical items. And for library staff, iKnow setup requires "zero staff intervention," says Ty Beauchamp, HCPL systems administrator.

HCPL's iKnow card also fosters community connections. The library hopes to issue one to every student in Harris County as part of the White House's and Institute of Museum and Library Services' ConnectED Library Challenge, a program that aims to ensure every schoolchild has a library card.

Much like HCPL, the Rowan Public Library (RPL) in Salisbury,

North Carolina, introduced a digital card to increase access. "We were motivated by generating more access to our online resources, which are all free, and trying to make it easier for students to access those resources. And for patrons who come into the library with their own devices, we wanted to make it easier for them to access our resources," says Melissa Oleen, library services manager.

In addition to the digital card, which is available via an online borrower registration form and provides same-day access to online resources, RPL introduced the Rowan One card last June. Rowan One gives any student in the Rowan-Salisbury school system access to the library's digital collections, as well as the ability to check out up to three physical items at a time. The Rowan One library card number is the same as the student's school ID number, which makes the exchange of information between the schools and the library simpler—and makes it easy for students to remember.

When Rowan One launched this summer, "it really enhanced our outreach to very remote areas," says Oleen. In a program called Books and Bites, the library's bookmobile teamed with a mobile meal service to provide free lunches and offer books to children at sites outside walking distance of a library. "Without the Rowan One card, it wouldn't have been as successful," Oleen says, since children could use their school ID number as their library card number in order to check out books from the bookmobile.

As for the future of library cards in a digital world, Miguel Figueroa, director of the American Library Association's Center for the Future of Libraries, believes that physical library cards will persist. "It's really one of those things that I don't

think is going to go away any time soon,” he says. “It’s like a shopping bag; it’s just a very effective tool for managing what we want.”

Regarding physical library cards, Figueroa notes the shift to keychain cards—simple but more convenient alternatives to larger cards. Figueroa is also tracking the trend of libraries teaming up with other organizations to offer more services, much as HCPL and RPL are doing. “More communities are looking to integrate the public library card into larger systems,” he says.

With digital library cards, “we’re starting to see libraries use an app,” says Figueroa. Randy Maxey, director of sales at Boopsie, a company that builds mobile apps for libraries, says library cards are “certainly becoming more and more digitized.”

Apps store library card barcodes, enabling faster physical check-out or even self-checkout. Maxey envisions apps as the ultimate key to the library. “We’ll see continual digitization, not just of the electronic collection but of the physical collection,” he says, citing a possible future in which an app can find, scan, and check out a book within a library, all from a patron’s phone.

“With the library card, the goal isn’t to ditch the card but [find out] how to make it more accessible—to get it on their keychain or on their mobile device. It’s a minor adjustment to existing services, rather than ‘let’s drop everything and try this trend,’” says Figueroa.

This commitment to analyzing trends and then teasing out how they can enhance existing library services is what makes libraries so successful and what will guide future library card innovations, he says, adding, “It’s exactly how we’ve arrived where we are now.” **AL**

KAITLIN THROGMORTON is a freelance writer based in Raleigh, North Carolina.

“We needed to provide access for those who might not be able to get to our physical space.”

EDWARD MELTON,
director, Harris County
(Tex.) Public Library

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Assistive Technology Specialist Lolly Cheatham, left, trains a patron on the iPad through a New Jersey State Library program for veterans.

Bringing Assistive Technology to Patrons

Libraries and state agencies team up to offer training for patrons with visual impairments

BY Alison Marcotte

Bruce Groendyke, a severely nearsighted Army vet from Hightstown, New Jersey, says he's a "technical dinosaur." But as one of many veterans who attended a recent class held by New Jersey State Library's (NJSL) Talking Book and Braille Center (TBBC), he learned how to use the assistive technology features on an iPad.

NJSL and other libraries nationwide have been joining forces with state agencies to improve their patrons' access to assistive technology. Through a partnership with New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI), TBBC has partnered with seven public libraries to provide accessibility programs for patrons with visual impairments.

"Public libraries are learning centers for new technology," says Adam Szczepaniak, deputy state librarian and director of TBBC. "These initiatives help boost that level of learning to include not only assistive software for those with vision impairments but training as well, which is in high demand by those who need assistance learning how to use an iPad, or who need help browsing the internet because their vision is changing."

Most of these services are geared toward New Jersey's aging population. As the US Administration on Aging reports, the population 65 and older is expected to double by 2060. The leading causes of vision impairment in the US are age-related eye diseases, and the

prevalence of these diseases is expected to double in the next three decades, according to National Eye Institute data. For example, macular degeneration, which currently affects just over 2 million US residents, is projected to affect more than 5 million by 2050.

NJSL's Library Equal Access Program (LEAP) provides free computer and iPad training classes at assistive technology learning centers in seven locations. Training includes beginner and advanced-level instruction on using reading magnification and speech software to read websites, emails, and other documents, as well as an introduction to the assistive technology features now available on iPads. This program is sponsored by CBVI and targets adults 55 years of age and older.

Mary Kearns-Kaplan, adult outreach services coordinator at TBBC, says that what is unique about LEAP is that the New Jersey commission has purchased equipment, such as computers, software, iPads, and closed-circuit television magnifying machines for each library. It has also provided funding for free training. Classes are limited to four participants to maximize individual attention from trainers. LEAP launched in November 2015, and to date has trained more than 100 people.

Classes for veterans like Groendyke came about thanks to a grant from Disability Rights New Jersey.

Virginia Lucas, an Air Force flight nurse during the Vietnam War, took the course because she "thought it was about time I got up to date electronically."

Marvin Horowitz, an Army veteran from Cherry Hill, was preparing for the future. "The

macular degeneration is making it more and more difficult to see on my devices and PC,” he says. “These classes were highly beneficial. They exceeded my expectations and will enable me to keep up with what’s happening in the world.”

Instruction for both NJSL programs is provided by the nonprofit Advancing Opportunities and includes one-on-one help from an assistive technology specialist.

State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program

Cleveland Public Library’s (CPL) Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD) partnered with the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program, which coordinates programs of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). The NLS program provides free recorded and Braille books to eligible adults and children. OLBPD provides approximately 12,800 Ohioans with reading materials produced by NLS or locally.

OLBPD receives just under \$1.3 million in state funds and \$234,000 in federal Library Services and Technology Act funds each year to support the statewide program, according to Missy Lodge, associate state librarian for library development. This funding pays for staffing, facilities, and operating expenses. CPL is also able to provide adaptive workstations at 10 library branches throughout Cleveland from a combination of discretionary funds from the State Library of Ohio, endowment funds, and donations to OLBPD.

“Whether they have a question on how to use an iPad, a screen reader, OCR [optical character reader] text-to-speech software, we make those all available here at the library,” says Will Reed, regional librarian for OLBPD.

“Public libraries are learning centers for new technology.”

ADAM SZCZEPANIAK, New Jersey deputy state librarian and director of the Talking Book and Braille Center

Creating awareness

New York Public Library’s Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library works with city and state agencies to help spread awareness and information about its services. Chief Librarian Jill Rothstein says staffers are always learning about people who are eligible for services but didn’t know they existed.

The library had its third annual Accessible Community, Culture, and Technology Fair in 2016, with creative workshops, speakers, and activities, such as accessible videogaming and accessible origami. The fair featured city and state agencies, community organizations, cultural institutions, and accessible recreation groups. Attendance grew to 280 from 175 the previous year.

Rothstein says one patron described the fair as “life changing.” “All these things that she thought she could never do again, she’s like, ‘Ha, maybe I can code again.’”

The New York State Commission for the Blind has donated a refreshable Braille display, which is used for individual coaching. The commission will also donate a tactile graphics embosser to make tactile maps or diagrams for education.

Heiskell Library teaches a variety of skills, such as how to use VoiceOver software, MAGic screen magnification software, and iPads. Chancey Fleet, assistant technology coordinator, says staffers are surprised at what motivates

someone to learn assistive technology or Braille.

“We have one patron who’s not technically visually impaired, but she experiences severe migraines that make it hard for her to read,” says Fleet. “We also support sighted family members and professionals who want to learn more to support someone in their life.”

The library is the regional library of the NLS, which means it provides Braille and talking books through postage-free mail to patrons.

Rothstein says that members of the library’s technology department are native users, meaning they use the assistive technologies themselves and then teach those skills to patrons.

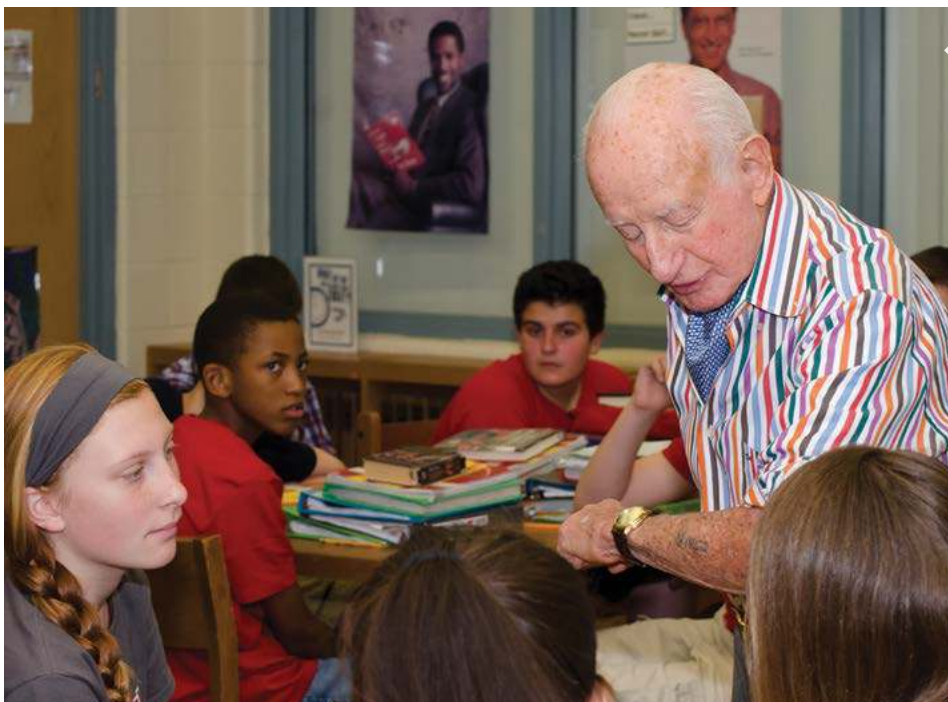
While Andrew Heiskell Library does depend on its partnerships for some services, Rothstein adds that libraries don’t necessarily need grants to do assistive tech training. “Much of the basic tech is available free or very cheap or on devices already owned by the library.”

She says libraries just need to decide to serve people with disabilities and train staff, and they can get a head start by hiring native assistive technology users who can share their knowledge with patrons. **AL**

ALISON MARCOTTE is a freelance writer for *American Libraries*.

Ken Redd uses a screen magnification program on an adaptive computer workstation at the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.





Holocaust survivor Severin Fayerman, who died in 2015, shows his Auschwitz tattoo to students at Southern Middle School in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania.

‘How Would I Respond?’

A school librarian helps middle schoolers learn the lessons of the Holocaust

The eponymous heroine of Roald Dahl’s *Matilda* is widely known in kid-lit circles as one plucky, justice-loving little girl. What’s less often acknowledged is that Matilda has a lot of help from her teacher, Miss Honey—an educator as devoted to social justice as she is to reading, writing, and arithmetic. The American Association of School Librarians honors Miss Honey’s example with the Roald Dahl Miss Honey Social Justice Award, which recognizes collaboration between school librarians and teachers in teaching social justice using school library resources. The 2016 award went to Ann Yawornitsky, Jennifer Sarnes, and Melissa Zawaski of Southern Middle School in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania. Here is the story of how a school librarian teamed up with two teachers to help 6th-graders understand the lessons of the Holocaust.

BY Anne Ford

Ann Yawornitsky first heard of the Holocaust in 9th-grade world cultures class. She found the news so shocking that at first, she had a hard time believing it.

“I remember going home to my mom and saying, ‘Is my teacher making this up, or did this really

happen?’” Yawornitsky says. “Then I read the diary of Anne Frank, and that started a lifelong interest in the Holocaust for me. Who would I be if I was a person who was persecuted? How would I feel? What would I do? And what would I do if I was one of the ones who *wasn’t* persecuted? How would I respond?”

For the last several years, Yawornitsky, the librarian at Southern Middle School in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, has partnered with teacher colleagues Jennifer Sarnes and Melissa Zawaski to help 6th-graders ask themselves the same questions through a project called “Children of the Holocaust/Holocaust Hall of Memories.”

The project functions as both a reading and a research unit. Students read books such as *Prisoner B-3087* (a novel based on the experiences of Holocaust survivor Jack Gruener), while Yawornitsky provides additional context via a visual presentation of the many Holocaust sites she has visited. Students are also treated to a visit by a Holocaust survivor who presents a program to the entire 6th grade, then meets with smaller student groups in the library to answer questions.

Afterward, each student is given a card bearing the picture and name of a child who suffered in the Holocaust. The students then come to the library for several days of research, using books that Yawornitsky has selected as well as a specialized website she has created that contains links to age-appropriate sites, such as that of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

“We also use this as a time to talk about not just googling the Holocaust because of

Ann Yawornitsky

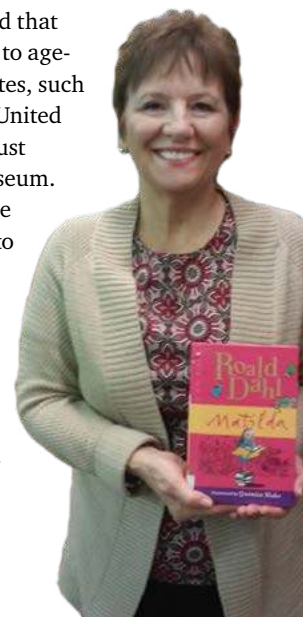


Photo: Lifetouch (Fayerman)

the danger of seeing pictures that you can never unsee,” Yawornitsky says. “We also talk about the possibility of coming upon a hate group or Holocaust-denier site.” Thus the unit functions as a lesson in the hazards of the internet as well.

“Who would I be if I was a person who was persecuted? How would I feel? What would I do? And what would I do if I was one of the ones who *wasn’t* persecuted?”

ANN YAWORNITSKY, librarian, Southern Middle School in Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania

Each student creates a poem, a journal, a PowerPoint presentation, and a poster to convey the experiences and fate of the child to whom he or she has been assigned. For one evening, the posters are displayed as a “Holocaust Hall of Memories,” open to the public. Students stand by their posters and give short talks on their assigned children, speaking as if they were those children.

One of Yawornitsky’s favorite parts of the unit? Explaining just how important it is to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

“We talk about going to visit grandparents’ graves—how you put flowers on them, and you mention their names and people tell you things about them,” she says. “But for [many of] those who perished in the Holocaust, there’s no place where their names are engraved. Sometimes their whole family was wiped out, and you’re the only person saying their name. You need to honor that.” **AL**

ANNE FORD is a writer based in Evanston, Illinois, and editor-at-large for *American Libraries*.

GLOBAL REACH



The award-winning Geelong Library and Heritage Centre.

Australian Library Wins Top Architecture Award

AUSTRALIA The ultra-modern Geelong Library and Heritage Centre in Geelong, Victoria, took top honors at the National Architecture Awards for its “vertical village” design. Some of the nation’s best architects described the public center as a “significant new landmark” at the awards ceremony in Sydney on November 3. The Melbourne-based architectural firm Ashton Raggatt McDougall won the Sir Zelman Cowen Award, recognizing the best blueprint for a public building.—*Geelong Advertiser*, Nov. 3.

CANADA Eberhard and Jane Zeidler have announced a major donation for a new library at One Spadina Crescent, the future home of the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design at the University of Toronto. The new Eberhard Zeidler Library, scheduled to open in 2017, will occupy a space 1.5 times larger than its current location and will provide students, researchers, and design professionals with unrivaled collections in art, architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design.—*University of Toronto*, Nov. 7.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Government employees are to be given “dedicated time to read” during work hours following a new law intended to “make reading a daily habit.” Described as the first of its kind, the new “national law of reading” was announced by President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan in early November. It will allow staff to read at work, although they must focus on professional and personal development within the context of the workplace.—*The Guardian (UK)*, Nov. 2.

ITALY The 19th-century manuscripts of one of Italy’s greatest poets and intellectuals, Giacomo Leopardi, are being transferred to Bologna after two big earthquakes wreaked havoc on the small, central Italian town that houses the materials, after fears were raised that they would be damaged. The manuscripts have been kept in a museum in the Palazzo dei Governatori in Visso, a town that sustained substantial damage in the earthquakes on October 26.

—*Agenzia DIRE*, Nov. 2. ●

Neil Patrick Harris

On reading, writing, and why he owes librarians a lot

Tony Award-winning actor Neil Patrick Harris made his writing debut three years ago with the publication of his memoir, *Neil Patrick Harris: Choose Your Own Autobiography*. Now the energetic Harris is trying his hand at fiction with a middle-grade series, *The Magic Misfits*; the first book in the series comes out in September. Harris spoke with *American Libraries* about his new work, how his literary and magical tastes overlap, and what his children think when he plays a villain.

Why did you want to write your memoir in a Choose-Your-Own-Adventure format, and how difficult was it to convince your agent and publishing house that it could be done? I'm a big fan of unique structures. I love puzzles, locked-room mysteries, cryptics, codes, and the like, so a Choose-Your-Own-Adventure book was right up my alley. I was fascinated with how they were crafted, the process

behind all of the ending options—admittedly much less fascinated after learning just how difficult it became. Also, my professional life has consisted of many random and disparate chapters. I've been really fortunate to play in many different sandboxes. The unique format seemed like a proper fit.

You're a magician—largely self-taught. Have you learned much of your magic from books? How was magic an inspiration for your upcoming series, *The Magic Misfits*? One of the greatest things about magic as a hobby is that the more interested you become, the more there is to learn. It's a very dense hobby, historically, and since most secrets are hard to discover, it takes a keen mind to seek them out. I so fondly remember sitting in my local library at 8 or 9 years old, tracking down magical explanations like I was a kid detective or sorcerer's apprentice, dusty books filled with hidden treasures—a concept that still makes me quiver with excitement. I hope that *The Magic Misfits* elicits that excitement while also helping kids embrace the uniqueness within them.

