

# american libraries

September/October 2019

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

2019

## LIBRARY DESIGN SHOWCASE

p. 32

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Libraries p. 48

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**PLUS:** Firefighting Librarian,  
ALA Award Winners,  
The Buzz on Beekeeping

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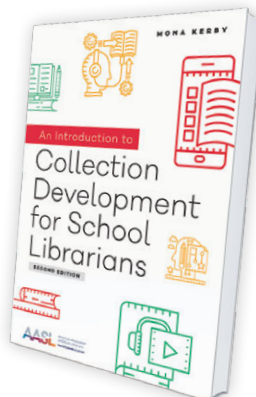
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ON THE COVER: Richland Library Main in Columbia, South Carolina. Photo: Garrett Rowland

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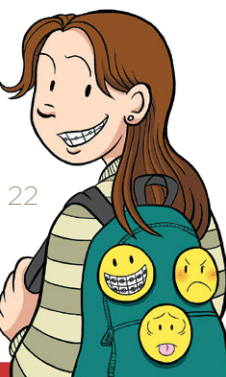
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## Breaking New Ground



**Sanhita SinhaRoy**

In our annual architectural issue, we celebrate bold and innovative design. From our cover story (“2019 Library Design Showcase,” p. 32) to the winners of this year’s Library Building Awards (“ALA/AIA Library Building Awards,” p. 40), it’s clear that architecture and design significantly shape the way communities come together and interact.

In “How to Build a Library” (p. 42), Managing Editor Terra Dankowski profiles three public libraries serving municipalities of varying sizes, each of which has opened a new facility within the past three years. These libraries are now centerpieces of their communities. Considering construction? Start here.

The debate over self-serve libraries has been around for a few years. What’s new is the foothold these libraries appear to be gaining in the US, as well as the ongoing question of whether these services will eliminate or complement existing staff. In “Automatic for the People” (p. 48), Claire Zulkey talks with several librarians about the pros and cons of these services.

Among the many deserving individuals and institutions profiled in our annual ALA Awards feature (p. 24), one especially stands out: Tyler Magill, stacks liaison at University of Virginia’s Alderman Library, who suffered a stroke after he was struck during the nonviolent counterprotest against the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville two years ago. Congrats to Magill for winning the biannual Paul Howard Award for Courage.

As school librarians head back to their educational institutions this fall, some will need to equip themselves with tools to face book challenges. In “Up to the Challenge” (p. 52), Mona Kerby provides tips to help prevent challenges before they happen. The article is an excerpt from *An Introduction to Collection Development for School Librarians* (ALA Editions/American Association of School Librarians, 2019).

Another school librarian showing heroism: Dinah Wade, who doubles as a volunteer firefighter (Bookend, p. 64). Not only that, but Wade brings fire safety programming into her library during Fire Prevention Week and visits local schools throughout the year, sparking partnerships along the way. It’s a perfect match.

*Sanhita*

From  
inspiring  
ideas to  
nuts-and-  
bolts tips,  
our annual  
architectural  
issue has  
something  
for every  
design need.

# Inclusive by Design

Reevaluating physical and virtual spaces to address inequity



**Wanda Kay Brown**

The design and architecture of libraries' physical spaces can send powerful messages about the values housed within.

In 2017, when librarian J. J. Pionke was evaluating the messages the architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign library sent to students, he realized that wayfinding signage was deeply lacking. This, he understood, could be a possible barrier to entry for groups that were less likely to use the library, such as students who use wheelchairs or have social anxiety.

"When you can navigate a space, whatever that space may look like, and you don't have to ask for help and you can do it independently, that's confidence-building," he says.

When we think of some of the foremost goals of our profession—advocating for the value of libraries, librarians, and library workers as well as promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion—we often frame them as issues to be addressed by people. But buildings can be influential messengers too, and the design and architecture of our physical spaces can send powerful messages to patrons and the community about the values housed within.

It's not always easy, especially for those of us who work on campuses full of historic but often unapproachable buildings. And not every system has a budget for a new building or renovation project. But there are ways to view any space through a lens of improvement. Indeed, we should always look to evolve to meet the needs of our communities.

It's simple enough to ask, "Is my library inclusive?" But it's a hard question to answer honestly.

Pionke recommends doing an accessibility walkthrough. "When I do those, I think about: What does this space look like for someone who's four feet tall? What does this space look like for someone who doesn't have any hands? What is this space like for someone who can't see it?"

This especially resonates with me as I think about a chief goal of my presidential year: to understand the library's role in addressing social and economic inequity. Is there some barrier to access that is preventing the most vulnerable communities from benefiting from the resources in our libraries?

Sonja Ervin at Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library urges us to consider if the people who greet our patrons—the librarians and library workers—reflect the demographics of the community. When patrons see people like themselves reflected in the library staff, she says, the apprehension about using the library can disappear: "Patrons feel like maybe this is a place for me, and they can connect with somebody who may have a similar experience."

Modern design and architecture make for beautiful photographs, but the work of libraries happens in all kinds of spaces—even virtual spaces. In Forsyth County, North Carolina, where I live, libraries logged more than 1.3 million online visitors in 2017–2018, compared with the 1.2 million visitors who entered a physical building.

Digital inclusion—giving people the tools to not only access technology but to use it—is an increasingly important part of our work and an area where librarians and library workers can demonstrate enduring value to their patrons.

No matter what small-minded detractors may say, libraries have a central place in our communities and our culture. As long as they remain those cornerstones, let's make sure our physical and virtual spaces send welcoming signals to everyone. **AL**

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**WANDA KAY BROWN** is director of library services at C. G. O'Kelly Library at Winston-Salem (N.C.) State University.



# Future Destinations

With the start of the fiscal year, let's both reflect and look ahead



**Mary Ghikas**

As we reflect at the start of this fiscal year, we can each bring unique perspectives and questions that help us move toward our shared mission.

**H**appy new year! The American Library Association's (ALA) fiscal year begins every September 1, overlapping several other "new years": the governance year, which begins at the conclusion of Annual Conference; the calendar year; and, of course, your personal membership year. So why is a new fiscal year so significant?

As in our personal lives, a new year is a time for reflection. We look back at the surprises, successes, and disappointments. We look at how we performed inside the Association—and, even more important, at our impact on libraries, on the people who make both the Association and libraries work, and on all the communities served by libraries. We look at how we use resources to further our mission and strategic directions—and to support our members in the work they do.

In June, we explored questions about the work of change going on at ALA, with impacts on the present and future life of the Association. We thought about the values of persistence; conversation and context; difference and discovery; and engagement. These aspects of association life are important because they help us fulfill our mission and key action areas ([bit.ly/AboutALA](http://bit.ly/AboutALA)):

- provide collective leadership for the development, promotion, and continuous improvement of libraries of all types in all communities
- develop and nurture a diverse body of library workers, trustees, Friends, and advocates who make up the living heart of libraries and tie libraries to communities
- lead the fight for equitable access to information and for enhanced learning for everyone, at every age, with every ability

To help achieve this, ALA's leadership defined four strategic directions, or areas of focus: advocacy; information policy; professional and leadership development; and equity, diversity, and inclusion. These, along with other framework policies—such as the Core Values of Librarianship

and the Library Bill of Rights ([bit.ly/LibBill](http://bit.ly/LibBill))—define where we want to go and what we want to be. They are the "why" for ALA's use of resources: commitment, time, organizational structure, procedures, ideas, and, of course, dollars.

Collectively, these represent an organizational touchstone as we go about the challenging and necessary work of organizational change. They also represent a yardstick by which to measure effective use of all types of resources.

- Are we having an impact?
- How could we accomplish our mission more effectively?
- Are we focusing where we ought to?
- Are we measuring the right things?
- Will the work of change—for staff and members—move us closer to achieving our mission?
- Are we creating new capabilities—and possibilities?

Each of us brings unique perspectives and questions to this reflection.

In FY2020, we enter the second year of a three-year investment cycle approved by the ALA Executive Board. These investments have been designed to help develop new resources and capabilities to address ALA's mission and goals. The ALA Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC), led by former chair and current ALA Treasurer Maggie Farrell and former treasurer Susan Hildreth, undertook the task of reviewing metrics. This will continue in FY2020 with Peter Hepburn as BARC chair and Farrell as treasurer.

This is a collective journey toward a shared mission. As we begin the new fiscal year, it is critical that we ask important, sometimes difficult questions and seek answers together—respectful of one another and our past contributions, and focused on future destinations. **AL**

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**MARY GHIKAS** is executive director of the American Library Association.

Best job title I've heard maybe ever: "lunar librarian."

@LIBRARYATNIGHT in response to "News-maker: Paul Jones" (AL Online, July 16)

Libraries, space, and history—three of my very favorite things.

@CHRISTANYC in response to "To Space Education ... and Beyond" (AL Online, July 8)

## Vocal Support for Assistants

I enjoyed reading "Your Library Needs to Speak to You" (June, p. 34). I was a computer scientist at Adobe. My first real job was working in the corporate library of Bell-Northern Research, a telecommunications research and development company.

I have been working on a voice assistant I call the Library Patron Agent, which has been a labor of love. My prototypes currently work with Alexa, and I am starting support for Google Assistant. I have operational versions that can query due dates and renew booking. I still have far to go and much to learn, but I can tell the ability to talk to one's library system is a wonderful benefit!

I can vouch, too, that building voice assistants is no trivial or simple endeavor. The lack of standards involving patron-facing APIs makes building assistants more difficult. With their experience across various cataloging systems, such as the Library of Congress Subject Headings and the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative, libraries are well equipped to get into the business of building intent models.

Andrew Francis  
Montreal

## Market Shift Rattles Industry

I have worked at the intersection of libraries, publishing, and content for 20 years, and I



understand the anger, frustration, and exhaustion that librarians are feeling in response to the recent changes to models for library lending ("The Future of Ebook Pricing," The Scoop, July 9).

Libraries are the beating heart of the reading ecosystem; as institutions that grow readers and teach people from all walks of life how to use information well, they should be able to purchase popular digital materials in step with the consumer market that they help sustain.

Publishers as well as agents and writers have heard from Amazon that library lending is bad for business. The only way we will improve access and fairness for all parties involved—libraries, authors, agents, publishers, readers, and vendors—is through a true public dialogue. While Amazon's monopolistic behaviors are no

secret, its behind-the-scenes pressuring of publishers to reduce library access remains a largely untouched subject in the mainstream press.

Though publishers have the right to set their own lending models, they should not have to bend to the will of a company with unchecked power. Their relationship with libraries should be allowed to evolve organically, with input from libraries themselves and from the library vendors that partner with them.

"What can we do?" is a question I have been hearing a lot since ALA's Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. My answer is this: Educate yourself and your patrons; have frank discussions about how Kindle compatibility is feeding a data monster; network with writers in your community so they understand what's at stake; and consider joining the

**WRITE US:** The editors welcome comments about recent content, online stories, and matters of professional interest. Submissions should be limited to 300 words and are subject to editing for clarity, style, and length. Send to [americanlibraries@ala.org](mailto:americanlibraries@ala.org) or *American Libraries*, From Our Readers, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795.

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Association of American Publishers (AAP) in its movement to spark federal intervention. AAP's criticisms of Amazon's modus operandi in its recent Federal Trade Commission filing should be required reading for directors and librarians in the trenches.

**Heather McCormack**  
St. Paul, Minnesota

The latest news about the future of digital items in libraries made me go on a Twitter rant, thinking about how the approaches over the last few years have still not resulted in an equitable balance in library pricing. Over time, publishers have played with different models, making changes in pricing and length of licensing, and even preventing sales to libraries outright. This constricts access for libraries and impedes collection development at a time when digital materials are as in demand as print. Also, it leaves us in the awkward position of having to communicate these changes to patrons.

 Fascinating story on an unlikely role for a #library: "When Andrew Chanse, executive director of Spokane (Wash.) Public Library, got a phone call in 2013 requesting that his library host a community court, he wasn't sure what to think."

@TECHSOUP4LIBS in response to "Courting Libraries" (June, p. 16)

If this change doesn't benefit libraries, whom does it benefit? I surmise the arguments in favor are financial, since writer royalties increase with sales. Do higher prices for libraries translate into higher royalties for authors? If so, this should drive more library sales, not less.

Delaying access to libraries will only result in fewer purchases, and since libraries are some of the biggest promoters of mid- and backlist titles, it would be better to end embargoes of new materials and leverage libraries' position as advocates for reading. Libraries hold the long tail in introducing consumers to authors and their works—why block that?

As a librarian and a reader, I love being able to access my favorite authors and publishers from my library. Hopefully we can reinvigorate conversations on access to digital materials with ALA back in the ring.

**Kristi Chadwick**  
Florence, Massachusetts

Publishers' ebook leasing models are a direct threat to libraries. They are a barrier to access and difficult to explain to our users. ALA's plans to reestablish a working group to address these issues is a good start.

I hope ALA and publishers can come to some sort of a compromise or at least be willing to experiment with new leasing models. Librarians want to connect authors with new audiences, but the restrictions publishers have placed on ebook access are making this fiscally impossible.

**Erin Shea**  
Stamford, Connecticut

## What You're Reading

**1 Battling Information Illiteracy** See how misinformation affects the future of policy in this ALA Editions excerpt. [bit.ly/AL-misinfo](http://bit.ly/AL-misinfo)

**2 Newsmaker: George Takei** The actor, author, and activist shares lessons from a childhood spent in WWII internment camps. [bit.ly/AL-Takei](http://bit.ly/AL-Takei)

**3 International Innovators** Read about the four forward-thinking global libraries that won this year's ALA Presidential Citation. [bit.ly/ALAIinnovators19](http://bit.ly/ALAIinnovators19)

## In Case You Missed It

**Dewey Decibel Podcast: 50 Years of the Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Awards** Our panel discussion with five past CSK winners and honorees, recorded live at ALA's 2019 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C. [bit.ly/AL-CSKpodcast](http://bit.ly/AL-CSKpodcast)

**Possible Threat to the E-Rate Program** The Federal Communications Commission may cap the Universal Service Fund, which supports E-Rate and other programs that provide affordable internet access to low-income and rural areas. [bit.ly/AL-ERateThreat](http://bit.ly/AL-ERateThreat)



**Newsmaker: Mo Rocca** The journalist and author talks obituaries, reference books, and his most formative job. [bit.ly/AL-Rocca](http://bit.ly/AL-Rocca)

**Newsmaker: Linda Holmes** NPR's podcast host and first-time novelist discusses storytelling, genre, and the role of librarians in the cultural conversation. [bit.ly/AL-Holmes](http://bit.ly/AL-Holmes)

## Coming Soon

Check The Scoop for coverage of **YALSA's 2019 Young Adult Services Symposium** (Nov. 1–3 in Memphis, Tennessee) and **AASL's National Conference and Exhibition** (Nov. 14–16 in Louisville, Kentucky).

### ALA Welcomes Supreme Court Ruling on Census Citizenship Question

On June 27, the Supreme Court issued a 5–4 ruling in *Department of Commerce v. New York*, temporarily blocking the Commerce Department from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. The court ruled that the reasoning the government provided for adding the question was pretextual—it did not match the Department of Commerce’s reasoning at the time the decision was made to include a citizenship question.

“We welcome the Supreme Court’s decision to at least temporarily block the addition of the question,” said American Library Association (ALA) President Wanda Kay Brown in a concurrent statement. “ALA has consistently opposed the

addition of the question on the 2020 Census form, as most recently argued in ALA’s *amicus curiae* brief in this case.”

ALA will continue to work in partnership with civil and human rights organizations to review the implications of the case and actively advocate for a fair, accurate, and inclusive census, Brown said.

On July 11, President Trump announced that his administration would no longer pursue adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census.

Updated and expanded information about libraries and the census, including ALA’s free *Libraries’ Guide to the 2020 Census*, is available at [ala.org/census](http://ala.org/census). ●

#### Deadline for Committee Volunteers Nears

Members interested in volunteering on ALA, Council, and joint committees for the 2020–2022 term—which begins July 1, 2020—must complete and submit the form at [bit.ly/ALACommitteeVol](http://bit.ly/ALACommitteeVol) by September 30. Forms received after this date will be considered for the following term.

ALA President-Elect Julius C. Jefferson Jr. will make committee appointments in consultation with the Committee on Appointments and the Committee on Committees. Appointments will be completed by the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Philadelphia, with appointees notified in spring 2020.

#### ALA Opposes Potential E-Rate Funding Cap

On July 28, ALA submitted comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on its May 31 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that seeks information about placing an overall funding cap on the Universal Service Fund (USF). USF is the fund that supports

E-Rate and other programs that provide affordable internet access to low-income and rural areas.

In its comments to the FCC, ALA opposed placing a funding cap on USF out of concern that it could result in a future funding deficiency and force USF programs to compete with each other. The FCC is likely to make a ruling in the next several months. ALA will follow this issue closely and continue to advocate for predictable and adequate funding for the E-Rate program, according to a July 28 press release.

#### 2020 ALA Annual Program Proposals Due

ALA Conference Services is accepting program proposals for the 2020 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago. Proposals for all ALA divisions, round tables, committees, and offices will be accepted through September 10 with final decisions made in early December.

For more information and to submit a proposal, visit [bit.ly/ALAAC20-propose](http://bit.ly/ALAAC20-propose). ALA account information is required to access the submission site.

#### 2019 Accreditation Decisions

ALA’s Committee on Accreditation has announced accreditation actions taken at the 2019 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C.

Continued accreditation status was granted to the following programs, with the next comprehensive review visit scheduled for spring 2026:

- master of information science and master of library science at Indiana University, Bloomington
- master of library science at Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis
- master of library and information science at University of Southern Mississippi

Initial accreditation status was granted to the master of science in library and information science at Chicago State University, with the next review visit to take place in spring 2026.

The master of library and information science program at Louisiana State University’s status was changed from continued to conditional, with the next review visit scheduled for spring 2022.



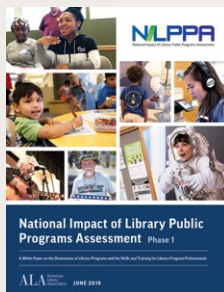
# ALA Releases Findings from Public Programming Study

ALA has released “National Impact of Library Public Programs Assessment (NILPPA), Phase 1: A White Paper on the Dimensions of Library Programs and the Skills and Training for Library Program Professionals.” The report outlines the findings of a two-year, Institute of Museum and Library Services-funded research study that explored the characteristics, audiences, outcomes, and value of US library programming and the competencies required to succeed in the field.

