



american libraries

January/February 2020

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MIDWINTER PREVIEW

+ PHILADELPHIA DINING GUIDE

Archiving
Home Movies

p. 40

If ICE Shows Up

p. 46

PLUS: 2019 Year in Review,
Referenda Roundup,
Longest Table Conversations

p. 50



More than 1,000 full-text
journals ready to **explore**

MLA
International
Bibliography
with Full Text

From the Modern Language Association (MLA) and EBSCO, this new database combines the definitive index for the study of language, literature, linguistics, rhetoric and composition, folklore, and film with full text for more than 1,000 journals, including many of the most-used journals in the *MLA International Bibliography*. Expert results are guaranteed.

Request a
Free Trial

To set up a Free Trial, please contact
your EBSCO representative or visit:
exploremla.is/26



EBSCO

CONTENTS

January/February 2020

American Libraries | Volume 51 #1/2 | ISSN 0002-9769



COVER STORY

50 **2020 Midwinter Preview**

Prepare for a knockout meeting in the City of Brotherly Love

EDITED BY Greg Landgraf

58 **The Philly Food Scene**

Where to dine during Midwinter

BY Reid Bramblett

FEATURES

28 **2019 Year in Review**

A look back at the stories that affected libraries

32 **Referenda Roundup**

How states performed on library measures in 2019

BY Anne Ford

40 **Uncovering the Past**

With digitization, libraries bring treasures to light

BY Lauren Emily Whalen

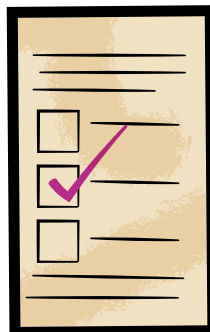
46 **Know Your Rights—and Theirs**

How libraries prepare for possible ICE activity

BY Claire Zulkey



28



46

40

32

ON THE COVER: Photo ©F11Photo/Adobe Stock

CONTENTS



22



72



16

UP FRONT

- 3 **From the Editor**
Inspiring Resolve
by Sanhita SinhaRoy
- 8 **From Our Readers**
- 4 **From the President**
Forward Together
by Wanda Kay Brown
- 5 **From the Treasurer**
Achieving Our Vision
by Maggie Farrell
- 6 **From the Executive Director**
Reflecting on Our Mission
by Mary Ghikas
- 10 **Update**
What's happening at ALA

TRENDS

- 16 **Tables of Content**
Longest Table meals bring communities together for civil dialogue
by Lara Ewen
- 20 **Free Speech—or Free-for-All?**
“First Amendment audits” push privacy limits
by Taylor Hartz
- 22 **On the Zine Scene**
Libraries partner with festivals for community expression
by Diana Panuncial
- 24 **Ready to Binge-Watch?**
Circulations soar as libraries add binge boxes to collections
by Timothy Inklebarger
- 26 **Rainbow Rowell**
Building worlds with Spotify and specificity
by Alison Marcotte
- 17 **By the Numbers**
- 25 **Global Reach**
- 27 **Noted & Quoted**

PLUS

PERSPECTIVES

IN PRACTICE

- 64 **Your Library's Story**
by Meredith Farkas

DISPATCHES

- 65 **Understanding Blockchain**
by Michael Meth

YOUTH MATTERS

- 66 **Making Room for Inclusion**
by Tricia Bohanon

ON MY MIND

- 67 **Get with the Programming**
by Terrilyn Chun

LIBRARIAN'S LIBRARY

- 68 **Digital Strategies for Librarians**
by Anna Gooding-Call

PEOPLE

- 70 **Announcements**

THE BOOKEND

- 72 **Medical Marvels**



26

ADVERTISER INDEX

Connectrac Cover 3 | Crowley 21 | Ingram Cover 4 | Library of Congress Federal Credit Union 13 | Modern Language Association Cover 2 | University of Chicago Press 15 | US Census 14 | American Library Association American Libraries 13 | Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies 21 | Development Office 38–39, 45 | Public Library Association 19 | Public Programs Office 7

ALA American Library Association

Address: 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795
Website: americanlibrariesmagazine.org
Email: americanlibraries@ala.org
Phone: 800-545-2433 plus extension
Career Ads: JobLIST.ala.org

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER → Tina Fey
Sanhita SinhaRoy
ssinha@ala.org | x4219

MANAGING EDITOR → Caritty
Terra Dankowski
tdankowski@ala.org | x5282

SENIOR EDITORS → Joan Jett
Amy Carlton
acarlton@ala.org | x5105

George M. Eberhart
geberhart@ala.org | x4212

Phil Morehart → The Roots
pmorehart@ala.org | x4218

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Sallyann Price
sprice@ala.org | x4213

EDITOR-AT-LARGE
Anne Ford
aford@ala.org

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING ASSOCIATE
Carrie Smith
casmith@ala.org | x4216

ART DIRECTOR → Fresh Air with Terry Gross
Rebecca Lomax
rlomax@ala.org | x4217

ADVERTISING
Michael Stack mstack@ala.org | 847-367-7120
Acceptance of advertising does not constitute endorsement.
ALA reserves the right to refuse advertising.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT
Mary Mackay

Associate Executive Director

Mary Jo Bolduc
Rights, Permissions, Reprints | x5416

MEMBERSHIP
Melissa Kay Walling, Director

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Susan H. Polos (Chair), Helen Ruth Adams, Salvador Avila, Crystal Chen, Sonja Eyler, Janie L. Hermann, Jasmina Jusic, Sigrid Kelsey. Committee associate: Rachel Beth Wykle
Editorial policy: ALA Policy Manual, section A.8.2

INDEXED
Available full text from ProQuest, EBSCO Publishing, H. W. Wilson, LexisNexis, Information Access, JSTOR.

SUBSCRIBE
Libraries and other institutions: \$74/year, 6 issues, US, Canada, and Mexico; foreign: \$84. Subscription price for individuals included in ALA membership dues. 800-545-2433 x5108, email membership@ala.org, or visit ala.org. Claim missing issues: ALA Member and Customer Service. Allow six weeks. Single issues \$7.50, with 30% discount for five or more; contact Carrie Smith, 800-545-2433 x4216 or casmith@ala.org

PUBLISHED
American Libraries (ISSN 0002-9769) is published 6 times yearly with occasional supplements by the American Library Association (ALA). Printed in USA. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Personal members: Send address changes to *American Libraries*, c/o Membership Records, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795. ©2020 American Library Association. All rights reserved. No portion of this magazine may be reproduced or republished without written permission from the publisher.

from the
EDITOR

Inspiring Resolve



Sanhita SinhaRoy

Happy new year—and happy Midwinter Preview issue (cover story, p. 50). If you're attending the upcoming conference in Philadelphia, be sure to check out the session highlights and dining options (p. 58) found within these pages, and also to keep an eye out for our *Daily Scoop* e-newsletter, which will bring four days of our team's onsite reporting straight to your inbox. The first email arrives January 25.

Other perennial favorites in this issue: Year in Review (p. 28) and Referenda Roundup (p. 32), for which *American Libraries* again partnered with the Public Library Association to provide extensive coverage of how state ballot measures fared around the country. Anne Ford tracked more than 100 elections to bring you the results.

With a new political season under way, some libraries will likely face a troubling trend of so-called First Amendment auditors visiting their facilities to videotape and post alleged infractions or document perceived bias. In "Free Speech—or Free-for-All?" (p. 20), Taylor Hartz examines what libraries are doing to prepare.

Preparation is also the name of the game for libraries hosting bystander trainings to tackle harassment, particularly that directed at immigrants. As Claire Zulkey reports in "Know Your Rights—and Theirs" (p. 46), several libraries "hoping to empower and protect their communities" have begun educating staffers on their rights and responsibilities should a raid by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement take place.

In stark contrast to the divisiveness is the civil dialogue fostered at Longest Table meals throughout the country. Lara Ewen describes how library workers are helping communities break down walls while breaking bread in "Tables of Content" (p. 16).

And finally, you'll notice we've made small design changes in this issue, including a new look for our columns (starting on p. 64). We're also reintroducing our Librarian's Library column (p. 68), with Reference and Technology Librarian Anna Gooding-Call as the first of three new writers. Let us know what you think. As always, we welcome and appreciate your feedback.

See you in Philly.

Sanhita

Library-led
Longest
Table meals
are fostering
diversity,
respect,
compassion,
and empathy
to help
unify their
communities.

Forward Together

Charting a path to a more vibrant and effective organization



Wanda Kay Brown

The aim of the new Forward Together plan is to encourage those who don't feel they have a place in ALA the ability to participate and flourish.

Meeting members and learning how and where they found their place in ALA has given me the opportunity to reflect on my own path. I was lucky enough to be guided and mentored early on by members of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and through my involvement in that group, I found a path for engagement and leadership that brought me to where I am today.

But as we hear often, many members find the path to engagement too confusing, too insular, and too expensive. How do we address these concerns while also modernizing the way our Association functions?

This is where we start. For the past 18 months, as a member of the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE), I've been on the front lines of a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a more vibrant and effective Association that supports libraries and library workers in a society and culture that was almost unimaginable when our current structure was developed. To help realign our Association with the world we live in today, we have collected recommendations called Forward Together.