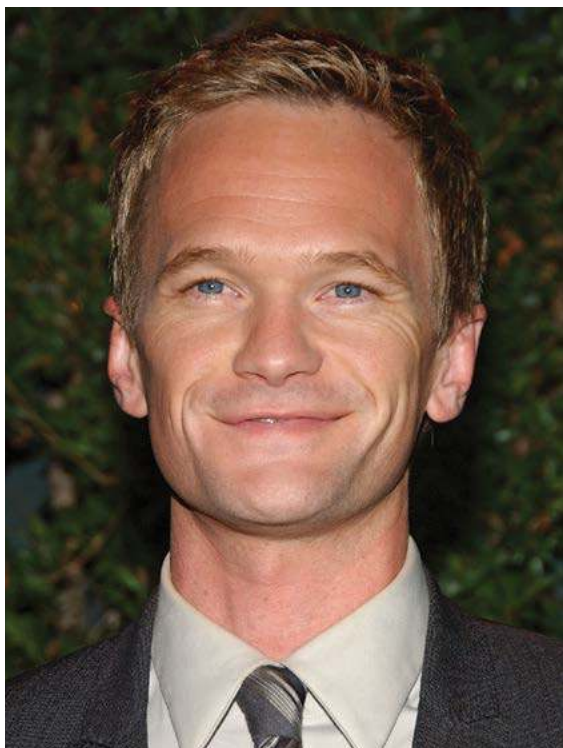
You're about to appear in Netflix's adaptation of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, playing Count Olaf.

Are your children familiar with the books it's based on? If so, how do they feel about you playing the villain? I'm on book 10 right now! I'm absolutely loving them. [Author] Daniel Handler did something quite remarkable—he created books that simultaneously and unwittingly lure children into a dark, foreboding, cynical world of sorrow and despair, yet that teach these children a wicked sense of humor and a love for vocabulary. Oh wait, you asked about Harper and Gideon. Sorry. They've seen the first two episodes and laughed their heads off. Reading the book was a bit more challenging. They were slightly unnerved when Olaf backhanded Klaus across the face. I may wait a year or two for them to delve much deeper.

What role have libraries and librarians played in your life?

I grew up in a very rural, small New Mexico town, well before the internet, so access to the outside world was quite limited. The library was my singular escape into all kinds of worlds: geographical, historical, fantastical. The respectful and dedicated librarians taught me skills beyond reading—math, problem solving, sharing, organization, patience. I owe librarians a lot.

As you may know, there's quite a bit of fan fiction out there for various movies and shows you've appeared in, including *How I Met Your Mother*, *Glee*, and *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. What are your thoughts about fan fiction in general? Has there been? I honestly haven't really followed fan fiction, not sure what to make of it. I suppose if it's respectful and creative, I'm all for it. If it's crass and base and lewd, well ... I guess that could be fun, too. **AL**





“All of the books went to storage as a formality at our space under Bryant Park. We were so delighted to watch them come back. It was lonely to be in that space without the books.”

BILL KELLY, New York Public Library’s director of research libraries, on the reopening of the Rose Main Reading Room in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building. The reading room was closed for two years for renovation after one of its plaster rosettes fell 52 feet from the ceiling (“The \$12 Million Facelift That’s Returned a New York ‘Rose’ to Its Former Glory,” CNN Style, October 5, 2016).

“For late-blooming recreational readers like me, the public library is a godsend. A four-minute walk from my desk, and I’m face-to-face with thousands of books, from the ones I loved in school and want to revisit to the ones I never got around to cracking, the buzzy new ones I’ve heard of to the many more I’ve never heard of at all. It’s a place where it’s safe—encouraged even—to literally judge a book by its cover, where I can get sucked in by an arresting illustration or an engaging back-cover summary and only have to swipe my bright orange card for the right to lose myself in another world. It’s a place where taking chances is encouraged, where your worst gamble can only last a few weeks at the most before you drop it into a deposit box by the due date and move on to the next adventure.”

KIMBERLY ALTERS, “Public Libraries Are a Treasure,” *The Week*, September 14, 2016.

“A confession: I am in awe of librarians. They are the most curious, agile, techno-savvy people around. They have figured out how to go beyond offering books and now provide anything else you can imagine: concerts and community reading programs, museum passes and meeting rooms, teen lounges and lectures. Even more amazing is the fact that our librarians—along with the help of involved volunteers—have figured out how to pay for all of these resources and services, despite constant budgetary battles over scant public funding.”

HOLLY ROBINSON, “In Praise of Libraries,” *Huffington Post*, October 20, 2016.

“When you’re a child, if your home is perhaps unhappy or else just cramped or dull, and you are too poor for the mall to hold any appeal for you, there is a third, magical space you can go to on a rainy day: the library. A place where you can go without a penny in your pocket and be given a room full of worlds. For each book is a doorway you can walk through into another land. There are a million people from across the world and through time, who are sitting on those shelves, dying to tell their stories and become your friend.... Most important, it’s a place where you can just sit on a chair and read all the rude bits from Judy Blume books. And we invented these facilities! We made them happen. How cool is that? This is humanity’s greatest achievement.”

CAITLIN MORAN, “5 Reasons the World Is Still a Wonderful Place,” *Real Simple*, November 2016.

Revisiting an Old Friend

Libraries and their social context

Recently, I had the chance to re-re-read one of my intellectual heroes, Jesse Shera. He's probably most closely associated with the origins of social epistemology, the study of what a society knows and how that knowledge is constructed, an idea I first ran across in graduate school and which has stayed with me ever since. If that sounds abstruse, consider for a moment the many differences between Wikipedia and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, how they came about, and what their implications have been. Both are attempts to capture what we know, though of course with diametrically opposite approaches. Not to mention they represent different engagements with both the "we" and the "know," which lead to different outcomes, demonstrating yet again that how knowledge—or society—is constructed matters greatly and sometimes can be quite untidy.

Anyway, in the chapter on the library and society from Shera's 1976 textbook *Introduction to Library Science*, he writes in the first paragraph: "It is axiomatic ... that the library as a *social instrumentality*, is, as it has always been, conditioned and shaped by the social milieu within which it functions" (emphasis mine).

Well. We've all heard libraries called lots of things, but "social instrumentality" comes along fairly infrequently. An "instrumentality" is a way of doing things, a tool, a device. A means to an end. Thus, a "social instrumentality" is a way for a society to achieve something, a means to a societal end.

Fair enough. If Shera is right, what is the societal end for which the library is a means? "The mid-19th century leaders



of the movement for public libraries were well aware that they were implementing one of the greatest organizational changes in the human adventure—the attempt to qualify an entire population to participate in the control of the political and economic system in which they lived."

In other words, democracy. Here we find, in somewhat circumlocutory prose, the library-as-bulwark-of-democracy argument in its purest form, with the bonus of connecting the dots and couching it in somewhat more elaborate thinking.

This is the gospel according to Dewey and Carnegie and Green and Jewett and Winsor. If you're paying close attention, those are all men of some means who felt, supported in large part by the then-current societal mindset, that providing worthy and elevating books to the lower classes would make them better people. Dewey called this the "library faith," and

We've all heard
libraries called lots
of things, but "social
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Wayne A. Wiegand has written eloquently on how that faith calcified into tunnel vision (see "Tunnel Vision and Blind Spots: What the Past Tells Us about the Present; Reflections on the 20th Century History of American Librarianship," *The Library Quarterly* vol. 69, no. 1). The modern verse of this gospel goes something like, "Let's give computers to poor people/students/developing countries and that will solve the digital divide and improve learning," and so on.

The other, somewhat subtler point Shera makes is that you can't remove libraries from their social context (he's writing about public libraries, but you can say the same for any type); as societies have moved on, the aims and goals of and for libraries have shifted, too, but they remain instrumentalities. Not just good ideas, not just nice to have, but means to ends, and as those societies evolve, so might the goals and means. Food for thought.

I continue to marvel at the breadth and depth of Shera's writing and thinking, and while there are some bits that can sound odd to modern ears, by and large he often provides insight or at least another way of thinking about stuff. And as for the whole "democracy" thing, this is not an altogether terrible goal—as we have all recently been vividly reminded, democracy is often a messy and unattractive business, and it's so much better when everybody playing is better informed ... but that's another story. **AL**

JOSEPH JANES is associate professor at the Information School of the University of Washington in Seattle and creator of the *Documents That Changed the World* podcast.

Best of Both Worlds

The advantages of a dual-library internship

By the time I reached the final year of my MLIS program, I had never worked in a library before. I knew that I wanted to get as much experience in the field as possible to help with my job search but I wasn't sure how.

Most library internships allow for experience in one area. Choosing between a public library and an academic library meant I would learn practices and policies unique to that particular type of institution. Thankfully I did not have to make that decision. I came across an opportunity for a dual-library internship, applied, and was selected.

The internship, based in Douglas, Georgia, allowed me to split my time between the Satilla Regional Library System and the William S. Smith Library at South Georgia State College. My 30 weekly hours were split evenly between locations: Mondays and Tuesdays at the academic library, Thursdays and Fridays at the public library, and Wednesdays were divided down the middle. This schedule allowed me to get a good deal done at one job before switching over to the other without feeling like I was juggling responsibilities.

The advantages of my internship were obvious; I absorbed a variety of skills at two distinct workplaces. At the academic library, I learned how to catalog, create online content with LibGuides, assist students with reference inquiries, and perform duties at the circulation desk. I helped create an online library instruction guide and helped teach and assess an information literacy class. At the public library, I learned procedures for circulation, shelving books, interlibrary loan,



and patron computer and printer usage. I taught a series of computer and technology classes that I codesigned, and I took a role in collection development by using bibliographies to select materials for the reference and nonfiction sections.

Some of the experiences overlapped, but systems and user populations were so different at these two libraries that the jobs really required two separate skill sets. The circulation software and cataloging classifications were different, as was teaching digital-native college students compared with older adults from a rural community, some of whom were not familiar with how to use a computer mouse.

That's not to say there aren't challenges that come with a dual-library internship. Getting half the time at each location, I learned only the basics. Students who take on dual internships should be prepared to manage shifts wisely and deal with multiple assignments at once.

Strong communication is necessary for dual-library internships, as is resource-sharing.

Still, the positives outweigh any drawbacks, and I came to believe that dual-library internships are something all library schools should consider. They may not be logistically possible for every school, perhaps because of funding or lack of available positions, but administrators should at least explore partnerships with public and other academic libraries; school libraries that serve K–12 students; and even museums, archives, and special libraries, including law, medical, military, or church libraries.

Coordinating work schedules and projects for interns may be difficult, so strong communication is necessary, as is some type of resource-sharing. For example, I was provided low-cost housing by being able to stay in the dorms at South Georgia State College.

The point of an internship is to gain experience, not proficiency; to give aspiring professionals a foundation that, along with a strong education, can be built on during a career. My internship opened up more options for me careerwise, and I now feel confident in applying to both academic and public library positions.

Though, if you're wondering, academic libraries interest me a bit more—I enjoyed providing instruction to undergrads and making them aware of the immense databases, archives, and special collections available to enrich their educations. More library students should have this opportunity to get a well-rounded view of librarianship and find out what about the profession truly interests them. **AL**

MICHAEL ODEN is a recent MLIS graduate of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

2016

YEAR IN REVIEW

HAYDEN BECOMES 14TH LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

Carla Hayden, 2003–2004 American Library Association (ALA) president and former director of Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, made history by becoming the first African American and the first woman to head the Library of Congress. She was sworn in September 14.



ESSA SHOWS ALA'S GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY POWER

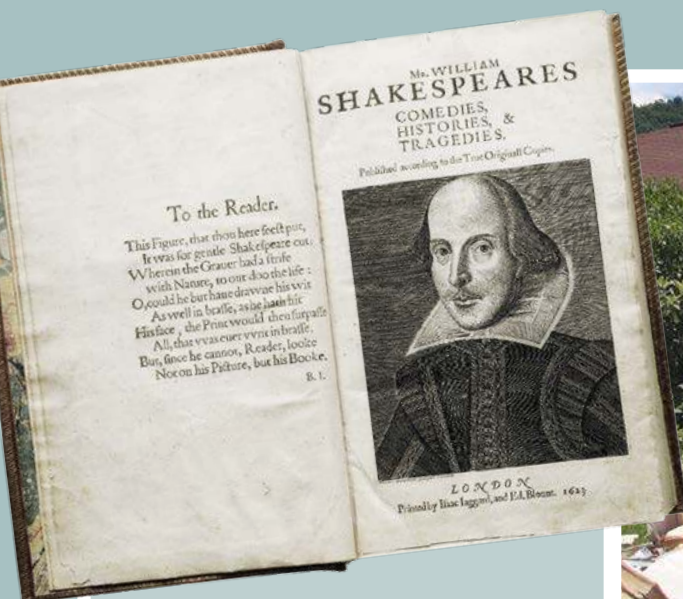
With more than 10,580 emails sent and 15,552 new advocates registered in ALA's online grassroots network, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was ALA's most high-profile action alert of 2015. In 2016, ALA's Washington Office and Office for Library Advocacy teamed up with the American Association of School Librarians to train state association members in how to make the most of the law's provisions, with more workshops to follow this year.



ELECTION 2016

In the wake of a contentious presidential election, America's public, academic, school, and special libraries reaffirmed their commitment to serve as safe places for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. As a body representing libraries and librarians, ALA called for continued efforts to abolish intolerance and cultural insensitivity and to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion.





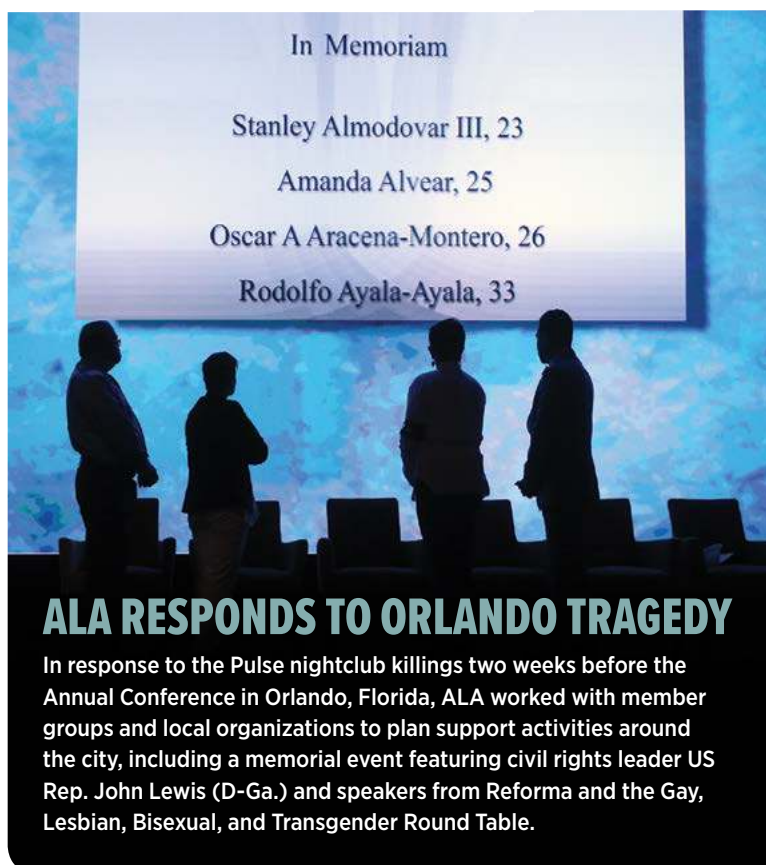
SHAKESPEARE'S FIRST FOLIO GOES ON TOUR

Multiple copies of Shakespeare's 1623 First Folio toured libraries and museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The events marked the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.



WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES DAMAGED

Several libraries in West Virginia were severely damaged after floodwaters rose to record levels June 23–24. The Rainelle Public Library took on five feet of water, destroying its entire collection.



ALA RESPONDS TO ORLANDO TRAGEDY

In response to the Pulse nightclub killings two weeks before the Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, ALA worked with member groups and local organizations to plan support activities around the city, including a memorial event featuring civil rights leader US Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) and speakers from Reforma and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table.

NET NEUTRALITY UPHELD

On June 14, an appeals court upheld the net neutrality ruling of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), confirming that internet service providers cannot engage in "paid prioritization." The ruling ensures that libraries and library patrons can send and receive information over the internet without having to pay additional fees or suffer degradation or blocking.



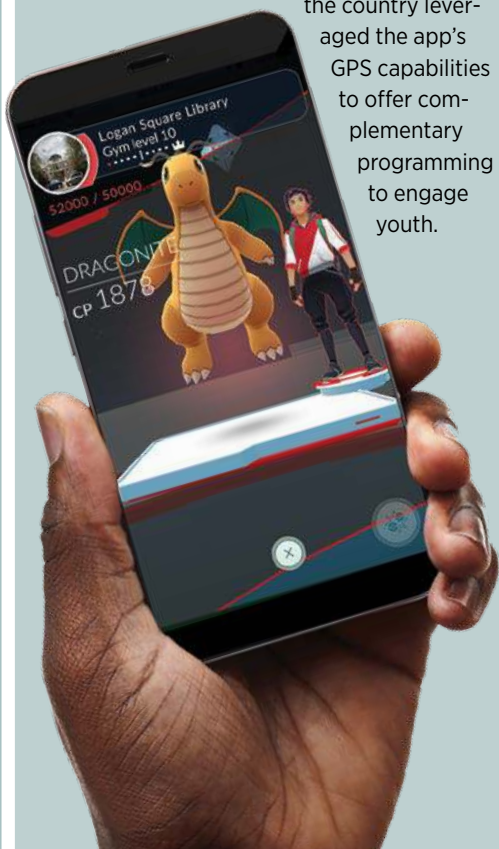
48%

IN-PERSON LIBRARY USAGE FLUCTUATES

A Pew Research Center survey conducted in spring found that 48% of adults visited a library or bookmobile in the past year. This represented a slight uptick from the 44% of Americans who, in late 2015, said they used a physical library facility in a given year. Young adults (ages 18–29) are more likely to have visited a library than those ages 65 and older.

SUMMER OF PIKACHU

As the augmented reality mobile game *Pokémon Go* swept the nation, libraries across the country leveraged the app's GPS capabilities to offer complementary programming to engage youth.



LIBRARIES STILL TRANSFORMING

Less than a year after it was introduced at the 2016 Midwinter Meeting, ALA's multiyear public awareness campaign Libraries Transform has marshalled teams from all sectors of the library world to focus on advocacy. The Association's new focus, the Expert in the Library, highlights librarians as information specialists and community leaders.

ALSC CANCELS CONFERENCE

In reaction to North Carolina's HB2 law, which repealed all LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination ordinances across the state, the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) canceled its 2016 National Institute in Charlotte. "We have heard loud and clear from our members that this new law ... is not compatible with ALSC's core values, particularly those of inclusiveness and respect," said ALSC President Andrew Medlar.



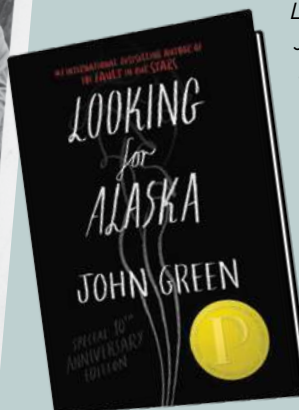
ALA TURNS 140

ALA celebrated its 140th anniversary with yearlong festivities, including historical surveys and features in *American Libraries*' print and online editions, social media campaigns, and an observance at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Orlando.



1891 ALA Conference

JOHN GREEN LEADS MOST-CHALLENGED BOOKS LIST



Looking for Alaska by John Green, YA author and former *Booklist* staffer, topped the Office for Intellectual Freedom's list of most challenged books. Green offered a biting response on his Vlogbrothers YouTube channel, criticizing reactionary school administrators.

