



# american libraries

July/August 2017

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**NEWSMAKER**

Reshma Saujani

p. 10

Library Card  
Civic Connections

p. 24

**PLUS:**

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and Conference Cands

2017 *Annual  
Conference*  
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# Annual Conference from Near and Far



Laurie D. Borman

**T**he ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition always delivers inspiration, amazing programs and speakers, and exciting new products and books. That's why the event is the highlight of my year. Everyone on the *American Libraries* team, including me, gets right in the middle of the action, reporting and photographing what's happening. This year, however, I was #alaleftbehind—for good reason. My oldest son got married in Boca Raton, Florida, on the same weekend as the conference.

As soon as I returned home, I started reading all the Scoop posts about the speakers and programs and seeing it from afar, as many members do when they can't attend the conference. It makes me very proud to see how extensive that coverage is, and I encourage you to visit [americanlibrariesmagazine.org](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org) to catch up on any events you didn't get to see or do, whether you were also #alaleftbehind or lucky enough to be at #alaac17.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's powerful message ended the conference: "As librarians, you have to be on the front lines of one of the most important fights we have faced in the history of our country: the fight to defend truth and reason and evidence and facts. You have to help us wage that fight one book at a time, one library at a time, one person at a time."

We're also including a wrap-up of the conference in this issue by Editor-at-Large Anne Ford, starting on page 12, as well as our regular feature by Marshall Breeding on interesting exhibit floor products, on page 20, so you'll have even more details on the Chicago conference.

With this issue, we also welcome new ALA President Jim Neal to *American Libraries*. His column is on page 4.

Our Newsmaker, Reshma Saujani, was the conference opening session speaker. The founder of the non-profit Girls Who Code, Saujani talked about closing the gender gap in the technology field by teaching girls that coding is cool. The interview is on page 10.

Here's to happy summer reading.

*Laurie*

Catch up  
on events  
you didn't  
get to  
see or do  
with our  
extensive  
coverage  
of the  
conference.

## american libraries

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**ALA** American  
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# T R A N S F O R M I N G RDA

**The RDA Toolkit Restructure and Redesign Project**, also known as the 3R project, will bring about a major transformation to both RDA and RDA Toolkit. The project aims to significantly improve the functionality and utility of RDA Toolkit and will include the implementation of the IFLA Library Reference Model. The new Toolkit is expected to roll out in late Spring 2018 with . . .

- a responsive design,
- improved site accessibility,
- an integrated display of Toolkit documents,
- enhanced search and navigation,
- and a whole lot more.

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# Leaders in the Library

## Building on the Libraries Transform campaign



Jim Neal

The campaign celebrates the value and impact of libraries and library workers on people's lives.

**T**he recent ALA Annual Conference in Chicago was an outstanding opportunity for more than 22,000 library workers, exhibitors, and students from across the US and the world to come together to network, learn, and share.

In addition to the many remarkable speakers and presentations that made the conference a rich educational experience, the work of the Association is also noteworthy:

- The Conference Accessibility Task Force issued recommendations for accessibility improvements at upcoming conferences.
- The Chapter Relations Communications Task Force issued a report to help improve chapter engagement with ALA.
- A new Task Force on Sustainability was launched to help increase implementation of sustainable practices by the Association, the profession, libraries, and their communities.
- The new class of 60 Spectrum Scholarship recipients and the 10th anniversary of the Emerging Leaders program were celebrated.

We made important progress on our four strategic directions: advocacy; information policy; professional and leadership development; and equity, diversity, and inclusion.

And at the core of our deliberations was the continued strong work of political activism at the local, state, and national levels to preserve library programs and funding and to advance information policies that support the work of our users.

As I assume the responsibilities of ALA president for 2017–2018, I want to emphasize my core vision. We must dare to be bold, courageous, and challenging. We are virtual: engaged with our users and with our communities in ever more rigorous and effective ways. We are virtuoso: smart and always ready to learn. We are virtuous: radically collaborative, focused on a core set of values, and always working in the public interest. Now is the time for an outward view, not an inward focus.

There are important internal and external priorities in the works.

Internally, we will recruit, appoint, and develop a new ALA executive director and work with the new director of our Washington Office. We will implement a unified and coordinated presentation of our professional education programs. We will improve our technology infrastructure and systems. We will focus on member engagement and participation. We will improve communication and working relationships among ALA and its chapters, divisions, and round tables.

External issues will also be a priority. We will develop a strategy for expanded outreach to promote librarianship as a career choice for students of color. We will develop a cohort of library workers and trustees with deep information policy knowledge and the skills to work in the policy arena. We will build collaborative relationships between ALA and national libraries, associations, technology organizations, First Amendment supporters, social justice communities, and publishers. We will focus on the vitality of school libraries as fundamental to our work in all types of libraries. And we will engage the journalism community in a partnership on fighting fake news and promoting our shared interest in knowledge literacy.

The Libraries Transform campaign is our compelling and consistent message to communicate and celebrate the value and impact of libraries and library workers on people's lives and communities. Transformation for me also means rethinking what we are, what we are doing, and how we do it. I will focus on the Leader in the Library, the influence, innovation, and solutions we provide.

Libraries make leaders, both those who work *in* our libraries and those who depend *on* our libraries. Libraries are a smart investment. **AL**

---

**JIM NEAL** is university librarian emeritus at Columbia University in New York.

## Access and Sustainability

Thank you, Bonnie and Beth, for this article about the origins and continued work of the American Library Association's (ALA) Sustainability Round Table ("Sustainability's Community of Practice," The Scoop, May 10). This sentence really resonates with me: "The very notion of libraries, where space and resources are equally accessible to all, puts them clearly and unequivocally at the heart of sustainability."

**René Tanner**  
Tempe, Arizona

## Toolkits for Faculty

Thanks for highlighting the need for online toolkits ("Information Literacy Toolkits," May, p. 54)! At Cal State San Bernardino, we maintain the Critical Information Literacy Laboratory for Faculty: An Online Toolkit for Teaching and Learning ([library.csusb.edu/cillab](http://library.csusb.edu/cillab)). If you're curious, you can read more about its development on the Association of College and Research Libraries' Instruction Section site ([bit.ly/2tXanlq](http://bit.ly/2tXanlq)).

We'll be surveying faculty members this summer to get a better idea about our kit's current usage and how we can improve it to better assist them, especially those who will soon be teaching new or revised general education courses that have an attached critical information literacy outcome.

**Gina Schlesselman-Tarango**  
Redlands, California



## Library of Things

We have a very successful Library of Things here at the Hudson (Ohio) Library and Historical Society ("The Library of Things," June, p. 48). Some of the things we circulate include Chromebooks, Fitbits, GoPros, puppets, science kits, and ukuleles. It's great fun, and patrons love the surprise of the collection.

**Jodie DeLamatre**  
Akron, Ohio

## Dissertation Criteria?

I am delighted to see recent doctoral dissertations pertaining to librarianship featured in *American Libraries* ("Notable Dissertations," May, p. 42). As a recent PhD graduate, I understand how much work goes into these research projects, and I appreciate the effort to highlight and communicate the potential value of their findings to our field.

However, I was disappointed to see "eight of the year's top LIS dissertations" profiled without any discussion about the selection criteria for excellence or what constitutes a top dissertation. From where were these dissertations culled? Librarianship is a profession

advocating critical thinking and information literacy, one aspect of which is understanding and questioning sources of data.

**Rachel Ivy Clarke**  
Syracuse, New York

*A reply from Kathy Rosa, director of ALA's Office for Research and Statistics, and author of the article:* There are many wonderful LIS dissertations each year. I locate and read dissertations via university digital archives and online databases. I select dissertations that have practical implications for school, public, academic, and special libraries. Next, I look for a variety of methodologies, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches. Those most relevant to current issues and with measurable recommendations for change are then selected for the article. We will include the selection criteria for this feature in the future.

## CORRECTIONS

The photo caption for "I Always Will Refuse" (June, p. 36) misidentified the library as being located in Anniston, Alabama. The photo shows the Alexandria (Va.) Library in 1939.

Our "2017 ALA Annual Conference Preview" (June, p. 64) incorrectly suggested the Chicago Cubs winning the 2016 World Series was the city's first championship in 108 years. We regret this slight against the Chicago White Sox, which won the series in 2005.

Watching #ALLive on social media and libraries. Very interesting stuff. Chat section is where it's at!

@LOWEAM13 in response to the American Libraries Live episode, "Social Media: What's Next?" (May 19)

Great article in @amlibraries about the efforts to desegregate public libraries during the Civil Rights Movement.

@DATAQUILTER in response to "Desegregating Libraries in the American South" (June, p. 32)

You know you're into your job when you start listening to a podcast relating to it. Cheers @DeweyDecibel!

@THELUNATION in response to the Dewey Decibel podcast

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### Book Club Central Launches

The American Library Association (ALA) officially launched Book Club Central at the 2017 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago. The website was unveiled and Honorary Chair Sarah Jessica Parker announced her inaugural book selection, *No One Is Coming to Save Us*, a novel by Stephanie Powell Watts (Ecco, 2017). As honorary chair, Parker will provide additional recommended titles throughout the year. Her next pick will be announced in the fall.



*No One Is Coming to Save Us* is an exploration of the American Dream among African Americans in the South. Watts is an associate professor of English at Lehigh University and has won numerous awards, including a Whiting Award, a Pushcart Prize, and the Southern Women's Writers Award for Emerging Writer of the Year.

Book Club Central is an initiative of *Booklist*, United for Libraries, and Libraries Transform, ALA's public awareness campaign, along with corporate partner Penguin Random

House. It was designed in consultation with expert librarians to provide online resources such as author interviews, book recommendations, and reviews, as well as information for book clubs: discussion questions and guides on how to start and moderate a book club.

"It is exciting to have the opportunity to share Book Club Central with libraries, librarians, book clubs, and readers everywhere," said ALA Past President Julie B. Todaro. "As an online resource, Book Club Central will connect people to a new and engaging world of reading and books."

Book Club Central picks and online resources can be found at [bookclubcentral.org](http://bookclubcentral.org). ●



### ALA Condemns FCC Vote to Weaken Net Neutrality

ALA condemned the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) May 18 vote that began undoing strong net neutrality protections. ALA, along with an ad hoc library and higher education coalition representing more than 100,000 colleges, universities, and libraries nationwide, stated that no changes to current rules are necessary or desired. This coalition, which includes the Association of College and Research Libraries, advocated for the 2015 Open Internet Order and has continued to be engaged on this issue.

ALA Past President Julie B. Todaro stated: "Net neutrality is critical to ensuring open and nondiscriminatory access to information for all, and today's actions by

the FCC endanger that. America's libraries collect, create, curate, and disseminate essential information to the public over the internet and enable our users to build and distribute their own digital content and applications. Abandoning current protections endangers our mission and ability to serve our communities." She vowed continued advocacy on the part of ALA for the preservation of the open internet.

### Google to Fund New Libraries Ready to Code Grant

On June 22, ALA announced a competitive grant program, sponsored by Google, that will fund a cohort of school and public libraries to develop resources to help get US libraries "Ready to Code." The \$500,000 pilot program is part of

Phase III of Libraries Ready to Code, an ongoing collaboration between ALA and Google to aid library professionals in developing and delivering programming that promotes computer science (CS) and computational thinking among youth.

