

american libraries

September/October 2017

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



20
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LIBRARY DESIGN

**Librarians Confront
the Opioid Crisis** p. 44

**ALA Award
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PLUS: Repair Cafés, Virtual Reality
Spaces, Music to Braille

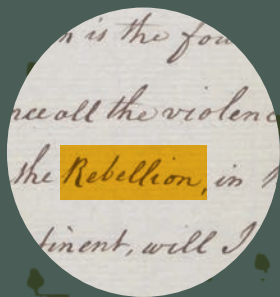
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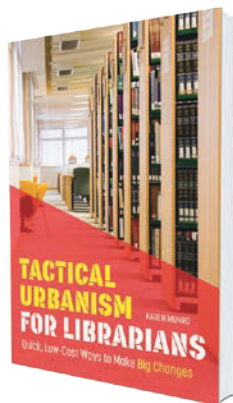
BY Karen Munro

ON THE COVER: Alfred R. Goldstein Library, Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. Photo by Ryan Gamma

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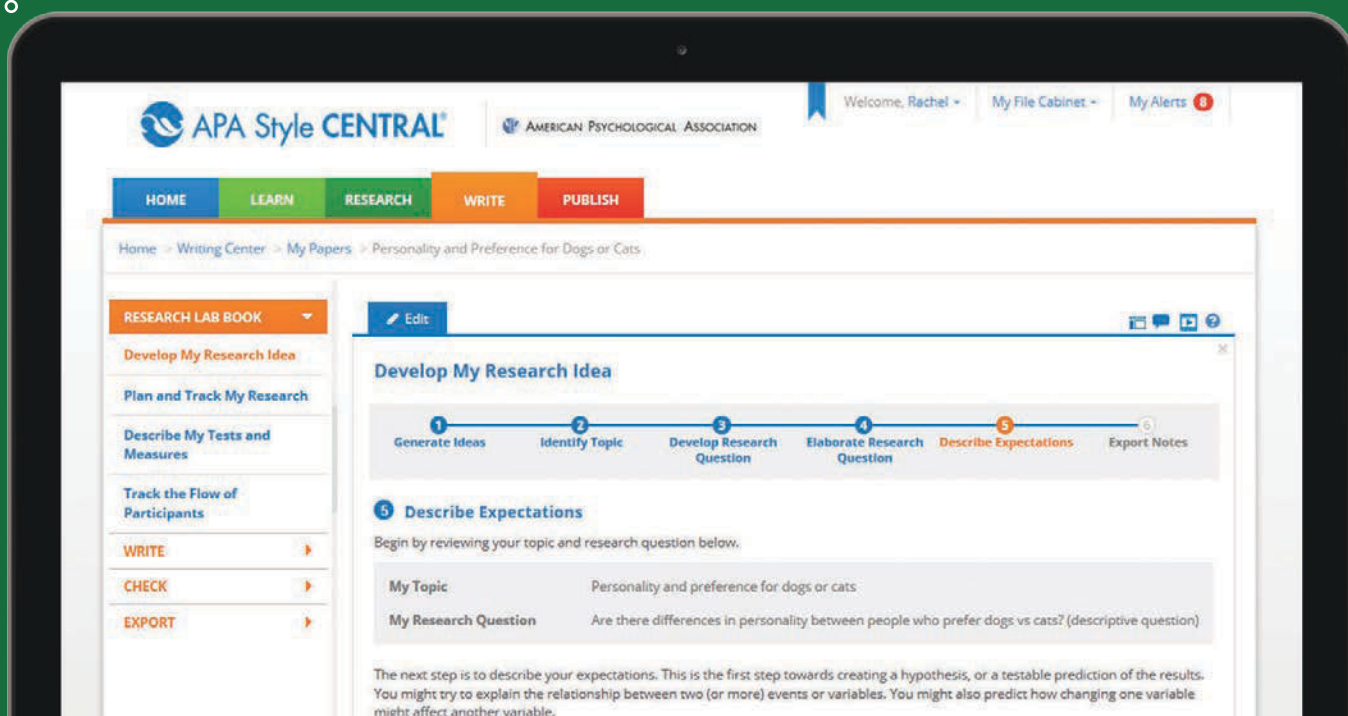


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Inspiring in Space and Spirit



Laurie D. Borman

Summer ends, another school year begins. Academic, school, and public libraries all see increases in student patrons in September. Some libraries will be fortunate enough to host their students in a new or newly renovated space. From soaring glass windows opening onto wide-open public spaces to reimagined Carnegie libraries to tech-enhanced teen rooms, these designs inspire learning, study, and collaborating. Or maybe just a quiet moment of reflection, as I found while sitting in the new Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library overlooking the peaceful plaza that was formerly a parking lot. Take a few moments yourself to see some of these inspiring designs in our annual Library Design Showcase feature, edited by Associate Editor Phil Morehart, beginning on page 26. After all, just because summer is gone, there's no reason not to daydream a bit.

Along with inspiring designs, this issue features inspiring librarian leaders and authors. Learn more about the winners of this year's American Library Association (ALA) Awards, which were presented at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago, in our feature on page 36.

An inspiring Latina author, journalist, and poet, Margarita Engle is our Newsmaker. She was named the new Young People's Poet Laureate by the Poetry Foundation. Engle talks about her inspirations and the year ahead in our interview with her on page 22.

Sometimes, librarians can be lifesavers—literally. The increase in opioid drug use throughout the US has found its way into the library, and librarians are treating overdosed patrons. Editor-at-Large Anne Ford spoke with several librarians who have experienced these life-threatening moments and reports on how they respond. See the story on page 44.

I had the pleasure of meeting Christopher Goodbeer of Indiana University, a librarian who translates music into Braille for students. Soft-spoken, warm, and sporting a great sense of humor, Goodbeer invited me to see how he creates the tactile music books and to meet his coworkers who develop assistive technology materials for faculty and students. See the profile on page 64.

Laurie

From poets and authors to architects and fellow librarians, you'll find stories that inspire.

american libraries

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Website: americanlibrariesmagazine.org
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Career Ads: JobLIST.ala.org

What would your dream library feature?

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Laurie D. Borman → A room that allows pets
lborman@ala.org | x4213

MANAGING EDITOR

Sanhita SinhaRoy → A babysitter and a bar for parents
ssinhahoy@ala.org | x4219

SENIOR EDITORS

Amy Carlton
acarlton@ala.org | x5105

← **George M. Eberhart**
geberhart@ala.org | x4212

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Terra Dankowski
tdankowski@ala.org | x5282

→ **Phil Morehart** → Daily live
pmorehart@ala.org | x4218
Kenny G performances

EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Anne Ford
aford@ala.org | x2157

EDITORIAL INTERN

Hanako Maki
hmaki@ala.org | x2157

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

Carrie Smith → A space elevator and a (literal) satellite branch
casmith@ala.org | x4216

ART DIRECTOR

Rebecca Lomax
rlomax@ala.org | x4217

ADVERTISING

← **Michael Stack** mstack@ala.org | 847-367-7120
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PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

Mary Mackay, Associate Executive Director
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MEMBERSHIP

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Our Shared Responsibility

Working together for advocacy



Jim Neal

There is a provocative saying attributed to the 20th-century Polish writer Stanisław Lec: Each snowflake in an avalanche pleads not guilty.

Library workers share the responsibility to advocate for libraries and to advance information policies that enable those we serve to be successful.

The 120,000 libraries of all types across the United States—public, school, academic, government, special—are an essential component of the national information infrastructure, and library workers are critical leaders in their communities. We stand for individual rights, democracy, diversity, intellectual freedom, and social responsibility. We are trusted, helping to address community concerns and needs, and championing our core values. We are safe spaces. We are exciting places.

Libraries support literacy in all its elements. They bring access to basic and emerging technologies and the education for their effective use; provide a wide range of information resources, community knowledge, and expert information professionals; convene people around ideas and creative experiences; serve the homeless, veterans, immigrants, prisoners, and the many individuals seeking to improve their lives. And by doing all of this, 21st-century libraries transform communities, promote economic development, facilitate learning and personal growth, and bridge the digital divide in this country, remaining committed to equity of access.

We must maintain and expand federal investment in our nation's libraries, including funding for literacy programs and universal broadband and wireless service and deployment in libraries and schools, with a special focus on underserved communities in our cities and rural areas. Libraries must look beyond the programs and the funding, forging radical new partnerships with the First Amendment, civil rights,

and technology communities to advance our information policy interests and our commitment to freedom, diversity, and social justice. We must prepare for the hardball funding battles and policy wars locally and nationally. We must fight for net neutrality, balanced copyright and fair use, and privacy and confidentiality in the face of expanded national security surveillance. We must fight for intellectual freedom and First Amendment principles, voting rights, the transition of immigrants to citizenship, and the dignity of all individuals. We must fight against hate in all of its bigoted manifestations.

The American Library Association (ALA) has significantly expanded its advocacy work and its political activism, building a network of library workers, trustees, corporate partners, and friends who are influencing legislative action and government policy. Therefore, my presidential initiative calls for a national public policy advocates program to identify and develop an expanding group of practitioners and trustees who have deep and sustained knowledge of key policy issues and program areas of importance to the library community. These individuals will understand how the legislative and policy processes work and will be able to participate and intervene in targeted advocacy work. This may include testifying before congressional committees, meeting with legislative leaders and their staff members, being interviewed by national media, participating in national forums, and working with policy partners.

Libraries are about education, employment, entrepreneurship, empowerment, and engagement. But we are also about the imperatives of individual rights and freedoms and about helping and supporting the people in our communities.

Libraries are a smart investment. **AL**

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

We are
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Important read—esp. if you have student workers—make sure you know what to do and how you'll handle it when harassment happens.

@MARGARETJANZ
in response to "Fighting Sexual Harassment in the Library," The Scoop, June 27.

Thanks **@amlibraries** for such a great recap of the Library Takeover project and staff presentation at #alaac17.

@MADISONLIBRARY
in response to "Madison's Library Takeover," The Scoop, June 25.

Desegregating Southern Libraries

Thank you for your great article, "Desegregating Libraries in the American South," by Wayne A. Wiegand (June, p. 32). We should also remember Ronald E. McNair, the black astronaut who died aboard the space shuttle *Challenger* in 1986.

In 1959, long before becoming an astronaut, a 9-year-old Ron entered a whites-only library in Lake City, South Carolina. When he asked to check out books, the librarian told him to leave and called the police. When the police arrived, they allowed him to check out the books.

StoryCorps recorded an account of this, "Eyes on the Stars" (bit.ly/MiOjKS), and the wonderfully animated episode is narrated by his brother Carl.

Jessica Fomalont
Greenbelt, Maryland

I'd like to thank you for including Wiegand's story in your June issue. I've long appreciated the articles on historical subjects included in *American Libraries*; it's one of the few publications in our field, apart from a handful of peer-reviewed research journals, where I can find well-written and well-illustrated articles on the history of libraries and librarianship. I integrate library history into many of the MLIS courses I teach at University of Southern Mississippi, and these articles make for excellent



required reading and are often popular with my students.

Wiegand's article caught my eye for two reasons. First, while working on my own historical project about the segregated Carnegie libraries of the South, it's clear to me just how relatively little work has been completed about the history of public libraries and segregation. Wiegand's article is a welcome addition to the literature, and I'm confident that his forthcoming book *The Desegregation of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South: Civil Rights and Local Activism* (with Shirley Wiegand, spring 2018) will contain even more stories that have for years gone untold. David M. Battles's *The History of Public Library Access for African Americans: Or, Leaving Behind the Plow* (2008) and Cheryl Knott's *Not Free, Not for All: Public Libraries in the Age of Jim Crow* (2015) both cover the broader history of public library services in the age of Jim Crow and are also important steps in this direction.

It isn't a comfortable task for any profession to acknowledge the darker aspects of its own history. But by reminding ourselves of these events, many of which are not that far in the past, we can and should feel better about the progress we've made since then.

Matthew Griffis
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

20 Years of Harry Potter

The Houghton Memorial Library at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama, is also honoring Harry Potter this year ("Happy Birthday, Harry Potter," The Scoop, June 16). We're celebrating with Hogwarts at Huntingdon, which includes Hogwarts classes taught by faculty members (for example, "Potions," "Magical Creatures in World Religions," and "Arithmancy" programs led by chemistry, religion, and mathematics faculty) with attendees earning course badges. The library will display vintage Harry Potter memorabilia, host a possible Quidditch tournament, hold

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movie nights, and observe a Banned Books Week that focuses on banned and challenged fantasy literature.

We are also theming our freshman library scavenger hunt around Harry Potter. Sections of students enrolled in English composition classes will be sorted into Houses; scavenger hunt scores will be totaled across sections, and the House Cup will be awarded to the House with the most points.

Eric Kidwell
Montgomery, Alabama

Giovanni, Sit-Ins, and Mindfulness

Great articles in the June issue. I have been a fan of Nikki Giovanni ("Newsmaker: Nikki Giovanni," p. 28) ever since I heard her speak in Las Vegas in the 1970s. The story about the 1960s library sit-ins ("Desegregating Libraries in the American South," p. 32) should be read by all. And I wish I had been more "mindful" during

my 23 years as the librarian at Las Vegas High School ("Mindful Librarianship," p. 44).

Merilyn Grosshans
Las Vegas

Farewell to Fiels

The following comments were addressed to Keith Michael Fiels upon his retirement, after 15 years as executive director of the American Library Association ("Help Us Bid a Fond Farewell to Fiels," The Scoop, May 12).

It has been such a pleasure and an education working with you, Keith. You have taught me—and countless others—so much about working with multiple constituencies, working across differences, creating consensus, strategic planning, and on and on. You are the real deal! I will miss your leadership, but I look forward to your continued presence in our profession.


Karen E. Downing
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Say it isn't so, Keith! Although we have known this day was approaching. Your leadership for ALA has been amazing, and I have sat many times in Council in awe of your self-possession. How many of us have you unknowingly mentored over the years, showing us how to be exemplary and approachable professionals? Your friendly demeanor will be sorely missed. Best wishes for the next adventures!

Rhonda K. Gould
Walla Walla, Washington

As an ALA member since 1973, and a member of ALA Council for 15 years, I consider Keith to be one of the best executive directors that I've worked with. I appreciated his excellent political skills, unflappable demeanor, and ability to summarize complex issues. Perhaps most of all, I appreciated his telling the truth and not glossing over problems.

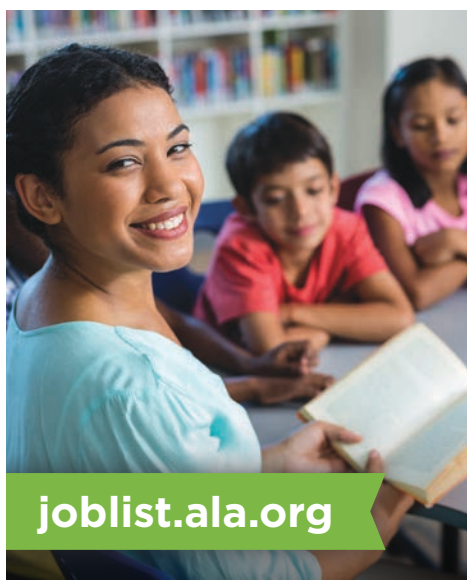
Bob Holley
Huntington Woods, Michigan

 Not hyperbole when I say that librarians are on the front lines of #resistance right now. Essential warriors for truth and facts! #alaac17

@BRENNADEMANDS
in response to "Hillary Clinton Delivers Powerful Talk," The Scoop, June 27.

 Troubling yet inspiring!

NOREEN O'GARA
in response to "Fighting the Battle for a Livable Planet," The Scoop, June 24.



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ALA Fights for an Open Internet

On July 17, the American Library Association (ALA), the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) jointly filed comments at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), questioning the need to review current net neutrality rules and urging regulators to maintain the strong, enforceable rules already in place.

“Network neutrality is all about equity of access to information, and thus of fundamental interest to libraries,” said ALA President Jim Neal. “The 2015 Open Internet Order is the right reading of the law, and we do not see any reason for the FCC to arbitrarily return to this issue now. Without strong, enforceable rules protecting the open internet—like those outlined in the FCC’s 2015 order—libraries cannot fulfill their missions, serve their patrons, or support America’s communities.”

The organizations argue that, absent strong, enforceable rules, commercial ISPs have financial incentives to interfere with the openness of the internet in ways that are likely to be harmful to people who use the internet content and services provided by libraries. Pointing to increasing consolidation in the fixed and mobile broadband markets, the comments assert that these rules are becoming more necessary, not less.

The comments explain that our nation’s 120,000 libraries—and their patrons—depend on fair access to broadband networks for basic services they provide in communities such as connecting people to unbiased research, job searches, e-government services, health information, and economic opportunity. Access to the internet and other library resources empowers all to participate fully in today’s digital economy.

A full copy of the comments filed by ALA, AALL, and COSLA is available at bit.ly/ALANetNeutrality.

ALA also joined more than 200 organizations in encouraging members of the public to submit comments to the FCC as part of the Day of Action to Save Net Neutrality.

“Intellectual freedom and free expression are as fundamental to the internet as the First Amendment is to American democracy,” Larra Clark, deputy director of the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy, wrote in a July 12 statement in support of the day of action. “America’s libraries and librarians are rightly recognized as essential democratic institutions and leading advocates for people’s rights to read and express themselves freely. The internet is today’s most essential platform for this speech and expression.” ●

Applications Open for Emerging Leaders Program

ALA is accepting applications through August 31 for the 2018 class of Emerging Leaders. The program promotes leadership development, enabling newer library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. It puts participants on the fast track to ALA committee volunteerism as well as other professional library-related organizations.

ALA divisions, round tables, ethnic affiliates, state chapters, and school library media affiliates will sponsor selected applicants, providing a minimum of \$1,000 toward expenses of attending

the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Denver and the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans. Sponsorship is not required to participate in the program, but unsponsored participants must pay all expenses related to attending both ALA conferences.

Details on the program criteria as well as a link to the application can be found on the Emerging Leaders web page at bit.ly/ALAemerlead.

Diversity Research Grants Awarded

ALA’s Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services has announced the recipients of the Diversity Research Grants for 2017–2018.

The first grant was awarded to Nicole A. Cooke, assistant professor and

MS/LIS program director at the School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, and Miriam E. Sweeney, assistant professor at the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Alabama, for the project “Minority Student Experiences with Racial Microaggressions in the Academic Library.”

Justin de la Cruz, unit head of e-learning technologies; Amy Winfrey, electronic resources and serials librarian; and Stephanie Solomon, assistant department head of information and research services, all at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, received a grant for their project “Information Behaviors among LGBTQ Students at Single-Sex HBCUs [Historically Black Colleges and Universities].”

Celebrate Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week, September 24–30, celebrates the idea that the freedom to read and access ideas can transform lives, but when books are challenged or banned, readers are blocked from seeing all viewpoints.

During the week, thousands of libraries and bookstores will focus on the harms of censorship and celebrate the right to choose reading materials without restriction.

This year's theme for Banned Books Week is "Words Have Power. Read a Banned Book." The words in these banned and challenged books have the power to connect readers to literary communities and offer diverse perspectives.

A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials based on the objections of a person or group,

thereby restricting the access of others. Because of the commitment of librarians, teachers, parents, students, and other concerned citizens, most challenges are unsuccessful and most materials are retained. Out of the hundreds of challenges ALA records every year, only about 10% of books are removed from the location where the challenge took place.