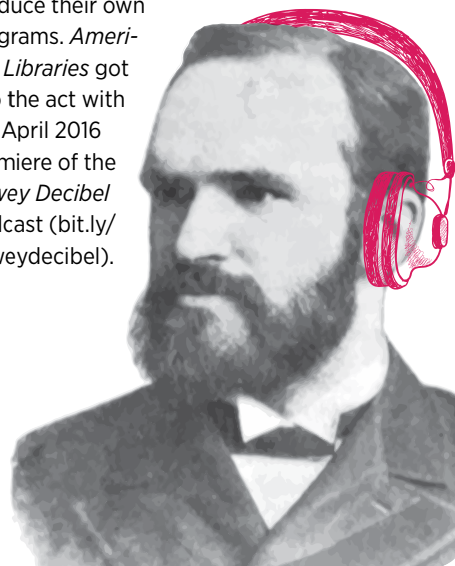
PRIVACY ISSUES PREVAIL

ALA's new guidelines for patron data and K-12 reader privacy, House passage of the Email Privacy Act, and the FBI-Apple encryption dispute pointed to privacy as a continuing information policy concern.



DEWEY DECIBEL

Podcasting took the library world by storm as more librarians took to the cyber airwaves to produce their own programs. *American Libraries* got into the act with the April 2016 premiere of the *Dewey Decibel* podcast (bit.ly/deweydecibel).



IFLA 2016

Library professionals from more than 120 countries convened in Columbus, Ohio, in August for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress.



Referenda ROUNDUP

HOW STATES PERFORMED ON LIBRARY MEASURES

BY Kathy Rosa and Kelsey Henke

*D*uring the 2016 election year, the American Library Association's Office for Research and Statistics tracked 150 library referenda across 22 states. More than 81% of the measures passed, with 122 wins and only 28 losses. Big winners include Michigan (73 measures passed), Ohio (12 measures passed), and Washington (14 measures passed). Issues at stake included continued operating funds and facility renovations. Residents in Winter Park, Florida; Lombard, Illinois; Jasper, Indiana; Sea Bright, New Jersey; and Narragansett, Rhode Island, passed measures for the construction of new library buildings.

This year we took a closer look at the population density of the communities that placed library referenda before the voters. The Institute of Museum and Library Services groups the nation's 17,566 library outlets into four geographic locales: cities, suburbs, towns, and rural areas. While all public libraries strive to transform communities through innovative programs and quality collections, the locale often defines unique needs. Libraries in more populated areas may have longer wait times for computer use. Libraries in less populated areas, including many rural areas, provide less access to technology and less formal digital literacy training because of fewer staff members and

inadequate broadband access (bit.ly/2g07JdL). At the same time, rural libraries provide invaluable informal training and may be one of the few places left to offer the use of computers and internet without fees.

While nearly half of all public libraries are rural, the percentage of rural public libraries in a given state varies from 3.6% to 83.3% (bit.ly/2g0gCFC). Michigan is close to the national average with 84 (13%) urban, 156 (24%) suburban, 114 (18%) town, and 288 (45%) rural public libraries (bit.ly/2g06jA3). We compared the population densities of Michigan's public libraries with the geographic distribution of the state's referenda.

MICHIGAN

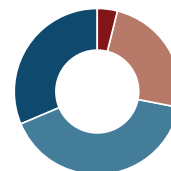
The most successful referenda in Michigan were renewed and new levies in support of library operations. Herrick District Library in Holland is classed as a city locale and serves a population of 102,423 across the counties of Allegan and Ottawa. Voters were asked to restore a levy of 1.5 mills for 14 years (2017–2030). The tax will provide about \$5.2 million in revenue each year. Homeowners will pay about \$112 annually on a home valued at \$150,000. The levy passed by a wide margin of 86%, with 14,557 votes for and 2,388 votes against. Herrick could have been forced to close within a year without the levy.

The Muskegon Area District Library (MADL), a suburban locale, encompasses 10 community libraries and one Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. MADL serves about 119,450 people across most of Muskegon County. Voters were asked to support a 0.5-mill increase in the current tax, from 0.75 to 1.25 mills, for 10 years through 2026. Property owners will pay \$64.50 a year on a \$100,000 home compared to the previous \$37.45 per year. The levy passed with 54% of the 18,256 voters saying yes. The library had earlier conducted a survey showing that the highest-valued services include early childhood programs, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and lifelong-learning services. These programs will be favored in years to come.

Libraries and Referenda by Locale in Michigan



LIBRARIES



REFERENDA*

*Does not equal 100% due to rounding

The Holly Township Library, a town locale, is in northern Oakland County and has a total service area of 36.6 square miles, which includes 23,088 people in the village of Holly, Groveland Township, and Rose Township. Voters approved a renewal of 1 mill for five years. The measure passed with 1,005 (78%) yes votes and 290 (22%) no votes. The library holds 44,461 volumes and circulates 75,102 items per year.

Montmorency County, a rural locale, has a population of 9,765 within 563 square miles. Montmorency County Public Libraries has three branches in Lewiston, Hillman, and Atlanta. Voters approved an increase of 0.6 mill to replace a millage that expired. The results included 2,176 (63%) yes votes and 1,260 (37%) no votes. The tax will bring in \$388,190 annually.

ARKANSAS

✓ **Fayetteville** voters passed two referenda to increase the library portion of personal property taxes from 1 mill to 3.7 mills. The first, passed by 58.6%, approved 1.5 mills for the library's maintenance and operations. The second, passed by 55.8%, approved 1.2 mills to help fund construction to double the facility's existing size.

✓ In **Pine Bluff**, residents approved two millage increases to area libraries. The first measure, which will allocate \$14 million to construct a new library, passed by 9,710 to

4,875. The second, which expects to raise \$1.12 million to renovate three library branches, passed by a 5,380 to 4,957 vote.

CALIFORNIA

✓ In **San Rafael**, voters approved Measure D, a special partial tax for nine years to add to the revenue from the city's general fund that supports the city's two library branches. Voting results were 12,879 (69.1%) for and 5,758 (30.9%) against the tax. The money will be used to extend regular hours, update

collections, develop public programs, and maintain the library's branches.

❑ Citizens of **Oakley** fell short of the number of votes needed to approve a parcel tax that would cover the planning and construction costs for a new library. The current library branch occupies a temporary space on the campus of a local high school.

❑ Residents of **Bakersfield** voted against a referendum question that would have raised the sales tax by one-eighth of a cent in order to fund extended hours, more library materials, and additional space.

✔ **Sacramento** voters approved a measure to renew a parcel tax adopted in 2004 that supports such additional library services as “programs for children, teens, and seniors; homework support for students; regular open hours; books; and technology.”

✔ A \$68 million bond and parcel tax measure designed to fund improvements to **Santa Cruz** Public Libraries’ 10 facilities passed. Proposed improvements include repairing roofs and bathrooms, rewiring electrical systems, and expanding current facilities.

✔ Other wins in California include approved sales tax measures in **Loomis** (Measure G), **Pleasant Hill** (Measure K), **Stockton** (Measure M), and **Sonoma** (Measure Y). A temporary appropriation limit increase measure was approved by voters in **Ventura County**.

❑ Proposals for the construction of new libraries in **El Cerrito** (Measure B) and **San Mateo County** (Measure N) were defeated.

COLORADO

✔ Voters approved six library-related referenda, including levies to support the library’s yearly operating budget in **Mancos**, the construction of new library facilities in **Norwood**, extended library hours in **La Veta**, and library facilities and services in **Grand County**.

✔ By passing Ballot Issue 5F, voters in **Larimer County** reaffirmed that the Poudre River Public Library District can keep all revenues from the property tax levy approved in 2006.

CONNECTICUT

❑ The town council in **Bloomfield** rejected a proposal to renovate and expand Prosser Public Library, the larger of the two public library buildings in the area, by a 6–3 vote. This vote marks the third time in 10 years that a proposal to update the library has failed to make it to the referendum ballot.

FLORIDA

✔ **Winter Park** voters passed a measure allocating \$30 million to replace the city’s 35-year-old library building with a new facility that will also house an events center and parking garage.

GEORGIA

✔ In a 4–1 vote, the **Stockbridge** city council allocated \$10,080 from the general fund to Cochran Public Library in order to fund Saturday hours. Though the county library branch does not usually receive funding from the city budget, council approved the expense because current capital resources have not allowed nearly any of the county libraries to accommodate any week-end hours.

IDAHO

❑ In **Meridian**, a referendum to approve \$12 million for the construction of two new library branches was defeated.

ILLINOIS

❑ **Brookfield** residents voted 4,808–4,303 against a \$10 million bond that would have funded construction of a new library facility.

❑ In **North Riverside**, residents voted against a measure that would have raised the library district’s tax limiting rate by 29%. The library had anticipated using the additional \$270,000 per year in property taxes to fund repairs and improvements to the library’s roof, sidewalks, and heating and air conditioning systems.

✔ With a 4,009 (63%) to 2,394 (37%) vote, residents of **Bartonville** passed an \$800,000 bond that will fund renovations to the Alpha Park Public Library building. Some of the projects the library hopes to complete include replacing and rewiring the structure’s fire protection system, resealing two parking lots, and repairing the roof and sidewalks.

❑ **Crystal Lake** residents voted against a \$30.1 million referendum that would have funded construction of a new library building. Supporters argued that the current facility is too small to accommodate community needs and existing collection materials, and requires major updates to the building’s HVAC system, wireless internet resources, and accessibility options. Of 19,032 total voters, 56% voted against and 44% voted for the referendum.

❑ A \$3.2 million bond that would have funded renovation of the **Fox River Valley** Public Library in Dundee, as well as construction for a second library branch, was defeated by a 14,920 (66%) to















7,520 (34%) vote. The two facilities would have included better safety features, computer training labs, expansions to meeting spaces and children's areas, a designated area for teens, and a maker lab.

✓ **Lombard** voters authorized a 0.22-mill tax increase to support a 20-year, \$22.5 million loan for the construction of a new Helen Plum Library. The proposed facility will offer more meeting space and study rooms. A similar measure appeared on the 2004 ballot but was defeated.

❑ In **Plainfield**, residents voted against two referenda that would have funded the construction and operating costs for a new library. The first question, which asked for \$39 million in building bonds, was defeated by 9,089–7,232. A second question, requesting to remove the tax cap for one year and increase the limiting property tax rate, was defeated by 11,241–4,907.

❑ In **Will County**, voters opposed two referenda that aimed to fund outreach services to older adult patrons, a new digital media lab, and extended library hours at the White Oak Library District's three branches. The first referendum, put before voters in March, failed by a 9,032 (66%) to 4,717 (34%) vote. The second, on the ballot in November, failed by a 12,189 (59%) to 8,407 (41%) vote.

❑ In **Cook County**, a petition to create a new library taxing district in Elk Grove Township that would have allowed some 12,000 additional residents to apply for library cards was withdrawn by its chief sponsor.

✓	Ada Public Library Renewal of a 1-mill, 5-year levy		75% For 25% Against 2,381 Total votes
✓	Grandview Heights Public Library Renewal of a 2.5-mill, 5-year levy, plus a 2-mill addition		74% For 26% Against 4,795 Total votes
✓	Guernsey County District Public Library Renewal of a 1-mill, 5-year levy		63% For 37% Against 15,221 Total votes
❑	Herrick Memorial Library Renewal of a 1.25-mill levy, plus new 0.48-mill increase for 5 years		39% For 61% Against 168 Total votes
✓	Mount Gilead Public Library New 1-mill, 5-year levy		52% For 48% Against 4,028 Total votes
✓	Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library New 0.4-mill, 5-year levy		64% For 36% Against 5,201 Total votes
✓	Mount Sterling Public Library New 0.4-mill, 5-year levy		61% For 39% Against 1,233 Total votes
❑	Pataskala Public Library Renewal of a 0.5-mill, 5-year levy		48% For 52% Against 744 Total votes
✓	Swanton Public Library Renewal of a 1-mill, 5-year levy		73% For 27% Against 3,238 Total votes
✓	Toledo-Lucas County Public Library Renewal of a 2.9-mill levy, plus an 0.8-mill increase for 5 years		65% For 35% Against 174,777 Total votes
✓	Upper Arlington Public Library Renewal of a 2-mill, 6-year levy		76% For 24% Against 21,298 Total votes
✓	Wadsworth Public Library Renewal of a 1-mill, 5-year levy		77% For 23% Against 13,882 Total votes
✓	Wickliffe Public Library Renewal of a 1.7-mill levy		74% For 26% Against 6,039 Total votes
✓	Williams County Public Library New 1-mill, 5-year levy		54% For 46% Against 14,740 Total votes

INDIANA

✔ **Jasper** voters passed a referendum to fund construction of a new library and cultural center. The new building will be financed by a 15-year bond for an amount up to \$6.5 million. This approval comes after an unsuccessful 2011 referendum and more than 15 years of community discussion.

KANSAS

✔ In **Natoma**, 133 voters approved a measure to establish and maintain a local library. The measure received 12 votes against.

LOUISIANA

✔ Residents voted to renew the **Lafayette** Public Library System millage by 58% to 42%. The millage, first approved by voters in 2006 and scheduled to expire after 10 years, funds library operations.

MAINE

❑ By nine votes, residents of **Rockport** defeated a measure to allocate \$2 million for the construction of a new library. The final vote tally was 1,151 votes in favor and 1,160 against.

MINNESOTA

✔ Voters approved a measure that will allow the library to collect \$6.8 million through a local option sales-and-use tax to expand and remodel the **Fergus Falls** Public Library. The proposed new facility will feature an expanded children's area, improved accessibility, new meeting rooms, and more seating.

❑ In **Cambridge**, residents voted against a referendum to approve an \$8 million bond for the construction of a new public library and library headquarters. The bond would have been supported by a 0.5% local-option sales tax.

NEW JERSEY

✔ By 240–149, residents of **Longport** elected to leave the Atlantic County Library System. The town intends to look into options for establishing its own library or joining with another independent library. A similar referendum appeared on the 2011 Longport ballot, but was defeated by 7 votes.

✔ Voters in **Sea Bright** approved two referenda questions that allocated \$1.4 million and \$3.6 million respectively to fund the construction of a new community center, which will house a new library. The town's earlier library was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

NEW MEXICO

✔ In **Bernalillo County**, voters passed a measure to issue a \$1.5 million bond to upgrade its library; 192,162 (74.5%) residents voted in favor of the library bonds, and 65,925 (25.5%) voted against.

NEW YORK

❑ In June, residents voted against a \$15.8 million bond referendum that would have financed the demolition and reconstruction of the **Hampton Bays** Public Library facility and added approximately 100 additional parking spaces. It was defeated by a 719–507 vote.

✔ **Potsdam** voters approved a measure to add an additional \$8,000 to the existing library budget to fund the acquisition of new laptops. The vote tally was 183–79.

❑ A tax levy that would have added \$850,000 to the James Prendergast Library budget in **Jamestown** was defeated by a 1,306–856 vote.

✔ Voters overwhelmingly approved a measure for an additional \$22,700 to the **Shelter Island** Public Library budget. The added resources will be spent on updating collections, supporting community programming, and funding staff salaries. The final vote was 129 in favor and 31 against.

✔ Residents of the **Town of Rhinebeck** approved a tax levy that will add \$30,000 to the Morton Memorial Library's annual budget. The added funds will be used to maintain library operations. The measure received 2,110 yes votes and 1,120 no votes.

✔ Residents voted to increase the town's contribution to the **Patterson** Library from \$135,931 to \$873,583 annually. The added funds will be used to extend evening hours, maintain regular operations, and meet the cost of New York State-mandated wage increases.

✔ By a narrow 4,619 (50.7%) to 4,485 (49.3%) vote, residents approved a tax levy that increased the annual library budget of **Onondaga County** Public Libraries from \$475,000 to \$700,000. The added resources will allow the library to increase full-time staffing, finance building improvements, and maintain regular library operations.

NORTH CAROLINA

✓ **Durham County** voters passed a referendum in support of a \$43.3 million bond that will fund remodeling and expansion costs for the main library and corresponding parking lot. It was approved by a 117,956 (80.6%) to 28,422 (19.4%) vote.

OREGON

❑ Measure 10-145, a proposal to establish a special funding district in **Douglas County**, was defeated by a 55% to 44% vote in November. Creating the district would have added funds to support regular operating expenses for branch libraries in 10 towns, many of which have had to limit their operating hours.

PENNSYLVANIA

❑ Voters in **Allentown** struck down a special library tax that would have allocated \$14 million for the construction of a new Parkland Community Library in South Whitehall Township. The new facility would have quintupled the current library's size, adding a community room, children's area, young adult sections, group study areas, rooms for tutoring, a garden, a local history room, and a café. A similar proposal appeared on a 2013 ballot and was also defeated.

✓ In **Jeannette**, residents approved a tax levy that will add approximately \$65,000 annually to the public library's regular operating budget. The final results were 52% in favor and 47% against.

RHODE ISLAND

✓ **Narragansett** voters approved a bond of up to \$5.8 million to finance the acquisition and construction of a new Maury Loontjens Memorial Library. The bond question passed by 4,513 to 2,173.

SOUTH CAROLINA

✓ Residents of Dorchester County authorized the issuance of \$30 million in bonds for the design and construction of two new library facilities in **Summerville** and **North Charleston**. The proposal passed 26,346–17,021.

VIRGINIA

✓ In **Falls Church**, residents approved \$8.7 million in revenue bonds to renovate and expand the Mary Riley Styles Public Library. The final count was 4,902 (66%) in favor and 2,578 (34%) against.

✓ Voters in **Henrico County** approved a \$419.8 million bond referendum that will fund 26 capital projects, including \$24 million for the construction of a new Fairfield Area Library. Voting results were 33,061 in favor and 9,235 against.

WASHINGTON

✓ By a vote of 26–5, voters approved annexing the city of **Kahlotus** into the Mid-Columbia Library District. Residents will pay 37 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation, shifting the financial obligation from the city's general fund to the library district.

✓ **Orcas Island** residents approved a measure to increase the town's levy limit in order to fund an expansion of the Orcas Library. Expansion plans include creating more space for children and teens; adding additional quiet spaces, meeting rooms, computer areas, and patios; and supporting wireless internet access.

❑ In **Point Roberts**, a measure to allocate \$300,000 for the construction of a new library was defeated by a slim margin. The referendum, which required 60% approval, received 406 (55.2%) yes votes and 329 (44.8%) no votes.

WEST VIRGINIA

❑ A tax levy that would have generated an estimated \$46,548 annually for the Upshur County Public Library in **Buckhannon** failed by a 4,500 (51%) to 4,276 (49%) vote. The library is currently struggling to maintain regular operations after facing local and state budget cuts.

WISCONSIN

✓ **Evansville** voters passed two measures to expand the Eager Free Public Library. A 10-year levy of \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed property value received 1,523 yes votes and 1,184 no votes. A 20-year levy of 60 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property won with 54% of the votes.