Between 25 and 50 libraries will be selected to receive funding from ALA and consulting expertise and operational support from Google. Individual libraries may use funding for devices, staffing, marketing, and other costs associated with piloting and rapidly iterating on a CS educational toolkit. The toolkit, set to release in conjunction with National Library Week in April 2018, will consist of resources for designing and implementing youth CS programming and a resource guide. Grant recipients will also initiate a community of practice.

# Success for “Dear Appropriator” Letters

Months of advocacy work came to a promising close with the delivery of the “Dear Appropriator” letters in the Senate. The second stage of the Fight for Libraries campaign to preserve federal funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) resulted in 21,000 emails sent to the Senate. In total, more than 42,000 emails were sent to Congress, along with almost 26,000 #saveIMLS tweets since the campaign began in mid-March.

The Corporate Committee for Library Investment, an advocacy group formed specifically to address federal library funding issues, joined the campaign in May. Nearly 30 founding member companies and organizations were joined by an additional 60-plus

information, software, publishing, and other businesses as well as national trade associations. The group delivered an open letter to the Senate urging members to sign letters in support of the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Additional information on the group’s continuing advocacy is available at [fundlibraries.com](http://fundlibraries.com).

Both letters received bipartisan support in the Senate, gaining signatures from new and returning senators. The letter in support of IAL received 37 signatures, and the LSTA letter received 45 signatures, a new record for the Senate. A full list of supporting lawmakers is available online at [bit.ly/SenateIMLS](http://bit.ly/SenateIMLS). •

ALA’s Office for Information Technology Policy and Google will offer seven sessions related to libraries and coding, including an introduction to Ready to Code and a workshop on how libraries can work to close the digital gap.

Ready to Code grant applications will open in mid-July. Updates and resources are available at [ala.org/tools/readytocode](http://ala.org/tools/readytocode).

## FAFLRT and ASCLA to Merge

In April, the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table (FAFLRT) voted to merge with the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA). Citing declining membership, FAFLRT President Karl Debus-Lopez said, “This merger with ASCLA will provide our members with more networking and

educational opportunities, access to more financial resources, and a dedicated staff provided by ALA. The missions of FAFLRT and ASCLA are closely aligned, and there will be the opportunity to create interest groups that reflect the needs of federal and armed forces librarians.”

The two groups plan to present a joint plan to the ALA Committee on Operations at the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in 2018 and actualize the merger on September 1, 2018. Once finalized, the merger will result in the addition of up to 300 new members to ASCLA’s current membership.

## Public Libraries Invited to Apply for Vietnam War Programming

Fifty public libraries will be selected through a competitive application

## CALENDAR

AUG. 9–13

**National Conference of African American Librarians** | Atlanta  
[bit.ly/ncaal17](http://bit.ly/ncaal17)

AUG. 19–25

**IFLA World Library and Information Congress**

Wrocław, Poland  
[2017.ifla.org](http://2017.ifla.org)

SEPT.

**Library Card Sign-Up Month**  
[ala.org/librarycardsignup](http://ala.org/librarycardsignup)

SEPT. 6–9

**Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference**

St. George, Utah  
[arsl.info/2017-conference](http://arsl.info/2017-conference)

SEPT. 24–30

**Banned Books Week**  
[ala.org/bbooks](http://ala.org/bbooks)

SEPT. 27

**Banned Websites Awareness Day**

[ala.org/aasl/advocacy/bwad](http://ala.org/aasl/advocacy/bwad)

OCT. 8–14

**Teen Read Week**  
[teenreadweek.ning.com](http://teenreadweek.ning.com)

OCT. 15–21

**National Friends of Libraries Week**  
[bit.ly/alafolweek](http://bit.ly/alafolweek)

OCT. 29–NOV. 4

**International Games Week**  
[games.ala.org](http://games.ala.org)

NOV.

**Picture Book Month**  
[picturebookmonth.com](http://picturebookmonth.com)

NOV. 3–5

**YALSA Young Adult Services Symposium** | Louisville, Kentucky  
[ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium](http://ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium)

NOV. 9–11

**AASL National Conference and Exhibition** | Phoenix  
[bit.ly/aasl17phoenix](http://bit.ly/aasl17phoenix)

NOV. 9–12

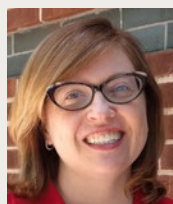
**LITA Forum** | Denver  
[litaforum.org](http://litaforum.org)

# Kromer Named Washington Office AED

**K**athi Kromer has been named the new associate executive director (AED) of the ALA Washington, D.C. Office. As AED, Kromer will direct and manage the Washington Office; represent libraries and librarians in the Washington community, which includes Congress, the Executive Branch, and the Judiciary; and raise the visibility in the national debate and the public's consciousness.

Prior to accepting a position with ALA, Kromer was vice president of strategy and outreach at the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association.

While with the ALS Association, Kromer created and executed public policy and outreach strategy. She expanded its national grassroots program from 2,000 advocates to nearly



Kathi Kromer

20,000 and identified high-level "grass-top" advocates within 39 chapters across the country. Kromer also was among those responsible for legislation that created the National ALS Registry and was instrumental in the US Department of Veterans Affairs ruling that ALS is a service-connected disease.

Kromer has a master of arts in international commerce and policy from George Mason University and a bachelor of arts in history and political science from University of Pittsburgh. She has more than 20 years' experience working with Congress and state governments. ●

process to receive a programming kit for *The Vietnam War*, a 10-part documentary film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick that will air on PBS stations beginning

September 17. The kit will include a programming guide and a DVD copy of the full 18-hour series, with public performance rights.

Recipients will also receive promotional materials, online resources to support local programs, and opportunities for partnership with local PBS stations. Participating libraries will be required to host at least one program related to the film before January 1, 2018, along with other promotional and reporting requirements.

Applications must be received by August 1. The application and guidelines are available at [apply.ala.org/thevietnamwar](http://apply.ala.org/thevietnamwar).

The project is offered by the ALA Public Programs Office in partnership with WETA Productions in Washington, D.C.

## HRDR Releases Career Development Resources Guide

The ALA Office for Human Resource Development and Recruitment (HRDR) has published a *Career Development Resource Guide*, intended to assist library staff at all levels in their job search and career journeys.

The guide includes sections on job search strategies, self-marketing, and correspondence, as well as interviewing strategies and tips on negotiating and

accepting job offers. It provides a list of questions employers typically ask, along with questions to ask employers during an interview. In addition, the guide has information on networking and provides resources to help individuals manage stress during a job search.

The guide was produced for HRDR by College Recruitment Media. It is available as a free download at [bit.ly/ALAcareerdev](http://bit.ly/ALAcareerdev).

## Small Library College Readiness Project Applications Open

Applications for rural, small, and tribal libraries are open through September 1 for the second cohort of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and Association of Rural and Small Libraries' (ARSL) project "Future Ready with the Library: Connecting with Communities for College and Career Readiness Services."

Thirty applicants will be chosen to participate, beginning with a two-day orientation in Denver February 8–9, 2018. Cohort members will receive travel funding, and their library will receive funding to hire temporary staff to cover their absence. For the remainder of 2018, cohort members will participate in online courses and discussions with the goal of planning, implementing, and evaluating

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a college and career readiness (CCR) service for middle schoolers in their community. Cohort members will also receive two stipends: one to purchase CCR materials for their library and another to use toward a professional development activity. This project will also create an online community of practice as well as free, customizable resources for use by all libraries.

The application and requirements are available at [bit.ly/yalsafri](http://bit.ly/yalsafri).

### ESLS Call for Proposals

The Educators of School Librarians Section (ESLS) of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) invites submissions of original research paper proposals that focus on school library practice or school librarianship. Three selected papers will be presented in a concurrent session at the AASL National Conference and Exhibition. In addition, the selected

papers will be considered for publication in *School Library Research*, subject to the journal's peer review process.

Proposals for papers that report preliminary findings on research in progress should be submitted to Lucy Santos Green at [lucysantosgreen@gmail.com](mailto:lucysantosgreen@gmail.com) no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern on August 11. Proposals are limited to 1,500 words and should use APA style. Selected authors must submit a completed 5,000-word paper by October 9. Full details are available at [bit.ly/eslsproposals](http://bit.ly/eslsproposals).

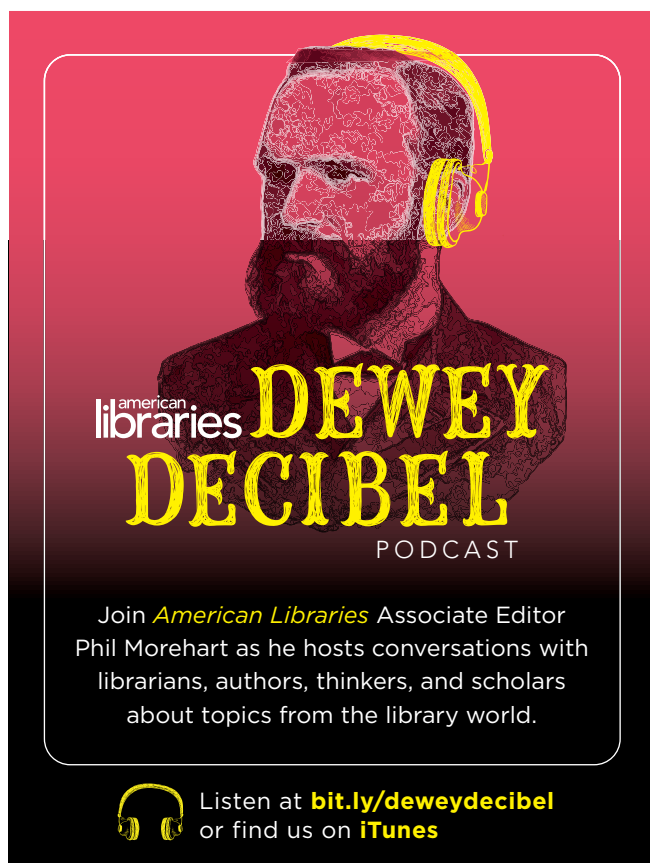
### IMLS Funds Outcomes Research

The ALA Public Programs Office has received a \$512,000 National Leadership Grant from IMLS for a research project to understand and document the characteristics, audiences, outcomes, and value of US library public programming. The project, National Impact of Library Public

Programs Assessment: Phase I, will implement the first research recommendation that came out of an IMLS National Leadership planning grant in 2014. A copy of the 2014 white paper is available at [nilppa.newknowledge.org](http://nilppa.newknowledge.org).

Conducted in collaboration with the New Knowledge Organization think tank, the project will attempt to answer two questions: How can we characterize and categorize public programs offered by libraries today? And what competencies and training are required for professionals working with library programming?