It wasn't easy to get here. As a committee member, I can assure you we didn't always agree with one another. But I watched as we struggled with our differences and focused on the greater good. Each of us represents a distinct perspective, discipline, or library type, and we used our backgrounds to ensure our final recommendations will work for all members, not just ourselves or people who think like we do.

Our aim is to encourage those who don't feel they have a place in ALA to participate and flourish. Forward Together codifies an institutional commitment to diversity in our governing bodies and builds safeguards against homogeneity.

Not everyone will agree with our recommendations. We understand there are a few caring and extremely involved members who are concerned

that the ALA described in Forward Together may take away levers of power. These members have given much through their service to ALA within the current structure and may be less receptive to change. We do understand that. However, we feel strongly that this plan can and will work. While we continue to review and refine our recommendations, we are weaving in some of the strategies we are so excited about.

We currently have no exact correlation for the proposed leadership assemblies described in Forward Together, but they seek to be direct, open lines of influence to the Board of Directors. Leadership assemblies maintain the functions and strengths of existing groups such as ALA Council, the Chapter Leaders Forum, and the Round Table Coordinating Assembly. (In fact, this is already happening: In October 2019, leaders convened virtually for the first Chapters Assembly, and I heard great things about it from participants!)

What this means practically is that the first Council vote on the adoption of these recommendations will likely not take place at the 2020 Annual Conference in Chicago as originally stated but instead at the 2021 Midwinter Meeting.

This extended timeline provides the opportunity to do an in-depth financial review. It also allows the votes to happen with the same Council rather than a split group. One of SCOE's stated goals was to "enable sustainable, long-term change (including evaluation of progress and more frequent future adjustments)." We are modeling that by trying and doing as we go.

Changing culture takes time and intent. I invite you to read the report and engage with its conclusions at forwardtogether.ala.org. I believe our work will help many more members find their place within ALA. **ALA**

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

Achieving Our Vision

To build a financially stable Association, we must work together



Maggie Farrell

It is my honor to serve as your treasurer and to receive the baton from Susan Hildreth. Susan provided strong leadership for our financial operations with expertise and diligence, and her collegiality is a model for me as we—ALA offices, divisions, round tables, and other units—work together toward a financially stable Association.

I start my tenure by reporting mixed results for our finances, but I am optimistic about the work being done to advance libraries.

In 2018, the ALA Executive Board approved a plan to strategically invest in three critical areas: information technology, advocacy, and development. Over a three-year period already underway, \$8.8 million has been dedicated to upgrading software and capabilities to better manage Association operations that improve member services. Funding for advocacy will strengthen relationships with key D.C. stakeholders for proactive and targeted interactions that support library issues. And expanding development activities will increase private and corporate donations for our Association, furthering vital initiatives and building endowments to contribute to our future work.

This has been a bold move. The Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC), chaired by Peter Hepburn, is working closely with ALA offices and the Executive Board to develop metrics to assess these investments. Their work will be presented at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, and it is my commitment to keep members aware of our progress.

Strategic investments are necessary and overdue, but they alone cannot make up for increased operational costs, new ways of working, and a different economic environment that impacts Membership, Publishing, and conferences.

ALA is examining operations to determine possible streamlining and efficiencies. With the Executive Board, ALA is asking difficult questions about how we fund activities, staff operations, and conduct our work. During the next three years, we will need to make difficult choices based

on our priorities. This work has already started, as Executive Director Mary Ghikas has noted in past columns about the streams of change.

Members are considering our Association structure through intense conversations related to the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE). We have examined the costs of the ALA headquarters building in Chicago, noting the significant maintenance and modernization costs compared with favorable leasing rates and the ability to significantly add to our ALA endowment.

Together, we are creating a strong foundation for the future through better technology, increased member engagement, and increased private revenues.

As members, you have been engaged in such efforts in your own libraries—determining priorities, staffing activities that advance your mission, examining operations, and dealing with aging facilities. That is why your input on SCOE, service for ALA, and involvement are so critical in these efforts. Your insights into operational effectiveness and experience in making difficult decisions contribute to our broad conversations about how we engage members to further our libraries.

Financial information is available on the ALA website on the Executive Board, Finance and Audit Committee, and BARC pages. Peter and I are working to make our financial information readily available and easier to understand, but please do not hesitate to contact me directly at any time if you need more information.

I am excited about the future of ALA because of members like you who are talented, creative, dedicated, and smart. Your involvement in streams of change will enable us to collectively build the Association that our profession so richly deserves. **ALA**

MAGGIE FARRELL is dean of university libraries at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Strategic investments are necessary, but they alone cannot make up for increased costs, new ways of working, and a different economic environment.

Reflecting on Our Mission

Enter the new year with purpose and strategy



Mary Ghikas

As we move forward into 2020, it is worthwhile to stop, take a deep breath, and ask ourselves those perennial questions about why we exist, what we are meant to accomplish, and by what strategies.

Like other nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations, ALA exists because we seek to accomplish a mission, initially defined in ALA's Constitution, "to promote library service and librarianship." That critical social purpose was later more expansively stated in ALA Policy Manual, section A.1.2: "The mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all." Like other nonprofits, our mission is meant to make a difference for society.

We are, additionally, a particular kind of nonprofit, tax-exempt organization: an association. We are a membership organization—based on the belief that individuals coming together with purpose and strategy provide the critical force for social improvement and achieving a mission.

ALA members—librarians and library staff from a growing range of backgrounds, library trustees, Friends and advocates, leaders of library-related businesses—are at our organizational core, working collaboratively with ALA staff, external allies, and stakeholders.

So why should we stop periodically to examine what seems obvious to so many of us? In *Mission Impact: Breakthrough Strategies for Nonprofits*, Robert M. Sheehan Jr., academic director at University of Maryland's business school, outlines a "mission accomplishment" approach to articulating and measuring impact.

Sheehan defines carrying out a mission as the "core purpose" of an organization, and nonprofits must measure the progress toward achieving that mission.

He defines "mission gap"—which we should collectively seek to close—as the difference between the ideal and the current reality.

So as we begin 2020 together, it is a good time to consider and talk with one another about our community aspirations.

- Where are we succeeding (and where are we failing) in achieving our mission?
- Where are we succeeding (and where are we failing) in achieving those overarching goals that mark our major roads to mission achievement: advocacy; equity, diversity, and inclusion; information policy; and professional and leadership development?
- Now that we're almost 20 years into the 21st century, if we were to revisit our mission, how would we organize the Association today to achieve that mission and accomplish our strategic directions and goals?
- Where are new opportunities for mission achievement?
- What new internal capabilities do we need to develop?
- Do we need to establish new short-term "stretch" goals related to our mission and organization?
- How do our goals, initiatives, and plans fit together to form a coherent strategy?

Each of us brings to this community a unique perspective, based on our individual lived experience. To be an effective force, to improve the society in which we live through striving to achieve our mission, it isn't enough for each of us to individually engage in year-end reflection; we need to talk with—and listen to—one another, to reflect together, to craft a shared community narrative, and to then move confidently into the new year. **AL**

MARY GHIKAS is executive director of the American Library Association.

As we begin 2020 together, it is a good time to consider and talk with one another about our community aspirations.

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES *ENGAGEMENT GRANT*

A grant offering of the American Library Association

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *(noun)*

The process of working collaboratively with community members — library users, residents, faculty, students and/or local organizations — to address issues for the betterment of the community.

GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS MAY INCLUDE:

- developing community engagement programs and services
- partnering with a community agency that builds the capacity of the community to address an important issue
- creating an event that connects the library to a community-identified aspiration or concern
- and much more

**APPLY BY
FEB. 3, 2020, AT
ALA.ORG/LTCEG**

🐦 Lots of interesting suggestions for browser extensions that will flag fake news online. Currently checking out NewsGuard extension. Thanks, @amlibraries! #tlchat #edchat

@DRTLLOVESBOOKS in response to "Check Your Facts" (Nov./Dec., p. 36)

🐦 Few things move my soul like a visually appealing library.

@THEBIGBABOOSKI in response to "2019 Library Design Showcase" (Sept./Oct., p. 32)

Mismatched Coverage

I was glad to see "From the Library with Love" (Nov./Dec., p. 18). I found my own sweetie on OkCupid in 2015, when I was 71 and he was 85. For some time, libraries have helped patrons navigate the digital universe. It makes sense for libraries to help older adults understand how common and successful online dating has become and how it can work.

A few things, however, struck me as off-base. First, the graphic draws on cutesy stereotypes. Few patrons—or even older librarians—would identify with these mocking caricatures. Second, the subheading "Strategies for successful swiping" is misleading. In the current environment, there is much online discussion about swipe-based mobile apps (like Tinder and Bumble, although OkCupid has added a swiping feature) versus programs that don't involve swiping; the latter seem to facilitate connections based on personality and shared interests more than photos. In any case, knowing the difference between the two types of apps is important, and I would never recommend that older adults start by swiping.