✓ In **Three Lakes**, residents voted in favor of an advisory referendum to approve \$900,000 for the expansion of Demmer Memorial Library by an 817 to 718 vote. A second referendum, which would have allocated funds to build a complex that would hold the new library as well as the police department and historical society, was defeated by 12 votes (773–761). AL



KATHY ROSA is director of ALA's Office for Research and Statistics (ORS), which provides leadership and expert advice to ALA staff, members, and the public on all matters related to research and statistics about



libraries and librarians.

KELSEY HENKE is a program officer in ORS.

LIBRARY CHAMPIONS MAKE IT POSSIBLE...



...to increase awareness and advocate the importance of libraries across the country and around the world.

Library Champions are among the greatest proponents of America's libraries. Their gifts help every child, teen, student, and adult who walks through the doors of their library or links to online resources. Contributions from Library Champions support the Libraries Transform Campaign, ALA's agencywide advocacy and public awareness campaign. By supporting the Libraries Transform Campaign, Library Champions help provide resources and materials to promote the importance of libraries, as well as support national initiatives such as National Library Week and Library Card Sign-Up Month. These special initiatives have been designed to increase public awareness, library use, and literacy to all people, no matter their age, income level, location, ethnicity, or physical ability. ALA thanks the following corporate and foundation sponsors for their support of the Libraries Transform Campaign.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 2017

The theme for National Library Week, April 9–15, 2017 is once again “Libraries Transform.” It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries—school, public, academic, and special—participate. Visit the ALA Store at alastore.ala.org/nlw to purchase National Library Week products.

Thanks to support from ALA's Library Champions, free promotional tools, including a variety of free web graphics and customizable print and electronic public service announcements, will be available at ala.org/nlw.





Embed with BUSINESS

Taking your library into the business world

by Barbara A. Alvarez

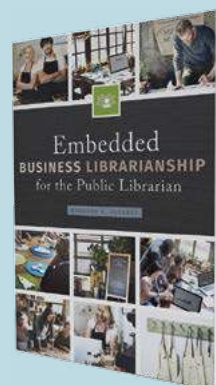
What exactly is an embedded business librarian? An embedded business librarian is a library professional who is rooted in the business community; a librarian who is *part* of the business community instead of separate from it, who strives to be an equal partner and have an equal voice. Small business owners, professionals, and job seekers see the embedded business librarian as a peer, colleague, and fellow business community member instead of an outsider who solely represents the library.

The ultimate goal of the embedded business librarian is to become integrated in the business community as much as possible, and not be viewed strictly as “the library” or “the librarian.” This attitude and relationship will guide how librarians function in this position and will affect the activities they participate in, the committees that they join, the projects that they work on, and the way that they and others see librarians and the library. Ultimately, this will impact the role and services that the library provides to the business community.

Outreach vs. embedded librarianship

Being an embedded business librarian is significantly different from performing outreach. Everybody defines outreach differently, but often it can be thought of as a library professional stepping away from the reference desk and into the community—for example, setting up a booth at a local farmer’s market, doing a presentation at the high school before the summer reading club begins, or speaking to the public about a library initiative. In each of these instances, the purpose is typically to remind or inform people about their local library and to promote the library. This is perhaps the greatest difference between embedded librarianship and outreach.

Embedded business librarianship is not necessarily about promotion, although the library is certainly promoted when a librarian becomes a part of the business community. This could entail leaving the library and going into the community several times a week. Instead of going to community functions to give sound bites about the library and why people should support it, or presuming to know how it can support them, an embedded librarian will attend meetings, join committees, and network in ways that emphasize the library’s desire to learn and understand the business community as a peer. This will certainly be a mental shift for many libraries and may involve a conversation



This is an excerpt from *Embedded Business Librarianship for the Public Librarian* by Barbara A. Alvarez (ALA Editions, 2016).

with library management about the functions and expectations of the role.

Both outreach and embedded librarianship are laudable efforts. Any time a public library makes efforts outside its own walls is a success. Depending on the staff size, outreach may seem more accessible than an embedded business librarian role. However, embedded philosophy can be implemented in an outreach model. The core concept is to make a concerted effort to be genuinely integrated in the business community.

Having an impact

For those of you who are uncertain, you may be wondering why we even need public librarians to be embedded in the business community. After all, shouldn't business owners, professionals, and job seekers be coming into the library—not the reverse? You may be wondering, "Do we have enough staff to properly cover the desk in addition to sending them out into the community?" Make no mistake: Embedded business librarianship is an important role for the public library.

According to the US Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, 27.9 million small business owners accounted for 64% of the net new jobs created between 1993 and 2011, in addition to the 17.7 million independent workers detailed in MBO Partners' *Third Annual Independent Workforce Report*. And as noted in a 2015 Pew Research Center survey, the Great Recession proved to critics that libraries are needed more than ever—just ask the 36% of patrons who used the library in 2012 for job search assistance. This number has gone down to 23% (which is a good thing), but there is still strong support for the public library to provide business resources and workshops. In fact, 52% of all Americans age 16 and older say libraries should "definitely" create programs for local businesses and entrepreneurs.

Clearly data expresses the national business community's need for library services. So what does this mean? Since some job seekers already come to the library, do we not need to reach out to them? Since there is a clear interest in business workshops at the library, should we just send out a

few friendly emails to local business owners and hope that they'll stop by? Should our library create some programs, promote them on social media and in the library newsletter, and feel that we did enough? Hardly. In fact, the data shows that it is the perfect climate to go outside the library and into the community to meet the business owners, professionals, and job seekers where they are and build relationships with them. It is important not to seize this moment as just an opportunity to boost program attendance and door count numbers, but instead to put energy into forming and sustaining meaningful connections. The data above is just a small fraction of evidence that shows how receptive the business community can be to the library becoming a part of the business community.

Take a moment to consider how much of your library's community is affected by job growth, small business success, and employment. When a small business owner makes progress with help from the library, when a professional receives the information he or she needs from the library for an important company presentation, and when a job seeker learns at the library how to tailor his or her job search, their own well-being and the well-being of their friends, family, colleagues, neighbors, and surroundings are greatly impacted.

Moreover, the feeling of genuine support and championship that the business community has because of the library's embedded involvement could be the push it needs to move forward with a new initiative or project. In essence, when the library invests in building relationships with the business community, it is investing in the livelihood and future of all of its citizens. As public library professionals, this should not be optional but a core mission for us.

While statistics may point to the value of libraries in the business community, they certainly do not capture the entirety of its relationship with the public library. Some still view their local public library as outdated and obsolete. There may be great reverence for the library because people respect what it represents—education, literacy, and opportunity—but many people do not know how the library fits into their lives, particularly their professional lives.

When members of the business community are informed about the resources, workshops, technology, or other ongoing engagement projects at the library, they are often amazed, intrigued, and prompted to learn more. This appreciation grows when librarians develop meaningful relationships and work with business people on committees and socialize with them in networking groups.

This appreciation can become mutual advocacy. The library no longer has to tout its own accomplishments and worth because others will advocate for it. It is much more valuable to have peers vouch for an organization than to

When the library invests in building relationships with the business community, it is investing in the livelihood and future of all of its citizens.



have the organization vouch for itself. To use a business analogy, people often tell job seekers that they should not necessarily ask others for interviews and job leads when networking, but rather they should be asking others how they can be of service. In turn, when someone does learn of a job opening or promotional opportunity, they are happy to return the favor to the job seeker. This holds true for how the library will integrate itself into the business community: We will demonstrate how the library is relevant by supporting our members, who in turn will support and understand the library on a deeper level.

Becoming an equal partner

Every community and library has specific goals for how to improve connections with local businesses. And through the embedded business model, relationships will indeed change and new opportunities will be created or discovered. That being said, the overall goal for this position is a consistent focus on learning and understanding the business community on a meaningful level as well as positioning the library as an organization that is part of it. As library professionals, we tend to assume that because we view the library as a relevant and integral part of the community, others must share those views. The truth is many people view the library as irrelevant.

However, embedded business librarianship is not self-serving. It comes from a true and honest attempt to understand, learn, and be an equal partner. This means stepping back and listening—not just telling the business community what you think they want to or should hear. It also means demonstrating the library's case, not just saying it. Embedded business librarianship recognizes that you do not know or have to know all the answers to the issues or struggles that the business community may face. You are going to work with them toward a solution, not try to be the solution.

As you increase your interactions and engagement, you will undoubtedly discover that the business community may very well be the same people who serve on local charitable committees and school boards and in local government. You may find that you already see them in the library as community members, not as business members. Essentially, when you develop relationships with the business community, you are developing relationships with the entire community.

Planning for success

Before getting started, you must have a clear conversation with the management team at your library about the expectations for this role. If your library expects deliverables from every event, workshop, demonstration, or speaking engagement, this discussion will be especially important. Support from colleagues and management is crucial, especially in the beginning when much of this is experimental. You need to see where your library fits in the equation.

When you are embedded in the business community, your outcomes will not always be consistent, especially in the beginning. You may attend functions where you feel that you did not make an impact or a connection, and your library needs to support your role with an understanding that it is not intended to boost programming statistics, reference questions, or door counts.

Many marks of success are going to be aspects that you cannot put onto paper but you will notice regardless. An example of an improvement that you cannot necessarily quantify is when people in the community start referring you to others and speaking positively about your role and the library's opportunities.

That being said, depending on your library's management and board philosophy, you may need to come up with ways

to quantify this new role without impeding its progress. Some examples:

- How many events did you attend each month?
- If you speak at an event, how many people have you reached?
- Report news, trends, and data that you are learning in this new role and how these relate to the larger community and the library.

If you need to speak to the board about this new role, emphasize what you are learning and how the relationships you are developing can complement any of the above statistics.

You may feel you need to be a business expert to get started in this role. That is not true. Having a business background can certainly be helpful, but an interest, curiosity, and desire to learn more about business are the most essential assets. The most important aspect is your knowledge of your library and your own eagerness and desire to make a difference. If a library professional possesses these qualities, there is no reason that he or she cannot be an embedded business librarian.

How relationships will transform

Depending on how often your library has already positioned itself in the community, you may be treading on brand-new territory. Regardless if you already have a solid business relationship foundation or your library is a complete novice, you will no doubt feel awkward and out of place in the beginning as an embedded librarian. There may be times where you will feel tongue-tied, confused, or like you do not belong. Over time, you will absolutely develop confidence and a sense of who you are and how the library fits into the conversation with business members.

In moments of doubt, it helps to reflect on why you are the embedded business librarian. Focusing on building relationships from a genuine belief that you want what is best for your library's community and that

you can add value to people's lives will keep you driven, focused, and motivated.

As you continue in the embedded business librarian role, you will go from an outsider who has to be clued into the community's goings-on to someone who is aware of the latest developments, trends, and events. Instead of hosting a table at a community event, you may be on the committee for organizing the event. Instead of attending a business "lunch and learn," you may be invited to present at one. Instead of going to a local speaking engagement, you may have been one of the people to help select the speaker. Instead of introducing yourself at village merchant meetings, you will be able to update everyone on trends at the library and stay abreast of trends in the community. You will also learn how the library can host ongoing projects, events, and platforms that directly serve the business community.

The bottom line is that you can expect relationships with the business community to transform from transactional to interactional.

Don't be afraid to get started

You might feel pressured to do everything at once, but don't be afraid to start small. This is a process that will take time. Even if you feel that you are not making progress, you have not failed—and will not fail—because you are serving your community to the best of your ability. Have patience with yourself and with the community. Encourage yourself to learn new technology, trends, relationship interactions, and everything else that comes with your role. **AL**



BARBARA A. ALVAREZ is corporate communications specialist at Kohler Company. She formerly served as business liaison librarian for Barrington (Ill.) Area Library. She was awarded the Public Librarian Support Award from the Business Reference and Services Section/Morningstar in 2015.



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A man stands in the center of the frame, split vertically. The left side of his body is in an orange jumpsuit, and the right side is in a grey button-down shirt and dark jeans. He is standing in front of a blurred background of a city street with buildings and a fire hydrant.

Keeping Inmates on the **OUTSIDE**

Libraries offer
services and
support to ease
prisoner reentry

BY Megan Cottrell

Like any librarian, Dan Marcou gets to know his patrons. He knows about their families, what they like to read, and where they're from. He often puts aside special books he knows that they'll enjoy. But unlike most librarians, he ultimately hopes he'll never see them again.

Marcou is a corrections librarian with Hennepin County (Minn.) Library, and his patrons are the residents of Hennepin County Jail. He remembers the first time he saw one of his favorite patrons back in jail after being released just a few weeks earlier.

"It was this very eyeopening moment," says Marcou. "I thought, 'I enjoy talking with you. You're a nice person. I'm happy to see you, but not inside the facility.'"

Marcou began to realize his job was more complex than just serving the needs of the inmates inside the jail. He needed to do more to make sure they didn't come back. As a kid, the local library had been a respite from the institution he hated: school. What if the library could provide his patrons with a safe haven to learn and get the resources they needed to keep from coming back?

The complexity of reentry and recidivism

According to the National Institute of Justice (bit.ly/1e0c5jL), within the first three years of being released from a criminal justice facility, two-thirds of former inmates are rearrested. Within five years of release, three-quarters are rearrested.

Why is staying on the outside so difficult? The process of leaving prison and returning to society, often referred to as reentry, can be complicated and fraught with problems. Housing, employment, transportation, mental and physical health, and relationships are just some of the issues Marcou says his patrons face upon leaving the jail.

"Many reentry issues piggyback off one another," he says. "A person with a job is three times less likely to reoffend. But without a place to live or transportation, it's pretty difficult to get a job, even without a criminal record."

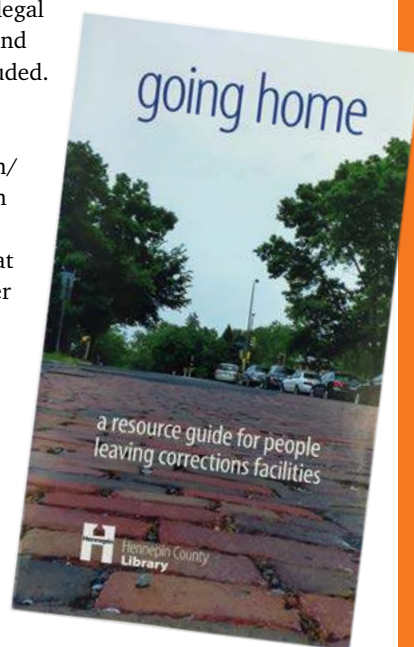
In addition to the practical problems of housing and work, reentry can feel lonely and stressful. When Marcou asks his patrons why they're back, he often gets a similar answer.

"One resident said when they're inside, they're surrounded by positiveness. Jail was better than real life, because they had the support, a roof over their head, food," he says. "Someone told me, 'I don't want to do the things that I do, but when I walk out these doors, I have nothing.' That doesn't justify his actions, but it

demonstrates these contradictions of what people have to face."

After some investigation, Marcou realized there were local organizations and programs to help folks reentering society, but most people about to be released didn't know what resources were available. The library's first step was creating a newsletter, which eventually transitioned into a pocket guide called *Going Home*, with information on how local institutions, including the library, could help with housing, jobs, education, and more. An area map delineating Hennepin County Library's 41 locations, and hotlines and websites for shelters, legal resources, and addiction and self-care support, are included.

Going Home is just one aspect of Freedom Ticket (hclib.org/about/outreach/freedom-ticket), Hennepin County Library's reentry program. To highlight what the library can offer former offenders, staff members created a 12-minute video introducing current inmates to the library's many services and began showing it to inmates about to be released.



Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library's TeleStory program provides space to videochat at the library, letting families connect with their incarcerated loved ones, reading books and singing songs together.



“Our goal wasn’t to create a lot of new things but to promote things that already exist,” says Marcou. “If I had a quarter every time I heard, ‘I didn’t know the library offered that,’ I’d be a rich man.”

In addition, Marcou began offering job resource workshops, connecting residents to specific industries and occupations they may be interested in, as well as offering programs to inspire and motivate inmates to make a change, like creative writing workshops and author visits.

“If people look at the narrative of their lives, especially writing things down, they gain a new perspective. They’re able to put it on the page and share it with

others, which they feel proud of,” he says. “And it helps our community to better understand the complexity of the lives that lead to incarcerations.”

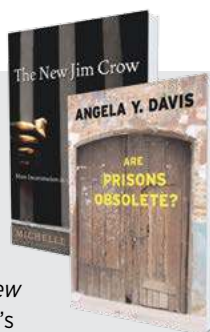
How the library can help reconnect families

One of the most complex issues the formerly incarcerated face is creating positive relationships with friends and family, especially their children. Even a single visit by a family member in a five-year sentence reduced recidivism rates by 13–25%, according to a 2011 study by the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Creating and maintaining those connections while a person is

How to Get Started Helping Ex-Offenders at Your Library

Educate yourself.

Two titles that Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library Corrections Librarian Nick Higgins suggests are Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow* and Angela Davis’s *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Part of learning about incarceration means also learning about racial bias within the system, says Higgins, and “getting comfortable in accepting the fact that the justice system adversely affects some people more than others.”



Connect with institutions and organizations. What criminal justice facilities exist within your community? What resources exist for those experiencing reentry? Connect with elected officials, police departments, judges, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations that are already working inside the system. “Invite yourself to meetings where they are and start to carve a seat out at the table,” says Higgins. “These folks are often gatekeepers to the facilities where you’d like to set up your library services.”

still incarcerated seems critical to successful reentry, says Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library (BPL) Corrections Librarian Nick Higgins.

“A lot of people say that reentry starts the moment people enter jail,” says Higgins. “Engaging with the library and promoting family reunification—those are all part of the reentry model.”

Higgins and his staff serve 800 to 1,000 prisoners per month in five of the 10 jails on New York’s Rikers Island. In addition to providing mobile and standing library service, the staff has worked hard to create programs that connect their patrons with their families. Once a month, they run a program called Daddy and Me/Mommy and Me, which teaches parents about the impact of early literacy and lets them record themselves reading children’s books for their young ones at home.

While Daddy and Me/Mommy and Me allows inmates to connect with their families, library staff found they had a hard time keeping in contact with those families. So in 2014 BPL started an innovative program called TeleStory, a virtual visitation space at the library where families can videochat with their incarcerated loved ones, reading books and singing songs together.

TeleStory aims to facilitate a family connection, but the visits also help connect these vulnerable families to what the library has to offer, says Higgins. A mother who recently visited BPL with her 9-year-old son and toddler daughter seemed a little tentative and unsure of what to expect. The 9-year-old wasn’t particularly

interested in the video visitation, but the library itself made a big impact.

“That day also happened to be our summer reading program kickoff,” says Higgins. “We had library card signups and book giveaways and games. It was his first time experiencing what the library had to offer, and it really created a relationship with this family beyond just incarceration.”

Through a grant from the Knight Foundation, TeleStory will expand to 12 libraries across New York State, making it easier for families to connect with loved ones and giving the incarcerated a better chance at a successful reentry when the time comes.

Meeting needs without creating stigma

Just the experience of going to the library and interacting with friendly, helpful librarians can be an incredibly important step for former inmates who have experienced a lot of isolation, says Marcou.