A series of surveys will be disseminated to library practitioners to assess the state of current library public programming, including program types, topics, formats, audiences, partner relationships, and current competencies, and also to identify those skills required in the field that are not being adequately taught in formal learning settings. **AL**



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# Reshma Saujani

CEO gets up every morning “to close the poverty gap”

**R**eshma Saujani is not a coder, but that didn't stop her from founding Girls Who Code, a nonprofit that has—in its quest to confront the gender imbalance in tech culture—taught thousands of girls in schools and libraries across the US such skills as computer programming, career confidence, and community involvement. Her forthcoming book, *Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World* (Viking Books for Young Readers), will be published in August. *American Libraries* spoke to Saujani at the American Library Association's 2017 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago, just a few highway exits from where she grew up.

**Girls Who Code has seen exponential growth since its founding. To what do you attribute the nonprofit's success?**

We have this amazing, authentically girl-led movement. We started with 20 girls in 2012; now we've reached more than 40,000 girls in all 50 states through our summer immersion programs and after-school clubs. We've met girls where they're at. We've taught them how to solve a

problem—maybe bullying, maybe access to water—something that they're passionate about, and we've made that connection for them.

**In a TED talk last year, you said our culture conditions boys for bravery and girls for perfection. What is it about coding and computer skills that can encourage girls to take more risks?**

The whole process is trial and error. It's iteration. That annoying semicolon is in the wrong place and you have to do it over and over again to get your code to work, and then there's this magical moment when it all comes together. So girls are learning how to be imperfect—they're learning how to fail. When they've gone through that, it's almost like a superpower.

**Your own career path has been largely in the legal and political sectors. When did you realize that you wanted to form a STEM-oriented nonprofit?**

I'm a bizarre person to have started Girls Who Code. My father could tell you, I was terrified of math and science growing up. I discovered I wanted to spend my life solving this problem when I ran [for Congress] in 2012. I lost, but in that journey I saw the gender gap in New York

City public schools and I wanted to do something about it. I really believe we can create ladders up to the middle class for girls and their families. And I think there are so many innovations that are sitting on the sidelines because we're not teaching our girls to code.

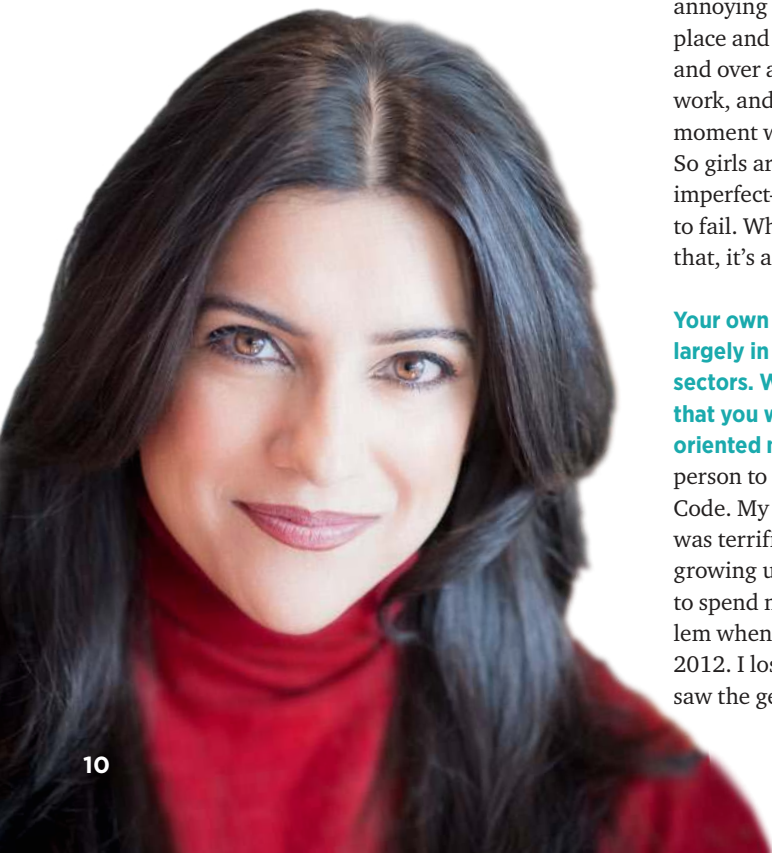
**What role do you think libraries can have in promoting STEM education and closing the inequality gap in technology?**

[There's a Girls Who Code] club that we have in Carroll County, Ohio—a county that's been decimated by economic inequality and the heroin epidemic—and twice a week, 40 girls meet at the library in Carrollton to learn how to code. Fifteen percent of our clubs are in libraries, and many of those libraries are in communities where girls don't have opportunities.

I go to work every day because I want to close the poverty gap. The rate of automation is so fast, and families have lost their jobs because of computers and robots. They know that the last jobs to go will be the ones that belong to those who are programming those computers and robots, and they're going to make sure that it's their girls. Libraries are the ones that are at the forefront of closing the access gap.

**How did libraries influence your own childhood and education?**

My father used to take me to the Schaumburg (Ill.) Public Library, and it was the most magical place for me. It's where I discovered new books and fell in love with stories, and it made me a voracious reader. I am incredibly busy, but I probably read four books a month. I love libraries, and I love librarians. Every time I get a new group of girls, I often ask, “Who told you about Girls Who Code?” And so many of these girls will say to me, “My librarian.” That's powerful. **AL**



From the 2017 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition

“When I die, I may not go to heaven;  
I don’t know if they let cartoonists in.  
If they don’t, just bury me in the library;  
The library is as close to heaven as I’ve been.”

**LYNDA BARRY**, to the tune of Tanya Tucker’s version of “Texas (When I Die),” at the American Library Association (ALA) Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants Reception, June 24, in Chicago.



“I owe my living, my life, my passion  
to librarians and public libraries.”

**PASCAL MÉRIAUX**, head of the Amiens (France) Comics Resource Center and Festival and the French Comics Association, during “Graphic Novel Friday Forum,” June 23.

**“I’m only standing here today  
because librarians saw something  
in me that I didn’t see in myself.”**

**RESHMA SAUJANI**, founder of Girls Who Code, during the Opening General Session, June 23.

“CAN I JUST SAY,  
HANGING OUT WITH  
A FEW THOUSAND  
LIBRARIANS IS A NICE  
WAY TO SPEND THE DAY.”


**BILL MCKIBBEN**, author and environmentalist, on Twitter after his session, June 24.

“Libraries are where so many queer people actually find themselves and find validation of feelings they haven’t quite expressed verbally until they’ve read it in a book. Beginning in the 6th grade, I started volunteering for my local library. I did very small things—just shelve books and move carts from one end of the library to the other. And it also afforded me as much reading time as I could possibly have. So I find the work of librarians valuable, and I think our culture needs them now more than ever.”

**RAKESH SATYAL**, author of *No One Can Pronounce My Name* (Picador, 2017), during the session “Out and Proud: LGBTQ Literature,” June 24.

“We had heard that all our lives.  
But we felt that we belonged  
wherever we wanted to be.”

**GERALDINE EDWARDS HOLLIS**, one of the Tougaloo (Miss.) Nine arrested for entering a whites-only public library in 1961, after a library assistant told her she didn’t belong in that library. Hollis spoke at the program “Desegregating Public Libraries,” June 25.



The crowd reacts to Hillary Rodham Clinton at the Closing General Session.

2017

# ANNUAL

## *Conference Wrap-Up*

Libraryland  
writ large  
in the  
Windy City

by Anne Ford

More than 22,700 people gathered at the American Library Association's (ALA) 2017 Annual Conference and Exhibition to learn about, celebrate, debate, and discuss the most pressing issues facing the library world today, all while enjoying several days of seasonable, sunny Chicago weather. Common themes of the hundreds of programs on offer were children and teen services, social justice, information access, and science and technology, while big-name speakers such as Sarah Jessica Parker, Bill McKibben, and Hillary Rodham Clinton attested fervently to their love and admiration for library professionals and inferred the important roles libraries may play in the future.

## TEENS AND TOTS

At the Opening General Session, Girls Who Code founder Reshma Saujani kicked things off with a few startling statistics: Last year, the United States graduated 40,000 computer science majors for 500,000 open jobs. Only one in four American high schools offer computer science as part of the curriculum. And today, only 18% of computer science graduates are women.

"We're missing out on women," she said. "I am a feminist with a capital F, but I don't believe in gender parity for the sake of gender parity. I teach girls to code because I want to make sure that no innovation is sitting on the sidelines." She urged attendees to help increase the percentage of Girls Who Code clubs in libraries from 15% to 50%: "I'm enlisting you to help me solve this problem." 

Gender bias was also the focus of a talk by Nancy Evans, young adult librarian at Levittown (N.Y.) Public Library and founder of Strong Girls School, a weekly program for young women in grades 6–12 that addresses topics such as self-esteem, bullying, and rape culture. In many ways, the program accomplishes something the local school system

cannot. For example, "the school doesn't

deal well with bullying," said Evans. "They have programs in place, but the bullies know how to work around these programs." In that way, her program is a safe space for those girls looking for information and understanding.


Teens of color, immigrants, and refugees are emerging populations in many communities, but how do we best serve them? Promoting and branding your library, opening the library before and after school, and asking teens to read and review books were a few of the suggestions at the session "Dynamic Ways to Serve Teens of Color," sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association.




Clockwise from top: Graphic novelist and National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Gene Luen Yang; Nancy Evans, young adult librarian at Levittown (N.Y.) Public Library; refugee and author Sandra Uwiringiyimana.



Videos available at [youtube.com/AmLibraryAssociation/videos](https://youtube.com/AmLibraryAssociation/videos)

Author and Auditorium Speaker Series speaker Sandra Uwiringiyimana—who fled the Democratic Republic of Congo as a child only to see many of her family members murdered in a refugee camp—spoke of the need to advocate for refugee rights. "We are all so much more connected than we think," she told her audience. "The refugee experience is not too far removed from anyone. It's not you now, but it could happen to your grandchildren or relatives in the future. What kind of world do we want to live in?" 

National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Gene Luen Yang spoke in a multipart forum on comics in the classroom. A MacArthur Fellow and graphic novelist who has also taught high school computer science, Yang shared his experiences from one of his classes, in which he started drawing his lectures as comics and noticed that "students preferred me in cartoon form over my flesh-and-blood self." Yang surmised that comics are popular with students because they allow the reader control over the flow of information. 



Clockwise from left: *Alexander Hamilton* author and keynote speaker Ron Chernow; Geraldine Edwards Hollis, one of the Tougaloo Nine who helped to desegregate the Jackson (Miss.) Public Library; author Rakesh Satyal at “Out and Proud: LGBTQ Literature.”

As for the always-hot topic of screen time for children, a session sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) discussed the American Academy of Pediatrics’ (AAP) most recent guidelines regarding kids and digital media consumption. Whereas the AAP formerly recommended no screen time for children under age 2, as of October 2016 it states that children younger than 18 months—who learn by exploring through touching,

## More Online

For more coverage of Annual Conference, visit [americanlibrariesmagazine.org/tag/alaac17](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/tag/alaac17).

tasting, and personal social interactions—are no longer banned from screen time, but digital media use should be limited to video chatting, such as to connect with relatives who don’t live nearby.

