

american libraries

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Midwinter PREVIEW

NEWSMAKER:
Dolly Parton p. 24

+ *Denver Dining Guide* p. 48

Pioneering
African-American
Librarians p. 38

PLUS: 2017 Year in Review,
Transgender Archives,
Meditation Rooms



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My first Midwinter

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from the
EDITOR

Time to Take a Hike

Happy New Year and happy almost Midwinter Meeting time! If you haven't decided yet whether to come to Denver (wait, did you know there is a ski train to take you to the slopes if you want to extend your stay?), then we hope the programs and speakers and dining guide in this issue, on pages 48–61, will sway your decision.

I regret that I will not be in the beautiful Mile High City because I am saying farewell to the American Library Association (ALA) and my role at *American Libraries*. It's been a wonderful six years, learning about the amazing work that you do as librarians and the incredible opportunities that libraries provide to their communities. You are what make our work at ALA so meaningful.

In my term as the first female editor of *American Libraries*, I was fortunate to oversee the redesign of our print magazine; the mobile-friendly redesign of our website, which offers updated library news all day in Latest Library Links; a reinvigoration of American Libraries Direct e-news to a twice-weekly, mobile-friendly, shortened format; the addition of American Libraries Live webinars; the addition of the *Dewey Decibel* podcast; and the growth of our social media streams, especially Twitter and Facebook.

But obviously I didn't do this alone: This work is due to the efforts of an amazing and talented *American Libraries* staff, a team I have been so privileged to work with and learn from. Here's a giant, heartfelt thank-you to Carrie Smith, Sanhita SinhaRoy, Phil Morehart, Rebecca Lomax, George Eberhart, Terra Dankowski, and Amy Carlton for their dedication and talent. It's been an honor.

While the search begins for my successor, I hope you'll reach out to the *American Libraries* team with your ideas and comments. They will continue to serve, creating compelling content and sharing your successes.

Though I'm scaling back from full-time work, I'm not completely retiring: My next stop is Bloomington, Indiana, where I'll join the faculty of Indiana University's Media School to teach travel writing and editing. There's also a lot of hiking, biking, kayaking, watching basketball, and enjoying musical events in my future, too.

Our work is a gift, says designer James Victore. Indeed, it has been. Thank you.

Laurie



Laurie D. Borman

'Our work is a gift,' says James Victore. Indeed, it has been.

Tying Up the Lion

Advancing collaboration with key organizations



Jim Neal

ALA must advance our shared interests, advocacy, and clout with other like-minded groups.

There is a proverb that speaks of two types of people in the world: the mountain people, who no matter how close they get, they always just stand side by side, and the river people, who no matter how far apart they may be, always will flow together. The American Library Association (ALA) must build expanded, more robust, and sustained conversations and collaborations with organizations across the library, educational, civil liberties, and social justice communities. We need to advance our shared interests, advocacy, and clout.

I suggest we begin by engaging with other library associations, including the Special Libraries Association, Urban Libraries Council, Society of American Archivists, Medical Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, Association for Rural and Small Libraries, Association for Library and Information Science Education, American Association of Law Librarians, Association for Information Science and Technology, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, and the many others that serve various types of libraries.

Another important working relationship for ALA is with national libraries and archives in the US. These include: the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, National Library of Agriculture, and National Archives and Records Administration. Also with key federal agencies such as the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Government Publishing Office, National Endowment for the Humanities, and others whose interests intersect with the library community's.

ALA must also strengthen ties with national organizations that touch on the work of libraries: the Internet Archive, Coalition for Networked Information, National Information Standards Organization, HathiTrust, Digital Public Library of America, OCLC, Center for Research Libraries, Digital Preservation Network, and the many groups that collaborate in the work of libraries.

As a key player in the cultural, educational, literacy, and scholarly communities, ALA should also build new relationships with organizations that work in these areas. As an association that always seeks to align with its core values, ALA should seek out critical cooperation with First Amendment, social justice, and civil rights organizations. Policy coalitions around such issues as copyright, telecommunications, privacy, equity of access, and open government, for example, are fundamental to our political advocacy.

ALA must also refresh connections with foundations and philanthropic organizations whose interests focus on learning, scholarship, and the important role of libraries in communities. Similarly, we should be reaching out to publishers and library vendors who work so closely with libraries.

ALA works in the international library forums, in particular with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and with several international book fairs. We might consider convening the library associations of the US, Mexico, and Canada to develop a shared North American agenda for libraries. ALA is also strengthening its partnerships with its chapters and with the ethnic affiliates.

ALA maintains an inventory of formal affiliations and relationships, and it now exceeds 200 organizations. I argue that we need to build on the good feelings of our historical working relationships and selectively radicalize key collaborations and coalitions. I propose to convene a series of meetings this spring among several of the groups mentioned in this column.

An Ethiopian proverb notes that when spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion. I am interested in your ideas on the importance and priorities for ALA collaborations. Contact me at jneal0@columbia.edu with your ideas. **AL**

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

A Tough Environment

Review and reinvention planned



Susan H. Hildreth

Preliminary American Library Association (ALA) financial results for fiscal year 2017 (FY2017)—which was a single division conference (or “spend down”) year when the Association budgets a deficit—reflect what continues to be a tough environment for ALA. Operating revenues for the entire Association were \$48.7 million and operating expenses were \$51.1 million.

Similar to last year, our actual results differed from our budget: Overall net expense was 1% larger than projected. Although our budget results were not favorable, they were much closer to projections than in previous years. Among revenue sources, publishing revenue of \$11 million and membership dues revenue of \$5.3 million were lower than projected by 11% and 4%, respectively.

While the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits revenue of \$2.7 million was also lower than projected, close attention to all expenses and a successful ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago resulted in overall ALA conference results that met their target. A historically successful Association of College and Research Libraries conference in Baltimore, and solid growth in endowment-related revenues and overall careful expense management across the Association helped to offset the lower-than-projected revenues.

The numbers themselves, however, don't tell the entire story of ALA. Your Association is beginning a period of internal review and reinvention, with changes in both key leadership positions and the way in which we view publishing, membership, and conferences—all critical areas that fund the professional development, advocacy, and mission-focused work that is the purpose of the Association.

The FY2018 budget reflects this perspective. To ensure our financial health, budgeted expenses have been adjusted to show a more

cautious, conservative forecast for revenues, particularly from our publishing and membership lines of business.

We were fortunate to see success in revenues from grants, with grants awarded in late FY2017 to fund activities in FY2018 and FY2019. We also are beginning to see substantial growth in our fundraising efforts, with individual and institutional giving almost doubling from the prior year, especially as current events have prompted an even more vigorous call for advocacy from ALA for matters that are core to our Association and our member values. This helped us preserve planned investments in technology, which will ultimately help the Association to perform more efficiently and effectively, generate additional funding, and better serve our members.

As your treasurer, I am working closely with the president, the Executive Board, and ALA's management team to refine our vision, both operationally and financially, to ensure the Association's continued success not just next year but in FY2019 and beyond. As we finalize the search for an executive director, we are also laying the groundwork that we hope will give that person the opportunity to develop and articulate our collective mission-focused and financially sustainable vision for our Association.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you and addressing your questions and concerns about the financial results and plans of the Association. I would like to thank Mark Leon, chief financial officer, and his team for their continuing support of the treasurer and ALA. Remember to visit the treasurer's page at ala.org/aboutala/treasurerspage for more information on a regular basis. **AL**

SUSAN H. HILDRETH is treasurer of the American Library Association, professor of practice at University of Washington Information School, a fellow of Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries.

The numbers themselves, however, don't tell the entire story.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 2018

Acclaimed author and ballerina Misty Copeland will celebrate the transformative impact of libraries as ALA's 2018 National Library Week Honorary Chair. "I'm thrilled to join leaders from the library community in celebrating National Library Week," Copeland says. "Libraries help people of all backgrounds access the services and resources they need to discover their passions and achieve their goals."

Photo: Gregg Delman



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ALA Receives \$1.1 Million for Reading and Discussion Initiative

A new \$1.1 million grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation will help fund an initiative to support libraries in engaging with more than 5,000 underserved young adults in reading and discussion programming.

The initiative will combine the American Library Association's (ALA) Great Stories Club (GSC)—a library-led book club model created in 2006—with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation's Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) efforts.

"We are proud to continue our engagement with the Kellogg Foundation's TRHT efforts," said ALA President Jim Neal in an October 31 statement. "Linking this critical movement with ALA's long-recognized work in literary outreach for underserved youth will be a powerful opportunity for all involved."

Launched in 2016, TRHT is a comprehensive, national, and community-based process to plan for and bring about transformational and sustainable change, and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism. ALA is one of 100 voluntary national partner organizations, along with 44 scholars, that participated in the 2016 TRHT design phase.

As part of the TRHT GSC project, ALA will work with an

implementation team of humanities scholars, programming librarians, racial healing practitioners, and others to develop a new reading and discussion series inspired by the TRHT process. Each new series will engage libraries, community partners, and underserved teen audiences in reading and discussing three theme-related books and participating in programs led by a racial healing practitioner.

A national advisory committee will include representatives from the ALA Executive Board; ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services Advisory Committee; ALA ethnic affiliates; the Federation of State Humanities Councils; the nonprofit Everyday Democracy; and ALA member groups.

Up to six librarians will be selected to serve on the TRHT GSC implementation team and will help plan, develop, and deliver print, web-based, and in-person programming support and learning experiences for TRHT GSC grantees. Programming will take place in 125 libraries and community partner organizations starting in 2018. Application information will be announced through ALA's Programming Librarian e-newsletter at bit.ly/ALAPPOnews. More information on TRHT is online at healourcommunities.org. •

ALA Objects to Net Neutrality Rollback

On November 21, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai released a proposed order on net neutrality that would roll back protections enacted in the 2015 Open Internet Order, which requires internet service providers to treat all internet traffic and services equally. The same day, ALA President Jim Neal released a statement strongly disagreeing with the decision.

"Preserving net neutrality is essential for equitable access to online information and services and thus a vital concern for our nation's libraries," Neal said. "Now that the internet has become the primary mechanism for delivering information, services, and applications to the general

public, it is especially important that commercial internet service providers are not able to control or manipulate the content of these communications. Libraries, our patrons and America's communities will be at risk if the FCC repeals all protections contained in its 2015 Open Internet Order with no plans to replace with any enforceable rules." Neal vowed that ALA would continue to advocate for net neutrality.

At press time, the FCC was scheduled to vote on the proposed order at its open commission meeting in mid-December.

ALA Defends E-Rate Funding in FCC Comments

On October 23, ALA and more than 140 libraries and library organizations submitted comments to the FCC on its

public notice seeking information about use of E-Rate program category two (C2) budgets.

ALA's comments highlight the fact that, through the E-Rate program, libraries are assured access to critical funding for internal connections—in many cases for the first time in 15 years. ALA strongly supports the current C2 budget process.

ALA notes in the comments that it is premature for the FCC to make comprehensive assumptions about why libraries may not apply for C2. The ALA E-Rate Task Force states that planning—particularly for an equipment upgrade or new construction—can have a long lead time, which does not correspond to the E-Rate application window.

First Round of Libraries Ready to Code Grants Announced

ALA announced more than \$500,000 in grants for 28 libraries in 21 states and the District of Columbia to design and implement coding programs for young people—the first dedicated funding from ALA for computer science (CS) programs in libraries. The grants are part of ALA's ongoing Libraries Ready to Code initiative, sponsored by Google, to promote CS and computational thinking among youth.

Selected from a pool of more than 400 public and school libraries, the 28 grantees will develop programs that instill coding and computational thinking skills through projects such as making mechanical computers powered by marbles to solve logic puzzles and coding music with the

use of assistive technology in special education classes.

The cohort of grantees will receive guidance from one another, Google, and ALA's youth divisions: the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), and the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). Their collective results will contribute to a national CS educational toolkit that will include implementation guidance to supplement the resources and activities that libraries find most useful for youth CS programming. The toolkit will be released during National Library Week in April 2018. View the full list of grant recipients at bit.ly/ALAIRC2017. ●

The comments also raise several issues that could allow more libraries to make use of their C2 budget allotment, including allowing applicants to spend their C2 funding over two years.

Many libraries submitted personal stories of library users across the country downloading job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking health information, and communicating with family—all dependent on a strong Wi-Fi signal.

ALA's comments are available in full at bit.ly/ALAAeratecomments.

Protecting Immigrant Privacy

On October 17, ALA filed comments to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Privacy Office to express concerns about the department's plans to monitor

and collect social media information on all immigrants to the US.

In late September, DHS published a new rule under the Privacy Act of 1974 that details how it intends to expand the information it collects when determining a person's immigration status. The new information collected may include "social media handles, aliases, associated identifiable information, and search results." The rule could also affect anyone who communicates with immigrants via social media, as their conversations could be reviewed by immigration officials.

This proposal is in direct opposition to the 2007 ALA Resolution in Support of Immigrant Rights. ALA strongly supports the protection of each person's right to

CALENDAR

FEB. 9-13

ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits | Denver
alamidwinter.org

MAR. 4-10

Teen Tech Week
teentechweek.ning.com

MAR. 11-17

Sunshine Week
sunshineweek.rcfp.org

MAR. 20-24

Public Library Association Conference | Philadelphia
placonference.org

APR.

School Library Month
ala.org/aasl/slm

APR. 8-14

National Library Week
bit.ly/ALANatlibweek

APR. 10

National Library Workers Day
ala-apa.org/nlwd

APR. 11

National Bookmobile Day
bit.ly/ALABookmobileDay

APR. 22-29

Money Smart Week
bit.ly/ALAMoneysmartweek

APR. 21-28

Preservation Week
ala.org/preservationweek

APR. 30

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

MAY 1-7

Choose Privacy Week
chooseprivacyweek.org

MAY 7-8

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

JUNE

GLBT Book Month
ala.org/glbttbookmonth

JUNE 21-26

ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition | New Orleans
bit.ly/ItYA7Ru

privacy and civil liberties, regardless of that individual's nationality, residency, or status.

ALA's full comments can be found at bit.ly/ALAimmigrantprivacy.

New DigitalLearn Toolkit for Library Staff

DigitalLearn.org, the Public Library Association's (PLA) website designed to help consumers increase their digital literacy skills, now includes a suite of resources and tools for library staff and other educators to use when conducting training in the community. The learning modules are adapted from Gail's Toolkit, a project developed by the Gail Borden Public Library District in Elgin, Illinois.

Gail's Toolkit was a free online portal for training resources to help library staff teach basic computer skills. The project ran from 2015 to 2017 and developed lesson plans, presentations, handouts, and surveys for use in computer classes at libraries and other community institutions.

Tools to help library staff teach 81 different courses are available to download and personalize. Most courses include a course design document for instructors, a slide set, and handouts and activity sheets for learners. The training resources and tools can be found at training.digitallearn.org or by clicking the "help learners" link at digitallearn.org.

PLA and NNLM Promote Healthy Communities

Promoting Healthy Communities, a nine-month nationwide initiative, aims to increase public library workers' knowledge and skills related to consumer health services through a partnership between PLA and National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM).

PLA and NNLM will assess health information needs among public librarians and share free resources and professional development opportunities that will help public library staffers better serve their patrons' consumer health needs. In early 2018, the initiative will

ALA Council Approves Change to ED Qualifications

ALA Council voted 115 to 34 (with two abstaining) to approve a resolution amending the job requirements for the ALA executive director (ED) position, making an ALA-accredited master's degree or a Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)-accredited master's degree with a specialty in school library media a preferred but not required educational qualification. A 75% majority was required for the resolution to pass.

The vote was undertaken on the recommendation of the ALA Executive Director Search Committee and Executive Board after the initial search concluded unsuccessfully, with no

viable candidate among the 17 formal applicants. Voting on the resolution took place online on ALA Connect November 13–20.

At the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta, a resolution to make an ALA- or CAEP-accredited master's degree preferred but not required was narrowly rejected, with 75 votes in favor and 78 against. The education requirement was first approved at the 2000 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

The complete voting results and public discussion of the resolution by Council members are available on the ALA Council group page on ALA Connect at connect.ala.org/council. ●

unveil a new website for public libraries that provides access to training, tools, and resources for consumer health information, health literacy programming, and more.

ALA and NNLM released a free Health Literacy Toolkit (bit.ly/ALAhealthlit) in October in observation of Health Literacy Month. The toolkit includes customizable tools to raise awareness of how libraries support health literacy in their communities, including key messages, program ideas, and downloadable marketing materials.

NNLM offers many other resources to public libraries. Public librarians can find their regional office and access its resources at nnlm.gov/regions.

Apply for Information Literacy and Instruction Awards

The Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT) is soliciting submissions for two awards. The LIRT Librarian Recognition Award honors a librarian for their contributions to information literacy

and instruction. The LIRT Innovation in Instruction Award honors a library for its innovative approach to information literacy and instruction.

Submissions from all types of libraries are encouraged. Winners will receive a \$1,000 award, a plaque, and a \$500 travel stipend to be used to attend the ALA 2018 Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans, where the awards will be presented.

Submissions will be accepted until January 15. For full details on how to apply or to nominate someone to receive these awards, visit the LIRT Awards page at ala.org/lirt/awards.

Stipend for Small and Rural Libraries Preconference

Public libraries that serve small and/or rural communities are invited to apply for a travel stipend to attend a one-day dialogue and deliberation preconference workshop at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans. "Libraries Transforming Communities:

Conversation Café Workshop for Public Libraries Serving Small, Mid-Sized and/or Rural Communities” will be held on Friday, June 22. Attending the pre-conference is free, though space will be limited to 50 participants. Twenty-five participants from public libraries serving small and/or rural communities will be selected to receive an \$800 stipend to help cover travel costs.

Applications must be submitted online by March 9 at apply.ala.org/LTC2018. Applicants need not be ALA members.

Stretch Your Ebook Budget: Free AASL Webinar Recording

“Tips and Tricks for Stretching Your Ebook Budget,” a webinar presented by AASL and sponsored by OverDrive, is now available for viewing in AASL’s professional development library. The recording, along with other complimentary learning content, can be viewed at bit.ly/AASLcomplimentary.

In the webinar, presenters Becky Calzada and Christina Samek share ideas for stretching schools’ ebook budgets to reach the most readers with the most titles. Calzada, information and library services coordinator for the Leander (Tex.) Independent School District, shares insight from her experience growing a successful digital collection that registers thousands of checkouts each month. Samek, from OverDrive Education, shares proven best practices for serving reading and learning needs while maintaining a low cost-per-circ.

ACRL to Cosponsor News Literacy Study

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) will cosponsor a Project Information Literacy (PIL) research study investigating how young adults consume news and gather information. The research, conducted in partnership with faculty at Northeastern University and Wellesley College, focuses on currency and authority.

Researchers are looking to complete an empirical and quantitative study of

many issues, such as “fake news” and misinformation, to help better ground public discourse and potential policy solutions. A set of recommendations will be made in fall 2018 and will include information on addressing relevant problems, offering insights to three groups that are working with young adults on the front lines: librarians, journalists, and educators.

Led by Alison J. Head of PIL, the project is sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation along with a grant from ACRL. The study will be one of the largest of its kind, with surveys and interviews on college campuses and other educational settings across the country.

Additional information is available at projectinfolit.org/news_study.html.

United for Libraries Travel Stipend for Annual

United for Libraries is accepting applications through January 15 for the United for Libraries/SAGE Academic Friend Conference Grant.

The grant enables a person who is active in his or her college or university Friends of the Library group, or an academic library staff member who works in development, to attend the 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans. The applicant must be a first-time attendee of an ALA Midwinter or Annual conference. A grant of \$850, plus full ALA Annual Conference registration, will be awarded to the recipient.

For more information and to apply, visit bit.ly/ALAsagegrant.

Applications for American Dream Grants Open

ALA and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation invite public libraries to apply for grants to expand services for adult English-language learners or adults in need of basic education and workforce development.

Up to 15 of the \$10,000 grants will be awarded. Public libraries are eligible if they serve adult English-language

learners and are located within 20 miles of a Dollar General store, distribution center, or corporate office. The grants allow libraries to augment their print and digital English as a second language collections; increase computer access and training; provide job training; hold English-language learning, general educational development, and citizenship classes; and raise the visibility of services for immigrant populations.

Applications will be accepted through January 2. The full project guidelines and online application are available at apply.ala.org/americandream2018.

LITA Accepting Student Writing Award Submissions

The Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) is offering an award for the best unpublished manuscript submitted by a student or students enrolled in an ALA-accredited graduate

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Author Aysha Al Naqbi (left) joins a book club discussion about her work hosted by the Sharjah Library.

SIBF/ALA Library Conference Spurs Transformation

Three hundred librarians from 16 countries—many of them ALA members—came together during the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the 4th annual SIBF/ALA Library Conference November 7–9, to learn, share, and connect with experts from the US, Europe, and the Middle East and North African regions. Topics covered at the conference included empowering and developing staff, effective open access resource initiatives, creating a personal librarian program, trends in metadata management, the library as studio, and designing LIS research focused on youth.

ALA President Jim Neal challenged attendees in his keynote, “Libraries Transform, Libraries Lead, Libraries Fight,” to continue changing libraries and the library profession to better serve communities and society. At the conference, the creation of the first-ever library association in the UAE was confirmed. Previously, librarians there were not allowed to form an association. The new association will become a partner with the Arab Federation of Libraries for Information, a regional umbrella organization that is joining the global Libraries Transform effort.

The conference provides professional development opportunities for all types of librarians, including school librarians. This year the Emirates Literature Foundation presented its first School Librarian of the Year Award (elfdubai.org/en/librarian-award). Three of the inaugural winners were given the opportunity to outline their best practices to more than 50 colleagues.

The conference concluded with a presentation by Karen Fisher from University of Washington iSchool on her work with the UN Refugee Agency Za’atari Refugee Camp in Jordan, which houses more than 80,000 Syrian refugees. A number of conference attendees expressed their interest in working with Fisher to train the staff who are operating small libraries in the camp. ●

MICHAEL DOWLING is director of ALA’s International Relations Office.

program. Sponsored by LITA and Ex Libris, the award consists of \$1,000, publication in LITA’s refereed journal, *Information Technology and Libraries*, and a certificate.

The award recognizes superior student writing and is intended to enhance the professional development of students. The manuscript can be written on any aspect of libraries and information technology. The award will be presented at the LITA President’s Program during the 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans.

Detailed guidelines, instructions, and a link to the PDF application are available at bit.ly/LITAwriting. The deadline for submissions is February 28.

YALSA Taps Next Future Ready Cohort

YALSA, in partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL), has announced the 24 participants making up the second cohort of its IMLS-grant-funded project, Future Ready with the Library.

Through this project, YALSA and ARSL will support the members of the second cohort as they each work with a community partner to develop college and career readiness services for the middle school students in their area. Participating library staff will commit approximately two to three hours per week to the project throughout 2018.

Members of the second cohort will also participate in a two-day orientation at the 2018 Midwinter Meeting in Denver and take part in a virtual community of practice through the rest of the year.

The list of second cohort participants is available at bit.ly/YALSAfrlcohort2. Learn more about the project at ala.org/yalsa/future-ready-library.

ACRL Solicits Proposals for 2019 Conference

ACRL invites proposal submissions for the next ACRL conference, to be held April 10–13, 2019, in Cleveland. The conference theme, “Recasting the

Libraries Join the Fight Against Fake News

Led by ALA and the Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook (N.Y.) University, Media Literacy @ Your Library is a six-month pilot program that will train librarians to help patrons become better news and media consumers. Participating libraries were selected via a competitive, peer-reviewed application process. In addition to the training, selected libraries will receive \$1,500 for program-related expenses and received lodging and meals for a workshop at ALA's Chicago office.