Martha Cornog
Philadelphia

Fair Contracts for Fairer Libraries

I was disappointed with "Contract Concerns" (Nov./Dec., p. 58),



particularly the author's attitude toward the deprofessionalization of librarianship. A common complaint for administrators and management is the lack of flexibility in union contracts—that is, that these contracts make it more difficult to exploit workers. This seems to be the underlying concern of the suggestion that "volunteers and nondegreed staffers" can do the work of professional librarians.

I have worked with many talented and passionate paraprofessional library workers, and they play important roles in libraries. They are often paid far less than degreed librarians to work less desirable and consistent hours, often without union protections. This is a destructive pattern that devalues the work we do and contributes to the exploitation of young people. It is also very telling that it is a library director, not a front-line librarian, complaining that union contracts prevent the hiring of "youth of color."

To diversify our field, we must make education more affordable and ensure that professionals (and prospective professionals)

are paid fairly. "Putting teens first" is an admirable goal. Union contracts promise living wages and vital benefits for the passionate professionals pursuing that goal.

Wesley Fiorentino
Boston

Embargo Embitters Library Community

In all the coverage of the ebook embargo ("ALA Responds to Macmillan Letter," The Scoop, Oct. 31), no one seems to be addressing that the publishing process for ebooks is pretty frictionless for the publisher! No printing press, no warehouses, no workers needed to pack and ship books. This is a money grab on the part of the publisher. I applaud the systems that are boycotting, but I also wonder if they are not further restricting access for their customers. Then again, it's nice to do *something*.

Danielle Stanley
Phoenix

Bad News for Libraries

ALA's statement ("ALA Responds to Citrus County *New York Times*

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 or *American Libraries*, From Our Readers, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795.

FOLLOW US:

🐦 @amlibraries
📘 facebook.com/amlibraries

Block,” The Scoop, Nov. 5) reads like a regurgitation of existing policy and provides no condemnation of the commissioners responsible, and effectively states that the Citrus County libraries are on their own. ALA had a chance to stand up and fight back but instead chose to sit down and lob a weak response.

Laura Deshler Lambert
Lake Elmo, Minnesota

ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom issued this response: “ALA stands firmly in opposition of censorship, particularly when it threatens the First Amendment rights of a library community. In any specific situation, we work in partnership with local librarians and state association leaders to support constructive dialogue that is focused on a resolution that promotes library users’ rights and access to information, and we will continue to do so in this and other situations in the future.”

Challenging Advice

The article “Up to the Challenge” (Sept./Oct., p. 52) left me speechless. Telling a school librarian to deal with books that are often targets for challenges by rearranging books on shelves is not only foolish, it is not practical. Why wouldn’t the author use the tools described in the book to promote sound collection development guidelines and a strong reconsideration process to help guide school librarians? If a school librarian must hide or restrict a book from the school population, then the book should not be in the school’s collection. Please give school librarians more credit for the work they do,

and don’t provide articles where the bad advice drowns out the good advice.

Elissa Moritz
Ashburn, Virginia

Automation Frustration

“Automatic for the People” (Sept./Oct., p. 48) portrays understaffed, self-serve libraries as novel yet flawed. The impact of automation is certainly worth exploring, but I worry about the need to surveil patrons. The layout opens with security camera screen-grabs, setting the tone for an article that regrettably omits a discussion on the privacy implications of understaffed libraries. Privacy is one of the casualties of our reliance on convenience and the lionization of technology. Sure, the extended hours are popular, but through the paradigm of the internet-at-large we’ve been conditioned to acquiesce to ease of use. Why sacrifice a core value of librarianship when some elbow grease and outreach can achieve the same ends?

Ross Sempek
Portland, Oregon

The rise of self-service might not have a major effect on librarians, but it does reduce the need for clerical and support staff, and that is not a social good.

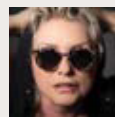
Unlike librarians, these staffers are usually people who grew up in the area and have their fingers on the pulse of the community. It’s also one of the all-too-rare jobs not requiring a degree that carries decent benefits and often a pension. I hate the idea of these jobs disappearing.

Susan Levy
Brooklyn, New York

What You’re Reading

- 1 Librarians, Start New Game** See how academic librarians are building collections for videogame scholars. bit.ly/AL-videogame
- 2 Media Literacy in an Age of Fake News** A review of the latest books, courses, and other resources for librarians. bit.ly/AL-medialit
- 3 Connecting with Congress** Librarians are using year-round advocacy skills to build relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. bit.ly/AL-yr-advocacy

In Case You Missed It



Newsmaker: Debbie Harry The Blondie bandleader spoke with us about art, music, libraries, and how climate activists are the new punk. bit.ly/AL-Blondie

How the CPS Strike Affected Chicago School Librarians More than 80% of Chicago Public Schools still lack a librarian. What’s next for the district? bit.ly/AL-CPS-strike



Can My Library Ban Guns? Our online Letters of the Law column debuts with questions about Narcan and guns. bit.ly/AL-LetterLaw1

Division conference coverage Reports from November’s YALSA Symposium (bit.ly/AL-yalsa19) and AASL’s National Conference and Exhibition (bit.ly/AL-aasl19).

Coming Soon

Check The Scoop for our full team coverage of **ALA’s Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits** in Philadelphia, January 24–28, and reports from the **PLA 2020 Conference** in Nashville, Tennessee, February 25–29.

ALA Turns to Congress Amid Macmillan Ebook Embargo

On November 1 Macmillan Publishers began to limit access to ebooks through America's libraries by instituting an eight-week embargo on library ebook purchases, despite robust public demand to reverse the policy. Regardless of the size of the library, Macmillan will sell only one copy of a new ebook title for the first two months after its release.

In October, the American Library Association (ALA), the Public Library Association (PLA), and other allies delivered nearly 160,000 petition signatures from all 50 states and Canada, demanding equitable access to digital content (that figure had risen to more than 216,000 by November 27).

"We want a fair path forward for readers, libraries, authors, and publishers," said ALA President Wanda Kay Brown in a November 1 statement. "ALA urged the publisher to suspend the embargo, but Macmillan is determined to go through with the new policy."

In that statement, PLA President Ramiro Salazar said he is "disappointed and extremely upset Macmillan has ignored our

collective voices. We will continue to advocate and fight on multiple fronts for fair prices and terms to help ensure equitable access to information and resources."

In response to Macmillan's decision, ALA has collected signatures on ebooksforall.org and gathered stories about how the ebook embargo is affecting communities. In addition to the public awareness campaign, ALA has deepened legislative engagement on Capitol Hill.

The House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law announced a bipartisan investigation into competition in digital markets in June 2019. On October 15, ALA released a report (bit.ly/DigitalMarketsReport) in response to that inquiry that denounces embargoes by companies like Macmillan and Amazon, which refuses to sell any of its published content to libraries. Such restrictions threaten Americans' right to read what and how they choose and imperil other fundamental First Amendment freedoms, the report said. ●

New Publications Respond to Opioid Crisis

In October, PLA and OCLC released two publications that detail how public libraries are responding to the opioid crisis, including a summary report (bit.ly/PLAOCLCreport) and supplemental case studies (bit.ly/PLAOCLCstudies).

With financial support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the two organizations partnered in September 2018 to collect and share information and resources to support public libraries and their communities in addressing this public health crisis. Over 12 months, PLA and OCLC conducted a research study of eight



public libraries across the US that have employed various strategies to address the epidemic.

The report highlights findings from these case studies, identifies emerging practices among responding libraries and their community partners, and identifies considerations for libraries aiming to ramp up their response.

Divisions Collaborate on Virtual Forum

The Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), Library and Information Technology Association (LITA), and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) have collaborated to create the Exchange, an interactive, virtual forum designed to bring together experiences, ideas, expertise, and individuals from these divisions. Modeled after the 2017 ALCTS

Exchange, the Exchange will be held May 4, 6, and 8 with the theme "Building the Future Together." Participants in the Exchange will share the research, trends, and developments in collections, leadership, technology, innovation, sustainability, and collaborations. Submit proposals and find more information at bit.ly/ExchangeProposals.

LITA to Honor Student Work

LITA will offer an award for the best unpublished manuscript submitted by a student or students enrolled in an ALA-accredited graduate program. Sponsored by LITA and Ex Libris, the award consists of \$1,000, publication in *Information Technology and Libraries*, and a certificate.

The award, intended to enhance students' professional development, recognizes superior writing. The manuscript

ALA Responds to Citrus County *New York Times* Ban

The Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida, voted in late October to prohibit the county's public libraries from purchasing digital subscriptions to *The New York Times*, which one commissioner labeled "fake news." On November 5, ALA issued a statement in response to the decision.

"Both ALA's Library Bill of Rights and Code of Ethics encourage libraries and librarians to ensure that the criteria used to select materials do not discriminate on the basis of factors such as political or religious viewpoint or the background, identity, gender, or beliefs of the publisher or author," the statement read.

"Public libraries are government agencies subject to the First Amendment. Rejecting or censoring a publication based upon its political viewpoint represents both content and viewpoint discrimination that is contrary to the spirit of the First Amendment's promise of freedom of speech and freedom of belief. Our constitution and Bill of Rights promises every person the right and equal opportunity to discover, develop, and defend their own political, social, and religious beliefs. A government official's decision to prevent access to a particular publication based on partisan disapproval of that publication denies this right. We stand by our Freedom to Read Statement: We believe that democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative." •

can address any aspect of libraries and information technology. The deadline for manuscript submission is February 28; the winner will be announced in May. Guidelines and application form at bit.ly/LITAaward.