Children 18–24 months who view apps or videos need an adult, developmentally speaking, to act as their bridge between the digital and physical world and practice dialogic reading with them. And children 2–5 years—a group frequently targeted by apps marketed as “educational,” though most are proved ineffective and sometimes even detrimental to their growth—should have limited screen viewing time that comes from trusted sources such as Sesame Workshop and PBS. “We don’t want to scare parents, but we as professionals should know what’s ineffective,” said Mary Schreiber, youth

collection development specialist for Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library.

Similarly, at the ALSC President’s Program, Sarah Lytle of the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences presented new research that suggests there is no evidence of learning from screens for kids at an early age. She also presented research on video chat applications such as Skype and FaceTime and their effects on children’s ability to learn. What the research reveals is that a technology that allows you to have social interaction through its use performs just as well as a live interaction. Conversely, parents, educators, and caregivers should guard against talking toys, such as baby cellphones, baby laptops, and talking farms, which “render the parent a bystander.”

The program “Librarians Go to Juvie” revealed that 85% of juveniles involved with the court system are functionally low-literate, and involvement with the court system dramatically increases the high school dropout rate. That’s why the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Public Library runs a program called the Late Show, which provides bedtime reading services, a book club, and author visits to the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home. Visiting authors such as John Green do readings, talk and eat pizza with the kids, and sign copies of their books that the students get to keep when they leave the facility. For some students, these are the first books they’ve ever owned.

Students are just one population susceptible to the “fake news” phenomenon. Joanna Burkhardt, professor and director of the University of Rhode Island branch libraries




Activist and attorney Deepa Iyer holds her book, *We Too Sing America*.

and author of *Teaching Information Literacy Reframed: 50+ Framework-Based Exercises for Creating Information-Literate Learners* (ALA-Neal Schuman, 2016), began the session “Helping Library Users Navigate Fake News” by documenting infamous instances of fake news from the past, such as Orson Welles’s *War of the Worlds* radio hoax in 1938.

Burkhardt offered several tips on how to counteract fake news, especially for librarians and teachers who help students navigate news and media daily: embrace skepticism; compare different kinds of sources; find out who writes the articles; follow links and citations; make sure headlines, images, and stories match; look for odd URLs; do your own fact-checking; read everything, not just the headline; examine information before sharing it; and check your own biases, even if a story runs counter to your beliefs.

## JUSTICE AND ACCESS

Ulysses S. Grant: Civil War general, 18th president of the United States, and ... protector of African-American rights? Yes, said historian Ron Chernow, author of the acclaimed biography *Alexander Hamilton* (the book that became the basis for Lin-Manuel Miranda’s hit musical) and presenter of the conference’s keynote address. Chernow’s next book is *Grant* (Penguin, October), and in his talk he attempted to set the record straight on a much maligned and misunderstood individual.

“The big story of the Grant administration,” Chernow said, “was the crushing of the Ku Klux Klan.... Hundreds and thousands of African Americans were killed as [the Klan’s] reign of terror spread south. No Southern jury would ever convict members of the KKK, and it turned into a complete breakdown of the criminal justice system.... [Grant’s] administration brought some 3,000 indictments against members of the Klan.” That, in addition to his vigorous enforcement of the Fourteenth (citizenship, due process, equal protection) and Fifteenth (right to vote) Amendments, made Grant the “single most important president safeguarding African-American rights between Andrew Johnson and Lyndon Baines Johnson.” 

Geraldine Edwards Hollis was one of nine African-American students at the historically black Tougaloo (Miss.) College who were arrested for entering the whites-only public library in Jackson, Mississippi, on March 27, 1961. In a program titled “Desegregating Public Libraries: The Tougaloo Nine,” Hollis told what happened that day, when they were arrested by police: “I went to the desk very confidently and asked for a specific book.” The assistant told the students that they did not belong there. “We had heard that all our lives. But we felt that we belonged wherever we wanted to be,” said Hollis. The Jackson Public Library was desegregated about one year later. The library plans to dedicate a plaque on August 17 to be placed on the building where the event occurred.

The president’s program of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association featured South Asian-American activist and attorney Deepa Iyer, whose 2015 book *We Too Sing America* explored the personal stories of South Asians, Muslims, Arabs, and Sikhs whose lives were altered by hate crimes in post-9/11 America. With the public equating Muslims with terrorists, calling for English-only legislation, holding anti-Sharia Law rallies, and removing references to Islam in school textbooks, “these things all come together to form a climate of fear,” Iyer said. She urged libraries to, among other things, serve as safe spaces for everyone in the community and become knowledge-expanders by featuring speakers of color.

“Libraries are not neutral spaces,” said Annie Pho, inquiry and instruction librarian for peer services and public programs at UCLA, and one of the panelists at “You Can’t Stay Neutral on a Moving Train,” a session on how librarians can integrate social justice themes into library programs and exhibits. “Often I feel helpless with the barrage of current events and I have to remind myself that as a librarian I do have the skills and the space in the library to



From left: *The Martian* author Andy Weir; environmentalist Bill McKibben.

create stories about those groups who are underrepresented and marginalized.”

She described a number of projects she was associated with at UCLA, particularly “American Concentration Camps,” which brought together photos and documents on the forced relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II. Another panelist, Miriam Neptune, digital scholarship librarian at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, described a pop-up program she worked on called the Black Unicorn Project, a weeklong installation that celebrated the lives and experiences of people of color.

An impromptu musical performance took place at the “Out and Proud: LGBTQ Literature” program, as author Rakesh Satyal broke out into song at the end of his talk, singing “Goodnight, My Someone” from *The Music Man* (sung by the character Marian the librarian, not coincidentally). For many queer youth, Satyal said, the library is a place where they “find themselves and find validation of feelings they haven’t quite expressed verbally until they’ve read it in a book.”

In the session “It’s Not Just ‘Part of the Job’: Breaking the Silence on Sexual Harassment in the Library,” Katie McLain, reference assistant at Waukegan (Ill.) Public Library (WPL), and her colleague Amanda Civitello, marketing and communications manager at WPL, defined sexual harassment, identified the behaviors associated with it, discussed how libraries can empower staff, and offered resources for what to do next.

Civitello displayed a list of examples of sexual harassment—touching, asking about marital status,

comments about their bodies, and the like—and


asked attendees if they had experienced any of these behaviors from patrons. Nearly everyone in the room raised a hand. The presenters listed several best practices for fighting harassment from patrons and creating a supportive environment for staff, including having an antiharassment policy and assuring employees that you will act on complaints.

In “Intellectual Freedom and Open Access: Working Toward a Common Goal?” panelists answered a variety of questions on the topics of the socioeconomic dimensions and diversifying the homogeneous world of scholarly publishing, as well as making authoritative research publicly accessible to all. This conversation works in both directions, they summarized. It’s important to make research available to the public, but it’s equally essential to learn from what the public has to teach us as well.

Censorship takes different forms: government-led, economic, and self-imposed, to name a few. Translating and making marginalized works available helps shed light not only on other cultures but on the often-subtle mechanisms of oppression that operate even in more open environments. The program “Banned Abroad: Stories of International Censorship” invited panelists who have worked as publishers, translators, editors, and researchers to discuss their experiences with works that have been censored or banned in their original languages.

Susan Harris, editorial director of the online magazine *Words Without Borders*, believes it is impossible to publish literature without being political. She emphasized that works in translation can help humanize people from other countries, particularly for Americans who often are taught to view others “strictly through a political prism.” Harris explained that the limited number of publishers translating works into English effectively bans marginalized voices by making them difficult to access.

## SCIENCE AND TECH

Andy Weir, author of the bestselling novel *The Martian*—the fictional but scientifically accurate tale of an astronaut who finds himself stranded on Mars, which was adapted into an Oscar-nominated film—charmed the crowd at his Auditorium Speaker Series presentation, recounting his career’s trajectory with genuine zeal. He spoke about his forthcoming book, *Artemis* (Crown, November), a crime thriller set on the moon. Weir described his research process and how he discovered that mineral elements already in existence on the moon could be used to construct livable structures for humans. “It’s a weird feeling to be at the tail end of success,” he said. “Will I be a one-hit wonder? I’ll find out.” 

Noted author and environmentalist Bill McKibben, whose 1989 book *The End of Nature* is said to have been the first popular exposé of human-caused climate change, minced no words in his talk on the battle for a livable planet—a battle, he says, that we are currently losing. “We need to understand the vast scale and pace of the problem of climate change in order to get the right scale and pace of our solutions,” he stressed. “We are past the point where we can solve this problem by local or personal action. An array of solar panels on your home will not make a difference. We need to join together globally.” However, he said later, “there shouldn’t be a library around without a bunch of solar panels on the roof. It’s a symbolic connection between solar energy and the enlightenment that comes with knowledge.”

Science liaisons in search of free-access materials flocked to a panel session on open educational resources (OERs), where Merinda McLure, associate professor and health and human services librarian at University of Colorado–Boulder, suggested that librarians start where they are, embrace collaboration, and look to the OER community, especially the successful examples. McLure also armed the audience with a variety of resources related to OERs. The “2016 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey,” conducted by Florida Virtual Campus, provides excellent insight into

## Council Approves Statement on Climate Change, Honors Fiels

An American Library Association (ALA) “Statement on Global Climate Change and a Call for Support from Libraries and Librarians” (CD#41) passed as amended, as did a resolution on “Libraries as Responsible Spaces” (CD#44.2).

Executive Board members read a tribute resolution (T#3) for ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels, who is retiring in July after 15 years of service. Fiels urged members to continue their hard work despite current efforts to undo the progress the profession has made. “We need to be here in a hundred years,” he said. “People around the world understand that libraries are synonymous with democracy, enlightenment, and creating a better world.”

Council passed four motions: one clarifying education requirements for future ALA executive directors in the ALA Policy Manual (CD#17.1); “Politics in American Libraries: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” (CD#19.12); “Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights” (CD#19.13); and “Definitions of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion” (CD#44.1).

Council approved a FY2018 budgetary ceiling of \$66.7 million (CD#13.3).

Reports were received from the Center for the Future of Libraries (CD#39), Committee on Diversity (CD#44), Committee on Legislation (CD#20.1), Committee on Organization (CD#27.1), Conference Accessibility Task Force (CD#37.1), Council Election Tellers Committee (CD#12.3), Freedom to Read Foundation (CD#22.1), Intellectual Freedom Committee (CD#19.11–19.13), International Relations Committee (CD#18.1–18.2), and Policy Monitoring Committee (CD#17.1).

Memorials were read for Eric Moon (M#10), Marija J. Sanderling (M#11), Robert Henry “Bob” Rohlf (M#12), Dorothy Evans (M#13), Joy L. Lowe (M#14), Pauline Manaka, and Amanda Rudd. Tributes were offered for Harry Bruce (T#2) and the 20th anniversary of the victory in the Communications Decency Act case (T#4).

For complete coverage of ALA Council at Annual Conference, visit [americanlibrariesmagazine.org/tag/ala-council](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/tag/ala-council). ●



From left: Actor Sarah Jessica Parker with *No One Is Coming to Save Us* author Stephanie Powell Watts; social science researcher and author Brené Brown.

average costs for student course materials, while “Opening the Textbook: Educational Resources in US Higher Education, 2015–16” by Babson Survey Research Group provides a snapshot of the footprint of OERs on campus and perceived barriers to adoption.