In collaboration with social science think tank New Knowledge Organization, researchers studied the current landscape of library public programming, including program types, topics, formats, audiences, and partner relationships, and identified the skills required to create effective and excellent programs. The research also explores existing pathways to programming competencies for library workers, as well as opportunities that may exist in formal and informal skills acquisition.

The first half of the white paper introduces a library program categorization framework that identifies the four primary dimensions and further subdimensions of library programs. The second half of the report names nine core library programming competency areas—knowledge of the community, interpersonal skills, creativity, content knowledge, evaluation, financial skills, outreach and marketing, event planning, and organizational skills—that encompass the skill set required of library programming professionals.

Library professionals and others are invited to read and share feedback on the white paper at [nilppa.org](http://nilppa.org). ●



Candidacy status was granted to the master of arts in library and information studies program at University College London, with a comprehensive review visit scheduled for spring 2022.

A complete list of programs and degrees accredited by ALA can be found at [bit.ly/ALA-accredited](http://bit.ly/ALA-accredited).

## I Love My Librarian Award Nominations Open

Library users can now nominate their favorite librarians for the I Love My Librarian Award, which recognizes outstanding public service contributions

of librarians working in public, school, college, community college, or university libraries.

Ten librarians will receive \$5,000, a plaque, and a travel stipend to attend the I Love My Librarian Award ceremony on January 25 during the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Philadelphia.

Nominations are being accepted at [ilovelibraries.org/lovelylibrarian](http://ilovelibraries.org/lovelylibrarian) through October 21. To be eligible, nominees must hold a master's degree in library and information studies from an ALA-accredited program or a master's degree with a specialty in school library

## CALENDAR

SEPT.

### Library Card Sign-Up Month

[ala.org/librarycardsignup](http://ala.org/librarycardsignup)

SEPT. 22-28

### Banned Books Week

[ala.org/bbooks](http://ala.org/bbooks)

SEPT. 25

### Banned Websites

### Awareness Day

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

OCT. 20-26

### National Friends of

### Libraries Week

[bit.ly/alafolweek](http://bit.ly/alafolweek)

OCT. 21-27

### Open Access Week

[openaccessweek.org](http://openaccessweek.org)

NOV. 1-3

### YALSA's Young Adult Services

### Symposium | Memphis, Tennessee

[ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium](http://ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium)

NOV. 3-9

### International Games Week

[games.ala.org](http://games.ala.org)

NOV. 14-16

### AASL National Conference and

### Exhibition | Louisville, Kentucky

[national.aasl.org](http://national.aasl.org)

JAN. 24-28

### ALA Midwinter Meeting &

### Exhibits | Philadelphia

[alamidwinter.org](http://alamidwinter.org)

FEB. 25-29

### Public Library Association

### Conference | Nashville, Tennessee

[placonference.org](http://placonference.org)

APR.

### School Library Month

[ala.org/aasl/slm](http://ala.org/aasl/slm)

APR. 4-11

### Money Smart Week

[moneysmartweek.org](http://moneysmartweek.org)

JUNE 25-30

### 2020 ALA Annual Conference

### and Exhibition | Chicago

[bit.ly/ALAUppcomingConfs](http://bit.ly/ALAUppcomingConfs)

media from a program accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. Nominees must also work in a public library, a library at an accredited two- or four-year college or university, or at an accredited K–12 school in the United States.

### Lois Ann Gregory-Wood Fellowship Program Launches

ALA has opened applications for its inaugural Lois Ann Gregory-Wood Fellows Program. During the first year of the award, one individual will receive \$2,500 to cover costs of attending the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Philadelphia and the 2020 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago. The fellow will work with a mentor and attend various governance meetings during the conferences.

Lois Ann Gregory-Wood worked at ALA for 50 years and served as ALA Council secretariat for 27 years. The fellows program celebrates her leadership and accomplishments and seeks to encourage understanding and participation in the ALA governance process.

Each applicant must be an ALA member for at least two years and a practicing librarian, full-time library staff member, library trustee or Friend, or board member for at least five years. Applicants must also have attended at least one ALA Annual Conference or Midwinter Meeting.

The deadline for applications is September 30. More information can be found at [bit.ly/ALA-lagwf19](http://bit.ly/ALA-lagwf19).

### ASGCLA Updates Service Animals Tip Sheet

The Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies' (ASGCLA) Accessibility Assembly has revised its Service Animals Tipsheet ([bit.ly/ASGCLA-sa19](http://bit.ly/ASGCLA-sa19)). The resource focuses on the definitions and expectations of service animals identified in the Americans with Disabilities Act and notes the differences between support and service animals and their purposes. The

## New Macmillan Lending Model Denounced by ALA

On July 25, Macmillan Publishers announced a new library ebook lending model, in which a library may purchase one copy upon release of a new title in ebook format, and the publisher will impose an eight-week embargo on additional copies of that title sold to libraries.

"Macmillan Publishers' new model for library ebook lending will make it difficult for libraries to fulfill our central mission: ensuring access to information for all," said ALA President Wanda Kay Brown in a concurrent statement. "When a library serving many thousands has only a single copy of a new title in ebook format, it's the library—not the publisher—that feels the heat."

"ALA urges Macmillan to cancel the embargo," Brown added.

The new Macmillan lending model is an expansion of a policy that went into effect in July 2018, when the company issued a four-month embargo on titles from the company's Tor imprint. At the time, ALA stated that the delay would hurt readers, authors, and libraries.

Macmillan will decrease its price to \$30 for the single initial copy of an ebook which, unlike those from the other Big Five Publishers, will still come with perpetual access. After the embargo period, additional copies will be available for \$60 per copy for two years of access.

"This new embargo is the latest evidence of a troubling trend in the publishing industry," said Brown, adding that ALA is developing a strategy to address this trend following the model of ALA's former Digital Content Working Group. ALA will explore possible avenues to ensure that libraries can provide access to information for all, without limitations that undermine libraries' abilities to serve their communities. ●

revised guide provides libraries with a set of tips about practice and procedures regarding service animals in a library.

### New Videos Explain Intellectual Freedom Basics

ALA's Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) has published four videos to engage nonlibrarians in the fight to protect intellectual freedom, available at [bit.ly/IFRT-vids19](http://bit.ly/IFRT-vids19). The brief explainer videos cover the basics of intellectual freedom, censorship, and privacy for a nonlibrary audience, providing key definitions and using everyday language.

The videos were created as part of the 2019 Emerging Leaders project sponsored by IFRT and showcased at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C.

These resources are for community members to share on social media, show to their boards, include in new-hire training, and use as general advocacy tools to help ensure that library ideals are upheld.

### Teens' Top 10 Giveaway Recipients Announced

Sixty libraries will receive a set of the 2019 Teens' Top 10 nominee books, announced by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), through funding from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. A full list of recipients is available at [bit.ly/YALSATTTgiveaway19](http://bit.ly/YALSATTTgiveaway19).

This year's Teens' Top 10 nominees include 25 teen-acclaimed young adult titles from many genres. The Top 10 is a teen choice list; teens nominate and



choose their favorite books from the previous year.

Nominations are announced during National Library Week in April, and teens across the country vote for their favorite titles each year between August 15 and the third week of October.

For ideas and resources on how to incorporate the Teens' Top 10 into summer learning programs, download the free toolkit at [bit.ly/TeensTopTenToolkit](http://bit.ly/TeensTopTenToolkit).

### AASL Launches School Administrator Collaborative

To strengthen its collaboration with school administrators, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is launching a two-year initiative, "AASL School Leader Collaborative: Administrators and School Librarians Transforming Teaching and Learning."

With support from OverDrive Education, AASL will convene an AASL

School Leader Collaborative and a cadre of state-level leaders to facilitate the initiative. AASL leaders and K–12 administrators will share advocacy plans for school librarians that can be implemented at building, district, state, and national levels. Administrators will provide feedback, messaging, and advice on strategies.

State-level leaders will serve as points of contact to initiate activities developed by the school leader collaborative and distribute resources the group creates. Leaders will also identify school librarians in their state to present at state or regional school administrator conferences.

### Berkshire Athenaeum Gains Literary Landmark Status

On August 1, United for Libraries dedicated the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as a Literary Landmark in honor of Herman Melville's

200th birthday. The dedication ceremony took place as part of the Berkshire County Historical Society's third annual Moby Dick Marathon, a four-day event at Herman Melville's home, Arrowhead.

The Literary Landmark program is administered by United for Libraries, and any library or group may apply. More information is available at [bit.ly/LitLandmarks](http://bit.ly/LitLandmarks).

### Bill Morris Seminar Applications Open

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) seeks applications for its seventh biennial "Bill Morris Seminar: Book Evaluation Training," to be held January 24 during the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Philadelphia. This invitational seminar, facilitated by members who have served on ALSC's media evaluation committees, will train new ALSC members as well as those



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with limited evaluation experience in children's media evaluation techniques and the group process.

The seminar is free and includes all materials, breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon break. To help defray additional costs for hotel and other expenses, the Morris Endowment will provide a \$350 stipend for each attendee.

Applications must be received by September 2, and attendees will be notified in early October. Information and the application form are available at [bit.ly/ALSC-morris](http://bit.ly/ALSC-morris).

## Sacramento Public Library to Host Arbuthnot Lecture

ALSC announced that Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library will host the 2020 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture featuring Newbery Medal winner and library advocate Neil Gaiman. The time and date of the lecture will be announced in the fall.

The 2020 Arbuthnot committee selected Gaiman to present the lecture for his fierce advocacy of youth services librarians and his commitment to intellectual freedom, one of the core values of librarianship.

## PLA Names First Fiscal Officer



Clara Nalli Bohrer

The Public Library Association (PLA) appointed Clara Nalli Bohrer, director of West Bloomfield Township (Mich.) Public Library, as its first fiscal officer.

The position was added to the PLA board of directors through a ballot initiative approved by members earlier this year. In her capacity as immediate past president, board member Pam Sandlian Smith selected Bohrer for the fiscal officer role. She will serve a three-year term on the PLA board, ending in 2022.

For the past eight years, Bohrer has chaired PLA's Budget and Finance Committee. She also served a four-year term, including two years as chair, on ALA's Budget Analysis and Review Committee,

# ALA Objects to LinkedIn Learning Privacy Changes

LinkedIn Learning, formerly Lynda.com—a platform used by libraries to provide online learning opportunities to patrons—plans to make changes to its terms of service that would impair library users' privacy rights. Under the new terms of service, a library cardholder will need to create a LinkedIn profile in order to access the platform. To do so, users must disclose their full names and email addresses, and new users will have their profile set to public by default, allowing their full names to be searchable on Google and LinkedIn.

"The requirement for users of LinkedIn Learning to disclose personally identifiable information is completely contrary to ALA policies addressing library users' privacy, and it may violate some states' library confidentiality laws," said ALA President Wanda Kay Brown in a July 22 statement. "It also violates the librarian's ethical obligation to keep a person's use of library resources confidential. We are deeply concerned about these changes to the terms of service and urge LinkedIn and its owner, Microsoft, to reconsider their position on this."

ALA has long encouraged library vendors to respect the privacy and confidentiality of library users, observe the law, and protect library users' privacy. ALA's Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations maintain that all library users have the right to access library resources without disclosing personally identifiable information to third parties and to be free from unreasonable intrusion into or surveillance of their lawful library use. ●

eight years on ALA's Planning and Budget Assembly, and two years on ALA's Finance and Audit Committee.

## AASL Releases Inclusive Learning Guide

AASL has released a new resource guide to support school librarians in nurturing inclusive learning communities. "Developing Inclusive Learners and Citizens Activity Guide" contains reflection activities and resources based on "Include," one of the six shared foundations in AASL's *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries* (ALA Editions, 2018). The guide, along with supporting materials, can be downloaded at [bit.ly/AASL-inclusive](http://bit.ly/AASL-inclusive).

Developed by a 2019 Emerging Leaders team, the guide includes a collection of activities and web resources to support professional development

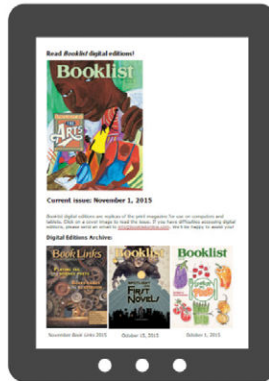
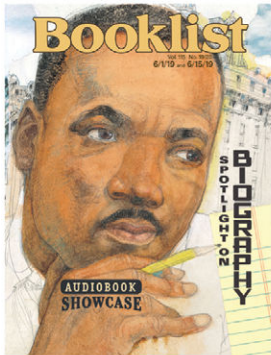
and instruction; an infographic on the importance of inclusive instruction and environments for learners; and scenarios for learners, school librarians, and school libraries reflecting each of the four domains (think, create, share, and grow).

## New White Paper Promotes Services for New Americans

ALA has released a white paper, "Library Programs and New Americans," exploring how US public libraries can improve their services to new Americans.

Through the New Americans Library Project, ALA worked with social science think tank New Knowledge Organization to study offerings for new Americans, identify gaps in service, and develop a set of recommendations. The white paper offers nine recommendations for public library staff and is available at [newamericans.ala.org](http://newamericans.ala.org). AL

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# TRENDS



The BeeChicas tend to one of two rooftop beehives at Boulder (Colo.) Public Library.

## File under Bee

Libraries open up to beekeeping

BY Rachel Chance

**W**ouldn't it be cool to have beehives on the roof of a library?"

When Theresa Beck, a member of the Boulder, Colorado-based beekeeping team and advocacy group the BeeChicas, shared her idea with Kathy Lane at the Bee Boulder Festival in 2014, she didn't think of it as more than a playful suggestion. But Lane, who is programs, events, and outreach coordinator for the Boulder Public Library (BPL), ran with it.

"The city has a commitment to pollinators, improving the environment, and teaching sustainable living," explains Lane. "It fit very well with the city's mission as well as the library's."

Libraries across the country are discovering the benefits of beekeeping. Lane and the BeeChicas work together to provide programming around the library's edible learning garden and beehives, and the bees' extra honey is used in the library's café. Other libraries use

hives as an educational tool and to support the pollinators themselves, which face growing environmental threats driven by pesticides and climate change.

### A bee-plus in high school

At Niskayuna (N.Y.) High School, the library is always abuzz with activity. Thousands of honeybees busy themselves inside the school's observation hive, installed by science teacher Paul Scott in 2016.

The location of the hive was no afterthought: The media center, with its large windows overlooking an enclosed courtyard, is a prime location for students to watch bees exit and enter the hive through the pipe that connects it to the outdoors. And it's a hub of activity at the school.

"I didn't want it to be the science department's hive; I wanted it to be the school's hive," says Scott. "I wanted to reach as many people as possible, even those folks who don't think about going to the science rooms that often."

Donna McAndrews, the school's library media specialist, embraced the idea. "I felt like the library was a perfect place," she says. "Kids really come here—it's a place that they value for many reasons, and so I knew it would get a lot of traffic."

McAndrews developed a "bee corner" around the hive, displaying books and informational posters related to bees.

"The students love the bees," McAndrews says. "We have classes that come in and do different kinds of observation on the hive, and

Photo: BeeChicas

they're not just science classes." Students have formed a beekeeping club, and they now assist Scott in maintaining the hive, too.

Scott and another teacher built the hive from plans obtained online. But building the hive often isn't the hard part. Scott's first task was to get approval to bring a beehive into the school. "Make sure you start with the people who are most likely to be affected by it," advises Scott, who first consulted the school nurse about allergy concerns and the grounds crew before obtaining permission from the principal.

### Raised on the roof

Getting approval for a hive can require some political acumen as well as beekeeping knowledge. Derek Wolfgram, library director of Redwood City (Calif.) Public Library (RCPL), met the Beekeepers' Guild of San Mateo at a public forum where they were lobbying—successfully—for city ordinances more favorable to backyard beekeeping. He was so impressed by their presentation that he contacted them to ask if they would collaborate with the library. Kendal Sager, owner of Sager Family Farm, a local educational farm, signed on for the project.

When it came time to place the hives, Wolfgram needed a lot of collaboration. "We had to talk with city attorneys about liability, we had to talk with our public works department" to establish processes for rooftop maintenance, he says. "It was time-consuming because there were a surprising number of people whose input was needed." But the rooftop location eased the process.

"Rooftop bees start out quite high, and they don't come down



Observation hive in Niskayuna (N.Y.) High School's media center

until they find a flower to forage on," says Sager. "People who don't want to interact with them aren't forced to."

In June 2018, Sager installed two hives on the downtown library's rooftop. These didn't survive the winter after a mite infestation, but new hives are thriving, according to Sager.

"We post frequently about the bees on social media," Wolfgram says. "It's funny, you never know what's going to be the thing that's going to catch the public's imagination, but I think this has been one of the most popular things we've ever done."

RCPL is still planning educational programs, but will have a livestream of the rooftop bee activity.

## BY THE NUMBERS

# National Friends of Libraries Week

14

Number of years that National Friends of Libraries Week has been celebrated. The week (this year October 20–26) is an opportunity to recognize the contributions and advocacy efforts of Friends groups and trustees, and to promote United for Libraries membership with such events as fundraisers, author signings, and book readings.

2

Number of Friends groups honored each year since 2010 for their celebrations of National Friends of Libraries Week. The 2018 winners, Friends of the LeClaire (Iowa) Community Library and Charleston (S.C.) Friends of the Library, were awarded \$250 each.

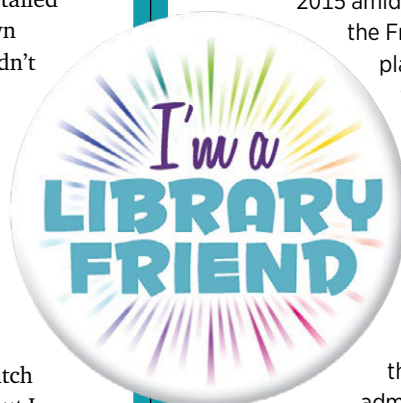
\$3.8 million

Budget increase amount that Friends of the Dallas Public Library secured for its library in 2015 amid financial crisis. Thanks to the Friends group's advocacy plan, the system was able to add employees and expand operating hours.