AASL Standards Alignment

In an effort to provide school library professionals the materials and resources needed to implement the *National School Library Standards*, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has released a plan to align the AASL Standards to the Next Generation Science Standards. The plan and accompanying how-to-read document are available for download on the AASL Standards Portal (bit.ly/AASLcrosswalk).

Other national teaching and learning standards are being reviewed by AASL for possible future amendments to the

standards and will be posted on the portal as they are completed. AASL also plans to create professional learning resources to assist practitioners in developing their own local plans as needed to supplement the national changes published by the division.

ASGCLA Seeks Presenters

The Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) invites librarians and subject-matter experts to submit proposals for 2020 Annual pre-conferences or 2021 Midwinter institutes (bit.ly/ASGCLApproposalform). Accepted proposals will be presented at either the 2020 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago or the 2021 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Indianapolis. Librarians and subject matter experts are also encouraged to submit

CALENDAR

JAN. 24-28

ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits | Philadelphia
alamidwinter.org

FEB. 25-29

Public Library Association Conference | Nashville, Tennessee
placonference.org

MAR. 16

Freedom of Information Day
ala.org/advocacy/foi-day

APR.

School Library Month
ala.org/aasl/slm

APR. 4-11

Money Smart Week
moneysmartweek.org

APR. 19-25

National Library Week
ala.org/nlw

APR. 21

National Library Workers Day
ala-apa.org/nlwd

APR. 22

National Bookmobile Day
ala.org/aboutala/bookmobileday

APR. 26-MAY 2

Preservation Week
ala.org/preservationweek

APR. 30

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

MAY 1-7

Choose Privacy Week
chooseprivacyeveryday.org

MAY 4-5

National Library Legislative Day | Washington, D.C.
ala.org/advocacy/nlld

JUNE

GLBT Book Month
ala.org/glbbookmonth

JUNE 25-30

ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition | Chicago
alaannual.org

proposals for ASGCLA's webinars (bit.ly/ASGCLAwebinar) and online courses (bit.ly/ASGCLAonline).

Proposals are sought in the following key areas of training: veterans; accessibility; consortia management; and health, particularly mental health, substance abuse, degenerative neurological diseases, and aging in place.

New AASL Research

New research published in AASL's peer-reviewed online journal *School Library Research* examines how to define a high-quality school librarian (ala.org/aasl/slr).

An eight-member team researched how studies of high-quality teachers can inform studies investigating school librarians' impact on student outcomes. The team compared findings from causal educational research to findings from descriptive school librarian research to

identify possible areas of causal alignment warranting further investigation.

In their paper "The Preparation and Certification of School Librarians" (bit.ly/AASLprepreport), the authors contend that individual educator attributes may have a direct effect on what and how much their students learn.

NMRT Seeks Outstanding Student Chapter

ALA's New Members Round Table (NMRT) is seeking nominations for the Student Chapter of the Year Award, presented in recognition of a chapter's outstanding contributions to the Association, their library school, and the profession. All interested applicants must be accredited ALA Student Chapters. The winner will receive \$1,000 to help defray travel expenses to ALA's Annual Conference. The winning chapter and the runner-up will each receive a

certificate and will be recognized at the NMRT Student Reception at the 2020 Annual Conference.

The deadline to apply is March 2. Submission forms and additional information available at bit.ly/NMRTSCOTYA.

United for Libraries to Honor Notable Trustee

The ALA Trustee Citation, established in 1941 to recognize public library trustees for distinguished service to library development, honors the best contributions and efforts of the estimated 60,000 people in the US who serve on library boards. United for Libraries is accepting nominations for the 2020 ALA Trustee Citation through January 10 (bit.ly/UFLcitation).

Trustee service may have been performed on the local, state, regional, or national level or at a combination of levels. Equal consideration is given to trustees of libraries of all sizes. The citation will be presented during the Opening General Session of the 2020 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

Applications Open for 2020 AASL Awards

Applications for AASL's 2020 awards are now available. AASL awards and grants recognize excellence and showcase best practices in the school library field in the areas of collaboration, leadership, and innovation. AASL members are encouraged to nominate a colleague or themselves.

The Collaborative School Library Award, now sponsored by Scholastic Book Fairs, recognizes school librarians who collaborate with other educators in meeting goals outlined in AASL's *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries* through joint planning of a program, unit, or event in support of the curriculum and using school library resources. Honorees receive \$2,500 and recognition at the AASL Awards Ceremony.

AASL's Past-Presidents Planning Grant enables affiliates to design an event, initiative, or activity focused on the

Google Grant to Support Library Entrepreneurship

ALA received a \$2 million grant from Google.org, announced October 3, to develop library entrepreneurship centers and enable libraries across the country to increase support for people looking to start new businesses. Google CEO Sundar Pichai said the funding is part of a \$10 million pledge to help entrepreneurs from low-income and underrepresented groups.

The grant enables ALA to fund a cohort of 10 libraries with established models to increase the number of business creators they serve. Participating libraries will work to establish new partnerships with community-based organizations and integrate library resources with their communities. Through this initiative, libraries will directly support 15,000 people looking to start or grow businesses.

The grant will also support the development of a playbook for successful library-entrepreneurship programs. It will contain a set of best practices and common metrics to evaluate success. ALA also plans to build a peer-learning network for librarians interested in developing their own entrepreneurship programs.

"This funding will enable ALA to expand library entrepreneurship programs in a handful of places where they already thrive," said ALA President Wanda Kay Brown in a statement. "We are creating a path to success for aspiring entrepreneurs everywhere—in particular, those with the fewest resources to chart new territory on their own." Find grant guidelines and application information at bit.ly/AL-GoogleGrant. ●

D.C. Circuit Court Ruling Mixed on Net Neutrality

On October 1, the US Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit upheld the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) authority to issue its 2018 order eliminating net neutrality protections while also vacating parts of the order and remanding other parts. Importantly, the court vacated the portion of the order in which the FCC attempted to preempt state or local efforts to protect an open internet.

In the case—*Mozilla et al. v. the Federal Communications Commission*—consumer groups and some companies sought to restore net neutrality protections passed in 2015 but eliminated in 2017. ALA has been on the front lines of the net neutrality battle with the FCC, Congress, and the federal

courts for more than a decade. In the current court case, ALA joined higher education and other library groups in filing an amicus brief in support of the petitioners seeking to defend net neutrality.

“Without strong and clear net neutrality protections in place, there is nothing to stop internet service providers from blocking or throttling legal internet traffic or setting up commercial arrangements where certain traffic is prioritized,” said ALA President Wanda Kay Brown in an October 1 statement.

“ALA and the nearly 120,000 libraries across the country will not stop until we have restored net neutrality protections—whether in the states, Congress, or in the courts,” she said. ●

implementation of the AASL Standards. Recipients receive \$2,500 and recognition at the AASL Awards Ceremony.

Other award opportunities include the National School Library of the Year,

the Distinguished Service Award, the Intellectual Freedom Award, and Roald Dahl's Miss Honey Social Justice Award. Grant opportunities include the ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant, the Innovative

Reading Grant, and the Ruth Toor Grant for Strong Public School Libraries.

Applications for the National School Library of the Year Award are due January 1. All other applications and

Join *American Libraries* Senior Editor Phil Morehart as he hosts conversations with librarians, authors, thinkers, and scholars about topics from the library world and beyond. Listen to these recent episodes:

EPISODE 44 Advocacy: Anyone Can Do It	EPISODE 42 Libraries of All Shapes and Sizes
EPISODE 43 It's a Mystery	EPISODE 41 Beyond Our Borders

Listen at bit.ly/deweydecibel

PROUDLY SERVING AMERICA'S

LIBRARY COMMUNITY

Just as you serve to help people transform their point of view, we serve as your financial resource to help you see better ways to live your best life story.

LET'S TURN THE PAGE TOGETHER
Become a member and make this the best chapter of your financial life.

READ OUR STORY AT LCFCU.ORG.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Federally insured by NCUA

UPDATE

nominations are due February 1. Find award criteria and submission forms at ala.org/aasl/awards.

Literary Landmarks Added

United for Libraries, in partnership with Connecticut Center for the Book, Connecticut Humanities, and Hartford Public Library, designated two Connecticut Literary Landmarks in a joint dedication ceremony in October: the Mark Twain House and Museum and the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, both in Hartford.

The Mark Twain House and Museum is the 11,000-square-foot home built by Samuel Clemens, who used the pen name Mark Twain. The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center preserves and interprets the home of the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and showcases its collections.

Any library or group may apply for a Literary Landmark through United for Libraries. More than 150 Literary Landmarks across the United States have been dedicated since the program began in 1986.

Round Table Highlights Best Graphic Novels

ALA's Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table (GNCRT) has announced a new Best Graphic Novels for Adults Reading

Library Community Stands Against Racial Violence

ALA and several professional affiliates—including the American Indian Library Association, Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Chinese American Librarians Association, Joint Council of Librarians of Color, and Reforma: the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking—contributed funds to libraries on the front lines of defending equity, diversity, and inclusion.