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom offers support for librarians facing challenges to materials in their libraries. The support librarians seek will not be disclosed to any outside parties, and the challenge report is kept confidential. Resources and information to help you prepare for and respond to challenges are available at bit.ly/bbookchallenges.

For additional information, visit ala.org/bbooks. •

The final recipients were Sandra Hughes-Hassell, professor, and Amelia N. Gibson, assistant professor, both at the School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for the project "Examining Youths of Color's Perceptions of Library Inclusiveness."

The grants consist of a \$2,500 award for original research. Recipients will conduct their research over the course of the year, are expected to compile the results of their research into a paper, and will be asked to present and/or publish the final product in conjunction with ALA.

Media Literacy @ Your Library

ALA's Public Programs Office, in collaboration with the Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook (N.Y.) University's School

of Journalism, has announced Media Literacy @ Your Library, a pilot program that will train public library professionals to teach their adult patrons to be better informed news consumers.

During the one-year pilot program, ALA will collaborate with the Center for News Literacy to develop an online media literacy curriculum and corresponding resources.

"Public libraries are trusted, neutral institutions that are open to all, and they are uniquely positioned to help adults become better news consumers," ALA President Jim Neal said in a July 13 statement. "ALA welcomes the opportunity to work with our partners and funders to pilot this important initiative."

Five US public libraries, selected through a competitive application

CALENDAR

SEPT.

Library Card Sign-Up Month
ala.org/librarycardsignup

SEPT. 6–9

Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference
St. George, Utah
arsl.info/2017-conference

SEPT. 24–30

Banned Books Week
ala.org/bbooks

SEPT. 27

Banned Websites Awareness Day
ala.org/aasl/advocacy/bwad

OCT. 8–14

Teen Read Week
teenreadweek.ning.com

OCT. 15–21

National Friends of Libraries Week
bit.ly/alafolweek

OCT. 29–NOV. 4

International Games Week
bit.ly/intlGW

NOV.

Picture Book Month
picturebookmonth.com

NOV. 3–5

YALSA Young Adult Services Symposium | Louisville, Kentucky
ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium

NOV. 9–11

AASL National Conference and Exhibition | Phoenix
bit.ly/aasl17phoenix

NOV. 9–12

LITA Forum | Denver
litaforum.org

NOV. 30

I Love My Librarian Award Ceremony | New York
ilovelibraries.org/lovemylibrarian

FEB. 9–13

ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits | Denver
bit.ly/1tYA7Ru

JUNE 21–26

ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition | New Orleans
bit.ly/1tYA7Ru

UPDATE

process and representing a diverse range of communities, will pilot the learning series through a “train the trainer” approach. Participating libraries will take part in an in-person workshop, create programs for their communities, and help develop an online learning series over the course of the year.

The application and project guidelines are available at apply.ala.org/medialiteracy. Applications are open through September 11.

ALA Renews Libraries Transform Campaign

On June 26, the ALA Executive Board extended its commitment to the Libraries Transform campaign for an additional three years (September 1, 2017–August 31, 2020).

Libraries Transform is ALA’s public awareness campaign and serves to highlight the transformative nature of

our nation’s libraries. Since the campaign launched in 2015, more than 7,100 libraries and library advocates have joined Libraries Transform. The campaign has had a wide reach online, with more than 32,000 downloads from its digital toolkit and nearly 60,000 uses of the hashtag on Twitter.

ALA President Jim Neal’s “Libraries Lead” presidential initiative will be a key focus for Libraries Transform over the coming year, with campaign messaging highlighting the leadership of libraries and library workers in their communities, including a new “Because” statement reflecting this focus.

For more information about Libraries Transform, visit librarystransform.org.

ALA Defends USGS Library

ALA has called for continued funding for the US Geological Survey (USGS) Library and public access to its collections and

services. USGS is a scientific agency within the Interior Department, and the USGS Library bills itself as “the largest earth science library in the world.”

President Trump’s 2018 budget proposes to cut \$137.8 million from USGS, a 13% reduction from the current year. Out of that total, \$3 million would come from the USGS Library—reportedly, a 52% cut. USGS has proposed to close at least three, and potentially all four, of its library’s locations and to place its trove of information in a “dark archive,” making its resources largely or wholly unavailable to businesses, researchers, students, and individuals.

Investments in the USGS Library provide at least a 7:1 return, according to a group of trade and science organizations that also wrote in support of the USGS Library (bit.ly/USGSLibraryLetter).

A full copy of ALA’s letter is available at bit.ly/AL AUSGSletter. ALA’s support

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for the USGS Library is a part of the Fight for Libraries campaign.

Accreditation Actions from Annual Announced

ALA's Committee on Accreditation (COA) announced accreditation actions taken at the 2017 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago.

ALA accreditation indicates that the program has undergone a self-evaluation process, has been externally reviewed, and meets the Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies, established by COA and adopted by ALA Council. COA evaluates each program for conformity to the standards, which address systematic planning; curriculum; faculty; students; and administration, finances, and resources.

Continued accreditation status was granted to the following programs, with

the next comprehensive review visit scheduled for spring 2024:

- master of library and information studies at the University of Alabama
- master of science in information at the University of Michigan
- master of library science and master of arts in library science at Texas Woman's University
- master of library and information science at the University of South Carolina
- master of information at the University of Toronto

A complete list of programs and degrees accredited by ALA can be found at ala.org/accreditedprograms/directory.

Pilot Mountain School Receives Jaffarian Award

Pilot Mountain (N.C.) Elementary School is the recipient of ALA's 2017 Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award for Exemplary Humanities Programming. The

public school's library will receive \$5,000 in recognition of "Everybody Has a Story," a library program that taught 3rd-graders about cultural and historic preservation. The yearlong program integrated multiple activities—involving language, arts, food traditions, and practical skills—to teach students about cultural traditions at home and around the world.

ALA will offer a free webinar with the creators of the award-winning program in fall 2017. More information and a registration link will be available on programminglibrarian.org.

Named after the late Sara Jaffarian, a school librarian and longtime ALA member, the award was established in 2006 to recognize and promote excellence in humanities programming in elementary and middle school libraries. Funding for the Jaffarian Award is provided by ALA's Cultural Communities Fund. **AL**

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TRENDS



Patron Rebecca Bloom repairs a rice cooker at Boulder (Colo.) Public Library's U-Fix-It Clinic.

Libraries and the Art of Everything Maintenance

Hosting repair events reduces waste, brings in new patrons

BY Megan Cottrell

Wayne Seltzer remembers the day a middle-school student named Rebecca Bloom walked into the U-Fix-It Clinic at Boulder (Colo.) Public Library's (BPL) makerspace, BLDG 61, carrying her broken electric scooter.

"She told me she got it for her birthday and it was a lot of fun, but one day, it just stopped

working," says Seltzer, an MIT-trained engineer and the U-Fix-It Clinic coordinator. "We took it apart together, and we were able to fix it. Pretty soon she was zipping around the parking lot on her scooter again."

But that wasn't the last time Seltzer saw Bloom.

"She's now in high school and tells me every time she sees me

that she wants to be an engineer," says Seltzer. "A lot of people don't realize they might be interested in the technology that's all around them because they just don't know what's inside."

And that's the goal of the U-Fix-It Clinic—allowing people to repair broken items instead of throwing them away, but also inspiring them to learn more about the products they consume and how they work. The event is part of a larger movement across the globe working to help keep broken items out of landfills and revive the lost art of repair.

And Seltzer says libraries are a perfect partner in that movement.

"One day, we did a tutorial on how to repair a lamp, and an 8-year-old kid got it and went crazy helping everyone fix their lamps," says Seltzer. "That's a library moment. A person comes into the library and discovers something that they didn't know about themselves. They have access to resources they didn't know existed."

Repairing a throwaway society

Debbie Hurst-Rodriguez walked into the main branch of the Long Beach (Calif.) Public Library (LBPL) with a necklace that had been lying in her jewelry box for years.

"The bezel wasn't high enough, and the stone kept falling out," says Hurst-Rodriguez. "I knew it wasn't a \$20 fix, and I had been procrastinating repairing it due to the time it would have taken to get quotes."

Photo: Janet Hollingsworth

Starting Your Own Repair Café: Tips from the Experts

1 Reach out to national organizations. Repair Café and Fixit Clinic are two large nonprofits that can offer best practices and tips for organizing your event as well as finding volunteers and advertising it in your community. Check out fixitclinic.com or repaircafe.org for details. If you're not going to associate with either organization, make sure to come up with your own name. "Repair Café," for instance, is trademarked.

2 Find like-minded partners. Vancouver, Washington's Repair Café has a host of sponsors, like the city's public works department, local time exchange, and recycling partners. Librarian Jamie Bair says she thinks partnering has been essential to their success. "We're more included in our community, and it's easier to figure out how our public library can better fit what they need," she says.

3 Start small. Not sure you can provide a wide variety of volunteers to fix whatever a patron might bring in? Consider limiting an event to just one type of item. Boulder's U-Fix-It Clinic has hosted coffeemaker repair clinics at the local café, as well as a lamp-fixing workshop (one of their most popular events). Other libraries have held sewing-specific events where volunteers replace zippers, make alterations, and teach basic sewing skills.

4 Consider your coaches. To find experts with technical knowledge, try reaching out to local companies that encourage their employees to volunteer in the community. But don't worry if not everyone you find is an expert. "Enthusiasm for helping people is more important than technical knowledge on what we're doing," says engineer Wayne Seltzer. "If I have to choose between an enthusiastic volunteer who knows a bit less versus a curmudgeon who's an expert, I'll choose enthusiasm every time." •

Luckily, jeweler Jurate Brown was volunteering at the Long Beach Time Exchange's Repair Café that day.

"It took her over an hour to solder the bezel, and she noticed other repairs that could be made to avoid losing stones, so she

fixed those too," says Hurst-Rodriguez. "It was a fabulous experience seeing everyone work together to repair things, sharing their talents while connecting and helping neighbors."

Continued on page 14 ▶

BY THE NUMBERS

Library Cards

1988

The year then-Secretary of Education William Bennett issued the challenge: "Let's have a national campaign. Every child should obtain a library card—and use it." The following year, the American Library Association declared September as Library Card Sign-Up Month.

500

Number of children who attended the October 14, 1988, kickoff event on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.



2/3

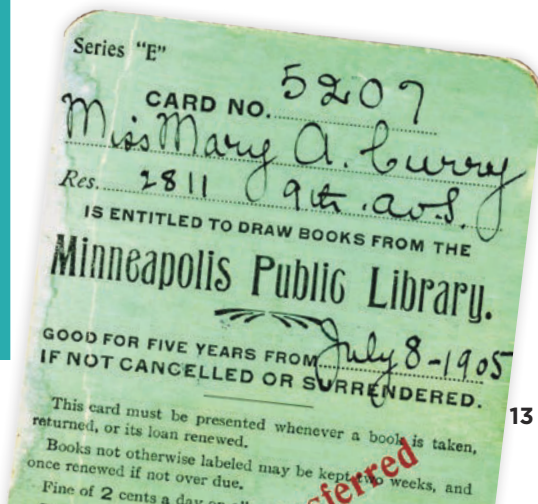
Approximate fraction of Americans who have a library card.

1901

The year New York Public Library issued its first "borrower's card."

\$345.14

The largest overdue book fine paid, according to Guinness World Records. Emily Canellos-Simms paid Kewanee (Ill.) Public Library after holding on to the poetry book *Days and Deeds* for 47 years. •



◀ Continued from page 13

Repair Café and Fixit Clinic are both names for events that are popping up at libraries and other locations all over the country. Repair Café originally started in Amsterdam, while Fixit Clinic originated in Berkeley, California. LBPL has held two cafés so far, with more than 200 attendees bringing in their broken items. The city of Vancouver, Washington, recently held its third Repair Café event, partially sponsored by the Fort Vancouver Regional Library. Jamie Bair, experimental learning librarian at Fort Vancouver, says the repairs run the gamut from tuning up bikes and sharpening hedge trimmers to putting new zippers in clothing and repairing small appliances.

“People were so surprised at the kinds of things that can be fixed and that there’s a resource in the community to help you fix your stuff,” says Bair. “It meets our library’s goal of being that community space where people can come together and learn, whatever that learning takes.”

BPL’s Creative Technologist Janet Hollingsworth says the repair events have another great side effect: bringing in new patrons.

“These clinics have brought in more than 70% new patrons to our space—young and old—and nearly everyone has come back to other programs, usually with friends and family,” says Hollingsworth.

The events also tap into a greater mission, says Hollingsworth:

“These clinics have brought in more than 70% new patrons to our space—young and old.”

JANET HOLLINGSWORTH, creative technologist at Boulder (Colo.) Public Library



Patron Zhanna Yermakov (left) and volunteer Bob Graham work on a broken toaster oven at Boulder (Colo.) Public Library.

building a sustainable society. Just as libraries allow patrons to share materials like books and movies, repair events allow people to share skills, reuse materials and tools, and bring a broken item back to life.

“We live in a throwaway society, and I think it takes explicit effort to strike a conversation addressing this,” says Hollingsworth. “The public library should be at the center of conversations like this and provide a call to action.”

Seltzer says libraries and librarians offer something special to these events: a space where everyone feels welcome and experiences dealing with a wide variety of people. Seltzer says he was grateful to have that experience on his side when a homeless patron brought in a pair of broken headphones.

“I wasn’t sure what to do, but I listened to his story,” he says.

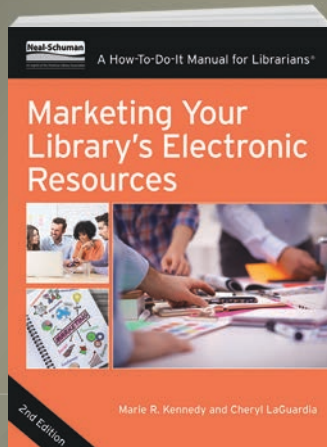
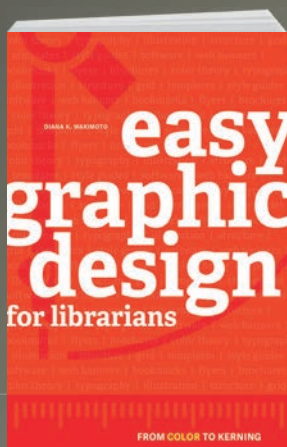
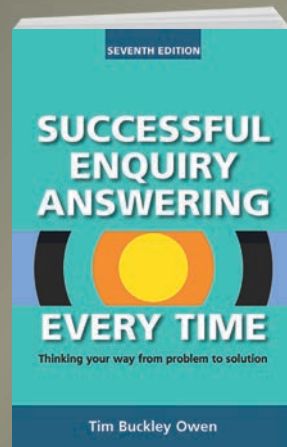
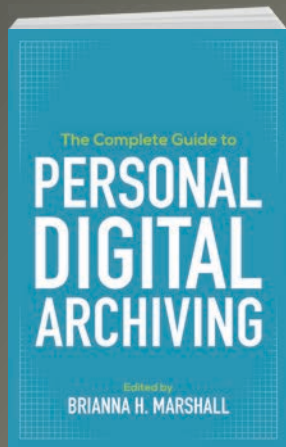
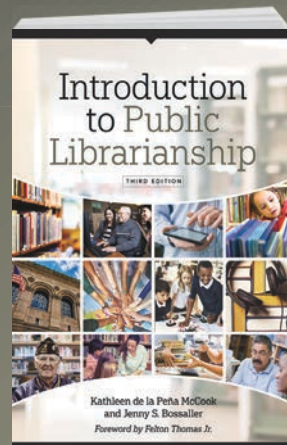
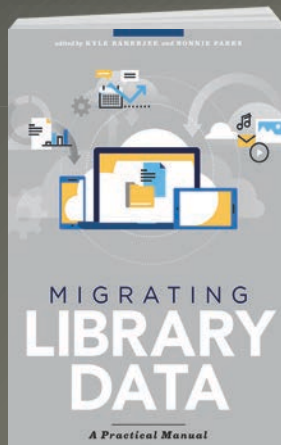
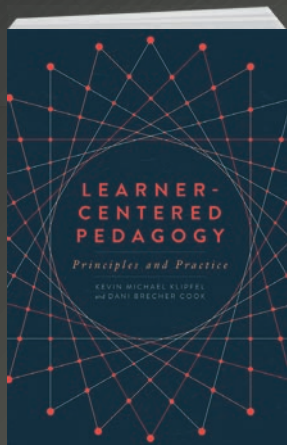
The man explained he had gotten the headphones for \$2 at a hardware store several years back, and while he knew how to fix the broken wire that was likely inside, he didn’t own or have a place to keep a soldering iron. Seltzer and the patron were able to fix the headphones, and the man was appreciative.

“A few days later, I got the most beautiful thank-you email from him,” says Seltzer. “Here’s a guy who probably wouldn’t have shown up at the hipster art co-op. But at the library, he felt comfortable.” **AL**

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

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Open Educational Resources

Redefining the role of school librarians

BY Kaitlin Throgmorton

As more schools across the nation use open educational resources (OERs), school librarians find that their roles as digital content curators are expanding or even being redefined.

A natural fit

“Librarians, by nature, curate resources,” says Jennifer Scotten, library media specialist at South Middle School in Lawrence, Kansas. Those curation abilities make librarians invaluable for implementing OERs, which can be overwhelming for first-time users browsing a seemingly endless catalog of online resources. For Kelly Hart, a 7th-grade English and language arts teacher at the school, Scotten’s expertise enabled her to exclusively use OERs for the 2016–2017 school year. “I couldn’t have done it without her,” Hart says.

“Librarians bring that skill set, that ability to find information,

evaluate information, and then curate that information in a way that’s useful to others,” says Sara Trettin, a former librarian who is now policy advisor at the US Department of Education’s Office of Educational Technology.

In addition, librarians see the process of OER creation with a bird’s-eye view. “The librarian is coming from a position within the school where they see all of the students, and work with students across all grade levels,” Trettin says. Because librarians also work with teachers throughout the school, they are in a position to be an OER evangelist. Hart calls Scotten, for example, “the little bee who goes out and disseminates everything to everyone.”

At Parkway School District in Chesterfield, Missouri, teachers promote librarians as a go-to source for information. “Our librarians are the ones who are looked to for technology, for resources,” says Bill Bass, innovation coordinator for technology integration, information, and library media at the district. When it comes to OERs, Bass says, “One of our successes is that we have developed a greater sense of trust between librarian and teacher, and librarian and student, because they are having different conversations now about the content and where that content came from.”

Many librarians are also deeply invested in ensuring educational equity among students,

and OERs can facilitate that goal in powerful ways. Scotten, who describes herself as passionate about equity, believes that it’s important for classroom materials to “reflect multiple perspectives” of students. “Even if you’re in a classroom without that diversity,” she says, “it’s still important for students to have materials free from bias, to learn about subjects from multiple and diverse perspectives.” Bass calls OERs “another avenue” for increasing equity in content access and throughout the curriculum.

Teaching curation

As the amount of content available to students and teachers skyrockets, curation is becoming a necessary skill for everyone—and librarians are often best equipped to teach it.

“We need to teach kids to be librarians,” says Mark Ray, director of innovation and library services for Vancouver (Wash.) Public Schools. He adds: “When you’re using your devices, walking down the street, you don’t have a librarian there telling you, ‘No, that’s not quite right.’” Students are increasingly capable of curating their own content at the touch of a button, and they need guidance on how to do it appropriately and effectively. “The librarian plays a vital role in helping kids and teachers be critical thinkers,” says Bass.