“A community can feel like a very strange place if you’re locked away for a long time,” he says. “To be able to go into an environment where [inmates are] welcomed and encouraged, where they don’t have to worry about money—that’s unbelievably positive.”

But creating a positive space for reentry can also mean anticipating the unique needs of some former inmates. That’s what Melanie Colletti, librarian at Denver Public Library (DPL), discovered when the library started its Free to Learn program in 2010 for the formerly incarcerated.

“A lot of people say that reentry starts the moment people enter jail. Engaging with the library and promoting family reunification—those are all part of the reentry model.”

NICK HIGGINS, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library

Create space for dialogue. Even if you’re not ready to start helping ex-offenders specifically, you can use your library as a place to talk about issues in the criminal justice system. “Create space for the public to discuss this system together in a forum, public program, film series, or art exhibit,” says Higgins. “Don’t be afraid to enter into the conversation about how to grapple with a system that deeply and negatively affects so many of our community members and their families.”

Train your staff. Helping your staff members understand the complex issues surrounding incarceration will help them better serve your patrons. Marcou’s library did a training with a playwright who gathered stories from women at a local correctional facility and turned them into a play to perform at the training. The training was overwhelmingly successful, and it opened staff members’ eyes to both the statistics and realities of incarceration as well as the stories behind the numbers.

Start small. Many librarians new to corrections start out with a vision of creating massive change, but because of the complexities of incarceration, Marcou says the reality can feel very different. “I don’t try to reach everyone,” he says. “If I can help one person out of 100, I’m happy. If people just take one step forward, it’s a start.” ●



An inmate reads to his son (left) and a family poses at the Daddy and Me program's family day event, facilitated at a jail by Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library.



The vast majority of women in the criminal justice system are survivors of domestic abuse, both physical and sexual, according to the Correctional Association of New York. When DPL staffers discovered most of the people using the computers in the Community Technology Center were men, they realized how difficult it might be for female ex-offenders to participate in the program.

In response, Colletti helped create Women's Open Lab, where female ex-offenders can come in to use the computers and get help from library staff in a safe,

welcoming environment. Colletti says the women got assistance in finding jobs and housing, reconnecting with family via Facebook, and learning how to download books and music.

"More importantly, they shared their personal experiences at the library with the women they knew at halfway houses and at programs they attended at other agencies," says Colletti. "This is how we became better known as a safe space that welcomes all."

Through operating the Women's Open Lab and educating staff on the needs of ex-offenders, the

Photos: Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library

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library discovered that a separate reentry program wasn't really necessary. So while Free to Learn doesn't formally exist anymore, the library still maintains a database of community resources for people going through reentry, and it trains staffers to know that they can help former offenders in small ways, like signing a sheet to verify for their parole officer or release program that they attended a class.

Additionally, DPL staff members now regularly visit local correctional institutions to talk to prisoners nearing their release dates about what the library can offer them. But Colletti stresses that a participant's affirming testimonial can do more for a program than any promotional materials.

"The better marketing tool is word of mouth," she says. "And because of our initial connections with community reentry and other organizations, the word is still out there that the public library is a good place to be."

An essential library mission

BPL's Higgins says helping ex-offenders is part of a library's central mission: to serve and welcome all people. And with the rise in the prison population, the numbers of ex-offenders are growing rapidly. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, the number of people with criminal records in the

United States is roughly the same as those who have college degrees.

"The criminal justice system affects so many people—not just those who are incarcerated, but their families who have nothing to do with their crimes or the system," says Higgins. "It's a fairly destructive system, and we're here to help all members of our community no matter where they happen to be."

But Higgins also stresses the joy that can come from seeing the formerly incarcerated create new lives for themselves and use the library to do it.

A few months ago, he heard someone calling his name on the street. He turned around to see a man who he had gotten to know well in a literature class he taught in Brooklyn's federal prison. "He was riding his bicycle. It was his mother's birthday, and he was getting a cake for her," says Higgins. "To see somebody who is outside of the four walls of that facility, not wearing his green uniform, but riding a bicycle in Brooklyn—it was so good to see. It's a very meaningful thing." **AL**



MEGAN COTTRELL is a writer, blogger, and reporter in Michigan.



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MIDWINTER PREVIEW

*The conversation
starts here...*

BY Terra Dankowski

Atlanta is a city of many nicknames and identities. You might know it as ATL, the Big Peach, Dogwood City, Hotlanta, the Hollywood of the South. You might be acquainted with its bustling airport or its ties to Coca-Cola, *Gone with the Wind*, and the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. But perhaps none of its associations are more meaningful—or resonant to librarian values—than the city's place at the center of the civil rights movement and protest activity of the mid-20th century.

We know that equity, diversity, and inclusion are instrumental to the success of libraries. As the American Library Association (ALA) gears up for its 2017 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits (January 20–24) in Atlanta, it's important to reflect on a variety of recent events—from the unrest after the presidential election to the Pulse nightclub shooting to the Dakota Access Pipeline to Black Lives Matter demonstrations—in deciding how our libraries can continue to invite knowledge into marginalized communities, create brave spaces, further a dialogue around complicated issues, and provide better access for everyone.

Programs, speakers, research, and continuing education at Midwinter will focus greatly on diversity, inclusion, and advocacy strategies, case studies, and calls to action. Sessions will also look to the uncertain and exciting future of librarianship, in tandem with this year's Symposium on the Future of Libraries. And of course, Midwinter showcases the Youth Media Awards and the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Book and Media Awards, plus the authors, exhibits, professional development, and networking you've come to love and expect.

However you may know Atlanta, draw some inspiration from its important place in our history, for the important work that your libraries do.

OPENING SESSION

Friday, January 20, 4–5:15 p.m.

Acclaimed sociopolitical comedian, radio and podcast host, ACLU ambassador, and author **W.**

Kamau Bell will bring to Midwinter his brand of “intersectional progressivism,” as coined by *The New Yorker*. Bell has performed at colleges across the country, appeared on various Comedy Central programs, and has been published at Salon, MSNBC.com, and BuzzFeed. His forthcoming memoir, *The Awkward Thoughts of W. Kamau Bell: Tales of a 6'4", African American, Heterosexual, Cisgender, Left-Leaning, Asthmatic, Black and Proud Blerd, Mama's Boy, Dad, and Stand-Up Comedian* (Penguin Random House, May 2017) is a humorous, well-informed take on issues such as race relations, fatherhood, law enforcement, superheroes, and politics.



W. Kamau Bell

ARTHUR CURLEY MEMORIAL LECTURE

Saturday, January 21, 4–5 p.m.

Join **Ryan Gravel**—urban visionary, planner, designer, and author of *Where We Want to Live: Reclaiming Infrastructure for a New Generation*

of *Cities* (St. Martin's Press, 2016)—for an exciting pitch

on how to make cities better by remodeling them with infrastructure to reconnect neighborhoods and people. Gravel is a founding principal at Sixpitch and the award-winning creator of the Atlanta BeltLine, a 22-mile transit greenway of development that will ultimately connect 40 diverse Atlanta neighborhoods to city schools, shopping districts, and public parks. His work on site design, infrastructure, concept development, and public policy, with consideration to the cultural side of infrastructure, has been covered in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and CityLab.



Ryan Gravel

News You Can Use

Get the latest updates on policy, research, statistics, and technology, based on surveys, reports, legislation and regulation, projects, beta trials, focus groups, and other data. Presenters include ALA divisions and offices, ALA's Digital Content Working Group, and other organizations. For a full list of News You Can Use sessions, check the ALA Midwinter Scheduler at alamidwinter.org/scheduler.

Libraries Transforming Communities: Models for Change

Saturday, January 21, 8:30–10 a.m.

Starting this month, public and academic libraries across the country will be invited to learn community engagement techniques, such as coalition building and dialogue facilitation, through a series of free web-based and in-person trainings offered by ALA's Public Programs Office, with support from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and built on the success of the Association's Libraries Transforming Communities initiative. Attend this session to learn more about the rollout, including information on training schedules, applications, and special travel stipends available to small and rural libraries.

Adult Literacy through Libraries

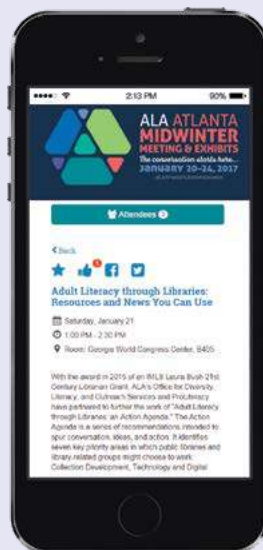
Saturday, January 21, 1–2:30 p.m.

ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services and ProLiteracy partner to deliver an action agenda to spur conversation, ideas, and recommendations to further adult literacy. The session identifies seven key priority areas on which public libraries and library-related groups might choose to focus: collection development, technology and digital literacy, collaboration and strategic partnerships, professional development and graduate education, community planning and program evaluation, raising awareness and influencing policy, and sustainability.

Library Information Technology Association (LITA) Top Tech Trends

Sunday, January 22, 1–2:30 p.m.

Expert panelists describe advances in technology that are having an impact on the library world and what libraries can do to take advantage of these developments. Moderated by Ken Varum, senior program manager for discovery, delivery, and learning analytics at the University of Michigan, the LITA round table features Bill Jones (creative technologist, IDS Project), Meredith Powers (senior reference librarian, Brooklyn [N.Y.] Public Library), Kelvin Watson (chief operating officer and senior vice president, Queens [N.Y.] Library), Cynthia Hart (emerging technologies librarian, Virginia Beach [Va.] Public Library), and Gena Marker (teacher-librarian, Centennial High School Library in Boise, Idaho).



PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM

Sunday, January 22, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

ALA President Julie B. Todaro welcomes **Kwame Alexander**—poet, educator, and award-winning, best-selling author of 24 books for children, including the 2015 Newbery Medal-winning *The Crossover* and the forthcoming photo-illustrated book, *Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World in Poetry and Pictures* (with Joel Sartore, National Geographic Children's Books, February 2017). Alexander's work is inspired by his belief that poetry can change the world. A regular speaker at schools and conferences, Alexander cofounded an international literacy program that leads an annual delegation of writers, educators, and activists to Ghana.



Kwame Alexander

CLOSING SESSION

Monday, January 23, 2–3 p.m.

Actor, producer, director, host, author, and magician **Neil Patrick Harris** will be the Closing Session speaker. A Tony Award winner, five-time Emmy Award winner, and memoirist, Harris recently made his middle-grade book debut with *The Magic Misfits* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, fall 2017), a series that combines his passion as a magic enthusiast with his more recent experiences as a parent. Harris will next be seen starring as Count Olaf in the Netflix original, *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Be sure to read our interview with Harris on page 28.



Neil Patrick Harris

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SUNRISE CELEBRATION

Monday, January 23, 6:30–7:30 a.m.

Acclaimed historian and professor **Daina Ramey Berry** will deliver the keynote address, themed "Freedom

Ain't Never Been Free," at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration, which commemorates King's legacy and recognizes the connection between his life's work and the library world. A specialist in the history of gender and slavery in the United States, Berry's forthcoming book, *The*



Daina
Ramey Berry

Price for Their Pound of Flesh: The Value of the Enslaved, from the Womb to the Grave, in the Building of a Nation

(Beacon Press, January 2017), offers a ground-

breaking look at slaves as commodities through every phase of life in early America.

Berry will be joined by Cynthia P. Lewis, director of archives at King Library and Archives in Atlanta, and call-to-action speaker Patricia "Patty" Wong, county librarian of the Yolo County (Calif.) Library System. Featured readings will include passages from the collected work and speeches of King. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.

AUDITORIUM SPEAKER SERIES

Saturday, January 21, 10–11 a.m.

Award-winning debut author **Susan Tan** and bestselling author and illustrator **LeUyen Pham** promise a thought-provoking conversation, moderated by *Booklist* Books for Youth Editor Daniel Kraus. Tan's book *Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire* (Macmillan, March 2017) is a middle-grade novel about a biracial Asian-American girl who dreams of becoming a famous author but first has to deal with the arrival of a new sibling and the differences between the two sides of her family. Pham wrote and illustrated *Big Sister, Little Sister* and



Susan
Tan



LeUyen
Pham

The Bear Who Wasn't There, and is the illustrator of many other picture books, including *The Princess in Black* series and *The Boy Who Loved Math*.

Sunday, January 22, 10–11 a.m.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and law professor **Annette Gordon-Reed** brings to Midwinter her authentic portrayal of our colonial past. Author of several books, including *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family* and most recently "Most

Blessed of the Patriarchs:"

Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination (with Peter S. Onuf, Liveright Publishing, 2016), her persistent investigation has dramatically changed the course of Jeffersonian scholarship. Gordon-Reed is a Guggenheim fellow, MacArthur fellow, and recipient of the National Humanities Medal and National Book Award.



Annette
Gordon-Reed

In the Exhibit Hall



With more than 400 exhibitors offering the latest in products, titles, and services for every type of library, pavilions dedicated to niche areas, and stages featuring the hottest names in publishing, the exhibit hall at Midwinter is essential to learning and networking.

Stop by the **Book Buzz Theater** for buzz on the newest titles; watch chefs, restaurant owners, and food personalities whip up their favorite recipes at the **What's Cooking @ ALA Demonstration Stage**; and catch readings, discussions, presentations, and signings at the **PopTop Stage**. For a full list of exhibitors, visit exhibitors.ala.org.

Exhibit Hall Hours

Friday, January 20
5:30–7 p.m.

Saturday, January 21
9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday, January 22
9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Monday, January 23
9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Symposium on the Future of Libraries



Darlene Gillard Jones



Isha Lee



Marian Liou



Stephen Harmon



Jeffrey Martín

Special to Midwinter is a three-day program of sessions, sponsored by the Center for the Future of Libraries, exploring the many futures for academic, public, school, and special libraries. Included with full conference registration, this symposium offers plenary sessions with civic, social, and education innovators; insights for new services, spaces, collections, and partnerships; and discussions with experts and thinkers from allied professions and disciplines. Leaders will inspire attendees to consider ideas in light of their own work and values that they can bring back to their communities, campuses, and organizations. For more information, visit alamidwinter.org/symposium-on-future-libraries.



Plenary Sessions

Saturday, January 21, 8:30–10 a.m.

Social innovation will be the focus, with speakers **Darlene Gillard Jones** and **Isha Lee**. Jones is chief community officer of Digital Undivided and its BIG Innovation Center, the first and only space and tech accelerator program dedicated to the training and support of Latina and black women founders of high-growth tech companies. Lee is chief network officer of Welcoming America, a national network for nonprofits and local governments interested in developing plans, programs, and policies that embrace immigrants, foster opportunity for all, and transform communities.

Sunday, January 22, 8:30–10 a.m.

Kyle Kessler and **Marian Liou** will tackle civic innovation with a look into the future of cities, communities, and neighborhoods. Kessler is community program manager for Atlanta's Center for Civic Innovation, which helps find and test new solutions to local challenges with tools ranging from open data to community dialogue. Liou is the founder of We Love BuHi, a community-based organization that combines arts, business, design, and play to catalyze and support Atlanta's Buford Highway corridor.

Monday, January 23, 8:30–10 a.m.

Stephen Harmon and **Jeffrey Martín** will present a program on innovation in K–12 and higher ed. Harmon is director of educational innovation at Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for 21st Century Universities, which tests techniques in actual classrooms to develop tech-driven solutions that result in optimal student outcomes and institutional change. Martín is founder and CEO of honorCode, a nonprofit that provides curricula and training to schools to bring more web development into the K–12 classroom.

ALA MASTERS SERIES

Hear experts from across different library specialties describe their latest in-house innovations in these fast-paced, 45-minute sessions.

Saturday, January 21, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Talk with **Catherine Murray-Rust**, dean of libraries at Georgia Tech, about recent projects, including the Library Service Center, a joint venture with Emory University.

Sunday, January 22, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Join **Kelvin Watson**, COO and SVP of Queens Library, to discuss wide-ranging developments that are transforming his library, including a new virtual library system.

TOWN HALL DIALOGUE

Library and Information Experts Succeeding in the 21st Century

Saturday, January 21, 1–3 p.m.

What competencies will be necessary for all types and sizes of libraries to thrive in a future society? How can library schools and development programs prepare librarians to be successful? This critical discussion on the role of library professionals as experts will be facilitated by ALA President Julie B. Todaro and guided by thought leaders Eileen Abels (dean of the School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College), Valerie Gross (president and CEO of Howard County [Md.] Library), and John Bertot (professor at University of Maryland's College of Information Studies).

BOOKS AND AWARDS

RUSA Book and Media Awards

Sunday, January 22, 5–7 p.m.

Don't miss the RUSA advisory committees' Notable Books, Reading List, and Listen List selections, as well as announcements for the winners of the **Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction**. The winners of the Dartmouth Medal, Sophie Brody Medal for Jewish literature, Zora Neale Hurston Award for achievement in promoting African-American literature, and Louis Shores Award for book reviewing will also be revealed.

Youth Media Awards

Monday, January 23, 8–9 a.m.

Committees of librarians and media experts select the winners of the Youth Media Awards, which honor books, videos, and other outstanding materials for children and teens. Winners of the Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Newbery, and Printz are among the awards and medals to be announced. Follow the results via live webcast or by following #alayma.

Morris and Nonfiction Award Program and Presentation

Monday, January 23, 10:30 a.m.–noon

Join the Young Adult Library Services Association to celebrate the 2017 honorees and winners for the Morris Award and the YA Nonfiction Award. Enjoy coffee, tea, and refreshments and hear finalists speak about their distinguished titles. After the speeches, mingle with authors and pick up free copies of their books. Tickets: \$19. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

United for Libraries Gala Author Tea

Monday, January 23, 2–4 p.m.

Authors Mary Kay Andrews, Pam Jenoff, Kathy Hepinstall, and Emily Fridlund will discuss their writing lives and forthcoming books at this event. Enjoy a light offering of tea, finger sandwiches, and sweets, followed by book signings. Winners of the 2016 National Friends of Libraries Week Awards will be recognized during the program. Tickets: \$65 onsite, \$60 in advance for ALA members, \$55 in advance for United for Libraries members.



Pam Jenoff



Kathy Hepinstall

ADVOCACY PROGRAMMING

Library Professionals Lead: Influencing the Agenda of the 45th President and the 115th Congress

Saturday, January 21, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Join ALA President Julie B. Todaro for a briefing on the 45-115 ALA Federal Initiative for libraries, library professionals, and stakeholders to influence the agendas of the president and Congress. A panel, moderated by 2014–2015 ALA President Courtney Young, will share ALA's strategy for policy priorities, plans for the first 100 days of the new administration, and

Business and Financial Meetings

Friday, January 20

8:30–10:45 a.m., ALA Executive Board Meeting I

Noon–1:30 p.m., Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) Meeting

Saturday, January 21

Noon–1:30 p.m., BARC Meeting

3–4:30 p.m., ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session

4:30–5:30 p.m., ALA Presidential Candidates' Forum

Sunday, January 22

8:30–10:30 a.m., ALA Council I

10:30–11 a.m., ALA-APA Council Session

Monday, January 23

10 a.m.–noon, ALA Council II

2–4 p.m., ALA Executive Board Meeting II

Tuesday, January 24

9:30–11:30 a.m., ALA Council III

1–4:30 p.m., ALA Executive Board Meeting III

how library advocates can engage with elected officials to affect decisions.