In response to racist acts of abuse and violence in 2019 in Baltimore; Dayton, Ohio; El Paso, Texas; Gilroy, California; and Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, ALA President Wanda Kay Brown and ALA affiliates each donated \$500 to support library programming that aims to bridge cultural divides.

The group released the following joint statement: "We stand united in unequivocally condemning the senseless loss of life and the trauma of the mass shootings targeting religious institutions and the African-American and Latinx communities. These frequent incidents remind us that there are still enormous challenges ahead as we take steps to eradicate racism and cultural invisibility.

"We stand in solidarity with our colleagues in affected communities, as well as the hundreds of library users who rely on their support and compassion during this time of healing." •

List. The inaugural year of the reading list will highlight the best graphic novels for adults published in late 2019 through 2020, increase awareness of the graphic novel medium, raise voices of

diverse comics creators, and aid library staff in the development of graphic novel collections. The first list will be announced at the 2021 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Indianapolis.

2020 Census: Why It Matters

Libraries. Hospitals. Fire departments. Schools. Even roads and highways. The census can shape many different aspects of your community.

Join us in ensuring everyone is counted.

Interested in partnering? **Stop by**

Booth #1703 or **visit 2020census.gov**.

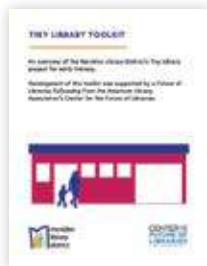
**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

**United States[®]
Census
2020**

List selection will be determined by a committee of GNCRT members with a background in graphic novel selection and use for adults.

Tools for Tiny Libraries

The new Tiny Library Toolkit, developed by Meridian (Idaho) Library District, shares that library's experience creating



a “lighter, quicker, cheaper” means of installing a library service point using an upcycled shipping container (bit.ly/TinyLibToolkit).

The development

of the toolkit was funded by the 2018 Future of Libraries Fellowship from the ALA Center for the Future of Libraries.

The toolkit documents the library's development of its tiny facility and

includes information about layout, programming, collection development, technology, communications, budgeting, and stakeholder engagement.

Eisner Grant Celebrates Graphic Novels

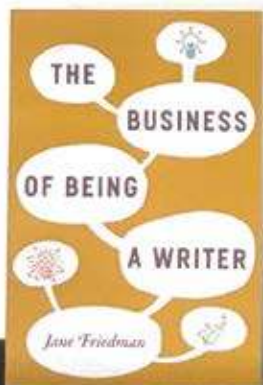
ALA and the Will and Ann Eisner Family Foundation are now accepting applications for the 2020 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries, which recognize libraries for their role in the growth of graphic literature. The grant honors the legacy of Will Eisner, a cartoonist whose career spanned nearly eight decades.

Three grants will be awarded: Two recipients will receive the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Growth Grant, which supports libraries in expanding their existing graphic novel services and programs, and one recipient will receive the Will Eisner Graphic Novel Innovation

Grant, which supports a library initiating a graphic novel service or program. Recipients each receive a \$4,000 grant for programming and collection development, a collection of Will Eisner's works and biographies, and a selection of the graphic novels nominated for the 2020 Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards at Comic-Con International. The grant also includes a travel stipend for a library representative to travel to the 2020 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago to receive recognition from the Will and Ann Eisner Family Foundation. An applying librarian or their institution must be an ALA member to be eligible, and the grants are now open to libraries in the US, Canada, and Mexico.

The Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries are administered by GNCRT, and submission information is available at ala.org/rt/gncrt. The application deadline is February 9. **AL**

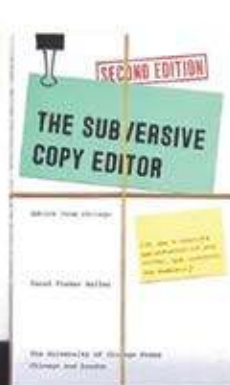
INDISPENSABLE Writing and Publishing Guides for Higher Ed and Public Libraries



Paper \$25.00
Your Price \$12.50



Paper \$25.00
Your Price \$12.50



Paper \$20.00
Your Price \$10.00



Paper \$15.00
Your Price \$7.50

50% off for American Libraries readers who order direct with promo code **AMERLIB50**.

The University of Chicago Press www.press.uchicago.edu

TRENDS



Howard County (Md.) Library System's Longest Table 2019, held at Howard Community College on September 21, drew 231 guests.

Tables of Content

Longest Table meals bring communities together for civil dialogue

BY Lara Ewen

Attendees of the May 2019 Longest Table brunch hosted by Harford County (Md.) Library System weren't simply fed; they were nurtured. That's because the day wasn't just about a shared meal of eggs, pancakes, and fresh fruit. It was also about community.

The origins of these events can be traced back to communal meals such as the World's Longest Lunch, held annually across Australia. In 2015 the first Longest Table meal served 400 people along a two-block stretch of downtown Tallahassee, Florida. That inaugural evening was organized by city and

county leaders, local nonprofit The Village Square, and Leadership Tallahassee. Then-Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum imagined the night as a way to bring members of the city's diverse communities together—in the wake of the 2014 riots in Ferguson, Missouri, and the 2012 murder of Trayvon Martin—to let their guard down and speak openly and civilly with one another while sharing food.

Longest Table meals have since spread to libraries across the country. Mary Hastler, CEO of Harford County Library System, says she got the idea from nearby Howard County (Md.) Library System's first

Longest Table event in 2017. Christie P. Lassen, director of communications and partnerships at Howard County Library System, says she was inspired by the Tallahassee event and another in Dayton, Ohio. Lassen's library has now hosted three dinners, including one on September 21 that drew 231 guests. Typical fare includes chicken and vegetarian entrées, salad, bread, and dessert.

Both Howard and Harford counties' events are organized under the umbrella of Choose Civility, a library-led initiative that values diversity, respect, compassion, and empathy as essential to the community's quality of life, according to choosecivility.org.

The best part of the Harford County brunch, based on attendee comments, was the camaraderie. "I learned a lot from people who have different backgrounds and experiences," said one guest. Another wrote that the day was "a wonderful opportunity to discuss my home with people I don't usually get to speak to."

In September 2019, Amy Rodda, director of adult services at Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, made Longest Table part of the 40th anniversary celebration at its Fountain branch. And Brian Shepard, executive director of Indian Trails Public Library District in Wheeling, Illinois, says he plans to host his first Longest Table in 2020. "The Longest Table, for me, came from trying to find a way to bring our

Photo: Geoffrey S. Baker/Howard County Library System

“There’s a lot of power in bringing people together over a meal.”

BRIAN SHEPARD, executive director of Indian Trails Public Library District in Wheeling, Illinois

community together to facilitate civic engagement and conversation and break down walls between people,” he says. “There’s a lot of power in bringing people together over a meal.”

Organizing and funding an event like this requires extensive planning as well as coordinating the calendars of several stakeholders, says Hastler. She adds that local Minor League Baseball team the Aberdeen IronBirds hosts Harford County’s Longest Table brunch events in its stadium when there’s no game scheduled.

For the past three years, Lassen has partnered with Howard Community College, which hosts the dinners in its parking lot. Space, however, is only one part of the puzzle. Libraries say the funding for these events comes from a combination of grants, ticket sales, private donors, and in-kind donations.

“We probably have a \$10,000 budget range, and a good part of that is food,” Lassen says. Lassen and Hastler have each received \$5,000 grants from Maryland State Library as part of the Choose Civility initiative. To supplement her funding, Lassen was helped by a local business donor as well as the library’s Friends and Foundation. She additionally offsets costs

by charging \$10–\$15 admission, although free tickets are made available. Event costs can also vary widely: The dinner budget at PPLD’s Fountain branch was \$1,800, which covered catering plus table and chair rentals, Rodda says.

Setting the Table

Rodda, whose 90-person dinner was free to the public, says the conversation is what makes the events special. PPLD assigns random seating to encourage new interactions. “If people came with family members or spouses, we tried to spread them out,” she says.

Lassen says that in addition to random seating, it’s important to keep guests in their chairs. She has her meals served family-style, with large plates of food passed from person to person. “That’s meant to foster interaction and discourage people from moving around too frequently,” she says. “We wanted that to encourage conversation.” Howard County also recruits “table hosts” and strategically places them to promote interactions. “They get some training and help ahead of time to facilitate the conversations,” Lassen says. Table runners have questions on them to make sure diners always have something to talk about. For her most recent event, Lassen also added a social hour before dinner, with a pop-up library, games, and an interactive public art piece.

Overcoming challenges

No matter how much planning goes into the event, the one thing that can’t be predicted is the weather. “We had this long table set up outside, and of course at the 11th hour,

BY THE NUMBERS

Literary Philadelphia

6

Number of years since the American Library Association last held its Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Philadelphia.

6 million

Number of visits the Free Library of Philadelphia’s (FLP) 54 locations receive annually.



130,000

Number of current and historical maps in the Map Collection at FLP’s Parkway Central Library.

2010

Year the Black Writers Museum—the only US museum to focus exclusively on black literature by classic and contemporary writers—was established. Its Ida B. Wells Library and Resource Center contains works from Jacob H. Carruthers, Zora Neale Hurston, and Sapphire.