OERs are the perfect catalyst for teaching curation outside the library. Because OERs can be challenging and are constantly evolving, they present an inherent professional development opportunity for both librarians and teachers, as librarians transfer their knowledge of curation and teachers absorb new tactics for assessing and presenting information, as in the case of Scotten and Hart, who worked together to get OERs into the classroom.



“In districts that are starting to use open resources and involve their teachers and librarians, it really is reshaping how they do professional learning,” says Trettin. “Instead of one day where everyone comes in, engaging everyone in this [OER] process is providing some sustained opportunities for professional learning.”

For Scotten, OERs also present an opportunity to have “tough conversations” with teachers about open licensing and copyright infractions, as well as bias and diverse perspectives. Those lessons are then passed on to students. “Often those are anecdotes teachers bring into their classroom,” she says, and teachers use missteps as an opportunity to talk “about credit given where it’s due and really protecting intellectual property.”

Redefining the future

Ultimately, the curation of OERs in primary and secondary schools is reshaping the role of school librarians.

“In the past, librarians curated collections for their physical libraries. The shift now is that librarians are curating beyond the classroom,” says Ray.

Bass believes that this has led to an expansion of the school librarian’s role, “because of the overwhelming amount of content and the overwhelming need for everyone—students, teachers, parents—to vet and look for content, to recognize where the problems are, and recognize what is high-quality content.”

OERs are going to help with this, Bass says. “I think what we’re going to see over time is more reliance on the expertise of librarians, and also of teachers, in creating experiences

“The librarian plays a vital role in helping kids and teachers be critical thinkers.”

BILL BASS, innovation coordinator at Parkway School District in Chesterfield, Missouri

that aren’t dependent on a specific set of text,” he says. “What the OER is doing for us right now is providing opportunities for [librarians] to rethink, redefine themselves, and provide a different experience and service level.” As OERs become ubiquitous, school librarians will become even more integral to making sense of it all. **AL**

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



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Walkers participate in “Let’s Book,” a reading and exercise program offered by Ligonier Valley (Pa.) Library.

buildings of Covington, Kentucky, with those who join her walking tour not so that they may be remembered but so they might be known.

More than a walk in the park

For most libraries offering tours, the scale is determined by how far a group can travel. The just-right length can range from one to two hours and one to two miles, for an average group size of 25 people. Most programs take place during warmer months. For example, KCPL runs tours from early June to late September, while HLHS offers them late April to early November.

Similarly, scope is determined by what libraries wish to accomplish. Exercise itself can be an aim of the walking tour, such as the “Let’s Book” program at Ligonier Valley (Pa.) Library. Director Janet Hudson created a 10-week program that runs April to July and combines reading and exercise. She takes her group on walks through town and nature reserves, and often enlists the help of both park guides and librarians who can lead book discussions. One excursion had the group talking about Bill Bryson’s *A Walk in the Woods* while navigating the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve.

“The goal was to encourage people to read and walk every day for optimal mental and physical health,” says Hudson. In the first year, 55 participants read for almost 120,500 minutes and walked more than 68,100 minutes.

Some libraries provide resources for self-guided tours—the economical cousin of the docent-led tour. Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library

Walking History

Library-led sightseeing tours bring local stories to life

BY Hanako Maki

We surprise people right off the bat, standing in front of this wonderful, family-friendly ice cream shop and saying that it used to be a brothel,” says Scott Brouwer, archivist at La Crosse (Wis.) Public Library (LCPL). The reveal is part of the Dark La Crosse Trolley Tour, done in partnership between LCPL and the La Crosse County Convention and Visitors Bureau. It began as a walking tour—a trolley was introduced in 2013 as a solution for accessibility issues—and now takes area residents and tourists on rides through the city’s seedier past.

“Besides the entertainment value, we also wanted to impart some history—it’s not fake news; it’s reliable news,” says Anita Doering, archives manager at LCPL.

LCPL—which also offers the by-demand Footsteps of La Crosse historic walking tour—is not the only library to recognize that sightseeing ventures are the

perfect vehicle to get employees outside the building and sharing their expertise. “Theoretically we are the authority on history in this community, so who better to get a tour or information from?” says Gwendolyn Mayer, archivist at the Hudson (Ohio) Library and Historical Society (HLHS).

HLHS initially offered history tours to schools and scout groups, but because the community is “history-nuts,” says Mayer, the library now offers nine public walking tours covering topics that range from early transportation infrastructure in Hudson to the role the community played in the Underground Railroad. Each program is presented at least twice per season.

“History passes by people, and it’s not out of callousness; it’s just history,” says Elaine Kuhn, local history and genealogy services coordinator at Kenton County (Ky.) Public Library (KCPL). Kuhn shares her fascination with the people and

offers a downloadable “Walking with Ramona” map for a leisurely exploration of author Beverly Cleary’s Portland neighborhood, while the library at Lake Forest (Ill.) College features on its website walking directions and sight descriptions for a local African-American history tour.

Other libraries, like LCPL, let vehicles do the legwork. While this option adds costs to an otherwise low-budget initiative, it expands the tour’s geographical reach while staying within the same time frame. Though LCPL uses trolleys, libraries can use bicycles, Segways, hoverboards, or other options.

Getting the facts straight

Each program shares one thing in common: an emphasis on research. KCPL offers one tour route per summer because “it takes three to four months to do the research about the people and the buildings,” says Kuhn. Once KCPL decides on an area to tour, four or five librarians walk around the area and jot down notes about points of interest, such as who built or lived in the buildings. Then it’s back to

the library to supplement observations with facts and write compelling scripts.

As part of her research on Hudson during the Civil War, Mayer created a spreadsheet of all the men from the town who served. When tour participants started asking specific questions like, “How many were in the heavy artillery?” or “Who fought in this battle?” she was ready with answers.

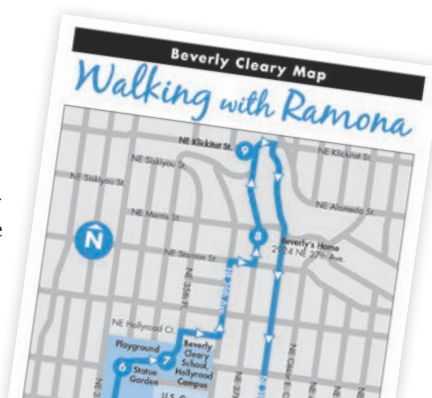
Walking tour programs are not stagnant but require a flow of conversation and room to grow. Mayer’s tour revolves around dialogue. “People have their own stories to tell,” she says. “That helps us give a better-rounded story the next time.”

A favorite story of LCPL involves the infamous gangster John Dillinger, who visited a La Crosse barbershop two days before he was killed in Chicago. Forty years later, the first line of the local barber’s own obituary noted that he gave Dillinger a haircut. Brouwer says stories like these will remain in circulation, but the library frequently comes across new material that has potential to become part of the tour.

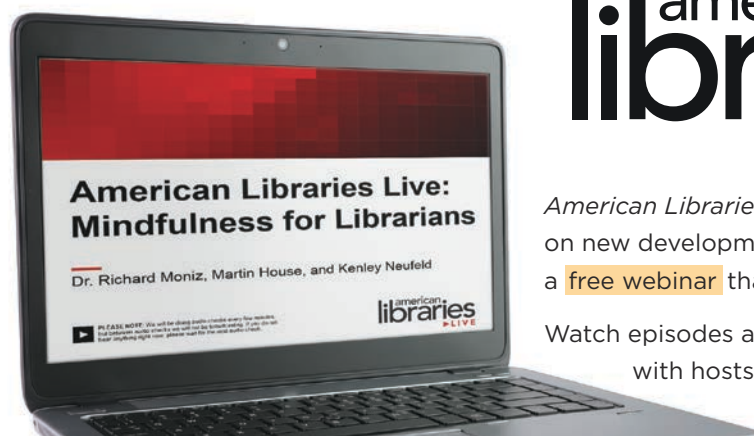
As each tour’s bank of stories grows, so does its popularity. Staff at LCPL, KCPL, and HLHS noticed early on that their programs attracted people from neighboring cities and counties.

Brouwer says the tour is a “doorway to talking to people about what the library can do” and has recommended other library services to Dark La Crosse fans. He also notes a trend of intralibrary partnership. “Because of the increased visibility of the archives [department], other departments are more comfortable approaching us and working collaboratively.” **AL**

HANAKO MAKI is an editorial intern at *American Libraries*.



Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library offers a downloadable “Walking with Ramona” map, featuring sights in author Beverly Cleary’s Portland neighborhood.



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NCSU student Bharat Karunakaran plays *Job Simulator* with an Oculus Rift headset in Hill Library's VR Studio.

Making Virtual Reality a Reality

NCSU Libraries offer top-notch simulation technology

First-person shooter games. Military training exercises. Those are the applications most often associated with the words *virtual reality* (VR). But as new library offerings at North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Raleigh demonstrate, VR represents an amazing, state-of-the-art resource that can enhance just about any discipline, from cartography to psychology, architecture to English.

BY Anne Ford

The dynamic idea whose time has come today is the quest for freedom and human dignity," said Martin Luther King Jr., to an eager crowd at White Rock Baptist Church, in Durham, North Carolina. It was February 16, 1960—just a couple of weeks after the famous Woolworth's lunch counter sit-ins—and the civil rights leader was there to urge his supporters to further nonviolent action.

No recordings were made of King's stirring talk, and the church was demolished later that decade. But thanks to growing virtual reality resources at NCSU's libraries (and

some help from a voice actor), visitors will soon be able to step into an immersive digital re-creation of that day and experience the event just as audience members did 57 years ago.

The Virtual MLK Project, led by professor Victoria Gallagher of the university's Department of Communications, is only one illustration of what can happen when VR technology is made available to all departments, faculty, and students.

"VR is one of those areas that has rich uses in disciplines like psychology and education, but it also has very technical pieces that fit more closely with computer science

or design," says David Woodbury, head of learning spaces and services at NCSU Libraries, which comprise the James B. Hunt Jr. Library and the D. H. Hill Library. "The library is a nice intersection of these disciplines, sort of a DMZ, a neutral area for people to come together and learn how new immersive technology might fit their field, how different disciplines can work together to solve a problem. It continues our tradition of democratizing access to technology, like we do with databases and books."

In 2014, the libraries began lending the Oculus Rift VR headset. Since then they've added the other major consumer VR platform, the HTC Vive; 360-degree cameras and camcorders; the Leap Motion Controller, which converts users' hand motions into 3D output; the Microsoft HoloLens, which places holograms in users' physical environments; and other equipment.

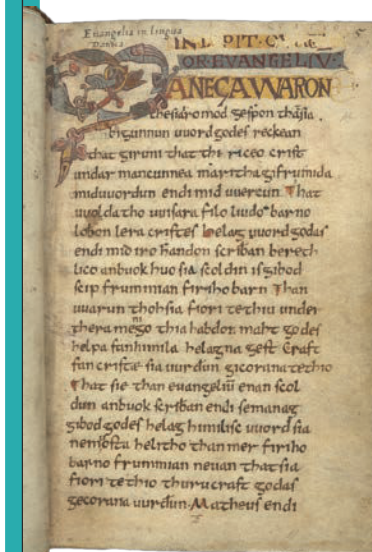
Depending on the item, it may be checked out for hours or days, or used onsite in Hunt Library's VR Usability Lab or Hill Library's VR Studio. "We found very quickly that one of the things that our campus needs is a space that's dedicated for VR, because of the complications of needing fast computers, needing to move around within a set area, needing expert help close by to troubleshoot," Woodbury says.

The VR Usability Lab lets users reserve a single room and use of the HTC Vive for two hours.

"Say you're studying civil engineering. You can fly across a city to see how highways are laid out," says Pete Schreiner, a NCSU Libraries fellow who has driven much of the libraries' VR efforts. "Or we have

GLOBAL REACH

Joint UK–France Project to Digitize Manuscripts



Page from the Heliand manuscript.

UNITED KINGDOM

The British Library is engaged in a joint project with the Bibliothèque nationale de France to digitize 800 manuscripts created in England or France between 700 and 1200 CE. A manuscript recently digitized by the Polonsky Foundation England and France Project includes one of the few major works in Old Saxon: the Heliand poem, copied perhaps in England or decorated by someone who was influenced by English styles in the second half of the 10th century. At just under 6,000 verses, the Heliand is the longest Old Saxon text known.—*British Library: Medieval Manuscripts Blog*, July 14.

EGYPT A palimpsest containing an ancient medical treatise beneath biblical text has been discovered by the monks of St. Catherine's Monastery in South Sinai. Egyptian Minister of Antiquities Khaled El-Enany said the manuscript was found during restoration work in the monastery's ancient library. The leather pages of the palimpsest were first used in the 6th century CE for a medical recipe attributed to the Greek physician Hippocrates.—*Archaeology*, July 10.

EUROPEAN UNION Google's fight against France's attempt to globally enforce the so-called right to be forgotten is headed to the European Union's (EU) Court of Justice, just three years after its judges ordered the company to strip out some results that people find embarrassing or out of date. The court will have to decide whether links should be purged from internet searches in one country, across the EU, or worldwide.—*Bloomberg*, July 19.

CANADA Toronto City Librarian Vickery Bowles said her department did its due diligence and sought legal advice before allowing a memorial service to proceed for a lawyer who represented Holocaust deniers. The service for librarian-turned-lawyer Barbara Kulaszka was held at the Richview branch on July 12. Kulaszka had as clients such Holocaust deniers and white supremacists as Ernst Zündel, Arthur Rudolph, Imre Finta, and Marc Lemire. Bowles said she felt the library couldn't deny library access to people based on opinions expressed by individuals in the past.—*CBC News*, July 13. ●

a lot of computer science students here who design games. To be able to play a dozen games in VR and see how the designers handled movement in them—that can mean a lot when you're designing your own game."

Meanwhile, the VR Studio offers six workstations, each with a high-powered computer and video card; three more workstations will be added soon. "We want to be able to have small classes in there, with everyone being able to use the same software for development," Schreiner says.

A major user of the VR offerings is the university's distance education group. "The challenge with distance education is reaching people," says Woodbury. "Well, 360-degree video creates empathy with what you're seeing in a way that's different from regular video. They're creating more guided content to give you a better sense of what it's like to be in a clam boat, or at a controlled burn in a forest. They even put a 360-degree camera at a bug's-eye level, which I think was horrifying to everyone." VR is also well suited for food science orientation and safety training, as well as for training in potentially discomfiting situations such as public speaking.

To libraries that would like to offer VR tools, "you don't need a lot to get started," says Jill Sexton, head of information technology. "It really depends on getting these VR headsets and a couple of computers that are powerful enough to power the headsets. It's about building partnerships and making these consumer technologies accessible to students, and providing resources and time for your staff to get up to speed."

But what about breakage or loss of these expensive items? That hasn't been a problem, Woodbury says: "Students and faculty appreciate this so much that they take really good care of the things we loan to them." **AL**

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

Margarita Engle

An inspirational poet for young people

The Poetry Foundation has named poet, novelist, and journalist Margarita Engle as the new Young People's Poet Laureate, a title given biennially in recognition of outstanding achievement in poetry for children. She succeeds author Jacqueline Woodson (*AL*, Mar./Apr. 2015, p. 23). A Cuban American, Engle is the first person of Latino descent to receive the honor. She was also the first Latina to be awarded a Newbery Honor in 2009 for *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*.

What poets have had an influence on your writing?

As a small child, I listened to my mother recite *Versos sencillos* by José Martí, as well as the songlike rhymes of Federico García Lorca and Rubén Darío. In school, I learned about Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost. At the library, I discovered the powerful resonance of classical Japanese forms, especially haiku and tanka. In my 20s, I fell in love with Octavio Paz and Jorge Luis Borges. Later,

I became passionate about Antonio Machado and all the poets of Spain's Generation of '27, especially Juan Ramón Jiménez. Now I read Dulce María Loynaz over and over.

What is your schedule like as Young People's Poet Laureate?

In September, I am visiting schools in Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Orlando, and Miami, along with Mike Curato, the illustrator of our picture book *All the Way to Havana*. In October, in Seattle I will speak about *Miguel's Brave Knight: Young Cervantes and His Dream of Don Quixote*, a picture book biography I wrote in verse, with beautiful illustrations by Raúl Colón.

Do you plan on reading in both Spanish and English?

Yes! In August, *Aire encantado*, a Spanish edition of my memoir *Enchanted Air*, was published. I can also read from *Morning Star Horse/El caballo lucero*, a bilingual middle-grade magic realistic verse novel, and from the Spanish editions of *Drum Dream Girl*, *Bravo!*, and *The Surrender Tree*.

What is challenging about writing novels in free verse?

Children and teenagers aren't afraid of poetry! They love it instinctively, the same way they enjoy music. The biggest challenges stem from adult

attitudes. Teachers, librarians, booksellers, parents, and grandparents who love poetry can influence many future generations by helping students discover the joy of poetry now, so that someday they'll pass it on to their own grandchildren.

One of the things that happens at poetry readings is amazing. Children and teenagers walk up to me afterward and read their own poems or recite them from memory. In one case, at the end of a Skype session with a group of reluctant readers, a teenage boy stood up in front of all his classmates and read me his own passionate poem about his broken heart.

Will you be writing more about Cuba now that it has opened up?

Sadly, travel and trade restrictions were only partially renewed by executive order. I already have two books about contemporary Cuba, *All the Way to Havana*, about a family road trip in an old car, and *Forest World*. But yes, I might continue with more.

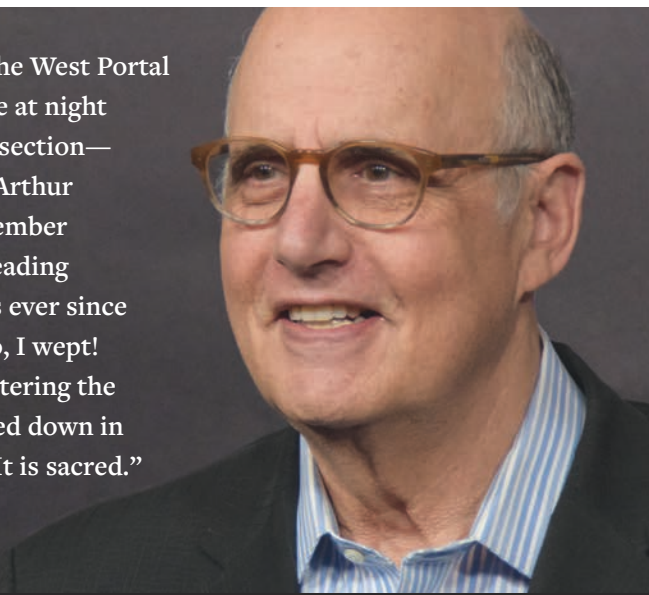
What writing projects are you currently working on?

My 2018 verse novel is *Jazz Owls: A Story of the Zoot Suit Riots*, with stunning illustrations by Rudy Gutiérrez. It will be published in June on the 75th anniversary of a time in Los Angeles when racist sailors on their way to World War II battlefields attacked Mexican-American teenagers simply because they wore cool clothes and jitterbugged at interracial dances. My spring 2018 picture book is *The Flying Girl: How Aída de Acosta Learned to Soar*, with lovely illustrations by Sara Palacios. It's about a Cuban-American teenager who flew a motorized dirigible six months before the Wright brothers flew their fixed-wing airplane. She has been left out of history, and I hope to help bring her back. **AL**



“There was a library near us in San Francisco. It was the West Portal Public Library. I would ask my father to drive me there at night and pick me up when it closed.... I hung out in the 812 section—American theater and plays. This is where I first read Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman* and was transfixed. I remember staring into space for what seemed an eternity after reading Linda Loman’s final speech. I’ve been a fan of libraries ever since and all but wept when my kids got their first cards. No, I wept! I always got that same feeling of ‘expectancy’ when entering the library—it’s the same feeling when the lights are turned down in the theater and that hush goes through the audience. It is sacred.”