The Library and Information Technology Association’s Top Technology Trends panel presents the current and future technology that will be affecting library services for years to come. This conference’s program included perspectives on resource sharing, public libraries, library consultants, European libraries, and academic libraries. Panel member Tara Radniecki, engineering librarian at the University of Nevada, Reno, shared tips on managing makerspaces, such as charging fees, knowing the cost per use of your technology, supporting all types of makers, and creating a local network.

“Don’t create a bunch of rules. Create a framework and trust [users],” was the advice of Rebecca Stavick, executive director of Omaha, Nebraska–based Do Space, in a session on how to create a successful tech space. Do Space is a community technology library that provides users access to technology and innovative learning experiences. Managing a tech space, Stavick said, should start with the space’s mission. Consider how it fits into your library’s mission and use that as a tool to help you get the work done. Traditional library services are extremely popular, but technology

spaces can coexist happily with libraries, she pointed out, as libraries have always embraced change.

## LIBRARY LOVE

Speakers delivered moving tributes to the ways in which libraries have changed their lives. In her Auditorium Speaker Series session, researcher and author Brené Brown, who has been studying shame, vulnerability, courage, and other

social science topics for more than 15 years, told the crowd that she can measure important milestones in her life through libraries.

She recalled one male librarian who saw her nursing her newborn on the library floor and his caring response before giving her access to a private room: “‘This is




not acceptable. We will find somewhere much better for you than this.’”

Brown’s profession of libraries and librarians as a refuge was the perfect segue into her talk about belonging, the topic of her forthcoming book *Braving the Wilderness* (Penguin Random House, September). She concluded that humans need both vulnerability and courage for true belonging, along with an immutable spirit and sense of self to navigate the inevitable isolation. “I think the greatest measure of true belonging is dissent,” Brown declared to applause.



Before a packed auditorium at the President’s Program, actor Sarah Jessica Parker—who is a member of multiple book clubs, leader of online book discussions, and past appointee to President Obama’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities—reminisced about her trips to the Clifton branch of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County as a kid, and raved about taking her own children to the Jefferson Market branch of the New York Public Library.

"I have wanted for a very long time to take a more active and public role in supporting writers, readers, and libraries," said Parker, who was on hand to launch ALA's new online platform of reading resources and recommendations, Book Club Central, of which she serves as honorary chair. Alongside then-ALA President Julie B. Todaro, Parker unveiled the website and the club's inaugural fiction selection: *No One Is Coming to Save Us* (Ecco, 2017) by Stephanie Powell Watts.

Parker had high praise for librarians. "If a library is the very heart of a community, the librarians keep the heart beating," she said. "You can't know what your physical, emotional, and intellectual shelter has meant to me." 

An estimated 3,200 conference-goers arrived well before the Closing General Session to hear former First Lady, US Senator, Secretary of State, and 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton speak on topics ranging from fake news to resilience to literacy and reading to censorship. And hiking. "After this election, one of the things that helped me most—aside from long walks in the woods and the occasional glass of Chardonnay—was once again going back to the familiar experience of losing myself in books," she said. She recalled the excitement of getting her first library card: "When I got that library card, it felt like I had been handed a passport to the world."

Clinton ended her nearly 30-minute talk with a powerful message to attendees: "As librarians, you have to be on the front lines of one of the most important fights we have faced in the history of our country: the fight to defend truth and reason and evidence and facts. You have to help us wage that fight one book at a time, one library at a time, one person at a time."

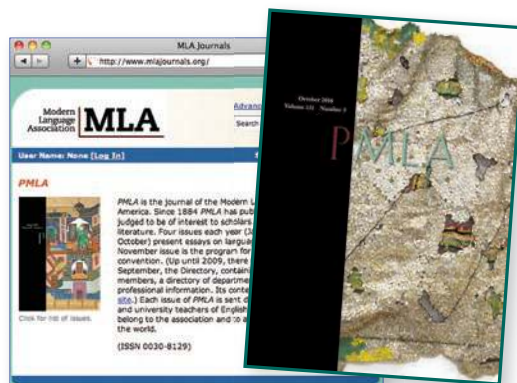
Without the exposure to books in school and at the local public library in her hometown of Park Ridge, Illinois, Clinton said she would not have been as successful as she is today. She said, too, that librarians are changing lives every day: "Even when it's hard, even when it feels thankless, please know you are making a difference." She thanked librarians and encouraged them not to give up. "You're really standing up for tens of millions of others who need your advocacy, your voice, your quiet commitment. I'm with you."  



**ANNE FORD** is *American Libraries* editor-at-large.

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exhibit hall  
by Marshall Breeding

The 2017 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago featured an impressive array of technology products and services for libraries. Organizations of all sizes were represented, ranging from corporate giants with their large booth installations to smaller companies with simpler tabletop displays. This mix reflects the current state of the library technology industry where large, consolidated, and diversified corporations dominate; midsize companies continue to create and support a narrower set of products and services; and small start-ups appear, bringing new energy and innovation.

I probably spend more time in the exhibit hall than most conference attendees—you may have seen me browsing the aisles or rushing to my next appointment. The meetings I have with company executives and product experts inform much of my research and writing for months to come as a chronicler of the library technology industry. Since the ALA Annual Conference is the largest exhibition of its kind in the world, space permits only selected highlights and not a comprehensive report. Here is a quick virtual tour of the exhibit hall, which begins with the large and familiar brands and will finish with some of the more recent start-ups and innovators.

## THE BIG LEAGUES

**Google** was the largest organization represented. An occasional ALA exhibitor, this year Google was promoting “Libraries Ready to Code,” a joint initiative with ALA (see p. 6) that is making \$500,000 available for the creation of tools and resources for libraries to foster the development of programming expertise by youth in their communities.

**ProQuest** always takes a prominent place in the hall, now with **Ex Libris**, which it acquired in late 2015, stewarding most of its tech-related products and services. Its Alma platform is in full force in sales and implementations among large academic, research, and national libraries, but Ex Libris is now turning up the volume on newer additions to its product family, such as its Leganto course list-management software. Summon has joined Primo in the lineup of Ex Libris discovery services. A new interface for Primo was on view, as well as a new look for the staff side of Alma.

**EBSCO Information Services** likewise divides its exhibit-hall displays between a massive arsenal of databases and other content products and its ever-growing technology interests. For the last year or so, EBSCO has been energetically promoting FOLIO (The Future of Libraries Is Open), an open source library services platform it helped launch in 2016. During this ramp-up phase, EBSCO is actively educating the library community about the architecture and concepts underlying this new platform, in the same way Ex Libris groomed the market for its view of “unified discovery and delivery” as it put the final touches on Alma. For FOLIO, the buzz is over the advantages of its microservices architecture, modular design, and interchangeable apps for specialized tasks and workflows. EBSCO has engaged **Index Data**, a well-respected software development firm, for the creation of the initial FOLIO framework and apps. GOBI Library Solutions (a collection development and acquisitions platform) and Stacks (a turnkey library website solution) were also featured in the EBSCO area.

Marking 50 years since its founding in 1967, **OCLC** had a larger presence than usual at this year’s conference. Its products and services have expanded dramatically from its initial role as a cataloging utility for libraries in Ohio. Now a global organization, OCLC has not only expanded its product line but has created a governance structure more inclusive of its international membership. OCLC featured its flagship WorldShare Management Services (WMS) and WorldCat Discovery platforms; newer additions to its slate of services include Digby, a mobile app for WMS designed for student workers; its new Tipasa interlibrary loan management system; and the resource-sharing technologies it recently acquired from Relais International.

**Follett**, already one of the largest organizations serving libraries, increased its size by a third through its acquisition



Google promoted its Libraries Ready to Code joint initiative with ALA.

of **Baker & Taylor** in 2016. Now exhibiting together, the two organizations jointly offer an incredibly diverse array of content and technology products. On the technology side, Destiny has been adopted by the vast majority of PreK–12 school libraries in the US. Follett has long been a major distributor of content products oriented to schools and other academic institutions; Baker & Taylor extends its reach deeply into public libraries. Despite its prowess in products, this year Follett showcased its library advocacy efforts. Follett also sponsored “Empowering Students as Creators,” a joint initiative with Future Ready Schools, its own Project Connect, the Alliance for Excellent Education, and Digital Promise, that provides a microcredential (digital badge) to librarians who build and sustain creative learning environments for students.

Everything converged on BLUEcloud in the **SirsiDynix** booth. This new web-based multitenant platform delivers modern interfaces as well as new areas of functionality for its Symphony and Horizon integrated library system (ILS) products. This year SirsiDynix prominently featured its “Power of Libraries” campaign to help libraries increase both their visibility and perceived value by their communities.

**Innovative Interfaces** came to the conference on the heels of its announcement that all 333 public libraries in the Republic of Ireland are now live on a single instance of its Sierra ILS. The company continues to develop its Innovative Open Library Stack, a new multitenant platform created to deploy its products. More than 150 libraries have implemented products based on this stack, including its MyLibrary mobile app for patrons, resource sharing utilities, and a new Innovative Knowledge Base product in support of electronic resource management.

## THE MIDDLE TIER

A number of midsized technology vendors continue to make their mark.

**Auto-Graphics** offers two contrasting products. SHAREit provides large-scale interlibrary loan and resource-sharing capabilities for many statewide initiatives. Its VERSO ILS has been adopted primarily by small to midsized public libraries, reaching incrementally into larger organizations.

**The Library Corporation** has accelerated its development of the new LS2 modules for its Library•Solution ILS, used mostly by midsized public libraries. LS2 Cataloging was released just prior to the conference. The company continues to enhance its CARL•X ILS oriented to larger-scale libraries. New versions of CARL•Connect and CARL•Connect Discovery were released in recent months.

**Book Systems** demonstrated the latest versions of its Atrium ILS, used mostly by small public, school, and special libraries.

**BiblioCommons**, previously known for its low-key marketing, has increasingly upped its public presence. Its BiblioCore discovery environment for public libraries continues as its flagship product, now supplemented by BiblioWeb, a fully managed web presence for public libraries, and BiblioEvents, for managing and promoting events and programs. Tapping into the company's expertise in user experience, these products have been designed to integrate seamlessly with each other. BiblioCommons emphasizes not only the interfaces used by library patrons but also designs them to optimize the discovery of library resources and events through Google and other search engines.

## EFFICIENCY AND SELF-SERVICE

Libraries continue to look for products to help manage their physical collections, especially through self-service technologies and automated material-handling equipment. A variety of vendors demonstrated an interesting array of sorters, RFID technologies, and other equipment, each with a distinctive approach to improving efficiency behind the scenes and enhancing user experience as they take advantage of self-service.