174

Number of Literary Landmarks across the United States that have been dedicated since the program, currently administered by United for Libraries, began in 1986. Recent

Literary Landmarks include Ray Bradbury Park in Waukegan, Illinois, in honor of the *Fahrenheit 451* author, and Harvin-Clarendon County Public Library in Manning, South Carolina, in honor of Amelia Bedelia series creator Peggy Parish. ●



Continued on page 17 ▶



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## Research Skills

## Information Literacy

## Fact or Fiction

## Smart Social Networking

## Good Digital Citizen

## AASL Standards

## Preservation

## Copyright Tips

## Family Tree

posters  
bookmarks  
gifts  
incentives



## Family Engagement



## Health Literacy



## Vote





◀ Continued from page 15

“Bees at a library are unexpected, but it totally makes sense when you think about our education role,” Wolfgram adds. “Environmental sustainability is one of the things we want to teach people about, and bees are an important part of that.”

### More than honeybees

At BPL, the BeeChicas have maintained rooftop hives since 2016. While their honeybees get a lot of attention, the BeeChicas and BPL also collaborate with University of Colorado’s citizen science project The Bees’ Needs to help raise awareness of habitat loss for native bees. Most native bees build their nests within holes in trees or fallen logs and branches, which are lacking in many urban areas. BPL hosts workshops where patrons can build small native bee houses out of hollow sticks to take home and place in their yards.

“Most people don’t even realize that there are 4,000 different types of native bees in our country. And they are the ones that nobody is helping,” says Cynthia Scott of the BeeChicas.

“Not everyone who has an interest in supporting bees or other pollinators is interested in becoming a beekeeper,” adds Deborah Foy, another BeeChica member. “But they can attend a fun workshop, learn more about the issues, and walk away with ideas on how to be part of the solution.” **AL**



Honey from Redwood City (Calif.) Public Library

## GLOBAL REACH

### Aboriginal Voices

**AUSTRALIA** A set of notebooks dating from 1788 that records the first attempts at communication between British settlers and Indigenous Australians is on loan from SOAS University of London to the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney for its landmark exhibition, “Living Language: Country, Culture, Community,” which opened July 13. The Dawes notebooks—named for First Fleet Officer William Dawes, who recorded his discussions with the Aboriginal people of La Perouse—are important because they retain a conversational context that is crucial for contemporary language revival work. This language variant is still in use among Sydney Aboriginal communities.—*Sydney Morning Herald*, July 14.



One of the Dawes notebooks on display at the State Library of New South Wales.

**AFGHANISTAN** Freshta Karim is founder of Charmagz, an organization that transforms buses into mobile libraries. Volunteers drive them around Kabul so that young citizens can develop and foster a love of critical thinking and reading. “We are a group of young Afghans who have witnessed war and its direct impact on our childhood firsthand,” says the Charmagz mission statement. “Our childhood, like millions of other Afghan children, was lost before we could live it. The pain brings us together in order to make a difference in other children’s lives.” Children are encouraged to drop by before or after school to read, play chess, learn, and debate.—*The National* (United Arab Emirates), July 13.

**TANZANIA** At a cost of \$41.3 million US, the nonprofit organization China Aid helped build a new library at the University of Dar es Salaam in 2018. The largest university library in Africa, the facility is staffed by 147 librarians and features high-speed internet and improved access to digital resources. With the help of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the library is now in the process of digitizing its rare collections, some handwritten, that date back to the Middle Ages.—*China Daily* (Beijing), July 10.

**SWEDEN** The International branch of Stockholm Public Library, now located near the central library, is planning a move in 2020 to a new location closer to a public transit hub. The municipal council cites costs and a greater ease of hosting events as the main reasons for the change. The new venue would be adjacent to the Kungsholm branch. But critics have said the move will be detrimental to the city’s literary community and new immigrants who have used the facility to learn Swedish. More than 3,000 people have signed a petition against the move, including authors, publishers, and members of the Swedish Academy.—*The Local* (Sweden), June 26. ●

**RACHEL CHANCE** is acquisitions editor for ALA Neal-Schuman.



A participant in a cursive workshop at L. P. Fisher Public Library in Woodstock, New Brunswick, Canada, practices the alphabet.

conceptual questions ([bit.ly/cursivestudy3](http://bit.ly/cursivestudy3)). The latter, coauthored by RAND Corporation Policy Researcher Pam A. Mueller, suggests that writing by hand helps people “retain material much better” than typing does.

People who write by hand—whether they use cursive or print—likely retain more information than typists because writing’s comparative slowness means they have to make mental choices about the information they capture, Mueller says. In contrast, someone who types can get more information down more quickly, but without the mental processing that aids retention.

In other words, while handwriting in general appears to be beneficial, it’s not clear that cursive is superior to printing. That doesn’t stop advocates from making an additional argument: Without knowing how to read or write cursive, supporters assert, future generations will be unable to decipher historical documents. “It will become an issue if people can’t read the cursive of other generations,” Mueller says.

In recent years, perhaps as a backlash to cursive’s removal from the Common Core, many states have passed laws requiring cursive writing to be taught in school. Still, students in other states may not be learning cursive at all. The same goes for older students in states where cursive has been required only in recent years, and only at the elementary level (like South Carolina).

Prompted by demand from patrons who see cursive as a

# Lending a Hand

Libraries take the lead in teaching cursive

BY Marcus Banks

At the Richland Library Main Makerspace and Woodshop in Columbia, South Carolina, patrons can use a band saw, learn their way around a sewing machine, or join a “build-a-thon.” But earlier this year, one teenage user expressed a different goal: to sign her name, rather than print it. That led Teen Services Supervisor Jennifer Naimzadeh to decide that her branch should offer workshops in cursive writing.

At one time, cursive was routinely taught in US schools as a way of writing with more speed and elegance than printing was perceived to permit. In 2010, the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers removed cursive from the Common Core State Standards on the grounds that teaching students cursive was less important than teaching them to communicate via technology.

That prompted a backlash from some parents, academics, and politicians who argued that without the ability to read and write cursive, children lose out on everything from enhanced brain development to superior fine-motor skills (not to mention the ability to decipher birthday cards from Grandma).

Supporters of cursive point to a study from 2012 finding that reading and writing cursive may help prevent the reversal and inversion of letters by students with dyslexia ([bit.ly/cursivedyslexia](http://bit.ly/cursivedyslexia)). Meanwhile, detractors point to a study from 2013 showing that cursive is paradoxically slower than printing ([bit.ly/cursivespeed](http://bit.ly/cursivespeed)).

Still other studies have found evidence for the superiority of handwriting in general—not cursive in particular—for facilitating reading and language acquisition in young children ([bit.ly/cursivestudy](http://bit.ly/cursivestudy)) and for increasing performance on

necessary life skill, some libraries in the United States (as well as in Canada, where the teaching of cursive is mandatory in only some provinces) have begun to offer cursive workshops. Sometimes cursive is offered as part of a larger “Adulting 101” series ([bit.ly/amlibsadulting](http://bit.ly/amlibsadulting)); sometimes separately.

Naimzadeh’s workshops, aimed at teenagers, take place a few times yearly. Some of her participants come of their own accord, while others are there at their parents’ behest: “For the parents, I’ve noticed that they think of cursive as part of being a well-rounded adult,” she says. “When teens come of their own volition, they are usually more interested in improving their penmanship and working on their skills in hand-lettering and artistic cursive.” That’s why she plans to gear

future workshops around activities such as creating elegant invitations or bullet journals.

After noticing that many children—including her own—couldn’t sign their names on their library cards or artwork, Jenn Carson, director of the L. P. Fisher Public Library in Woodstock, New Brunswick, Canada, began offering cursive workshops a few times a year for anyone age 5 or older.

Each one-hour workshop draws about five to seven attendees, usually children brought by their parents. After learning the straight lines, loops, curves, and joining that cursive requires, participants go on a “treasure hunt” for library items written in cursive, such as a collection of historical newspapers that include cursive advertisements. Students do not learn to write all 26

“It will become an issue if people can’t read the cursive of other generations.”

**PAM A. MUELLER**, RAND Corporation policy researcher

upper- and lower-case letters in the allotted time, but Carson provides all students with a workbook to take home.

“I like that people are realizing that libraries are resources” for learning cursive, Carson says. Often her students return to the library to show her that, yes—they can sign their library cards now. **AL**

**MARCUS BANKS** is a journalist with prior experience as an academic library administrator.

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Meridian (Idaho) Library District's Tiny Library was built from a recycled shipping container; windows and a garage door make the 320-square-foot building feel more spacious.

# Tiny but Mighty

A 320-square-foot library is having a big impact on early literacy

What do you do when your library wants to expand its space for young learners but doesn't have the money for a new building? You think small. Meridian (Idaho) Library District created the Tiny Library from a converted shipping container—and, with help from its partners, has seen indelible benefits in the community. The library is now developing a toolkit so that others can replicate its success.

BY Macey Snelson

Meridian Library District's (MLD) Tiny Library—a brick-red, 320-square-foot repurposed shipping container—stands out. As families cross the parking lot to the YMCA and spot the new building, we've heard kids ask "Can we go today?" and adults remark "This is so neat!"

The Tiny Library was born out of the desire to partner with other community organizations on education, recreation, and health resources and to address the literacy needs of children newborn to age 5. Idaho is one of four states in the country that does not fund preschool; further, kindergarten attendance is not mandatory. While MLD's branches and full-service bookmobile were proactive about

reaching patrons with early-literacy programs, we began to wonder: What would it be like if we were able to build a space that focused entirely on the needs of our tiniest citizens?

Funding wasn't available to build a full-service branch, so we had to get creative. (In Idaho, state law prohibits library districts from using operational savings for new construction.) In summer 2017, we saw a solution in the popular tiny-house movement. We discovered that building a small library out of a shipping container, with help from a Meridian Community Recycling Fund grant, was within our budget and didn't depend on a levy or bond. After receiving the grant, the idea became a reality. Our four

partners—the YMCA, Meridian Parks and Recreation Department, West Ada School District, and St. Luke's Medical Center—were excited about the project, and in January 2018 we began planning in earnest.

Designing the Tiny Library required time and input from nearly every department at MLD. Originally, the idea was to fill the Tiny Library with as many books as possible. But why would someone want to come to the Tiny Library for books if they could go to a full-sized library a couple of miles away? During a planning meeting, we tried to envision how furniture, staff, and patrons would fit within compact confines. We quickly realized that we would need everything inside the library to be multipurpose, lightweight, and movable. We would need lots of natural light to make the room feel less cramped and a way to quickly reconfigure the floorplan in order to host certain programs or accommodate more visitors.

We decided to consult an architect to help us achieve this open and welcoming ambience. Windows line the sides of the Tiny Library, meeting at a wall that comprises one large window. A garage door retracts to invite curious members of the public inside. Benches double as storage for blocks and puppets, and bookshelves have wheels to allow for easy rearrangement. We ended up dedicating only one side of an interior wall to books, which we are able to move outside in good weather. The library space was designed to be truly adaptable

and to fit the needs of its patrons each day.

The Tiny Library opened in October 2018. We average about 500 people per month and hit nearly 1,000 visitors in June. Families come to read, interact, and seek information about early-literacy skills from our knowledgeable staff members. Storytime attendance often bursts at the seams, and programs are lively with music, dance, and play. Kids getting ready for kindergarten engage with books specifically chosen for their stage of learning, and parents say the bright, adaptable design of the space allows their children to better explore. Babies have taken their first steps within the Tiny Library's walls, and grandparents have come to enjoy STEAM projects with their grandchildren.

Our partners have been exceptional about filling in the gaps. The YMCA, located 100 feet away, provides bathrooms for patrons since the Tiny Library can't support these facilities. Both the Y and Hillsdale Elementary School next door have hosted library programs that have been too big for our building. One of the biggest partner benefits has been Hillsdale offering space within an actual kindergarten classroom for a kindergarten-readiness course, which has helped many preschoolers feel prepared.

The Tiny Library may be small in size, but its impact has been huge. Shortly after opening, we were awarded the 2018 Future of Libraries Fellowship, administered by the American Library Association's Center for the Future of Libraries, to create a toolkit based

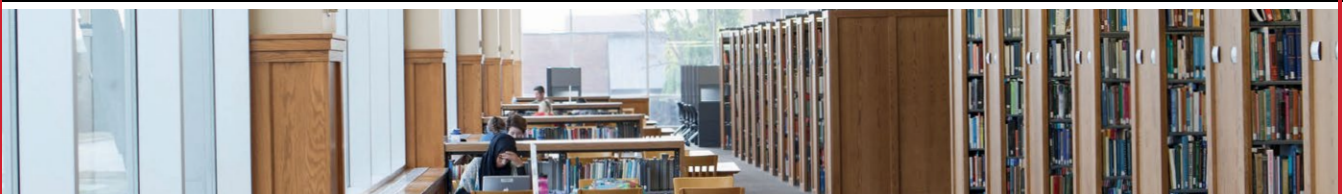
The library was designed to be truly adaptable and to fit the needs of its patrons each day.

on our project. The toolkit includes communication and design plans, a list of the lessons we learned, and technology and product suggestions, but is also designed as a workbook, so communities can develop their own ideas and think through the pieces we had to consider. The toolkit will be available this fall at [mld.org/tiny-library](http://mld.org/tiny-library). **AL**

**MACEY SNELSON** is communications and marketing specialist at Meridian (Idaho) Library District.

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# Raina Telgemeier

Graphic novelist's *Guts*-y new memoir addresses anxiety in kids



marketable. DIY cartoonists were able to gain large and authentic readerships all on their own—it was only a matter of time before the publishing industry took notice.

***Drama*, which includes LGBTQIA+ characters and themes, has been on the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom's annual list of the most frequently challenged books for three consecutive years. What was it like to be on the list again?** Every time I'm on the list, I get quietly angry. There's nothing steamy about *Drama*—there is one kiss between two boys and a lot of blushing. The boys are in 8th grade, and most 8th-graders I know are loaded up with hormones and anxiety and dreams. Acting as though queer kids don't exist erases their humanity, when they should feel seen, understood, and empowered. The upshot of the list is that people who maybe weren't paying attention to my work before, suddenly do—so my sales numbers always go up! I just hope that boost in sales translates to the book landing in more kids' hands. **AL**

**R**aina Telgemeier's YA graphic memoirs—*Smile*, *Sisters*, and her latest, *Guts* (Scholastic, September)—are so relatable, hilarious, and comforting that you may want to cancel your plans for the day and read them in one sitting. Through expressive illustrations and funny, honest dialogue and narration, she captures how it feels to be a preteen or teen.

Telgemeier has also written two fictional graphic novels (*Drama* and *Ghosts*), four illustrated adaptations of The Baby-Sitters Club series, and the new interactive journal *Share Your Smile*. *American Libraries* spoke with Telgemeier about her creative process, how graphic novelists became champions for unrepresented voices in publishing, and her advice for aspiring artists.

BY Alison Marcotte

**Many readers will identify with and appreciate *Guts* for its gentle and accurate portrayal of living with anxiety and panic attacks. Anxiety disorders affect 25% of youth 13–18 years old, and many often suffer alone. What was your biggest hope in creating *Guts*?** Thank you! Being a kid swallowed by fear and anxiety felt so isolating. If I had had a book like this, it would have helped me enormously. I make books for the kid I was, knowing there are other kids (and grown-ups) out there who will see themselves in my stories. The more of yourself you share with others, the better.

***Share Your Smile* gives aspiring writers and artists tips and prompts on how to tell their own stories. What tools or resources helped you tell your story when you were younger?** I was lucky to have teachers (and parents) who valued writing, art, poetry, and music. Time to create was a huge gift, and it's the thing I wish I had had more of. I'd encourage

aspiring writers and artists to try different tools, formats, and confines. Write a complete comic in a single page, try using ink without penciling first, use a new size or shape or texture of paper. Tell a wordless story. Create a comic with *just* words, no pictures! Time to play and experiment can lead to interesting results.

**What role have libraries played in your life?** My family went to a couple of local branches in San Francisco regularly, to do book report research and track down volumes of series we wanted to read. My parents are both book people, and we owned a lot of books, but we also lived in a small apartment and didn't have infinite space.

**Why do you think graphic novels have been so successful in highlighting more progressive and diverse voices in children's publishing?** Graphic novels and comics were on the sidelines for a long time, which meant they attracted voices outside of the mainstream. So many cartoonists hone their craft and build their audiences online, where anyone can tell any kind of story, without concern for whether it's

## MORE ONLINE

For the extended interview, visit [bit.ly/AL-Telgemeier](http://bit.ly/AL-Telgemeier) after Sept. 3.





**“Many of the children who come to my library are from immigrant families, and just as I once was, they’re hungry for a sense of community. I am so grateful for the community I found here so many years ago and want to provide a place of belonging for them, too, where their hearts will be filled and their minds enriched.”**

**ARMANDO PENICHE ROSALES**, “A DACA Librarian Is Not a Threat to America,” *The Colorado Independent*, May 31.

“You know me uncannily well. Any time I need a birthday card, I pop into the Library Store and pick one up that’s a perfect fit. An illustration of a sangria-drinking taco? Yes! A unicorn picking flowers? How did you even guess? I swing by so often that I must seem like one of those obsessive customers who keeps showing up just to see you even when they don’t have anything to buy. But, you know, I was clearly there checking out the Ansel Adams exhibition upstairs and just happened to stop by the store. *Clearly.*”

**MICHAEL JULIANO**, “A Love Letter to the Los Angeles Central Library,” *Time Out Los Angeles*, June 10.

**“MY MOM WAS A LIBRARIAN, AND SHE WORKED IN THE AUDIO-VISUAL DEPARTMENT. SO SHE ORDERED *NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS [HERE’S THE SEX PISTOLS]* FOR THE LIBRARY.”**

**JOHN DARNIELLE**, singer-songwriter for the Mountain Goats, on the first time he heard punk music, *Turned out a Punk* podcast, May 9.

**“The library gives people access to a resource that opens doors in one way for one person, and in others for the next. Even after my mom got a job, the library remained a source of security and comfort. By working at a place that gave me so much, I have learned to give back.”**

**ASTRID LIDEN** in “Trash, the Library, and a Worn, Brown Table: The 2019 College Essays on Money,” *The New York Times*, May 9.