Skokie (Ill.) Public Library, Auburn (Maine) Public Library, San Diego Public Library, Estes Valley Library in Estes Park, Colorado, and Huntsville-Madison (Ala.) Public Library were selected to participate in the inaugural group. They gathered in Chicago on October 19, for a day-long workshop led by Michael A. Spikes, director of the Digital Resource Center for the Center for News Literacy, where they learned how to identify fake news sources and received training on how to conduct public programs on responsible media consumption in their communities. The feedback that these libraries provide on their training and individual programs will lead to the development of a corresponding web-based learning experience, for which the libraries will serve as advisors and beta testers.

Media Literacy @ Your Library is sponsored by the Knight Prototype Fund, an initiative of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Democracy Fund, and the Rita Allen Foundation. To learn more, visit apply.ala.org/medialiteracy. ●



Participants in the first Media Literacy @ Your Library program at a workshop in ALA's Chicago office.

Narrative," will examine what it means to be a librarian in the 21st century, adapting and leading the transition to new roles. ACRL invites submissions on all aspects of academic librarianship. ACRL 2019 offers a variety of options for participation and features eight session formats to suit a wide range of presentation and learning styles.

Submit proposals via the online form available on the conference website. Contributed paper, panel session, pre-conference, and workshop proposals are due May 4. Poster session, roundtable discussion, TechConnect, and virtual conference webcast proposals are due October 12.

Complete details about ACRL 2019, including the full call for participation, are available at conference.acrl.org.

School Librarians Eligible for Free *Booklist* Subscriptions

Booklist Publications and AASL announced an initiative to provide expert

book- and media-buying assistance to school librarians in need. Sponsored by Scholastic, year-long subscriptions to *Booklist*, *Book Links*, and Booklist Online will be made available to 500 individual schools across the US.

Through February 23, AASL members are encouraged to submit short essays (150 words or fewer) explaining the collection development constraints they face and why a *Booklist* subscription would help them serve their students. From these submissions, 500 deserving schools will be granted one free year of *Booklist*, *Book Links*, and Booklist Online. Winners will be announced by March 1, with subscriptions starting in April. To enter online, visit bit.ly/schoolsubscription.

Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grant Nominations Are Open

ALA and the Will and Ann Eisner Family Foundation are now accepting applications for the 2018 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries, which

recognize libraries for their role in the growth of graphic literature.

Two grants are awarded. The Will Eisner Graphic Novel Growth Grant provides support to a library that would like to expand its existing graphic novel services and programs, and the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Innovation Grant provides support to a library for the initiation of a graphic novel service or program.

Recipients receive a \$4,000 programming and collection development grant, a collection of Will Eisner's works and biographies, and a selection of the graphic novels nominated for the 2018 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards. The grant also includes a travel stipend for the 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans to receive recognition from the Will and Ann Eisner Family Foundation.

Information about the grant and an application can be found at bit.ly/ALAEisnerGrants. The application deadline is January 26. **AL**



Librarians Megan Donald (left) and Emily Tichenor of Tulsa (Okla.) Community College sit in the meditation room at the West Campus library.

A Space Apart

College libraries contemplate meditation rooms

BY Ronnie Wachter

Maybe the greatest thing about Humboldt State University's (HSU) new, meant-to-be-shared meditation room is that everyone who uses it seems to be getting along. "I'm actually surprised," says Cyril Oberlander, who directs the HSU library in Arcata, California. "No reported conflicts of use at all. Let's keep that going." He adds that the room's success lies in its accommodating a wide variety of thoughtful practices.

Oberlander is one of an increasing number of academic library

directors who oversees what are variously called "reflection rooms" or "meditation rooms." Around the US, students are using these spaces for prayer, yoga, scripture study, or simply for an escape between tough classes.

It is a recent and growing trend for colleges, where a rising number of Muslim students have been searching for places to pray. The University of Kansas (KU) Libraries in Lawrence opened their third reflection room in August at the request of the Muslim Student Association.

"We had students who were at the end of rows in the stacks, seeking privacy for their prayers," says Kevin Smith, dean of libraries at KU. "We're trying to meet the student need, and this is what they tell us they need."

Smith started noticing Muslim students praying in secluded public areas, then began receiving requests from their student organizations for a convenient location to practice their faith. Most branches of Islam require worshippers to stop what they are doing and pray at set points throughout the day; having a close-by spot to do so prevents young Muslims from having to run back to their dorm rooms or duck into the hinterlands of the stacks.

Providing for this interest was simple: In both cases, the deans found little-used offices and retrofit them with some soft new furniture and calming paint colors. Decorations are minimal, with no religious symbols, since the room is open to all faiths. Oberlander and Smith both say it took little staff time and a zero or minimal budget to revitalize unused space.

The rooms need to be quiet—no group study, no group singing. Electronic devices are discouraged, because that would probably defeat the purpose. "A lot of people want to get away from the distractions," Oberlander says, "and that's hard to do in the age of the smartphone."

At HSU, the rooms have locked doors and students check the keys out daily, although the library has also opened a Meditation Corner in an informal, experiential space

called the Brain Booth, which has no doors and is designed to introduce students to scientific research on the effects of mindfulness, attention, and contemplation. At KU, the rooms have screens instead of doors, because Smith worried that having to check out a key would discourage use.

The West Campus library at Tulsa (Okla.) Community College (TCC) now has a meditation room featuring strings of blue lights covering an otherwise dark blue, minimally decorated wall. The soft lights encourage a peaceful mood that is conducive to reflection. TCC Reference and Instruction Librarian Megan Donald and the library staff came up with the idea and presented it to college leadership for approval.

West Campus Library Director Emily Tichenor says that TCC has a “diverse student body that includes many first-time and first-generation college students for whom meditation and mindfulness practices can help reduce stress and anxiety.” Inside the room—a

“We had students who were at the end of rows in the stacks, seeking privacy for their prayers. We’re trying to meet the student need, and this is what they tell us they need.”

KEVIN SMITH, dean of libraries at the University of Kansas Libraries in Lawrence

repurposed storage closet in a far corner of the library—is a small table filled with books on meditation, yoga mats, and several Zenergy ball chairs. Student newspaper editor Dylan Axsom profiled the room in an August story for *The TCC Connection*.

Smith, Oberlander, and Tichenor have had no noise complaints, no “I was here first” disputes, no “I can’t practice my

Continued on page 16 ▶



Library books housed in the Tulsa (Okla.) Community College meditation room, along with a comment book for patrons.

BY THE NUMBERS

Get to Know Denver

5,280

Denver’s elevation (in feet) above sea level gives the city



its “Mile High” nickname. Over the years, three different steps outside the gold-adorned Colorado State Capitol building have been marked as the official mile-high point.

150

Number of archival collections of personal and professional items from African Americans in the West available in the reading room at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, one of four such research libraries in the US.

5

Number of times Denver has hosted an ALA Midwinter Meeting or Annual Conference. At ALA’s 17th Annual Conference in 1895, its first in Denver, some of the 147 attendees noted that both Colorado and ALA were established in the same year (1876).

1859

Year that the *Rocky Mountain News*, the first newspaper in Colorado, printed its inaugural issue. The newspaper ran for nearly 150 years, and its archives—including more than 300,000 digitized images—are now housed at Denver Public Library.

1

Percentage of the construction budget for new buildings that must be dedicated to public art. / See *What You Mean*, the 40-foot blue bear peering into the Colorado Convention Center, was funded through this requirement. ●



2018

LIBRARY
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Alfred R. Goldstein Library at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida.

Show Us Your
Beautiful New Library

American Libraries is now accepting submissions for the 2018 Library Design Showcase, our annual feature celebrating new and newly renovated or expanded libraries of all types. The showcase will appear in the September/October 2018 issue.

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

If your library is on the cutting edge, we want our readers to know about it. To be eligible, projects must have been completed between May 1, 2017, and April 30, 2018. The submission deadline is May 31, 2018.

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

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

◀ Continued from page 15

religion in a room where you practice yours" declarations.

Of course, as with any emerging trend, resistance is bound to occur. In early February 2017 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, someone urinated on a prayer rug in a reflection room in the basement of Shapiro Undergraduate Library. In a press release, school officials said it was "disappointing and upsetting" and that campus police were investigating the damage as a "bias-motivated crime."

At the public libraries in Los Angeles, Seattle, and Washington, D.C., officials say they have not heard of meditation rooms outside of college campuses. At D.C. Public Library, Media Relations Manager George Williams says they recently finished a capital improvement project at several branches that created study rooms for groups of two to four. The mini-conference rooms have glass walls, and patrons can use them as they please, but none are intended specifically for individual, drop-in mind-easing.

"We can see what's happening inside them, but we don't know, in a meaningful way, that we can say 'Yes, these rooms are being used for that purpose,'" Williams says. "The library does not keep track of how patrons use the study rooms."

In talking about reflection or meditation rooms, Smith cited the ancient Greek proverb that the key to learning is to "know thyself." Oberlander doubts that any HSU students see the rooms as inherently sacred; rather, they probably view them as multipurpose facilities.

"In the library, we work so hard on shared spaces," he says. "If higher education is going to be sustainable, it has to be about shared spaces and shared experiences." **AL**

RONNIE WACHTER is a freelance journalist in Chicago.

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At Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield, Virginia, Mitchell Scheid uses supplies from his library backpack to examine local insect life.

Out of the Branches, into the Woods

Libraries and state parks collaborate on hiking backpacks for patrons

BY Ronnie Wachter

At public library branches in seven states, staffers are sending patrons to the trails instead of the stacks.

Libraries from the East Coast to Hawaii are buying hiking backpacks, stuffing them with field guides and park passes, and making them available for checkout. The intent, officials in several libraries agree, is to give families a new reason to get off the couch and into the world.

"It's really becoming more and more popular by the day," says Chris Henning, marketing communications manager for Denver Public Library (DPL). "When the state came to us and said 'Hey, we're doing this program,' [we thought] what a great opportunity."

State library systems in Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Montana, Virginia, and Wyoming are using federal grants to provide would-be explorers with hiking kits. The ideas are homegrown and backpacks' contents vary in each state, but most include guides to plant life, animal tracks, and wilderness first aid; binoculars for adults or children; maps and compasses; bug magnification boxes; and other supplies. Most also include free passes to state parks, giving families an opportunity to discover or return to natural sites without admission fees or equipment costs.

The money that bought this gear often comes from the Institute of Museum and Library Services'

(IMLS) Grants to States program. IMLS senior public affairs specialist Giuliana Solitario Bullard says the agency didn't create the backpacking program—Grants to States funding recipients can use their gifts for a range of purposes, and exploring nature simply became one of them.

"We are unaware of any central organization helping to coordinate or drive these programs," she wrote in an email. "Instead we have gathered anecdotally that programs have spread when one state library has heard of the success of another's program."

For Nan Carmack, director of networking and development for the Library of Virginia, their program is what libraries have been headed toward for years. "Oh heck, this isn't anything different than what we've always done," she says. "Libraries have always been where people go to learn. It's really an entire learning system for our natural world."

Carmack says Virginia's program began in 2013, with the intent of making libraries a way station as families learn about things librarians generally do not want inside their facilities: wild animals, overgrowth, and dirt. Although it sends borrowers away from the building, she says the program may help solidify the library's position in borrowers' hearts and minds.

Virginia State Parks held a "Think Outside the Photo" contest in summer 2017 to solicit pictures in seven categories, including "Library Backpacks in Action." Mechanicsville Public Library (MPL) patron Lisa Scheid, who took her sons J. T. and Mitchell to Pocahontas

State Park with MPL gear for Labor Day, won the grand prize in that category—a \$500 overnight stay gift certificate for the state parks.

“We went out exploring with the backpacks, and it was great,” Scheid says. “I told several of my friends about the program after we came back.” She adds that the highlight of the trip for her sons was using the magnifying glasses and “bug catchers” to examine caterpillars.

Teaming up

In Virginia, the state library handled the grant money, purchased and stocked the packs, and distributed them to interested branches, Carmack says.

In Colorado, Henning says the state’s Department of Education made the agreement with IMLS, then the Parks and Wildlife department put the gear together—all DPL had to do was ask for it.

In Georgia, backpacks became available in October 2017 at more than 400 branches. As in Colorado, these kits are the product of partnership between state agencies: Georgia’s Public Library Service and

the State Parks and Historic Sites, plus some IMLS funding.

“We saw how successful it was in Colorado and thought, ‘Hey, that sounds like a great idea,’” says Dustin Landrum, strategic partnerships manager for Georgia Public Library Service. The packs cost about \$75 each to buy and fill.

Henning says DPL stocked its 26 branches with backpacks in November 2016; since then, patrons have checked the bags out 1,268 times, while 334 holds wait in the system. Borrowers can keep them for two weeks.

He says the addition has been hitting its intended market: residents who never venture into the Colorado wilds because of the expense. “People in Denver don’t always go to the mountains,” he says.

DPL staffers found an unexpected side effect, though: The packs are popular with regular outdoor enthusiasts, who would rather borrow than buy.

Carmack adds that even in the age of in-home virtual reality, genuine nature still has no trouble attracting young minds. Even if



borrowers step into the library only to pick up their gear, she says that branch has served its purpose.

“The idea of strapping on a backpack and going adventuring is an appeal to all,” Carmack says. “Hopefully this will spark some curiosity, and they’ll come back and learn some more.” **AL**

RONNIE WACHTER is a freelance journalist in Chicago.

A stocked backpack at Denver Public Library.

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Flooding damage to a reading room at the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao.

Hurricane Maria: The Aftermath

Caribbean libraries sustain catastrophic damage

BY George M. Eberhart

Hurricane Maria, the 10th most intense Atlantic hurricane on record, made landfall in Puerto Rico on September 20, causing widespread flooding and damage to infrastructure. More than 50 days later, some 2 million residents (59%) lacked power and 750,000 (22%) had no tap water. Fatalities stood at 55 for the island (Associated Press, November 8), with an expectation that the number would rise as recovery continued. More than 2,000 residents were still living in shelters at the beginning of November, and tens of thousands lacked roofs on their homes, according to Natalie Jaresko, executive director of the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico.

About 40% of the electrical grid has been rebuilt, but a massive outage in the capital of San Juan on November 9 signaled a

fragile recovery. More than 140,000 Puerto Ricans have left the island since the storm, United Nations human rights experts are sounding alarms about food shortages during the winter, and mold has become rampant throughout the island. However, telecom services were improving, commercial flights were back to normal, and the majority of supermarkets and gas stations were back in business.

Puerto Rican libraries

Out of these tragic statistics, only a few library stories have emerged. American Library Association (ALA) President-Elect Loida Garcia-Febo, who was born in Puerto Rico, told *American Libraries* that “all types of libraries are basically destroyed. The buildings are standing but infested with mold, rotten carpets, and collections that are irretrievably lost. Archives,

historical documents, and books are all in dire condition because of the lack of electrical power.”

All of the University of Puerto Rico’s (UPR) 11 campuses suffered infrastructure damages, but the hardest hit were those at Bayamón, Cayey, Humacao, and Río Piedras.

Evelyn Milagros Rodríguez, research, reference, and special collections librarian at UPR Humacao, wrote about her experience for the nonprofit Conversation website on October 26. The library was the hardest hit of all the buildings on that campus, she says. “It’s mold-infested and the roof is leaking, so there’s a lot of work to be done in both repairs and cleaning before students can use it. The mold has gotten into our collection—from books and papers to magazines—and most of the furniture and computers will have to be repaired.” Some repairs took place, and the campus reopened on October 30.

The library staff at the Bayamón campus were able to reenter the library on October 5. Librarian Myrna Lee Torres-Pérez says the experience was “overwhelming, with everything full of mold, rotten carpets. We lost collections.” Classes also resumed on October 30, and the library is at least partially open. The main library at Río Piedras incurred some damages, as well as the law library, which had a lot of water damage. Libraries at the Cayey and Mayagüez campuses were also affected. All UPR campuses have now reopened for classes.

In San Juan, the conditions at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico were perhaps typical of libraries that had less damage.

“Archives, historical documents, and books are all in dire condition because of the lack of electrical power.”

LOIDA GARCIA-FEBO, ALA president-elect, who was born in Puerto Rico



Main library entrance, University of Puerto Rico at Humacao.

Director Milka Vigo wrote on October 13 that “water poured over the acoustic ceiling near the service counter, soaking about 50 books, of which 31 were discarded because they were filled with mold. Another portion of the ceiling gave way above one of the aisles. Without electricity to turn on the air conditioners, mold will proliferate.” Classes here have also resumed.

Hurricane Maria damaged the wooden roof of the San Juan Community Library, which was about to celebrate its 30th anniversary, and flooded into the main building. It is operating without power and currently seeking funding through the GoFundMe platform. The public library in Guayanilla also took on water.

As of the beginning of November, the Puerto Rico Department of Education has not completed a census of the number of schools that were destroyed or damaged, although the US Army Corps of Engineers was in the process of visiting each one. Those that were able to reopen did so on October 24. The library of the Marcelino Canino middle school in Dorado was one casualty. A layer of mud covered the floor, books were flung all around, and the smell of mold permeated the building.

Several US universities launched a nationwide effort in

October to help relief agencies on the ground by updating the open source maps that Federal Emergency Management Agency and Red Cross workers use. During mapathons, student and faculty volunteers used satellite images from OpenStreetMap to locate landmarks and verify the condition of key bridges and buildings.

Elsewhere in the Caribbean

Some public libraries in the US Virgin Islands (USVI) have recovered from the hurricane. The Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library on St. Thomas and the Florence Williams Library on St. Croix were open on a limited basis on October 30. Others still had unrepaired damages, and on November 6 USVI Senate President Myron Jackson urged cultural agencies on the islands to apply for public assistance, since the deadline had been extended through January.

Hurricane Maria hit the independent island of Dominica very hard, completely knocking out its power and infrastructure, as well as eradicating much of its lush vegetation. The University of the West Indies campus library on Dominica was destroyed, although many of its books had been secured in a safe area prior to the storm. Chandler Hyacinth, an official in the Ministry of Education, said that the public

library system had collapsed completely. Chief Education Officer Melina Fontaine urged parents to “find some time for your children to do some schoolwork.”

Disaster relief

ALA continues to support libraries damaged by Hurricane Maria through its Disaster Relief Fund (ec.ala.org/donate/projects), and it also offers a list of resources for dealing with disasters at Libraries Respond (bit.ly/2z7YxCj).

Garcia-Febo sends this message to her colleagues in Puerto Rico: “As a librarian and as a Puerto Rican, my heart is with you. I want each one of you to know that we have not forgotten Puerto Rico. We are actively looking at ways to help libraries there. Personally, I hope to visit you soon. ¡Te quiero, Puerto Rico!” ^{AL}

GEORGE M. EBERHART is senior editor of *American Libraries*.

Lend Your Support

You can help damaged Caribbean libraries by joining the Adopt a Library program, sponsored by ALA and Reforma, at bit.ly/2jcEqI6. ●



Presenters and attendees mark the end of the 2016 Moving Trans History Forward conference with Aaron Devor (third row center, in blue shirt).

Seven years later, the archives include donations from philanthropist and trans man Reed Erickson and University of Ulster (UK) Trans-Gender Archive collection. We've also focused our efforts on outreach. We want to emphasize the accessibility of the materials and the fact that these histories were being preserved for all—not just academic researchers. Many people have little experience accessing archival and noncirculating library materials, and outreach was our way to turn a potentially intimidating experience into a welcoming one.

The libraries continue to work closely with Devor, who is now the chair of transgender studies at the university—a donation-funded position—and the academic director of the Transgender Archives. The role of the chair is to further this outreach and knowledge mobilization, whether through teaching and mentoring in the area of transgender studies, hosting visiting or local scholars, or providing orientation tours of the Transgender Archives' holdings. Beyond appealing to the UVic population, the chair is committed to creating a safe and positive space where all transgender, gender nonbinary, and two-spirit people can meet and build community.

We have been working to bring education events and initiatives to a more public audience. We recently hosted a performance and workshop by author and gender theorist Kate Bornstein as part of our ongoing speaker series. The chair's monthly drop-in gathering, "Nachos and Drinks," is not just open to students but to anyone

An Archive for All

How the Transgender Archives work to create community connections

University of Victoria (B.C.) Libraries is home to the largest physical collection of transgender-related material worldwide. Lara Wilson, university archivist and director of special collections, explains how the Transgender Archives has evolved from cataloged items to community outreach in its seven years.

BY Lara Wilson

In 2007, Aaron Devor, dean of graduate studies and professor of sociology at the University of Victoria (UVic), asked if our libraries were interested in accepting a large donation of archival and rare print materials related to transgender history from the Rikki Swin Institute (RSI) collection, and if we were open to expanding our holdings in this area. The answer to both questions was yes.

RSI was established in Chicago and open from 2001 to 2004. Its collection includes rare books, periodicals, and archives on

leading American trans activists such as Virginia Prince and Ariadne Kane, organizations, and such conferences as the annual Fantasia Fair and the International Foundation for Gender Education. The collection took some time to sort and catalog, and the donation was the beginning of a new acquisition direction for us. In 2011, we formally launched the Transgender Archives, which would become the largest physical collection of transgender-related archival and rare print material in the world.

who self-identifies as transgender, gender nonbinary, or two-spirit and is looking for a casual, friendly place to make connections and share experiences. In the past, we've used movie screenings, theater performances, and research presentations open to all to act as a conduit to the department and collection.

The Transgender Archives and the chair of transgender studies have also undertaken major outreach initiatives in the form of a book and a conference. Now in its second edition, *The Transgender Archives: Foundations for the Future*, authored by Devor and published by UVic Libraries, is an illustrated nonfiction primer on trans activism and research that highlights items from the collection. The book was a Lambda Literary Award finalist in 2015 and has been downloaded more than 16,000 times.

Our biennial conference, Moving Trans History Forward, started in 2014 and has raised awareness of our collections, transgender history, and current initiatives in trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit communities. This year the conference will be held March 22–25 on the UVic campus and will feature an art exhibit and attendee-nominated keynote speaker Andrea Jenkins, a black transgender woman who made headlines when she was elected to Minneapolis City Council in November.

The response to our efforts has been overwhelmingly positive. Word has spread that our recurring and often free or by-donation activities are great for knowledge mobilization and community building. The more we engage, the greater the dialogue has become—and that's extremely rewarding. **AL**

LARA WILSON is university archivist and director of special collections at University of Victoria (B.C.) Libraries.

GLOBAL REACH

Invercargill Librarians Spoof the Kardashians



Invercargill Library's Kardashian cover parody.

NEW ZEALAND A Facebook post by the Invercargill City Libraries and Archives went viral in October. To mark the 10th anniversary of the TV show *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, the library's social media team decided to have an impromptu Kardashian-inspired photo shoot, mimicking a cover of *The Hollywood Reporter* that featured the family. The post received more than 4,000 likes in less than a day. Watch the coverage in this video (bit.ly/2hzR8QJ).—*New Zealand Herald*, Oct. 15; *Dunedin TV*, Oct. 15.

IRELAND A copy of the *Book of Common Prayer*, first bound and published in 1666, has returned to Marsh's Library in Dublin, the country's oldest library, 177 years after it was stolen from the reading room in 1840. Library Director Jason McElligott said it is only the eighth time any of the 1,200 books removed from the building over the centuries has found its way back home. The book was discovered in the Church of Ireland rectory in Monkstown by the Rev. Roy Byrne, who recognized the library's stamp.—*Irish Examiner* (Cork), Nov. 7.

CHINA Netherlands-based architecture firm MVRDV's spectacular Tianjin Binhai Library opened to the public in October. Located within the new Binhai Cultural District in Tianjin, the library provides storage for books on terraced bookshelves in the building's central atrium. At the center of the room, an enormous mirrored sphere houses an auditorium and reflects the miles of bookshelves around it.—*ArchDaily*, Oct. 31.