**Bibliotheca**, which acquired 3M Library Systems in 2015, ranks as the largest global provider of self-service, RFID, and automated material-handling products, and is a major competitor in ebook and audiobook lending. Recent news includes the expansion to support downloadable EPUB 3 ebooks in its Cloud Library service. This format was previously supported only by online web-based readers but is now available for download and offline reading. Bibliotheca has also introduced a pay-per-use model for ebooks, an increasingly popular business model that avoids the long hold

queues often associated with library ebook lending services. On the security front, Bibliotheca introduced its RFID Premium exit gate with a 63-inch corridor between detection pedestals, considerably wider than competing products. The company also featured its new smart recommendations feature for its self-service kiosks, providing suggestions for print, digital, or combined formats according to the preferences of the patron.

**EnvisionWare** demonstrated a selection of its diverse product line, assembled to address different aspects of user experience within the library. Originally known for its PC Reservation and LPT:One print management systems, the company offers solutions for digital scanning, RFID technologies, self-service checkout, automated material handling, electronic payment stations, and interfaces, as well as analytics and consoles to comprehensively manage and assess their performance. EnvisionWare also offers the 24-Hour Library, a self-enclosed book vending system able to dispense a collection of 350 items.

**Tech Logic**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Library Corporation, offers a variety of products supporting self-service and automated material handling. The company has recently launched its new CircIT interface for its full line of self-service products, with the ability to present more engaging content to patrons, including surveys, event calendars, selected programs, or collections. Tech Logic recently launched ValueIT, a new product genre designed to help libraries gain new value from donated or weeded materials (see p. 30). Combining a sorting system that handles large batches of material with software that determines the value of materials and identifies the highest price on Amazon, ValueIT could dramatically increase the revenue libraries gain from donations or discards beyond what they traditionally receive from book sales.

**PV Supa** not only offers a range of sorters and self-service kiosks based on both RFID and electromagnetic technologies, but it also demonstrated its Smart Block, a modular meeting and working enclosure with optional multimedia capabilities. Its Extended Open Hours Library includes a variety of technologies, including keypad entrance control, security cameras, and software controls that enable libraries to provide access to selected areas of their facilities outside of staffed operating hours.

**Lyngsoe Systems** demonstrated midsized sorting systems, but the company is best known for producing some of the largest-capacity sorting systems that would be impossible to bring into the exhibit hall.

## OPEN SOURCE SERVICES

Organizations providing services surrounding open source software continue to flourish. **ByWater Solutions** provides hosting and support for the open source Koha ILS, with

hundreds of clients in the US and a growing presence internationally. The **Equinox Open Library Initiative**, recently shifting from a for-profit to a nonprofit business model, ranks as the dominant provider of services for the open source Evergreen ILS, which its founders helped to create, as well as for Koha, and the Fulfillment interlibrary loan system. The organization has created the Sequoia cloud-based hosting platform for its products to ensure optimal performance and reliability.

## START-UPS AND INNOVATORS

**TIND** provides services for the Invenio open source software created by the CERN research facility in Switzerland. This relatively new start-up offers products addressing a variety of needs, ranging from the TIND ILS that provides a full range of modules needed for a full ILS to the TIND IR for an institutional repository or publishing platform. Most recently, the company has deployed the TIND RDM to support the management of research data, an area of increasing interest for academic libraries. The Caltech Library recently acquired this product to support its CaltechDATA service that allows all members of the university to deposit research data sets for long-term preservation and access.

**Odilo**, a relative newcomer based in Spain, continues to expand and refine its products. The company has developed an ebook lending platform with access to content licensed from major publishers as well as that owned by the library.

**Yewno**, a new spin-off out of Stanford University, has created a discovery environment able to search, browse, and connect concepts rather than keywords within the texts. Based on machine learning and a novel user interface, Yewno Discover was launched earlier in 2017 and was oriented to general scientific literature. At this conference, the company launched Yewno Life Sciences, a new product applying the same technologies to biomedical resources.

Another set of organizations apply technology to enhance and assess how patrons interact with a library's physical spaces. **SenSource**, which has developed technology for counting people and vehicles, demonstrated how its products can be applied within a library context. The company offers sensors to count visitor traffic and provides analytics and reporting tools to help libraries make data-driven decisions on staffing or operating hours and quantify data for reporting to funders or oversight boards. **BluuBeam** specializes in services related to the Apple iBeacon technology to assist libraries in promoting services or featured collections by pushing messages to patrons who have opted into the service and downloaded the associated app.

The exhibit hall had a section dedicated to products in support of library makerspaces, and 3D printing continues to be a big hit. Two booths that were particularly effective in demonstrating many types of 3D printers included **LulzBot**



STEMfinity showcased its hands-on science products.

and **MatterHackers**, but there were several more. **STEMfinity** featured a variety of hands-on products and tools to stimulate interest and teach concepts in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields to PreK–12 students. Another genre of products introduces virtual reality into the library makerspace scene. The Oculus Rift headset with touch sensors was demonstrated by **New Media Learning**. An organization called **Makerspaces.com** provides services to help schools and libraries acquire the equipment and expertise needed to launch a new makerspace.

No tour of the exhibits should go without a word of thanks to the many vendors who make costly investments not only to rent exhibit space but to dedicate considerable personnel to the conference. I'm continually impressed by the detailed information they are able to share about their products, and especially with the enthusiasm and dedication they hold not only for their own organizations, but for the broader library community. The vendor community plays an important role in the conference and contributes a considerable portion of its financial support. Since libraries rely on technology for almost every aspect of their work, the exhibit hall at the ALA Annual Conference offers a unique opportunity to scope out current state-of-the-art trends. **AL**



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# IT STARTS WITH A LIBRARY CARD

Sharing our  
cities, towns, and  
natural places

BY Jeffrey T. Davis



The romantic appeal of library cards is hard to deny. A look at the hashtag #firstlibrarycard on social media will turn up stories, photos, and enthusiasm about the milestone of receiving one's first card. Whether they're used or not, library cards are tokens of belonging and potential. They come with privileges and responsibilities and a whole new relationship to the world. They're a big deal.

For kids, a library card is often their first entry to membership in grown-up society as individuals who are independent of their families. Library cards represent belonging for adults as well. For new immigrants, a library card may be the first material sign of membership in their wider new community. Whether one is a first- or fifth-generation American, the community library is the same, membership is the same, and the card is the same.

The 2014 Pew Research Center survey and report *From Distant Admirers to Library Lovers—and Beyond* looked at types of public library engagement in the US. Of the two groups least engaged with libraries—"distant admirers" and "off the grid"—28% nevertheless reported that they have a library card. That's kind of remarkable.

## THE THING ITSELF

It makes sense to start with a noninstrumental view of library cards. They have meaning to people whether or not they are used. The cards confer civic membership. They embody access to a place in the city. From that starting point, we can extend library cards' meaning and use in practical ways.

Used frequently or infrequently, the cards themselves are carried around, seen, and handled by library members.

Their designs affirm the library's brand and can communicate in other ways. San Diego Public Library created limited-edition cards for Comic-Con and issued them with library registration at the event; special library cards were created for the opening of its new Central Library; and when new members register, they can choose a card in one of five colors. Similarly, Seattle Public Library created cards in partnership with the National Football League and



This is an excerpt from *The Collection All Around: Sharing Our Cities, Towns, and Natural Places* by Jeffrey T. Davis (ALA Editions, 2017).

In partnership with the National Football League and the Seattle Seahawks, Seattle Public Library printed 30,000 special-edition library cards in 2015 for National Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Photo: © espies/Adobe Stock; card: Seattle Public Library

the Seattle Seahawks. Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library offered a *Sesame Street* card to accompany an exhibition. Cleveland Public Library created a card honoring local comic book author Harvey Pekar of *American Splendor* fame.

Library cards create a connection with members. Using them may remind users of the time they got their card—their membership—at a special event or a local occasion, or when they just selected their own color. They're part of the library community, with a history that is both personal and shared.

## ONE WAY TO BUILD ON LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP IS TO MAKE THE **LIBRARY CARD** THE HUB OF ACCESS TO OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES.

Libraries have led library card campaigns for years. In 1987 the American Library Association (ALA) launched Library Card Sign-Up Month. That effort originated with then-Secretary of Education William J. Bennett who said, "Let's have a national campaign ... every child should obtain a library card—and use it." Every September, thousands of public and school libraries join in this national effort.

### STUDENTS BELONG HERE

The recognition of library membership as a valuable focus continues to grow. In 2015 the Obama administration's ConnectED initiative set a goal for public libraries in 30 cities to register every student for a library card. The challenge is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Urban Libraries Council, and ALA. In some cases, the goal is pursued through traditional means—essentially, library card campaigns partnered with schools. In others cases, library membership is directly integrated with school enrollment. Library registration and activation are automatic via school enrollment in each of these districts:

- 15,000 Kansas City, Missouri, public school students' IDs function as library cards (the ID numbers require a library prefix for operation).
- 20,000 Boston public high school students receive the city's Boston One Card. The student ID also serves as a library card, community centers pass, and transit pass.

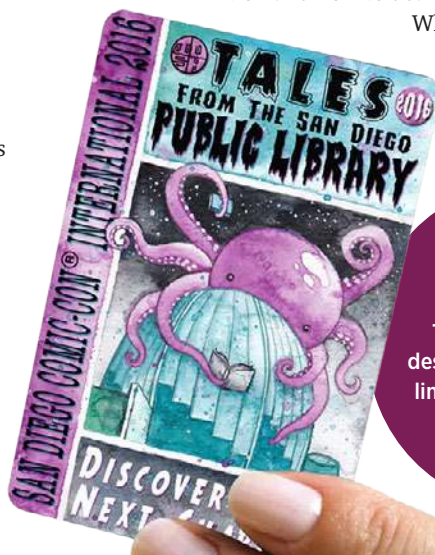
- 60,000 Nashville (Tenn.) public school students' IDs function as library cards.
- 70,000 Washington, D.C., public secondary school students receive the city's DC One Card, a school and municipal ID also available to adults. The card provides access to park and recreation centers and programs, serves as a transit pass, and is an activated library card.
- 154,000 Charlotte-Mecklenburg (N.C.) public school students' IDs function as library cards.

One way to build on library membership is to make the library card the hub of access to other community resources.

Denver's My Denver card is an ID/pass for youth ages 5–18. The card was first developed as a teen pass to city parks, recreation facilities, and programs and was issued by public schools on an opt-in basis. Library services were added in January 2013. The library imported the My Denver database records into its integrated library system (ILS) as needed. Beginning in 2016, all Denver public school students are issued a My Denver card via school registration with a simple opt-in. The schools provide Denver Public Library (DPL) with a data file that is loaded into the ILS. These accounts require no other activation for database and ebook access. For circulating materials, youth using the library obtain a library barcode to add to the record, but no other forms or permissions are required.

"The big thing is making it really clear and easy for parents," says Jennifer Hoffman, manager of books and borrowing at DPL. "One of the things we realized early on is that the kind of parent who's going to see the library as a benefit for their child probably has already signed up their child for a library card. We have to be prepared for duplication and how to deal with that."

While the My Denver card started independently of the



San Diego Public Library partnered with ToshWorks, a local design studio, to create limited-edition library cards for Comic-Con 2016.