**“It should come as no surprise that library leadership, in moments of dispassionate assessment often augmented by hearing from students who have trouble finding seats during busy periods, would seek to rezone areas occupied by stacks for more individual and group work. Yet it often does come as an unwelcome surprise to many, especially those with a powerful emotional attachment to what libraries should look like and be.”**

**DAN COHEN**, vice provost for information collaboration, dean of libraries, and professor of history at Northeastern University, “The Books of College Libraries Are Turning into Wallpaper,” *The Atlantic*, May 26.

2019

# ALA Award Winners

## Honoring excellence and leadership in the profession

Each year, the American Library Association (ALA) recognizes the achievements of more than 200 individuals and institutions with an array of awards. This year's winners, chosen by juries of their colleagues and peers, typifies the best of the profession's leadership, vision, and service as well as a continued commitment to diversity, equality, education, and outreach. This selection represents only some of those honored in 2019; see the complete list at [ala.org/awardsgrants](http://ala.org/awardsgrants). 





**SULLIVAN AWARD  
FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ADMINISTRATORS  
SUPPORTING SERVICES  
TO CHILDREN**

## Sue Ann Pikel

**P**ekel is children's librarian and senior administrator at Bentonville (Ark.) Public Library (BPL). In nominating her, her colleagues said, "Sue Ann Pikel is a leader, librarian, mentor, advocate, supporter, professional, and friend."

Since joining BPL, Pikel has established a teen volunteer program and teen advisory board; co-organized the Bentonville Youth Literature Festival and StoryWalk, now in its fourth year; teamed with Bentonville Public Schools and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art to create the One District, One Book citywide reading program; and helped increase BPL program attendance from 660 in 2006 to 56,800 attendees in 2017. She received the Arkansas Library Association's 2012 Ann Lightsey Children's Librarian Award. Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Pikel](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Pikel).

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

### JOSEPH W. LIPPINCOTT AWARD

## Kathleen de la Peña McCook

**J**ury chair Patricia Glass Schuman described McCook as a "passionate, visionary activist and advocate for equity, diversity, and dedication to the core value of social justice and service for all populations."

McCook is a distinguished professor at the University of South Florida School of Information in Tampa. She is author of *A Place at the*

*Table: Participating in Community Building* (ALA Editions, 2000) and coauthor of *Introduction to Public Librarianship*, 3rd edition (ALA Neal-Schuman, 2018). She received the Elizabeth Martinez

Lifetime Achievement Award from Reforma in 2016, the Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award in 1998, and the ALA Equality Award in 1987.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-McCook](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-McCook).



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

### PAUL HOWARD AWARD FOR COURAGE

## Tyler Magill

**O**n August 11, 2017, the white supremacist "Unite the Right" rally marched on the University of Virginia (UVA) campus in Charlottesville with torches and anti-Semitic chants. Magill—stacks liaison at UVA's Alderman Library—stood with UVA students, linking arms around a statue of Thomas Jefferson in a nonviolent counterprotest. In the conflict that followed, Magill was hit with a torch and suffered a stroke several days later.

His actions, both on the night of the rally and during counterprotests throughout that weekend, demonstrated his willingness and ability to face adversity and danger with resolve.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Magill](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Magill).

This \$1,000 award honors a librarian, library board, library group, or individual for unusual courage benefiting library programs or services. **DONOR:** Paul Howard Memorial Fund





## PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE INNOVATION THROUGH ADVERSITY AWARD

## Craig County (Va.) Public Library

Craig County Public Library in New Castle, Virginia, is only 30-by-40 square feet and has the lowest per-capita expenditure by local government of any library in the state. Its “Barn Quilts for Books” program began as an art project to bring additional revenue and attention to the library. Sponsors chose quilt patterns that honored an individual, family tradition, work, or hobbies, which were then painted on weatherproof boards and attached to barns and outbuildings. Prices ranged from \$125 to \$450, and all funds went to the library.

As the art popped up all over the county, the Barn Quilt Trail became a local tourist attraction, and the project has grown into an economic partnership between the library and the Craig County Tourism Commission. The program has raised more than \$10,000 for the library, which is now planning an expansion that will house the local visitors’ center.

The Penguin Random House Foundation also funded five runner-up awards consisting of \$1,000 worth of materials for The Highbridge School, the Bronx, New York; Long Branch (N.J.) Free Public Library; Kansas City (Kans.) Public Library; John G. McCullough Free Library in North Bennington, Vermont; and the Northwest Regional Library System in Port St. Joe, Florida.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Craig](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Craig).

This \$10,000 award recognizes US libraries and staff who overcome adversity and create lasting innovative community service programs that inspire and connect with new readers. **DONOR:** Penguin Random House Foundation



Letha Persinger,  
director of Craig County  
(Va.) Public Library

### ERNEST A. DIMATTIA JR. AWARD FOR INNOVATION AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND PROFESSION

## Kristen Sorth

Sorth, director of St. Louis County (Mo.) Library, recently guided the library through a five-year capital improvement plan called Your Library Renewed, which has resulted in four new branches and 13 completely renovated buildings. In addition, she introduced innovative programs such as summer and afterschool lunch programs, Career Online High School, Recycled Reads, and We Stories, an antiracism reading group for families.

Laura Horwitz, cofounder and executive director of We Stories, wrote, “As a citizen, a reader, and a mother, I am proud that our library system has a leader as visionary and responsive to community needs as Kristen.”

Sorth volunteers for several organizations and is an active member of ALA, the Public Library Association (PLA), the Missouri Library Association, and the Urban Libraries Council.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Sorth](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Sorth).

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

**DONOR:** The DiMattia Family



## Julius C. Jefferson Jr. and Lorelle R. Swader

Jefferson, ALA president-elect, is section head of Research and Library Services in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress (LC) in Washington, D.C. He has supported equality in librarianship for more than two decades and has mentored many younger librarians and encouraged them to advocate for diversity and inclusion in the profession.

He has served as an ALA councilor and past ALA Executive Board member, as vice president and chief steward of the Congressional Research Employees Association, and as 2013–2016 president of the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF). He coedited *The 21st Century Black Librarian in America: Issues and Challenges* (Scarecrow Press, 2012).

Swader is associate executive director of the ALA–Allied Professionals Association (ALA-APA) and ALA Offices and Member Relations. She has worked with numerous ALA-APA committees and task forces focusing on diversity and inclusion, including the Spectrum Scholarship and Emerging Leaders programs. She is chief architect and author of the ALA-APA Librarian and Library Worker Salary Surveys—the primary source of salary data for libraries.

Swader organizes the annual National Library Workers Day and has been a consistent presence on the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship.

Her unwavering promotion of library workers' contributions and equitable salaries and her guidance for including diversity and inclusion in ALA-APA's certificate program have had an influential and positive impact on the profession.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Equality](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Equality).

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



Julius C. Jefferson Jr. (left)  
and Lorelle R. Swader

## Mirah J. Dow

One nominator wrote of Dow that “her commitment to Beta Phi Mu’s motto, *Aliis inserviendo consumidor*—meaning ‘Consumed in the service of others’—is ever present.” Dow, professor and director of the PhD program at Emporia (Kans.) State University School of Library and Information Management, has spent her career educating and advocating for school librarians. She is a founding partner of the Kansas Summer Institute for School Librarians and was honored with the Kansas Association of School Librarians 2014 Vision Award.

She is editor of *School Libraries Matter: Views from the Research* (Libraries Unlimited, 2013) and in 2015 codesigned a STEM curriculum to help classroom teachers and librarians collaborate. Her nominator and supporters noted how generously she gives of herself as a teacher and mentor.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Dow](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Dow).

This award of \$1,000 recognizes the achievement of a library school faculty member or another individual for distinguished service to education in librarianship. **DONOR:** Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honor Society





## ALA EXCELLENCE IN LIBRARY PROGRAMMING AWARD

## Loudoun County (Va.) Public Library

In 2017, Loudoun County Public Library (LCPL) faced a critical service gap—few adults were engaging with programming without their children. As a remedy, LCPL created an expanded lineup of relevant adult-focused programs, including the monthly Science on Tap series.

A partnership between LCPL, Old Ox Brewery, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Janelia Research Campus, Science on Tap brought nationally and internationally recognized experts to the brewery to present on biology, neuroscience, cybersecurity, counterterrorism, bomb analysis, and outer space, often describing their own groundbreaking research. Science on Tap has become LCPL's most successful sustained effort in exposing science and tech-focused adults to the library, reaching an average of 150 attendees and signing up 15–20 new library cardholders per session.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Loudoun](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Loudoun).

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



Susan VanEpps (left), division manager, programming and community engagement, and Lorraine Moffa, programming coordinator

## MELVIL DEWEY MEDAL

## June Garcia

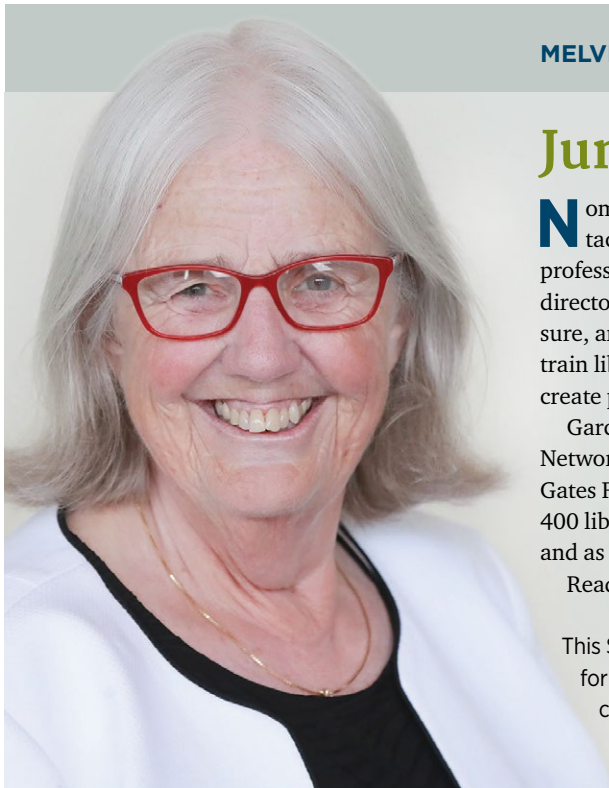
Nominators described Garcia's "perfect balance of strategic vision and tactical prowess" and specifically noted her outstanding service to the profession as branch library administrator for Phoenix Public Library and director of San Antonio Public Library. She developed tools to plan, measure, and evaluate public library services and led countless workshops to train librarians and trustees how to manage and staff their facilities, and create policies focused on results.

Garcia played a key role in creating and developing the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators, a component of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries program that has trained more than 400 library leaders around the world. She has served on ALA Council, FTRF, and as 1991–1992 president of PLA.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Garcia](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Garcia).

This \$2,000 award—which ALA Council voted to rename in June—is given for creative professional achievement in library management, training, cataloging and classification, or the tools and techniques of librarianship.

**DONOR:** OCLC





## Ray McPadden

**M**cPadden's debut novel, *And the Whole Mountain Burned* (Center Street, 2018), is a firsthand account of US Army Rangers fighting in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan in spring 2008. McPadden says his novel depicts "the horrors of war, the courage of the soldiers, and the fact that no matter how many enemies we vanquish, there is always another over the ridge."

McPadden is a combat veteran who served four tours in Afghanistan and Iraq and a former ground force commander in an elite unit of the Army Rangers. He has earned a Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, and a medal for valor.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-McPadden](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-McPadden).

This award of \$5,000 honors the best fiction set in a period when the United States was at war. **DONOR:** William Young Boyd II



## Patricia Helm Smith

**S**mith spent 30 years as executive director of the Texas Library Association (TLA) until her retirement. During her tenure, TLA launched a series of leadership programs, including the Executive Leadership Immersion and the TALL Texans Leadership Development Institute, for librarians across Texas to assume critical management roles and for advocacy in local, regional, and state politics.

She served multiple terms on the ALA Council and twice on the ALA Executive Board. She has chaired and served on several ALA committees.

Smith was honored by the Texas Society of Association Executives as Distinguished Executive of the Year in 2014 and was named a Distinguished Alumna of the University of Texas at Austin School of Information in 2009 for her professional leadership and contributions to the field.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Smith](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Smith).

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



## H. W. WILSON LIBRARY STAFF DEVELOPMENT GRANT

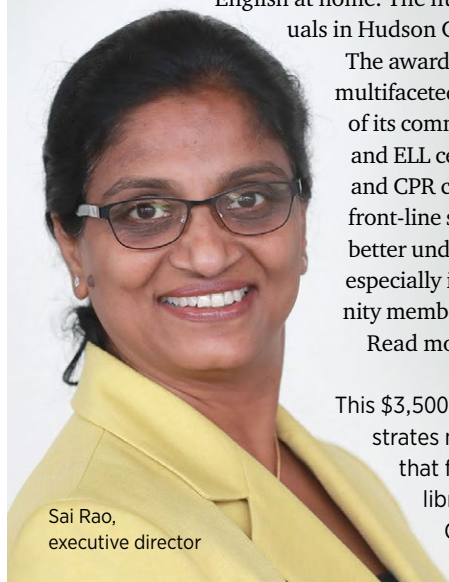
### North Bergen (N.J.) Free Public Library

**T**he North Bergen Free Public Library (NBFPL) serves a culturally and economically diverse urban area with a high need for social services along with English-language classes. Nearly 80% of residents speak a language other than English at home. The number of chronically homeless individuals in Hudson County is also rising dramatically.

The award jury was impressed by the library's multifaceted approach to addressing the needs of its community through staff training in ESL and ELL certification, customer service training, and CPR certification. Training will focus on front-line staffers with the goal of helping them better understand and meet the needs of patrons, especially immigrants and underserved community members.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-HWWilson](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-HWWilson).

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



Sai Rao,  
executive director

## SCHOLASTIC LIBRARY PUBLISHING AWARD

### Judi Moreillon

**M**oreillon has served as a school librarian at all instructional levels, as well as a classroom teacher, district-level librarian mentor, and literacy coach. For 21 years, she taught preservice graduate-level school librarians as well as children's and youth services public librarians. She is widely respected for her work as a literacy and libraries consultant and as a mentor for the Lilead Project.

Moreillon has held several leadership positions within the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), including former chair of AASL's Innovative Approaches to Literacy Task Force and School Librarian's Role in Reading Task Force; she is current chair of the Reading Position Statements Task Force. She has written several books for school librarians, classroom teachers, children, and families and helped author AASL's *Position Statement on the School Librarian's Role in Reading*.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Moreillon](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Moreillon).

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



## ALA/INFORMATION TODAY LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE AWARD

### Tulsa (Okla.) City-County Library

**T**ulsa City-County Library's (TCCL) Digital Literacy Lab is a self-directed training and working space where patrons can experiment with new and emerging technologies—such as graphics software, digitization equipment, and flight simulators—and learn digital literacy skills.

The Digital Literacy Lab partners with technology organizations to support the needs of professional artists, local nonprofits, family historians, educators, and users who have a casual interest in technology. Through outreach programs, technology meetups, classes at local universities, and in-house workshops for students, genealogists, Tulsa Public School librarians, and other groups, Digital Literacy Lab staff help patrons pursue and attain their digital literacy goals and ensure the library is a vital civic resource and economic driver. The space opened in October 2016 in TCCL's recently renovated Central branch.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-TCCL](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-TCCL).

This \$1,200 award honors a library, library consortium, group of librarians, or support organization for innovative planning for, applications of, or development of patron training programs about information technology in a library setting. **DONOR:** Information Today



Richard White,  
chair of TCCL  
library commis-  
sion, and Kim-  
berly Johnson,  
CEO of TCCL



## Jessica Kensky, Patrick Downes, and Scott Magoon

**R**escue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship won the award for young readers. Coauthored by Kensky and Downes and illustrated by Magoon, the autobiographical story of a girl and her new service dog was inspired by Kensky adapting to life as a double amputee after the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

*The Remember Balloons* by Jessie Oliveros, illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte, is the young readers honor title.

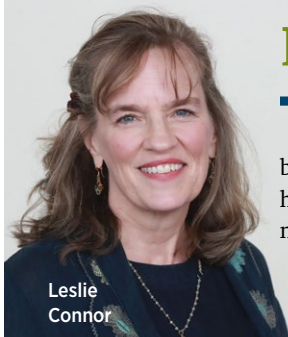
From left:  
Scott Magoon,  
Rescue, Patrick  
Downes, and  
Jessica Kensky



## Leslie Connor

**T**he Truth as Told by Mason Buttle, authored by Connor, won the award for best middle-grade book. Targeted by bullies, a murder suspect accepts help from a school social worker and uses voice recognition technology to uncover the truth.

*The Collectors* by Jacqueline West is the middle-grade honor title.



Leslie  
Connor

## Mark Oshiro

**T**he teen award winner is *Anger Is a Gift*, Oshiro's novel about a high school junior fighting for justice despite suffering from severe panic attacks after the murder of his father.

*(Don't) Call Me Crazy: 33 Voices Start the Conversation about Mental Health*, edited by Kelly Jensen, is the teen honor title.

Read more at [bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Schneider](http://bit.ly/ALA-Awards-Schneider).



Mark  
Oshiro

This award of \$5,000 is given to authors or illustrators for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for children and adolescent audiences. This year marks the introduction of Schneider Family Award honor titles, which receive a plaque. Recipients are selected in three categories: young readers (newborn to age 8), middle readers (ages 9–13), and teen readers (ages 14–18). **DONOR:** Katherine Schneider

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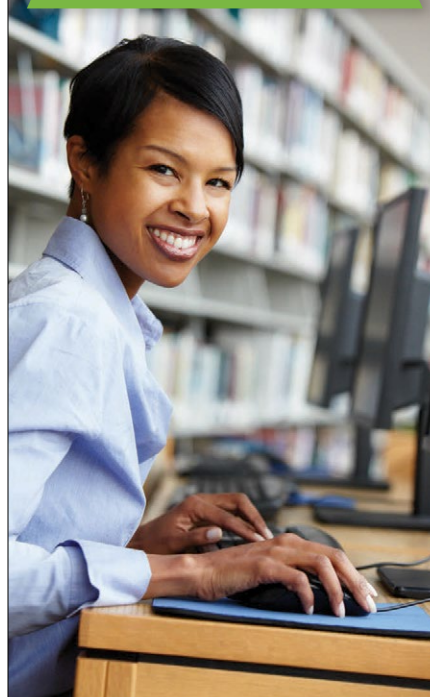
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2019

# LIBRARY DESIGN

## SHOWCASE

Welcome to the 2019 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries. These shining examples of innovative architectural feats address user needs in unique, interesting, and effective ways. Renovations and expansions continue to dominate submissions, as communities find novel ways to conserve and honor existing spaces while moving them well into the 21st century. For more photos of our featured libraries, visit [americanlibrariesmagazine.org](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org). 







## EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

### ◀ New Haven (Conn.) Free Public Library

New Haven Free Public Library transformed its first-floor Cass Gilbert Reading Room into Ives Squared, a community commons designed to foster innovation complete with a networking space for nonprofit use, tinker lab, digital switchboard for reference use, and patio. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Margaret Sullivan Studio **SIZE:** 8,000 square feet **COST:** \$1.5 million **PHOTO:** Garrett Rowland

### ▼ Stoughton (Mass.) Public Library

Finegold Alexander brought this mid-century modern facility built in 1969 into the present day, expanding its footprint and uncluttering its design to create an open, inviting space with bright, natural lighting; an updated color palette; universal accessibility; and improved program spaces. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Finegold Alexander Architects **SIZE:** 31,000 square feet **COST:** \$14 million **PHOTO:** Raj Das Photography

### ◀ Idea Exchange Old Post Office, Cambridge, Ontario

The Idea Exchange Old Post Office is a bookless library devoted entirely to makerspaces. Housed in a renovated building completed in 1885, the four-level facility features a theater, film and audio recording suites, a children's discovery center with robot-building kits, and a 9,000-square-foot cantilevered pavilion that extends over the Grand River. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** RDHA **SIZE:** 19,000 square feet **COST:** \$11.1 million Canadian **PHOTO:** Tom Arban





## LANDSCAPE VIEWS

### ▶ Flowing Wells Library, Pima County (Ariz.) Public Library

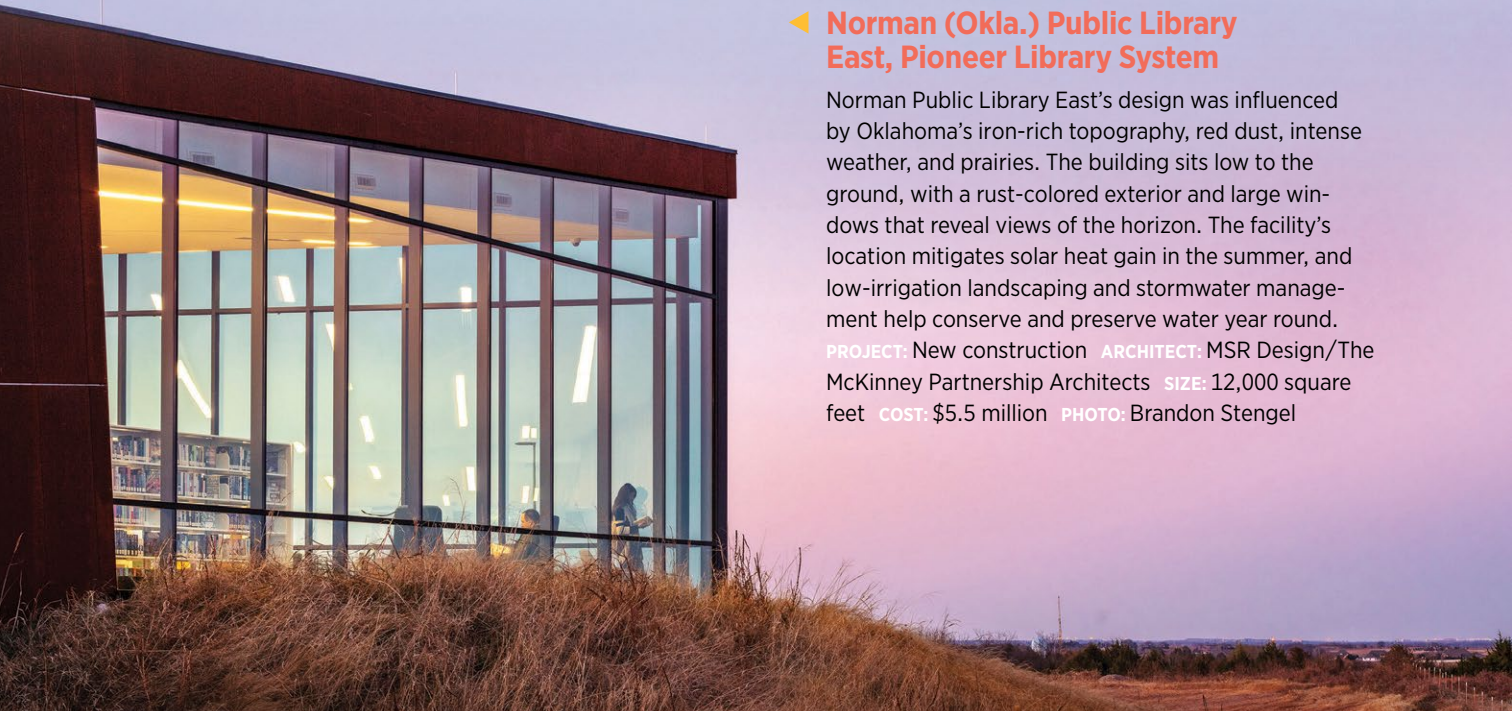
Floor-to-ceiling windows and glass partitions throughout Flowing Wells Library create an open atmosphere and provide unobstructed views of the scenic desert surrounding the library. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Line and Space Architects **SIZE:** 13,000 square feet **COST:** \$3.4 million **PHOTO:** Bradley Wheeler



### ◀ Norman (Okla.) Public Library East, Pioneer Library System

Norman Public Library East's design was influenced by Oklahoma's iron-rich topography, red dust, intense weather, and prairies. The building sits low to the ground, with a rust-colored exterior and large windows that reveal views of the horizon. The facility's location mitigates solar heat gain in the summer, and low-irrigation landscaping and stormwater management help conserve and preserve water year round.

**PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** MSR Design/The McKinney Partnership Architects **SIZE:** 12,000 square feet **COST:** \$5.5 million **PHOTO:** Brandon Stengel



## REPURPOSED SPACES

### ◀ Spotsylvania Towne Centre branch, Central Rappahannock Regional Library (CRRL) in Fredericksburg, Virginia

CRRL opened a branch in a local shopping mall with the support of the mall's owner, who offered unused retail space to the library rent free. The modest branch features kids, teen, and adult areas, and computer facilities. Its location has attracted visitors who might not patronize a traditional library. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** George K. Somers, Architect **SIZE:** 2,100 square feet **COST:** \$150,000 **PHOTO:** CRRL







## MEDITERRANEAN FLAVOR

### ◀ The Gioconda and Joseph King Library, Palm Beach, Florida

Kirchoff & Associates used old photos of the Society of the Four Arts library, which also serves as municipal library for Palm Beach, to ensure accurate restoration of the building, originally designed by Mediterranean-influenced architect Maurice Fatio in the 1930s. Renovations included re-creating exterior murals and uncovering, preserving, and replanning the cypress walls, beams, and shelving. **PROJECT:** Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** Kirchoff & Associates Architects **SIZE:** 9,576 square feet **COST:** \$10 million **PHOTO:** Nickolas Sargent



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## THE LIBRARY AS STUDIO

### ► Richland Library Main, Columbia, South Carolina

Located in the center of Columbia's business, university, and entertainment district, Richland Library Main was designed using a "library as studio" model, where ideas and creativity are fostered in public and private spaces. In addition to traditional stacks, the library includes an art gallery, café, performance space, gathering areas, reading nooks, makerspace, coworking and business centers, and garden. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Boudreaux, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture, and Margaret Sullivan Studio **SIZE:** 242,000 square feet **COST:** \$18 million **PHOTO:** Garrett Rowland

## A COMMUNITY SEAT

### ▼ Five Forks branch, Greenville County (S.C.) Library System

Located in an area that had once been farmland, Five Forks branch was created to be a community-centric "modern barn." Cavernous and column-free, the bright-colored, airy facility features a family area, café, and makerspace, as well as meeting rooms, interactive youth learning areas, a teen space, and a quiet reading room. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture and Margaret Sullivan Studio **SIZE:** 28,000 square feet **COST:** \$8.5 million **PHOTO:** Firewater Photography







## SUPPLEMENTARY DESIGN

### ◀ Vellore Village Library, Vaughn (Ont.) Public Libraries

Vellore Village Library is an addition to the Vellore Village Joint-Use Complex, which also houses a community center, secondary school, and 35-acre park. The library meshes with the existing building's design, yet stands out with curvilinear and cantilevered features, including an exterior reading terrace that overlooks a skate park. **PROJECT:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** ZAS Architects **SIZE:** 8,500 square feet **COST:** \$4.5 million Canadian **PHOTO:** Michael Muraz



MSRDesign

Louisville Free Public Library  
South Central Regional Library

Winner of a 2019 AIA/ALA Library Building Award

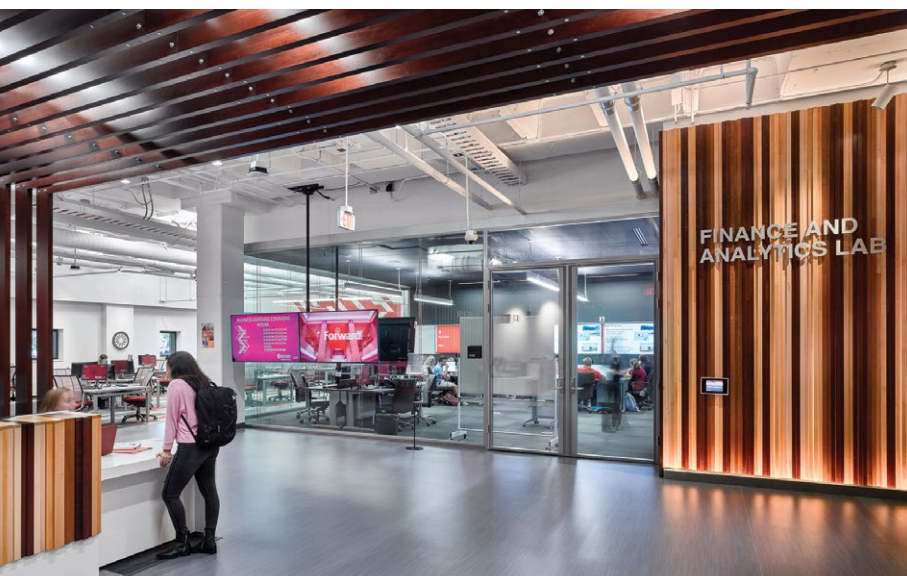




## SCHOOLS OF ALL SIZES

### ◀ Barbara J. Burger iZone, University of Rochester in New York

The iZone at University of Rochester was created to inspire and realize ideas. The facility was designed with two distinct zones: a back-of-house area for independent and group study and an expansive front-of-house space complete with amphitheater seating, where students can gather and share and display projects. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Holt Architects **SIZE:** 14,500 square feet **COST:** \$1.7 million **PHOTO:** Revette Studio



### ◀ Wisconsin School of Business Learning Commons, Madison

The Learning Commons links two wings of the existing School of Business building, creating a hub with wired spaces for interactive and collaborative learning, tutoring, and independent study. **PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Potter Lawson/MSR Design **SIZE:** 35,000 square feet **COST:** \$11 million **PHOTO:** Mike Rebholz



### ◀ Palo Alto (Calif.) High School

HED gave Palo Alto High School's outdated library a dramatic facelift. Built in the 1970s, the original library was dark, disjointed, and uninviting. HED transformed the space by adding large windows for natural light; a flexible instruction room; silent and group study rooms; a productivity center; reading nooks; and a mezzanine level, accessible via a spiral staircase, to house the library's 125-year-old journalism archive.

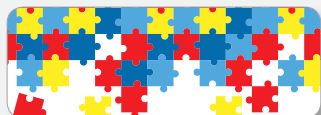
**PROJECT:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** HED **SIZE:** 26,600 square feet **COST:** \$10.1 million **PHOTO:** Tim Maloney





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# LIBRARY BUILDING

AWARDS

**T**he following libraries are winners of the 2019 Library Building Awards, sponsored by the American Library Association's Library Leadership and Management Association and the American Institute of Architects. The awards recognize the best in library architecture and design and are open to any architect licensed in the United States. Projects may be located anywhere in the world. **AL**



▶ **Tutt Library,  
Colorado College,  
Colorado Springs**

ARCHITECT: Pfeiffer  
PHOTO: Steve Lerum

▶ **Calgary (Alberta)  
Public Library,  
Central Library**

ARCHITECT: Snøhetta  
and Dialog  
PHOTO: Michael Grimm







## ◀ Louisville (Ky.) Free Public Library, South Central regional branch

ARCHITECT: MSR Design and JRA Architects

PHOTO: Brandon Stengel

## ▼ Toronto Public Library, Albion branch

ARCHITECT: Perkins + Will Canada

PHOTO: Doublespace



## ◀ The Milstein Center at Barnard College, New York City

ARCHITECT: Skidmore,

Owings, and Merrill

PHOTO: Magda Biernat

## ▲ San Mateo County (Calif.) Libraries, Half Moon Bay branch

ARCHITECT: Noll and

Tam Architects

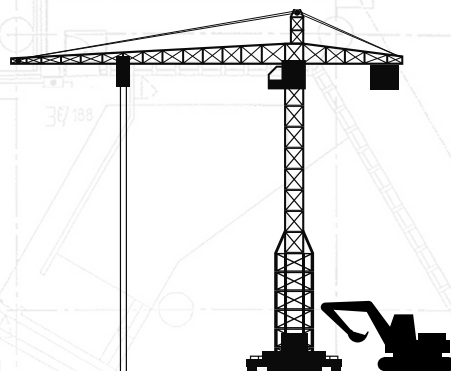
PHOTO: Anthony Lindsey Photography



## An aerial photograph showing a large building under construction. The structure features a prominent gabled roof with corrugated metal siding. The steel framework of the roof and walls is visible. A crane is positioned near the building, and a person is standing on the ground in the foreground. The building is situated on a dirt lot next to a paved road.

An aerial photograph of a large industrial building with a blue corrugated metal roof. The building is surrounded by construction equipment, including a yellow excavator and a blue crane. The ground is dark and appears to be dirt or gravel. In the background, there are residential houses and a street. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue and white geometric pattern on the left side.





# LIBRARY



Photos: K. O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library (top three); Spencer Sommer/MSR (bottom)



**I**n its first nine months, Austin (Tex.) Public Library's new Central Library saw 1 million patrons come through its doors. Since cutting its ribbon in 2017, K. O. Lee Aberdeen (S.Dak.) Public Library has seen gains in cardholders, program attendance, meeting-room use, and computer use. And after opening to the public, the new Renton Highlands Library, a branch of the King County (Wash.) Library System (KCLS), has seen circulation increase by 18%.

These libraries, each completed within the past three years, are now centerpieces of their communities. They have inspired awe and appreciation, increased user engagement, received architecture and design awards—and won over some of their critics. So how did these endeavors come together? How does a beautiful building become a reality?

K. O. Lee Aberdeen (S.Dak.) Public Library, from framing to final product.

We asked three administrators—who have had disparate experiences with costs, construction timelines, funding sources, and community priorities—for some nuts-and-bolts insights on how a library gets made. Here's what they said.



## RECOGNIZING AN OPPORTUNITY

“The main problem with our previous Central Library building, which opened in 1979 to serve a population of several hundred thousand residents, was that it proved fairly quickly to be undersized as our city boomed,” says John Gillum, facilities process manager for Austin Public Library (featured in last year’s “Library Design Showcase,” Sept./Oct. 2018, p. 28). “It must also be conceded that the designers of the building did not anticipate the computer age particularly well.”

Gillum says that community conversations around the library’s flagging conditions began as early as the late 1980s. “We were focused primarily on making the building work by whatever means [we] could devise,” he states, “but we realized that a new library might be the solution when citizens began to lobby to put a funding proposition on an upcoming general obligation bond election ballot.”

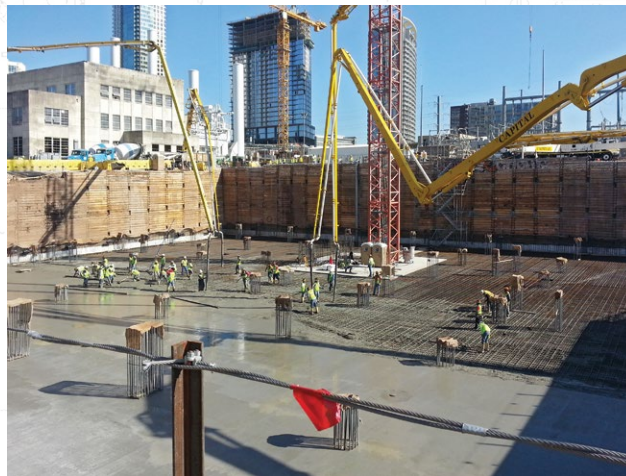
Renton Highlands Library and Aberdeen Public Library (featured in last year’s “Library Design Showcase,” Sept./Oct. 2018, p. 29) were also facing outdated and cramped confines.

Lack of space for materials and new technology, poor infrastructure, a collection kept “artificially low,” a leaking roof, and bathrooms that were not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act were all needs the Aberdeen Public Library Foundation cited in its fundraising campaign. “After much consideration, building new was chosen as the solution,” says Director Shirley Arment.

## CIVIC BUY-IN

Renton Highlands Library’s situation was unique: The city of Renton ran its own independent libraries until 2010, when residents voted to annex them into KCLS. As part of an inter-local agreement, the city would fund two libraries—a renovation of Renton Library and new construction for Renton Highlands Library—which KCLS would own, maintain, operate, and furnish.

While city officials in Renton and Aberdeen reacted positively to the library projects (“All wanted to see the problems solved, with questions about a cost-effective way to make it happen,” says Arment), reaction to Austin Public Library’s proposal was mixed. “While some city councilmembers, county commissioners, and educators immediately embraced the idea, there was pushback from many, including library commissioners who were convinced that building more branch libraries—not a central library—was the key to improving library services,” says Gillum.



Clockwise from top left: Solar panels cover the roof garden at Austin (Tex.) Public Library’s Central Library; the concrete foundation, poured over a 24-hour period in May 2014, required 1,433 tons of reinforcing steel; the finished building shines above W. Cesar Chavez Street in downtown Austin.



## K. O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library South Dakota

**TOWN POPULATION:** 28,562. The library serves approximately 45,000 people from Aberdeen, Brown County, and surrounding areas.