QATAR The new national library opened on November 7 in Doha's Education City area. In addition to having the capacity to house more than 1 million books, the library offers computer terminals, music studios, 3D printers, and a stage for performances. It also proudly boasts a noisy section for children where the old rule of silence in the stacks no longer applies. The new library is part of Qatar's effort to refocus its economy on knowledge and education.—*Al Jazeera*, Nov. 7. ●

Dolly Parton

Music legend's literacy charity prepares for major milestone

Dolly Parton wears many hats on her famous wigs—singer, songwriter, musician, producer, actor, theme park owner, and philanthropist. But she says one of the titles that means the most to her is “book lady.” Parton’s Imagination Library charity works with United Way, Rotary International, and library foundations and Friends groups to deliver more than a million free books each month to kids from birth through age 5—up to 60 books that they can keep. Imagination Library, launched in Sevier County, Tennessee, in 1995, will deliver its 100-millionth book in early 2018. *American Libraries* spoke to Parton, who released her first children’s album, *I Believe in You*, in October; proceeds benefit Imagination Library.

There are so many ways to promote reading and literacy. How did you decide to set up Imagination Library this way so that children get free books in the mail that they can keep? It started out with a simple dream, and a very personal one, 22 years ago. My father was a brilliant man, but he never had a chance to go to school. Daddy couldn’t read nor write,

and it always just seemed to cripple him, and he was embarrassed about it. So it inspired me to start the program. We started it in our home county—I was just going to have this little program where we gave books to children. From the time they’re born, they get a book once a month in the mail with their little name on it. When they’re able to walk, they love to go to the mail and get their little books. It’s just something to inspire them to read.

My dad was very helpful in the early days with me. I tried to involve him as much as I could. He passed away in 2000, but he got to live long enough to see it doing well. It did so well that it went all over Tennessee, then all over the United States, then into Canada and different parts of the world.

One of the things I’m proudest of is that we are getting books to children in Alaska and places where kids only get supplies once a month on boats or planes. We’re giving books to kids who wouldn’t have a chance to get them otherwise. A lot of people think this is just for poor children—it’s for all children. It’s important to get books into the hands of any child that we can.

How do you choose books for the program? I don’t choose them myself—we’d never take that on ourselves. There’s a whole committee of people who are the intelligent ones, who know what is child-friendly and age-appropriate. I’m just happy to be the one to help generate money and excitement.

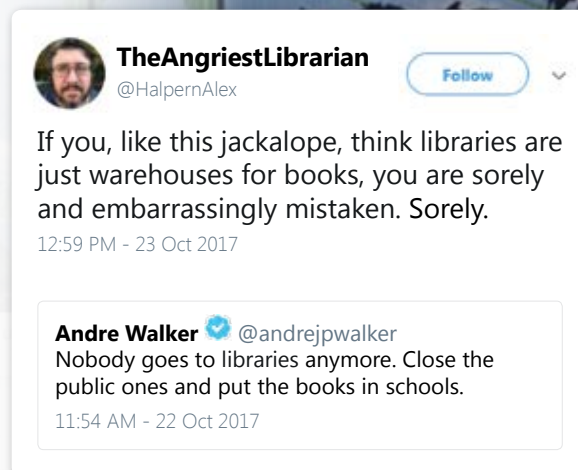
You have 11 siblings, and your father never learned to read. Did you have books in the home? What was your access to books like when you were a kid? We couldn’t have too many books in our house. Daddy always said, “Don’t bring these books home from school because I can’t afford to pay for them.” We had so many little kids—they’d chew them up, tear them up, pee on them, or whatever. The main book in our house was the Bible. My mama used to read it to us. And we would read at school. As soon as I could get my hands on anything, I loved to read. I still do. We didn’t have the Imagination Library growing up, but it would have been nice if we had—we had enough kids, we would have had plenty of books in the house! We were in a country school, so we didn’t have a library there. Mostly we had the books in the schoolroom. When we went to high school, we had access to a library.

What books did you love as a kid? I loved all the fairy tales, but one of the books I remember first and the one that made an impression on me is *The Little Engine That Could*. And now it makes an impression on lots of kids because it’s the first book that we give away. I based the song “I Believe in You” on that book. I’ve always related to that book because I think I’m the little engine that did! **AL**



“The rant that led me to my brief bout of Twitter fame was likely popular because of my stereotype-defying profanity and insults, but the fact that it resonated so strongly with *librarians* was what convinced me that we are on the right track as a profession. Those mousy, quiet librarians are a thing of the past, if in fact they ever existed at all outside of Hollywood. Today, depending on the community they serve, a public librarian is part educator, part social worker, and part Human Google. What they aren’t is a living anachronism, an out-of-touch holdout in a dying job who’s consigned to a desk, scolding kids for returning books a few days late.”

ALEX HALPERN, “The Angriest Librarian Is Full of Hope,” CityLab, October 29.



“Libraries in our country have not always welcomed everyone, and so it makes sense that people are still fighting for access. Sometimes, however, the solutions are simple. Upon learning about the government ID requirement at my hometown library [Cicero Public Library in Illinois], I was furious. I assumed it was a conscious decision to keep people in the community from accessing books—a belief not so far-fetched, considering the anti-immigrant fervor in our current political climate.

“It was with this frustration that I called Jane Schoen, the director of the library, and explained to her that their policy was discriminatory. To my surprise, she said she never considered that this would create a barrier for undocumented people. I asked Schoen to reconsider the policy, and when I followed up the next month, I learned that the board had changed the requirement to a photo ID that did not have to be government-issued. When I asked Schoen why the library had agreed to change their policy, she said simply, ‘Because you brought it to our attention, and it made sense.’”

ERIKA L. SÁNCHEZ, “How Libraries Discriminate against Undocumented Children,” *Time*, October 17.

“A BIG SHOUT OUT TO A LIBRARIAN.”

MIKE BROWN, Salt Lake City police chief, quoted in “Alert Librarian Credited with Spotting Suspect in Fatal Shooting of University of Utah Student,” *Salt Lake Tribune*, October 31.

“Librarians are risk takers. In the same way that firefighters, the police, and the social workers are. Because you look at risk, and you look at the difficult things, and you say, that’s where I want to be. And that is absolutely essential today because if there is any lesson to be learned from the last two years, it is that inclusion and diversity are hard.”

BRIAN BUTLER, professor and senior associate dean of University of Maryland’s College of Information Studies, quoted in “UMD iSchool Hosted Conference about Diversity and Inclusion to Promote Accessibility,” *The Diamondback*, November 6.

Leadership and Vision

Management lessons learned late

I had a rare opportunity in November to spend a morning in conversation with local library leaders about some of the issues, challenges, and opportunities around contemporary public libraries and librarianship. These discussions were confidential, and thus I'm not in a position to name names, so to speak. I hope my colleagues forgive my inability to make appropriate attributions. Suffice it to say these were smart, experienced, and talented people, and the day wound up, for me at least, as a master class in a variety of approaches to leadership and vision. Here are a few impressions, lessons, and anecdotes from the morning.

We all know that the best libraries are the ones that have the strongest connections with their constituents and make all members of their community feel that they belong and are welcome and represented.

It isn't all sunshine and roses, however. It's not unusual to be screamed at during a community meeting, or to be pursued by a small number of people with a specific (if not pernicious) agenda that they doggedly pursue week after week, month after month—a challenge to materials, opposition to a new program, or protesting the elimination of a familiar service, no matter how small the impact.

Often the trick is not to take it personally, to understand that the beef is likely as much with the institution and the role of the leader as it is with you as the person at the top. Recognize that when someone complains, there's often a good reason for it, and it can be productive to loop back, follow up, and not ignore it. By the same token, hearing a delighted "I can't believe you all do that!" is immensely gratifying.



Political skills come with the territory too. As one person at this meeting said, "Even if I disagree with the mayor, I may go along—a little bit—so long as it doesn't cut into our ethical principles." A dose of pragmatism flavored with sensitivity can go a long way, as can an understanding that there are situations in which, try as you might, you're simply not going to win. If the community or political support for an initiative or idea just isn't there, you may have to go to Plan B.

An attitude of "let's try it," encouraging new ideas among staff without drowning them in bureaucracy, can go a long way in libraries of all kinds. In particular, that's a partial remedy

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to the all-too-familiar "toxic middle" phenomenon; enabling staff members at all levels of the organization to suggest novel or even wacky ideas, with some likelihood of implementation is powerful stuff. By the same token, you can't give carte blanche; adding a social worker or career development expert to the staff could be valuable, but gently drawing the line between what falls within the core mission of a library and what more appropriately belongs to a social services agency is important as well.

Perhaps the phrase that lingers with me the most vividly is this: "What I fear most is apathy." I've said something similar for years; I'd rather be loved than hated, but I'd rather be hated than ignored. If people don't care enough about what you're doing to even notice, you're done.

For those of you who do this work every day, a lot of this probably seems obvious. Which isn't to say that it's not worth being reminded of or sharing for those just starting to make their way.

Among the reasons I was particularly grateful for this opportunity is—true confession time—I never took a management or administration course in library school, which partially explains a number of my own stumbling experiences over the years in leadership and administrative roles. (Hence why I took so many notes.) Don't tell anybody, or they might take a long hard look at my degree ... 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).

Creating Space for Agency

Including LGBTQ and intersectional perspectives makes students future-ready

Agency helps students navigate an increasingly digitized world, but it does not spring from a vacuum. It grows from a sense that one is real and present and valued. Our students will be the innovators and creators of the future, and the role of the library is to help them realize this potential—which means all students need to see themselves in the school library.

It's easy to imagine no LGBTQ students are at a given school, and therefore no need exists to court controversy by providing LGBTQ materials, but LGBTQ students are everywhere. I loved to read as a kid, but when I looked inside the books on the shelves, I wasn't really there.

LGBTQ students are not the only ones to feel underrepresented and alone. When students look around their schools and libraries, they need to see their diversity, their intersectionality, and the richness of their personal stories, in print and online. What are some of the ways we can do this?

Develop collections. The American Library Association Code of Ethics calls for us to collect and curate materials in the most wide-ranging fashion possible and to fight for access to information for all. We buy science fiction even if we don't read it and crocheting books even if we only knit.

When you consider that many LGBTQ students may not be out to their parents, the need for school support—for all students—becomes more important. All students need libraries with resources that mirror who they are and who they might become. They need stories that reflect their passions, interests, and struggles, and those of their classmates and people they have never met.



A dearth of LGBTQ materials may be because of the belief that elementary school students are too young to have any kind of sexual orientation. This belief never seems to prevent many versions of *Goldilocks*, featuring heterosexual families of bears, from finding a place on shelves, but it has caused problems for *And Tango Makes Three*, a book about gay penguins who adopt a penguin chick.

Move beyond representation. There is much to be done beyond buying books and placing them on the shelves—or behind the circulation desk, available only with parent permission, which a frightened, questioning child is unlikely to ask for.

While it's important to have coming-out stories, it's equally important to have books with LGBTQ characters doing other things. After all, coming out is—we hope—not the main or only event in an LGBTQ person's life. Personally, I have spent more time playing soccer, pulling weeds, and reading books about teenage vampires.

All students need
libraries that
mirror who they
are and who they
might become.

Sometimes no perfect resource is available, which is why we must continue to ask publishers for the materials we and our students deserve. If a book or article that covers what a student is looking for isn't available, there might be an expert willing to speak to students in person or via Skype.

Use technology with care. A questioning student may be more comfortable checking out an ebook instead of marching up to the circulation desk, rainbow-lettered book in hand. However, technologies theoretically used to keep students safe may cause harm.

Even after the ACLU's "Don't Filter Me" campaign, filters in many school districts are far from perfect. In my own district, the Rainbow Wedding Network website is blocked—as "pornography" no less—but The Knot is not. This filtering could lead LGBTQ students imagining their future wedding to feel that their love is dirty, shameful, and forbidden. Filtering can be a difficult subject, but it's likely that no one except you, the librarian, has the skills, experience, and professional judgment to speak up in cases when filters create a biased information environment.

I believe that we have a responsibility to all students to consider lenses that are not our own. Confronting privilege and sharing our own stories can be hard. If we are willing to do this work, we can help students find strength in their diversity and perspectives. The future is theirs, and we can empower them to create it. [AL](#)

RACHEL ALTOBELLI is director of library services and instructional materials at Albuquerque (N.Mex.) Public Schools and was a 2015–2016 Lilead Fellow. This is an excerpt from "Creating Space for Agency," *Knowledge Quest*, Sept./Oct. 2017.

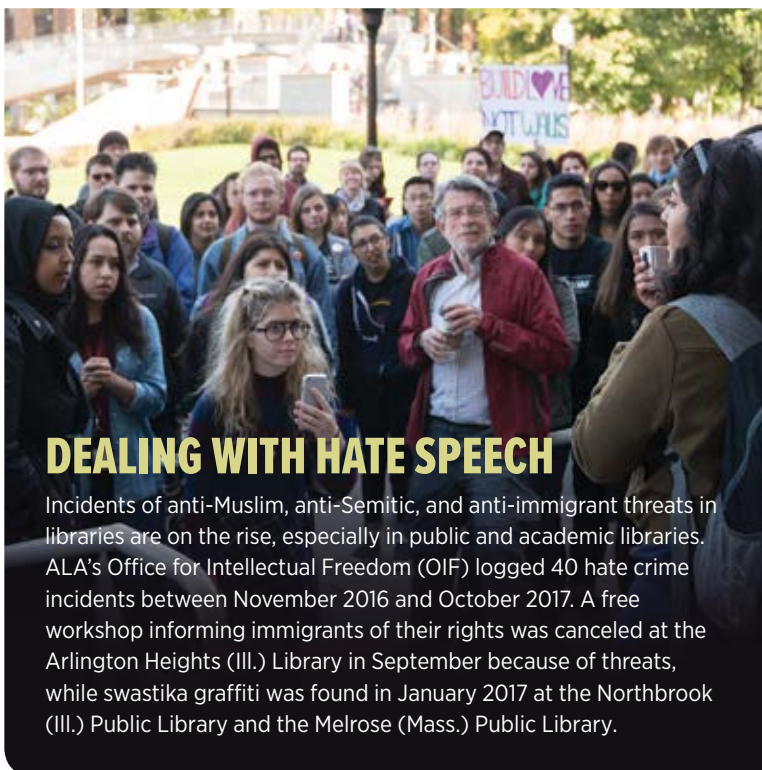
2017

YEAR IN REVIEW

SAVING FEDERAL FUNDING

Thanks to extensive grassroots efforts by ALA members, in September the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an increase of \$4 million in funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, all of which would go to the formula-based Grants to States program. The bill also included increased funding in FY2018 for a number of other library-related programs.

\$4 million



DEALING WITH HATE SPEECH

Incidents of anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant threats in libraries are on the rise, especially in public and academic libraries. ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) logged 40 hate crime incidents between November 2016 and October 2017. A free workshop informing immigrants of their rights was canceled at the Arlington Heights (Ill.) Library in September because of threats, while swastika graffiti was found in January 2017 at the Northbrook (Ill.) Public Library and the Melrose (Mass.) Public Library.

ALA RETIREMENTS

Keith Michael Fiels, ALA's executive director for more than 15 years, retired in July. The search for his successor continues. Emily Sheketoff, executive director of ALA's Washington Office, retired in May after 17 years with the Association. Kathi Kromer was appointed to replace her.



ALA

DEADLY HURRICANE SEASON DEVASTATES LIBRARIES

Hurricanes swept through the Southern US, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, severely damaging public, school, special, and academic libraries. Hurricane Harvey forced several public libraries in Texas to close, Irma knocked out a branch in Daytona Beach, Florida, and Maria's barrage in Puerto Rico caused widespread flooding, damaging library buildings like the ones on the University of Puerto Rico campuses at Humacao and Bayamón (see p. 20). ALA's Disaster Relief Fund is assisting (ec.ala.org/donate/projects).



FIGHTING FAKE NEWS

"Fake news" brought media literacy into the national conversation, and libraries embraced this teachable moment. ALA's Public Programs Office and the Center for News Literacy partnered to train public librarians to teach adults news literacy through Media Literacy @ Your Library, which also aims to create an online learning series in 2018.

THE OPIOID CRISIS

A recent spike in drug overdoses has put public libraries on the front lines of a national crisis. In just three years, deaths from fentanyl, a type of opioid, have risen 540% in the United States, and the epidemic is expected to worsen. As a result, library workers are contending with

discarded needles, drug use within facilities, and overdoses and fatalities. Many are making

Narcan—a drug that reverses the effects of opiate overdose—

available and are training staff in its use.



HILLARY CLINTON AT ANNUAL

An estimated 3,200 people packed Chicago's McCormick Place to hear former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton deliver the closing speech at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition. Clinton touched on topics from fake news to literacy to censorship. She told attendees,

"Libraries and democracy go hand in hand."



THE TRIAL OF THE “LAUGHING LIBRARIAN”

Desirée Fairouz, a children's librarian turned Code Pink activist, faced jail time and fines after her arrest at the January confirmation hearing of Attorney General Jeff Sessions. She was found guilty on May 3 of disorderly and disruptive conduct, and obstructing and impeding passage on US Capitol grounds, but the judge declared a mistrial at sentencing in July. A new trial was expected to begin in mid-November, but instead prosecutors dropped the case without explanation November 6.



ALA OPPOSES TRUMP RULES

ALA stood in opposition to the Trump administration's announcement that it will end the Deferred Action to Childhood Arrivals program, which protects nearly 800,000 undocumented youth from deportation. The Association also rebuked the Trump administration's decision to revoke important protections for transgender students, affirming that it will not hold ALA meetings in states where "bathroom bills" have been passed.



GUN VIOLENCE AND LIBRARIES

ALA Council passed the Resolution on Gun Violence Affecting Libraries, Library Workers, and Library Patrons at the 2017 Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta. The ALA Library prepared a LibGuide called Gun Violence and Libraries (libguides.ala.org/gunviolencelibraries) in June, with links to resources, statistics, laws, and policies. But gun violence hit the library community on August 28: Clovis-Carver (N.Mex.) Public Library Youth Services Librarian Krissie Carter and Circulation Assistant Wanda Walters were killed and four others were injured by a teen-aged assailant, who shot them in an apparently random act of violence.



SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN LIBRARIES

2 out of 3

The number of respondents who said they have experienced on-the-job sexual harassment, according to a 2017 survey of 173 librarians, conducted by Katie McLain and Amanda Civitello. McLain is reference assistant at Waukegan (Ill.) Public Library and Civitello is marketing and communications manager there. Most of the respondents identified as female and as working in public libraries.

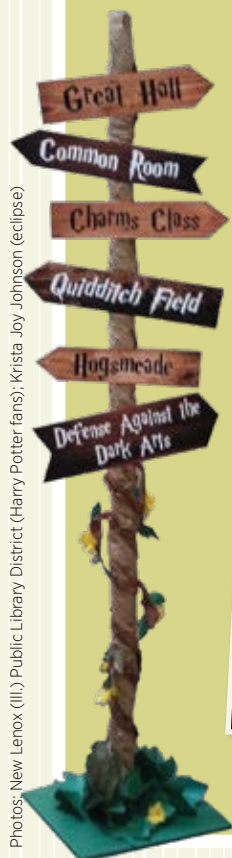
OIF TURNS 50

December marked 50 years since ALA established OIF to help champion free speech and combat censorship.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HARRY!

On June 26, libraries everywhere celebrated the 20th anniversary of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*—the first book in J. K. Rowling's megahit series—with themed parties, exhibits, and activities such as Quidditch games, scavenger hunts, and potions classes.



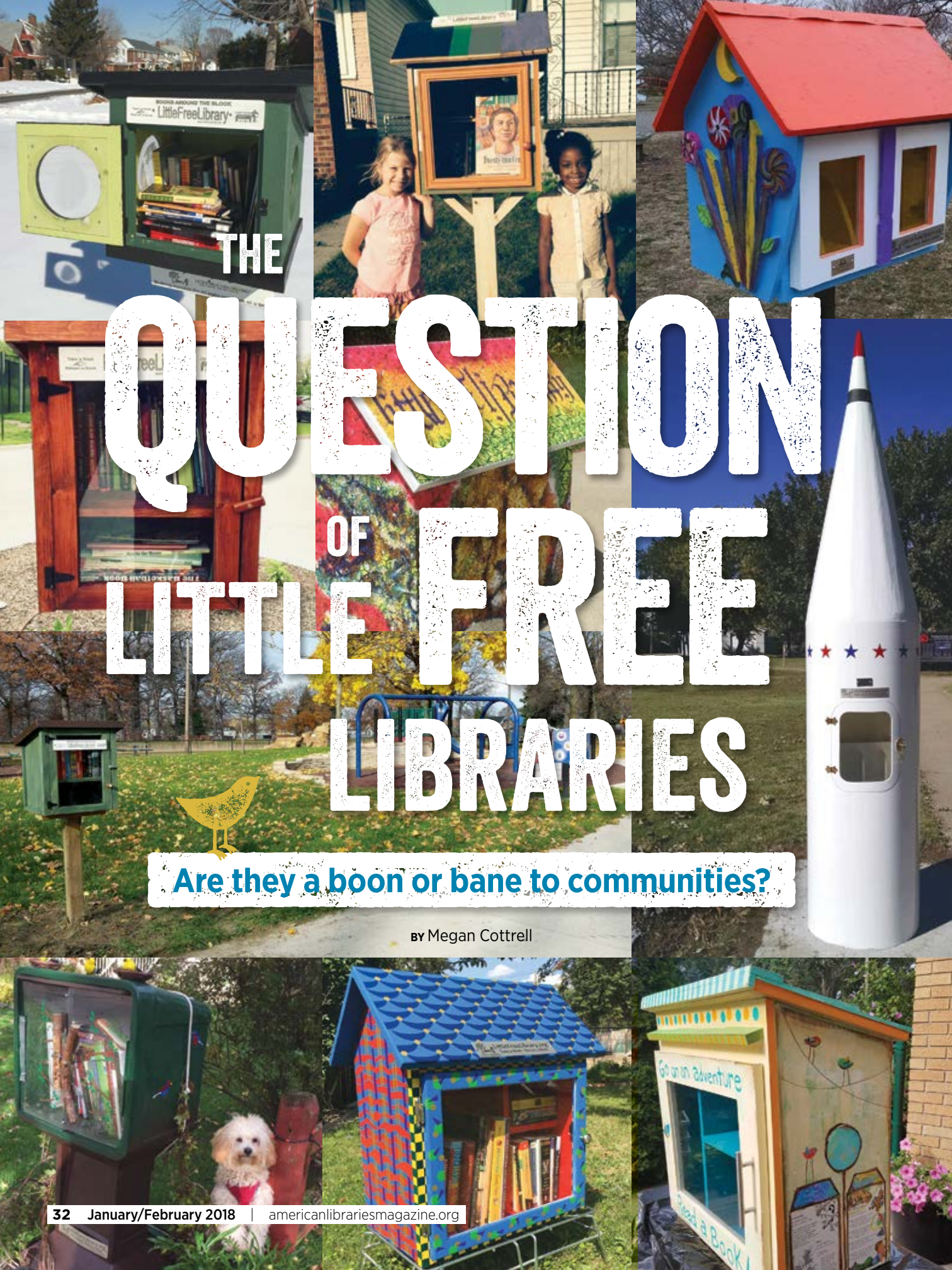
BOOK CLUB CENTRAL DEBUTS

Honorary chair Sarah Jessica Parker kicked off Book Club Central at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago in June. Created in partnership between ALA, *Booklist*, and United for Libraries, Book Club Central provides reading resources—recommendations, expert book lists, author interviews, and other content—to support book clubs and their readers.