11

Number of years that *Apiary Magazine*—an all-volunteer, free literary magazine published for and by Philadelphians—has been in existence.



532

North 7th Street address where Edgar Allan Poe lived in a red-brick home with his wife, Virginia, and mother-in-law, Maria Clemm. The house—designated a National Historic Site in 1962—is where Poe penned “The Black Cat.” •



Richland Library Main in Columbia, South Carolina, was featured in the 2019 Library Design Showcase.

2020
LIBRARY
DESIGN
SHOWCASE

Show Us Your Beautiful New Library

American Libraries is now accepting submissions for the 2020 Library Design Showcase, our annual feature celebrating new and newly renovated libraries of all types. The showcase will appear in the September/October 2020 issue.

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

If your library is on the cutting edge, we want our readers to know. To be eligible, projects must have been completed between May 1, 2019, and April 30, 2020. The submission deadline is May 31, 2020. Unfortunately, not all submissions can be featured.

To have your library considered, send a completed submission form (bit.ly/DesignShowcase20Form) and at least five high-resolution digital images with photographer credits to pmorehart@ala.org via Dropbox or another file-sharing service.

View last year's showcase at bit.ly/ALDesignShowcase2019. For more information, email pmorehart@ala.org. •

◀ Continued from page 17

it started raining," says Alicia Gomori-Lusker, manager of PPLD's Fountain branch. "We had to drag the tables into our meeting room."

Lassen also had to make certain modifications. "The first time I saw the setups with all the tables, I just got goosebumps," says Lassen. However, one long table with no breaks created some navigational issues. "If you needed to get from one side to another, you had to walk around or crawl under," she explains. For the following year, her team created short breaks so that caterers could get through, while still maintaining the appearance of one long table.

Success stories

Challenges aside, librarians say they have been pleased with the results. "People literally would have stayed there all night if they could," says Gomori-Lusker. "I've gotten a lot of positive feedback. And I was amazed at how easily people were able to talk."

Hastler said that seeing her community eating together was well worth the efforts spent making the meal happen. "We were really happy to see 150 people attend," she says. "And what struck me the most is the structure of the event. If you walked up and down the tables, people were really talking about the challenges we face as a community, and it ran the gamut from 20-something millennials to grandmas. And it resonated with them. Entire groups were raving about what this meant to them. And they said they met people they would not have otherwise met. It was an incredible day, and it helps us focus on what we can do together." **AL**

LARA EWEN is a freelance writer based in Brooklyn, New York.

PLA 2020 NASHVILLE

February 25–29 | Music City Center

Don't miss the premier event for public library professionals, with more than 100 top-quality education programs, inspirational speakers, award-winning authors, career and wellness centers, networking receptions, an exhibits hall featuring the latest in library solutions, and entertainment you'll only find in Music City!



Opening Speaker, Stacey Abrams (left) and Closing Speaker, Samantha Bee



Author event speakers from left: Seth Owen, Erik Larson (photo by Benjamin Benschneider), Jasmine Guillory, Meredith Talusan (photo by Albrica Tierra), Ann Patchett (photo by Heidi Ross), and Pam Muñoz Ryan.

placonference.org



Advanced registration closes January 31, 2020. PLA members save \$235. ALA members save \$145.



Free Speech—or Free-for-All?

“First Amendment audits” push privacy limits

BY Taylor Hartz

In October 2019, a phone rang at Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury, Connecticut. When Director Raechel Guest answered, the “very hostile” voice on the other end made a threat she’d never heard before: The caller told her he planned to visit the library to perform a “First Amendment audit.”

The call represented a trend unfolding in public facilities across the country: individuals who arm themselves with video cameras, proclaim themselves First Amendment auditors, and enter police precincts, post offices, libraries, and other spaces under the auspices of the First Amendment right to free speech in order to record staff violations.

The Connecticut caller was particularly aggressive, according to Guest. He threatened to bring bodybuilders and an attorney with him to the library and said that if police were called, the bodybuilders would wrestle officers to the ground and perform a citizens’ arrest, Guest recalls.

When these self-appointed auditors arrive, library staffers must strike a delicate balance between patrons’ rights to film and the privacy of library users.

Defusing the situation

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF), addressed the phenomenon in a post on ALA’s Intellectual Freedom blog (bit.ly/1stAmAudit). Libraries are legally considered limited or nonpublic forums when it comes to First Amendment rights, she says. In these spaces, agencies in charge are only obligated to allow activities that comply with the nature of the space—meaning that rights to film and photograph can be restricted if they interfere with library functions or operations.

“They love it if you lose your temper because they see an opportunity there.”

RAECHEL GUEST,
director of Silas Bronson Library
in Waterbury, Connecticut

“We’re not necessarily concerned with recording in public libraries per se,” says Caldwell-Stone, whose office has collected 10 reports of similar incidents across five states, as of press time. “What we’re most concerned about is when the behavior crosses the line into harassment and invasion of privacy.” Patrons should be able to use library services without fear that their identity, location, or reading choices will be published on YouTube, she says.

Though unsettled by the call, Guest seized the opportunity to mobilize her staff. She circulated written instructions, provided one-on-one consultation, and held a training workshop on how to handle these so-called auditors.

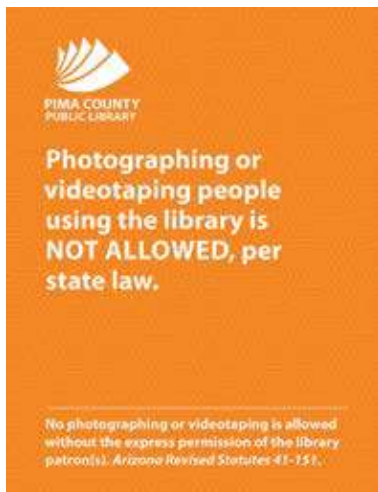
“It gave us a chance to figure out how we would respond if the caller came in and tried to start a fight,” Guest says. “The bottom line is that they love it if you lose your temper because they see an opportunity there. They want clickbait, a video where people are arguing, because that’s something people will watch.” From what she can tell, the only tactic that makes these real-life trolls go away is to react neutrally.

The auditor never materialized, but Guest says the call left her staff nervous about the possibility of a hostile confrontation.

“That first week everyone was very anxious and distracted, constantly looking out for him,” she says.

Seeking YouTube notoriety

Staff at Pima County (Ariz.) Public Library (PCPL) encountered three self-styled auditors last year, prompting the library system to hold training events and spend more than \$125 to post signs throughout its 27 facilities that make its stance on filming clear. Arizona state statute says that libraries are prohibited from disclosing information about what patrons are reading or viewing.



Pima County (Ariz.) Public Library facilities posted signs to clarify the system's stance on filming.

Pursuant to this law, staffers at Pima County libraries have been instructed to prohibit filming, a measure now included in PCPL's code of conduct.

"Once someone filming has been asked to stop and they don't, it becomes a violation of our code of conduct. We've told our staff that they can contact [other] library staff or police," says PCPL Deputy Director Karyn Prechtel-Altman.

On March 24, police were called to PCPL's Oro Valley branch after three men entered the library using video cameras to record staff and patrons using computers. The men were asked to stop filming and shown the code of conduct, but they refused to stop, citing their First Amendment rights to film. No arrests were made, and a video later surfaced on YouTube under the moniker "Arizona Auditor," according to library administrators.

On July 14, PCPL staff noticed a man filming in the Murphy-Wilmot branch. Staff didn't engage the man but later found another video on YouTube in which he talked about the library guard's behavior. A few weeks later, another person came into the Oro Valley branch with a video camera and said he had a constitutional right to film. Staff again informed the man of their rules; he immediately went to the local police department to claim that library staff were violating his rights.

As far as Caldwell-Stone knows, no libraries have yet been sued for damages for First Amendment violations. "This has become an attempt to become YouTube famous," says Caldwell-Stone. "They're trying to generate numbers so they can get money from advertisements." In each of these cases, administrators emphasized the importance of staying calm and focused.

"It does look like the auditors are looking for us to make a mistake," says PCPL Community Relations Manager Holly Schaffer. "It puts our staff in a position where they're not focusing on the library mission, because the more time you're spending on worrying about missteps, the less time you're able to spend helping a patron."

Planning ahead

Other libraries, noting the trend, have taken proactive measures to prepare staff for audits.

Stacy Wittmann, director at the Eisenhower Public Library District (EPLD) serving Harwood Heights and Norridge, Illinois, which has not experienced one of these incidents, plans to train front-line staff.

"This is the type of situation where being prepared is key," she says. "We need to arm our staff with the tools to get through something like that."

As of now, EPLD's policy is to allow patrons to film and take photographs in the library, as long as they do not capture what people are viewing or disrupt patrons or staff.

"If we feel that people's privacy is being infringed, we can say that the behavior is inappropriate," Wittmann says. "If they're agitating people, that triggers a behavior policy. No one is allowed to create a hostile work environment here, whether staff or patrons." **AL**

TAYLOR HARTZ is a multimedia storyteller based in Chicago.

travel with ASGCLA
to

**Southern
scotland
&
Northern
england**

May 9-16, 2020
www.asgcladirect.org/travel

ASGCLATRAVEL

ALA American Library Association

**ALA MIDWINTER
MEETING & EXHIBITS**
PHILADELPHIA | JANUARY 24-28, 2020
We're Exhibiting

Booth 944

The OS Q...it's New!