**TOTAL COST OF PROJECT:** \$8.6 million

**FUNDING SOURCES:** \$6.5 million by tax levy, \$2.1 million from fundraising campaign

### TIMELINE

**2007** Problem recognized  
**2008** Consultants hired  
**2011** Location selected  
**2014** Consultants hired  
**2015** Architects selected  
**2016** Schematic design completed; construction starts  
**2017** Construction ends; library opens

## Renton Highlands Library, King County Library System | Washington

**CITY POPULATION:** 102,153. There are three public libraries within city limits; Renton Highlands Library has 37,150 cardholders.

**TOTAL COST OF PROJECT:** \$11.4 million

**FUNDING SOURCES:** \$10.4 million from city of Renton, \$1 million from KCLS

### TIMELINE

**2010** Problem recognized  
**2011** Location and architects selected  
**2013** Schematic design completed  
**2014** Construction starts  
**2016** Construction ends; library opens

## Central Library, Austin Public Library | Texas

**CITY POPULATION:** 964,254. Austin Public Library has 685,795 cardholders, and Central Library sees about 101,000 monthly visits.

**TOTAL COST OF PROJECT:** \$125 million

**FUNDING SOURCES:** \$90 million in general obligation bonds from 2006 election, \$10 million from Austin's sale of Block 18, \$19 million in certificates of obligation, \$6 million from general fund transfer

### TIMELINE

**1990** Problem recognized  
**2007** Location selected  
**2008** Architects selected  
**2011** Schematic design completed  
**2013** Construction starts  
**2017** Construction ends; library opens

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

KCLS held public meetings to get input on Renton Highlands Library's proposed design. "The community was appreciative of the inclusive design process," says Gregory Smith, director of facilities and development for KCLS. "One of the chief desires was to have the library represent the airplane industry, as many residents work at the local Boeing plant."

Aberdeen residents also attended public meetings, and some community members sat on committees to choose the new library's location and contribute to the building's design. But perhaps the community's biggest showing of support was approving a tax levy to fund the library in 2015; it passed with 60% in favor.

Austin Public Library, too, hosted design charrettes across the city, allowing architects to get direct feedback from users—including a session that was especially popular among teens. Further, former Austin Mayor Kirk Watson appointed a citizen task force to study the needs of the library system.

"The formal report of the task force noted that there was a clear need for a new Central Library, as well as a need to upgrade older branch libraries," Gillum says.

## BRINGING ON CONSULTANTS

Aberdeen Public Library hired two different consulting firms, one in 2008 and another in 2014. The first conducted a needs-and-costs assessment to determine whether the library should remodel its existing building or pursue new construction. The second firm came in with a goal to "plan and design the type of library that we needed and wanted in our community," says Arment.

Neither KCLS nor Austin Public Library, the two larger systems, hired building consultants because that role was assumed by in-house planners and project managers. "We were fortunate to have staff who were experienced in library planning, site acquisition, and design and construction," says Gillum.



## HIRING ARCHITECTS

Austin Public Library's call for architects received international attention; more than 80 firms applied. "Staff was charged with meticulously evaluating and rating the submissions, but finally a list of six finalists was decided upon," says Gillum. The six were invited for face-to-face interviews and presentations, and a list of three finalists selected by staff was taken to city council, which awarded the contract.

Renton Highlands Library's request for proposals outlined the library's desire to represent what the residents wanted, says Smith. Interviews were conducted by a panel comprising Smith, the KCLS executive director, a representative from the Friends group, a KCLS trustee, the city manager, and two community members. The group focused on which architect team had the best design ideas for the community's needs and which mechanical, electrical, and plumbing teams it would bring to the project, says Smith.

Having never hired building consultants or architects before, Arment says she leaned heavily on city officials' expertise. Both were selected by a committee of library and city officials.

Arment, Gillum, and Smith say they consulted literature and even other libraries to assist in planning and design. "We visited every city with a new central library that we could—Vancouver, Seattle, Nashville, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Amsterdam—and endeavored to absorb every bit of information their staff members generously shared with us," says Gillum.

## THE ROLE OF FRIENDS AND TRUSTEES

"A revamped library commission," which Gillum says changed significantly with Austin's 1998 bond election, "proved to be critical for the new Central Library project." He credits the commission's "passionate advocacy" for getting the funding proposition on the 2006 ballot and rallying citizens to vote in support, while defending the project against accusations that it was unnecessary, off schedule, and over budget.

The Austin Public Library Foundation was also integral to the new construction. "The foundation initially thought

it might be able to raise \$2 to \$3 million. They were better fundraisers than they knew," says Gillum. "Their consistent positivity ultimately resulted in \$6 million in donations to support art, technology, and collection enhancements."

Meanwhile, Aberdeen's foundation board raised more than \$2 million for the building.

## SECURING FUNDING

Though Aberdeen residents approved a \$6.5 million tax levy for the new library, that figure wasn't attractive to everyone. "A public vote was forced, triggered by referendum petitions filed by an opposition group," says Arment. Ultimately, library supporters prevailed.

"Our project estimate totaled \$125 million, but because of a number of other worthwhile projects competing to be on the ballot, the proposition to fund the new Central Library only called for \$90 million in voter-approved funding," says Gillum. Fortunately, he says, the city council approved a plan to cobble together the remaining \$35 million from sale proceeds of a city-owned block once considered for the new Central Library, issuance of certificates of obligation, and transfers from the general fund.

## UNIQUE BUILDING FEATURES

Renton Highlands Library's decision to more than double its space—from about 6,000 to 15,000 square feet—allowed more flexibility to fulfill the community's vision of representing its ties to aircraft manufacturing. "The building truly does represent an airplane hangar. With its high, open reading area with lots of windows and lower areas that expand outward, it actually looks like you could park an airplane in it," Smith says. "It also has what looks like jet streams in the wood ceiling and carpet tile."

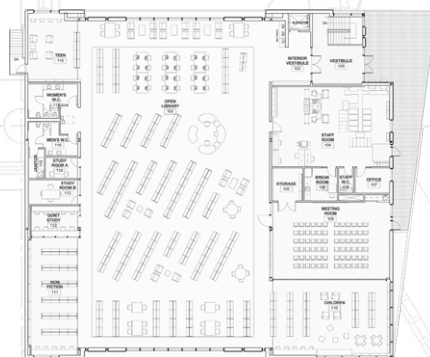
Aberdeen Public Library's 13,000-square-foot expansion allowed for a programming room in the children's section, an outdoor programming area, a separate teen space, lots of meeting and study rooms, and a kitchen for food-based programming—all while paying homage to the Craftsman and Prairie styles of the town's railroad depots.

Gillum says Austin Public Library users were most vocal about building as green as possible. "By city ordinance, we were required to achieve at least a Silver LEED certificate," says Gillum. "But everyone associated with the project was so committed to constructing the most sustainable building possible that we completely overshot the mark."

With its solar panel array and rainwater harvesting system, the new Central Library became Austin's first Platinum LEED-rated facility. "We are proud to have created such a sustainable building, but I think the community might be most proud of what a uniquely beautiful building was created," says Gillum, noting that the wood and stone architecture blends well with central Texas's natural elements.

**"The community was appreciative of the inclusive design process."**

**GREGORY SMITH**, director of facilities and development for King County (Wash.) Library System



Clockwise from top left: With its high ceilings and tall windows, Renton (Wash.) Highlands Library resembles an airplane hangar; a floorplan of the 15,000-square-foot building; the completed construction, which opened in 2016.



## BIGGEST OBSTACLES

“Convincing the public that a new library was in the best interest of our community and that the new library would be relevant for a long time to come” was among Aberdeen Public Library’s greatest challenges, says Arment.

For Austin Public Library, difficulties came when workers began to dig. “The biggest obstacle encountered during construction was no doubt the underground river flowing beneath the site, discovered while we were excavating for the below-grade parking garage,” says Gillum. “However, our excellent engineers successfully redesigned the foundation to be the largest floating slab ever poured in this part of the world.”

Renton Highlands Library encountered a few hiccups on the way to opening. In 2016, the initial opening was delayed by vandalism and construction. It was then decided to postpone the dedication to 2018, because the public park being built across the street was causing accessibility issues. Further, the project was planned as a joint development with attached retail and housing—but Smith says the developers for these amenities still have not broken ground.

Additional challenges included dealing with certain government jurisdictions for permitting, sticking to timeframes, and figuring out how to treat stormwater runoff. “Having a good architect team on board really helps you navigate this process,” says Smith.

## LESSONS LEARNED

What did each person wish they had known going into the process?

“The construction inflation during the design of this project was significant. By the time we got through design, we had to make some engineering changes to keep within budget,” says Smith. “Another lesson learned was to always be ready for anything the fire marshals will ask you to do. You might have to install a lot more equipment than anticipated.”

“Although we never took a cookie-cutter approach with any of our facilities, it would have served us well if some knowledgeable soul had advised us that every central library is a prototype—no one ever builds the same central library twice,” says Gillum. “If we had fully grasped that, we might have been less surprised when encountering design and construction challenges seemingly every 15 minutes.”

Arment’s advice is simple and practical. “Have patience,” she says. “All the stress is worth the outcome.” **AL**



**TERRA DANKOWSKI** is managing editor of *American Libraries*.



ARE SELF-SERVICE  
LIBRARIES A **THREAT TO**  
**THE PROFESSION** OR AN  
**OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER**  
**SERVE PATRONS?**



# AUTOMATIC FOR THE PEOPLE

BY Claire Zulkey

**W**hen Jacob Grussing, director of Scott County Library (SCL) in Shakopee, Minnesota, spoke to the local paper about SCL's investigation into self-serve library services, he wasn't exactly prepared for the patron fallout. Comments poured in supporting SCL's staffers after the resulting article ran online with the headline "Libraries without Librarians?"

But he says any move to automate would be about expanding services, not cutting staff.

"I told that journalist, the conversation would regard whether we repurpose one of our staff, who is doing transactional work, to do more transformational work enhancing library resources and programs in senior living facilities or nursing homes or low-income housing community rooms," Grussing explains. "It's not a reduction but looking at how we currently staff our physical brick-and-mortar spaces."

Automated and self-service libraries—which have been popular in Europe for years—are gaining a foothold in the US. Will these services eliminate librarian jobs, or are they a cost-effective way to stretch budgets and provide basic services while freeing staff for other work?

In 2016, Gwinnett County (Ga.) Public Library (GCPL) piloted automated self-service library technology at its Lawrenceville branch as a way to increase community access to the library's resources. GCPL installed Open+, a system that grants patrons self-service use of a library outside normal operating hours through a card reader. The technology controls and monitors building entry, self-service kiosks, and public-access computers as well as lighting, alarms, public announcements, and patron safety. Open+, a bibliotheca product, is used by 800 libraries around the world, only a handful of them in the US.

Michael Casey, GCPL's director of customer experience, says that the service has proven so popular that the library has added the technology to its Snellville branch and is planning to add more locations. Initially, GCPL made self-service available for a \$5 fee. The response to the new feature was so enthusiastic that administrators granted free access to all users 18 years and older, who check themselves in during early-morning hours when the library is open but staffers are not working in public areas.

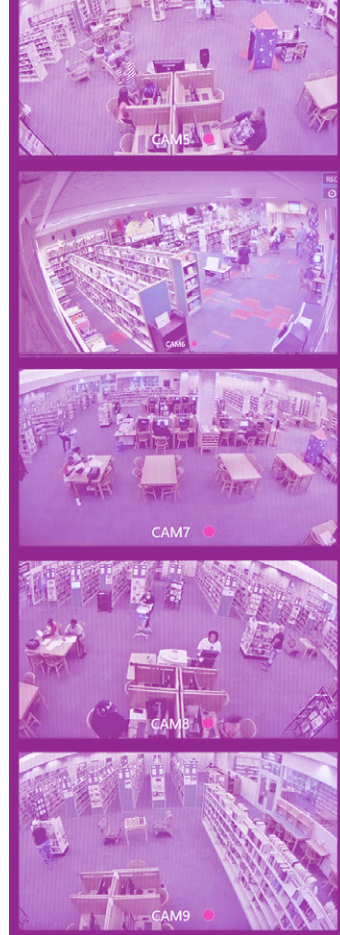
Casey says about 2,000 visitors per month use self-service at the Lawrenceville branch, with another 1,000

at Snellville. He adds that some of the most regular users include parents whose children have differing school drop-off times and who need a place where kids can play while parents read or catch up on work. Also, he says, "We have some very loyal newspaper readers every morning."

Casey sees self-service libraries not so much as a cost-saving measure but as an added value. "We didn't use it to replace any staff hours; we added on top of staff hours," he explains. Adding 2–3 more staffers for the extra hours covered by the self-service tech was cost-prohibitive.


SCL's Grussing is investigating self-serve options for that very reason. "It's unrealistic to expect staffing to be expanded to provide that level of access across seven locations," he says. "I think it's our responsibility to find creative ways to create more value for residents' tax dollars. If we can extend access and make it more convenient to use our library, it's something to research and consider."

Sam Wallin, project coordinator at Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries (FVRL) in Vancouver, Washington, used his colleagues as a sounding board before installing Telepen's Sentry Isis system, the self-serve technology



Cardholders 18 years and older at Gwinnett County (Ga.) Public Library can access the Lawrenceville branch, monitored here through security footage, during unstaffed morning hours via the Open+ automated system.





“That’s the danger that a lot of people fear with **AUTOMATION**, that it will replace something better with something worse, but I think it can be really useful to think about it as a step toward something.”

**SAM WALLIN**, project coordinator at Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries in Vancouver, Washington

used at Yacolt (Wash.) Library Express, a mostly unstaffed branch in the former town hall. He conferred with librarians at nearby King County Library System, where patrons can scan themselves into the library after hours, about their process, tools, and services.

Based on its rural patrons’ needs, FVRL chose to provide Wi-Fi, computers, and checkout and check-in at the express branch. Because of the minimal staffing, it decided against incorporating self-serve tech for interlibrary loans, anything that requires a cash transaction, or daily newspapers. Patrons have to go to other branches for those services.

### SECURITY STARTS WITH TRUST

When it comes to patron safety in a self-serve library, Wallin says his philosophy is, “Start with trust and then backfill from there.” After he and his colleagues conferred with community members about what would and wouldn’t make them feel comfortable at a self-serve location, they decided against 24-hour access and installed video cameras and a phone system that could connect patrons with staff at other libraries. They also spotted and solved what he describes as “loopholes” in the system.

“People figured out that between midnight and 6 a.m., they couldn’t scan their card, but they could punch their card [number] in using the keypad,” which Wallin says led to patrons letting themselves into the library earlier than they were supposed to. “We used to joke about how people would break in to use our services,” he laughs. “Not to steal anything—they just wanted to check out their books.” His team solved the technical glitch but used it as a prompt to consider providing earlier hours.

Otherwise security hasn’t been an issue thus far. “We haven’t had any problems that are worse or different than what you would find in a regular library,” Wallin says.

For example, patrons are occasionally reluctant to leave at closing time, which is when the telephone intercom system comes in handy. Staffers from the nearest

branch can check the security cameras at Yacolt—if they see someone lingering, they can announce: “The library’s going to close in about 10 minutes.” Wallin says that patrons sometimes think it’s just a recording, so staffers can say, “‘You, with the red shirt,’ or, ‘I see you, Jim!’” But otherwise, he says, “Nothing has really broken the model.”

At GCPL, morning hours are unstaffed, but in the evening a contracted security agency is on call. The library system plans to break ground on two new buildings this summer, and Casey says his team is considering the option of a monitored security service along with Open+ that includes a significant array of security cameras. “That gives us pretty much total coverage of the branch, aside from inside the bathrooms,” he says. “We’re thinking of expanding the hours of our customer call center and having them watching the security camera at the same time.”

Typically, Casey says, the biggest complaint from patrons is when the copier goes down and they must wait for a staff member to assist. The library’s biggest incident to date, he says, was when one guest (who was trying to leave quickly after falling ill) knocked the library’s expensive new motion-sensor doors off the tracks. “He ended up taking the door down, although the glass didn’t break.”

Occasionally, Casey says, local branches have issues with homeless patrons trying to bring their belongings into the library during open hours. Grussing says his team is keeping that possibility in mind while it considers automation. “Like many public libraries, we try to be welcoming to all individuals, whether they’re experiencing homelessness or not. ‘How will the library prevent this when there’s extended access—how will you keep that from being a homeless shelter?’ I don’t have a solution for that, other than it’s something we’re going to have to talk about internally,” says Grussing. However, he adds, “the same rules and guidelines for the library that we have for staffed hours extend to self-service hours. If someone is coming into the space and not harming themselves or other people and following



the code of conduct, it doesn't matter what their housing status is. They should be able to use that space."

## ENGAGE YOUR STAKEHOLDERS

When asked what lessons he would impart to libraries considering automated technology, Casey says they must know their demographics. "I think there are some locations where you might want a security guard at all times when it's open, and others, like at some of ours, you may not need them at certain times of day." Above all, he says, it's important that libraries inform their customers when there is no staff present and about safety protocols during that time. "Just engage the customer and let them know that they might be the only person in the building," he says. "You're not trying to scare them; you're just being transparent with the reality of the situation."

Grussing adds that it's important for library administrators to engage their staffers as early as possible—"especially your more procedurally minded staffers," he said. "The folks who tend to sound the alarm bells quickly, they've been helpful to talk to. They can tick off 10, 15, 20 questions right away." The sooner stakeholders are brought in, he says, the sooner administrators can address concerns.

Grussing says that of the 1,800 residents who responded to a survey on the possibility of automated library technology, "the overwhelming majority don't want to see this impact current open hours, and they don't want to see staffers negatively impacted." He says that once most patrons understand that automation will complement, not replace, staff, it's easier to work through the implementation issues. He adds that it was

fun to read the feedback on the local "libraries without librarians" story, "to see how much people love their libraries and their librarians. That was the clearest thing that came out of the comments. Librarians matter, human connection matters." (He jokes, "They don't care for library directors that much.")

The self-serve library is an improvement on Yacolt's previous bookmobile, which, Wallin says, the public tended to see as a service for children. "If the library system is struggling where they're like, 'We can't afford to keep a place open,' and they decide to go with unstaffed automated access instead, I think that that would be seen as a loss," Wallin says. "That's the danger that a lot of people fear with automation, that it will replace something better with something worse, but I think it can be really useful to think about it as a step toward something." He says that if the automated library continues to be a highly engaged service, then the city might take steps to create a full-service library.