DARK SKY BRIGHTENS LIBRARIES

August 21 marked the first time since 1918 that a total solar eclipse passed over the US from coast to coast. Libraries celebrated the cosmic event by hosting NASA-sponsored fairs and outer-space-themed educational programs.





THE QUESTION OF LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Are they a boon or bane to communities?

by Megan Cottrell

They have been popping up in droves. On front lawns and street corners. In parks, community centers, and hospitals. You can even find them at beaches, malls, and barbershops. What started in 2009 with a box on one man's lawn has spawned 60,000 Little Free Libraries around the globe. The ubiquitous book-exchange boxes now outnumber public libraries in the US about three to one.

But are these seemingly wholesome book boxes helping or hurting staffed libraries? And how are librarians and communities across the country leveraging the presence of these outposts?

Little Free Library Capital of the World

When Pam Weinstein first noticed the school bus parked outside her home in Detroit's Rosedale Park neighborhood and her lawn crowded with children, she thought there was some mistake. "Did the bus stop get moved?" she wondered.

But the kids were gathered around a wooden box planted in Weinstein's front yard—a Little Free Library—while the bus driver helped each child pick out a title to take home. It was a ritual they repeated every Friday for almost a year.

"They could clean it out in one visit, so I started putting more children's books in there," says Weinstein, whose book-exchange box was installed as part of a project to plant 313 of them around the city, effectively making Detroit the Little Free Library capital of the world.

Despite numerous articles and press releases announcing its renaissance and rebirth, Detroit is still a city that struggles with poverty, with more than 35% of its residents living below the poverty line in 2016. A recent New York University Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development study showed that in many parts of the Detroit area, books are scarce. In Hamtramck, a small city bordering Detroit, for example, there is as few as one book for every 42 children.

As a reporter for the *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press* for 25 years, Kim Kozlowski has seen the city through some difficult times, including when FBI homicide statistics prompted media outlets to crown it as the "murder capital of the US" in 2014. That same year, she noticed a Little Free Library pop up in her own suburban



Kathy Henderson stands next to a Little Free Library in Highland Park, Michigan.

neighborhood and how it created community connections among residents there.

"The city had just climbed out of bankruptcy, and there was this sense of hope and excitement. People were banding together to do what they could to raise the city up.

I thought I would start raising money to buy these Little Free Libraries, and it grew from there," says Kozlowski, who would go on to head the nonprofit Detroit Little Libraries campaign.

Three years later, Kozlowski estimates there are about 500 Little Free Libraries in the city, including 97 that have been placed in front of Detroit public schools. Recently, Detroit Little Libraries and the national Little Free Library nonprofit announced a new initiative to put a Little Free Library in

front of every police precinct in Detroit.

Media coverage of Detroit Little Libraries has been positive, with reports that they encourage literacy and replenish "book deserts." But a study released in 2017 questions that assumption. Jane Schmidt, librarian at Ryerson University in Toronto, noticed these fawning claims and was skeptical.

"They were using these warm and fuzzy words like 'community building' to describe these little boxes, while

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Opposite: Little Free Libraries in Detroit; Hamtramck, Michigan; and Salina, Kansas.

most of the media coverage about actual libraries is saying, ‘Who needs libraries anymore? Is the public library still relevant?’” says Schmidt.

So Schmidt joined with human geographer and librarian Jordan Hale of the University of Toronto to study Little Free Libraries, including mapping Toronto’s book boxes in relation to public library branch locations. The geographical analysis of Toronto’s Little Free Libraries confirmed their suspicions: the city’s book-exchange boxes didn’t water so-called “book deserts” but instead existed in affluent areas with easy access to public library branches.

Schmidt says no one denies that these tiny book repositories are adorable, but what they actually do for literacy is unclear.

“It’s a lovely concept, it really is,” says Schmidt. “But when we think about the people who are fawning over them, are they people who are actually relying on the public library for their information needs?”

She adds, “Public libraries are serious business and lifelines for a lot of underserved communities.”

Harnessing the phenomenon

Detroit’s Little Free Libraries are standalone entities run by individual volunteers, but many public libraries across the US have gotten into the Little Free Library business themselves.

Friends of the Bismarck (N.Dak.) Public Library (BPL) secured funding to purchase 13 Little Free Libraries to spread throughout the city. Instead of waiting for residents to install their own, the library took applications from patrons who wanted to be caretakers and chose them based on location to ensure the book exchanges would blanket the area.



Artist Wayne Pace poses next to a Little Free Library before painting it as a part of the Little Library Prize competition at the 2017 Michigan State Fair.



OUTPOSTS IN OTHER CITIES

Public libraries across the US are integrating Little Free Libraries in interesting ways. Here are a few examples.

Little Free Library treasure hunt. Northbrook (Ill.) Public Library made its two Little Free Libraries part of its summer reading challenge. Both child and adult patrons could visit a book-exchange box and find a token that would enter them into a drawing for prizes.

Barbershop book exchanges. Houston Public Library installed 50 Little Free Libraries in front of barbershops in low-income areas of the city as part of its Groomed for Literacy program. Adults enrolled in the county’s workforce development classes decorated the book-exchange boxes, with some even featuring tiny red-and-white barbershop poles.

Beach reads. Long Beach (N.Y.) Public Library has installed four Little Free Libraries along the city’s beach boardwalk, encouraging beachgoers to pick something to peruse while they enjoy the sand and surf. ●



BPL Director Christine Kujawa says community caretakers were allowed to personalize their libraries; some simply stained the wood box, while others painted them with intricate designs. Overall, she says, the project has been incredibly successful.

“Citizens continually ask us if the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library will do this again, and if so, can they put their name in now so they’re on the list of applicants,” says Kujawa. “People are starting to create their own Little Free Libraries from repurposed material, such as used newspaper racks.”

Kujawa says she sees Little Free Libraries as a way to complement and expand existing library offerings, such as the library’s bookmobile, which services the largely rural Burleigh County where Bismarck is located. Kujawa says the library has chosen six more spots to install Little Free Libraries in the area.

“This will allow rural citizens to have free access to reading material in between the bookmobile visits,” says Kujawa.

Salina (Kans.) Public Library embarked on a similar endeavor, building nine Little Free Libraries for the city’s nearly 50,000 residents. The public library built the boxes



with money from a large donation bequeathed by a patron who passed away suddenly and thought it was a great way to honor his memory. One box was even made to resemble a rocket—cylindrical with a pointy top, the clear glass hatch door providing access to a shelf full of books—was placed in a park named after one of Salina’s most famous residents, former NASA astronaut Steve Hawley.

Lori Berezovsky, community engagement coordinator for Salina Public Library, says soon after the book exchanges were built, stocking and checking on them became a lot of work. The library put out some ads asking for residents to adopt a Little Free Library and care for it for a year, and decided to give volunteers access to donations and discarded library books to keep them stocked.

“It’s increased the number of volunteers and given them some ownership,” says Berezovsky. “I’ve realized the neighbors are paying attention and keeping an eye on them, too.”

For some folks, says Berezovsky, Little Free Libraries have become a family bonding activity. She says a dad and his daughter who has developmental disabilities ride their bikes to a certain Little Free Library once a week; they find a book to borrow and bring along one to contribute. There is also a mother–daughter duo who scours garage sales for books to donate. When they noticed that children’s books disappear particularly quickly, they began focusing on finding more.

“Kids who can’t drive, they don’t have a means to get to the library unless an adult brings them,” says Berezovsky. “If they can get some books that are of interest to them, that’s a great thing.”

Complement or competitor?

Back in 2009, Todd Bol built a little wooden schoolhouse, filled it with books, and installed it on his front lawn in Hudson, Wisconsin, as a tribute to his late mother. Today, Bol is the founder and executive director of the nonprofit Little Free Library. He says there are more than 60,000 Little Free Libraries registered worldwide—up from 50,000 last year—with 90% of them located in the United States.

One criticism researchers Hale and Schmidt, among others, have of Little Free Library is the nonprofit’s charge to use the Little Free Library name. The nonprofit charges \$39 to register and use the name, and a few hundred bucks for the average prebuilt book-exchange box. Hale and Schmidt have questioned the need for a registration fee and branded name.

“You get a charter number. They put you on a map. You get some pamphlets and a sticker. Why does that come at such a substantial cost?” says Hale. “It could be very free and very grassroots and lovely.”

“Where is the money going? Is it going to literacy?” asks Hale. “The website says they build hundreds of installations in underserved communities, but where are those exactly, and were they funded by donations or charter fees?”

Bol says he appreciates the constructive criticism from Hale and Schmidt and hopes their questions can spur the nonprofit to refine its mission.

“We’re trying to do a better job of making transparent the work we do behind the scenes to fulfill that mission and to increase book access,” says Bol, who points to its Impact Library Program, which aims to provide 50 book exchanges to underserved communities this year.

“We are sometimes perceived to be a big institution, but we’re actually a small nonprofit—just 12 people in a Wisconsin office. We’re not ‘big’ Little Free Library,” says Bol.

And, he says, more than 600 public libraries around the country use Little Free Libraries as an extension of their services.

“Little libraries obviously cannot provide the depth and breadth of services that public libraries provide,” says Bol. “They can, however, act as natural complements to the public library, providing easy access to books to residents of neighborhoods or small towns that are far away from public library resources.”

But Hale and Schmidt point to at least one place where Little Free Libraries are seen as a substitute for true public library services. When budget cuts caused the El Paso (Tex.) Public Library to implement a \$50 annual fee for nonresidents to use the library system, the tiny town



Artist Martha Thierry’s honorable mention-winning entry at the 2017 Michigan State Fair.

“[LITTLE LIBRARIES] CAN ACT AS NATURAL COMPLEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.” —TODD BOL



of nearby Vinton came up with a plan: five Little Free Libraries spread around the community. The town would build them, and keeping them stocked with books would be up to the people of Vinton themselves.

When Detroit Public Library (DPL) closed its Gabriel Richard branch in 2011, 4th graders at a local elementary school installed a colorful painted bookcase and a sign reading “Outdoor Library” in front of the shuttered building. It was one of four libraries to close that year—two have since reopened, though only two to three days a week.

Despite budget shortfalls that led to reduced hours or staff cutbacks at other branches, DPL was recently able to restore Sunday hours at its main library, which hasn’t been possible since 1981, and it has brought back Sunday hours to two of its branches.



A Little Free Library at the Heidelberg Project outdoor art community in Detroit.

Although Little Free Libraries can provide access to books when hours are reduced or branches aren’t nearby, the quality of the books inside is often poor, says Mary-Catherine Harrison, professor of English at University of Detroit Mercy, who runs the nonprofit Rx for Reading Detroit.

“Often with Little Free Libraries, you get a lot of books people just want to get rid of. They’re not books that are adding value,” says Harrison. “That’s a real difference from libraries—you have children’s librarians who are acting as that resource, recommending books, making displays of books, choosing the best books.”

"OFTEN WITH LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES, YOU GET A LOT OF BOOKS PEOPLE JUST WANT TO GET RID OF. THEY'RE NOT BOOKS THAT ARE ADDING VALUE." —MARY-CATHERINE HARRISON

Harrison’s nonprofit also focuses on expanding access to print materials for Detroit kids, but in a different way. Rx for Reading creates caches of children’s books inside Detroit’s community centers and institutions, like WIC clinics, legal aid offices, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters. When families use these existing resources, kids get to take a book to keep. Rx for Reading both fundraises to buy books and takes donations, although Harrison says they’re thoughtful about which books they give away, and they refurbish books to make sure they don’t look like somebody’s castoffs.

Harrison says she does support the Little Free Library effort and that public libraries have their own barriers when it comes to low-income residents accessing resources. In the DPL system, she says, approximately 56,000 patrons—about 14%—are blocked from borrowing materials and using public computers because they have incurred more than \$10 in fines. Harrison says she’d like to see more amnesty policies at public libraries across the US to allow broader access to services.

At least a few DPL librarians are taking advantage of Little Free Library locations to further their mission. Barbara Parker-Hawkins, manager and children’s librarian at DPL’s Chaney branch, keeps a box of books in her storeroom to give to kids to keep in situations where they can’t borrow books.

“When I run into a situation where the child might not be in a stable home environment, I tend to just give them a book so they have something to read,” she says.

Parker-Hawkins sees Little Free Libraries as an extension of that box in her storeroom. When it came time to weed through Chaney’s children’s collection and make room for new books, she boxed up her favorite titles and called Weinstein, the steward of the neighborhood’s Little Free Library.

Despite budget cuts and branch closings in recent years, Parker-Hawkins doesn’t feel any animosity toward these ubiquitous book boxes, even though they don’t offer the multitude of services real libraries provide.

“I think anything where you have a book is a library. The more we have out there, the better,” she says. “I don’t think we’re going to put the library out of business by any means. I see them as helping out the libraries. I’m very glad they’ve come along.” **AL**



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



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BLAZING TRAILS

Pioneering
African-American
librarians share
their stories

by Greg Landgraf

When Jessie Carney Smith arrived at Fisk University in Nashville in 1965, she says many people there did not know about black literature. Smith, the dean of the library, says, “Many scholars were told that blacks had no history.”

But African Americans within the library profession have certainly had a long history, with one of the first librarians of color, Edward C. Williams, joining the American Library Association (ALA) in 1896—20 years after the founding of the Association. And today, African Americans comprise roughly 14,250 of the estimated 190,000 librarians in the United States, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

American Libraries spoke with five leading African-American librarians about their careers, the changes they have witnessed over the decades, and the current issues in librarianship. While no two people have the same story, all five interviewees note inclusivity as an important theme. They discuss libraries as safe havens, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the history and future of the Association, as well as their legacies within the profession.

As library professor Alma Dawson says, “Even in this day and age, we still have to tell our own stories.”

Opposite: Jessie Carney Smith in 1965, her first year as a university librarian at Fisk University.

SATIA ORANGE

When Satia Orange, 75, was growing up in the 1950s, she saw what she described as “the grinding work” of her parents, both librarians.

Her father was A. P. Marshall, an ALA Councilor and director of libraries at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. Orange saw him come “home for dinner and then return to the library until 9 or 10 p.m., doing budgets.”

Orange herself later went on to become director of ALA’s Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, retiring from ALA in 2009. “I was pulled into the profession kicking and screaming,” she jokes.

She began her career in education, teaching in Milwaukee in the mid-1960s, when she received a call one day from Virginia Lacy Jones, dean of Atlanta University’s School of Library Sciences and the first—and at that time only—black library school. Jones offered her a fellowship, promising Orange that she would be able to work with young children, something she enjoyed as part of her prior experience working in the library in the Atlanta school system.

It wasn’t until she started attending conferences that Orange began to view librarianship as her profession. As she participated in ALA Midwinter Meetings and Annual Conferences, she recalled what her father had told her years ago: “This was a profession that has a national and international impact.”



ROBERT WEDGEWORTH

Robert Wedgeworth, 80, knows well about the profession’s impact. Wedgeworth became ALA executive director in 1972, at a time of significant financial challenges, with one library publication suggesting that bankruptcy was imminent. But Wedgeworth said he received “some very good advice from friends in the banking industry”; after analyzing the Association’s finances, “they advised me that ALA didn’t have financial problems—it had control problems.”

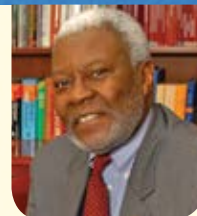
Wedgeworth balanced ALA’s budget within two years.

During his 12-year tenure, ALA membership increased by more than 25%, and the Association’s annual budget more than doubled. The Association also resolved an ongoing building development issue with the construction of Huron Plaza, which has since brought more than \$18 million into ALA endowments, and took over operation of National Library Week from the National Book Committee.

Wedgeworth’s forward-thinking approach is also evident in how he applied what he learned from the 1962 Century 21 Exposition in Seattle. He was one of 75 librarians that ALA chose to work at the futuristic Library 21 exhibit, and he was, as he says, “in the first group of librarians to apply computers to library problems” when he became assistant chief acquisitions librarian at Brown University in 1966.

His career in libraries has spanned decades: working as a 14-year-old in libraries over the summer and continuing throughout his four years in college, where a librarian “influenced me to consider librarianship as a career.”

Since leaving ALA, Wedgeworth has served as dean of the School of Library Service at Columbia University in New York and university librarian at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and he is currently president of ProLiteracy Worldwide, a nonprofit that promotes adult literacy.



Many recent events have been extremely disruptive to communities, ranging from natural disasters to unrest following police shootings or white nationalist rallies. What should a library's role be in responding to events like these?

Satia Orange: Our Librarian of Congress [Carla Hayden] provided an example of how to respond [as director of Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore]. After the police confrontation, she opened up the library the next day. They were busy because people needed to do what they needed to do but also to understand what was happening in their neighborhood.

In Ferguson, Missouri, the director [of Ferguson Municipal Public Library, Scott Bonner] was brand new, but his training and intuition let him go in and keep the library open and make it the center of the community for information, safety, and resources.

Robert Wedgeworth: Libraries have to be responsive to their constituents, and they need to present themselves as a place where people can find information that helps to explain and understand the current issues affecting their lives. That has been a very important role for libraries over the years, and it will continue to be one. It's not the social issue itself but that the library can be an active place in helping people to respond to issues as they present themselves.

In the 1960s, librarians were asking to what extent they should be active participants in protests and combating certain topics. That continues to be a question

ALMA DAWSON

As Russell Long professor (2013–2014) and professor emeritus in library and information science at Louisiana State University (LSU), Alma Dawson, 74, was one of the primary forces in the long-term rebuilding of libraries after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. She led Project Recovery, an IMLS-funded project to educate librarians in south Louisiana to compensate for staff losses after the hurricanes. "It was important to me to make sure that we were connecting what the students were doing in the classroom to everyday experience," Dawson says. Students recruited for Project Recovery met LSU graduate school requirements and were then admitted into the library program, and all of them went on to professional library positions.

Dawson has also worked to document the history of African Americans in librarianship. "Even in this day and age, we still have to tell our own stories," she says. "We can stress the importance of figuring out where people are, the kind of positions they have, and the research they're doing."

Dawson was, if not recruited to librarianship early, at least welcomed to the library in her youth. "I worked with a librarian in high school who let me help with the library and helped me get scholarships," she says. "I was the first person in the family to go to college, and it was all on scholarships." She didn't initially work at the library as a student at Grambling (La.) State University, but she was friendly with the librarians there. She also worked in a segregated public school during the Jim Crow era, in the 1960s. "We didn't really have the resources for students, so we had to raise all the money to buy materials for the library. It was always my goal to find a way to have the resources that the students needed," she says.



raised in the ranks of professionals, and it will always be controversial. Different people will feel different levels of responsibility in dealing with various circumstances, but there will always be a professional role to helping people understand what's going on in their lives and in their world.

Alma Dawson: First of all, people need information. If they're just running on emotion, they don't have the correct info. If we're talking about Black Lives Matter and other issues of the day, the

library has background information that is not just emotional. They have the history right there. When the hurricanes came, people went to the library because that's where they could connect with family and the community. Librarians can be the right group of people to help. **Gladys Smiley Bell:** In my opinion, those protests are political. It's just appalling to know that things like that are happening today. But libraries can open their doors during times of crisis to provide resources and displays. Schools tend to shut down,



Jessie Carney Smith (second from left) at a Mellon Foundation-funded library training workshop on preservation, held at Fisk University.

Photo: Jessie Carney Smith

but libraries seem to gear up. There is someone out there archiving those events for the future, maybe with the collection of what happens over the years, so that things can be better in the future. Libraries play a role in that because their doors are open to everybody to come and find out for themselves why, who, and what to do about these issues.

Jessie Carney Smith: We have a difficult job to do to help people cope with natural disasters and increasing violence. One has a right to protest, but keep violence out of it. Libraries can help by becoming involved in local dialogue, as we are doing in Nashville. But what works in one community might not work in another.

LIBRARIES CAN OPEN THEIR DOORS DURING TIMES OF CRISIS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES.

— GLADYS SMILEY BELL

You have to find ways to soften the ugly, tense moments that we have to face. Having grown up in the South, I have seen a lot of ugly and tense moments. We must find a way to deal with the bad as well as the good and let people know that we are dealing with community problems.

Is the profession more welcoming to African-American librarians now than at the start of your career?

Smith: Indeed it is. I grew up in the segregated South, so except for one or two positions in colleges, and maybe in a public library, there weren't many places where black people could work.

Orange: [In the early 1990s] I think ALA and the profession were looking at African Americans and other ethnic groups from the standpoint of "Let's let them do something" rather than being truly inclusive. There were people on Council but not the commitment to being sure that services were provided to those communities. It was only later that the Association and the profession made the commitment to making the profession more inclusive as an intentional action.

GLADYS SMILEY BELL

It was Dorothy Porter, curator of Howard University's Moorland-Spangarn Research Center and the major force behind building it into a premiere collection for the study of African-American history, who encouraged Gladys Smiley Bell, 68, to go to library school. "When I was a student, I didn't know about ALA and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), so I try to encourage people to join now," she says.

She's also worked to help librarians forge connections through professional activities. Bell cochaired the first Joint Council of Librarians of Color (JCLC) in 2006, the first-ever shared conference among ALA's five ethnic affiliate associations: BCALA, the American Indian Library Association, the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, the Chinese American Librarians Association, and Reforma.

With that conference, she says she "was very excited for how we could change the profession in terms of diversity and how we could come together to serve the people," Bell says. A second JCLC was held in 2012, and a third will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in September.

Bell is now the Peabody Librarian of the William R. and Norma B. Harvey Library at Hampton (Va.) University.



JESSIE CARNEY SMITH

Jessie Carney Smith, 87, is not a historian even though some people call her that. "I am a librarian who has done some historical work," she says. As dean of the library at Fisk University in Nashville, she has published extensively on African-American history, including three books of biographies of black women and two books of biographies of black men. "I looked for areas that had not been talked about," Smith says.

After college, she moved to Nashville but couldn't find a teaching job because of the limited openings in segregated schools. She found a job as a clerk-typist at Fisk University under librarian and writer Arna Bontemps. "I was impressed by his work and the contact he had with other writers and publishers," Smith says.

She earned a master's degree and eventually a PhD in library science, returning to Fisk when Bontemps retired. "When I became familiar with what was then called 'the Negro collections,' I thought, 'Why not do some work that would use those materials and promote them to others?'" And that history is important to having a complete picture. "You may have an interest in one particular topic, and that's fine," she says. "But you need to know about the whole of America, not just white, but black and Hispanic and other ethnic groups as well."



In the late 1990s, with the start of the [ALA] Spectrum scholarship program and Sandra Ríos Balderrama as diversity officer, you could see there was a shift. We had leaders on Council like Barbara Ford, Sarah Ann Long, and E. J. Josey, who made inclusiveness part of their platform. They helped the Association to devote more resources and support to inclusiveness in the

profession, by encouraging the activities of the ethnic caucuses, creating the Office for Diversity, elevating the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force into an ALA round table [now known as GLBTRT], and other accomplishments. It blossomed in the early 2000s, and I was really proud of the Association—they were brave steps, and you saw brave folks coming out of them.

I don't see evidence of the Association moving in that direction anymore, and that's disturbing to me. The Office for Diversity and OLOS were recently combined, which took the only place in the Association that really dealt with people of color and put them into one little group with different responsibilities. OLOS has a small staff but is expected to do the things those two offices were doing, which I think is unfair.

I am encouraged by the attempt to reach nonmembers and by the resources the Association has and is working to make available.