Earlier this year Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library introduced a special edition *Where the Wild Things Are* card with a launch event at Park Slope's PS 118, the Maurice Sendak Community School.



library, the library was envisioned early on as a partner. Today there are 70,000 cards activated for online services with DPL. No visit to the library is needed for that level of membership. To activate a card for full borrowing privileges, students need only visit the library and present their card.

Just as important, Denver's Office of Children's Affairs has worked with the Denver Art Museum and the American Museum of Western Art to add museum admission benefits and discounts to the My Denver card, including admission to the Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Denver Zoo, and Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Work is under way to include mass transit access.

All of this places DPL at the hub of Denver youths' access to local arts, culture, recreation, and education. That's real community membership.

## WHO NEEDS A RIDE?

Iowa City Public Library's strategic planning process led to the development of an innovative partnership. The library, which does a community survey every five years, had

frequently noticed that its members wanted easier access to the downtown library, in part driven by perceptions of limited parking in the area. The library also had data showing that its patrons came from all over the city but that some underserved neighborhoods had transportation barriers impeding access. Making it easier to visit the library became a strategic plan initiative.

They first experimented with a program that allowed any patron at the library with a valid library card to receive a pass for a bus ride home the same day. The program was good for Tuesdays through Thursdays and was available from all library public service desks. The limited schedule proved confusing, though, so it was later expanded to all six days with bus service. A simple tracking program limits patrons to two uses per week. The library complemented the program with a summer bus to the library, free to students up to age 18 and adults riding with them.

"It's wonderful to go to a school and say, 'Hey, if you have trouble getting to the library, all you have to do is show your library card and you can hop on a bus!'" says Kara Logsden,



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LIBRARY  
BUS**

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**City of Iowa City  
Transit**

Iowa City Public Library offers free bus rides to the library in the summer for kids under 18 and their adult caregivers.

community and access services coordinator for Iowa City Public Library. "It's brought a lot of kids into the library."

The bus rides are all charged to the library at a discounted rate by Iowa City Transit. The library budgets for the cost, which was a little more than \$2,000 in 2014. Statistics on the program show strong and growing use. In summer 2015 there were more than 3,200 summer bus rides downtown. While the usage is measurable and has tangible benefits, investing the library card with real-world applications like this has intangible value as well. The membership role of the library card grows. Members have access to the library and to their city: books, public places, programs, and mobility.

## LOCAL CITIZENS

Programs like these demonstrate excellent ways that librarians have extended memberships. Local governments have also led noteworthy programs of civic membership, usually with ties to libraries. Municipal IDs are photo IDs provided by an increasing number of cities and counties. The cards help community members who have difficulty obtaining state-issued IDs—undocumented immigrants, the homeless, foster youth, the elderly, and formerly incarcerated individuals—to gain better access to civic and economic life.

Image: Iowa City Public Library

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## UPCOMING EPISODES

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The largest municipal ID program is New York City's IDNYC, with 863,464 cardholders as of June 2016. Library registration is not automatic, but the IDNYC card can be tied to existing library accounts or used to open new ones at all three library systems that cover New York City's five boroughs. About 10 other cities offer municipal IDs, and an equal number are seeking them. In most cases, government agencies run the service, but there are also private and nonprofit-administered programs. A survey of 70,000 IDNYC cardholders found that among immigrant cardholders, 36% rely on the municipal ID as their only form of photo identification, and 77% reported that their IDNYC card has increased their sense of belonging to the city.

IDNYC and other municipal ID programs have paired additional benefits to the IDs, including discounts at cultural institutions and local businesses, access to park and recreation centers, and the inclusion of emergency and medical information. Over half of IDNYC survey respondents have used the card to obtain free memberships to 40 cultural institutions and to receive discounts on groceries, pharmacies, and fitness centers.

While these programs have not originated with libraries, libraries have been active partners in them. Where localities do not have the interest or capacity to lead on municipal IDs, libraries might pursue a leading role. They have relevant

experience in all aspects of these projects. Where the IDs are led by other city departments, libraries should be primary enrollment centers. The fit with libraries' mission and expertise is clear and consistent with the fundamental role of membership and community identity in library practice.

## A HOME FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

Library membership is important to facilitating access to the world around us. It ties a wide variety of programs and services together. It is also a reminder that making the valuable resources around us more available to all has a longstanding institutional home and practice: the library and librarianship.

There are many directions for benefits attached to library membership yet to come. The thoughtful, deliberate work of local-access librarians will yield results that we can all learn from. We know that librarians have the expertise, experience, connections, and place in the community for the job. Let's see what they come up with. **AL**



**JEFFREY T. DAVIS** is branch manager at San Diego Public Library. He has worked in branch and central libraries from the South Bronx (N.Y.) to downtown San Diego. His previous experience includes collection development and electronic resources management.

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# SOLUTIONS

*Products and services*



ValueIT sorts weeded and discarded books based on value using Tech Logic's automated materials handling system, preparing them for resale online.

## Save Staff Time

New labor-saving services

Staff time is a valuable resource, and automating certain tasks can allow staff members to focus on tasks that need a human touch. Automatic book sorting and self-checkout are not new ideas, but innovations in these areas continue, providing new ways for libraries to maximize their return on donated and discarded books, minimize the footprint of self-checkout, and maintain their collections—and save staff time.

### ValueIT

Selling donated and weeded materials can be an important revenue

stream for libraries, but it is often limited by the staff or volunteer time required to properly sort, price, and sell items. Tech Logic's new ValueIT software automates the process of sorting and pricing donated and discarded books, turning a new or existing automated system for handling materials into a part-time book sale volunteer.

After the system scans a book's barcode, the software queries a copy of Amazon's book pricing database—updated twice daily—to determine its value. Based on a library's parameters, high-value books can be boxed and shipped to Amazon for sale online through

an account owned by the library or Friends group, allowing for a quick return on the book. When materials are sold online, Amazon deducts all shipping, handling, and fees and deposits the proceeds directly into the library's or Friends' account.

The ValueIT software also monitors and adjusts the price of books being sold online to keep them competitive, maximizing the return on used materials. They are priced so that 50% of library materials will sell within 30 days, and 90% will sell over the life of the listing.

Tech Logic can assist in the setup of ValueIT processing. The specific sorting equipment configuration and purchase price depend on library requirements. The equipment may be purchased outright or leased, with payment built into the software commission fee.

More information on ValueIT is available at [tech-logic.com](http://tech-logic.com).

### MeeScan

Self-checkout is an established way to save staff time, but it often comes with a large investment in hardware and software. Bintec Library Services has introduced meeScan, a mobile-based self-checkout system.

Patrons download an app (available for iOS, Android, and BlackBerry) onto their smartphone that, based on geolocation, identifies the library branch they are in. After scanning or entering their library card information, patrons scan an item's barcode to check it out from anywhere in the library.

## CASE STUDY

## Baker &amp; Taylor Customized Library Services

**How does your library use Baker & Taylor's Customized Library Services (CLS)?**

Gail Borden Public Library District (GBPLD) uses the full CLS suite, which includes extensive collection development assistance from Baker & Taylor librarians and fully cataloged and processed items.

**USER:** Robert Moffett, division chief of access services, Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin, Illinois



**PRODUCT:** Baker & Taylor Customized Library Services

**DETAILS:** The Customized Library Services are a suite of technical services solutions including collection development and analysis, cataloging, and processing.

**How does Baker & Taylor's CLS serve your library's needs?**

The main beneficiaries of CLS are GBPLD library cardholders. They receive books faster than before. Books arrive fully cataloged and processed and are shelved immediately after invoicing. CLS staff have become an extension of library staff, and the library relies on them to help serve customers better.

**What are the main benefits?** Using outsourced services like Baker & Taylor's CLS was considered at Gail Borden only after staff defined clear goals for how CLS would affect staffing and time management within the whole library. Those goals included increasing staffing levels in the newly formed Division of Community Services and Program Development, building a home for a burgeoning digitized collection, creating new partnerships with community groups, and shortening wait times at all service desks.

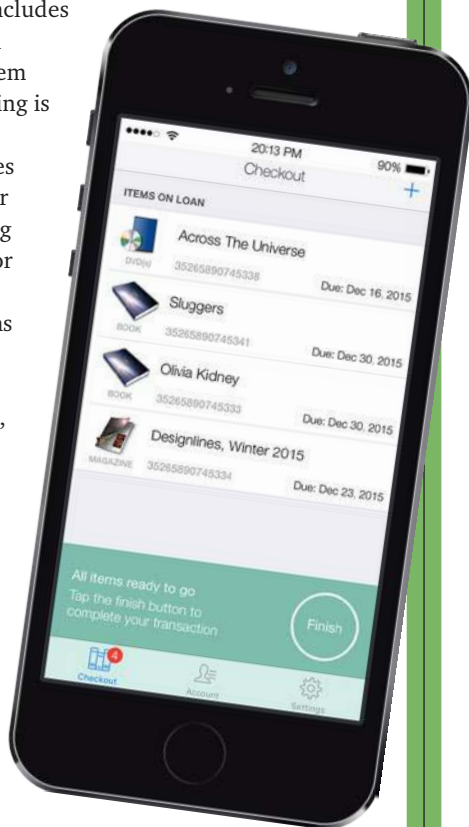
GBPLD forged a partnership with Baker & Taylor and learned that it could maintain high professional standards, allowing other services throughout the library to benefit. Fast forward, and GBPLD's CLS experiment has been paying dividends for the constituents of the library district by helping the library save \$220,000 over four years without reducing staff.

**What would you like to see improved or added?** Baker & Taylor recently launched a new version of its online ordering product, Title Source 360, and, as with any new system, the library has seen some hiccups. Staff have continued our open dialogue with Baker & Taylor, and the company is listening, with enhancements forthcoming. And a free Title Source 360 is always on the wish list; the ordering tools of other vendors are free and comparable in functionality. ●

For libraries with RFID or electromagnetic security systems, meeScan stations can be purchased or leased. The stations sync with the app through a secure cloud interface to desensitize only items that have been checked out. MeeScan offers 24/7 monitoring of the system and web-based technical support. Once installed, the software is configured remotely, so no onsite technician is needed. MeeScan software works with any integrated library system that supports SIP2 protocol, which includes the most common systems; free system compatibility testing is also available.

MeeScan queries the library's ILS for all decision making and processing. For added security, patron transactions are sent over a secure connection and are not stored, according to the company. Anonymized reporting information includes transactions per month, items processed per month, and a histogram of items checked out per hour for each day over one month.

Pricing starts at \$250 per month and is based on library type and size. For more information, visit [meescan.com](http://meescan.com). **AL**



MeeScan, a mobile-based self-checkout system.

# PEOPLE

## Announcements

### ON THE MOVE

**Sara Duff** became assessment librarian in Acquisitions and Collection Services at the University of Central Florida Libraries in Orlando in April.

In April **Nicholas Faragan** became director at Westport (N.Y.) Library Association.

Smyth County (Va.) Public Library appointed **Walter Robert "Robb" Farmer** director, effective July 1.

Boca Raton (Fla.) Public Library named **Vicky Fitzsimmons** to the new position of digital librarian in May.

**Kacy Guill** became county librarian at Trinity County (Calif.) Library in June.

May 28 **Dawn Hammatt** became director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas.