Improving Federal and State Policy to Support Family Engagement in Libraries

Saturday, January 21, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Policymakers need to recognize libraries as critical partners in advancing learning opportunities and family engagement. Join the Office for Information Technology

Policy and the Public Library Association (PLA) to examine opportunities for federal and state policymakers to better support inclusion of public and other libraries as part of a holistic approach to children's healthy development and education.

Are You a Proactive or Reactive Advocate? Best Practices from Academic and Public Library Supporters

**Monday, January 23,
10:30–11:30 a.m.**

United for Libraries and RUSA partner for an engaging dialogue on best practices for library advocacy and outreach—even in times of a budget crisis—and what academic and public libraries can learn from each other. Discussion leaders include Dustin Fife, director of library services for Western State Colorado University, and Donna McDonald, director of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library in Dardanelle.

TICKETED EVENTS

Midwinter offers a series of preconference institutes and professional development opportunities for all areas of librarianship. For more information, visit alamidwinter.org/ticketed-events.

Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Mini Institute

Friday, January 20, 7 a.m.–4 p.m.

Join fellow children's librarians and educators for an intensive daylong learning opportunity of programming, keynote author and illustrator events, networking, discussion forums, and more. Designed for front-line youth library staff, children's literature experts, and education and library school faculty members, it is one of the only workshops devoted solely to children's librarianship, literature, and technology. Advance tickets: \$170 for ALA members, \$150 for ALSC members.

Partnering with Law Enforcement to Advance Social Justice: A Train-the-Trainer Event for Public Libraries

Friday, January 20, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

This interactive institute from PLA will offer concrete strategies for how public libraries can use history as a gateway to discussing today's complex community dynamics, in an environment that encourages open conversation and greater understanding. Andrea Blackman, division manager for the Special Collections Division of the Nashville (Tenn.) Public Library and coordinator of

the library's nationally recognized Civil Rights Room and Collection, uses Nashville's groundbreaking civil rights training partnership with law enforcement agencies as an example to help libraries and professionals align with what their communities value most, heighten visibility and stature, and develop strategies for immediate integration into their work. Tickets: \$295 for ALA members, \$245 for PLA members.

Activate, Collaborate, and Engage: Transforming Your Community through Health Outreach at Your Library

Friday, January 20, 8 a.m.–noon

Get an introduction to how libraries can strengthen their roles within the communities they serve through health outreach using ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities initiative. Learn about free and reliable health information resources and ready-to-use materials, how to proactively create a culture of health users, and how to start health outreach implementation at your library, in this session cosponsored by the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies' (ASCLA) Consumer Health Information Librarians Interest Group. Tickets: \$135 in advance to ASCLA and ALA members.



ALA Store

Located near the onsite registration area, the ALA Store will extend its hours this year. Browse and shop a wide range of bestselling promotional, continuing education, professional development, and gift items.

Store Hours

Friday, January 20	Sunday, January 22
Noon–5:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday, January 21	Monday, January 23
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.	8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Want to Discover Atlanta?

Center for
Puppetry Arts



Visit the informational website created for ALA by the city of Atlanta—which includes a list of attractions and special offers—at attend.atlanta.net/ala.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Creating a New Future for Library Collections

Friday, January 20, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

This full-day symposium from the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) examines the critical roles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in today's libraries and highlights the work occurring in metadata, open source, and preserving diverse voices. Presenters will discuss equitable access, diversity and visibility in collection development and management, and inclusion and advocacy in cataloging. Speakers include 2014–2015 ALA President Courtney Young, Hannah Buckland (director of library services, Leech Lake Tribal College), Charlotte Roh (scholarly communications librarian, University of San Francisco), Harrison Inefuku (digital scholarship and initiatives colead and publishing services librarian, Iowa State University), Paolo Gujilde (assistant professor and coordinator

of collection development, Georgia Southern University), Emily Drabinski (coordinator of library instruction, Long Island University), Ann Marie Willer (preservation librarian, MIT), and Mark Puente (director of diversity and leadership programs, Association of Research Libraries). Tickets: \$269 for ALA members, \$219 for ALCTS members, \$99 for student members.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Midwinter goes beyond the speakers, awards, and business meetings. The conference offers informal opportunities to ask questions, make recommendations, explore ideas, and reflect on the implications of updates, conversations, and what you've learned.

There are more than 200 **Discussion Groups**, loosely organized sessions on broad and timely topics, each sponsored by an ALA division, round table, or office.

STAY Connected



Visit alamidwinter.org



Track #alamw17 and follow @alamw



Join the Facebook event at bit.ly/FBMW17



Follow the Pinterest boards at pinterest.com/alamidwinter



Follow along on Tumblr at americanlibraryassoc.tumblr.com



Keep up on Instagram with #alamw17 and at bit.ly/ALAinstagram



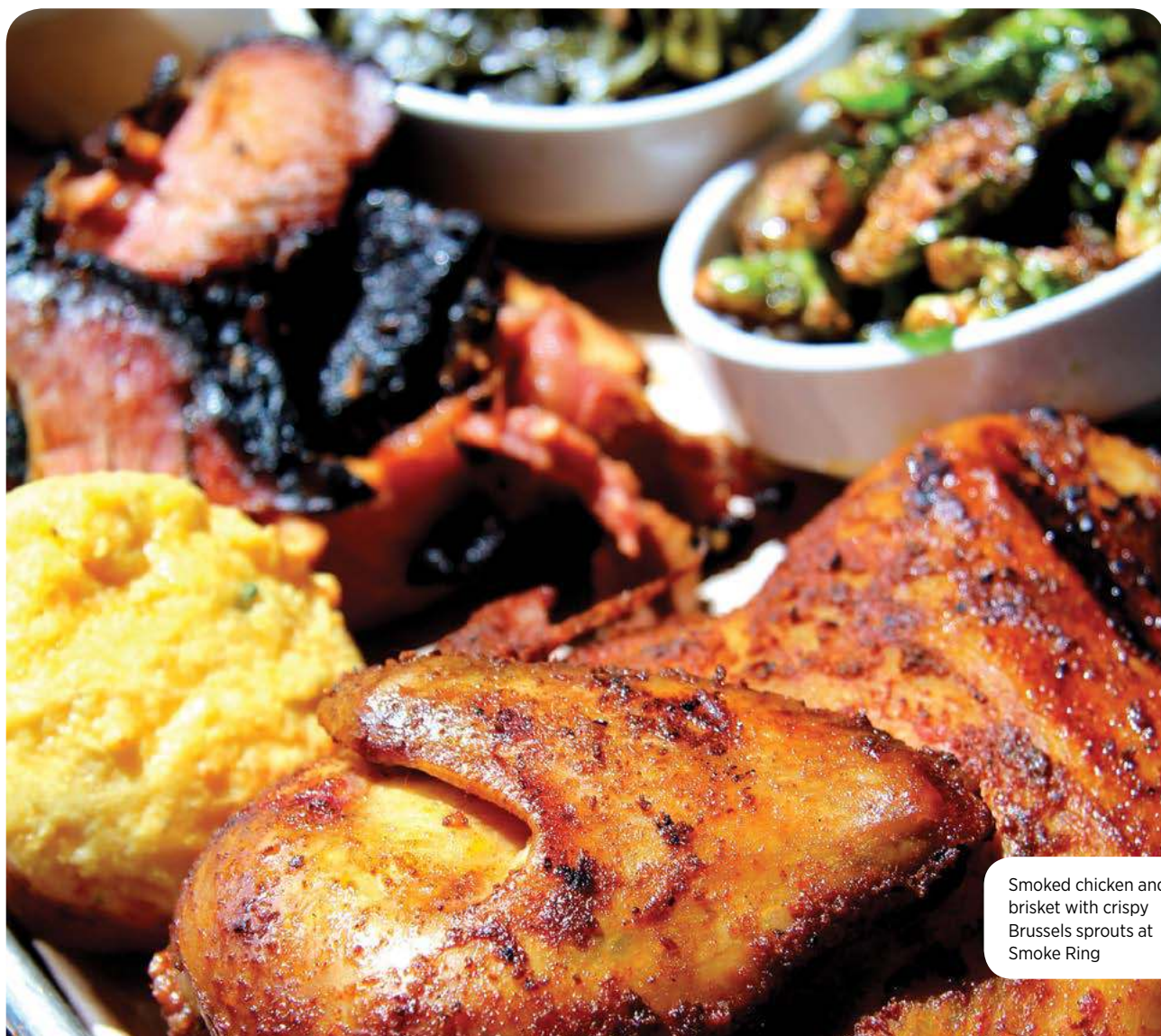
Visit alamidwinter.org/scheduler or download the mobile app

Returning for their third year, **Ignite Sessions** offer a unique format: five-minute presentations, accompanied by 20 slides that advance automatically every 15 seconds.

Make connections at the **Networking Uncommons** space, a Wi-Fi-equipped area where you can gather in small groups to have a quick meeting, hold impromptu sessions, polish your presentation, or just recharge. Sign up for a time slot or just show up.

The growing, participant-guided **Unconference** takes place on **Friday, January 20, 9 a.m.–noon**, and brings the unstructured conversations people often have between sessions into the conference itself.

ALA's **JobLIST Placement and Career Development Center** offers free workshops, career counseling, and résumé review. Stop by the **Open House** on **Sunday, January 22, 10:30 a.m.–noon**, or visit the center **Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.** **AL**



Smoked chicken and
brisket with crispy
Brussels sprouts at
Smoke Ring

Eating in the ATL

Where to dine during Midwinter

BY *Creative Loafing Atlanta* and Phil Morehart

Atlanta is experiencing a culinary renaissance. Fine-dining restaurants now sit side by side next to traditional Southern joints serving fried chicken, barbeque, and comfort food to create a vibrant food scene for the New South. The city's downtown, host to the American Library Association's 2017 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, is home to a bevy of new restaurants and old favorites, providing a variety of dining options for meeting attendees.

American Libraries teamed with *Creative Loafing Atlanta*, the city's weekly independent newspaper, to bring Midwinter guests a broad selection of restaurants to enjoy before and after their conference activities, all located within a reasonable distance from the Georgia World Congress Center in downtown Atlanta.

Price Guide

Average price per person for entrée without appetizers, drinks, tax, or tip.

\$ Under \$10
 \$\$ \$11-\$20
 \$\$\$ \$21-\$30
 \$\$\$\$ \$31 and up

DOWNTOWN

Alma Cocina

404-968-9662

alma-atlanta.com

191 Peachtree St. NE

Alma Cocina serves high-end Mexican fare, taking traditional dishes and refining them just enough to allow you to taste them afresh: braised heritage pork shank with roasted root veggies, chicharrón crumble, and dried fig mole negro (\$30); roasted chicken mole Oaxaca with mashed plantains, grilled green beans, and sesame seeds (\$21); fried avocado tacos with crispy queso Cotija, poblano pesto, and roasted tomatoes (\$14). Don't forget the side of elotes, charred corn on the cob with garlic aioli, ancho chile powder, queso Cotija, and epazote (\$5). L (M-F), D daily \$\$-\$\$\$

Blossom Tree

404-223-7500

zomato.com/atlanta/

blossom-tree-downtown

64 Peachtree St. NW

This Korean fusion restaurant

switches things up, offering a varied selection of Korean tacos, including crispy fish, beef short rib, calamari, and chicken tacos (under \$3.25), as well as kimchi rice dishes (under \$7.95), curries (under \$8.25), and bibimbap (\$7.45-\$7.95). L, D daily \$

Dantanna's

404-522-8873

dantannas.com

One CNN Ctr., Suite 269

The only sports bar in Atlanta with five-star restaurant quality, Dantanna's strives for culinary excellence. The "Freuben," a fish Reuben sandwich (\$8), salmon BLT (\$11), and crab cakes (\$28) are faves. L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$

Der Biergarten

404-521-2728

derbiergarten.com

300 Marietta St. NW

A true taste of German culture in downtown Atlanta, Der Biergarten balances an elegant, white-tablecloth dining room with foosball and shuffleboard offerings in the back. And don't forget the indoor and outdoor beer



Der Biergarten's risenbretzel with obatzda

garden with family-style seating. The fare is traditional German, such as schnitzel (\$24), bratwurst with sauerkraut (\$9), rinderrouladen (slow cooked beef roulades, onions, bacon, and German pickles, served with gravy, mashed potatoes, red cabbage, \$21), and käsespätzle (egg noodles, onions, and Emmentaler cheese, \$12). L (Sat, Sun), D daily \$-\$\$\$

Ebrik Coffee Room

404-330-0119

ebrikcoffeeroom.com

16 Park Pl. SE

Perfect for an early morning and afternoon pick-me-up, Ebrik (pronounced "ay-breek") Coffee Room serves espresso drinks, pour-over coffee, an assortment of teas, and baked goods from local bakeries. B (M-F), L, D daily \$



Hamachi ceviche at Alma Cocina

McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant

404-521-1236
mccormickandschmicks.com
190 Marietta St. NW

First-class seafood in a variety of styles, though with an emphasis on those of

the Pacific Northwest and California coast. Despite the glass domes, privacy booths, snappy linens, heavy flatware, and list of 30–40 varieties of fresh seafood on offer daily, prices are moderate at this big-volume fish house serving fish and chips (\$20),

bronzed tilapia (\$21), and Scottish salmon (\$33), and a variety of plates suitable for sharing, including seafood-stuffed mushrooms (\$13), steamed mussels (\$14), and coconut shrimp (\$13). Steaks and grilled items round out the menu. Reservations are encouraged. L (M–Sat), D daily \$–\$\$\$\$

(\$14), and fish and chips (\$15)—as well as truffled mac and cheese (\$11), burgers, salads, and appetizers like deviled eggs (\$6) and Reuben egg rolls (\$10). L, D daily \$–\$\$

Polaris

404-460-6425
polarisatlanta.com
265 Peachtree St. NE

Polaris sits atop the Hyatt Regency and rotates 360 degrees every 45 minutes. Executive Chef Thomas McKeown serves a menu influenced by Southern cuisine, ranging from bacon popcorn (\$4) and colossal shrimp (\$14) to fried duck confit with hazelnut crust (\$28) and roasted venison loin (\$32). D (M–Sat) \$–\$\$\$

Meehan's Public House

404-214-9821
meehansdowntown.com
200 Peachtree St.

This Irish pub and restaurant in the landmark 180 Peachtree building, formerly a Macy's department store, offers a taste of true Irish charm. All the staples are here—shepherd's pie (\$15.25), bangers and mash

Kick It at the CURB

The Great Atlanta Fire of 1917 spawned the creation of the open-air Municipal Market of Atlanta. However, African-American vendors weren't permitted to sell livestock or produce inside when its first permanent structure was constructed in 1924. Instead they were relegated to the curb outside, creating the Sweet Auburn Curb Market.

The market maintains a monopoly on rich culinary traditions, and a visit is a veritable field trip for all five senses. As soon as you step inside, the sweet nuttiness of Miss D's New Orleans Pralines meets your nose. Butcher cases treat turkey tails, hog maws, fatback, chitlins, oxtails, pork belly, pigs feet, and red hot links like Southern delicacies. Fresh collards, turnips, mustards, and kale line the aisles of produce vendors.

There are also plenty of mouth-watering places to dine, from soul food (Afrodisch Restaurant, Metro Deli) to finger-lickin' food (Arepa Mia, Bell Street Burritos, Grindhouse Killer Burgers, Sweet Auburn BBQ, YumDiggity). Far from your faux-artisanal food court, this is where the moms and pops set up shop. •

Sweet Auburn Curb Market

404-659-1665
thecurbmarket.com
209 Edgewood Ave. SE
B, L (M–Sat) \$–\$\$



Sidebar

404-588-1850

sidebaratlanta.com

79 Poplar St. NW

This downtown spot is a sturdy after-work or pre-game hangout. The agreeable menu features such offerings as Cuban sandwiches (\$8), beer-battered onion rings (\$8.50), burgers, soups, salads, and more. L, D (M-F) \$

Stats

404-885-1472

statsatl.com

300 Marietta St. NW

With five bars, including one on the rooftop deck, Stats is the ultimate sports bar. The food runs the gamut from barroom faves like wings (\$14), shrimp and crab

nachos (\$13), and ribs (\$13) to burgers (\$12) and barbecue sandwiches (\$11). Private rooms and several tables are stocked with Table Taps that allow you to pour your own brew while watching the game. L, D daily \$\$

The Sun Dial Restaurant, Bar, and View

404-589-7506

sundialrestaurant.com

210 Peachtree St. NE

Take in a 360-degree revolving panoramic view of Atlanta while eating farm-to-table food at this city landmark. Enjoy butternut squash ravioli (\$34), pan-seared duck breast (\$38), and wood-roasted salmon (\$40) from a perch 700 feet



Dantanna's "Freuben"

above Atlanta at the top of the Westin Peachtree Plaza hotel. Brunch (Sun), L, D daily \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Ted's Montana Grill

404-521-9796

tedsmontanagrill.com

133 Luckie St. NW

The "Ted" in this chain bar

and grill's name refers to its owner: media mogul and former Atlanta Braves owner Ted Turner. The fare is straightforward, hearty American: bison chili (\$15), meatloaf sandwiches (\$10), bison short ribs (\$18), burgers (\$10-\$17), and steaks (\$22-\$32). L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$\$

- 1 Alma Cocina
- 2 Blossom Tree
- 3 Bottle Rocket
- 4 Dantanna's
- 5 Der Biergarten
- 6 Ebrik Coffee Room
- 7 Elliott Street Deli and Pub
- 8 Mary Mac's Tea Room
- 9 McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant
- 10 Meehan's Public House
- 11 Mellow Mushroom
- 12 Polaris
- 13 Poor Calvin's
- 14 Sidebar
- 15 Slice
- 16 Smoke Ring
- 17 Stats
- 18 The Sun Dial Restaurant, Bar, and View
- 19 Ted's Montana Grill
- 20 Trader Vic's



Ditch the MEAT

Looking for vegetarian and vegan alternatives? There are lots of healthy dining options for lunch and dinner in Atlanta and surrounding areas. For more ideas, visit connect.ala.org/node/256335.