JEFFREY TAMBOR, star of *Transparent*, in “Jeffrey Tambor: By the Book,” *New York Times*, May 18



“In a world where the capital is so unfairly divided, those who can’t afford books still deserve a chance to learn, a chance to find solace in new worlds and stories, a chance to *dream*.”

CARINA PEREIRA, “Why Libraries Matter,” Book Riot, July 13.

“I’d rather my house be destroyed, not the library. All my memories, all the people we helped there—we helped develop the city and the country. Whenever I speak about the library, it’s as if I’m putting my hand on an open wound.”

MOHAMMED JASIM, library director at University of Mosul, Iraq, in “Mosul’s Library Without Books,” *The New Yorker*, June 12.

“WITHOUT THE LIBRARY, I WOULD BE COMPLETELY LOST.”

JOELLE WILKINS, a student at John Dickinson High School in Wilmington, Delaware, in “Delaware’s Endangered Education Species—The School Librarian,” WHYY NewsWorks, July 5.

“Librarians share your journey to knowledge; help you to find relaxation in a good book. They are generous, eager to help. When I hear of a library, academic or public, forced to close for lack of funding, I mourn. When that happens, the book gets closed on all the books that may have been written, the laughs that could have been shared, the victories of discoveries made—they’re the cornerstone of a community.”

CHRISTINA SAVATTEO, patron and 3rd-grade teacher, in “Messenger Library to Hold Rally in Support of Libraries During 80th Birthday Party,” *Aurora (Ill.) Beacon-News*, July 20.

Using Our Words

Getting it right on neutrality and libraries

I've always been a wordy sort of person. Yes, that too, but I mean word-y. I was the sort of kid who spent time with a thesaurus and dictionary as well as Tinkertoys and Matchbox cars. I was fascinated by words, their uses, and shades of meaning.

Even my amateur lexicographic interest ill prepared me for a world in which one of the more trenchant voices of political observation belongs to the Merriam-Webster Twitter feed (@MerriamWebster). If you don't follow it yet, do so immediately, for its largely straightforward Word of the Day feature as well as its often wry and acerbic commentary on trending lookups based on "conversations" of the moment, not to mention words that aren't really words ("covfefe").

So the Webster's dictionary has taken a side, or at least a perspective. Based on what I know of Noah Webster's own colorful history and antipopulist views, I think he might approve. All of which puts an intriguing gloss on an emerging discussion within our own profession on what some may think a bedrock principle of librarianship: neutrality. This discussion includes my fellow *AL* columnist Meredith Farkas's excellent piece on the critical librarianship movement (Jan./Feb., p. 70).

In one important sense, we aren't neutral and never can be—nor should we be. Naturally, each of us has his or her own biases, prejudices, and preferences; we represent a sample of the breadth of society, so this is inevitable and necessary to avoid homogeneity of thought and action. Together, though, we advocate strongly on matters critical to our success. We fight in public for the rights of our patrons



to read and think freely without fear of exposure, surveillance, or censure, as well as for open and equal access to a range of materials. We stand for the principle that government and public information shouldn't depend on the whims of the moment. We are engaged with, represent, and fight for our communities and strive to improve them through our institutions and our work.

However, delighted as I was at the prospect of hearing Hillary Rodham Clinton speak at this year's Annual Conference and Exhibition, I hope future American Library Association leadership and conference organizers think seriously about also inviting high-profile people who might hold differing views from some of our organization's positions on important issues such as net neutrality. If we, of all professions, are unwilling or unable to listen to, respect, and encourage a wide

I want to be sure
that we're fighting
the right fights on
the right terms
and, yes, using
the right words.

range of viewpoints, even on things we hold dear, then one wonders what in the hell we are doing.

My more serious concern is how our internally focused discussions about neutrality could be perceived. Those who see the opposite of neutrality as "concerned" or "principled" would likely be unperturbed; those who would see it as "partisan" or "biased" could read that as an indication that libraries and librarians have chosen a capital-P Political side, and that's dangerous territory indeed. As these vital conversations about our roles and stances move forward, I want to be sure that we're fighting the right fights on the right terms and, yes, using the right words. Note that Merriam-Webster frequently uses the hashtag #WordsMatter.

Might I, then, reach for my well-thumbed *Roget's* and offer some ideas for consideration? Perhaps in dialogues about how we can best employ our skills, experience, and resources to advance our communities' interests and well-being, words such as *even-handed*, *unbiased*, and *equitable* might come in handy when referring to services and collections. I'd also toss in some great old favorites: *Just*, *Independent*, *Fair*. Reassuring people that those words will always describe libraries will be worth the extra time and work required. Especially "in turbulent times like these," a phrase I have come to loathe ... but that's another story. *AL*

JOSEPH JANES is associate professor at the Information School of the University of Washington in Seattle and author of *Documents That Changed the Way We Live* (Rowman and Littlefield, May).

Radical Restructuring

Library renovations lead to personnel and process reorganization

As librarians, we've all felt, at some point or another, like one of the great loves of our lives has been judged hopelessly irrelevant. In an era when information is digital and abundant, demonstrating the value of libraries and librarians is more urgent—and can be more difficult—than ever.

At Georgia Tech, we knew that using words to explain and defend would not accurately demonstrate the impact we have on inspiring and accelerating the intellectual achievements of faculty and students. So we set out on a library renewal project.

When we started four years ago, the project largely centered on building renovations. Over time we realized that renovations are the easy part of a transformation. We are fortunate to have creative architects, designers, engineers, and construction experts. We have the financial and political support of the administration and the University System of Georgia. And we benefit every day from the advice of consultants and subject-matter experts.

The biggest challenge to our transformation was organizational. We soon saw that we had to change the culture of the library from passive to active, and we had to retire models that focused narrowly on the library rather than those that supported the larger institution. We had to commit to organizing in a way that envisions a future that is digital.

How? We are adapting techniques used in disciplines such as supply chain thinking and portfolio management to radically restructure the way we operate. Our goal is to make the transactional parts of the library's work as efficient as possible in



order to free up resources to sustain new services such as intelligent agents, visualization, and data science.

We are acutely aware that we will succeed or fail based on how enthusiastically staff members embrace change and an organization that is continually evolving to meet the needs of faculty and students. Over the past year, we have rewritten every job, process, and procedure in the library. Most of the traditional, hierarchical department structure is gone, replaced by new reporting relationships. Most of our work is managed in a portfolio framework of 10 programs and more than 60 projects. More than half of our librarians are subject specialists who report to senior librarians who act as coaches, mentors, and performance evaluators.

Traditional technical services functions are being organized into a supply chain in which staff members will be able to switch from managing interlibrary loans

Amazon has forever changed customer expectations, and we must improve our services to meet them.

to creating basic archival records, from processing reserves to ordering online, as demand necessitates. Employees are learning how to manage more than 10 library systems rather than one or two. We are creating a supply chain oversight team to unite our multiple locations across Atlanta. Amazon has forever changed customer expectations, and we must improve our services to meet them.

A particularly challenging aspect of the transformation is replacing the image of the library from a static or anachronistic resource to a vital contributor in scholarship and learning. Instead of staying in library buildings, sitting behind desks, or teaching traditional library skills classes, librarians are venturing outside and forging new relationships with faculty.

As more responsibility for managing functions and transactional services moves to support staff, librarians are learning about current research from faculty members and new forms of scholarship. Librarians are planning programs to teach students and faculty how to handle data and create digital portfolios of their work. They are collaborating closely with a variety of academic departments and support services to assist with managing intellectual property, improving discovery tools, and partnering with other libraries to provide access to more high-quality scholarship.

In four years, we've seen that it comes down to people. Transforming a library to meet 21st-century demands and demonstrate its vitality to university life requires a restructuring that goes beyond floor plans and renderings. **AL**

CATHERINE MURRAY-RUST is dean of libraries at Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

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LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

Welcome to the 2017 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries. These are shining examples of innovative architectural feats that address user needs in unique, interesting, and effective ways. Renovations and expansions dominated this year, showing that libraries are holding on to and breathing new life into spaces already cherished by their communities.



WOW FACTOR

▼ Vaughan (Ont.) Civic Centre Resource Library

The Vaughan Civic Centre Resource Library's sloped exterior cuts an impressive figure across the Canadian sky. Inside the two-story facility, a plethora of tools for 21st-century learning—3D printers, a media suite, and audio and video recording studios—are available, while movable book stacks allow staffers and patrons to morph spaces to suit their needs.

PROJECT: New construction

ARCHITECT: ZAS Architects Inc.

SIZE: 35,572 square feet

COST: \$15.2 million Canadian (\$12.2 million US)

PHOTO: Doublespace Photography



REVITALIZED CARNEGIES

▲ Norrington Center, Park University, Parkville, Missouri

Built in 1906, Norrington Center—the oldest Carnegie library remaining on a college campus in Missouri—is now a state-of-the-art academic commons that serves as a library and meeting place for the university. Renovations added collaborative and quiet areas, tech-enhanced classrooms for distance learning, and a coffee shop.

PROJECT: Renovation

ARCHITECT: Helix Architecture + Design

SIZE: 11,700 square feet

COST: \$3.4 million

PHOTO: Michael Robinson



▼ Oregon City (Oreg.) Public Library

Oregon City's 104-year-old Carnegie library, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, received a massive face-lift that increased its size threefold while maintaining its historic charm. The additions include a centralized entryway, a new children's section, a reading room, community spaces, and increased tech capabilities.

PROJECT: Renovation and expansion

ARCHITECT: Scott I Edwards Architecture

SIZE: 20,200 square feet

COST: \$6.9 million

PHOTO: Pete Eckert



◀ **Allan Price Science Commons and Research Library, University of Oregon, Eugene**

Rising above the concrete plaza in the heart of the university's Lorry I. Lokey Science Complex, the renovated commons and research library now offers specially equipped, discipline-specific rooms for chemistry, human physiology, physics, geology, computer science, and biology studies; a big-data visualization lab; group-study areas; and a makerspace.

PROJECT: Renovation and expansion

ARCHITECT: Opsis Architecture

SIZE: 39,550 square feet

COST: \$19.6 million

PHOTO: Opsis Architecture



▶ **Alfred R. Goldstein Library, Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, Florida**

Nearly five times larger than the college's previous library, this new facility was built with a focus on art and design education. Ten group study areas, a special-projects workroom, and four terraces used for gatherings and as sketching spaces are complemented by iconic examples of furniture design by Eames, Heatherwick, and Gehry.

PROJECT: New construction

ARCHITECT: Shepley Bulfinch

SIZE: 46,000 square feet

COST: \$20 million

PHOTO: Ryan Gamma

◀ **Patricia R. Guerrieri Academic Commons, Salisbury (Md.) University**

Salisbury University's new academic commons consolidates the university's academic support programs into one facility that also houses the library, classrooms, a café, a 400-seat assembly space, and the Nabb Research Center—a special collections library dedicated to the history and culture of Maryland's eastern shore.

PROJECT: New construction

ARCHITECT: Sasaki

SIZE: 226,000 square feet

COST: \$117 million

PHOTO: Jeremy Bittermann



► **James K. Moffitt Library, University of California, Berkeley**

Designed in the late 1960s, the James K. Moffitt Library's fourth- and fifth-floor renovations brought the library into the 21st century, with the addition of studios for audio and video recording, a wellness room, and a gender-neutral restroom. Accessible 24 hours a day, the spaces were designed for maximum natural light exposure, allowing for outdoor views throughout the building and decreased lighting expenditures.

PROJECT: Renovation

ARCHITECT: Gensler

SIZE: 125,000 square feet

COST: \$15 million

PHOTO: Jasper Sanidad





▲ **Indian Trails Public Library,
Wheeling, Illinois**

Indian Trails Public Library's renovation and expansion provides more space for a colorful youth area, makerspace, and training lab. Green improvements include a geothermal heating and cooling system, natural gas water heaters, and LED lighting that spills through the building's large glass wrap-around windows.

PROJECT: Renovation and expansion

ARCHITECT: Product Architecture + Design

SIZE: 61,000 square feet

COST: \$14.2 million

PHOTO: McShane Fleming Studios

▼ **Prince George's County (Md.) Memorial
Library System, Laurel Branch Library**

The new Laurel Branch Library's glass façade illuminates the night sky and nearby Emancipation Community Park, which was renovated in conjunction with the library's construction. An open interior allows easy access to technology and tutoring spaces, and the kids' section includes a replica of an archaeological dig site encased in the glass floor.

PROJECT: New construction

ARCHITECT: Grimm + Parker Architects

SIZE: 31,000 square feet

COST: \$19.1 million

PHOTO: Sam Kittner



WIDE-OPEN SPACES

► Toledo–Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library, King Road Branch

The King Road branch library's airy new facility provides plenty of room to display materials in a manner mimicking a retail space, while also housing a 182-person meeting room, flexible meeting spaces, 14 computers, a studio with audio recording capabilities, and a garage for four out-reach service vehicles.

PROJECT: New construction

ARCHITECT: HBM Architects, Braun and Steidl Architects

SIZE: 23,000 square feet

COST: \$8 million

PHOTO: Bob Perzel



► Grove City (Ohio) Library

Grove City Library's terraced plaza with floor-to-ceiling glass windows provides a large open space for patron and community gathering. The renovation maintains the red-brick exterior while updating the inside with raised access flooring, flexible meeting spaces, collaborative work areas, and a quiet reading room with a fireplace.

PROJECT: Renovation and expansion

ARCHITECT: HBM Architects, Braun and Steidl Architects

SIZE: 46,000 square feet

COST: \$14.3 million

PHOTO: Tonda McKay



BUILDING YOUNG MINDS

◀ Hennepin County (Minn.) Library System, Brooklyn Park Library

The Brooklyn Park Library's Family Play and Learning Space was designed to inspire and spark young minds. The area features a giant microscope, wind tunnel, engineering challenge cubes, and other hands-on stations for kids to learn and experiment. A teen-focused tech center offers a multimedia suite with audio recording, graphic design, animation, and coding capabilities.

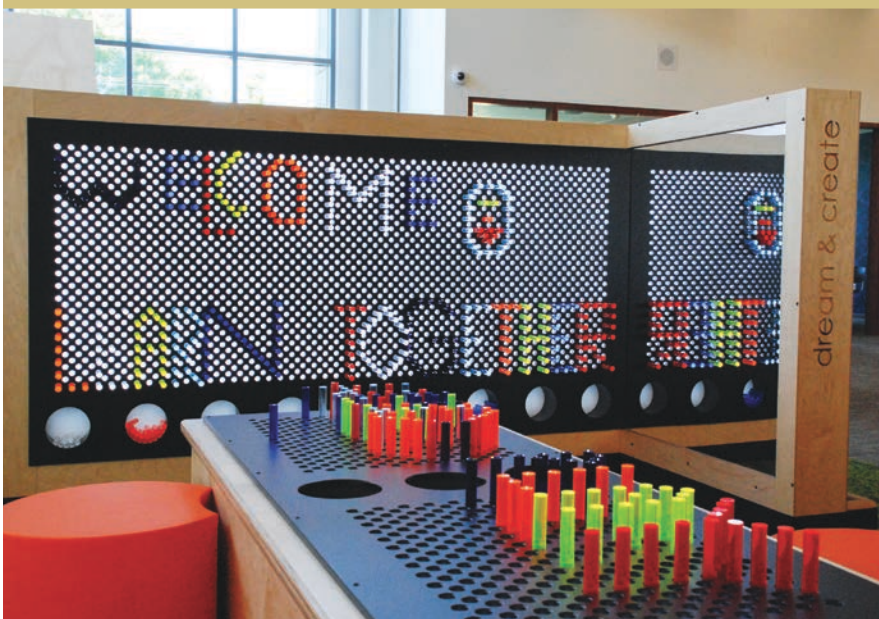
PROJECT: New construction

ARCHITECT: HGA

SIZE: 39,600 square feet

COST: \$19 million

PHOTO: Paul Crosby





BREATHTAKING RENOVATIONS



▲ DeKalb (Ill.) Public Library

DeKalb Public Library updated its Art Deco building without sacrificing any of the details and charm that placed it on the National Register of Historic Places. The library was expanded by more than three times its original size, adding room for event and study spaces, a teen area with game systems, and a collaborative classroom with 3D printers and a laser cutter.

PROJECT: Renovation and expansion

ARCHITECT: Nagle Hartray Architecture

SIZE: 65,000 square feet

COST: \$25.3 million

PHOTO: Mark Ballogg

◀ Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library, Main Library

The Main Library's renovation included replacing the original marble exterior with walls of glass that allow natural light to fill the building and transforming a parking lot into an outdoor plaza. Inside, a new two-story reading room provides ample space for patrons to spread out and can serve as an area to host large events.

PROJECT: Renovation

ARCHITECT: Schooley Caldwell

SIZE: 225,400 square feet

COST: \$33.8 million

PHOTO: Brad Feinknopf

► Tulsa City–County (Okla.) Central Library

Built in 1965, the flagship Central Library was renovated and expanded to become a modern urban destination with glass study cubes, an interactive education center, a makerspace with a recording studio, and a full-service café. A new outdoor garden and revitalized civic plaza help bring the library even further into the community.

PROJECT: Renovation and expansion

ARCHITECT: MSR

SIZE: 145,391 square feet

COST: \$53.5 million

PHOTO: Lara Swimmer



► Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago

The Regenstein Library's renovation adds a crucial component of modern academic spaces to the Brutalist complex: collaborative learning areas. Once filled with cubicles, the library's central zone is now a flexible, open space that can be divided by movable panels fitted with whiteboards, lighting, and power connections.

PROJECT: Renovation

ARCHITECT: Woodhouse Tinucci Architects

SIZE: 18,000 square feet

COST: \$1.3 million

PHOTO: Mike Schwartz



REPURPOSED SPACE

◀ Loudoun County (Va.) Public Library, Sterling Library

A vacant space in a shopping center was transformed into a state-of-the-art facility for the city of Sterling, Virginia. Tubular skylights, storefront glass, and LED lighting create a warm environment for patrons using the digital lab, 3D printer, and recording booth in the makerspace and the wide-screen gaming television. Glass-enclosed meeting rooms allow groups to work without disruption, and reading pods provide quiet spaces for readers.

PROJECT: Renovation

ARCHITECT: Grimm + Parker Architects

SIZE: 14,500 square feet

COST: \$2.8 million

PHOTO: Sam Kittner



AIA/ALA

LIBRARY BUILDING AWARDS

The following libraries are winners of the 2017 Library Building Awards, sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association's Library Leadership and Management Association. The biennial award recognizes the best in library architecture and design and is open to any architect licensed in the United States. Projects may be located anywhere in the world. The recipients of this year's award include library designs that reflect the needs of their communities.