Dawson: [At the start of my career in the early 1960s] you were not able to go anywhere—I don't think we even had medical care. My parents talked a lot about having to use home remedies. LSU was not easy when I worked there, first as a librarian and then when I got my PhD and worked my way up to professor. I think people need to have goals and objectives to move forward. That was what I always tried to do, and what my parents always had us do. Just as important, students need financial assistance.

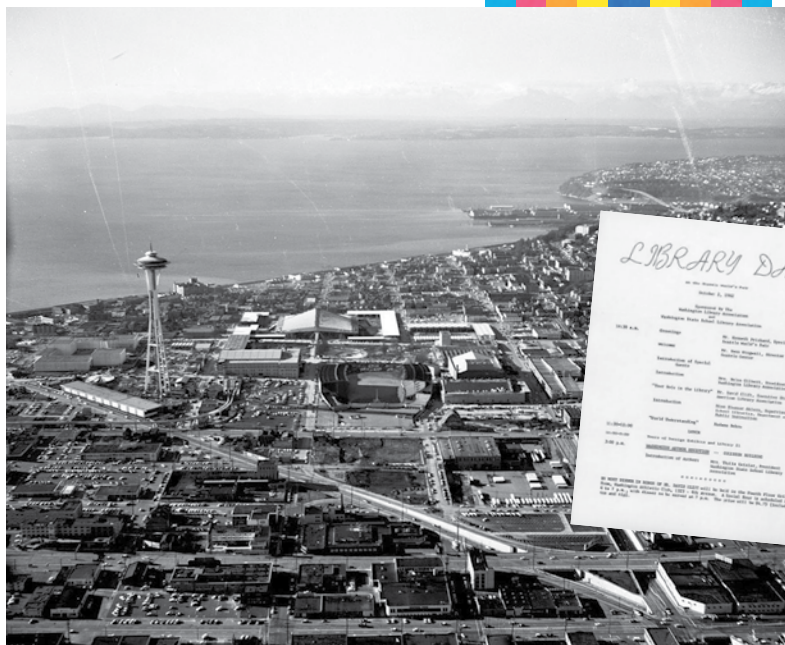
EVEN TODAY, LIBRARIANS OF COLOR HAVE STORIES OF RACISM.

— GLADYS SMILEY BELL

Bell: Even today, librarians of color have stories of racism, either overt or subtle, with regard to tenure and promotion. When I came up for tenure in the 1990s at Kent (Ohio) State University, I faced opposition and a lot of adversity from people who I thought knew me, with stupid questions about not having enough non-African-American references.

What do you see as the most important current issues related to diversity in libraries? How have they changed over time?

Orange: There was a member push toward being more diverse with resources and representation and



Aerial photo of the Century 21 Exposition in 1962 Seattle and a Library Day flier.

giving diverse populations a voice. I think people in the profession are still working that way, but I don't see ALA as taking those steps. One concern is that ALA is encouraging libraries to have a diverse staff, but it doesn't have a diverse staff itself.

Wedgeworth: There are a lot more opportunities within the field for minorities. The problem is the library field doesn't reach broadly enough to attract people into the field. We are mostly recruiting people who have worked in libraries or who are relatives or friends of librarians and know what librarians do. We haven't been able to reach more broadly into undergraduate talent to fill various kinds of positions in libraries. We need students with backgrounds in the sciences and economics, but we don't tend to reach out to attract those kinds of people.

To counter this, we could do a more aggressive marketing program to attract people to the field and provide more opportunities to experience what it's like to work in a library before choosing a profession. People need to learn about the career at an earlier age than they

currently do. That costs money and time and effort, and we don't seem to have been willing or able to make that kind of investment.

Dawson: I went to the BCALA conference in Atlanta in August, and people were talking about a lot of the same issues: how you deal with people and how you recruit people. You still have to help young people to understand that librarianship is a viable profession. You do that by networking with students and being in the community early on, through the reading programs and similar efforts. We have to continue to do what we have always done and be the person that people turn to for information.

Bell: One of ALA's core values is diversity. The profession should try to adapt those kind of initiatives within their libraries as best they can. We have a lot of brilliant students of color out there—for the scholarships I support, an essay is required, and they write about issues in public libraries that I don't even think about, like substance abuse, safe spaces, and dress and religion issues. [What is important to library students of color is] being conscious and aware and listening to what's being said to them, the profession, and their needs.

Smith: One issue that's important is that there is diversity within a race. A black person can grow up in New York and have an entirely different experience than one growing up in Nashville. I don't know how successful we are, but I know libraries and other institutions are trying to promote a fuller view of diversity.

What advice would you give to your younger self or someone just entering the field?

Orange: I think I would have paid attention to what my father was telling me about the profession and the impact you can have as an individual librarian on a whole community. I wish I'd been less career-minded and more profession-minded.

Wedgeworth: I'm not sure because I had a series of very fortunate positions early in my career that shaped what I did later

on. It's not the kind of thing you can advise people about; it simply happened.

Dawson: Have goals and objectives, and understand that—as one of my professors said—not everybody is your friend in your workplace, but you do need to

LIBRARIANSHIP IS A SERVICE FIELD, SO YOU HAVE TO WANT TO GIVE BACK. IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HELPING OTHERS, THIS MAY NOT BE THE FIELD FOR YOU. — JESSIE CARNEY SMITH

get the job done and be able to get along with people. That's what I remember from LSU the most. I had a challenging time, but I had a supervisor who would say what he wanted to do, and I would try to figure out how to fit that when other people wouldn't do anything.

Bell: Sometimes I think I shouldn't have been as outspoken as I was, because I was told that I was too negative or “rough around the edges.” I would also pursue higher education—I always thought about getting a PhD but never did. I really love books and the book as a piece of art. I'm in the process of researching the illustrations and artists in the *Freedomways* journal, but the process is slow.

Smith: Librarianship is a service field, so you have to want to give back. If you're not interested in helping others, this may not be the field for you. You have to be committed to what you do, and finding new ways of doing things and new ways of promoting knowledge. Reach out to people who seem to be lost.

What would you like your legacy to be?

Orange: I did a lot of thinking about legacy when I retired because there were so many things I wanted to do. Our office and other groups worked hard to make things happen, like the Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration, the Coretta Scott King Award, and JCLC. The thing I really did was to collaborate and pull groups together.

I think the work of the profession is to give all populations a voice. It's a hard thing to do, and we have to provide resources for it, but I'm happy I was a part of it.

Wedgeworth: One thing I am pleased to see is that many more librarians are interested in what happens internationally in our field. That didn't happen earlier in my career, and we have been able to open up more opportunities to be

involved through the State Department, affiliation with IFLA [the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions], and other organizations. That's been a very positive development. International librarianship has been such a heavy part of my career.

Also, I think librarians have an obligation to write about the field and do research in the field. It's important for us to define our future and not look to others to define it for us.

Bell: My legacy is with supporting students in library school. That's why I created a scholarship to help support travel to the BCALA national conferences and JCLC. I would like to endow that fund for library science students.

Smith: I would like to be remembered as a researcher, writer, and deeply committed librarian. I want to be remembered as someone who explored new ways of knowing and reached out to people who wanted to learn more about authors, movements, or something that would make a difference in their lives. I am also a stickler when it comes to administration and writing. That too makes a difference—it guides people to put some structure in things and then reap the rewards. And I believe in education. You never know what turn your life is going to take, so be prepared. Those who are prepared get the best jobs. **AL**



GREG LANDGRAF is a regular contributor to *American Libraries*.

Stories, Songs, and *Stretches*

Creating playful storytimes with
yoga and movement

by Katie Scherrer



What is yoga? This seemingly straightforward question can elicit a variety of responses, depending on who you ask. Yoga may be thought of as a form of exercise, a spiritual practice, a fitness fad, a relaxation strategy, or an esoteric form of self-torture. Often, it is defined as a union of the body, heart, and mind—what we experience when these seemingly disparate parts of the self are brought together.

It may be difficult for us to remember as adults, but for young children, movement is a learning process that requires intense concentration. A child's early physical and sensory experiences help build pathways that will shape how he or she thinks, learns, and views the world. Movement is among the brain's top priorities. Eventually, many movements will become automatic, but before that takes place, movement overrides all other thinking activity. Put quite simply: Learning begins with the body.

Yoga provides children an opportunity to experience and practice many movements that can help them develop balance, body and spatial awareness, strength and stamina, flexibility, coordination, and control. It provides them the opportunity to move in many ways, including cross-laterally, as they use their bodies to act out stories, express emotions, and move creatively. By including yoga in storytime programs, we can help children learn how to move in a variety of ways without having to think about it. This automatic movement makes the brain more efficient, allowing children to focus more of their energy on learning the other things (such as letters and numbers) that they will need to become school ready.

Programming your yoga storytime

The design of a yoga storytime has much in common with the design of a traditional storytime program, but the reader makes intentional choices to engage children physically and emotionally. The level and amount of movement varies from program to program and presenter to presenter. There is ample room for creativity, and presenters should be enthusiastic and comfortable with the material.

A yoga storytime typically lasts 30–45 minutes. Presenters should incorporate components that they use in their other storytimes, including books, storytelling, music, rhymes, and digital tools. Within this template, they can include yoga poses and movement to the degree that they feel comfortable and that

seems appropriate for the group. Pay attention to what your group needs throughout the program and adjust as needed. If you are reading a story without movement and have completely lost the group's attention, switch gears and add in a movement song. If the group looks tired and you have a big movement story planned, lessen the amount of movement to let them rest.

Yoga classes the world over end with a brief period of relaxation, typically three to five minutes, known in Sanskrit as *savasana*, which translates in English to “corpse pose.” This is the time when the activity ceases and the objective is simply

to rest quietly. Including a few minutes of relaxation for your group is a wonderful way to end your yoga storytime. Asking children to be quiet and still for a few moments can help them learn self-regulation.

To make this rest period appropriate for preschool-age children, keep it nice and short, approximately 30 seconds to 2 minutes. Adults typically practice this pose lying on their backs, but it is perfectly fine to encourage children to rest in any way that they feel comfortable. They may even want to use the time to cuddle up with their grown-up. You may want to play some calming music or nature sounds during this time to aid relaxation.

As the storytime leader, you should lie down and take a brief rest along with the group to reassure the children that they are not missing anything interesting. It is perfectly normal for some children to whisper, giggle, or fidget; don't try to control this. Ring a bell or chime or use some other cue to let the group

know when it is time to transition out of rest back into the remainder of the closing routine.

Selecting materials

Selecting materials for yoga storytime has much in common with the way materials

are selected for any storytime program. The presenter will seek out books, songs, and digital media that are fun to share with young children.

*Learning begins
with the body.*



This is an excerpt from *Stories, Songs, and Stretches! Creating Playful Storytimes with Yoga and Movement* by Katie Scherrer (ALA Editions, 2017).



When using books in a yoga storytime setting, you have many options for how and when to incorporate movement and how much movement to incorporate, including the following:

- Read the book and then, after reading, come back to a few passages to act out.
- Read the book and act out the movements as they are described.
- Read the book, act out the movements, and add yoga poses inspired by the various characters.

When selecting books, use the same criteria that you apply in all storytimes: Is the story interesting and engaging? Do the illustrations and physical design of the book present well to a group? Am I seeking out and including books by and about diverse groups of people? Can I use this book in a way that models participation in important early literacy practices?

Books that include movement within the story are a natural fit for a yoga storytime. Sometimes, movement may serve as the central theme of the story, such as in *Stretch* by Doreen Cronin (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009). Often, various movements (such as jumping, flying, and swimming) will be paired with characters in the story.

Your individual style and the degree of movement you feel comfortable sharing will influence how you use the book. Books with animal characters are particularly well suited for use because nearly every animal imaginable can be expressed

physically through a yoga pose. The animal names given to the various poses illustrate this characteristic. Some yoga poses have obvious animal-inspired origins, such as downward-facing dog and cobra pose. Other poses can be transformed into animal shapes, such as by renaming crescent

moon pose as rhinoceros pose, inspired by interpreting the clasped hands above the head as a rhinoceros's horn. The rhyme-based stories by Jane Cabrera, such as *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* (Holiday House, 2014), lend themselves to a natural incorporation of animal-inspired yoga poses.

Books that celebrate the natural world are also ideal for use in yoga storytime, such as *Call Me Tree/Llámame árbol* by Maya Christina Gonzalez (Children's Book Press, 2014). Many yoga poses are inspired by landforms, such as mountain and tree poses. As with animal poses, traditional names for yoga poses can be reimagined to physically express different elements of the natural world.

There is a small but growing genre of yoga-inspired picture books that incorporate yoga poses directly into the stories themselves, such as *Rachel's Day in the Garden* by Giselle Shardlow (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014). Other yoga-inspired picture books, such as *The Yoga Game by the Sea* by Kathy Beliveau (Simply Read Books, 2015), offer riddles that encourage readers to guess the yoga shape and then try it out for themselves.

*Books that include
movement within
the story are a
natural fit for a
yoga storytime.*





Picture books that include messages related to yoga principles, such as peace, respect for the environment, and care for one another, are good choices that allow children to cool down from all the movement they've experienced throughout the program. These stories provide a natural transition from the activity of the program into the period of final relaxation.

Storytime Yoga: Teaching Yoga to Children through Story by Sydney Solis (The Mythic Yoga Studio, 2006) is a helpful resource for finding stories that have been adapted to include yoga poses and movement. In addition to presenting numerous folktales that have been modified in this way, this resource offers guidance on how to select and adapt folktales and other stories into storytelling that involves the body.

Planning logistics

Now that we've walked through basic yoga storytime design and the selection of books, music, and other materials, let's clarify some logistical details.

- **Ages.** A yoga storytime should target children who are old enough to engage in the yoga poses and movement components that your storytime will be exploring. An ideal target age for a yoga storytime is 3–6 years old. Adult caregivers should attend the storytime with their child and be encouraged to participate at their comfort level.
- **Registration.** Because a yoga storytime is very active and requires more space for movement than other programs, you might want to require program registration in order to limit the size of the group to a workable number. If your program is set up as a limited series that requires registration rather than an ongoing program, you have the advantage of being able to introduce yoga poses and movement components that children can learn and build on from week to week. The downside is that advance registration can create a barrier to attendance for families who would be more apt to join if they could simply drop in when convenient.
- **Physical setup.** Set up your program in a room large enough to allow adults and children to sit together in a circle on the floor so that everyone can see you. Be sure that there is enough room for the group to move through the various poses and creative movement components that you have planned for your program.

Adults are encouraged to sit with and participate with their child, but some may have a difficult time sitting on the floor for a sustained period. Have chairs available for those who need them. The room should be as free as possible of distractions that may grab the attention of young children. Have a chair or cart for your own supplies that keeps them out of the reach of young children.

- **Supplies.** Yoga mats are not necessary for a yoga storytime. If the floor of the area where you are offering your program is uncarpeted, or if you are presenting your program outside, consider asking families to bring mats or towels to sit on, or consider providing mats. Large rolls of yoga mat material can be purchased and cut to custom sizes; this option may be more cost-effective than purchasing many individual mats. Regular-sized yoga mats can be cut in half to make smaller yoga mat squares that are an appropriate size for young children. Be aware that mats can be a tripping hazard for young children. Move the mats out of the way when you are playing games or using songs that encourage free-form running, jumping, and dancing.

Preparing yourself

Yoga storytime is a physical program. Take the time to prepare your body by doing your own yoga practice or stretching routine. At minimum, practice in advance all the movements and yoga poses that you intend to share so that you are familiar with how they feel in your body.

A yoga storytime requires you to be especially attuned to the needs of the group you are serving. No matter what has come earlier in the day, or what is waiting for you to deal with later, a yoga storytime leader should be completely present during the program. This means being welcoming and including everyone who attends; being responsive to the needs of the group and adjusting your plans accordingly; and being able to guide the energy of the group from the warm-up stage into the most active and energetic stage and back down into the restful and relaxed stage.

You may want to spend a few moments, after you've set everything up for your program and before families arrive, quietly reflecting on your intention. What do you want families and children to experience or feel by participating? Allow yourself to sit quietly, watching your breathing, and set this intention for yourself.

Make it yours

As with any storytime, a variety of personal styles will influence what yoga storytime looks like in action at your library. There is no one cookie-cutter mold of programming. Your yoga storytime will be uniquely yours. Be present. Be authentic. Have fun. **AL**



KATIE SCHERRER is a former children's librarian who consults and trains libraries and educational organizations to improve services to Latino immigrant communities through outreach and bilingual programming. She is also a registered yoga teacher. She is the coauthor of *Once Upon a Cuento: Bilingual Storytimes in English and Spanish* (ALA Editions, 2016).



MIDWINTER 2018 *Preview*

THIS YEAR'S MILE-HIGH MEETING
WILL HELP YOUR

library services soar

BY Greg Landgraf

Nestled among Rocky Mountain vistas, Denver has long been lauded for its adventurous, pioneering spirit. Information is one of the most precious commodities our society needs as it enters a new frontier of intense debate, fake news, unrest, and social change. With that in mind, it's only appropriate that thousands of librarians will converge in the Mile High City for the 2018 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits February 9–13, to discuss how libraries can most effectively provide information and outreach, serve their communities, and advocate for all in this era of transition.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Opening Session

Friday, February 9, 4–5:15 p.m.



Marley Dias, who started the #1000blackgirlbooks campaign as a 6th grader, will have a conversation with

Patrisse Cullors, artist and cofounder of the Black Lives Matter movement, to reveal the determining factors and mind-sets that motivated each of them to take action and how different generations can tackle issues of inequality and achieve grassroots-level solutions. Black Lives Matter has grown into an international organization, fighting racism worldwide, and Cullors has been named an NAACP History Maker and a Civil Rights Leader for the 21st Century by the *Los Angeles Times*. Dias started #1000blackgirlbooks to collect and donate 1,000 books featuring black girls as main characters when she realized that she wasn't seeing herself reflected in the books that she was being assigned.

Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture

Saturday, February 10, 4–5 p.m.



Poet **Elizabeth Acevedo** was raised in New York City as the youngest child of Dominican immigrants. Her poetry is infused with Dominican bolero and her beloved city's grit. In more than 12 years of performing, Acevedo has been a featured performer on BET and

Mun2, delivered several TED talks, and appeared in venues such as Madison Square Garden, the Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts, South Africa's State Theatre, The Bozar in Brussels, and the National Library of Kosovo. She has written two poetry collections, *Beastgirl & Other Origin Myths* and *Medusa Reads La Negra's Palm*, and her novel *The Poet X* is scheduled for release in early 2018.

ALA President's Program: Are Libraries Neutral? Have They Ever Been? Should They Be?

Sunday, February 11, 3:30–5:30 p.m.



The question of neutrality in librarianship is an old one. ALA's 1939 Code of Ethics for Librarians calls for unbiased "recommendations." But is strict neutrality appropriate in today's society? **ALA President Jim Neal** will moderate a group of ALA members from academic library, public library, and library education backgrounds as they engage the issues during a formal debate, followed by commentary from a reactor panel and a conversation with attendees. Were libraries ever neutral? Has the time come to question neutrality? These questions and more will be addressed. Arguing in favor of neutrality will be Em Claire Knowles, assistant dean for student and alumni affairs at Simmons School of Library and Information Science in Boston, and James LaRue, director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom. Arguing against will be Chris Bourg, director of libraries at

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and R. David Lankes, director of University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science. The commentary panel will include Emily Drabinski, coordinator of library instruction at Long Island University in Brooklyn; Kathleen de la Peña McCook, professor at University of South Florida School of Information in Tampa; Emily Knox, assistant professor at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Information Sciences; and Kelvin Watson, director of Broward County (Fla.) Libraries Division.

Closing Session

Monday, February 12, 2–3 p.m.



Science educator, mechanical engineer, and TV host **Bill Nye** and his *Jack and the Geniuses* coauthor **Gregory Mone** will



speak at the Closing Session. As creator of the Emmy-winning, syndicated TV show *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, Nye became a

household name while introducing the millennial generation to science and engineering. His mission to foster a scientifically literate society continues in his much-anticipated return to the screen, the Netflix series, *Bill Nye Saves the World*. Mone has covered artificial intelligence, robots, physics, and biology as a magazine writer, and his award-winning children's books include *Fish*, *Dangerous Waters*, and *The Truth About Santa: Wormholes, Robots, and What Really Happens on Christmas Eve*.

Auditorium Speaker Series

Saturday, February 10, 10–11 a.m.



Award-winning author **Dave Eggers** will discuss his newly released picture book, *Her Right Foot*, a nonfiction tale in which he and

illustrator Shawn Harris investigate a seemingly small trait of the Statue of Liberty, her raised right foot. What they find is the powerful message of acceptance essential to the story of America. Eggers's new adult, nonfiction book, *The Monk of Mokha*, scheduled for release in January, weaves together the history of coffee, the struggles of everyday Yemenis living through a civil war, and the courageous journey of a young man (a Muslim US citizen) following the most American of dreams. Eggers cofounded 826 National, a network of seven educational centers throughout the US, offering free tutoring to children of all backgrounds, and ScholarMatch, a non-profit organization connecting students with resources, donors, and colleges to make higher education possible for those in low-income communities.

Sunday, February 11, 10–11 a.m.

Junot Díaz is the author of the critically acclaimed *Drown*; *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*; and *This Is How You Lose Her*.



Islandborn is Díaz's first work of fiction for

young readers, a picture book illustrated by Leo Espinosa, scheduled for release in February. The book offers a diverse portrait of characters who have migrated to New York from around the world, and it shows the importance of community as they support each other and their respective cultures. Díaz was born in



A sample of 2017 winners of ALA's Youth Media Awards.

the Dominican Republic, raised in New Jersey, and serves on the board of advisers for Freedom University, a volunteer organization in Georgia that provides post-secondary instruction to undocumented immigrants.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunrise Celebration

Monday, February 12, 6:30–7:30 a.m.

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration commemorates King's legacy and recognizes the connection between his life's work and the library world. The event will feature a keynote address, a call to action, and featured readings, including passages from King's speeches and work. Speakers had not been named at press time. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.

ALA Masters Series

Hear experts from across different library specialties describe their latest in-house innovations in fast-paced, 45-minute sessions. The schedule of speakers had not been announced as of press time.

BOOKS AND AWARDS

RUSA Book and Media Awards

Sunday, February 11, 5–7 p.m.

Don't miss the announcement of the Reference and User Services

Association's (RUSA) **Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction**, one highlight of an evening recognizing the best books for adults. RUSA will also announce the winners of the Dartmouth Medal for outstanding reference work and the Sophie Brody Medal for Jewish literature, and unveil this year's Notable Books, Reading List, and Listen List selections.

Youth Media Awards

Monday, February 12, 8–9 a.m.

Always a Midwinter highlight, the winners of the most prestigious awards in children's and young adult literature will be announced Monday morning. The Colorado Convention Center will be buzzing as the Newbery, Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Pura Belpré, Printz, and more than a dozen other awards are named. Follow the results via live webcast or by following #alayma.

Morris and Nonfiction Award Program and Presentation

Monday, February 12, 10:30 a.m.–noon

Enjoy coffee, tea, and pastries, and listen to the 2018 Morris Award and Young Adult Nonfiction Award winners and finalists speak about their work. After the speeches, mingle with the authors and pick up free copies of their books. Tickets are \$25 and include two to three free books, donated by the publishers. A limited amount of tickets will be available at the door. Finalists

for both awards were announced the first week of December.

United for Libraries Gala Author Tea

Monday, February 12, 2–4 p.m.

Bestselling writers, including **Ariel Lawhon** (*I Was Anastasia*), will discuss their forthcoming books as attendees enjoy tea, finger sandwiches, and a variety of sweet treats. A book signing will follow with most books available for free. Tickets are \$55 in advance for United for Libraries members, \$60 for nonmembers, or \$65 on site.