Cafe Sunflower
404-352-8859
cafesunflower.com
2140 Peachtree Rd. NW
Brunch (Sun), L, D (M–Sat)

Desta Ethiopian Kitchen
404-929-0011
destaethiopiankitchen.com
3086 Briarcliff Rd. NE
L, D daily

Dulce Vegan Bakery and Café
404-624-7417
dulcevegan.com
1994 Hosea L. Williams Dr. NE
B, L (W–Sun)

Go Vegetarian
404-481-5923
govegetarianrestaurant.com
2179 Lawrenceville Hwy., Decatur
B, L, D (Tue–Sun)

Go Vinda's Café
404-907-4387
govindascafeatl.com
1146 A Euclid Ave. NE
L, D daily

Green Sprout Vegetarian Cuisine
404-874-7373
greensproutga.com
1529 Piedmont Ave. NE
L, D daily (closed W)

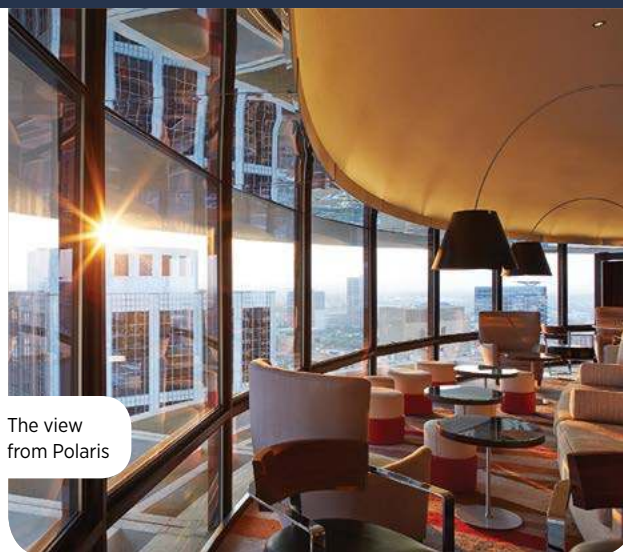
Harmony Vegetarian Chinese Restaurant
770-457-7288
harmonyvegetarian.com
4897 Buford Hwy. NE, Chamblee
L, D daily

Herban Fix Vegan Kitchen
404-815-8787
herbanfix.com
565-A Peachtree St. NE
L, D daily

Soul Vegetarian Restaurant, No. 2
404-875-0145
soulvegetarian2.com
652 North Highland Ave. NE
L, D (Tue–Sun)

Viva La Vegan
404-951-2737
vivalaveganatlanta.com
1265 Lee St. SW
L, D daily •

Seared pom pom mushroom steak at Herban Fix Vegan Kitchen



The view from Polar

Trader Vic's
404-221-6339
tradervicsatl.com
255 Courtland St. NE
Feeling the need to escape to a tropical island? Trader Vic's, located in the Hilton Downtown Atlanta, is the next best thing, with its intensely tropical décor of palm fronds, tiki poles, and Polynesian longboats. Starters like the flower-shaped crab Rangoon (\$8.50) tease the eyes as well as the tongue. And don't miss the fork-tender barbeque spare ribs (\$13.50), prepared from an original 1972 recipe, and the Indonesian rack of lamb (\$37.75). The cocktails continue the experience with snazzy garnishes and specialized glasses.
D (Tue–Sat) \$\$–\$\$\$\$

Black Angus Bottle Rocket burger (\$12); the soft-shell crab sandwich (tempura-fried soft-shell crab with onion, avocado, and spicy aioli, \$14), and the JFC (chicken karaage), a traditional Japanese bar recipe of thinly sliced chicken, marinated in a blend of herbs and spices, very lightly battered and fried, and served with either Japanese mustard, wasabi mayo, spicy aioli, or Thai sweet chili, \$13.50.
D daily \$–\$\$

Elliott Street Deli and Pub
404-523-2174
elliottstreet.com
51 Elliott St. SW

This tiny bar in a lovingly renovated old building in downtown's Castleberry Hill boasts an authentic neighborhood vibe with simple fare consisting of a wide variety of sandwiches—try the Dirty Bird in Blue (\$7.75), mesquite wood-smoked turkey breast topped with swiss and bleu cheeses—and salads. Downstairs hosts a variety of low-key jazz, open mic jams, and experimental music nights for the sonically adventurous. L, D (Tue–Sat) \$

CASTLEBERRY HILL

Bottle Rocket
404-574-5680
bottlerocketatl.com
180 Walker St. SW
Bottle Rocket offers an interesting combo of sushi, burgers, and comfort cocktails. On top of the makimono, nigiri, and sashimi offerings, house specialties include the

Slice

404-917-1820

sliceatlanta.com

85 Poplar St. NW

A surprisingly fashionable pizza bar, Slice offers quality pizza loaded down with delicious toppings at relatively good prices, from \$5.50–\$6.75 for a slice to loaded baked potato (under \$19.95) and Hawaiian barbecue (under \$18.95) pizzas. The build-it-yourself calzones (\$6.95) and sandwiches (under \$8.75) aren't bad, but go for the pizza pie with the chewy golden crust. L, D (M–Sat) **\$\$–\$\$\$**

Smoke Ring

404-228-6377

smokeringatlanta.com

309 Nelson St. SW

If you're a fan of good barbecue in rustic décor, this is a place you ought to know about: hardwoods everywhere, Edison bulbs, barstools, and chairs with a steampunk hint, approachable craft cocktails in Mason jars, and tasty grub that breaks the mold just enough to please traditionalists while intriguing the foodies—all presented in a chill, artsy atmosphere. The menu is a love letter to Southern cuisine but taken up the culinary

ladder a few rungs. Heavenly apps include barbecue deviled eggs (\$5), smoked and grilled artichokes (\$11), and smoked and fried gator tail with chipotle sauce (\$12). There are seven or so gussied-up sandwiches on the menu, sliders, and even a random burrito, but heaping plates of tasty meat are king, from pulled pork (\$13), brisket (\$15), and pork belly (\$14) to half and full racks of ribs (\$16–\$27). L, D daily **\$\$–\$\$\$**

MIDTOWN

Mary Mac's Tea Room

404-876-1800

marymacs.com

224 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE

Atlanta's best-known home for soul food, Mary Mac's delivers quality Southern favorites like fried chicken (\$12.50–\$14.50), chicken and dumplings (\$13.50), roast pork (\$13.50), slow-cooked beef pot roast (\$16), collard greens (\$3.50), Hoppin' John (\$3.50), and fried okra (\$3.50). Fried food is the order of the day so people with an aversion to crunchy, crispy goodness probably should find other places to be. L, D daily **\$\$–\$\$\$**



Fried chicken at Mary Mac's Tea Room

Mellow Mushroom

404-577-1001

mellowmushroom.com

400 W. Peachtree St. NW

Atlanta-based chain restaurant Mellow Mushroom plays up a hippie vibe, serving pizzas, hoagies, and more, all aptly named with trippy monikers. Try the Magical Mystery Tour, a pizza with a pesto base topped with button and portobello mushrooms, feta and mozzarella cheeses, spinach, and jalapeños on a pesto-basted crust; the Mellowterranean, a pizza with an olive oil and garlic base with all natural grilled chicken, onions, roasted red peppers, black olives, chives, feta and mozzarella cheeses with a side of tzatziki sauce; or the signature veggie burger made from quinoa, kale, brown rice and roasted mushrooms. Seasoned

with roasted garlic and shallots and finished with fresh avocado, cheddar cheese, garlic aioli, romaine lettuce, sliced tomato, and onion. L, D daily **\$\$–\$\$\$**

Poor Calvin's

404-254-4051

poorcalvins.com

510 Piedmont Ave. NE

Poor Calvin's offers a rare cuisine of Thai fusion with Southern influences. Originally from Vietnam but raised and classically trained in Germany, chef-owner Calvin Phan serves up an innovative blend of Eastern flavors and Western presentations, using fresh and flavorful ingredients to create pad thai tiger shrimp (\$24), pecan-crusted trout Thai curry (\$24), lobster fried rice (\$18), and more delicious selections. L (Tue–Sun), D daily **\$\$\$–\$\$\$\$** **AL**

Smokehouse burger at Meehan's Public House



Never Neutral

Critical librarianship and technology

I have watched the growth of critical librarianship into a mainstream movement with excitement. Critical librarianship supports the belief that, in our work as librarians, we should examine and fight attempts at social oppression.

Over the past few years, critical librarianship has become a force that pervades every area of our work, from reference (radicalreference.info) to library instruction (bit.ly/alelmborg), collection development (weneeddiversebooks.org), cataloging (bit.ly/aldrabinski), and storytime (storytimeunderground.org). Biweekly #critlib Twitter chats (critlib.org) address topics across all areas of librarianship. Many librarians are thinking about how they can fight for social justice in their work, which raises the question of whether that work reflects the neutrality that has long been a value in our profession.

One tenet of critical librarianship is that neutrality is not only unachievable, it is harmful to oppressed groups in our society. In a world that is fundamentally unequal, neutrality upholds inequality and represents indifference to the marginalization of members of our community. If the majority of what is published represents a white, male, Christian, heteronormative worldview, then we are not supporting the interests of other members of our communities by primarily buying those works. If Library of Congress Subject Headings whitewash injustices like Japanese-American internment with terms like “Japanese Americans–Evacuation and relocation,” then neutrality supports it.

Only recently have I begun to see critiques of technology through the lens



of critical librarianship. It is tempting to believe that searching in our library discovery systems is somehow more neutral because results are ranked by relevance based on an algorithm. But that’s far from the case, as many researchers have suggested that algorithms can reproduce and support the same negative stereotyping that occurs in society. Grand Valley State University librarian Matthew Reidsma published a fascinating analysis of bias in library discovery systems and explored some of the biased and offensive search results he found in his library’s discovery layer (bit.ly/alreidsma).

Whether or not we improve library discovery systems, our patrons are still using online tools that have been shown to be biased. In his TED talk “Beware Online Filter Bubbles” (bit.ly/alpariser), Eli Pariser showed how tools like Google and Facebook personalize what users see and primarily show content that agrees with their worldview. Information

Neutrality is not
only unachievable,
it is harmful to
oppressed groups
in our society.

scientist Safiya Umoja Noble studied Google search results to show the damage done to young black girls when the top results in a search for “black girls” are highly sexualized (bit.ly/alsnoble). When the internet tools we use provide a partial or distorted view of the world, they influence the attitudes, actions, and self-esteem of the people we serve.

Librarians may not be able to change Google or Facebook, but we can educate our patrons and support the development of the critical-thinking skills they need to navigate an often-biased online world. We can empower our patrons when we help them critically evaluate information and teach them about bias in search engines, social media, and publishing. Libraries that have created research guides for Black Lives Matter and other social justice topics are helping to curate information and points-of-view that might not be traditionally published.

We are not doing our job if we remain neutral when it comes to library technologies. Accepting many of the technologies available to support our missions means accepting technologies that are biased, not accessible, not protective of the privacy of our users, and not easily usable by some of our patrons. A commitment to social justice is a commitment to equal access, which is at the heart of our professional values. We are not being neutral when we advocate for our patrons, but we are being good librarians. ^{AL}

MEREDITH FARKAS is a faculty librarian at Portland (Oreg.) Community College and a lecturer at San José State University School of Information. She blogs at Information Wants to Be Free. Email: librarysuccess@gmail.com

Social Media Optimization

Five principles to guide your online activities

Social media can be an effective tool for building and engaging community. By following the five principles of social media optimization, your library can become an active voice in a thriving community.

Create shareable content

Creating meaningful web content for sharing on social media can lead to increased website traffic and community growth. Shareable web content is defined by two key characteristics: It's published on the web at a unique URL, and it's relevant to the community. Your library has probably already published many forms of share-ready content, including items from your digital collection, blog posts, institutional repository items, email newsletters, videos, or staff directory pages.

Look at major national libraries for inspiration, as they often have robust digital content that is well-suited for sharing. For example, New York Public Library's Public Domain collection (nypl.org/collections/labs) features more than 180,000 digital objects and is free to access, share, and reuse through social networks.

Make sharing easy

Add social media links on your web pages in a way that users can easily share library content with others. These links usually consist of a small icon associated with the platform. When clicked, the platform opens with prepopulated content for the user to post. These shares should include your organization's social network account name, a title for the content, and a simple URL. Each social network manages shared content in a different way. You can look at the Facebook, Twitter, and



dispatches

BY Doralyn Rossmann and Scott W. H. Young

Pinterest developer sites for guidance in customizing these buttons.

Reward engagement

Actively listen to your community on social networks and recognize users who engage with your library. For example, you can discover user-shared library content through Twitter Analytics. This gives you the chance to like the post, make a comment, and reshare with your Twitter followers. By regularly monitoring analytics and responding to posts, you strengthen connections with users and show that your library is listening.

Proactive sharing

Libraries can be the best promoters of their own material and services by following an intentional and well-planned approach to sharing. Geotagging is a

useful way to promote library-related activities wherever they occur. Your library can geotag any photograph it posts to Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter. This will offer many opportunities for creativity by gamifying geolocations through treasure hunts or check-ins, or by asking users to share location-specific pictures related to library promotions. Anyone searching for this promoted geotag will get a broad overview of library activities, and the library can identify other posts in the same location to reshare as appropriate.

Measure use, encourage reuse

You can apply web analytics along with user feedback to evaluate your networking activity, with success measured by community growth, engagement, and connectedness. Record how many members like or follow you on each social network at the beginning of each month, then use that data to calculate change over time. Focus groups and online surveys are a good way to evaluate connectedness, and analytics available through Google, Facebook, and Twitter measure engagement.

Social media optimization offers a flexible framework for creating and sharing content through social networks. By following these five principles, you can build an engaged community of library users and connect those users with your collections, services, and staff. **AL**

Add links on your web pages in a way that users can easily share library content with others.

DORALYN ROSSMANN is head of collection development, and **SCOTT W. H. YOUNG** is digital initiatives librarian at Montana State University, Bozeman. Adapted from "Social Media Optimization: Principles for Building and Engaging Community," *Library Technology Reports* vol. 52, no. 8 (November/December).

Partnerships Beyond Four Walls

How school–public library relationships create community

When school librarians hear the word “collaboration,” their minds may immediately drift to a meeting room with a small group of educators, calendars in hand, planning a multifaceted research project complete with product examples, presentation dates, and ideas for a new Pinterest board. But collaboration doesn’t always happen that way.

Sometimes collaboration is accidental. I’ve had lessons that just happened to coordinate with the curriculum. For instance, our library at West Magnet Elementary in Batesville, Arkansas, was able to give students a “virtual field trip” via live stream to see President Barack Obama answering questions at DC Public Library’s Anacostia branch. Our 4th graders were studying the branches of government and we were in the midst of celebrating National Library Month—it just worked.

And sometimes collaboration happens outside of our libraries.

Our district’s school librarians encourage students and families to use Batesville’s public library, Independence County Library, for their reading needs during the school year and summer months. With a new director recently installed at the public library, it seemed like a good time to increase our advocacy and explore a school–public partnership. We decided to meet as a group—all six of our district’s school librarians, the public library director, two public library employees, and one public library board member—during the summer to get to know one another, establish goals, and share ideas for how we could copresent events.

In September, the school library joined forces with our public library for National



Library Card Sign-Up Month. The public library was already celebrating with its own giveaways, but I was itching to get an event started. We decided on a games-themed celebration, “Fall for Books Fun Fest for Kids,” which was held in a small park across from the public library.

The concept was that children would receive a punch card upon arrival and get punches for participating in five games: ring toss, a water gun game, ladderball, washer toss, and bowling. After cards were completed, kids would receive a goody bag. The public library provided the punch cards, prizes, and a few items for the games. The school library provided the remaining items for games and a Kindle Fire to raffle during the festival.

When children claimed their goody bags, they had to visit a table where,

Using coordinated events and promotions to develop relationships with other libraries can help you reach young readers.

strategically, a public librarian was stationed with library card registration forms. She was able to talk with every person who visited the festival to ask if he or she had a library card, used the library, and were aware of the services the library provided, such as ebooks, free internet access, and author visits.

Even for our small community, approximately 55 adults and 60 children visited the festival. Ten children signed up for a library card, as well as two adults. There were also 13 new registrations for ebook usage. The festival was scheduled for two hours on a Saturday morning to maximize attendance among our audience.

We were excited that the first outside-the-box collaboration was so successful, and we hope to continue and grow similar events in the following years. Many attendees said they would like to see a community event to kick off summer reading. Students remarked that they had seen us school librarians before “at that other library.” Parents and children see the value of the public library in establishing a reading community but are also making the connection between school libraries and public libraries.

Partnerships aren’t restricted to the four walls of your school or library building. Using coordinated events and promotions to develop relationships with other libraries—even academic or special libraries—can help you reach young readers and achieve common objectives. **AL**

ASHLEY J. COOKSEY is a library media specialist at Batesville (Ark.) School District. She blogs at AASL’s Knowledge Quest and A Ginger Librarian.

ALA JobLIST

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- **Simplify recruitment.** Flat-rate pricing, discounted multi-ad packages, and optional enhanced postings available for increased visibility.

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Developing New Skills

ALA titles help you improve service

Each year, the American Library Association (ALA) library gets this question from a library science student: “I have an assignment to research an association.

What does ALA do?” After explaining our structure and noting the importance of advocacy for funding, good copyright laws, and intellectual freedom, we also detail how Association members assist one another by developing best practices and offering both formal and informal continuing education. Yes, the cocktail-hour sharing of “war stories” can help improve service to patrons. Associations capture and formalize these learnings through publications, and 36% of ALA’s revenue comes from publishing (ala.org/aboutala/treasurerspage). This column will round up some new books published by ALA Editions, ALA Neal-Schuman, or an ALA division that can help you, the practitioner, do your job better.

Let’s start with raising money. The first set of chapters in *40+ New Revenue Sources*



for *Libraries and Nonprofits*, by Edmund A. Rossman III, lays the foundation for



specific discussions about sources. Rossman covers why libraries might need more than what their traditional funding bases offer, which for public libraries is 85%–90% local, and how to establish and leverage value to secure new sources. He covers legal and governance issues, promotional methods (including social media), and the importance of community partnerships. The rest of the book contains minichapters broadly grouped around revenue generation topics: advertising and underwriting; books and materials, such as book sales, equipment

rental, and recognizing a donor with a bookplate; naming rights; and sponsorships. ALA Editions, 2016. 248 P. \$65. PBK. 978-0-8389-1438-0.



A component of figuring out the value of your library is scrutinizing existing statistical reports to document positive outcomes. Statistical data can also be used to target areas for improvement. In *Library Improvement through Data Analytics*, Lesley S. J. Farmer and Alan M. Safer explain the value of data-driven decision making, specifically using the Six Sigma model. They outline the steps of the model—defining the project, measuring the current output, reviewing the process, implementing a change in the process, and controlling and extending the process when improvement is documented. They conclude with case studies and a statistical primer. ALA Neal-Schuman, 2016. 184 P. \$75. PBK. 978-0-8389-1425-0.

THE BESTSELLERS LIST

TOP 3 IN PRINT

1 | **Young Adult Literature: From Romance to Realism, 3rd edition**

by Michael Cart



The perfect resource for YA librarians who want to sharpen their readers’ advisory skills, educators who work with youth, and anyone who wants to understand where YA lit has been and where it’s heading.

2 | **Reference and Information Services: An Introduction, 3rd edition**

by Kay Ann Cassell and Uma Hiremath



Designed to complement introductory library reference courses, this title is ideal for students and librarians looking to expand their personal reference knowledge.

3 | **Foundations of Library and Information Science, 4th edition**

by Richard E. Rubin, foreword by Joseph Janes



Spanning all types of libraries, this book illuminates the major facets of library and information science for aspiring professionals as well as those already practicing in the field.