GCPL went through many changes in 2016, the year it incorporated unstaffed hours, says Casey: "We got rid of our [stationary] help desk, got Open+, and changed our service model." But he says that the new technology was one of the easiest changes. "I don't want to jinx it, but it's really worked out quite well," he says. "I know from the numbers and from going out there every morning at Lawrenceville, the value we're giving customers is great." **AL**



**CLAIRE ZULKEY** is a freelance writer and author in Evanston, Illinois.

Clockwise from top left: Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries' Yacolt (Wash.) Library Express lives in a former town hall building; Jahara Craber scans her library card to open the door using Telepen's Sentry Isis system; security footage of the mostly unstaffed Yacolt branch.



# Up to the Challenge

Dealing with school library book challenges before they happen

By Mona Kerby



**W**hen I worked as a school librarian at Little Elementary in Arlington, Texas, I was terrified of having a book challenged. Sometimes I would wake up at night worrying. I was afraid a parent would be angry with me, and my principal would think I was a bad librarian. If you ever find yourself wide awake and troubled about possible challenges: Get out of bed, drink some water, and remember that you have nothing to fear—if you're prepared *before* a complaint occurs.

### Build your foundation

The first step is to be an excellent educator. Your lessons should foster “opportunities for learners to demonstrate personal curiosity and creation of knowledge” and “support the diverse developmental, cultural, social, and linguistic needs” represented in your community, according to the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries*. Within the first six weeks of school, learn each student's name and who their brothers and sisters are. Attend PTA meetings and introduce yourself to parents, expressing your affection for their children. Word gets around. Being a good educator with a loving heart has many positive effects, including making a book challenge a wonderful teaching moment for all.

The second step is to find the section in your district's school library handbook on reconsideration of school library materials. You should see the process, including how the complaint moves up the chain of command. You'll likely find a form, perhaps titled “Citizen's Request Form for Reevaluation of School Library Material.” Make sure you're reading the section on school library materials, not textbooks. You'll note the complaint begins with the school librarian, not the principal or the superintendent. You will set the tone of the conversation, serving as a model of decorum, fairness, and kindness.

The third step is to have a policy allowing all students the opportunity to come to the school library daily to check out books. If they don't like the books they've checked out, then they may return them immediately—within 30 seconds or sometime that day. This is how they learn, by making “mistakes” in their selections. If the student complains in the classroom or at home about the book, the educator or parent reminds the student to return the book and select another one. Problem solved.

### Real-world applications

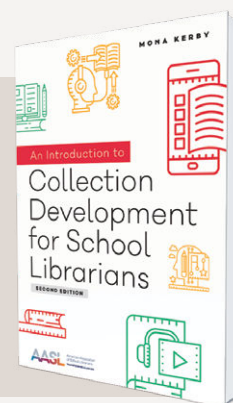
You are likely to have five to 10 books to worry about. They are good books with great reviews, but maybe

they've made the news because a community wanted to ban them, the text contains what some deem offensive language, or the titles deal with a sensitive issue. Well, let's keep this in perspective. You don't have to advertise that the books are on the shelves. And don't remove them from the school library because you're afraid something might happen. If you're that worried, rearrange the library shelves and shelve the books on the bottom shelf somewhere in the middle. When kids have only a few minutes to select materials, they choose from the top shelves closest to the circulation desk. Still, your worrying will be a waste of time. When parents do come in to complain, they will not be complaining about one of these books.

For example: A parent walks into the school library. Because of your participation in the community, you already know the parent and say something nice about their child. Score one point for you. Now the parent starts talking. They may ramble or show a little nervousness. You might be nervous, too, and worried about your voice shaking when you talk. Know how to solve that? Count to five before opening your mouth. Listen. Observe.

You are now in leadership mode, modeling our American ideals of freedom of speech. The opinions of authors and learners should be heard and respected. Your students have the right to immediately return the book and select another. You may want to suggest that the parent can

This is an excerpt from *An Introduction to Collection Development for School Librarians*, 2nd edition, by Mona Kerby (ALA Editions/American Association of School Librarians, 2019).





instruct their child what to check out, but this is a matter between them. Offer to make the parent a library card, and invite them to check out books with the child. It will be unexpected. Few parents, however, will take you up on the offer. In most cases, your kindness and willingness to listen will result in a win. You will have had a richly rewarding discussion of ideas, the parent will feel validated, and the book will stay on the shelf. The matter will end with you.

On rare occasions, a parent will march into the school library, and you can feel the anger. In such times, there's no need to have a lengthy discussion on free speech. Instead, use counseling skills. The school library book has become an easy target, a way to focus frustrations on an object. When I say counseling skills, I don't mean you need to solve a life problem. Rather, stay calm and listen, so the anger will spew out and disperse. After you debrief with your principal, you're likely to learn that the parent is already known for such behavior.

When a person from an organization comes to you to look for "inappropriate" material, change tactics. Chances are your district school library supervisor has notified you of the impending visit. In these cases, there is no need to have a discussion. Politely help the person, but the less said, the better. Afterward, talk with your supervisor. They most likely have district-wide experience on these issues and know our professional code of ethics and beliefs. Of course, you'll talk to your principal, but the

principal may not have spent much time thinking about how First Amendment rights apply to student learners, and in the principal's eagerness to solve the problem, they may demand that you get rid of the offending book. Your school library supervisor will help guide the process. If you have no supervisor, or if you need further assistance, reach out to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Know how many challenges I had that moved up the chain of command? Zero. What I'm trying to say is this: Please don't censor your collection because you're afraid that a complaint might happen.

### Coping with challenges

The ALA Coping with Challenges document ([bit.ly/ALA-CwC](http://bit.ly/ALA-CwC)) helps school librarians because it addresses ways to work with children. The statement begins with the heading "Kids and Libraries: What You Should Know" and then answers six key questions. Two points to remember are:

**How do librarians select their collections?** An item's inclusion in a collection does not mean the librarian endorses

## Statements on Intellectual Freedom

**M**ake no mistake: We are brave souls who champion the American belief that all people have the right to information. Your endorsement of these ideals affects everything in the school library—your lesson plans, your leadership, and the materials you select. Professional documents to assist you in upholding these ideals include:

**Freedom to Read Statement.** The Freedom to Read Statement emphasizes the trust we should place in our learners and how we help them live up to this trust ([bit.ly/FreedomtoReadStatement](http://bit.ly/FreedomtoReadStatement)).

**Library Bill of Rights for school libraries.** Written in 1986 and last revised in 2014, "Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Program: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights" explains our mission as school librarians ([bit.ly/SchoolLibraryBillOfRights](http://bit.ly/SchoolLibraryBillOfRights)).

**ALA Code of Ethics.** Written in 1939 and revised in 2008, the ALA Code of Ethics translates the values of intellectual freedom that define librarianship into principles that may be used for dealing with situations involving ethical conflicts ([bit.ly/ALACodeofEthics](http://bit.ly/ALACodeofEthics)).

### National School Library Standards Common Beliefs.

Taken from AASL's *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries*, the Common Beliefs define the qualities of well-prepared learners, effective school librarians, and dynamic school libraries. ●



or promotes it. They are simply helping the library fulfill its mission to provide information from all points of view.

**Can't parents tell the librarian what material they don't think children should have?** Decisions about what materials are suitable for children should be made by the people who know them best—their parents or guardians. It is the parents' right and responsibility to guide their family's library use, while also allowing other parents that same right. Librarians are not authorized to act as parents, but they can provide suggestions and guidance.

When a person from an organization comes to you to look for "inappropriate" material, change tactics.

## To label or not to label

Let's be clear: Do not post reading levels on books, and do not restrict young learners to certain sections of the school library. Books labeled with Lexile reading levels can deprive students of privacy about their reading abilities. The sections on labeling and restricting access in "Labeling Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights," and AASL's Position Statement on Labeling Books with Reading Levels, published in 2011 in response to educators asking school librarians to label books with Lexile reading levels, can provide guidance.

Using reading levels works in the language-arts classroom but not in the school library. Of course, you should teach young learners the five-finger rule—if a page has five words the learner doesn't know, then the book might be too difficult—but make it a suggestion, not a requirement. There is no rule demanding learners read every single word in a book. Do you read every word? Likewise, genrefying a collection may not be a wise idea. You must teach learners how to locate materials in your school library, so they can then locate materials in all libraries. What you label as a mystery title might be classified as fantasy by someone else.

I've known elementary school librarians who restrict the primary learners to the "Everybody" section. Or the school librarian will display preselected titles on the tables and insist the youngest learners select from those. I've known middle school librarians who keep a section restricted for 8th-graders. Maybe the school librarians' intentions are good, but these practices are just plain wrong. Learners need to feel trusted to make wise decisions, and they need plenty of practice in independently selecting what they need.

## Your important role

Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. As a school librarian, you're on the front line fighting to guarantee that right for today's—and tomorrow's—learners. By ensuring access to materials, you're helping them make decisions that will affect their lives as readers and learners—actions they will hopefully model for future generations. **AL**



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# Process Matters in Design

Using participatory design to include stakeholders

When I look at the gorgeous libraries in the annual Library Design Showcase, I always wonder what happened behind the scenes that led to a particular design. I'm especially curious how designers incorporate stakeholder feedback. Many design methods value the voices of diverse populations and bring them into the process. Too often, though, stakeholders are only cursorily involved, leading to reliance on generalizations and assumptions about how people use libraries.

Participatory design ([bit.ly/AL-pd1](http://bit.ly/AL-pd1)) is more than a needs assessment, a focus group, or even an ethnographic study—stakeholders actively contribute to defining problems and designing solutions. They are considered equal members of a research and design team rather than treated as research subjects. Given the diversity of library design projects and our user-centered focus, it seems a great fit for our profession.

I first learned about participatory design from Mega Subramaniam, associate professor at University of Maryland's College of Information Studies. She describes working with children and teens as design partners using cooperative inquiry—a participatory design method—to create technologies and learning experiences. Her six techniques ([bit.ly/AL-pd2](http://bit.ly/AL-pd2)) are creative, problem-based, and engaging, often using crafts, markers, or novel scenarios to give teens a voice in designing library programs and services.

An important part of participatory design is recognizing the power imbalances that exist in traditional design



processes, as well as in society in general. Participatory design values experiential knowledge and professional expertise equally. Montana State University (MSU) librarian Scott Young and Standing Rock Sioux tribe members and MSU students Connie and Celina Brownotter see participatory design as an important tool for empowering patrons and addressing inequity. Their User Experience with Underrepresented Populations project “created a space for Native American students to tell the story of their experiences at the university, to codetermine the design process, and to voice their concerns within the library” ([bit.ly/AL-pd3](http://bit.ly/AL-pd3)).

Participatory design is inherently political. According to Young and Brownotter, it is focused “equally on creating better designs and better social conditions for the participants.” Young and the Brownotters developed the Indigenous Participatory Design Toolkit with exercises any library can adopt or adapt ([bit.ly/AL-pd4](http://bit.ly/AL-pd4)).

Participatory design  
is more than a  
needs assessment,  
focus group, or  
ethnographic study.

Service design, a related methodology, concentrates on understanding stakeholder behavior and looks holistically at the elements that go into their interactions with a particular service ([bit.ly/AL-pd5](http://bit.ly/AL-pd5)). It differs from participatory design in its lack of explicitly political focus.

The deep collaboration required in participatory design takes time and requires a willingness to give patrons power. However, many libraries have adopted some of these methods to inform and improve design projects without fully engaging stakeholders as cocreators, such as using ethnographic research techniques that help designers better understand stakeholder needs and habits. More examples of libraries that have used these limited methods, sometimes without the cocreation element, are in the Council on Library and Information Resources' *Participatory Design in Academic Libraries: New Reports and Findings* ([bit.ly/AL-pd6](http://bit.ly/AL-pd6)).

While these methods can help libraries design spaces that are more responsive to evolving patron needs, the process can be just as valuable as the product. Including stakeholders and respecting their voices can lead to improved and enduring connections between the library and the community. Whether libraries use participatory design methods or not, thinking about how to include community members in design processes and valuing their expertise could improve both community relations and the designs themselves. **AL**

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# Preservation as Risk Management

Ensure your digital materials are available for future users

Digital preservation is the only way to maintain existing and future digital resources in which your organization has invested time, money, and personnel resources. Many cultural heritage materials will never exist as anything other than digital objects. Without a program to preserve them, these materials will be lost to time.

The best type of program is an interlocking system of policies, workflows, technical solutions, and efforts meant to keep digital objects usable in the long term. Digital objects are made up of bitstreams—sequences of 1s and 0s that require specific software and hardware environments to remain accessible. Some are born digital (those materials with no original analog counterpart); others are digitized copies of physical materials.

Over time, digital materials have evolved from single files into complex systems in which many smaller parts work together to form a whole—for example, an accessible film is made up of an audio track, moving image, and caption files.

The goal of a digital preservation program is to provide access to authentic copies of digital objects. This does not always mean that a future user will experience the digital object as it was when it was created, though this is ideal. Instead, an authentic digital object can be defined as one that has had no unauthorized changes made to it and maintains verifiable, transparent documentation of what changes (if any) were made to preserve the content and when those changes occurred. Your organization can say that it has preserved an authentic



digital object when the content, context, appearance, structure, and behavior of the digital object have been saved for future users to experience.

No silver bullet guarantees the success of a digital preservation program. It is an ever-evolving effort to keep up with your organization's current needs while planning for future circumstances.

Digital objects need constant monitoring and intervention to remain usable. Therefore, digital preservation is an iterative cycle of assessment, policy development and refinement, implementation, and maintenance. Digital preservation can seem intimidating to anyone new to the practice, inducing decision paralysis about where to start.

Failure to decide is what causes the most damage to digital objects. Doing nothing will guarantee that your fragile digital materials will decay. The damage

Digital preservation  
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anyone new to the  
practice, inducing  
decision paralysis.

might never be ameliorated by future efforts. The critical part of digital preservation is doing something. What that something is will depend on the specific needs and abilities of your organization.

At its core, digital preservation is an exercise in risk management. You will build your entire program around what you and your organization determine to be an acceptable risk of loss of the usable and authentic digital materials in your care.

Assess the digital materials in your possession, then consider what may come your way in the future. Balance this with your available technological, staff, and financial resources to map out a plan for your efforts. Use that plan to create policies, implement workflows, and build institutional knowledge of digital preservation.

Work within your organization to build strong relationships with other departments, such as information technology support, that will provide crucial backing for your digital preservation efforts. Collaborate with external partners to build capacity together.

Constantly review the wider, international landscape of digital preservation to help increase your knowledge and abilities, then transfer these skills right back into your program. Pick a starting point and go full steam ahead—because if you don't, your unique digital resources will disappear. **AL**

**ERIN BAUCOM** is assistant professor and digital archivist at the University of Montana. Adapted from "Planning and Implementing a Sustainable Digital Preservation Program," *Library Technology Reports* vol. 55, no. 6 (Aug./Sept. 2019).



# Empower Student Voices

Using hip-hop lyrics in library lessons to engage youth in activism

As an African-American library media specialist, I view the world and my profession through an equity lens. I recognize the significant role school librarians have in fostering meaningful instructional and collaborative partnerships to create equitable learning spaces for all, and to also engage and empower students to be agents for change.

Inspired by the 2015 protests following the death of Freddie Gray, a black man who fell into a coma in Baltimore Police Department custody, I developed Lyrics as Literature. The program is a series of four lessons designed to support the district curriculum, amplify student voices, and bring awareness to social justice issues. Each lesson is grounded in one or more elements of hip-hop culture and uses a variety of library resources.

Why hip-hop? It's more than "rap music"—it's an international cultural movement that emerged from the streets of the Bronx as the voice of African Americans and marginalized youth. From its earliest inception, hip-hop was a social justice movement that treated its listeners as engaged advocates rather than passive listeners. Hip-hop song lyrics are literature—an invitation for learners to explore perspectives, culturally momentous events, and the underlying message of our shared humanity.

The framework for this project was built on my first lesson, "Hashtag Activism: Using Social Media as a Catalyst for Justice." Many of my students experienced fear, anger, sadness, and frustration as they watched the Freddie Gray protests on TV and saw images of it on their social media feeds. I teach at a predominantly



African-American school; I wanted my students to understand that if they see something in their community they do not like, they can do something about it. I wanted to show them that their voices matter.

During this lesson, students read and listened to resources related to hashtag activism. They used their own hashtags to create social media campaigns around specific issues. They also performed close readings of articles on Marley Dias, founder of #1000BlackGirlBooks, and viewed a video featuring the founders of #BlackLivesMatter explaining how their movement connects to historical social justice movements. The lesson integrated the song "Glory," performed by John Legend and Common for the film *Selma*.

Other songs used in the program include "This Is America" by Childish Gambino in a lesson on blackout poetry, and "Stand Up for Something" by Andra Day, featuring

School library media programs can promote inclusion by valuing the lived experiences of marginalized groups.

Common, in a lesson on developing a personal mission statement for activism.

The culminating activity for Lyrics as Literature was a town hall meeting that I organized and hosted in the school library. Students met with the principal and other community members to address school and district concerns related to four essential areas: academics, safety and security, communication, and organizational effectiveness. This event was so successful that we are developing a student advisory board that will meet to discuss issues and develop viable solutions alongside school leadership, teachers, and other stakeholders.

In the same way that culturally competent teachers acknowledge the diversity of the student body as a strength and create inclusive learning environments, school library media programs can promote inclusion by valuing and appreciating the lived experiences of marginalized groups. Having diversity reflected in your instructional practice, collaboration efforts, programming, and collection development can be accomplished by creating a library culture that is focused on social justice education.

The late, legendary hip-hop artist, author, activist, and actor Tupac Shakur said, "I'm not saying I am going to change the world, but I guarantee that I will spark the brain that will change the world." We might not change the world, but if we spark the mind of just one student, I believe we have made a difference. **AL**

**JOQUETTA JOHNSON** is recipient of the 2019 American Association of School Librarians' Roald Dahl's Miss Honey Social Justice Award. She is library media specialist at Randallstown (Md.) High School.