TICKETED EVENTS

No matter what your professional specialty or interests, Midwinter's preconference institutes and other ticketed professional development opportunities can help you take your work to the next level. Visit the Ticketed Events page for more information (alamidwinter.org/registration/ticketed-events).

Managing Microaggressions Thursday, February 8, 8:30 a.m.–noon

This session, sponsored by the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services (ODLOS) will contextualize and deconstruct microaggressions to uncover often-unintended consequences. Participants will consider how to effectively challenge microaggressions. Tickets: \$50 for ALA members, \$75 for nonmembers.

Advocacy and Intellectual Freedom Bootcamp

Friday, February 9, 8–11:30 a.m.

This joint effort of ALA's Office for Library Advocacy and the Office for Intellectual Freedom will explore some of the brutal facts about our current environment, celebrate our assets, and offer practical tips to reclaim a moral sanction for the work we do and the support our communities deserve. The program will cover advocacy basics such as messaging, networking, and community engagement and intellectual freedom basics such as the Library Bill of Rights and essential policies. Attendees will focus on an advocacy plan that they can implement in their library. Tickets: \$25 for all attendees.

Engaging with the ACRL Framework: A Catalyst for Exploring and Expanding Our Teaching Practices

Friday, February 9, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

The Association of College and Research Librarians (ACRL) *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*, with its emphasis on self-reflective and lifelong learning and on conceptual understandings about information, research, and scholarship, has prompted many librarians to reconsider their teaching practices and explore evolving instructional roles within and beyond the library classroom. The *Framework's* vision of information literacy education



Discover DENVER

The city of Denver has created an informational website for Midwinter attendees, including information about attractions, restaurants, getting around, weather and high-altitude tips, and special offers. Visit the site at denver.org/midwinter.

as a shared responsibility of all educators suggests both opportunities and challenges for teaching librarians, as we expand pedagogical approaches and partnerships. This day-long workshop allows librarians to engage more deeply with the *Framework* and explore ways it may help to enrich their individual teaching practices, as well as their local instruction programs and institutions. Presenters are **Samantha Godbey**, education librarian at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and **Lindsay Matts-Benson**, instructional designer for the University of Minnesota Libraries. Tickets: \$255 for ACRL members, \$295 for ALA members, and \$325 for nonmembers.

RUSA Genealogy Institute

Friday, February 9, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

The RUSA Genealogy Institute will explore diverse topics in genealogy and genealogy research, such as highlighting local sources of archival and genealogical information, genealogy research training for non-genealogy librarians, new genealogical and historical databases and

Attendees at a 2017 Midwinter Meeting session.



Photo: Visit Denver (Convention Center); Cognates (audience)

resources, new trends in genealogical research, and using DNA testing to overcome genealogical roadblocks. Sponsored by ProQuest. Tickets are complimentary, but registration is required.

Empowering Access and Ensuring Accessibility: Connecting People to Information and Collections Friday, February 9, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Connecting people to information is a fundamental tenet of librarianship. In the rapidly evolving information age, librarians strive to enhance access and increase accessibility for all patrons. This full-day symposium from the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) will examine how libraries and cultural institutions provide all populations with access to materials. It will explore the current landscape as well as the future of collections and technical services work as it contributes to access and broad accessibility to stimulate knowledge creation, foster innovation, and empower libraries to

have a transformative role in society. Speakers include **Michelle Jeske**, Denver City Librarian; **Heather Moulaison Sandy**, associate professor at the University of Missouri iSchool; **Jennifer Dandle**, web manager at the University of California San Diego Library; **Jordan Fields**, manager of the digital archive at the Marmot Library Network in Colorado; and **Heidi M. Schroeder**, science collections coordinator and accessibility coordinator at Michigan State University Libraries. Tickets: \$269 for ALA members, \$219 for ALCTS members, \$99 for student members, and \$319 for nonmembers.

Conversational Intelligence: What Is It, Why It's Important, and How to Increase It Friday, February 9, 9 a.m.–noon

Learn key concepts from neuroscience research about how the brain determines whether there is trust and safety, or distrust and disengagement in this Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) preconference.

Explore three levels of conversation necessary for change, growth, innovation, and quality improvement.

Participants will plan how to incorporate the new strategies into their work at the end of the session, and identify new strategies for increasing trust and authenticity in leadership development, partnerships, coaching, mentoring, and professional development. Presenter: **Cassandra O'Neill**, Leadership Alchemy. Tickets: \$199 for ALA Members, \$225 for nonmembers. **Registration is required by December 29.**

Collective Leadership: Activating the Gifts of You and Your Team Friday, February 9, 1–4 p.m.

Collective Leadership is about changing the way we think about leadership from something you do alone, to, or for others, to something you do *with* others. Benefits include better decisions, increased self-direction and motivation, shared responsibility, increased engagement and investment, and sustainability.



In the **EXHIBIT HALL**

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

Stop by the **Book Buzz Theater** to discover the newest titles; meet exciting authors and illustrators; and catch readings, discussions, presentations, and signings from authors in hot genres—including mystery, humor, romance, technology, and travel—at the **PopTop Stage**. For a full list of exhibitors, visit bit.ly/2z24mQg.

Hours

Friday, February 9, 5:30–7 p.m.

Saturday, February 10, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday, February 11, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Monday, February 12, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

This ASCLA session will cover the essential ingredients for collective leadership, the relationship between individual and collective leadership, and methods to bring out the best of you and your team through collective leadership. Presenter: **Cassandra O'Neill**, Leadership Alchemy. Tickets: \$199 for ALA Members, \$225 for nonmembers. **Registration is required by December 29.**

United for Libraries Institute: Friends, Foundations, and Trustees Friday, February 9, 1–4 p.m.

Library trustees, Friends groups, foundations, and staff are invited to join a free afternoon of expert speakers and learning opportunities. A complete agenda and list of speakers will be available at ala.org/united. Tickets are complimentary but registration is required.

Applying Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Manuscripts) Monday, February 12, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sponsored by ACRL's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) and Denver Public Library, this day-long workshop will provide an introduction to DCRM(MSS), the new RBMS standard for cataloging individual manuscripts. Attendees will acquire an understanding of the considerations involved in cataloging individual manuscripts and will gain practice in applying DCRM(MSS) to the cataloging of different types of manuscripts commonly found in special collections using provided examples. Each attendee will receive a hard copy of the DCRM(MSS) manual. Participants should have experience in MARC cataloging using AACR2; familiarity with DCRM(B) and/or DACS will be helpful. The workshop will be held onsite at Denver Public Library. Presenters: **Alison Bridger**, archivist, Bibliographic Information Systems, Wisconsin Historical Society; **Jennifer K. Nelson**, reference librarian, University of California Berkeley Law Library; **Margaret F. Nichols**, head, special materials unit, Cornell

University Library, Ithaca, New York. Tickets: \$150 for ACRL or ALA members, \$175 for nonmembers.

Symposium on the Future of Libraries

The Center for the Future of Libraries will once again sponsor the Symposium on the Future of Libraries, three days of sessions exploring near-term trends already inspiring library innovation and longer-term trends that will help libraries of all types adapt to the needs of their communities. The symposium is included with full conference registration. Find the full schedule at 2018.alamidwinter.org.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS








Creating Inclusive Computer Science/Coding Programs for Youth Friday, February 9, 1:30–4 p.m.

The Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP), the National Center for Women and Information Technology, and Google present an afternoon focused on designing inclusive youth coding programs. After a plenary session, eight breakout tables will have group discussions with different themes, including computational thinking, community partnerships, mentoring, implicit bias, and outcomes-based design. Presenters include **Marijke Visser**, OITP associate director; **Jennifer Manning**, National Center for Women and Information Technology AspireIT Partnerships program director; and **Nicky Rigg**, computer science education program manager for Google.

Washington Spotlight: Creative Local Campaigns Help #SaveIMLS, Federal Library Funding Saturday, February 10, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

In early 2017, President Trump proposed a budget that would have eliminated the Institute of Museum and Library Services and essentially all direct federal library funding. In this session, the

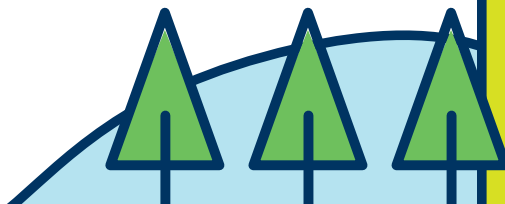
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-  Visit alamidwinter.org/scheduler or download the mobile app

ALA Washington Office will spotlight some of the most creative responses from libraries, which helped to preserve funding for the year. Using these playbooks, you can learn how to put together low-cost, eye-catching campaigns and what to do once you succeed in getting attention from your patrons, the media, and elected officials who can help fight for library resources.

ACRL/SPARC Forum Saturday, February 10, 3–4 p.m.

Through its standing Research and Scholarly Environment Committee, ACRL sponsors a regular forum at both the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference to broaden the base of librarians who are knowledgeable about and engaged in scholarly communication issues. The highly popular forum series is cosponsored by the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC).



Building Digital Literacy Skills for Problem Solving and Job Skills Development

Saturday, February 10, 3–4 p.m.

Applied Digital Skills is a free curriculum offered by Google to help learners develop life and job skills while building projects using its G Suite productivity software, such as Docs, Slides, and Sheets. In this session, Google staff will share information about using the curriculum in your library and how libraries have implemented it in their specific contexts.

Business & Financial MEETINGS

Friday, February 9

8:30–11:30 a.m., ALA Executive Board Meeting I

12:30–3:30 p.m., Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) Meeting

Saturday, February 10

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

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

Sunday, February 11

8:30–10:30 a.m., ALA Council I

Noon–1:30 p.m., BARC Meeting

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

Monday, February 12

10 a.m.–noon, ALA Council II

12:15–1:15 p.m., ALA Executive Board Candidates' Forum

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

4:30–5:30 p.m., ALA-APA Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 13

9–11:30 a.m., ALA Council III

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

Confidence and Facilitation Is Key: Infusing Technology into Youth Programs

Sunday, February 11, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Implementing new technology programs can be intimidating for youth librarians, particularly if they have limited budgets or limited technology skills. In this session, front-line librarians will share how they overcame these issues to successfully facilitate technology programs for youth. Learn to build community partnerships and incorporate youth voices in the planning and implementation process, and leave with an arsenal of examples to facilitate youth technology programs. Speakers include **Shannon Lake**, teen educator/librarian, Providence (R.I.) Public Library; **Heather Thompson**, youth services programming librarian, Kenosha (Wis.) Public Library; **Tori Ogawa**, children's librarian and Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Fellow, Darien (Conn.) Library; **Linda Braun**, informal learning consultant at Librarians & Educators Online; and **Mega Subramaniam**, associate professor, University of Maryland College of Information Studies.

Legal Issues in Public Libraries Forum

Sunday, February 11, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

The Public Library Association (PLA) will host a forum for open discussion of common legal concerns for public libraries such as patron privacy, challenges to in-house and online content, patron behavior, copyright, and licensing. Recent cases and legislation affecting libraries may also be discussed. It is intended to serve as a peer-to-peer resource—a venue for attendees to vet any legal issues their libraries may be facing.

Update on ACRL's Value of Academic Libraries Initiative

Sunday, February 11, 1–2:30 p.m.

ACRL's *Academic Library Impact: Improving Practice and Essential Areas to Research* investigates how libraries can increase student learning and success and effectively communicate their value to higher education stakeholders. Members of the Value of Academic Libraries committee will discuss the context for this action-oriented research agenda and next steps.



Networking Uncommons provides space for quick meetings and impromptu sessions.

Photos: Cognates



ALA Store

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

Hours

Friday, February 9: Noon–5:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 10: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday, February 11: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Monday, February 12: 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER


Midwinter is far more than just speakers, awards, and business meetings. Some of its most powerful moments are the informal opportunities to ask questions, make recommendations, explore ideas, and reflect on what you've learned.

More than 200 **Discussion Groups** will meet at Midwinter. These are loosely organized sessions on timely topics, each

sponsored by an ALA division, round table, or office.

Make connections at the **Networking Uncommons** space, a Wi-Fi-equipped area for small group meetings, impromptu sessions, polishing presentations, or recharging. Sign up for a time slot or just show up.

ALA's JobLIST **Placement and Career Development Center** offers free workshops, career counseling, and

résumé review. Stop by the **Orientation Saturday, February 10 at 8:30 a.m.**, the **Open House on Sunday, February 11, 10:30 a.m.–noon**, or visit the center **Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.** 



GREG LANDGRAF is a regular contributor to *American Libraries*.

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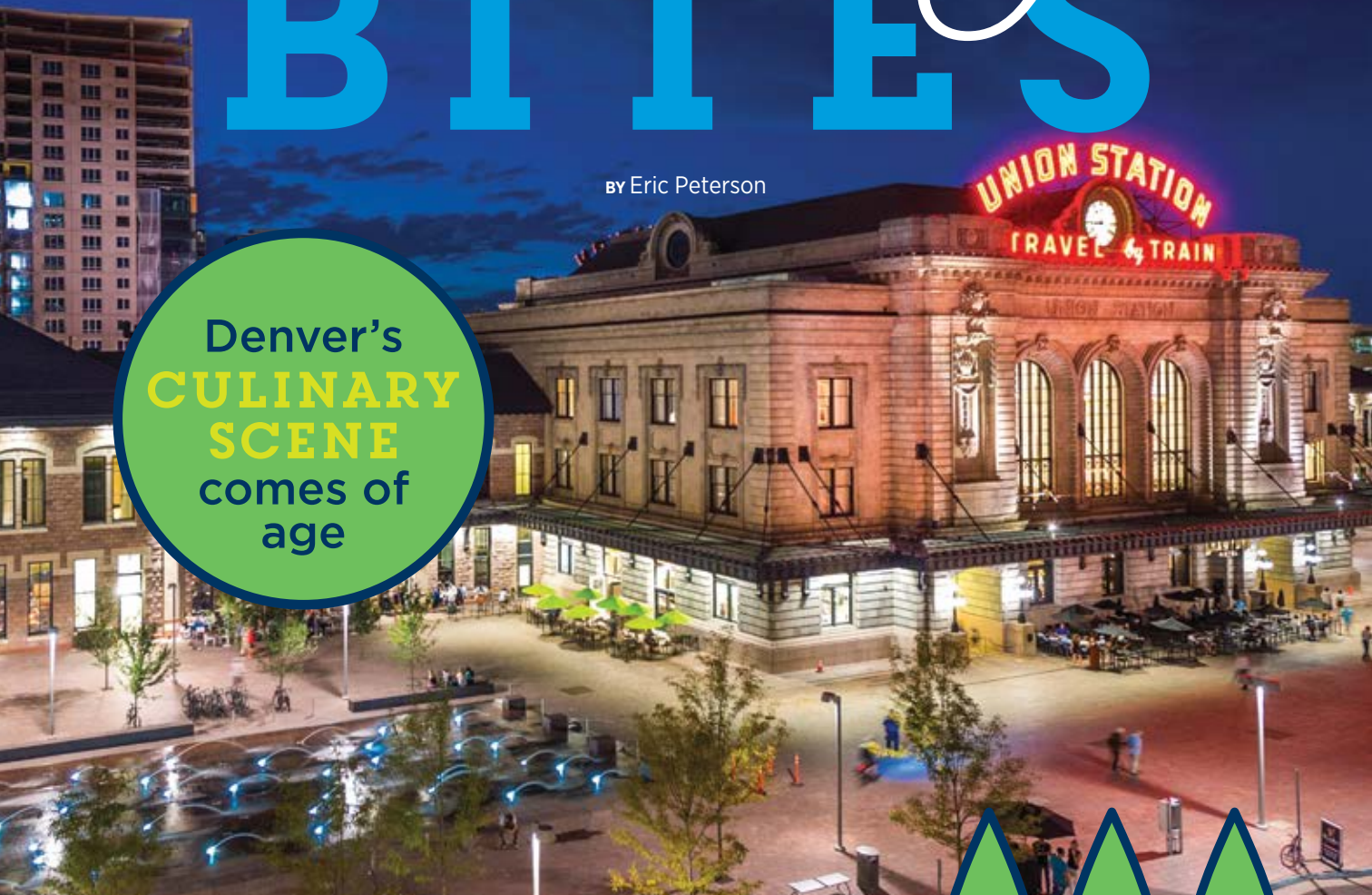
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Mile-High BITES

by Eric Peterson

Denver's
**CULINARY
SCENE**
comes of
age



Not too long ago, Denver was considered a meat-and-potatoes town with a few good Western steakhouses and diners but not much else.

What a difference a few decades make.

The Mile High City has emerged as a hot spot for chef-driven, farm-to-table restaurants. Numerous standout eateries have hung a shingle and earned one rave review after another.

As author of the *Frommer's EasyGuide to Colorado*, I was lucky enough to take my taste buds on a tour of Denver's rising restaurants and enjoy every cuisine, from vegan to wild game. It's a remarkably vibrant and dynamic community that continues to grow and evolve, and I'm happy to be your guide to its flavors.

DOWNTOWN

Biker Jim's Gourmet Dogs

2148 Larimer St.
720-746-9355
bikerjimsdogs.com

Jim Pittenger, aka Biker Jim, got his start selling hot dogs from a cart on the 16th Street Mall. Not just any hot dogs: wild boar hot dogs, elk hot dogs, pheasant, buffalo, rattlesnake (\$7.50), you name it. Pittenger still has the cart (and a food truck), but he also opened permanent digs on Larimer, serving his trademark dogs, overflowing with all manner of toppings (wasabi aioli, pinto beans, cactus, and cream cheese among them), as well as guilty-pleasure side dishes like fried mac and cheese (\$4.50), charred cauliflower (\$5), and Biker Jim's transcendent baked beans (\$4.50). The formula is working: Pittenger's earned a fiercely loyal following, as well as praise from Anthony Bourdain and many critics. There is a full bar. **L, D daily \$**

Buckhorn Exchange

1000 Osage St.
303-534-9505
buckhorn.com

No restaurant in Denver has the historic cachet of the

Buckhorn Exchange. Open since 1893, the place earned its name for cashing the checks of miners and others fresh off the adjacent railroad. Buffalo Bill drank here, and it has the first electric beer sign on the planet in the bar upstairs. The dining room, its walls populated with trophy heads of every description, is just the spot for carnivores. The Buckhorn has made its name on succulent steaks and savory game dishes. Of the former, some are meant for the table—weighing up to four pounds and costing up to \$215—and the latter includes elk, venison, and buffalo as well as exotic specials like yak and rattlesnake. Reservations recommended.

L (M-F), D daily \$\$\$

Euclid Hall

1317 14th St.
303-595-4255
euclidhall.com

Plating up the best in comfort foods from the owners of Rioja (p. 58), Euclid Hall is a bustling two-story restaurant off Larimer Square that balances a casual—and often loud—atmosphere with delectable fare. Housemade pickles, sausages, and poutines are complemented by chicken and waffles (\$13.50), pad thai pig ears (\$9), and gourmet

sandwiches. The beer menu is impressive, with a dozen on tap and many more in cans and bottles, and there is an emphasis on beer pairings.

L, D daily \$-\$\$

The Kitchen Denver

1530 16th St.
303-623-3127
thekitchenbistros.com

The Kitchen is the younger sister restaurant of the original Kitchen in Boulder that's now part of the burgeoning group of national community-centric restaurants from Kimbal Musk, brother of entrepreneur Elon Musk. The menus showcase fresh and often local ingredients in a wide range of dishes inspired by Mediterranean influences and other traditions, like artichoke capellini (\$18) and

pan-seared branzino with ratatouille and basil (\$29).

L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$

Panzano

909 17th St.
303-296-3525
panzano-denver.com

Located in Hotel Monaco, Panzano is one of the best Italian spots in the city and a terrific pick for a downtown dinner that balances a casual, contemporary atmosphere with inventive fare inspired by the cuisine of Northern Italy. Seared sea scallops (market price), fried Brussels sprouts (\$14), and Caesar salad (\$10) set the stage for dishes like breaded eggplant (\$22), lamb and polenta ravioli (\$28), and braised rabbit (\$28). Reservations recommended. **B, L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

Price GUIDE

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

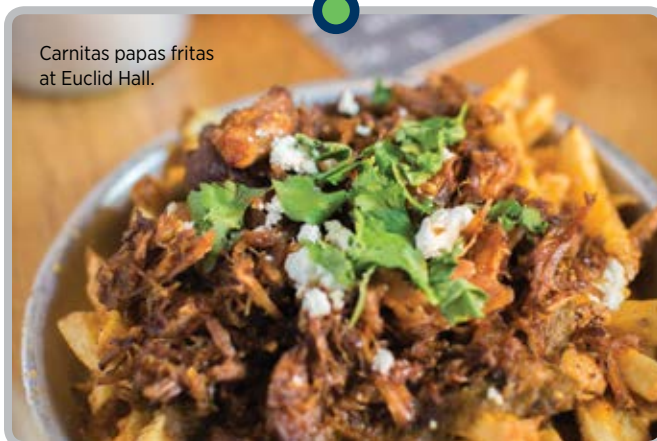
\$ under \$10

\$\$ \$11-\$20

\$\$\$ \$21-\$30

\$\$\$\$ \$31 and up

Carnitas papas fritas at Euclid Hall.



Red Square Euro Bistro and Vodka Bar

1512 Larimer St.
303-595-8600
redsquarebistro.com

Tucked in the back of Writer Square, Red Square elevates Russian standards with a dollop of contemporary world cuisine. That means the menu has Russian standards like *golubtsi* (a cabbage roll stuffed with ground beef; \$6) and stroganoff (\$30), but also schnitzel (\$24) and smoked duck (\$24). The vodka list is a regional standout, sporting infusions made in-house like beet, pineapple, and horseradish, as well as labels from England, Iceland, Poland, Russia, Sweden, and even El Salvador lining the back bar. **D daily \$-\$\$\$**

Rioja

1431 Larimer St.
303-820-2282
riojadenver.com

Rioja chef-owner Jennifer Jasinski took top honors for

best chef in the Southwest at the 2013 James Beard Awards. It's easy to see why when you visit the sleek Larimer Square spot, with a menu brimming with creativity and unexpected flavors. The Mediterranean serves as a culinary launching point, but the food often veers through other traditions en route to the finish line. You might get serrano-wrapped

octopus (\$29), foie gras mousse (\$16.50), or braised beef cheeks spaetzle (\$19). Jasinski changes the menu on a regular basis, but you can count on tantalizing tastes and impeccable service. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (W-Sun), D daily \$\$**

TAG

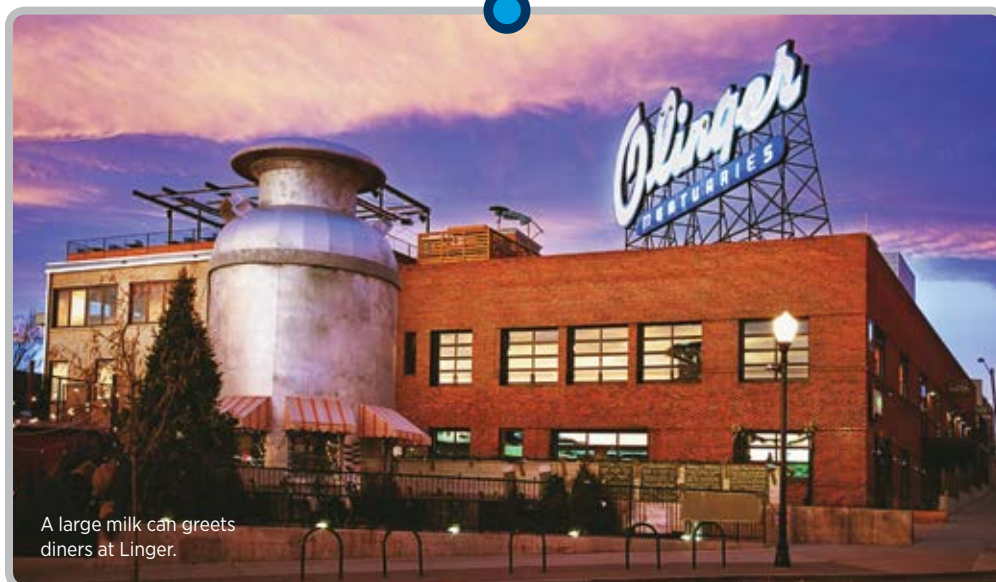
1441 Larimer St.
303-996-9985
tag-restaurant.com

Chef-owner Troy Guard is one of Denver's most prolific restaurateurs. He's also one of the best. His flagship TAG—open since 2009 and named for his initials—is a brick-laden, contemporary space that meshes Guard's experience under the legendary Roy Yamaguchi in Hawaii and his love for local Colorado ingredients. The results are stunning, from charred Spanish octopus (\$16) to inventive sushi rolls to larger plates like Colorado hanger steak with local fingerling potatoes (\$30). Reservations recommended. **L (M-F), D daily \$-\$\$\$**

Wynkoop Brewing Company

1634 18th St.
303-297-2700
wynkoop.com

This is ground zero for the amazing revitalization of Lower Downtown, aka LoDo. The 1888 warehouse was converted into one of the best brewpubs anywhere, and the place has now been pouring first-rate suds and plating up an eclectic menu of inventive pub grub for 30 years. Get asiago-cheddar mac and cheese (\$11), beer-battered fish and chips (\$13), or buffalo meatloaf (\$17), and wash it down with the flagship Railyard Ale or—my favorite—Patty's Chile Beer, which sports a spicy kick. They also make a wide array of small-batch beers, including a zany Rocky Mountain Oyster Stout that debuted in 2012. Then you have the political connections: In 2010, founder John Hickenlooper became the nation's first brewer-governor since Sam Adams left office in Massachusetts in 1797. **L, D daily \$-\$\$\$**



A large milk can greets diners at Linger.