FAST. QUIET. FADGI 4★

Available in A0, A1 & A2

240.215.0224
www.thecrowleycompany.com **CROWLEY**



On the Zine Scene

Libraries partner with festivals for community expression

BY Diana Panuncial

The elderly man had been to Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) often, but never attended any of its programs. That changed the day he came in while the library was hosting the Milwaukee Zine Festival (MZFF), where he encountered a local artist who had brought several typewriters to help attendees create their own zines.

“He was really excited about them,” says Kristina Gomez, MPL events and programming librarian. “I was really happy to see that he participated.”

Though usually small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, zines pack a punch as an empowering form of personal and community expression. Small and self-published, zines are handmade publications filled with original or repurposed content and photocopied for easy, fast distribution. Libraries, which have collected zines for years, are starting to do more than just stack them on the shelves; they’re now partnering with local organizations to throw zine festivals.

“More public libraries are stepping up to host zine events,” says librarian Violet Fox, Dewey Decimal Classification editor at OCLC. She is co-organizer of the Zine Pavilion, an exhibit that regularly showcases zines at the American Library Association’s Annual Conference, as well as the Twin Cities Zine Fest in Minneapolis, which has been hosted by Hennepin (Minn.) County Library for two years. “I think that hosting zine events really drives home the idea that libraries are a place for creation and collaboration,” Fox says.

New voices at the library

Chattanooga Zine Fest (CZF), hosted by Chattanooga (Tenn.) Public Library (CPL), is in its seventh year. Jaclyn Anderson, CPL head librarian, says that having the zine fest in the library is not just a way to welcome zine creators; it’s a way to educate others, too.

She recalls the time Priya Ray—founder of DIYabled, a grassroots group that advocates for inclusive, accessible DIY makerspaces—spoke

at CZF about her own zine, which details her experiences as a wheelchair user with limited mobility.

As Anderson recalls, Ray mentioned that part of her platform is to educate people about what it’s like to have a disability. For Anderson, the lesson was that through zine festivals, “you get to see other people’s stories and points of view.”

Emma Hernández, program manager of the Latino Collection and Resource Center at San Antonio Public Library, points out that her library serves a largely Latinx population (64%, per US Census Bureau estimates from 2018).

Hosting the San Anto Zine Fest (SAZF), which welcomed more than 1,000 attendees in 2018 (its second year), helps the library highlight “the multitudes that exist within the Latinx community,” she says. “Zines are tools to uplift voices who may not be part of the hegemonic Latinx narrative: queer Latinxs, trans Latinxs, Afro Latinxs, Central Americans, undocumented Latinxs, and more. [SAZF gives us] the opportunity

San Antonio Public Library hosted the third annual San Anto Zine Fest in October. In 2018, the fest welcomed more than 1,000 attendees.

to create community with people who are yearning to have their perspectives heard.”

Zine creators and public libraries share a goal, says Gomez: to foster welcoming environments. “It’s really important to be inclusive to everyone,” she says. That’s why MPL has coproduced the annual MZF since 2016, first in partnership with the Queer Zine Archive Project, then with local shared workspace and literary center The Bindery. (Founded in 2008, MZF was held at locations including University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a local bar/bowling alley before moving to the library.)

MPL also values creativity, Gomez says, which makes the zine festival a natural fit. “As a library, we want to make sure we’re supporting artists and what they’re creating, finding opportunities to showcase what they’ve made, and finding opportunities for connections to happen,” she says.

Partnering with allies

Alliances between libraries and zine organizations can spring up from



anywhere. In Chattanooga, CPL’s in-house Zine Library was established in 2014 through a collaboration with the fine art department of University of Tennessee–Chattanooga. That partnership arose from a chance conversation between two university colleagues (a public relations coordinator and an art professor).

“They both had an interest in zines and really wanted to see zines

brought to a larger format here,” says CPL’s Anderson. “They also knew that we had some very prominent zinesters who live here, and the rest is history.”

In Milwaukee, meanwhile, the public library’s downtown location and extensive resources mean broad community engagement for the zine festival it hosts.

“[It] really checked all these boxes for the experiences [MZF] wanted festival attendees to have,” Gomez says.

As for libraries, they reap plenty of benefits from hosting zine festivals, too. “Zine fests can bring in that demographic that we don’t always see at the public library,” such as millennials and those who are starting families, Hernández says.

Anderson adds: “It’s really a celebration of the library and how it supports self-published books, which can be a lost form. They say, ‘Your story is important. You are valid. Your city has a voice. Embrace the community that’s here.’” **AL**

DIANA PANUNCIAL is a writer in Zion, Illinois.

Tips for hosting a zine festival

- 1 Gauge public interest.** Start a zine collection or hold preliminary events before pursuing the idea of an entire festival.
- 2 Be transparent about content.** Zines often address heavy topics such as sexuality and racism. Chattanooga (Tenn.) Public Library Head Librarian Jaclyn Anderson’s recommendation: “Be clear [to parents] and say, ‘There may be content you may not find appropriate for kids.’”
- 3 Have a game plan—and a good floor plan.** “Always think about space, accessibility, and the vibe of the physical area,” says Kristina Gomez, events and programming librarian at Milwaukee Public Library. To that end, she advises attending at least one zine festival before getting involved in your own.
- 4 Ask attendees and vendors for feedback.** Comments from both zine creators and festivalgoers have “helped me think more about implementing library initiatives around equity and inclusion,” says Gomez. ●



Chattanooga Zine Fest



Leah Elzner, a staff member at Mandel Public Library in West Palm Beach, Florida, looks over the latest binge bundles.

Ready to Binge-Watch?

Circulations soar as libraries add binge boxes to collections

BY Timothy Inklebarger

When Mandel Public Library (MPL) in West Palm Beach, Florida, started offering binge boxes—which it calls binge bundles—this year as part of its summer reading program, its DVD circulation more than quadrupled in a single month, jumping from 125 in June to 528 in July, according to MPL Library Supervisor Janet Norton.

Mirroring offerings from Netflix and Hulu, libraries are seeing renewed interest in materials through the creation of binge box collections—sets of movies and television shows on DVD with related themes and titles to help sate patrons' binge-watching needs. "We were just going to do it for [a] summer and put it on display downstairs, but there was such a great response, we've kept it and we're restocking them," Norton says.

Binge boxes are not only attracting patrons, they're giving libraries an opportunity to recirculate duplicate DVDs. "It is great because we were able to use an existing product we had [and] market it in a whole new way," Norton says.

Quincy (Ill.) Public Library (QPL) Director Kathleen Helsabeck says her library embraced binge boxes to make use of surplus DVDs. When patrons donated them to QPL's collection, the library often had a

duplicate copy, but "we didn't want to throw it away," Helsabeck says.

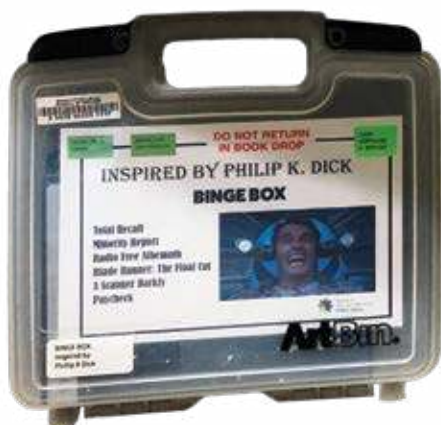
QPL started its collection about a year ago, mainly with children's titles, but its popularity prompted the library to grow the program to about 100 binge boxes and include more offerings for all ages. The program is so popular, the library has since dedicated a small portion of its budget to creating more binge boxes.

"Everybody likes to binge-watch on the internet," she says. "Why don't libraries do it with the collection we already have?"

Bismarck (N.Dak.) Veterans Memorial Public Library (BVMPL) started offering binge boxes about three years ago after Library Director Christine Kujawa saw a Facebook post about another library's collection. In Bismarck, each box comes with four to six movies. The most popular themed boxes include "80s Rewind," "Perpetually Popular Pixar," "It's the End of the World as We Know It," and "Family Movie Night."

BVMPL started with around 30 boxes but later increased the collection to about 80 with funding from the Bismarck Library Foundation. The library promoted the collection with a giveaway of popcorn and candy to the first 30 patrons checking them out. "It was really popular, and the public responded positively to it," Kujawa says. "We started on a Friday, and by Sunday all of the binge boxes were checked out."

Rachel Hoover, adult services librarian at Thomas Ford Memorial Library in Western Springs, Illinois, says the library promoted its collection by holding a contest that



Bismarck (N.Dak.) Veterans Memorial Public Library includes four to six movies in its binge boxes.

Photos: Mandel Public Library in West Palm Beach, Florida; Bismarck (N.Dak.) Veterans Memorial Public Library

allowed patrons to vote online or at the library for the next binge box theme. The winner: A fairy-tale adaptation box titled “Once Upon a Time.”