▲ **National Library of Latvia, Riga**

ARCHITECT: Gunnar Birkerts Architects, Gelzis-Smits/Arhetips
PHOTO: David Oldham

► **Varina Area Library, Henrico, Virginia**

ARCHITECT: BCWH/Tappé Architects
PHOTO: Chris Cunningham Photography





◀ **Boston Public Library,
Central Library renovation**

ARCHITECT: William Rawn
Associates, Architects, Inc.
PHOTO: Robert Benson
Photography

▲ **Boston Public Library,
East Boston branch**

ARCHITECT: William
Rawn Associates,
Architects, Inc.
PHOTO: Robert Benson
Photography



◀ **Allan Price Science
Commons and Research
Library remodel and
expansion, University
of Oregon, Eugene**

ARCHITECT: Opsis Architecture
PHOTO: Christian Columbres

▼ **Rosa F. Keller Library
and Community
Center, New Orleans**

ARCHITECT:
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple
PHOTO: Timothy Hursley



▲ **New York Public Library,
Stapleton branch
renovation and expansion**

ARCHITECT: Andrew Berman
Architect
PHOTO: Naho Kubota

▼ **Columbus (Ohio)
Metropolitan Library,
Whitehall branch**

ARCHITECT: Jonathan
Barnes Architecture and
Design
PHOTO: Brad Feinknopf



2017 ALA AWARD WINNERS

Honoring leadership and excellence in the profession

The American Library Association (ALA) recognizes the achievements of more than 200 individuals and institutions each year with a variety of awards. This year's award winners, chosen by juries of their colleagues and peers, are distinguished by their leadership and vision, as well as their continued commitment to diversity, equality, and intellectual freedom. This selection represents only a portion of those honored in 2017; see more award winners at ala.org/awardsgrants. **AL**



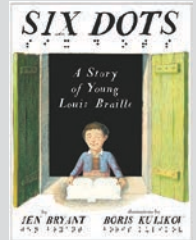
SCHNEIDER FAMILY BOOK AWARDS

Jen Bryant and Boris Kulikov



Six Dots, written by Bryant and illustrated by Kulikov, won the award for young readers. Louis Braille, who became blind by age 5, didn't allow his disability to prevent him from learning about the world around him.

Unsatisfied with the options available, Braille tinkered with French military code to invent an alphabet system that revolutionized communication for people with visual impairments.



Jason Reynolds

Reynolds's *As Brave As You* won the award for best middle-grade title. Brothers Genie and Ernie leave Brooklyn to spend the summer with their grandparents in rural Virginia. While getting to know each other, Genie discovers the true meaning of bravery as he watches his grandfather navigating the world without sight. The book mixes life lessons with humor to demonstrate the power of family bonds.

Emery Lord



Lord's *When We Collided* is the teen award winner. Vivi brings an unprecedented vibrancy to Jonah's life—which has been a struggle since his dad died—but her riveting highs are followed by devastating lows. Managing her bipolar disorder can feel like a compromise, but Vivi opts to take the path toward recovery, even if it's not the easiest way forward.

These \$5,000 awards honor authors or illustrators for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for children and adolescent audiences. Recipients are selected in three categories: young children (newborn to age 8), middle grades (ages 9–13), and teens (ages 14–18). DONOR: Katherine Schneider



Lisa R. Rice

SULLIVAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO CHILDREN



As director of Warren County Public Library (WCPL) in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Rice has changed the face of children's services in the county and across the state with her advocacy efforts and innovative ideas. In the past two years, such projects as STEM camps, "Girls of Steel," "Young Inventors," "Preschool Problem Solvers," "Pop-Up Libraries," and "Winter Reading Program" have been added to the programs Rice and her team offer. She provides packets to every child attending kindergarten in Warren County, a robust school visitation program that introduces students in grades 4 and 8 to the

library, and author and illustrator visits to schools each semester. School partnerships via the chamber of commerce, services to juvenile detention centers, and relationships with area day care and preschools round out her commitment to providing literacy opportunities for youth in the county. Rice previously served as assistant director of WCPL and school media specialist for the Butler County (Ky.) Board of Education. She also taught children's literature and library media at Western Kentucky University.

*Given to an individual who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to children while having general management, supervisory, or administrative responsibility that has included public service for children in its scope. **DONOR:** Peggy Sullivan*

Muncie (Ind.) Public Library

ALA/INFORMATION TODAY, INC.
LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE AWARD

Muncie (Ind.) Public Library's (MPL) innovative Digital Climbers program motivates and inspires children ages 8 and up to experiment with technology and learn skills in the STEAM fields. Working with a collection of makerspace projects and activities, MPL's Technology Coordinator Rebecca Parker and Creative Digital Mentor Stuart Cotton teamed with Drew Shermeta, a teacher and former MPL employee, to create a program that encourages students to work independently to master technology skills. Digital Climbers motivates kids to learn using tools such as 3D printers and design applications, snap circuits, Adobe Photoshop, Garage

Band, and the Osmo educational gaming system. Participants compete with other students as they chart their progress through badges, rewards, and public recognition.

*This \$1,500 award honors a library, library consortium, group of librarians, or support organization for innovative planning for, applications of, or development of patron training programs about information technology in a library setting. **DONOR:** Information Today, Inc.*

From left: Akilah S. Nosakhere, director; Rebecca Parker, technology coordinator; Dan Allen, digital mentor; and Stuart Cotton, creative digital mentor





Sara Frey | SCHOLASTIC LIBRARY PUBLISHING AWARD

Frey, instructional media specialist and technology integration coach at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, was nominated by her colleagues for making the library a welcoming environment for all students. She has collaborated with special education teachers to create opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to learn job skills by volunteering in the school library. She started a book club with these students in which participants not only read *Chasing Vermeer*, they also visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where Frey coordinated

a VIP tour through the museum's office of accessibility. Parents of club participants cited a "new confidence in reading and socializing" as a result of their participation. Frey is a member of the American Association of School Librarians and Young Adult Library Services Association. She also received the 2015 Pennsylvania Library Association Best Practices Award.

This \$1,000 award honors a librarian whose unusual contribution to promoting access to books and encouraging a love of reading for lifelong learning exemplify outstanding achievement in the profession.

DONOR: Scholastic Library Publishing

Carla D. Hayden | MELVIL DEWEY MEDAL

Hayden is the first woman and first African American to serve as Librarian of Congress. But she comes to this award through a lifetime of accomplishments in multiple roles at the national, state, and local levels. The jury made special note of Hayden's inspiring leadership as president of ALA (2003–2004). Jury members were also moved by her direction of Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library for nearly two decades, modernizing its services and facilities and setting an example of the role of libraries in a free society by keeping them

open as safe refuges in 2015 after the death of Freddie Gray in police custody sparked unrest throughout the city. In her new role as the nation's librarian, Hayden is "already bringing new life and audiences to the Library of Congress while making its unparalleled collections accessible to anyone, anywhere," says Winston Tabb, jury chair.

The medal and \$2,000 are awarded for creative professional achievement in library management, training, cataloging and classification, or the tools and techniques of librarianship. **DONOR:** OCLC



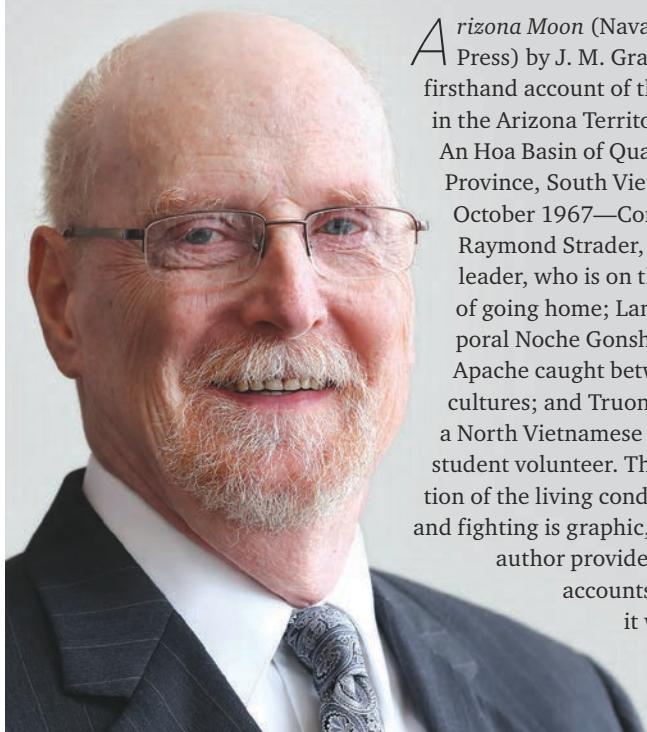
Haipeng Li | EQUALITY AWARD

Li is university librarian at University of California, Merced. Throughout his career, he has championed equality in the profession, to library users and on a global level, through research, writings, and presentations that have focused on equity, diversity, and inclusion. The jury highlighted his work as cochair of the second Joint Conference of Librarians of Color, past president and executive director of the Chinese American Librarians Association, and in leadership roles in many global initiatives, including the US–China library collaboration program, "Think

Globally, Act Globally," which was funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Ministry of Culture in China. Li previously served as university librarian at Hong Kong Baptist University, associate director and acting head of access services at John Cotton Dana Library at Rutgers University, and as a reference librarian at Oberlin College, University of Arizona, and Arizona State University.

This \$1,000 award honors an outstanding contribution that promotes equality in the library profession. **DONOR:** Scarecrow Press, Inc., a member of the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group

J. M. Graham | W. Y. BOYD LITERARY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY FICTION



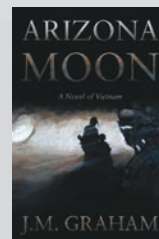
Arizona Moon (Naval Institute Press) by J. M. Graham is a firsthand account of three men in the Arizona Territory in the An Hoa Basin of Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, in October 1967—Corporal Raymond Strader, squad leader, who is on the verge of going home; Lance Corporal Noche Gonshayee, an Apache caught between two cultures; and Truong Nghi, a North Vietnamese Army student volunteer. The description of the living conditions and fighting is graphic, and the author provides vivid accounts of what it was like

for both sides to conduct combat operations in dense jungle, mud, and rivers.

The only lifelines for the men are their radios and the helicopters that often fly through miserable weather and enemy fire to bring food, supplies, ammo, and mail from friends and loved ones. Graham is a Vietnam veteran, having served as a Navy combat corpsman with the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Marines in 1967.

This award of \$5,000 honors the author of a military novel that honors the service of American veterans during a time of war.

DONOR: William Young Boyd II



Barbara K. Stripling | JOSEPH W. LIPPINCOTT AWARD

Stripling, who started her career as a school librarian, is senior associate dean at Syracuse University School of Information Studies. Previously she served as director of library services at the New York City Department of Education. She has served as president of ALA (2013–2014) and the American Association of School Librarians (1996–1997), and she is the current president of the New York Library Association. Stripling is considered a preeminent scholar in the profession, with an extensive list of published articles and books. She devised the Stripling Model of Inquiry, which provides a blueprint for active learning and critical thinking that has helped schools nationwide build curricula based on intellectual inquiry. The jury also noted Stripling's leadership on her ALA presidential initiative "Libraries Change Lives: The Declaration for the Right to Libraries," a manifesto intended

to mobilize support among patrons, elected officials, and other stakeholders for the vibrant cultural and intellectual roles libraries play in communities.

This \$1,500 award is presented annually to a librarian for distinguished service to the profession of librarianship, such service to include outstanding participation in the activities of the professional library association, notable published professional writing, or other significant activity on behalf of the profession and its aims.

DONOR: Joseph W. Lippincott III





Janna Mattson,
instructional
and social
sciences
librarian

H. W. WILSON LIBRARY STAFF DEVELOPMENT GRANT

George Mason University Libraries

Fairfax, Virginia

Janna Mattson, instructional and social sciences librarian, and Michael English, online learning coordinator and instruction librarian, developed “13 Things in Blackboard: A Self-Paced Online Learning Professional Development Program” to encourage staffers at George Mason University Libraries to learn new online teaching techniques and experiment with technology that will be used to support students taking online classes. The project impressed the jury because of its direct and positive impact on students taking online courses. The jury also mentioned the program’s detailed curriculum and alignment with George Mason’s strategic plan, its effective evaluation plan, and the lessons and material that would be useful for instruction designed for flipped classrooms. Providing the content online seemed to be particularly beneficial to the library staff who would be using it.

This \$3,500 grant goes to a library that demonstrates merit in a staff development program that furthers the goals and objectives of the library organization. **DONOR:** H. W. Wilson Company/EBSCO Publishers

Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library

**PAUL HOWARD AWARD
FOR COURAGE**

Steven Woolfolk

**LEMONY SNICKET PRIZE FOR NOBLE
LIBRARIANS FACED WITH ADVERSITY**

Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library (KCPL) has a longstanding record of bringing a wide variety of speakers to its community, many of whom cover controversial and thought-provoking topics. KCPL is known to champion civic and civil discourse and encourage the audience to participate. Director of Programming and Marketing Steven Woolfolk attempted to intervene in an incident involving a patron and a private security detail—which included off-duty Kansas City police officers—during a public event at KCPL’s Plaza branch on May 9, 2016. During a Q&A session following a presentation by longtime Middle East envoy Dennis Ross, local activist Jeremy Rothe-Kushel asked a question. Ross responded and, when Rothe-Kushel attempted to follow up, he was grabbed by one of the private security guards and then by others in the security detail. Woolfolk attempted to intervene and protest the police action in defense of Rothe-Kushel’s basic First Amendment rights; he was arrested and suffered a torn medial collateral ligament in his knee from being kned in the leg by an officer. The arrests resulted in a flurry of public discussion on the relationship between the library and its position as First Amendment defender. Rothe-Kushel was charged with trespassing and resisting arrest. Woolfolk was charged with interfering with his arrest. Their cases are pending.

The Paul Howard Award for Courage of \$1,000 honors a librarian, library board, library group, or individual for exhibiting unusual courage benefiting library programs or services. **DONOR:** Paul Howard Memorial Fund.

The Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity annually recognizes a librarian who has faced adversity with integrity and dignity intact. The honoree receives \$10,000 and an odd object from author Daniel Handler’s private collection. **DONOR:** Daniel Handler (Lemony Snicket)



From left: Crosby Kemper III, executive director; Carrie Coogam, deputy director of public affairs; and Steven Woolfolk, director of programming and marketing

Monroe County (Ind.) Public Library | Bloomington

ALA EXCELLENCE IN LIBRARY
PROGRAMMING AWARD



Michael Hoerger,
communications
and marketing
manager

Monroe County (Ind.) Public Library's program series "Discuss, Meet, and Act: The Power of Words" featured authors who write on topics that speak to the average citizen's ability to positively change the world. The project included book discussions, wisdom circles, a civil rights film series, and art talks and exhibits; many city, university, and community partners were involved in planning. The 2015 Power of Words event featured Georgia member of Congress and civil rights leader

John Lewis, accompanied by his graphic novel

March's cocreators, writer Andrew Aydin and artist Nate Powell, who

lives and works in Bloomington. The authors spoke about Lewis's lifelong struggle, the importance of discussing our past, fighting for civil rights, and voting. The event was held at Indiana University Auditorium and drew 1,630 people. Lewis's visit coincided with the library's new partnership with the League of Women Voters, which registered many attendees to vote for the first time.

This \$5,000 award recognizes a library that demonstrates excellence in library programming by creating a cultural/thematic program type or program series that engages the community in planning, sponsorship, and/or active participation, addresses an identified community need, and has measurable impact. DONOR: ALA Cultural Communities Fund

Mid-Continent Public Library Independence, Missouri

GALE CENGAGE LEARNING
FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Mid-Continent Public Library (MCPL), the largest public library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area—serving nearly 800,000 people across its three-county district—demonstrated successful and creative fundraising with its Library Lovers campaign (bit.ly/2r02DnU). The library created a multifaceted approach capable of future growth and serving as a viable model for other libraries. Program leaders used community input to create a new affinity program with consistent themes and different levels to highlight the importance of

members of all ages. They strategically employed special events and branded products—like plush toys for kids, a special coffee blend for adults, and exclusive author events—to capture community interest. The jury commended MCPL for its clearly explained fundraising efforts and for adding depth to its application through photos and a customer testimonial video.

This \$2,500 award is presented to a library organization that exhibits meritorious achievement in creating new means of funding for a public or academic library. DONOR: Gale Cengage, Inc.

Danielle
Sather (left)
and Rebecca
Maddox,
development
specialists





Em Claire Knowles | BETA PHI MU AWARD

Knowles, assistant dean for student and alumni affairs at Simmons College's School of Library and Information Science in Boston, is an authority on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in librarianship. Thanks to her work, library education and librarianship have been challenged and positively influenced. Knowles writes and speaks extensively, and she spends countless hours in service to help diversify the profession through her efforts with the ALA Spectrum Scholarship Program, the Black Caucus of the ALA, and the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color. As evidenced by

the students and colleagues who wrote in support of her nomination, her wisdom, warmth, advocacy, passion for student success, and uncanny ability to have time for every student are among the characteristics that make her a quintessential and successful mentor. Knowles has served as a member of ALA Council, as a trustee for the Freedom to Read Foundation and the State Library of Massachusetts, and as chair of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

*This \$1,000 award is for distinguished service to education in librarianship. **DONOR:** Beta Phi Mu International Library and Information Studies Honor Society*

Barbara A. B. Gubbin | ERNEST A. DIMATTIA JR. AWARD FOR INNOVATION AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND PROFESSION

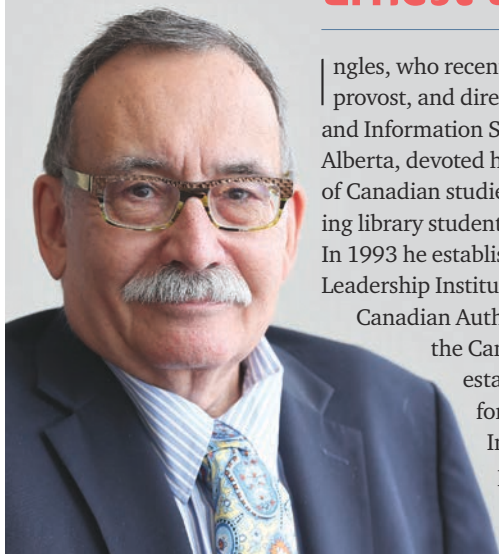
Gubbin, director of Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library (JPL), is being honored for her many accomplishments in bringing new services and ideas both to the library and into the community. JPL's partnership with Duval County Public Schools enabled the library to issue special library cards to nearly 130,000 students in almost 150 schools. In 2016 Gubbin and her team developed Project LEAP (Library Enhanced Access Program), an initiative to take library services outside the library and provide underserved communities with critical literacy resources, services, and programs. The project had

6,500 participants in its first year, and it continues into 2017. During the difficult financial years of 2008 to 2015, she worked with Friends groups, state legislators, and civic organizations to highlight the benefits of the library system to the entire community, which ultimately led to \$1 million added to JPL's budget to restore hours at 11 locations.

*This \$5,000 award recognizes a public librarian who demonstrates leadership in anticipating emerging trends in services, products, and technologies that will enhance the library's position in its community. **DONOR:** The DiMattia Family*



Ernest B. Ingles | KEN HAYCOCK AWARD FOR PROMOTING LIBRARIANSHIP



Ingles, who recently retired as chief librarian, vice provost, and director for the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, devoted his career to elevating the profile of Canadian studies within academia and mentoring library students and emerging professionals. In 1993 he established the Northern Exposure to Leadership Institute for librarians. He created the Canadian Authors Manuscripts Collections and the Canadian Architectural Archives and established the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions/Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques (now Canadiana.org) with a grant

from the Canada Council. Ingles also received recognition for his commitment to providing access to Canada's First Nations as chair of the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library Steering Committee. He was honored as an eminent scholar by Red Crow Community College for his efforts to garner support for provincially funded digital resources at First Nation colleges across Alberta. He also served on a panel charged by the Royal Society of Canada with reporting on the status and future of Canada's libraries and archives.