**David Isom** joined Temple University Law Library in Philadelphia as reference and faculty services librarian in May.

In April **Carl Leak** started as life sciences librarian at George Mason University Libraries in Fairfax, Virginia.

**Patrick Lyons** became innovation librarian at Temple University Health Sciences Libraries in Philadelphia in April.

Ferndale (Mich.) Area District Library appointed **Jenny Marr** as library director, effective June 5.

In May **Allison Martel** joined Springfield (Mass.) College as digital technologies librarian.

May 1 **Rebecca McCall** joined the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Health Sciences Library as clinical librarian.

In May **Jenessa McElfresh** joined Clemson (S.C.) University Libraries as health sciences librarian.

### Kudos

**Jennea Augsbury**, lead library technician for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Dallas, was named the Federal Library and Information Network's Federal Library Technician of the Year May 5.



**Vivian Davidson Hewitt**, retired chief librarian for the Rockefeller Foundation, librarian at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, and librarian and instructor at Atlanta University's School of Library and Information Science, received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh May 21.

**Alice Knapp**, president of Ferguson Library in Stamford, Connecticut, received the Fairfield County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award for outstanding community service by a

layperson and the promotion of civic responsibility and good government.

**Amy Mars**, research and instruction librarian at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, has received the Minnesota Academic Innovators Award from the Academic and Research Libraries Division of the Minnesota Library Association.

**Safi S. M. Safiullah**, manager of Salt Lake City Public Library's Marmalade branch, was named Librarian of the Year by the Utah Library Association May 18.



The Federal Library and Information Network named **Michael Steinmacher**, director of Barr Memorial Library in Fort Knox,

Kentucky, as Federal Librarian of the Year May 9. ●

**Jessica Olin** became director of library services at Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York, in July.

**Sarah M. Potwin** joined Niagara Falls (N.Y.) Public Library as executive director July 1.

May 15 **Daniel Sabol** began as director of Pound Ridge (N.Y.) Library.

Utica (N.Y.) Public Library named **Christopher Sagaas** director in June.

**Peter Shirts** joined Emory University's Heilbrun Music and Media Library in Atlanta as humanities librarian in music June 15.



In May **Jennifer Smith** joined Waterford (Conn.) Public Library as head of children's services.

Washington University in St. Louis appointed **Denise Stephens** university librarian and vice provost, effective July 1.

July 1 **Charla Wilson** joined Northwestern University Libraries in Evanston, Illinois, as archivist for the black experience.

### PROMOTIONS

May 1 **Luren E. Dickinson** became director of Beaumont (Calif.) Library District.

**Ann Dutton Ewbank**, director of the library media program at Montana State

University in Bozeman, was promoted to associate professor July 1.

June 14 the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley (N.Y.) Community Library promoted **Kerrilynn Jorgensen** to head of teen services.

**Kelley Landano** was promoted to county librarian of Fresno County (Calif.) Public Library in June.

Lewiston (Maine) Public Library promoted **Marcela Peres** to director, effective June 1.

Santa Clara County (Calif.) Library District promoted **Clare Varesio** to community librarian at Cupertino Library April 27.

## RETIREMENTS

Library Development Specialist **Karen Bansen** retired from New York State Library June 1.

Princeton (N.J.) University Library Deputy University Librarian **Marvin Bielawski** retired in June.

**Mark Darby** retired as head of cataloging and database management at Temple University in Philadelphia April 30.

April 5 **Ann Frellsen** retired as collections conservator at Emory University Libraries in Atlanta after nearly 27 years.

June 30 **Barbara A. B. Gubbin** retired after 12 years as director of Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library.



**Judy Larson** retired May 26 as children's librarian at Harris County (Tex.) Public Library's Maud Marks branch.

**Nancy Pressman Levy**, head of Princeton (N.J.) University's Donald E. Stokes Library for Public and International Affairs, retired in June.

## In Memory

**Mae Maxine Benne**, 93, a professor of library science at the University of Washington in Seattle from 1965 to 1988, died March 26. Prior to becoming a professor, Benne worked at Yakima (Wash.) Valley Regional Library, Southfield (Mich.) Library, and (as coordinator of children's services) North Central Regional Library in Wenatchee, Washington.

**Elodie Blackmore**, 87, who retired in March as director of East Smithfield (R.I.) Public Library, died April 9.

**Phyllis J. Hudson**, 83, a librarian at the University of Central Florida (UCF) Libraries in Orlando for 34 years until her 2005 retirement, died April 20. Hudson received the UCF Excellence in Librarianship award in 1989. During her career, she chaired the United Faculty of Florida Women's Rights Committee, served as president of the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) Florida Chapter, chaired the Florida Library Association Women in Libraries Caucus and the Collective Bargaining in Libraries Caucus, and served as a director of the National Education Association Florida Teaching Profession Board.

**Thomas Martine**, 66, assistant order librarian at Princeton (N.J.) University Library, died April 19. ●

**Darby O'Brien** retired as director of Utica (N.Y.) Public Library in June.

June 30 **David M. Peter** retired as dean of learning resources and technologies at Vincennes (Ind.) University.



**Mary Rennie** stepped down as executive director of Erie County (Pa.) Public Library June 2.

**Jim Rettig** retired as library director at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, May 31.

**Brian E. C. Schottlaender** retired after 18 years as university librarian at the University of California, San Diego June 30.

**Rick Speer** retired as director of Lewiston (Maine) Public Library in May.

**Dan Hoppe** was promoted to associate executive director of human resources June 12.

**Kathi Kromer** became associate executive director of the Washington Office June 5.

United for Libraries promoted **Beth Nawalinski** to executive director, effective July 31.

**Tory Ondrla** has been promoted to Association of College and Research Libraries conference manager.

May 8 **Elizabeth Serrano** joined the Association for Library Service to Children as membership marketing specialist.

**Lindsey Simon** joined the Public Awareness Office as public awareness campaign coordinator April 24.

**Valerie J. Williams** joined ALA Editions/ALA Neal-Schuman as senior administrative assistant May 8. **AL**

## AT ALA

Payroll Coordinator **Hugh Hoebbel** left ALA June 7.



## Conference Candids

Librarians are rock stars,” American Library Association (ALA) President Jim Neal said at the Closing Session of the 2017 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago. Judging by the myriad moments of energized, engaged librarians embracing their work, he might be onto something.

Attendees captured on camera, counterclockwise from top:

- Ricci Yuhico (right), managing librarian for young adult services at New York Public Library, gets her photo taken with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden (left).
- Jos Holman, county librarian at Tippecanoe County (Ind.) Public Library, reads from *The Inner City Mother Goose* at Stand for the Banned, a banned books readout.
- Alison Griffin (left), librarian at British Columbia Institute of Technology, takes a selfie with author Reshma Saujani (see p. 10).
- Chelsea Johnson, librarian at Marshall (Mich.) District Library, tries her hand at steering a drone through an obstacle course.
- Jennifer Wilhelm, reference librarian at Bryan-College Station (Tex.) Public Library System, shows off her *Dewey Decibel* podcast button.
- Sarah Miyashiro (left) of the Computer Systems Institute in Chicago and Antoinette Giamalva, branch manager at Madison County (Miss.) Library System, learn to play *Starfinder* in the Gaming Lounge. **AL**

**THE BOOKEND** showcases librarians, their work, and their work spaces. For consideration, please send press material to [americanlibraries@ala.org](mailto:americanlibraries@ala.org).



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TWO 90-MIN. WORKSHOPS

## Using Snapchat to Reach Library Patrons

with Paige Alfonso

**Thursdays,  
August 24 & 31, 2017**  
2:30 p.m. Eastern



13-WEEK ADVANCED ECOURSE

## Cataloging for Non- Catalogers

with Dr. Mary Bolin

**Begins Tuesday,  
September 5, 2017**

(This eCourse has  
been extended by a  
week to account for  
the Thanksgiving  
holiday.)



5-WEEK ECOURSE

## Using Apps to Manage Information and Stay Organized

with Nicole Hennig

**Begins Tuesday,  
September 5, 2017**



4-WEEK ECOURSE

## How to Market Your Library

with Dana Braccia

**Begins Monday,  
September 11, 2017**



5-WEEK ECOURSE

## Intro to Critical Information Literacy: Promoting Social Justice Through Librarianship

with Dawn Stahura

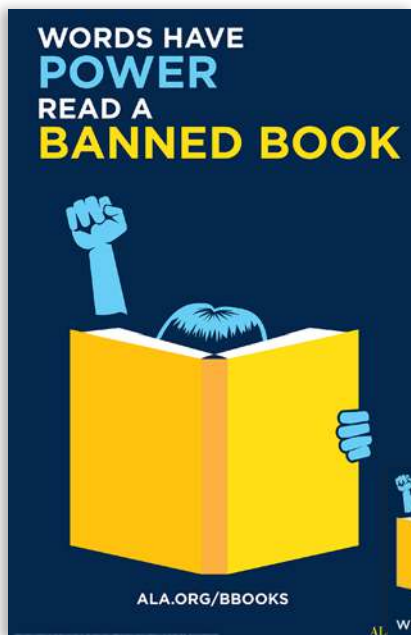
**Begins Monday,  
September 18, 2017**

For a full listing of current workshops and  
eCourses, visit [alastore.ala.org/elsolutions](http://alastore.ala.org/elsolutions).

**ALA** American  
Library  
Association

# Banned Books Week

September 24–30, 2017



Words Have Power  
Poster

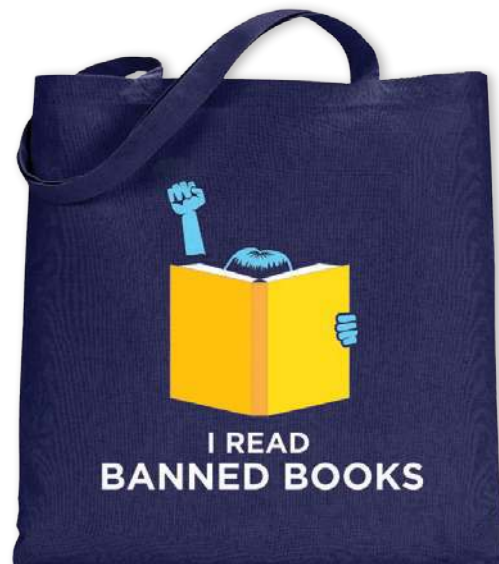


Words  
Have Power  
Bookmark



Words Have Power  
Buttons

Words Have Power  
Stickers



I Read Banned  
Books Tote



Banned Books: Defending  
Our Freedom to Read



Field Report 2016: Banned  
and Challenged Books

Spotlight censorship and highlight the power of words with these striking banned book products. Banned Books Week encourages readers to learn about modern censorship and celebrate their First Amendment right to read freely. By uniting literary communities across the world with local programs and displays, this annual event emphasizes the joys of unrestricted reading and the harms of removing books from communal shelves. Ignite conversations and support literary liberties with these vivid graphics during Banned Books Week—and every other day of the year. For more information about Banned Books Week, please visit [www.ala.org/bbooks](http://www.ala.org/bbooks).

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[alastore.ala.org/bbw](http://alastore.ala.org/bbw)