Rise AND SHINE

Denver has a number of great breakfast and lunch spots downtown. **Snooze**, 2262 Larimer St. and other locations (including Union Station), 303-297-0700, snoozeeatery.com, serves delicacies like pineapple upside-down pancakes (\$8) and a pulled-pork Benedict (\$12). Established in 1942, **Pete's Kitchen**, 1962 E. Colfax Ave., 303-321-3139, petesrestaurants.com, is a prototypical urban diner with checkerboard floors, a breakfast bar, booths, plenty of local color, and killer breakfast burritos.



HIGHLANDS

Jack-N-Grill

2524 N. Federal Blvd.
303-964-9544
jackngrill.com

There is a credo that Jack Martinez, proprietor of Jack-N-Grill, lives by: “Comida sin chile, no es comida,” meaning “A meal without chile is not a meal.” This means few options are lacking this key ingredient, roasted on the premises every September during harvest season and stocked in a freezer to last the year. Served in a dining room decorated with jacks of all kinds—from Nicholson to the jack of hearts—hearty Mexican options like burritos and rellenos are complemented by less expected items such as stuffed sopapillas (\$12.50) and posole (\$9). The burgers are also some of the biggest and best in Denver. **B, L, D daily \$**

Linger

2030 W. 30th Ave.
303-993-3120
lingerdenver.com

In the historic Olinger Mortuary, Linger is known for

several superlatives: the city views, especially from the rooftop patio; the creative and ever-changing menu of “globally inspired street food,” ranging from tuna tacos (\$14) to Wagyu sliders (\$16) to sweet-and-sour crickets (\$16); and the slick décor, equal parts industrial chic and speakeasy. Dinner reservations are hard to come by—make them at least two weeks in advance—but lunch is easy for walk-ins. Skip dessert and head to Little Man Ice Cream (littlemanicecream.com), shaped like a 28-foot-tall milk can, in the adjacent plaza. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (Tue–F), D daily \$\$**

Lola

1575 Boulder St.
720-570-8686
loladenver.com

Lola planted its flag in the Lower Highlands neighborhood in 2007 and has emerged as one of the best places for a meal or just a margarita with a city view. Start off with guacamole, prepared fresh tableside, and then take your pick of one of the delectable specialties—lobster-shrimp tamales (\$9),



Diver scallops at Root Down.

redfish tacos (\$19), and seasonal fresh fish dinners. Landlubbers will appreciate pork, beef, and vegetarian options. But it's the cocktails that make the place shine, with seven margaritas and unique drinks like the Fuego Verde—yes, green fire—with tequila, muddled jalapeños, and fresh lime. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), D daily \$\$**

Root Down

1600 W. 33rd Ave.
303-993-4200
rootdowndenver.com

What was until recently an abandoned garage is now one of the best food spots in Denver. Perched on an off-the-beaten path Highlands location, Root Down is colorful inside and out but perhaps best defined by a single hue: green. This is one of the most sustainable restaurants I've ever encountered, from the reverse-osmosis water system to the local foods to the recycled materials throughout. Featuring a number of meat and vegetarian selections, the fare is healthy and utterly

distinctive, from sliders made of veggies and Colorado lamb (\$15–\$17) to tofu panzanella (\$24) to roast chicken with cucumber salad and tahini yogurt (\$27). There is also a Root Down at Denver International Airport in Concourse C (rootdowndia.com). **Brunch (F–Sun), D daily \$–\$\$**

RIVER NORTH (RINO)

Acorn

3350 Brighton Blvd.
720-542-3721
denveracorn.com

At popular food hall the Source, Acorn was among the culinary pioneers in RiNo, the booming industrial-turned-hip art district northeast of downtown. The kitchen takes its cues from an eclectic array of culinary traditions, focusing on shareable small plates and a few creative entrées. Look for tantalizing bites like housemade gnocchi (\$15.50), Wagyu beef tartare toast (\$14.50), and coal-roasted beets (\$14.50). **L (M–Sat), D daily \$–\$\$\$**

Red snapper zarandeado-style at Lola.





Diners chow down on Asian street food at Cho77.

Nocturne

1330 27th St.
303-295-3333
nocturnejazz.com

A supper club that pairs live jazz with delectable dishes and craft cocktails, Nocturne is a throwback. It's also one of the most creative dining establishments in Denver, with Cubano sandwiches (\$17), rockfish ceviche (\$16), and rotating selections from five-course menus inspired by classic albums like Radiohead's *OK Computer* and Sonny Rollins's *Way Out West*. **D (Tue–Sat) \$\$\$–\$\$\$\$**

UPTOWN

SAME Café

2023 E. Colfax Ave.
720-530-6853
soallmayeat.org

There is perhaps no more remarkable values-oriented restaurant than the nonprofit SAME Café, which has no cash register: Customers pay donations of their own choosing for a healthy lunch from an ever-changing menu that often includes sweet corn risotto soup; eggplant, bacon, and parmesan pizza; and home-made fresh herb focaccia. The socially conscious proprietors

are committed to alleviating hunger and promoting healthy eating for all. **L (M–Sat) \$**

Watercourse Foods

837 E. 17th Ave.
303-832-7313
watercoursefoods.com

Serving a 100% vegan menu, Watercourse is a Denver institution. The bright and cheery space, bedecked with original art depicting rabbits and bison on an idyllic prairie, is perfect for the superlative food. Breakfast burritos are available with tofu (\$12), the Croque Madame (\$13) features shaved seitan, and there are also a few Mexican specialties like black bean tacos (\$6). Besides the healthy and tasty vittles, what makes Watercourse a local favorite—whether that local is vegan or not—are its draft microbrews, bar and table seating, and a friendly tattooed staff. **B, L, D daily \$**

SPEER

Fruition

1313 E. 6th Ave.
303-831-1962
fruitionrestaurant.com

Alex Seidel has been on the front end of the farm-to-table charge since opening Fruition

in 2010. He raises everything from bees to lamb at Fruition Farms in Larkspur, about 40 miles south of Denver, and sources a wide range of local produce. While the menus change by the month, Seidel lets the ingredients shine in dishes like seared scallops with sunchoke crema (\$31), grilled pork chops with squash purée and quince marmalade (\$31), and pan-roasted Icelandic cod with shrimp-stuffed squash blossom (\$29). Seidel also makes superlative cheeses and other dairy products at his farm, and you will find plenty of them on the menu. Reservations recommended.

D (Tue–Sun) \$\$\$–\$\$\$\$

Mizuna

225 E. 7th Ave.
303-832-4778
mizunadenver.com

Mizuna is the apex of Frank Bonanno's ever-growing Denver restaurant empire, spanning no less than nine establishments. The small space turns out to be the perfect stage for some of the headiest fare in the West. He calls it "a food laboratory," and the menu—which changes monthly—reflects that ethos. A recent edition of the menu included Spanish octopus (\$16), slow-roasted Alaskan halibut (\$39), and an escargot

tart (\$17). The ambiance is romantic but simple with a "wine library" and an open kitchen. Reservations recommended. **D (Tue–Sat) \$\$\$**

BAKER

Cho77

42 S. Broadway
303-638-8179
cho77.com

After making his mark with ChoLon, Lon Symensma opened this casual restaurant two miles south of downtown on Broadway that focuses on Asian street food. Symensma drew from the food carts and markets of Thailand, Vietnam, and Singapore, crafting a lineup of salads, dumplings, buns, and bowls with an emphasis on freshness and flavor. **L (Sat, Sun), D daily \$\$**

Beatrice & Woodsley

38 S. Broadway
303-777-3505
beatriceandwoodsley.com

This is one of the most quirky and creative restaurants you are going to find, and the food is uniformly excellent. Aspen trees sprout from the floor in the front of the room as part of a wilderness-meets-city motif; the bathrooms are perplexingly camouflaged marvels of design; and the aesthetic is



Roasted bison marrow bones at the Fort.

hyper-contemporary-meets-fun. The fare incorporates plenty of local and organic ingredients into inventive dishes like crawfish beignets (\$12), braised pork shank (\$35), and avocado salad (\$13). The small plates, cocktails, and desserts are similarly superlative, worth a stop for happy hour or late at night. The wine list is short but excellent. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

CHERRY CREEK

Elway's

2500 E. 1st Ave.
303-399-5353
elways.com

Former Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway worked wonders with a pigskin, but he also knows how to make a restaurant score with his eponymous Cherry Creek steakhouse. This is just the place to see and be seen, with a focus squarely on top-quality beef and fresh seafood as well as comfort foods like creamed corn (\$9.50), brussels sprout hash (\$10), and broccoli and cheese (\$10.50). Beyond the flagship location in Cherry Creek, you'll also find an Elway's Downtown in the Ritz-Carlton Denver, 1881 Curtis St. (303-312-3107), as well as in Denver International Airport's Concourse B. **L, D daily \$\$\$**

PLATT PARK

Sushi Den

1487 S. Pearl St.
303-777-0826
sushiden.net

Brothers Toshi and Yasu Kizaki are the masterminds behind

the best sushi joint in the Mile High City, if not the West. The key is fresh fish, flown in daily from Fukuoka, Japan, complemented by fresh greens from the Den Farm north of the city. With these ingredients in hand, the chefs show off their skills with sushi, sashimi, tempura, and other Japanese dishes. Fish-averse types need not stay away, however: The menu includes short ribs (\$16) and beef carpaccio (\$14) for carnivores and vegetarian sushi for vegetarians. The Kizakis' Izakaya Den (izakaya.den.net) next door is a contemporary spot that focuses on Asian-inspired small plates. **L (M-F), D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

A Good City for GREEN CHILE

Green chile is a fiery-sweet stew made of chile peppers and other ingredients, often but not always including chunks of pork, tomato, and onion. Denver's restaurants serve bowl after bowl of good green chile, stuff that ranges from merely spicy to flat-out nuclear. If you have a serious weakness for a bowl of green (as I do), here are five hot spots in the Mile High City:

- 1. Brewery Bar II**, 150 Kalamath St., 303-893-0971, brewerybars.com: Inconspicuously nestled in a warehouse district, the Brewery Bar serves some of the hottest green chile in Denver. It also happens to be some of the tastiest. There are also two Brewery Bars in the south suburbs.
- 2. El Tejado**, 2651 S. Broadway, 303-722-3987, eltejadodenver.com: This locals' favorite in the southern reaches of the city serves a unique thick green chile plate as well as some of the best authentic Mexican dishes in the Rockies.
- 3. Jack-N-Grill**, 2524 N. Federal Blvd., 303-964-9544, jackngrill.com: Sweet and typically served in a bowl with beans, Jack Martinez's green chile is excellent, as is his red.
- 4. Las Delicias**, 439 E. 19th Ave., 303-839-5675, lasdelicias.us: A Denver tradition, Las Delicias serves some of the city's best green chile from its downtown location among its five metro-area eateries.
- 5. Little Anita's**, 1550 S. Colorado Blvd., 303-691-3337, littleanitas.com: This longtime New Mexico-based spot offers wicked green and red chile from a strip mall in southeast Denver and three other metro-area locations.



MORRISON

The Fort

19192 Highway 8
303-697-4771
thefort.com

The grande dame of Colorado's wild game restaurants, this replica of Bent's Fort near Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Morrison opened its doors in 1963 and has been on Denver's shortlist ever since. Known for elk, quail, and buffalo (the kitchen plates some 80,000 dishes of the latter annually), the Fort is a Colorado original, thanks in large part to the legacy of late founder Sam Arnold, whose vision still

guides the menu today. Appetizers venture into uncharted territory of roast bison marrow bones (\$18) and jalapeños escabèche stuffed with peanut butter (\$6), and the game is matched by a number of beef, pork, and poultry dishes. Once dessert rolls around—if you still have room—the triple-layer chocolate chile bourbon cake (\$7) is a spectacularly decadent closer. Reservations recommended. **D daily \$\$\$** AL



ERIC PETERSON is a writer living in Denver. He is author of *Frommer's*

EasyGuide to Colorado.

Learning to Teach

Supporting new librarian training

When I graduated with my MLIS, I didn't know teaching would be such a big part of library work. My library school's one course on instruction was designed for library media specialists, so it didn't seem a good fit for someone wanting to work at a college or university library. Even now at my alma mater, the list of recommended classes for students wanting to concentrate in academic librarianship does not include any courses focused on teaching. So I, like many new librarians, had no inkling of the shock that was in store when I started working in an academic library.

In that first professional job, at a small library, all librarians—from the director to the systems librarian to the head of technical services—taught classes. None of us had been prepared by our coursework to teach, and no on-the-job training was provided. While my initial efforts to teach information literacy were cringeworthy at best, I learned as much as I could on my own about teaching and clawed my way toward proficiency.

I wish my experiences were unique, but I've heard many stories from librarians thrown into the deep end of teaching without support. All LIS programs now offer at least one course focused on instruction, and students in LIS instructional fellowship programs at institutions like University of Washington, University of Maryland, and University of Wisconsin–Madison get to participate in a top-notch apprenticeship program that scaffolds their learning and experiences around teaching. However, many online students and others who do not have access to



in-depth programs come into the profession with little-to-no teaching experience because it is not positioned as fundamental to our professional education.

Teaching isn't just for academic librarians; it is a critical service in K–12, health science, and public libraries. And it's not only something reference services librarians do; archivists and technologists often teach. Strong teaching skills serve librarians who support the work of patrons or other library staff. For teaching to be seen as something less than core to the majority of libraries ignores the reality of what so many of us do.

New librarians without teaching experience rarely find formal training on the job. Libraries like those at DePaul and Towson Universities support shadowing and coteaching for new librarians and offer development opportunities focused on improvement, but few explicitly require training. The Dartmouth College Library is

the only one I've found that requires teaching librarians to attend a program designed to help them teach effectively. Its Librarians Active Learning Institute was formed in 2011 and has expanded to librarians outside of Dartmouth (bit.ly/aldartmouth). That demand outpaces supply for programs like this and the Association of College and Research Libraries' Information Literacy Immersion Program (ala.org/acrl/immersion) suggests that librarians are motivated to become better instructors.

All this makes me wonder why most libraries overlook training new librarians to teach. Surely administrators must see this work as valuable. Librarians who teach and work at the reference desk often have the most contact with students. For most faculty, instruction librarians are the face of the library, and bad instruction sessions can sour them on library instruction—or even on the library itself.

More and more libraries are being asked to show the impact of their services on the communities they serve. In academic libraries, that can mean demonstrating the impact of libraries on student learning. Ensuring that the instruction patrons are receiving is of the highest quality seems all the more important. Yet the structures for training—from the LIS degree to workplace training and professional development opportunities—lead haphazardly to a profession of haves and have-nots that don't serve either our patrons or ourselves as well as they could. **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.com. Email: librarysuccess@gmail.com

I've heard many stories from librarians thrown into the deep end of teaching without support.

Free Reading Zones

Sponsoring ebook access for wider readership

Free Reading Zones (FREZ) is the name of a project that I have been involved with as a library and publishing consultant since 2016. A FREZ turns public and private spaces into open virtual libraries, providing people with free and uninterrupted access to ebooks through sponsorships. Readers in the zones can download a free reading app that identifies their locations in several ways—GPS coordinates, Wi-Fi network, or an app store—and gives them free access to digital books while they are physically inside the zone. A FREZ can be as small as a single building and as large as a city or an entire country.

The basic idea is to open books for reading in areas where sponsors have a vested interest in getting exposure. As we've learned from the music industry, the fastest way to get people to consume content in a new environment is by making that content freely accessible through sponsorships—think of enjoying music on YouTube or Spotify. Readers don't pay, but that does not mean publishers are not getting their fair share. Others are picking up the tab because they see the value in being part of the project.

Although sponsoring organizations are covering the cost of reading in return for some public recognition, the app is not inundated with ads the way YouTube videos are. In fact, the sponsor is prohibited from advertising inside the zone. It gets to greet the reader through a flash screen only when the app is launched.

The business model relies on technology that can measure each user's reading and pays publishers an amount based on what participants actually read. The app recognizes when a person is actively



engaged with the text, not just flipping through the pages, and calculates what percentage of each book is read. FREZes benefit publishers, authors, and software companies because they are paid through a merit-based business model, but it also benefits end users by exposing them to more culture, information, and educational content. When users enter a FREZ, they are presented with many titles, a wide range of categories, and an abundance of authors and publishers. The reader gets to decide what content to consume and when.

In September 2016, in collaboration with Total Boox, the company that supplied the reading app, I managed the first FREZ in a small café in Croatia, and later turned the whole country into a FREZ for one month. The open virtual library provided anyone in the country access to about 100,000 ebook titles by more than 250 publishers. Within the first week,

The power of the
ebook is its ability
to be available
to nearly anyone,
anywhere, at the
same time.

24,000 people registered and 23,600 books were being read. The technology helped empower users to become savvy consumers of literature. The October 2017 issue of *Library Technology Reports*, "Free Reading Zones: Transforming Access to Books through Technology," explores these two case studies and examines how FREZes can empower the ebook industry by equalizing access to knowledge and education in many locations, not just thriving city communities.

The power of the ebook is precisely its ability to be available to nearly anyone, anywhere, at the same time. It closes the information and knowledge gap in ways not possible for the printed word.

How can libraries get involved? They can sponsor a FREZ in their communities on their own terms or in cooperation with local or regional organizations. By doing so, they will expand not only their ability to bring books to people but also their mission to play more active roles in their changing communities. Public libraries in particular have struggled with ebooks for the past 20 years because many ebook models don't allow simultaneous access.

By engaging in a cutting-edge initiative like FREZ—which does allow for instant, simultaneous, and uninterrupted access to a book—libraries can reaffirm their relevance in the highly mobile 21st century and show true leadership, a willingness to embrace change by stepping outside their comfort zones, and an enthusiastic acceptance of new technology. **AL**

MIRELA RONCEVIC is director of No Shelf Required, a portal on ebooks and digital content. Adapted from "Free Reading Zones," *Library Technology Reports* vol. 53, no. 7 (October 2017).

Self-Directed Programming

Cut costs with plan-ahead activities for youth and their caregivers

Youth programming at public libraries incurs more costs than just the monetary expenses of hiring a performer or purchasing supplies. We must manage the expense of staff time and take into account the commitment required to plan and run a high-quality program. We must also consider the resource of physical space and decide how to accommodate growing crowds when our meeting rooms and buildings are not expanding.

Hosting a large variety of library programs may be easy when you have enough money, staff members, and space, but what do you do when that's not the case? How can you stretch your offerings?

Self-directed programming is a great way to provide value while mitigating costs. We've all experienced that patron who seems to expect an age-appropriate program for his or her child on whichever day they drop by. Self-directed activities help us give those audiences something special whenever they visit.

One self-directed program that has been successful at my library is a make-and-take crafts table that we provide over school breaks. We put out supplies and instructions for a craft that appeals to a wide range of age groups. By planning ahead, we can mobilize teen volunteers to prep craft supplies, saving hours of staff time. All that our staffers have to do is refill the supplies as needed. We keep track of how many pieces we have prepared so we can analyze which projects are well received.

Last summer, I set up an engineering table with a different building activity each week. Because summer is a time when even refilling craft supplies can be overwhelming, putting out activities instead



of take-home crafts helped alleviate stress and still gave families something creative and engaging. Some of these activities were purchased kits, and others incorporated low-cost materials such as pool noodles, clothespins, and recycled cardboard boxes. I strategically chose a mix so families could engage with formal, ready-made sets they may not otherwise have access to, as well as inexpensive household items they could likely furnish or replicate at home. Find a list of our engineering table activities at bit.ly/2gM4pWc.

For this type of activity it was impossible for us to capture usage statistics, but we recorded plenty of overheard conversations and anecdotal feedback to present to our director. Our signage also encouraged families to take photos of their creations and post them on their social media accounts with our library's hashtag, giving us visuals to share with our board.

Scavenger hunts
can strategically
introduce families
to areas of the
library they may not
have used before.

Another wildly popular self-directed program is the scavenger hunt. These hunts require some preparation, but once they're set up they mostly run themselves. Caregivers and children can do them any time the library is open, and they don't require a designated space.

Kids like that we have aligned scavenger hunt themes to pop culture phenomena such as *Frozen*, *Minecraft*, and *Pokémon*. Hunts are not only fun for children and teens, but they allow us to strategically introduce families to areas of the library they may not have used before by situating checkpoints outside of youth departments. We can also use scavenger hunts to cross-market other library services. In a hunt that we held this fall, families had to ask staff members at the children's, teen, and circulation desks questions in order to receive clues, giving us a chance to promote our fall reading program and library cards in the process.

Another latent benefit to self-guided programming is worth mentioning: It has the capability to reach shy kids who might not enjoy a traditional program that puts them in a room with other children. Anthony James Baltiero, youth services library associate at Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library, describes this as passive programming (bit.ly/2yerJXD) and explains how scavenger hunts and interactive displays work to include this group.

If you're seeking ways to extend your resources and expand your offerings, explore self-directed programming and see what might work for you. **AL**

ABBY JOHNSON is collection development leader at New Albany-Floyd County (Ind.) Public Library. Blog: abbythelibrarian.com.

Your #1 source for job openings in Library and Information Science and Technology

Boston University (BU) Libraries seeks a **TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER** who will envision a 21st-century hybrid library with an advanced capacity to support research, teaching, and learning across geographic, language, and disciplinary borders, leveraging innovations in digital and information technology. S/he will **lead BU's Mugar Memorial Library and branches** (currently African Studies, Astronomy, Music, Science and Engineering, Stone Science, Pickering Educational Resources, and the Frederick S. Pardee Management Library) in collaboration with the Fineman and Pappas Law Libraries, the School of Theology Library, the Alumni Medical Library, and the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center to achieve this goal.