*This \$1,000 award honors an individual for contributing significantly to the public recognition and appreciation of librarianship through professional performance, teaching, and/or writing. **DONOR:** Ken Haycock*



Saving **Lives** in the Stacks

How libraries
are handling
the **opioid crisis**

BY Anne Ford



Photo: © Vladimir Floyd/Adobe Stock

On June 1, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* broke the news that the Free Library of Philadelphia’s McPherson Square branch had a serious problem with opioid use among patrons. By June 3, everybody from the *Washington Post* to National Public Radio (NPR) had picked up the story.

“As this nation’s opioid crisis has exploded, the staff at the public library ... have become first responders,” NPR’s Scott Simon told listeners. “And I gather the librarians there have been obliged to become involved in a way that—well, become involved in a way librarians aren’t usually asked to become involved.”

What Simon didn’t say—but what librarians far and wide know—is that the McPherson Square branch is just one of many American libraries struggling with opioid-related issues such as discarded, contaminated needles; drug use in the library itself; and even onsite overdoses and fatalities. Libraries from California to Colorado, Pennsylvania to Missouri, are finding themselves on the front lines of a battle they never anticipated fighting.

Needle Safety in the Library

BY Roger A. Donaldson II

Whether discarded needles are found inside or outside the library facility, staff members must be aware of their dangers and dispose of them safely.

Conduct walkarounds in your facility at least once per day to look for discarded needles, and do not put your hands in trash cans or other areas in which you can't see what you're touching. If your facility crushes garbage to conserve trash bags, use an object to do so, rather than your hands. Consider providing a sharps container in the restrooms for proper disposal of needles.

Some sources recommend using tongs or other grabbing devices to pick up a discarded needle, but this may cause the needle to flick or fall, injuring yourself or others.

If you find a discarded needle:

- Make sure to keep other people—especially children—away.
- Don thin, disposable latex gloves.
- Bring a container to the needle (rather than the other way around). The container should be sealable, with rigid, puncture-proof walls. These containers can be purchased through Amazon and other retailers; you can also consult your county health

Of course, opiate use isn't limited to libraries. Neither is anyone claiming that the problem is more severe in libraries than it is anywhere else. Still, the fact that libraries are open to all, offer relative anonymity, and generally allow patrons to stay as long as they like make them uniquely vulnerable to those seeking a place to use drugs.

"It's just like: What is going on? How can we stem this tide?" says Kim Fender, director of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

A life at stake

In 2015, more Americans died from drug overdose than from car accidents and gun homicides combined, and more than six out of 10 of those overdoses involved an opioid. Preliminary data for 2016 suggests that drug overdose deaths for that year rose by about 19%—the largest annual increase the United States has ever seen.

Among the opioids used illegally are heroin; prescription pain medications such as oxycodone; fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50–100 times more potent than morphine; and carfentanil, an elephant tranquilizer 10,000 times stronger than morphine.

Kitty Yancheff doesn't know exactly which opiate caused the overdose of the patron she encountered in the Humboldt County (Calif.) Library in Eureka last year. She just knows that without her intervention, he would almost certainly have died.

After noticing a man at a table near the reference desk who seemed to be sleeping, Yancheff, the library's public

service division manager, tried to rouse him, first with words and then by banging on the table and his chair. "As I'm doing this, I noticed that he was sweating profusely, really dripping," she tells *AL*. "He had mucus coming out of his nose, and his breathing was kind of gurgly, and his lips were blue, so I figured he was having an overdose." (The World Health Organization states that an opiate overdose can be identified by three symptoms: pinpoint pupils, unconsciousness, and respiratory depression.)

As another staff member called 911, Yancheff grabbed a dose of Narcan, a drug that reverses the effects of opiate overdose, and administered it to the man via injection in his thigh, through his clothing. (The local public health department had recently given the library a supply of Narcan and trained staff in its use.) When he didn't respond, she followed protocol by giving him a second dose, at which point his eyelids began to flutter. A few minutes later, the paramedics arrived. The man survived, though Yancheff hasn't seen him since.

"It was surreal," Yancheff says. "But I think to not have the Narcan, and sit idly by and watch someone die, would have been even worse."

To stock Narcan, or not

It's not clear how many libraries have joined Humboldt County Library in making Narcan available and training staff in its use. Among those who have is Denver Public Library's Central Library, which began stocking Narcan

department. Do not use glass bottles for this purpose, as they can break.

- Put the container on a stable surface, rather than holding it in your hand.
- Make sure that you can clearly see the needle and your hands.
- If you see more than one needle together, use a stick or similar object to separate them, and handle only one at a time.
- Pick up the needle from the blunt end, avoiding the sharp point. Do not attempt to re-cap it.
- Place the needle in the container and seal it.

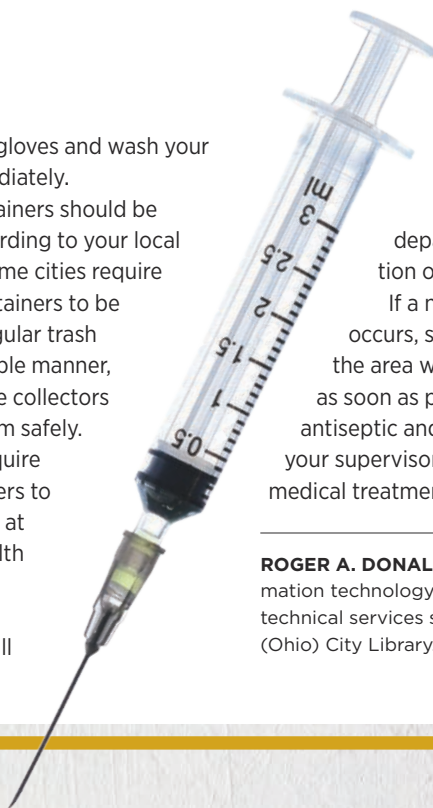
- Discard the gloves and wash your hands immediately.

Sharps containers should be discarded according to your local regulations. Some cities require the sharps containers to be placed with regular trash pickup in a visible manner, so that garbage collectors can handle them safely. Other cities require sharps containers to be dropped off at the county health department or another designated point. Call

your local health department or law enforcement department for information on proper disposal.

If a needle-stick injury occurs, stay calm and wash the area with soap and water as soon as possible. Apply antiseptic and a bandage, contact your supervisor, and promptly seek medical treatment. ●

ROGER A. DONALDSON II is information technology administrator and technical services supervisor at Jackson (Ohio) City Library.



earlier this year after a homeless patron overdosed and died from a combination of heroin, methamphetamine, and other drugs.

The library bought 12 Narcan kits in February. By May, it had used seven of them.

“We have 13 staff members who are trained to use it—our two social workers and then 11 security staff,” explains Rachel Fewell, central library administrator. The library stocks a nasal-spray form of Narcan, rather than the injectable version. “It’s noninvasive, and there’s a clear protocol around it. It costs us \$75 per kit. If you can save somebody’s life for \$75, let’s do it.”

But what if Narcan is mistakenly administered to someone who hasn’t actually overdosed? “It’s not going to have any negative impact,” Fewell explains. “All it does is block opioids from hitting receptors in the brain, so even if you incorrectly use it on someone, there’s no negative side to it.” In addition, Narcan itself is not addictive, so libraries need not worry about any potential for abuse.

To the argument that administering Narcan falls outside the library’s mission, Fewell responds: “This is definitely scope creep for us, but we’re the de facto day shelter for Denver. If that’s how the city is going to see us, I’d rather my staff has tools to deal with it.”

Yancheff agrees. “Not stocking Narcan does not mean that that’s going to keep folks [who use opioids] away,” she points out. “Some people are concerned that if you stock it, they’re going to know they can come in there and overdose and know you’ll be able to revive them. Personally, I don’t

believe that’s the case, I just see it as a resource similar to CPR, just another thing in our first-aid resource kit.”

While other libraries consider whether to stock Narcan, some are resorting to alternative strategies, many of which center on library restrooms.

Keeping restrooms safe for all

“It is unavoidable that people are going to use drugs in public bathrooms,” says Dr. Alex Walley, director of the Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program at Boston Medical Center and associate professor of medicine at Boston University School of Medicine. “The sooner that libraries accept that and try to prepare for it, the better off they’re going to be.”

Philadelphia’s McPherson branch has certainly accepted it. In May, after the branch experienced several overdoses, it began requiring patrons who wanted to use the bathroom to show identification.

“That proved to be too much for the circulation desk to keep track of,” says Judi Moore, the branch’s library supervisor and children’s librarian. So the library partnered with a local nonprofit, which now supplies volunteer bathroom monitors who sit by the bathroom door, take identification, and time people. If a person hasn’t emerged from the bathroom after five minutes, a security guard knocks on the door. Since the new rules have been implemented, no overdoses have occurred in the branch’s bathrooms.

Facts About Narcan

- Narcan is the brand name of a drug called naloxone, a medication that reverses the effects of opioid overdose by preventing the opioid from reaching the brain.
- If Narcan is given to someone who is not experiencing overdose, nothing will happen; there is no potential for harm. In addition, it is not possible to overdose on Narcan.
- Narcan is available both as an injection and as a nasal spray. It works within two to eight minutes.
- Libraries that stock Narcan typically administer it in conjunction with a call to professional emergency services (911).
- For more information on Narcan, visit naloxoneinfo.org or getnaloxonenow.org.



The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County has experienced an astonishing number of overdoses at the main library in the past year—about 50, or slightly fewer than one a week. As director Fender points out, that’s a relatively small number compared with the million-plus visits the branch gets each year, “but it’s still obviously a behavior we don’t want in any way to continue.”

Because the library is located close to a fire station, which is the first to respond to 911 calls of any nature, it has chosen not to stock Narcan. “They can get here very, very quickly,” Fender says. Instead, it has taken measures such as having its 20-member security staff patrol bathrooms more often. “Just having people walking in certainly helps deter any kinds of behaviors someone might do in a bathroom that you wouldn’t want,” she says. “We had originally proposed closing off some of the restrooms, but building code requires a certain number of male and female toilets because of our occupancy.” If the tide of overdoses doesn’t ebb, she adds, the library may consider turning to Narcan.

What other strategies can libraries consider to discourage drug use in restrooms? In the past, some institutions have installed blue lights in bathrooms, with the idea that doing so makes it more difficult for users of intravenous drugs to find a vein to inject. According to Walley, the physician at Boston

Medical, this strategy is unwise: “The worst-case scenario is that someone tries to use despite that lighting and hits an artery, so then there’s pulsing blood in the bathroom.”

Instead, he recommends increasing bathroom monitoring, particularly for single-user bathrooms. One strategy is to keep it locked so that patrons have to ask for the key at the front desk. If the key hasn’t come back after a short period of time, a security guard or other worker can be dispatched to check the bathroom. Another is to install an intercom and require bathroom users to respond through it when checked on.

Steve Albrecht, a trainer and security consultant who has taught library security workshops for nearly 20 years, and who is the author of *Library Security: Better Communication, Safer Facilities* (ALA Editions, 2015), has another suggestion: “I like camera systems.” He’s not talking about video cameras in the bathroom itself, of course, but rather just outside it, along with signs noting that the area is under video surveillance. “Banks still get robbed even though they have cameras, but it’s a good deterrent,” he says.

Walley also recommends installing secure needle-disposal boxes in the bathroom. Otherwise, he says “people will put their needles down the toilet.” Indeed, Philadelphia’s McPherson branch was forced to close for a few days earlier this year

“This is definitely scope creep for us, but we’re the de facto day shelter for Denver. If that’s how the city is going to see us, I’d rather my staff has tools to deal with it.”

RACHEL FEWELL, central library administrator at Denver Public Library

after its bathroom pipes were clogged with needles. The branch has since installed sharps containers.

Meanwhile, Boston Public Library locations have had needle-disposal boxes in place for about two and a half years, ever since staff began noticing discarded needles on library property. "Staff are instructed to call the City of Boston's Mobile Sharps Collection Team if needles are found or the boxes need to be emptied, and custodial staff have been trained on the proper disposal practices," says Eamon Shelton, chief of operations.

If a bathroom is especially small, a library should make sure that its door opens outward rather than inward. "There have been cases where people have overdosed and fallen against the door and blocked the door so it can't be opened," Walley says. "I imagine most libraries are ADA-compliant, so you wouldn't have that situation, but if you do, that's relatively easy to fix."

Hope on the horizon?

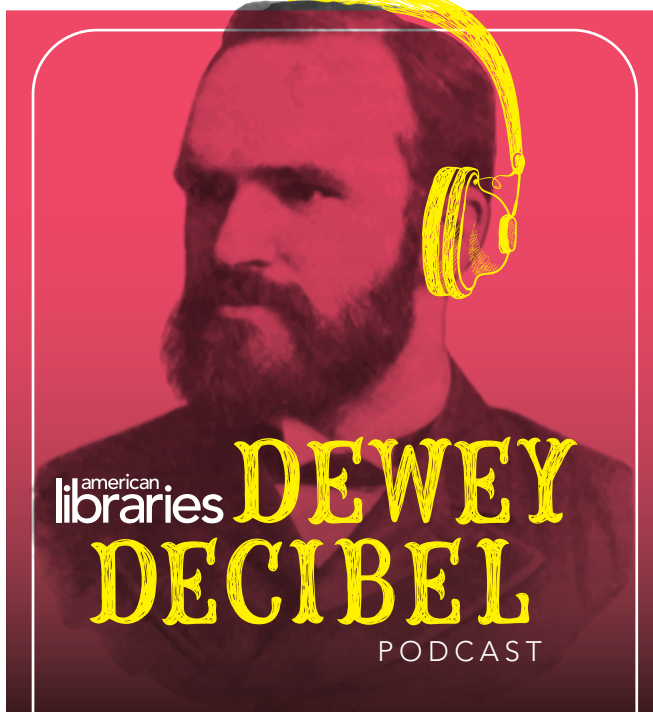
When and whether the opioid crisis will end is anything but clear. Preliminary data for 2017 indicates that the tide of drug deaths has yet to turn. Still, there are some signs of hope. The Federal Drug Administration recently asked drug company Endo Pharmaceuticals to take the powerful medication Opana ER off the market, a move interpreted by some as a sign that the agency is ramping up its efforts against the abuse of prescription opioids. Some states, including New York and Maryland, have passed legislation aimed at combating the crisis, such as by making Narcan more widely available, requiring physicians who prescribe opioids to prescribe the lowest effective dose, or allowing prosecutors to seek longer prison sentences for drug dealers who knowingly sell fentanyl. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that the number of opioid prescriptions written by health care providers declined by 13.1% between 2012 and 2015.

But until the opioid war has been won, libraries will surely continue to find themselves on its front lines. As Fender says, "We're all struggling together."

This article first appeared on americanlibrariesmagazine.org on June 21. **AL**



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



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TACTICAL

URBANISM

A new approach to
your libraries' work

By Karen **MUNRO**



Steps taken to improve the urban environment—otherwise known as tactical urbanism—have been around for a while. Going by the name guerrilla urbanism, city repair, DIY urbanism, hands-on urbanism, participatory urbanism, and pop-up urbanism, these phrases loosely describe the same idea: any action designed to improve a city or neighborhood with minimal oversight, budget, and delay. It's local, hands-on, and immediate, and it can usually be accomplished without a lot of training or resources.

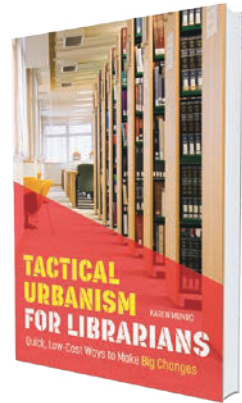
Concepts such as “cheap,” “grassroots,” and “local” are relative and open to interpretation. It costs almost nothing to scatter wildflower seeds into abandoned lots while walking or biking around your neighborhood. But it might cost upward of \$5,000 to install a “parkmobile” consisting of a custom dumpster filled with tree ferns and yucca plants. You can knit a cozy jacket around a bike rack in your neighborhood all by yourself, but you might need a planning committee and some lead time to pry up the concrete in a vacant lot and plant a community food garden. And although your neighborhood community group might creatively lobby for a new crosswalk by painting a temporary one where it’s needed, it takes a lot more political clout to install 400 miles of bike lanes in New York City. And yet all these projects participate in the spirit of tactical urbanism to different degrees and in different ways.

Tactical urbanist projects tend to demonstrate some of the following characteristics: a reliance on ingenuity, a preference for rapid deployment, a willingness to experiment and revise in process, a tolerance for error and perceived failure, an ability to value intangible benefits such as new and improved relationships and proof of concept, and a willingness to start (and sometimes stay) small.

What are tactics again?

It’s important to point out that tactical urbanism takes its name from tactics rather than from strategy. A strategy is a big-picture plan designed to achieve a major long-term goal. Strategies imply the outlay of sizable resources—money, time, and people—as well as the considered, official imprimatur of an organization or institution. Tactics, on the other hand, happen at a smaller scale. Organizationally speaking, tactics are the tasks and actions that will move you toward your strategic goals. If strategy answers the question “Why are we doing this?,” then tactics answer the question “How are we getting it done?” Tactics are immediate, practical, and limited in scope. They happen at the grassroots or local level. They’re quick to mount and often quick to disappear.

So why are tactics worth thinking about? After all, we don’t create professional aspirations around the day-to-day; we create them around long-term goals and directions—around strategy. Why spend time thinking about short-term, low-risk projects when what we really want is to build a city—or a library—that will thrive and flourish a decade or a century from now?



This is an excerpt from *Tactical Urbanism for Librarians: Quick, Low-Cost Ways to Make Big Changes* by Karen Munro (ALA Editions, 2017).

Photos: Alex Rodríguez Santibáñez/Unsplash (concrete); Pavan Trikutam/Unsplash (library)

What does this have to do with libraries?

Cities and libraries have a lot in common, and librarians can learn from tactical urbanist projects of all different types and scales.

Librarians who want to change libraries may face many of the same challenges faced by ordinary citizens, city planners, and even lofty transportation commissioners who want to change cities. We have to do things we're not trained, equipped, or funded to do. Sometimes we have to fix or create things we're not even clearly charged with fixing or creating, simply because they need to happen.

A tactical, DIY, or guerrilla approach can still be professional, positive, and collaborative.

Many of us operate from a position of daily intimacy with the issue at hand. We walk on a broken sidewalk or use flawed software or dream of the renovated exhibition space every day. We have to create our action plans on the fly, developing our ideas, narrative, and partnerships as we go. We're not experts. We're thoughtful, energetic, creative people with ideas. Tactics offer us a framework for action that's flexible, extensible, and fun to use—and that has proven to be effective whether you're broke or flush with cash.

Because tactical urbanism is defined by a creative, resilient, democratic response to challenges, and because it typically operates in service to a larger purpose, it's a potent complement to traditional organizational structures. Your library can probably encourage a tactical culture without conflicting with existing hierarchies, reporting structures, and budgets.

Are we talking about cities or libraries?

That's a good question. Let's consider the modern city—a large, complicated organization with a lengthy personal history. A city is traditional, retentive, and conservative by nature. It represents vast sums of public investment as well as vast areas of public liability. It's shared by people from all walks of life, all income levels, and all religions and ethnicities. It's run by a bureaucracy, usually made up of experts. Its operations are rife with loopholes, exceptions, requirements, regulations, standard practices, omissions, and work-arounds. It's hierarchical, yet its membership and leadership change over time. A city has institutional memory, although occasionally that memory is faulty. A city needs money and is perpetually short of it. It has a public image to uphold. It exists because of, and for, the people—but sometimes that fact gets forgotten in the

complex, challenging, occasionally tedious business of making the place run.