This is all well and good, but what about people? Marie L. Radford and Gary P. Radford address just that in *Library Conversations: Reclaiming Interpersonal Communication Theory for Understanding Professional Encounters*. We have hundreds of interpersonal communications in a day—on the phone, at the reference desk, in a meeting with one’s boss, in the technical processing workroom. The quality of those interactions affects the library’s overall service delivery. The authors review why good interchanges are strategically important and explore them in the context of several communication theories, looking at what is communicated and how it is communicated. The second part of the book applies the principles to face-to-face and chat reference encounters. ALA Neal-Schuman, 2017. 184 P. \$75. PBK. 978-0-8389-1484-7.



When *Becoming a Media Mentor: A Guide for Working with Children and Families* hit my desk, I had to find out what a “media mentor” is. According to authors Claudia Haines, Cen Campbell, and the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a media mentor “supports the literacy, information, and media needs of children, teens, and their families.” It

extends the reference interview or readers’ advisory conversation into the broader digital arena of online resources, audio and textual media, games and computer programs, and more. It broadens a librarian’s expertise from just books into new ways of connecting children to information or entertainment. In addition to describing what media mentors do, the book covers the professional development needed to hone the new skills and offers an array of sample programs. An appendix offers the ALSC white paper, *Media Mentorship in Libraries Serving Youth*. ALA Editions, 2016. 176 P. \$48. PBK. 978-0-8389-1463-2. (Also available as an ebook.)



In *Collaborating for Impact: Special Collections and Liaison Librarian Partnerships*, editors Kristen Totleben and Lori Birrell bring together a number of practitioner essays on the topic of using special collections held by colleges and universities for research and teaching. Following a discussion of the nature of special collections and institutional repositories and the importance of object-based pedagogy, particularly for the humanities, the case studies are grouped around collection stewardship; projects, research, and exhibitions; and instruction. Although the case studies are

all at the post-secondary level, the principles included could benefit school–public library partnerships for hands-on instruction using artifacts from local history collections. Association of College and Research Libraries, 2016. 284 P. \$60. PBK. 978-0-8389-8883-1. (Also available as an ebook.)

Are we finally to a book on books? Yes! Brad Hooper, longtime adult books editor for *Booklist*, applies his decades of experience with book talks, book discussions, and authors in *The Librarian’s Guide to Book Programs and Author Events*. Hooper starts with public speaking, the foundation for doing an author talk or moderating an author panel. He moves on to book clubs and reading groups, covering their history, development, and popularity in one chapter and best practices for ensuring good discussion in the next. Other chapters cover programs that feature a single author, those with a panel of authors, writers-in-residence programs, awards, and one city/one book programs, which are also popular with churches, colleges, and conferences. ALA Editions, 2016. 160 P. \$55. PBK. 978-0-8389-1384-0. (Also available as an ebook.)



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

The Top-Selling Books from ALA Publishing (Since November 1, 2016)

TOP 3 IN EBOOK

1 | The Library’s Legal Answers for Meeting Rooms and Displays

by Mary Minow, Tomas A. Lipinski, and Gretchen McCord



Providing reliable answers backed up with case citations for your trustees and attorneys, this ebook will ensure you feel confident serving your community while staying within the law.

2 | New on the Job: A School Librarian’s Guide to Success, 2nd edition

by Hilda K. Weisburg and Ruth Toor



New school librarians as well as those already in the profession can set the tone for a rewarding career with this one-stop, hands-on guide.

3 | Reinventing Reference: How Libraries Deliver Value in the Age of Google

edited by Katie Elson Anderson and Vibiana Bowman Cvetkovic



Placing these issues in historical and cultural context, this book offers practical solutions for new paradigms of reference service for all users.

SOLUTIONS

Products and services



Syndetics Unbound book browsing widget

Syndetics Unbound can be integrated with many existing OPACs and discovery products, including Polaris, Library.Solution, Evergreen, and Koha. For libraries that already subscribe to either Syndetic Solutions or LibraryThing for Libraries, upgrading to Syndetics Unbound requires no changes. The new admin tool provides statistics on which elements patrons are using and which are driving usage of resources. Individual elements can be enabled or disabled in the catalog, depending on the library's needs and preferences.

For more information on Syndetics Unbound, visit proquest.syndetics.com.

Improving Library Websites

Products to enhance your online presence

Library websites are often the first point of contact for users, which means it's increasingly important to provide the best user experience possible. Here are some ways to increase the amount of information patrons can get from your online catalog, simplify participation in events, and improve the overall website experience.

Syndetics Unbound

Syndetic Solutions and LibraryThing for Libraries were designed to make online library catalogs more informational and interactive. ProQuest has now combined these two services into Syndetics Unbound, which provides 16 different catalog enrichment elements in one service.

Many of the features will be familiar to those who are used to shopping for books online. Author information, related titles,

professional and user reviews, a "look inside" feature, and others can be viewed on the item's page in the online catalog. The package also offers features that re-create the in-person browsing experience, like bookshelf widgets that display recommendations or themed selections, as well as a shelf-browse feature that uses call numbers to display a virtual shelf of available items.

The updated catalog enhancements include extensive crowdsourced information from LibraryThing users, including a librarian-curated collection of 95 million tags that expand the way users can search for items. Patrons can also add their own reviews and ratings to their library's catalog, which can then be showcased on the library's homepage or social media to increase engagement.

SignUp

SignUp, a new event calendar management platform from Evanced, helps make scheduling and registration for library events seamless for patrons and librarians. It provides an online calendar, email reminders, and other features that help increase awareness of and participation in library events. The platform recently updated to a mobile-friendly design and enhanced its calendar and branding options.

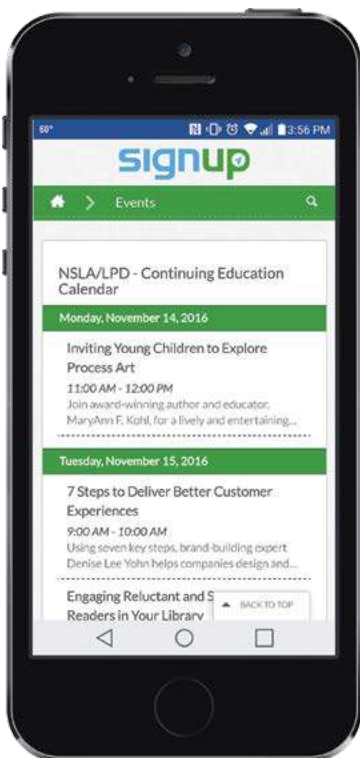
List and calendar widgets can be integrated into the main library website and ILS, showing all upcoming events or events in a particular category in multiple places, including self-checkout kiosks. Once on the calendar page, patrons don't need to leave the site to register or to pay event fees, simplifying the process and eliminating the need for additional platforms. When patrons register online, they

can export the event information to their mobile calendars and also opt in to receive email or text reminders, which are sent automatically prior to the event. Buttons and labels on the event page, including icons and color-coding by event type, are designed to be intuitive so patrons can easily browse events.

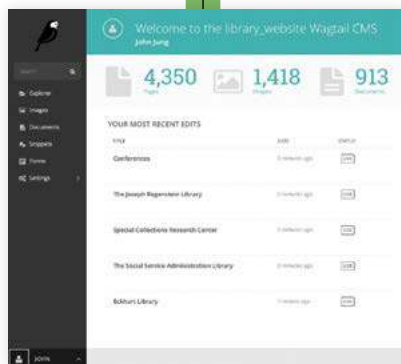
Event setup is completed through a staff dashboard, which includes options for creating recurring, public and private, and paid events; limiting attendance; and fine-tuning waitlists. Event types and age group categories can be tagged to events to aid in searching and are fully customizable based on the library's needs. For libraries with a larger number of meeting spaces or frequent events, the system will also give an alert when there is a room conflict.

The staff dashboard includes a news feed that shows new registrants, attendee cancellations, waitlist status, and changes made to events by staff. Event and patron reports allow staff members to analyze who is attending events in order to improve scheduling and attendance.

More information about SignUp is available at evancedsolutions.com/products/signup. **AL**



SignUp, a calendar management platform



Wagtail CMS

CASE STUDY

Custom Content Management with Wagtail

How do you use Wagtail?

Wagtail is the content management system (CMS) behind our publicly accessible website and our intranet.

How does Wagtail serve your library's needs?

We redesigned our website this past summer. One of the design goals was to make the site easier to maintain. We wanted our librarians to be able to enter information in one place and then display that information in different ways in different places on the site. Then we wanted

patrons to be able to browse the content in different ways, but we wanted to present this all in a regular, neatly organized way.

What are the main benefits? While many systems can be installed and immediately used, the Wagtail CMS is something you hand-craft. Though it might seem like this would be more work, we found the opposite to be true. Wagtail's front end is completely customizable, allowing us to create and implement our brand from the ground up. What we ended up with was something that met our needs exactly. Since Wagtail is driven by fielded content types, we were able to

have a large degree of control over the formatting of text in different sections of our templates. Instead of having one large rich-text area where web authors can enter whatever they want, we have different fields, each with the correct type for their function. This gives us much more consistent formatting across the site.

What would you like to see improved or added to the service? The Wagtail development team has been great. It's an open source project, so we can develop new features and submit them back to the

main development team. We would like to see a way to customize the admin interface so we can add our institution's branding and change the color scheme to reflect it. ●

USERS: Brad Busenius, web developer; John Jung, programmer analyst; and Kathy Zadrozny, web developer and graphic design specialist; University of Chicago Library

PRODUCT: Wagtail

DETAILS: Wagtail, originally developed by Torchbox, is an open source content management system (CMS) that allows developers to custom-design the CMS interface for their institution.



PEOPLE

Announcements

ON THE MOVE

Megan Bresnahan joined the University of New Hampshire in Durham as life sciences and agriculture librarian in September.

Vanessa Christman was appointed county librarian at Humboldt County (Calif.) Library October 4.

September 6 **Nancy Colyar** became library director at Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama.

Christine Conwell became head librarian at Moorpark (Calif.) City Library in October.

St. John's University in Queens, New York, appointed **Valeda F. Dent** as dean of University Libraries August 31.

Lorain (Ohio) Public Library System appointed **Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz** director, effective October 31.

September 30 **Heidi Dolamore** became director of Berkeley (Calif.) Public Library.

Dayna Durbin joined University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as undergraduate teaching and learning librarian November 1.



Roswell Encina joined the Library of Congress as senior advisor September 6.

September 1 **Monica Figueroa** became music cataloging librarian in the Resource Description and Management Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.



Rachel Frick left the Digital Public Library of America in September to become executive director of the OCLC Research Library Partnership.

Kudos

Judy Cooper, coordinator of programs and publications at Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, received the Chic Dambach Award for Service to the Literary Arts from Baltimore's CityLit Project October 18.

Southern Methodist University's Hamon Arts Library in Dallas has named **Georgia Erger** as the 2016 Curatorial Fellow for its Hawn Gallery.

The College of William and Mary Libraries in Williamsburg, Virginia, has named Professor of Hispanic Studies and Film and Media Studies **Ann Marie Stock** as its inaugural faculty scholar, a position in which she will partner with the library on initiatives such as creating a digital archive to inventory Cuban film materials and make them accessible.

Wayne A. Wiegand, F. William Summers Professor Emeritus of Library and Information Studies and American Studies at Florida State University in Tallahassee, has been named a distinguished visiting scholar at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress January–May 2017. ●

Garren Hochstetler joined Valley (Neb.) Public Library as children's librarian in November.

October 1 **Anne Jarvis** became university librarian at Princeton (N.J.) University.

Loretta Lee became director and head librarian of Tri-Valley Free Public Library in Hegins, Pennsylvania, October 31.

Terry Manuel has been named Kentucky state librarian and commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

Wayland (Mass.) Free Public Library appointed **Dana Mastroianni** director, effective October 31.

Jennifer Mayer joined the University of Northern Colorado Libraries in Greeley as head of the library research services department in August.

Susanne Mehrer joined Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, as dean of libraries December 1.

Don Smith became director of Morehouse Parish Library in Bastrop, Louisiana, on July 1.

Rebecca Smyrl joined University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as assistant conservator for special collections November 1.



In November, **Adam Strohm** became director of university archives and special collections at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

Jessica Venlet became assistant university archivist for records management and electronic records at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library September 1.



In August **Nicole Webber** joined the Library Research Services Department at the University of Northern Colorado Libraries in Greeley as business librarian.

Alice Whiteside became head of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Joseph C. Sloane Art Library September 1.



Edward L. "Ted" Widmer was appointed director of the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress, effective October 3.

PROMOTIONS

Charlene Adkins has been promoted to collection development manager at Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library.



The Wyoming Department of Administration and Information promoted **Jamie Markus** to state librarian September 15.



Atlantic City (N.J.) Free Public Library promoted **Robert P. Rynkiewicz** to director November 1.

Campbell University Libraries in Buies Creek, North Carolina, promoted **Sarah Steele** to associate dean effective October 1.

RETIREMENTS

Joanne Eldridge retired as director of Lorain (Ohio) Public Library System September 30.

October 31 **Maureen Sherr Frank** retired as director of Atlantic City (N.J.) Free Library.

Barbara Immroth, professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Information since 1980, retired in September.

Bonnie Juergens retired as president and chief executive officer of Amigos Library Services in Dallas January 13.

Ann Knight retired as director of Wayland (Mass.) Free Public Library October 28.

Marion "Midge" Lusardi retired as director of Chesterfield (Mich.) Township Library in December.



In Memory

Ashley Stang Esposito, 32, collections and development assessment librarian at Shippensburg (Pa.) University's Ezra Lehman Library, died October 4.

Catherine Caliva Schweinsberg Rood, 66, who retired as library services director for Brevard County, Florida, in 2012, died September 29. Rood worked for Brevard County Library Services for 32 years and oversaw the library as it transitioned to new technology, including downloadable ebooks and growing internet use.

Nettie Barcroft Taylor, 102, who was elected an ALA Honorary Member in 2005, died October 21. Taylor's career spanned nearly seven decades. She spent 40 years with the Maryland State Department of Education, where she worked to evolve small community libraries into county public library systems, strengthened resource sharing through the Maryland State Library Network, and led the formation of three regional libraries to provide support services and collections for rural libraries. She was part of the planning teams for the 1979 and 1991 White House Conferences on Library and Information Services and served on the task forces to implement recommendations from both conferences. She lobbied for library funding on both the federal and state levels, working for the first national Library Services Act in 1956 and the Library Services and Construction Act in 1962, and lobbying the Maryland General Assembly to establish a per capita funding formula for public libraries. Taylor was a founding member of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, founding member and president of ALA's Continuing Library Education Network and Exchange Round Table, a president of ALA's Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, and an ALA councilor. In addition to ALA Honorary Membership, her honors include the Joseph W. Lippincott Award for distinguished service to librarianship and the Maryland Library Association Distinguished Service Award. ●



Karin Trainer retired as university librarian at Princeton University September 30.

Angela Gwizdala was promoted to director of editing, design, and production for ALA Editions September 22.

October 4 **Michael Ruzicka** joined *Booklist* as office manager.

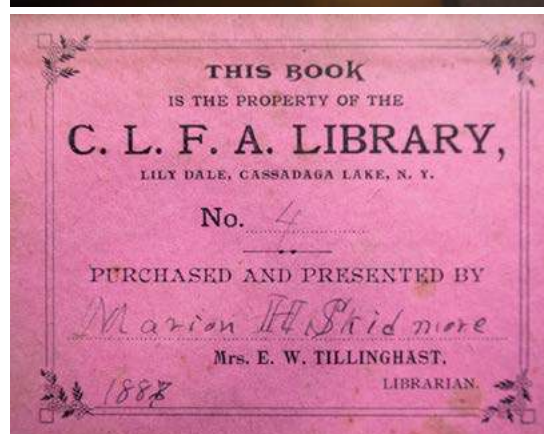
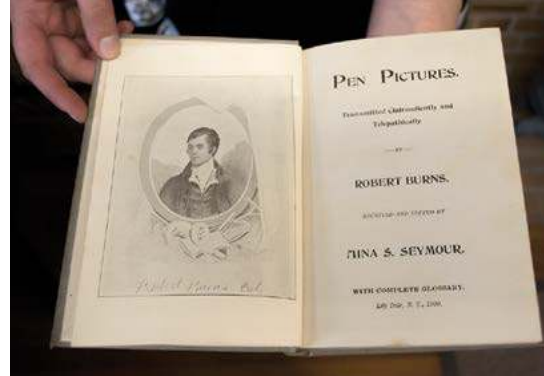
October 17 **Melissa Tracy** joined the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) and Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) as marketing and programs specialist.

Nan Weiss-Ham became ASCLA/RUSA office assistant October 18. AL

AT ALA

Don Chatham retired as associate executive director of ALA Publishing Services December 31.

Taylor Crossley joined the Young Adult Library Services Association as communications assistant October 31.



A Librarian with Spirit(s)

Nestled along the tree-lined Upper Cassadaga Lake in western New York lies the Marion H. Skidmore Library, run by its sole librarian, Amanda “Mandi” Shepp. Operated by the Lily Dale Assembly, the library houses an extensive collection of periodicals and newspapers that provide valuable information for anyone researching the history of this Spiritualist community founded in 1879.

Shepp was hired in 2014 as the facility’s first professional librarian and has been busily cataloging its more than 10,000 books, rearranging them into 28 thematic collections and seeing that its rare newspapers and pamphlets are digitized.

“In addition to multiple collections that focus on aspects of Spiritualism, others cover the suffrage and freethought movements,” Shepp says.

“Skidmore was a freethinker and a suffragette before she was a Spiritualist, and the early books in the collections reflect the profundity of her thinking.”

The library also houses some odd artifacts. Shepp says the “reading room contains a life-size spirit painting of Kaiser Wilhelm II created in Lily Dale in the 1890s during a séance by a pair of mediums known as the Campbell Brothers.”

Shepp found her current job through a newspaper ad. Before joining Skidmore Library, she was a “paranormal librarian” at the secular-humanist Center for Inquiry Libraries in Amherst, New York. **AL**

THE BOOKEND showcases librarians, their work, and their work spaces. For consideration, email americanlibraries@ala.org.

Clockwise from top right: *Pen Pictures*, a book of channeled poetry by Robert Burns published in Lily Dale in 1900; the signature pink bookplate of Skidmore’s original library, the Cassadaga Lakes Freethought Association Library; *memento mori* hair bracelet found inside an 1882 channeled Spiritualist text titled *Oahspe*; Amanda Shepp examines *The Sunflower*, a Spiritualist journal published in Lily Dale, 1898–1909.



AT THE HELM

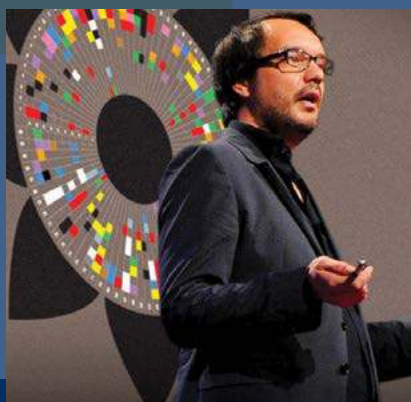
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