The University Librarian will lead the ongoing development of the vision and goals of the Library, integrate the plans of the Library with those of the University, and effectively communicate the vision and goals both within and beyond BU.

The successful candidate will be nationally and/or internationally recognized with demonstrated organizational leadership and substantial professional experience in library management. S/he will share BU's global perspective and have the capacity to play a prominent role in shaping the landscape of scholarly resources and support at BU, working across the university.

This position reports directly to the Boston University Provost.

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How We Lead

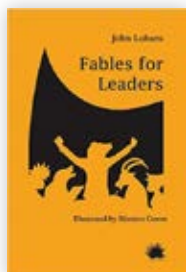
Stories and practical advice for leaders

In his inaugural column (*American Libraries*, July/August 2017), American Library Association (ALA) President Jim Neal wrote, “The Libraries Transform campaign is our compelling and consistent message to communicate and celebrate the value and impact of libraries and library workers on people’s lives and communities. Transformation for me also means rethinking what we are, what we are doing, and how we do it. I will focus on the leader in the library, the influence, innovation, and solutions we provide. Libraries make leaders, both those who work *in* our libraries and those who depend *on* our libraries.” How we lead affects how our libraries transform.

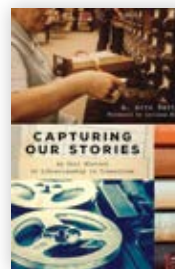
With regard to leadership, people have passed down wisdom through storytelling for many generations. In *Fables for Leaders*, John Lubans brings together fables from several traditions with thoughtful commentary to help readers identify new ways to approach the modern workplace. Lubans mines the



work of fabulists Abstemius, Aesop, La Fontaine, and Odo of Cheriton. Many of these fables will be familiar to readers, but what makes them come alive is their application to office politics, organizations, strategic thinking, and effective leading and following. Lubans adds a few of his own fables and intersperses the whole with commentary, space for



personal musings, and delightful illustrations by Béatrice Coron to create a book that can be reread often for new insights. BookBaby, 2017. 220 P. \$19.99. PBK. 978-0-692-90955-3.



A. Arro Smith talks to retired librarians to gather their wisdom on the profession. *Capturing Our Stories: An Oral History of Librarianship in Transition*, edited by Smith, is an out-

growth of a presidential initiative encouraged by Lorie Roy, 2007–2008 ALA president, who was concerned that the life lessons of librarians would be lost if not preserved. Smith interviews 35 individuals on becoming a librarian, managing technology changes, regrets, and how their work has helped others. The author finishes the volume with a primer on oral history. ALA Neal-Schuman, 2017. 224 P. \$45. PBK. 978-0-8389-1461-8.

Besides stories, managers use case studies to explore aspects of a problem to be resolved. Tammy Nickelson Dearie, Michael Meth, and Elaine L. Westbrooks collect 14 examples in *Academic Library*

THE BESTSELLERS LIST

TOP 3 IN PRINT

1 | Marketing Your Library's Electronic Resources, 2nd edition

by Marie R. Kennedy and Cheryl LaGuardia



Newly expanded and updated, this manual shows library marketing staff how to get the job done from beginning to end and in a variety of library settings.

2 | Academic Library Value: The Impact Starter Kit

by Megan Oakleaf



This kit will help academic libraries measure their existing value and identify ways to increase it in the context of their institutional missions.

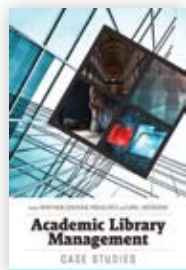
3 | Supercharged Storytimes: An Early Literacy Planning and Assessment Guide

by Kathleen Campana, J. Elizabeth Mills, and Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting



Using this book’s systematic approach, readers will be able to plan storytimes with a clear idea of what to look for in the children they serve.

Management: Case Studies. Written by practitioners about specific problems their institutions faced, these case studies cover collaboration, strategic planning, funding, and reorganization, with detailed histories, notes, and citations.



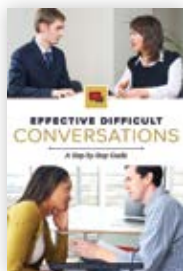
They also explore less common issues such as working through the immediate crisis and aftermath of an attack in the library, succession planning and rapid mentoring after being installed

as a department head and half the staff has reached retirement age, and having to close a library. Some of these issues are faced regularly in a career, others once or maybe never, but the outcomes may provide insights needed to address other situations. ALA Neal-Schuman, 2018. 224 P. \$69. PBK. 978-0-8389-1559-2

The last three books move from anecdotes to practical advice and applications. Beth McNeil updates *Fundamentals of Library Supervision* for a third edition, which alone speaks for its value. The first part focuses on supervising the individual: hiring, interviewing, training, and managing performance and rewards. The second is managing groups: the dynamics



at the bigger picture, and the broader concerns of communication, motivation, ensuring inclusiveness, and meeting legal and policy requirements. Throughout, McNeil addresses the individual manager, suggesting ways to reach a goal or practice and reinforcing its value to improve management skills. ALA Editions, 2017. 256 P. \$59. PBK. 978-0-8389-1554-7.




MacNeil offers tips on effective communication, but Catherine B. Soehner and Ann Darling offer more in-depth discussion in *Effective Difficult Conversations: A Step-by-Step Guide*. The negative performance review, the unpopular assignment, the need for budget slashing: We have all had to do them or have tried not to. After defining these conversations and what makes them difficult,

of moving into a new role, teamwork, organizing work, budgets, meetings, projects, and some practicalities on space and safety. The third part is leading organizations, looking

the authors dissect them into key phases and clarify why they are often necessary. Soehner and Darling provide a road map to managing the conversations and stress the importance of after-conversation documentation. They also extend the discussion to two additional facets—change management and “managing up,” or having the difficult conversation with one’s boss. ALA Editions, 2017. 128 P. \$38. PBK. 978-0-8389-1495-3. (Also available as an ebook.)



Now You're a Manager: Quick and Practical Strategies for New Mid-Level Managers in Academic Libraries is a series of

10 essays by M. Leslie Madden, Laura Carscaddon, Denita Hampton, and Brenna Helmstutler. Each has an overview with citations, and in some cases examples, followed by an exercise to reinforce the learning. Topics covered include establishing a respectful workplace, campus bureaucracy, and coaching a team. Association of College and Research Libraries, 2017. 94 P. \$28. 978-0-8389-8787-2. (Also available as an ebook.) 

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

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

TOP 3 IN EBOOKS

1 | Start a Revolution: Stop Acting Like a Library by Ben Bizzle with Maria Flora



The authors share techniques for success alongside a provocative marketing philosophy that will spur libraries to move beyond their comfort zone.

2 | Becoming a Reflective Librarian and Teacher: Strategies for Mindful Academic Practice by Michelle Reale



This book illuminates reflective practice as a pedagogical tool that holds benefits both for ourselves as professionals and for our students.

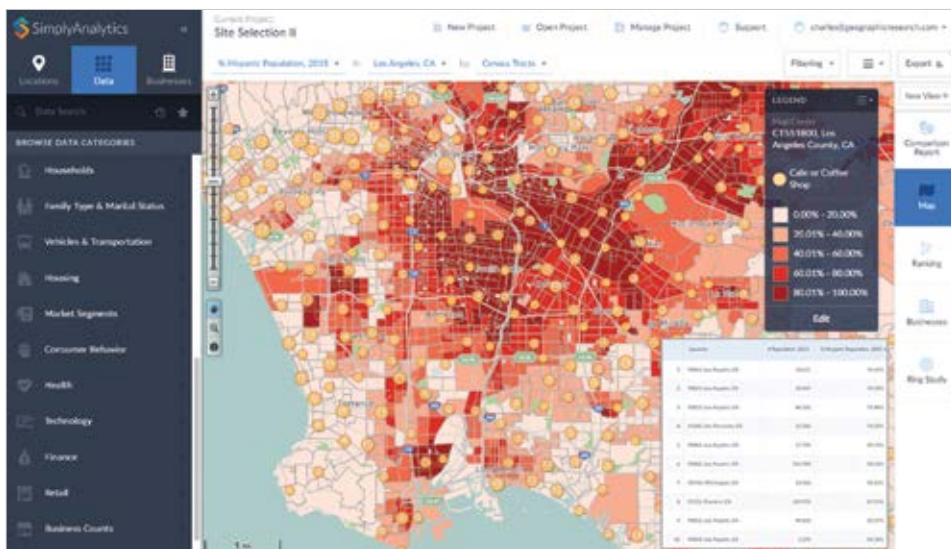
3 | The Readers' Advisory Guide to Horror, 2nd edition by Becky Siegel Spratford



As both an introductory guide for librarians just dipping their toes into the brackish water of scary fiction, as well as a fount of new ideas for horror-aware reference staff, Spratford's book is infernally appropriate.

SOLUTIONS

Products and services



SimplyAnalytics helps users create maps from a wide range of variables, including demographic and market research.

and compare the results with state and national averages.

SimplyAnalytics is designed for nontechnical users, with robust online resources, videos, and tips and tricks. Easy to use selection tools help users generate maps, comparison reports, and rankings, and users can easily customize colors and change their map view, location, and data variables from a drop-down menu. Metadata and white papers from sources are provided for more advanced researchers.

Personal accounts allow users to automatically save work, which can be shared directly with other SimplyAnalytics users. Maps, reports, and data can be exported in a variety of formats, including PDF, GIF, CSV, and shapefiles for use in geographic information system software.

Annual public and academic library subscriptions begin at \$7,195 for one concurrent user for the standard data package. Premium data module add-ons are available for additional fees.

More information is available at simplyanalytics.com.

Small Business Support

Market research, patents, and business planning for entrepreneurs

Libraries are a key pillar of support for small businesses: They provide programming, prototyping tools, and access to market research, and have been shown to increase access to capital. As more libraries add coworking spaces and makerspaces, they are becoming even more appealing locations for entrepreneurs to get their start. Easy-to-use research databases and software are essential to providing all-around support, helping entrepreneurs understand their niche and get their projects off the ground, whether it's patent research for prototypes or market research and business plan creation for small businesses.

SimplyAnalytics

After 10 years of providing geographic analytics, SimplyMap

relaunched as SimplyAnalytics in mid-2017, with expanded and refined mapping and analytics tools. Researchers can create thematic maps and reports using more than 100,000 data variables. The standard data package includes more than 3,000 variables, including demographics, retail sales, employment, and ancestry. Premium data packages include historical data, market research from Simmons and Nielsen, and US company databases. New data sets are added regularly.

Users can create simple maps of local businesses to determine the best place to locate their new venture, or create maps from multiple variables to explore consumer behavior, such as how much the average household in a census area spends on pet food,

PatSeer

PatSeer, a web-based patent search platform from Gridlogics, provides full-text access to 43 patent authorities, bibliographic records for more than 100 others, and analytics and visualization tools. The database includes full machine translations of patents from 16 international patent authorities.

CASE STUDY

Launching a Small Business in Naperville

How do you use Gale Small Business Builder (GSBB)?

We use GSBB in three ways. Walk-in library customers who ask about any resources for writing a business plan are given a brief demonstration on how to use GSBB. Entrepreneurs who are writing a business plan can make one-on-one appointments to receive a more in-depth demonstration, including creating an account in GSBB.

We also use the software as the foundation of a three-session class entitled Write a Business Plan, taught in the NaperLaunch Academy, our series of programs designed to support entrepreneurs.

How does GSBB serve your library's needs? Entrepreneurs in our area hear about NaperLaunch, our business coworking space, and come to the library to work. Or they are directed by a SCORE Association mentor to come here for assistance with developing market information, demographics, and writing a business plan. We provide guidance on how to write a business plan through GSBB.

What are the main benefits? The software was designed by a former investment banker with the intent of democratizing the process for business start-ups to access funding by giving smaller enterprises the same top-quality, professional approach to business planning that larger enterprises develop through expensive advisors and consultants. The advice and consulting services are built into the software. The software guidance is comprehensive, and the step-by-step approach encourages them to think of things they would not otherwise consider, allowing the entrepreneur to understand their own business and financials better after using GSBB. The entrepreneur using GSBB will create a more thorough plan than without its guidance.

What would you like to see improved or added to this resource?

We would like to see the return of two features that were available in Intercept, the previous version of the software: the ability to grant business plan access to a mentor, and the ability to access other library resources, such as Gale databases (DemographicsNow, Business Insights, Directory Library, and others) that support the research process when creating a business plan. ●

USER: Kent Palmer, business librarian, Naperville (Ill.) Public Library



PRODUCT: Gale Small Business Builder

DETAILS: Gale Small Business Builder is a software platform designed to help libraries support business planning for entrepreneurs, start-ups, and other small business ventures.

Six levels of access are available, each of which provides full access to the search database. PatSeer Lite provides search and basic analysis functions, and more advanced levels provide additional search and analysis capabilities, and collaboration and project management tools.

All versions include powerful search features, including search-term translation, related search suggestions, and stem search capabilities across six different languages to help users locate information from a greater number of international patents. Users can browse search results using a visualization feature that generates charts and graphs of variables including date of patent, patent assignee, and related patents. The data in these visualizations is interactive, and clicking a data point brings up a list of corresponding search results, making the patent search process more intuitive.

Detailed views of records include forward and backward citations and analysis of the patent content such as the key concepts cloud, a word-frequency graphic generated from the full text of the patent. A built-in drawing viewer allows for quick browsing of patent drawings. New records are added to the database each week.

Pricing starts at \$900 per quarter for a single concurrent user for PatSeer Lite, with options for daily and monthly access. Discounts on PatSeer are available to subscribers of ProQuest's Dialog patents collection.

Additional information is available at patseer.com. **AL**



PatSeer provides patent records and visualization tools.

PEOPLE

Announcements

ON THE MOVE

Sonia Alcantara-Antoine became director of Newport News (Va.) Public Library September 18.

The University of Central Florida in Orlando appointed **Sandra Avila** as science librarian in the research and information services department in October.

November 13 **Ian Bogus** was appointed executive director of the Research Collections and Preservation Consortium at Princeton (N.J.) University's Forrester Campus.

The Texas Library Association appointed **Dana Braccia** as executive director effective October 1.

Sommer Browning was appointed associate director of technical and financial services at University of Colorado Denver's Auraria Library August 1.

Jeff D. Corrigan joined California State University Monterey Bay in August as science librarian.

Floyd Council became executive director of Birmingham (Ala.) Public Library November 13.

August 1 **Andrea Falcone** became associate director of education and public services at University of Colorado Denver's Auraria Library.

September 5 **Nora Gabor** joined DePaul University Library in Chicago as rare books librarian.

Kelli Getz became coordinator of collections and scholarly resources at DePaul University Library in Chicago August 21.

Dorrie Karlin joined Woburn (Mass.) Public Library as youth services librarian October 10.

Kudos

Patricia Swift Blalock, former director of Selma-Dallas County (Ala.) Public Library, was inducted posthumously into the Alabama Social Work Hall of Fame September 22. She was a social worker before her career as a librarian and worked to integrate the library in the early 1960s. She died in 2011.

Hartford (Conn.) Public Library awarded the Caroline M. Hewins Scholarship to **Danielle D. Valenzano**, a library assistant in the children's department at Clermont County (Conn.) Public Library's Milford-Miami Township branch. The \$4,000 scholarship is given to an individual who plans to specialize in library work with children. ●

Rebekah Kati was appointed institutional repository librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill October 1.



October 10 **Declan Kiely** became director of exhibitions at New York Public Library.

August 8 **Judy Kuhns** became UCF Connect librarian at the University of Central Florida-Valencia Osceola Campus in Orlando.

In August **Dan McClure** became library director at Clatsop Community College in Astoria, Oregon.

Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer became deputy state librarian for library support services at the New Jersey State Library in Trenton September 20.



Eric J. Robinson became director of Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, in October.

Regina Rose became a librarian at Stevenson University's Owings Mills (Md.) School of Business Library in October.

Fairfield County (Ohio) District Library selected **Rebecca Schaade** as director.

UCLA appointed **Alison M. Scott** as associate university librarian for collection management and scholarly communication October 2.

Deb Sica joined Alameda County (Calif.) Library as deputy librarian in October.

Jennifer Hodl Solomon became open access librarian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill October 1.



August 23 **Ryan Whelpley** became manager of Ashtabula County (Ohio) District Library's Geneva branch.

PROMOTIONS

Amanda Bowles became teen librarian at Monticello-Union Township (Ind.) Public Library in November.

October 1 **Jina DuVernay** was promoted to special collections librarian at Alabama State University in Montgomery.

September 8 **Lily Flick** was promoted to UCF Connect librarian at the University of Central Florida-Valencia West Campus in Orlando.

The US Government Publishing Office promoted **Laurie Hall** to superintendent of documents October 16.

Hannah Klusmeyer was promoted to executive director at Wautoma (Wis.) Public Library October 19.

Sandy Raymond was promoted to director of Wayland (Mass.) Free Public Library in October.

In Memory

Hope L. Baugh, 56, young adult services manager at Carmel Clay (Ind.) Public Library, died September 20. Baugh joined the library as young adult librarian in 2001 and became manager of the department in 2002. She was a longtime member of the Public Library Association and the Young Adult Library Services Association.

Richard K. Gardner, 88, founding editor of *Choice*, died June 9. He served as *Choice* editor from 1963–1966 and 1972–1977. During his career, he was an academic librarian at Marietta (Ohio) College, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, UCLA, and University of Montréal, where he was director of the School of Library and Informational Sciences. His publications include *Library Collections: Their Origin, Selection, and Development*, which received the Blackwell Scholarship Award in 1982, and *Education of Library and Information Professionals: Present and Future Prospects*. In 2005, he received a Special Presidential Recognition Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) in honor of his contributions to the association and the profession.

Joan Ruth Giesecke, 65, emeritus dean of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Libraries, died October 9. She was with the library for 25 years, including 16 as dean. During that time, the library's endowment tripled, she oversaw library renovations, built relationships to advance teaching and research, and improved faculty diversity. She received the American Library Association (ALA) Equality Award in 2011. Giesecke wrote seven management books, taught at Simmons

College in Boston and Emporia (Kans.) State University, and was active in ALA, the Association of Research Libraries, the Greater Western Library Alliance, the Nebraska Library Association, and the Virginia Library Association.

Margaret Lippin, 72, who worked as a librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia until retiring in 2013, died October 21.

Carmela Marie Ruby, 84, died August 14. Ruby was president of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) from 1980–1981. She earned her MLIS at UCLA and taught at UC Berkeley, Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and Loyola University in Chicago. Ruby worked at UC Davis's library, California State Library, and New Mexico State Library, and designed and launched the California Literacy Campaign. She was an advocate for services to the disabled and institutionalized, and for distance education for rural areas and for libraries in Mexico and Nicaragua. Ruby also coordinated the Sacramento Poetry Center's weekly poetry workshop and served on the board of California Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Robert E. Saunter, 93, director of Clark County (Ohio) Public Library for 25 years, died October 28.

Doris Isabell Brown Wright, 73, died October 9. Wright worked for Spartanburg County (S.C.) Public Libraries for 38 years as reference librarian, director of reference services, assistant county librarian, and interim county librarian. ●



Candace Wells was promoted to adult services manager at Monticello–Union Township (Ind.) Public Library in November.

Deputy Librarian of Congress **Robert R. Newlen** retired September 29.

Harriett Zipfel retired as director of Galesburg (Ill.) Public Library in October.

RETIREMENTS

William Gargan retired as language and literature bibliographer at Brooklyn College Library in September.

September 8 **Christopher Hoeppner** retired as associate university librarian for administrative services at DePaul University Library in Chicago.

AT ALA

September 19 **Mariel Colbert** joined ACRL as program coordinator.

Jennifer Cross, web services manager for ASCLA and the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), left ALA October 12.

October 9 **Jessica Hughes** became executive director of ASCLA and RUSA.

Briana Jarnagin joined the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services as member services assistant October 10.

Susan Maguire joined *Booklist* as senior editor, collection management and library outreach, in the Adult Books section October 16.

Jillian Wentworth was promoted to manager of marketing and membership for United for Libraries in September. AL

Tribal Heritage

Checking books out over the phone. Driving up to 40,000 miles a year. It's all part of the job for staff members of the Woksape Tipi Library and Archives on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwest South Dakota.

As both the academic library for Oglala Lakota Tribal College and the public library for the reservation, the Woksape Tipi Library oversees 13 branch libraries scattered over nearly 3,500 square miles. "We're all about local access," says archivist Tawa Ducheneaux (pictured), one of six library employees.


If a staff member isn't present at a branch when patrons want to check out a book, patrons simply call the main library and read the book's barcode number to someone there. Books are returned via branch drop boxes; to check them back in, a library worker drives once a week to the busiest sites, and once every two weeks to the others.

In addition to books, the library houses an extensive collection of Oglala Lakota historical and cultural objects, such as quilts made by local families. One popular display: an exhibit of books and other items that belonged to Oglala Lakota chief, author, philosopher, educator, and actor Luther Standing Bear, who died in 1939.

"The ways we tell our stories here might differ from the way someone might tell it in a typical museum," says Ducheneaux, who often discusses the collection with students. "We can talk about who this item belonged to, where they lived, who might have made it. Those are the kinds of things we're super excited about." **AL**

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

Photo: Willi White

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue cardigan over a pink top and large colorful earrings, is leaning over a large, vibrant, multi-colored quilt. She is holding a magnifying glass over the quilt, which features various geometric patterns and colors like red, blue, yellow, and black. The background is slightly blurred, showing more quilts and a wooden frame.

Archivist Tawa Ducheneaux stands over a quilt that dates to between 1913–1915. Each square was created by quilting club members from the Wounded Knee District in South Dakota and notes the maker's identity, the date, and sometimes the family's cattle brand.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS



Stop by Oxford University Press booth #1538 at ALA Midwinter for a chance to test your knowledge, talk with our representatives, win prizes*, and attend interactive events.



Cheers & Beers! Pub-themed trivia Opening Reception

Friday, February 9th, 5:30-7:00pm

Join us for an evening at the pub! We invite you to grab a beer, snack on pub-themed refreshments, and partake in either of our two rounds of trivia, one at 6:00pm and another at 6:30pm.



You, Me, and the OREs: How the Oxford Research Encyclopedias were developed by Oxford, for you

Saturday, February 10th, 2:00-3:00pm

What are the Oxford Research Encyclopedias (OREs), why were they made, and more importantly, what can they do for your library? Enjoy complimentary refreshments as we give away prizes* and share everything you need to know about the new OREs.



Colorado in an Hour: Explore the great state of Colorado through Oxford's online products

Sunday, February 11th, 10:30-11:30am

Savor some "road trip" refreshments as you travel with us on a virtual journey of the beautiful state of Colorado! We'll construct an interesting fact roadmap of Colorado with content from Oxford's various online products.



Friday, 2/9
5:30-7:00

Cheers & Beers! Pub-themed trivia Opening Reception
Refreshments will be provided

Saturday, 2/10

Sunday, 2/11

10:00-10:30

An UPSO Update

10:30-11:00

Journals in a Jiffy

Colorado in an Hour
Explore the great state of Colorado through
Oxford's online products
Refreshments will be provided

11:00-11:30

Did you catch that Reference?

Time to be Social with *Social Explorer*

11:30-12:00

An UPSO Update

Journals in a Jiffy

2:00-2:30

You, Me, and the OREs
How the *Oxford Research Encyclopedias* were
developed by Oxford, for you
Refreshments will be provided

Did you catch that Reference?

2:30-3:00

Time to be Social with *Social Explorer*

You, Me, and the OREs

3:00-3:30

booth #1538

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- ✓ High performance
- ✓ Best 3-year factory warranty

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how the **AUTO-Fiche Carrier** makes
research "hands-free" and hassle-free!