If you're a librarian, some or all of this might sound familiar. Libraries and cities have a lot in common, and that means that librarians are comparable with the people who run cities. We all participate in the life of cities, just as all library users participate in the life of the library. Libraries, like cities, are first and foremost about people. That's an underlying principle of tactical urbanism—everyone who lives in the city has the right to speak up about issues and conditions and to participate in changing or solving them. If we transfer the idea to libraries, then we should assume that we all—librarians, administrators, staffers, and patrons—have the same right and obligation to act within and upon our organization.

The Venn diagram of tactical interventions in libraries and cities shows that they share a lot of middle ground. The Library Initiative in New York City is a citywide attempt to address poverty and improve childhood education through improving elementary and middle school libraries. The cities of Magdeburg, Germany, and Newmarket, Ontario, created innovative library buildings to boost their economies and social cohesion. In Texas and Missouri, towns with abandoned big-box stores reenergized their streets by creating libraries in those unused spaces. In Cleveland, the public library's outdoor summertime art installations benefit a whole neighborhood.

Libraries are essentially communal organizations, so it's no surprise that the essentially democratic, humanist values of tactical urbanism translate so well into the library context.

Okay, but my library won't go for it

You might work in a library that dearly needs some creative, innovative, tactical interventions—and yet your library leaders might not want to hear a single word about “tactical anything.” Or you yourself might be a library administrator who's overburdened, underfunded, or otherwise unable to add any new ideas to your plate. Or maybe you think things are going just fine at your library. Maybe your library is already a nimble organization that gives its staff members full rein to creatively and cost-effectively test ideas that serve its larger goals while responding quickly to fix problems as they arise and supporting trials of projects that push your library into new, exciting territory.

As you explore your options, remember that your approach matters. A tactical, DIY, or guerrilla approach can still be professional, positive, and collaborative. That might sound counter-intuitive, but just as there's no such thing as an expert tactical urbanist, there's no hard-and-fast rule about how tacticians can or should work with existing organizational structures.

Certainly many tactical interventionists take the role of gadfly, provoking those in authority into action. Others operate around the fringes of the mainstream power structure, creating playful or creative interventions without a strong political bent. And some tacticians are already in positions of

organizational power and influence, affording them unique opportunities to introduce a tactical approach at a higher level.

Whether tacticians seek to collaborate with managers and gatekeepers or spur them into action, their tone and approach are vital. In an organizational setting, alienating colleagues can spell doom for the best, most creative ideas for change.

If you want to bring resistant colleagues or administrators on board with a tactical approach to a project, it might be helpful to anticipate some of the reasons why they might reject it. Because tactical urbanism is our model, let's start there. We've seen that it can be hard to pin down exactly what tactical urbanism is, so let's take a minute to say what it isn't.

It's not chaos. Tactical urbanism isn't just everyone doing their own thing. Some of the projects already mentioned—tossing seed bombs into vacant lots, for instance—are pretty unregulated. But we've also mentioned that a tactical approach is by definition tied to a larger goal or strategy.

Although most tactical urbanist interventions are grassroots compared with official city hall bureaucratic structure, they are strategically tied to the needs of the community. In the case of seed-bombing a vacant lot, the larger strategy is to activate an urban asset left fallow by the official power structure.

It's not revolt. If tactical urbanism is a revolution, it's a gentle one. Although tactical urbanists do seek to change the status quo and some of their methods may skirt the fringes of legality, tactical urbanism shouldn't conjure images of troops taking to the streets. Some forms of tactical urbanism do overlap with civil disobedience, it's true—the open-air libraries of the Occupy Wall Street movement come immediately to mind. But as an approach to change-making, tactical urbanism is collaborative, participatory, and open to working with existing power structures (often playfully and creatively) rather than demolishing them.

It's not change for its own sake. Tactical urbanism is not doing something just because you can. Too many librarians are familiar with the concept of “death by a thousand projects.” Libraries have many different audiences and constituencies whom they must serve in many different ways. Academic libraries might be tasked with records management or instructional technology support on their campuses. Public libraries may offer free lunch programs for low-income kids and community workshops on job searching and professional retooling. And almost everyone is installing a makerspace. Some of these projects we're excited to work on, while others may be mandated by circumstance. A tactical approach to libraries wouldn't support leaping into every new opportunity that comes along just because it's there. Instead, the tactical librarian should look for quick, low-cost, low-threshold ways to do work that serves the organization's larger strategies.

It's not a sweeping reversal. Perhaps because tactical urbanism is known by many other names, including guerrilla,

Tactical urbanism aims not only to accomplish a short-term tactical goal but also to engage creatively with the official power structure.

grassroots, and DIY urbanism, it can carry a certain whiff of rebellion. But most tactical urbanism is, in fact, small-scale and incremental. Most projects are low- or no-budget and can be accomplished by ordinary people, so they don't radically upend the status quo. Tactical urbanism aims not only to accomplish a short-term tactical goal but also to engage creatively with the official power structure. The idea isn't just to depave that vacant lot but to show how things could be better, get people interested and engaged, and use that imaginative and social capital to spur the city works department to build a playground there instead.

I'm interested. Now what?

Maybe you're reading all this with interest and thinking, “This all sounds great, but I'm a library director. I'm in charge of big-picture, long-term strategic planning. Tactics seem to be about short-term, low-cost ways to work around organizational hierarchy and bureaucracy. They're about working laterally, with decentralized user communities and grassroots methods. Where do I fit in?”

Library administrators can help create—and benefit from—a tactics-friendly environment. The attitudes and approaches you cultivate can accomplish things quickly, cheaply, and effectively. No two libraries are the same. No two librarians are, either. You'll have to decide for yourself exactly how, when, and why to take a tactical approach in your workplace. Reassessing the value of experimentation, creativity, communication, collaboration, and delight in your work will allow you to seize opportunities to create them whenever you can. **AL**



KAREN MUNRO is head of the University of Oregon Portland Library and Learning Commons. Previously she was e-learning librarian at University of California, Berkeley, and literature librarian at the University of Oregon in Eugene. She has an MFA from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop and an MLIS from the University of British Columbia.

Framework Freakout?

Engaging with the Framework for Information Literacy

As a longtime instruction librarian, I was pleased when the board of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) adopted the *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education* (bit.ly/acrlfw). What I appreciated most was that the *Framework* included not just mechanical information skills that students need to master but dispositions and habits of mind that are critical to the process of information seeking. It wasn't presented as a linear list of skills—a welcome change, since information seeking rarely happens in a straight line. The document better reflected the reality I was working in every day.

In some ways, the *Framework* was a major departure from ACRL's previous *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*. Organized around six information literacy threshold concepts, the *Framework* is not an exhaustive list of threshold concepts or dispositions and practices. Instead, its developers encouraged libraries to determine their own programmatic learning outcomes based on local concerns. For some, this was a welcome recognition of the importance of considering context. For others, the lack of a list of criteria was a stumbling block.

Not surprisingly, the *Framework* has had its share of critics and champions. Notable criticisms include an open letter against it written by librarians in New Jersey (bit.ly/alfwnjletter), instruction librarian Lane Wilkinson's philosophical deconstruction of it (bit.ly/allwtcs), and librarian Christine Bombaro's essay that asserts it is elitist (bit.ly/alfwelitist).

Concerns have been raised that the *Framework* requires libraries to toss their



Standards-based outcomes. I don't believe this to be true. Many libraries are mapping their existing outcomes to the *Framework*, and others are using each "frame" as a lens through which to look at and redefine their outcomes. In the end, a library's outcomes should best reflect its local context, so if existing outcomes are working well, engagement with the *Framework* does not require throwing anything away.

Another critique centers on its reliance on learning theories that were not widely embraced by the profession. Some felt that the *Framework* depends too heavily on threshold concepts and metaliteracy. I may not have based a foundational professional document on the same theories, but I believe that librarians do not need a deep understanding of these theories to learn from and teach with the *Framework*.

For those looking to engage with the *Framework* in practical ways, some great

opportunities exist. The Minnesota Library Association developed 23 *Framework* Things (bit.ly/alfw23things), a self-paced learning program. For teaching, Project CORA (projectcora.org) and the ACRL *Framework for Information Literacy Sandbox* (sandbox.acrl.org) are full of lessons, activities, and assignments created by instruction librarians and disciplinary faculty and tied to specific frames.

Our profession is as varied as our student populations, and the idea of creating a guiding document for information literacy that pleases everyone seems nearly impossible. Embracing the *Framework* does not require librarians to scrap everything they've done in their instruction programs. It simply provides new ways of looking at information literacy, what we do as teachers, and what our students do as information seekers.

In the end, as librarian Jacob Berg wrote in his response to the New Jersey librarians' open letter (bit.ly/alfwjssb), "It was possible to do an excellent job of teaching information literacy under the old *Standards*, and that remains the case. It was also possible to do a lousy job.... The same is true of the *Framework*."

It has enriched my own teaching as I've made incremental changes toward instructional improvement and better facilitating student learning. It is not the *Framework* but the librarians and our disciplinary faculty partners who determine the quality of instruction our students receive. **AL**

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

Creating a guiding
document for
information literacy
that pleases
everyone seems
nearly impossible.

3D: A Status Report

Printing technology comes of age

At this point in its technological trajectory, 3D printing has reached what I would consider the zenith of its hype cycle. Average library users know about it and, while they might not have tried it, they are aware of the technology and have some idea of how it works. This doesn't mean 3D printers are no longer cutting edge or that all libraries have them, but we're clearly beginning to flatten out the demand curve.

One thing that has helped the 3D printing business take off is the availability of freely shareable models for just about anything. The most popular online library of 3D models is Thingiverse (thingiverse.com), a free resource owned by MakerBot Industries. Thingiverse allows anyone who has created a model to upload it to the website and make it available for users to download. In effect, these are open access 3D objects. It's the perfect first stop for libraries with 3D printers, providing hundreds of items to print, from toys to tools. The downloadable files have easy-to-follow instructions and clearly labeled intellectual property rights that specify what you can do with the designs. As libraries start creating and sharing more of their own objects, Thingiverse is the logical place to store them, especially for findability purposes.

As libraries begin to improve their own surroundings via 3D printing (by installing shelf brackets, for example), it will become easier for others to justify a 3D printer purchase. In a recent study (bit.ly/2s1AxeN) by Michigan Technological University Associate Professor Joshua Pearce and student researcher Emily E. Petersen, households that purchase an open source, entry-level 3D printer,



such as the LulzBot Mini, can break even on cost in as little as six months of use. Over five years, printing only a handful of objects that might be used around the house (such as spoon holders, shower heads, or camera lens hoods), the study shows a nearly 1,000% return on investment over the cost of the printer and consumables. This could be an enormous savings and effort multiplier.

3D printer management

The most interesting technologies to emerge in the last few years in the 3D printing space are a variety of enterprise-style, management software programs. This software operates either within a separate piece of hardware that serves as middleware for the operation of the 3D printer or through software as a service that uses a web-based interface for control. Management software requires a dedicated device

of some type connected to your 3D printer to bridge the gap between the printer and the web. That device can range from a desktop computer to an inexpensive tablet to a Raspberry Pi microcomputer.

Some of the benefits of using this software with your 3D printers are the ability to load models remotely over the web, queue and manage jobs, receive remote notifications of activity when prints are started or completed, and visually monitor prints via webcam. Libraries that offer 3D printing to the public will find huge benefits in using these tools. From providing a public website where users can upload their models to streaming a live video of your printer as it prints, this software can enhance your 3D printing services in numerous ways.

As the technology becomes more fully featured and capable of printing more complicated objects—and as the prices continue to drop—3D printers will eventually become as commonplace as laser printers. Not everyone will have one at home, but most people will have access to one if they need it. And much of that access can come through public libraries. These printers can even provide a return on investment if used to solve problems around the library for librarians and staff. Between the communities we serve and the processes and services we shepherd, 3D printing in libraries will definitely be around for a long time. **AL**

As the technology becomes more fully featured, 3D printers will become as commonplace as laser printers.

JASON GRIFFEY is a librarian and technologist, as well as the founder and principal at Evenly Distributed, a technology consulting and creation firm for libraries and other nonprofits. Adapted from "3-D Printers for Libraries, 2017 Edition," *Library Technology Reports* vol. 53, no. 5 (July).

Leadership in Librarianship

Professional development isn't just for managers

What is your library doing to foster leadership within the organization? If your current department heads left, would staff members be ready to step into management roles? What are you doing to develop your own leadership skills?

These questions have been on my mind since I attended Power Up: A Conference in Leadership for Youth Services Managers and Staff at the Information School of the University of Wisconsin–Madison in March. This amazing event had a dynamic array of presenters who talked about such topics as empowering teens to be leaders, finding your programming style, managing multigenerational teams, and dealing with burnout.

I attended the conference with Teresa Moulton, who serves as a youth services librarian in my department, and it was valuable for us to review talking points from our different perspectives—mine as a manager at New Albany–Floyd County (Ind.) Public Library, and hers as a strong “unofficial” departmental leader. Here are some of our professional development takeaways:

Identify your leaders. Leaders aren't necessarily managers or administrators. There may be employees at your library who may not have the job title or people reporting to them, but they take on informal leadership roles. Managers need to recognize these people and help them grow their skill sets in order to sustain their organizations.

Go outside the library. Administrators should budget for staffers' memberships to professional organizations or encourage them to do national and local



committee work, where they can connect with other librarians and bring ideas back to their departments. Local organizations such as Rotary and Kiwanis clubs should not be overlooked; they give staffers an opportunity to get involved with the community and make connections that could result in mutually beneficial partnerships for the library.

Take initiative. If you see yourself as an unofficial leader at your library, step up and offer your expertise to the organization. “Leadership isn't something that's bestowed upon you,” Teresa points out. “You don't have to wait until you're assigned to be a leader.” She urges librarians to volunteer for tasks that need to get done or ask to take on projects that interest them.

Make the time. Managers should invest in staff initiatives and take early inventory as to what types of skills and interests their employees have to offer.

If a project proposed by an employee is not going to work at the current time, “The answer is not ‘no’—it's ‘not yet.’”

It's important that employees pursue new projects and are given room in their daily schedules to devote time to them.

Welcome innovation. Gretchen Caserotti, keynote speaker and director of the Meridian (Idaho) Library District, urges managers to have a growth mindset and nurture perspectives besides their own. If a proposed project from an excited employee is not going to work at the current time, look for opportunities down the line when it might be feasible. “The answer is not ‘no’—it's ‘not yet,’” says Caserotti.

Think holistically. In youth services, big-picture thinking means creating a framework around what we do. Youth librarianship is not just storytime, and storytime is not just “storytime.” The programs we're offering are designed as developmentally appropriate experiences where children learn skills that contribute to literacy. Yes, we have fun in storytime, but we're doing so much more than that. To that end:

Share what we do and why. It's easy for us to get tunnel vision and block out anything beyond our high volume of programs and reference questions, but we need to show the value of our work to those outside of our field. I tell people that youth services staffers have the most fun of anyone in the library, but we're also doing the serious business of educating our youngest library users. We need to make sure we're telling the public that part, too.

Leadership takes on many forms in the library. And leadership can be for everyone, no matter your current role. **AL**

ABBY JOHNSON is youth services manager at New Albany–Floyd County (Ind.) Public Library. Find her at abbythelibrarian.com.

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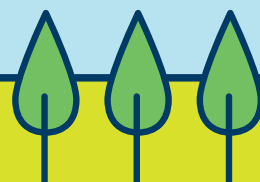
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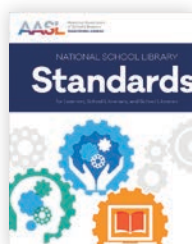
Early Bird Registration and Housing open
SEPTEMBER 13, 2017, Noon (Central).



The Librarian as Educational Leader

New outlooks for school library success

The beginning of the school year finds many of us reevaluating our collections, methods, and standards to best meet the needs of students, teachers, and the library as a whole. It can be a long but fruitful and energizing process. The following selection of books addresses practical aspects of administering the school library successfully.



In conjunction with its November 2017 biennial conference in Phoenix, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will be issuing the updated

National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries. These are evolutionary standards that build on philosophical foundations and familiar elements of previous standards and the streamlined AASL Standards Integrated Frameworks.



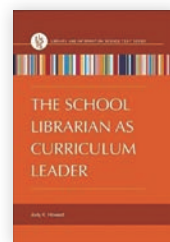
The updated standards will enable school librarians to influence and lead in their schools, districts, and states and to develop plans that meet today's educational landscape. ALA Editions, 2017. 160 P. \$249 (ALA members: \$149; AASL members: \$99). PBK. 978-0-8389-1579-0.



In *Managing the Successful School Library: Strategic Planning and Reflective Practice*, Lesley S. J. Farmer covers a broad range of school librarianship topics.

After an overview of current standards and a discussion of general management,

Farmer moves to strategies for understanding how the school library program fits into the context of the school community. The next chapters cover the basics of planning and assessment, resource management, facilities management, funding, staffing, services, and communications. These chapters include solid tips for weeding, implementing green programs, preparing budgets, evaluating staff, and writing advocacy materials. This is a go-to guide, with bibliographies for practical answers. ALA Neal-Schuman, 2017. 264 P. \$60. PBK. 978-0-8389-1494-6.



Supporting the curriculum is a key element of a school library program. Jody Howard's *The School Librarian As Curriculum Leader* explores methods of evaluating curricula with a goal of building a library's collection to best support classroom learning goals. The book includes specific

THE BESTSELLERS LIST

TOP 3 IN PRINT

1 | Summer Matters: Making All Learning Count by Elizabeth M. McChesney and Bryan W. Wunar



Librarians and educators from Chicago Public Library and Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry outline how libraries and institutions can partner to create a fun and sustainable summer program.

2 | Reference and Information Services: An Introduction, 3rd edition by Kay Ann Cassell and Uma Hiremath



Cassell and Hiremath provide the tools needed to manage the ebb and flow of changing reference services in the 21st century.

3 | Migrating Library Data: A Practical Manual edited by Kyle Banerjee and Bonnie Parks



Using step-by-step instructions and checklists, this book offers expert advice to help library staffers without programming knowledge address common conceptual and technical issues encountered in migrations.

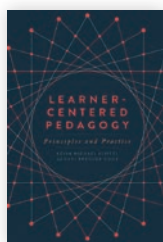
techniques for evaluating the collection and practical ways to initiate an inventory and weeding process, including assessing the electronic and nonprint collections. Howard also devotes several chapters to enhancing the learning partnerships between librarians and teachers and the library and the wider community. *Libraries Unlimited*, 2017. 116 P. \$45. PBK. 978-1-59884-990-5. (Also available as an ebook.)



Leading for School Librarians: There Is No Other Option, by Hilda K. Weisburg, is all about leveraging skills to help the school library program thrive. She is clear from the outset

that to advocate for the school library program, one must first be a leader. The opening section examines why being a leader is important and offers suggestions for some initial steps. These include not just seeking ways to overcome perceived obstacles but also looking to two points of expertise: managing classes in the library and strengthening one's teaching skills. The next section includes pointers for building additional leadership skills—self-assessment, relationship building, improving meetings, and presentation skills. Finally, Weisburg puts it all together

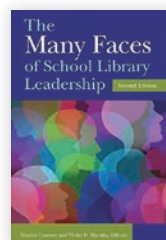
so that true advocacy and outreach can begin. While offered as a leadership guide for school librarians, the book will apply to most librarians. What's universal is the need for better meetings, improved time management, and gracious communication. *ALA Neal-Schuman*, 2017. 176 P. \$45. PBK. 978-0-8389-1510-3.