# Keeping History Alive

Libraries contribute to peacebuilding by linking the past and present

My mother's parents emigrated in 1949 from southwest Ireland to Boston, where I grew up seeing them every day. The first stories I ever heard were my grandfather's retellings of Irish myths. As I grew older, he also taught me about the Troubles, the conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. He had a keen longing for peace to prevail, though news reports were often grim.

Even in the 21 years since the Good Friday Agreement officially ended the conflict, sectarian tension and renewed violence have punctuated the hard-won peace. Journalist Lyra McKee was killed in April while observing riots in Derry.

Conversations with my grandfather gave an immediacy to the stories unfolding across the ocean. In order to get a fuller picture, I read whatever I could find in my public library. Eventually I turned to the Conflict Archive on the Internet (CAIN) database at Ulster University in Derry, which provides comprehensive resources on the history and politics of Northern Ireland. Interpreting this history is still a highly politicized endeavor. This tension reminds us that peace is fragile and requires commitment, structures of justice, and new ways of living together.

As we reflect on the many critical roles of libraries, it would be easy to overlook contributions to peacemaking. But history is an important teacher. By providing access to a range of stories and documentation and a physical space for inclusive learning, libraries can support communities as they heal from past conflict and grow toward a peaceful future.



Here in the US, where the political landscape is covered in evidence of our own ongoing troubles—particularly with systemic racism, discrimination, and the rise of hate crimes—librarians can learn a valuable lesson from Northern Ireland.

Collections related to the civil rights movement—featuring photographs, oral histories, and news stories from the era—play a role in illuminating the US's troubled history of harmful, racist acts, which in turn contributes to healing. In libraries, community centers, and universities across the country, staffers work to protect access to these important stories, which helps ensure that this history isn't forgotten or minimized.

The Civil Rights Room at Nashville (Tenn.) Public Library (NPL) is one such collection, with a special focus on the city's role in the history of civil rights from

the 1960s to the present. The library welcomes local community groups, scholars, pilgrims, and international visitors.

For younger visitors, the Civil Rights Room connects the past with present conflicts and tensions, from Occupy Wall Street to Black Lives Matter. A new generation of activists is engaging with the collections and extracting lessons for contemporary social justice issues.

“For young people, there is a generational shift toward the power of conversation, away from a culture of silence about discrimination and inequality,” says Tasneem Grace Tewogbola, associate director of program design in NPL's special collections center. “They want the resources to understand their history and diverse perspectives. They want to take civil rights history beyond black and white, to relate these principles to LGBTQ rights, to homelessness, to guns.”

The NPL project is one example of a library with a highly relevant peacemaking mission: to keep the past alive in order to learn from it. This mission is supported by institutions across the country, from the Library of Congress's Civil Rights History Project, to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, to the oral history archive at Washington State University.

“The civil rights movement is not old,” Tewogbola says. “Transitions we have lived through are not that ancient. Your parents or grandparents might not have been allowed in the library. The beauty of the civil rights collection is that it is a living collection.” **AL**

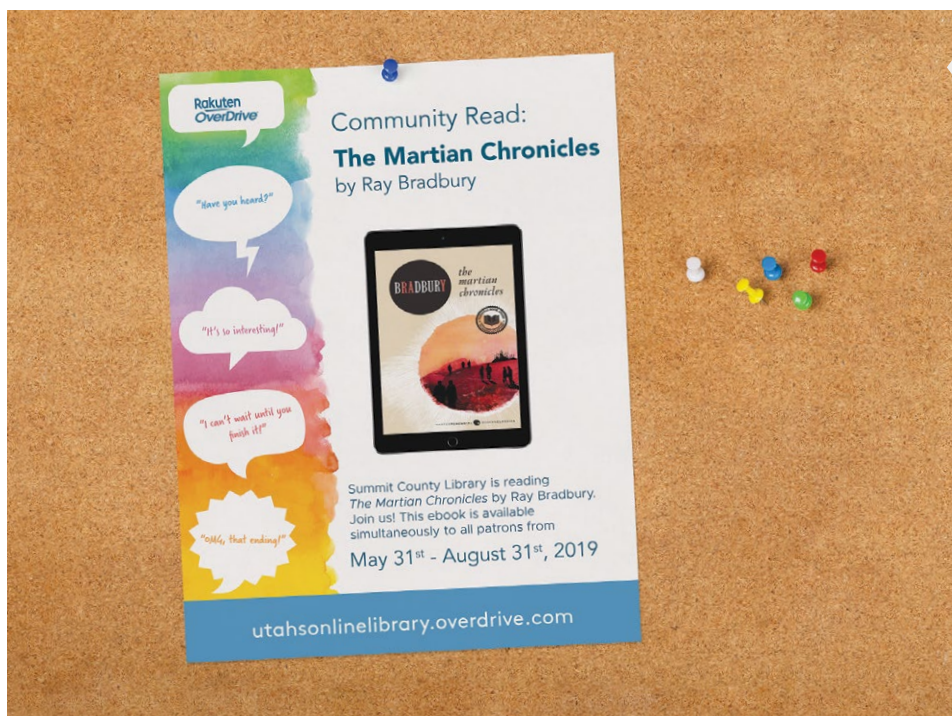
**LISA RAND** is youth services coordinator at Boyertown (Pa.) Community Library and a regular contributor to ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom blog.

A new generation  
of activists is  
engaging with the  
collections and  
extracting lessons  
for contemporary  
social justice issues.



# SOLUTIONS

*Products and services*



OverDrive supports library-driven digital book clubs through publisher negotiation and marketing materials.

set period, with pricing based on population, or bulk discounts on single-user licenses. Some publishers may require a minimum order for discounts to apply. Publishers that have recently provided rights to bestselling and award-winning titles include Penguin Random House, HarperCollins, and W. W. Norton.

The book club title will be displayed prominently on the library's OverDrive digital collection homepage along with custom messaging about the program during the book club's run. The company also curates a collection of read-alike titles. OverDrive makes marketing templates available and can create customized print and online marketing materials to promote some programs.

Patrons can access book club titles through the Libby app or download them to an e-reader or other device. Titles expire automatically once the book club has concluded.

Digital book club support is free to libraries that already have an OverDrive account. For more information, visit [bit.ly/OverDriveclub](http://bit.ly/OverDriveclub).

## ODILO Book Club

For those who can't make it to book clubs in person, ODILO has introduced a fully online platform, ODILO Book Club. Books can be selected from ODILO's collection of 2 million titles or imported from the library's own digital collections. Readers access titles through ODILO's Nubereader online reader, which allows them to highlight

## Bringing Book Clubs Online

Resources for digital book clubs

**L**ibraries support countless book clubs, both formal and informal. With increasing digital engagement, digital lending models for ebooks and audiobooks offer opportunities for book clubs to expand, and online platforms can bring together community members who couldn't otherwise participate. These three companies offer resources and products to help libraries engage readers with digital book clubs.

### OverDrive Digital Book Clubs

Libraries that have digital collections from OverDrive are automatically part of the company's global

ebook club, the Big Library Read, which makes select titles available for unlimited checkouts for a limited period three times a year. In addition to this large-scale reading program, the company also provides support for community-wide and regional book clubs like "One Book, One City."

After a library provides information on its planned programming, including program dates, budget, and estimated number of checkouts, OverDrive will negotiate with publishers to secure discounted, short-term digital lending rights for the chosen title. Depending on the library's needs, the terms may be for simultaneous use for a

## SUBMISSIONS

To have a new product considered, contact Carrie Smith at [casmith@ala.org](mailto:casmith@ala.org).

## CASE STUDY

# A Reading Hub

## How does your library use the hoopla Book Club Hub?

We have 12 libraries, and each of them has a book club—some more than one. We have a wide variety throughout our libraries: teen book clubs, history book clubs, first-time author book clubs. I encourage clubs to keep hoopla in mind when they're making selections, and I can also direct clubs to Book Club Hub, which provides resources like discussion materials for their spotlight titles.

**USER:** Tom West, adult services coordinator, Brazoria County (Tex.) Library System



**PRODUCT:** hoopla Book Club Hub

**DETAILS:** The hoopla Book Club Hub spotlights one book each quarter, providing resources including discussion guides, author interviews, and recommended next reads.

**How does the Book Club Hub serve your library's needs?** In addition to providing unlimited-access books and book club resources, hoopla also hosted an event at our Pearland branch library with a local author whose title was featured on the hoopla Book Club Hub. We reached a lot of new people in the community through that event and hoopla's promotion of that particular title. Getting people to listen to it or read it and then come and talk to the author was really nice.

**What are the main benefits?** One of the big benefits is its ease of use. The price is based on usage, so you have more than half a million titles and you pay for only what patrons check out. That opens up such big possibilities for us. And then obviously, if you had a title that was a little bit more obscure, it might be hard to obtain enough physical copies. There was a quilting guild that was interested in starting a book club. In the past, I've

had trouble getting enough print copies for such a large group, so I demonstrated the hoopla app for them. They were interested in mostly inspirational fiction, and hoopla has both the ebook and the audiobook for a lot of inspirational titles.

## What would you like to see improved or added to the service?

Right now, hoopla has discussion guides and materials on the main book club selection, but it'd be nice for some of the alternate recommended titles to have some resources, too. But I know that's a lot of work—there are a lot of titles—and they've done an amazing job so far with their selections. ●



sections, annotate text, make comments visible to the rest of the book club for discussion, and share quotes to the club or to their own social media accounts.

The book club's homepage is customizable with tabs, links, and summaries to entice potential readers to join the club and to encourage participation by members. Book club moderators set reading milestones, schedule live video chats, and facilitate discussion on the forums. Users can create bookmarks, share quotes, and annotate the text. Email notifications automatically alert members to new activity, discussions, and upcoming milestones. Book club members are also able to add milestones and other events to their personal calendars.

From the club homepage, users can review past and current book selections. Users can also access statistics on their reading time, the last time they read, and the percentage of the book they've finished.

Library staffers can act as the book club moderator or assign limited moderator privileges to a community member, educator, or student.

Pricing is based on the number of simultaneous book clubs and users per club, with options for unlimited clubs and users. For more information, visit [bit.ly/ODILOclub](http://bit.ly/ODILOclub). **AL**

ODILO Book Club provides an online platform for communal reading and discussion.



Reference librarian Kristen Stewart interviews author Stephanie Wittels Wachs (right) at a hoopla Book Club event at Brazoria County (Tex.) Library System's Pearland branch.



# PEOPLE

## Announcements

### ON THE MOVE

**Judy Ashby** became head of reference services for Bangor (Maine) Public Library May 20.

Temple University in Philadelphia named **Michelle Cosby** director of its law library, effective June.

**Teddy Gyamfi** was named evening access services manager at SUNY Geneseo's Milne Library in March.

June 3 **Petrina Jackson** became director of the Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse (N.Y.) University.



**Lisa Krok** joined Morley Library in Painesville, Ohio, as adult and teen services manager in May.

July 1 **Brent Mai** joined University of North Florida in Jacksonville as dean of Thomas G. Carpenter Library.



**Beth McNeil** became dean of Purdue University Libraries and the School of Information Studies in West Lafayette, Indiana, July 1.

**Melody Rood** became student success librarian at University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Jackson Library in July.

July 15 **Doug Way** became dean of University of Kentucky Libraries in Lexington.



**Diane White** joined Somerset (Mass.) Public Library as children's librarian in May.

**Martha Whitehead** was appointed Harvard University librarian, vice president for Harvard Library, and Larsen librarian for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in June.

### Kudos

**Martha Hendricks**, director of Clarksville–Montgomery County (Tenn.) Public Library, received the Tennessee Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Award April 25. Hendricks allowed Equality Clarksville to use the library's meeting space in August 2018 to hold a drag queen storytime despite protests and personal attacks.

In June the University of West Georgia in Carrollton named Ingram Library Head of Special Collections and Associate Professor **Blynn Olivieri** Faculty Member of the Year for the 2018–2019 academic year.

**Owen Intermediate School Library Media Center** in Belleville, Michigan, won the state's Model 21st Century School Library award in June in recognition of its innovative collaborations with local educators. ●

**Shali Zhang** was appointed dean of libraries at Auburn (Ala.) University in February.

### PROMOTIONS

**Yolanda Cooper** was promoted to dean and university librarian of Emory University in Atlanta July 1.

Syracuse (N.Y.) University Libraries promoted **Anita Kuiken** to associate librarian for Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics July 1.



July 1 **James Meade**, audio preservation engineer at Syracuse (N.Y.) University Library's Belfer Audio Laboratory and Archive, was promoted to associate librarian.

**Sebastian Modrow**, curator of rare books and manuscripts at Syracuse (N.Y.) University Library's Special Collections Research Center, was promoted to associate librarian July 1.



**Anne Rauh**, collection development and analysis librarian and interim head of collections at Syracuse (N.Y.) University Libraries, was promoted to librarian, effective July 1.



Syracuse (N.Y.) University Libraries promoted **Vanessa St. Oegger-Menn**, assistant university archivist and Pan Am 103 archivist, to associate librarian July 1.

June 17 **Aaron Smithers** was promoted to special collections research and instruction librarian at Wilson Special Collections Library at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Chicago Public Library promoted **Andrea Telli** to commissioner effective June 15. Telli previously served as Chicago's deputy commissioner of public services.

July 1 Syracuse (N.Y.) University Libraries promoted **Scott Warren**, associate dean for research and scholarship, to university librarian.



### RETIREMENTS

**Gordon N. Baker**, dean of libraries at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia, retired May 31.

**Brenda Brown** retired May 31 as director of Barnesville (Ohio) Hutton Memorial Library.

**Corinne Fisher**, head of children's services at Reading (Mass.) Public Library, retired June 28.

#### Charles A. Julian

retired in July as library director and associate university librarian at Potomac State College of West Virginia University in Keyser.



#### AT ALA

Staff Accountant **Abdullah Ali** left ALA June 19.

June 11 **Lauren Carlton** joined the Association of College and Research Libraries as program coordinator.

**Camelia Colin** joined the Public Policy and Advocacy Office as financial and budget manager July 2.

**Taylor Crossley**, formerly Young Adult Library Services Association communications assistant, became Books for Youth editorial assistant for *Booklist* July 1.

**Samantha Imburgia** became managing editor of ALA Editions/ALA Neal-Schuman June 6.

June 10 **George Kendall** began as *Booklist* editor and publisher.

**Kerri Price**, associate director of the Office for Accreditation, left ALA July 12.

**David Sievers**, library assistant in the ALA Library, left ALA June 12 to become acquisitions and serials assistant at DePaul University's Richardson Library in Chicago.

June 17 **Melissa Kay Walling** joined ALA as director of Membership Development and Customer Service. [AL](#)

## In Memory

**Gary Bogart**, 75, who retired as assistant director of Pinellas Park (Fla.) Public Library in 2010, died June 19, 2018. He previously held administrative positions at New York Public Library and had been editor of the Standard Catalog Series published by H. W. Wilson Company.

**Margaret Patricia (Pat) Hillmer**, 83, director of Tiffin-Seneca (Ohio) Public Library from 1981 until her 2008 retirement, died June 23. During her tenure, she expanded services and library systems automation, established a library Friends group and the Tiffin-Seneca Library Foundation, and was awarded the Ohio Library Association's Librarian of the Year Award in 2004.

**Carol Jean McMurry**, 74, who held positions at University of Wyoming's Coe Library, Laramie County (Wyo.) Library System, and University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency Clinic in Cheyenne, died June 1. McMurry was also a library philanthropist, making donations to University of Wyoming that funded a library reading room, a campus reading program, library staff development and recognition programs, library collections, an author series, and an endowed librarian position.



**James A. Miley**, 69, director of Kendallville (Ind.) Public Library 1979–1983 and Troy-Miami (Ohio) County Public Library from 1983 until his retirement in 2009, died June 16.

**Lucille Cole Thomas**, 97, died June 15. Thomas began her career as a librarian at Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library (BPL). She joined the New York City Board of Education as librarian 1956–1968; she served as supervisor of library services 1968–1977 and as assistant director of the office of library, media, and telecommunications 1977–1983. In 1993, she was appointed to the Board of Trustees of BPL. Thomas was an ALA Councilor for 22 years and served on the Executive Board 1985–1991. She was the first African-American president of the New York Library Association and the New York City School Librarians Association. Among her honors are the 1996 US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science Silver Award, the 1988 Grolier Foundation Award, ALA Honorary Membership in 2003, and the 1994 Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of School Librarians. BPL's Excellence in Librarianship Award was named for her in 2017.

**Barbara Ketterman von Wahlde**, 81, director of libraries at University of Buffalo 1986–2006, died June 14. Von Wahlde worked at the libraries of many academic institutions throughout her career, including University of Maine in Orono; University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg; University of Western Florida in Pensacola; Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut; and University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Before retiring she also served as visiting librarian at Istanbul Technical University and acting library director at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. ●





## Sparking a Love for Learning

**D**inah Wade has spent hundreds of hours learning how to respond to a fire: how to hook up a hose to a hydrant, identify different types of smoke, and administer CPR. But it's her training as a librarian and former classroom teacher that kicks in when she meets a nervous kid on the scene of a call. Once, responding to a medical situation in a family's home, she spotted a stack of library books on the counter. "So of course I have to be nosy and ask the kids about what they're reading," she says.

Wade is library media specialist at Freedom Intermediate School, serving 5th- and 6th-graders in the city of Franklin, Tennessee—and a volunteer firefighter with the nearby Williamson County Rescue Squad. She started her fire training in 2007, the year she married a career police officer who also volunteers with the station.

Since then, she's partnered with the Franklin Fire Department to bring fire safety programming into the library for Fire Prevention Week (October 6–12 this year). She also gives equipment demonstrations at local schools ("They need to see I'm a real person under that gear and they shouldn't be scared of me, even though I look like Darth Vader," she says) and administers an annual essay contest with themes inspired by the National Fire Protection Association's public awareness campaigns.

"When you reach out to your local government and form these partnerships, you help kids see more of their community," she says. "It's important for kids to know there's a bigger picture, and they're a part of it." **AL**

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



# Think, Create, Share, and Grow

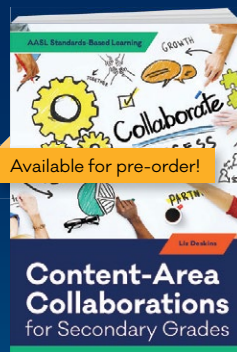
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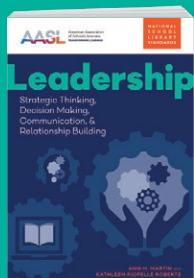


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