Learner-Centered Pedagogy: Principles and Practice, by Kevin Michael Klipfel and Dani Brecher Cook, is intended for academic librarians, but the concept of having

empathy for the learner and what that person needs or wants to learn has broad applicability. After presenting a working definition of learner-centered pedagogy, the authors explore issues related to curiosity and motivation, such as dealing with alienation and promoting authenticity. Next they look at the theoretical underpinnings of how learners learn and what principles of cognitive psychology can be used to structure information literacy instruction. They examine the relationship between teacher and student to consider possible revisions to how the library is positioned. Finally, there are brief analyses of the effectiveness of

common technologies used to support information literacy instruction. The authors also describe how one might practice learner-centered cataloging or collection development. *ALA Editions*, 2017. 208 P. \$60. PBK. 978-0-8389-1557-8.



The final book is a collection of essays. *The Many Faces of School Library Leadership*, 2nd edition, edited by Sharon Coatney and Violet H. Harada, has 11 essays. Written by

school library leaders, including several past AASL presidents, these essays expand on themes in the preceding books. Ken Haycock's "Leadership from the Middle: Building Influence for Change" reinforces the social influence aspects explored by Weisburg. Helen R. Adams and Christine Eldred apply leadership principles to intellectual freedom. Connie Williams and Blanche Woolls review the importance of active involvement in one's professional association. These are not essays that tell you *how* but rather *why*. *Libraries Unlimited*, 2017. 184 P. \$50. PBK 978-1-4408-4897-1. (Also available as an ebook.) [AL](#)

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

The Top-Selling Books from ALA Publishing (Since July 1, 2017)

TOP 3 IN EBOOKS

1 | **The Whole School Library Handbook 2**

edited by Blanche Woolls and David V. Loertscher

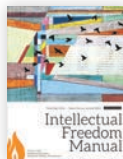
Covering a wide range of important information in one volume, this handbook is a must-have for every school librarian.



2 | **Intellectual Freedom Manual, 9th edition**

by Trina Magi, editor, and Martin Garner, assistant editor, for ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

An indispensable resource for day-to-day guidance on maintaining free and equal access to information for all people.



3 | **The Librarian's Nitty-Gritty Guide to Content Marketing**

by Laura Solomon

Solomon speaks directly to public relations personnel, web librarians, and other staffers responsible for the library's online presence, providing readers with nuts-and-bolts advice on how to increase the library's value to its users.



SOLUTIONS

Products and services



Pedal Power

Two- and three-wheeled library outreach

From left: The Haley Book Bike with display shelves folded out; and the Coaster Pedicab's full-size Library Bike with its shelves enclosed for transit.

The number of libraries with bicycle-based outreach programs has grown steadily in recent years, in part because these programs can make a big impression for a relatively small investment of time, money, and energy. Most bookmobiles require gas, a large parking space, and a significant operating budget, but a pedal-powered library can run on little more than a willing librarian or volunteer. While it's possible to design and assemble your own library bike, these companies are providing custom-made tricycles and bicycle trailers that are designed specifically for library use.

Haley Tricycles Book Bikes

Haley Tricycles has been building book bikes for libraries and literacy organizations since 2008, when the company designed the bike for Gabriel Levinson's Chicago Book

Bike project, arguably the first modern book bike.

The Haley Book Bike is based on a display bike format: It has two fold-out side tables with bookends on each and an adjustable shelf inside the box, providing three levels of display for books and materials. The book display box size is customizable, within a length range of 31–50 inches and height range of 13–30 inches. The standard width is 21 ¾ inches to allow the bike to fit through ADA-compliant doorways.

A rider can carry up to 260 pounds of books and other items in the front compartment. The bike has independently controlled brakes on each front wheel for additional control while cornering, a coaster-brake rear wheel, and two parking brakes for stability when the display is unfolded. Further customization options include multiple speeds with custom gearing, electrical wiring for lights and

charging stations, and additional book displays.

In standard sizes, the tricycles can fit through most doorways and into elevators, allowing them to be used for display indoors and outdoors and to be stored easily. For riders who are unfamiliar with operating cargo tricycles, the Haley website offers instructional videos on maneuvering in various situations.

The Book Bikes are custom-built in Philadelphia and shipped throughout the US. The tricycle is shipped in two parts and can be assembled with common tools. Haley is currently taking orders for delivery in early 2018. The base price is \$3,250 for a complete bike.

More information can be found at haleytrikes.com/bookbike.html.

Coaster Pedicab Library Bikes

Pedicabs, or rickshaws, are a common sight in many urban areas,

CASE STUDY

A People-Powered Spoke & Word

How do you use your Bike Library Trailer?

Spoke & Word pedals library resources to the people. We've streamlined the process for any trained staff to reserve the bike library for outreach events. The trailer serves as a mini-library on wheels.

How does the trailer serve your library's needs?

Even with 28 libraries and four bookmobiles, we wanted to be more nimble and inventive with embedding resources into the community. Spoke & Word is the perfect mechanism to bring the library to playgrounds, festivals, schools, farmer's markets, the Pride Parade, and other venues where locals gather. Equipped as a Wi-Fi hotspot, this pop-up library provides instant access to our nifty e-resources, free books, and library cards. "It's cooler than ice cream," according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

USER: Christy Estrovitz, youth services manager, San Francisco Public Library

PRODUCT: Bike Library Trailer from the Burgeon Group

DESCRIPTION: The Burgeon Group's Bike Library Trailer is an aerodynamic bicycle trailer with shelves, storage, and electrical wiring, designed for public library outreach.



with riders pulling people between tourist attractions. Coaster Pedicab, one of the largest operators, recently expanded its bike offerings to include two library-specific models.

The full-sized Coaster Library Bike is 50 inches wide and includes a fully enclosed rear box with a canopy, a Bluetooth stereo with marine-grade speakers, LED light strips, brake lights, and turn signals. The electrical system is battery-powered, though the battery is not included. Electric assist—a built-in electric motor that helps to turn the pedals—is available, making transporting heavy loads easier, especially at the bike's maximum capacity of 600 pounds.

For libraries looking for a smaller or lighter mobile library, a 35-inch-wide model is available, which includes an A-frame shelf and canopy. Lighting and speakers similar to those included with the full-sized model can be added for an additional cost. This model's carrying capacity is 400 pounds.

Both types come equipped with hydraulic disc brakes as well as emergency front and rear brakes. Most parts are standard, so maintenance on the library bikes can be done at a local bike shop or by a general bicycle mechanic.

Customization options include logos and library branding, custom colors, a circulation shelf, a rear table with detachable legs, removable bookshelves, and locking storage inside the cargo area for personal items.

Production times vary, but most orders are completed in 4–10 weeks. The library bikes can be shipped worldwide and are delivered 95% assembled.

The full-sized library bike starts at \$6,950, while the smaller model starts at \$3,950. For more information, visit coasterpedicab.com. **AL**



Spoke & Word, a custom library trailer by the Burgeon Group

What are the main benefits?

We worked closely with the Burgeon Group to design its first bike trailer and partnered with the New Wheel to select the e-assist bike. This collaboration created a spectacular bike library program. The aerodynamic trailer and impressive towing capacity of the e-assist bike help navigate the wind and hills of San Francisco. Inside the trailer there are two bins for books, a portable umbrella, charger, bubble machine, and other outreach

necessities. The side doors open to allow for built-in display, and the integrated charging station showcases library materials. From bike enthusiasts to library lovers, it sparks a lot of questions about the design, the bike, and the library. Plus, for staff, it's a joyride!

What would you like to see improved or added to the trailer?

I wish we could figure out how to install a bubble machine on the trailer to spread bubbles as we travel around the city. ●

PEOPLE

Announcements

ON THE MOVE

In May **Robert Antill** became executive director of Dorchester County (S.C.) Library.

Mark Blando became director of Owatonna (Minn.) Public Library in July.

Rush University Medical Center in Chicago named **Jo Cates** library director in March.

Ryan Clark joined the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries as assistant director of library development July 1.



In June **Adam Cole** became adult services and reference librarian at William Jeanes Memorial Library and Nicholas and Athena Karabots Center for Learning in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania.

Heidi Daniel joined Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore as president and CEO August 1.

Jolene Finn joined Orange County (Calif.) Public Libraries' Katie Wheeler branch in Irvine as adult services librarian in June.

May 30 **Brad Glover** joined the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, as adult services and technology librarian.

In June **Darren Ilett** joined University of Northern Colorado Libraries in Greeley as information literacy librarian in the Information Literacy and Undergraduate Support Department.

Jacey Kepich became research services librarian for music at Kelvin Smith Library at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in July.

Andrew Mancuso joined Kelvin Smith Library at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland as preservation librarian in June.

Kudos

Kathleen Rauth, media specialist at Indianapolis Public Schools' School 2 and School 27, was named the system's teacher of the year June 5. ●

Kenton County (Ky.) Public Library has appointed **Faith Mulberry** as manager of its William E. Durr branch.



Scott Murphy was appointed state librarian of Vermont in May.

June 26 **Tyshawna Neal-Dixon** started as outreach librarian at the Fair Haven branch of New Haven (Conn.) Free Public Library.

July 1 **Samantha Paul** joined Valdosta (Ga.) State University's Odum Library as reference librarian and assistant professor of library science.

Lauren Read became periodicals librarian at Enoch Pratt Free Library's State Library Resource Center in Baltimore June 5.

Courtenay Reece became director of Millville (N.J.) Public Library in February.

Andrea Robare joined Berkshire (Mass.) Community College as reference librarian in July.

Ruth Shafer started as librarian at the White Salmon Valley branch of Fort Vancouver (Wash.) Regional Library June 1.

August 1 **Christopher Shaffer** became university librarian and assistant vice chancellor at University of California San Francisco.

Paige Shook joined the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, as early literacy librarian June 1.

Christopher Simmons became director of Leetonia (Ohio) Community Public Library in June.

Staunton (Va.) Public Library appointed **Sarah Skrobis** as director July 1.

July 3 **Eileen Sullivan** became manager at Los Alamos County (N.Mex.) Library.

July 1 **Jill Ullman** became associate director of library development at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries.



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has named **Elaine L. Westbrooks** university librarian and vice provost, effective August 15.



Ryan Wieber joined Kalamazoo (Mich.) Public Library as director August 1.

Hassan Zamir was appointed lecturer in informatics at Dominican University's School of Information Studies in River Forest, Illinois, in June.

PROMOTIONS

Miami-Dade County Public Library System promoted **Ray Baker** to director July 6.



Fresno County (Calif.) Public Library promoted **Kelley Landano** to county librarian June 6.



July 10 **Timothy Niver** was promoted to director at Victor (N.Y.) Farmington Library.

Peabody (Mass.) Institute Library promoted **Melissa Robinson** to director in June.

Albany County (Wyo.) Public Library promoted **Ruth Troyanek** to director June 28.

Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge, has named **Laura Wimberley** as assessment librarian.



RETIREMENTS

Ruth Arnold retired as director of Staunton (Va.) Public Library June 30.

Kansas State Librarian **Jo Budler** retired in July.

Children's librarian **Linda Burke** retired from Mattapoisett (Mass.) Free Public Library June 30.

In June **Marjorie "Marge" Clark** retired as director of Wilson (N.Y.) Community Library.

In June **Elly Dawson** retired as director of Victor (N.Y.) Farmington Library.

Betsy Humphreys retired June 30 as deputy director at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in Bethesda, Maryland. She has served NLM for 44 years, and upon her retirement, received a tribute in the *Congressional Record*.

After 35 years at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, **Susan McCreless** retired as head of technical services June 1.

June 30 **Ann Rohrbaugh** retired as director of Kalamazoo (Mich.) Public Library.

Lisa Rohrbaugh retired as director of Leetonia (Ohio) Community Public Library in June.

June 23 **Linda Siddell** retired as assistant manager of the Farragut branch of Knox County (Tenn.) Public Library.

In Memory

Pauline Ditala Manaka, 67, research librarian for anthropology, sociology, gender and sexuality studies, and demographic and social analysis at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), died June 18. Manaka was invited to study in the United States by President Jimmy Carter after graduating from the University of Fort Hare in Alice, South Africa, and received a Fulbright Scholarship in library science from South Africa. She started at UCI in 1989 after working as a librarian at California State University Hayward, Georgia State University, and Atlanta University. At UCI, she cofounded the UC Sociology Librarians Consortium, served as the coordinator for the Library Model United Nations Program, and was the archivist for the Black Faculty Staff Association. She was an American Library Association Councilor and also active in the Association of College and Research Libraries, American Sociological Association, American Anthropological Association, African Studies Association, and National Conference of Black Political Scientists.

Robert Rohlf, 89, director of Hennepin County (Minn.) Library for 25 years, died June 6. During his time as director from 1969 until his 1994 retirement, 15 new libraries were built and circulation grew sixfold. He started his career in 1955 at Minneapolis Public Library, where he was project manager for planning the new Minneapolis Central Library. He also directed the Dakota-Scott (Minn.) Regional Library System and coordinated the building of the James Madison Memorial Library in Washington, D.C., for the Library of Congress. Rohlf was 1980–1981 Public Library Association president and a charter member of the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Nina J. Root, 83, director emeritus of the Library of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, died June 24. Her work at the museum improved the library's holdings and reach; consolidated the photographic archives, art, memorabilia, and film collections; and supported preservation and access to the library's special collections. She secured funding to convert the card catalog into an online catalog and authored many journal articles during her 27 years at the museum. Before her 1997 retirement, she worked to fundraise for a new library building, which opened in 1993. Prior to joining the museum, she worked at the Library of Congress; the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in Reston, Virginia; the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York; and the City University of New York. ●

Kitty J. Simmons, director of La Sierra University Library in Riverside, California, retired in July.

In May **Steve Standefer** retired after 23 years as city librarian of Mansfield, Texas.

Lori Wagner retired in June after 26 years as children's librarian at Mitchell (S.Dak.) Public Library.

AT ALA

Hannah Gribetz, production editor and graphic designer in ALA Production Services, left ALA July 11.

Julie Reese, continuing education program officer for the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, left ALA July 21. **AL**

Feeling the Music

In a windowless third-floor room of Indiana University's (IU) Herman B Wells Library, Christopher Goodbeer labors over dual computer screens and a keyboard. He and his colleagues work at the assistive technology and accessibility centers, providing tools to help students with disabilities from all seven IU campuses tackle their studies.

Goodbeer—a 2007 graduate of Indiana University's master's programs in music and library and information science—is a Braille music transcriber. According to the Library of Congress, which certifies music transcription in Braille, fewer than 100 people are listed as having such a skill.

"It was an uphill climb at first," Goodbeer says of learning the work, as he didn't read Braille and had to learn literary Braille before working on music transcription. "But I hit the trail running." He's been working in assistive tech for 10 years.

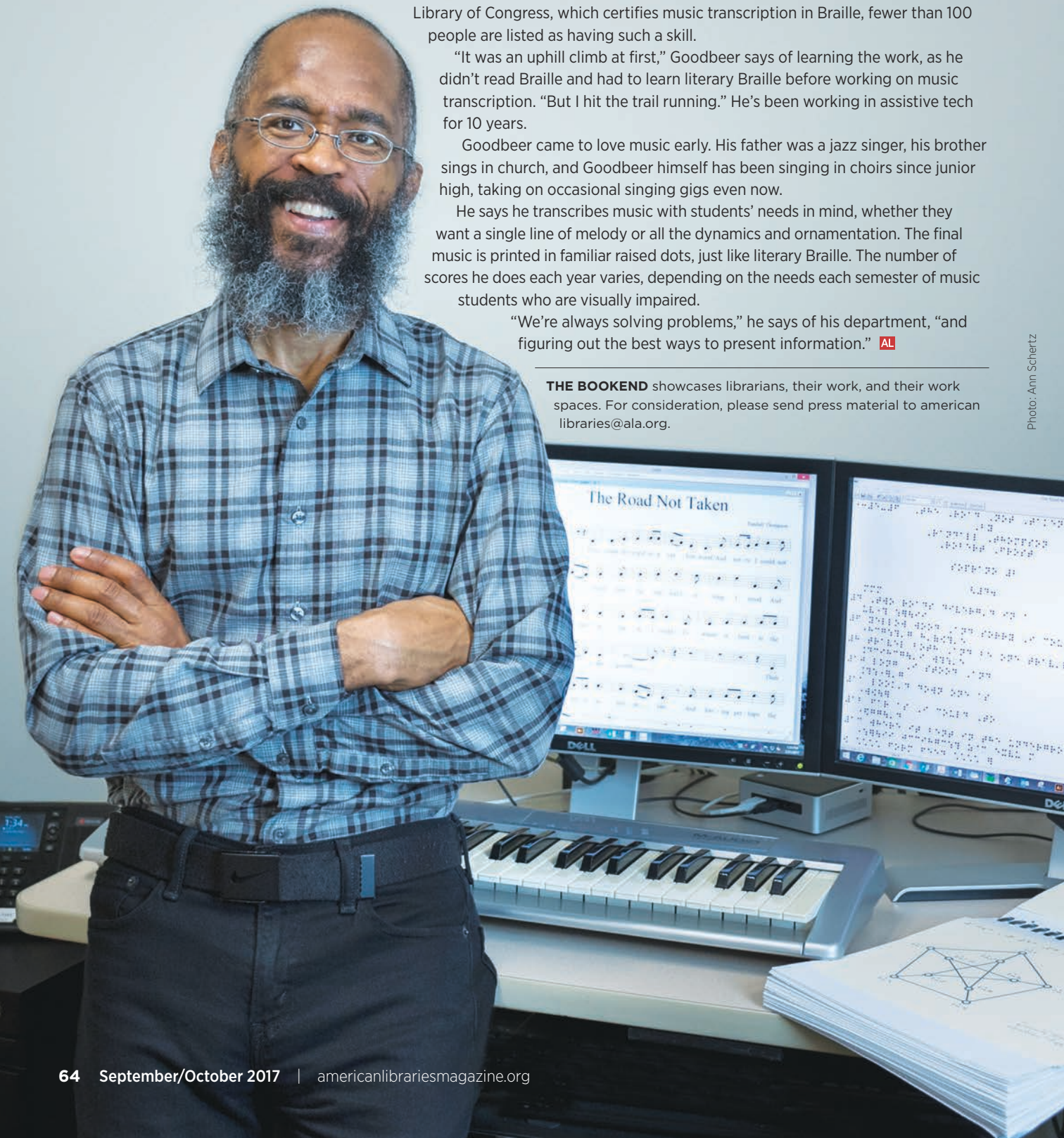
Goodbeer came to love music early. His father was a jazz singer, his brother sings in church, and Goodbeer himself has been singing in choirs since junior high, taking on occasional singing gigs even now.

He says he transcribes music with students' needs in mind, whether they want a single line of melody or all the dynamics and ornamentation. The final music is printed in familiar raised dots, just like literary Braille. The number of scores he does each year varies, depending on the needs each semester of music students who are visually impaired.

"We're always solving problems," he says of his department, "and figuring out the best ways to present information." **AL**

THE BOOKEND showcases librarians, their work, and their work spaces. For consideration, please send press material to americanlibraries@ala.org.

Photo: Ann Schertz





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