“It was amazing to get feedback from patrons on what they wanted to see in the collection,” Hoover says. Harry Potter, Star Wars, and the library’s Pixar binge boxes have been among the most popular, she says.

When it comes to managing checkouts, Hoover recommends coordinating with technical services or whoever catalogs material at the library on how to package the materials. Some libraries catalog the entire binge box as one item—which also lets some binging patrons surpass DVD checkout limits. Smaller libraries, however, may not need to catalog the sets to get a collection started. Norton says BVMPL’s program still has its DVDs cataloged as separate items so as not to burden its cataloging staff. Library staffers created a spreadsheet that allows them to flag and locate the DVDs used in binge boxes to determine whether they’re checked out.

Binge boxes are not only attracting patrons, they’re giving libraries an opportunity to recirculate duplicate DVDs.

Unlike other media, binge boxes are quick and easy to create—and in many cases librarians can start a collection with little to no money, according to QPL’s Helsabeck: “If you have donations and duplicates, tape some boxes together and you’ve got yourself a binge box.” **AL**

TIMOTHY INKLEBARGER is a writer living in Chicago.

GLOBAL REACH



The interior of the Vatican Apostolic Archive

Vatican Name Change

VATICAN CITY Pope Francis has given the Vatican Secret Archive an image makeover by changing the name of the venerable collection to something less mysterious. Francis declared that the repository, which contains archives of papal letters and documents going back to the 8th century, will now be called the Vatican Apostolic Archive. The pontiff lamented that the Latin name *Archivium Secretum*, originally meant to convey that the archive was private, had come to connote something more sinister. Scholars have long had access to the archives for pontiffs up to 1939, but Pope Francis has announced he will open up the records for Pope Pius XII (1939–1958) eight years early, in March 2020.

—National Public Radio, Oct. 29.

ISRAEL The National Library of Israel is working with Google to digitize 120,000 books from its extensive collection of Jewish texts and put them online for public use. The collaboration will significantly increase the percentage of Hebrew texts available on Google Books. The library has begun transporting 50,000 books to Google’s digitization center in Germany using climate-controlled shipping containers. Another 20,000 rare or fragile titles will be scanned in-house in Jerusalem. The whole process is expected to take around two years, after which all out-of-copyright Hebrew books will be available online and free to the public. —Washington Post, Nov. 13.

FRANCE The Louvre in Paris has partnered with HTC VIVE Arts to create its first virtual reality experience called “Mona Lisa: Beyond the Glass” (bit.ly/Mona3d). The exhibit allows visitors to use VR headsets that interpret infrared, X-ray, and refractive data to render the iconic portrait in 3D and deduce what Mona Lisa might have looked like in motion. VR artists worked with specialists from the museum to launch the experience in conjunction with the museum’s “Leonardo da Vinci,” the largest exhibition of the master’s works ever assembled. The museum says it aims to democratize access to art experiences. —Designboom, Oct. 28. ●

Rainbow Rowell

Building worlds with Spotify and specificity



You put playlists for each book on Spotify. How would you describe the *Wayward Son* and *Pumpkinheads* playlists? The *Pumpkinheads* playlist is full of good-time jams, one party song after another. And the *Wayward Son* playlist is tense and sad, with a few moments where love and sunlight break through. Music helps me moderate tone when I'm writing, and it works as an emotional bookmark. I listen to the same song over and over for a scene so that when I come back to that scene—and that song—I know where I am emotionally.

BY Alison Marcotte

What role have libraries played in your life? My family was broke. We didn't have a car, and we moved a lot. So public libraries came and went for me—my mom would take me to the library, I'd have a stack of books, and then we might not ever go back. School libraries were really important, especially in grade school. My school librarian let me check out more than one book at a time, which was a very special privilege. I think I may have even gotten to volunteer in the mornings behind the desk.

She could see I was hard up for books and gave me so much access.

The *Carry On* fandom is so passionate and dedicated. What was it like writing *Wayward Son*? There was more pressure! I've never written a book that people were waiting for. I tried not to think about readers' expectations. I tend to be contrary, and I didn't want to start purposely driving the story away from their expectations to feel like I was still in control. But mostly people were just excited that I was writing another one, and I was excited that I was writing another one.

Your characters are relatable, realistic, and multidimensional. Can you speak about the importance of diverse representation? I think about representation in the framework of honesty and authenticity. Our world is diverse. We are different colors and different sizes and different religions. We come from different places. Each of us is so *specific*, that's the thing. If you want your books to feel real and honest, of course they will be diverse. And if you want your characters to feel alive, you hope you can make them feel specific—so they read like themselves and not just like representatives of a larger category.

You've mentioned how in Nebraska, pumpkin patches aren't just fields—they're more like theme parks.

October is Nebraska's finest hour. Our winters are cold and dreary, and our summers are increasingly unbearable. But October is just

MORE ONLINE

For the extended interview, visit bit.ly/al-Rowell.

lovely. And we don't take it for granted. People hang out at the pumpkin patch here.

We buy annual passes. We have pumpkin patch *culture*. That's what I was trying to put into the book. Faith Erin Hicks—my *Pumpkinheads* collaborator—was such a good sport. She flew to Nebraska, and we spent an ideal day at the pumpkin patch. For research.

What are you working on now? I'm still writing the *Runaways* monthly comic for Marvel. I really love that job and hope the book keeps going for a while. And I'm writing the third book in the Simon Snow trilogy—*Any Way the Wind Blows*. Simon, Baz, and Penny are headed back to England to figure out where they fit in the post-Mage World of Mages. I never ever thought I'd want to write a trilogy, but I'm still so caught up in these characters. **AL**





“Although the five African-American residents were charged with disorderly conduct, the court has now found that they were ‘lawfully exercising their constitutional rights to free assembly, speech, and to petition the government to alter the established policy of sanctioned segregation at the time of their arrest,’ and that ‘sitting peacefully in a library reading books ... was not in any fashion disorderly or likely to cause acts of violence.’”

ALEXANDRIA [VA.] LIVING MAGAZINE STAFF, “City Dismisses Charges Against 1939 Library Sit-In Participants,” October 20.

“I WOULDN’T BE ALIVE TODAY IF IT WASN’T FOR THE LESSONS I LEARNED IN THIS PLACE. IT GAVE ME A SENSE THAT THERE WAS A WORLD BEYOND THE LIMITS OF WHERE I LIVED HERE IN BROOKLYN.”

PETE HAMILL, on the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library, in “Pete Hamill on Jimmy Breslin and the Heralded World of Beat Reporters,” *CBS News Sunday Morning*, October 6.

“By choice or by necessity, many marginalized communities have established their own independent, itinerant, *fugitive* libraries, which respond to conditions of exclusion and oppression. Understanding the politics and practices of these fugitive libraries, and the conditions that have led to their emergence, would improve the discussions about ‘libraries of the future’ that are happening in the halls of power and privilege.”

SHANNON MATTERN, “Fugitive Libraries,” *Places Journal*, October 2019.

“I started reading fantasy and science fiction and writing fantasy and science fiction when I started junior high school. And that was when my mom remarried. We moved to a completely different neighborhood. I started a new school, and I could not have felt more alone. I walked into the library at my school, and some wonderful librarian had put out a table of speculative fiction that said, ‘Discover new worlds.’ And God, I wanted to.”

LEIGH BARDUGO, “Leigh Bardugo on *Ninth House*,” *NPR, Weekend Edition Sunday*, October 6.

“Survey data and experts suggest that students generally appreciate libraries most for their simple, traditional offerings: a quiet place to study or collaborate on a group project, the ability to print research papers, and access to books. Notably, many students say they like relying on librarians to help them track down hard-to-find texts or navigate scholarly journal databases.”

ALIA WONG, “College Students Just Want Normal Libraries,” *The Atlantic*, October 4.

2019

YEAR IN REVIEW

A LOOK BACK AT THE STORIES
THAT AFFECTED LIBRARIES



**MACMILLAN
EBOOK POLICY
DRAWS FIRE**

Macmillan Publishers announced a policy preventing libraries from purchasing more than one copy of a new ebook title for the first eight weeks after a book's release. In protest, American Library Association (ALA) launched the #eBooksForAll petition, which by November 27 had garnered more than 216,000 signatures. Said ALA President Wanda Kay Brown: "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."

SONIA SOTOMAYOR APPEARS AT ANNUAL

The US Supreme Court associate justice and author spoke about her love for libraries, the transition from private to public life, and her new children's book, *Just Ask!* (published in Spanish as *iSolo pregunta!*), at the 2019 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C.



Photo: Cognates; all illustrations: © Adobe Stock

NET NEUTRALITY SETBACKS

Net neutrality suffered two major blows: The Save the Internet Act of 2019 passed the House but has stalled in the Senate, and the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *Mozilla v. FCC* that the Federal Communications Commission can repeal Obama-era net neutrality rules.

75 YEARS FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

In October, the Public Library Association (PLA) celebrated three-quarters of a century by raising \$7,500 to sponsor 15 scholarships for public library staffers and library school students to attend the PLA 2020 Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, February 25–29, as well as by collecting member stories of PLA's impact at 75years.pla.org.



Photos: ALA Archives (march); © freshidea/Adobe Stock (Capitol)



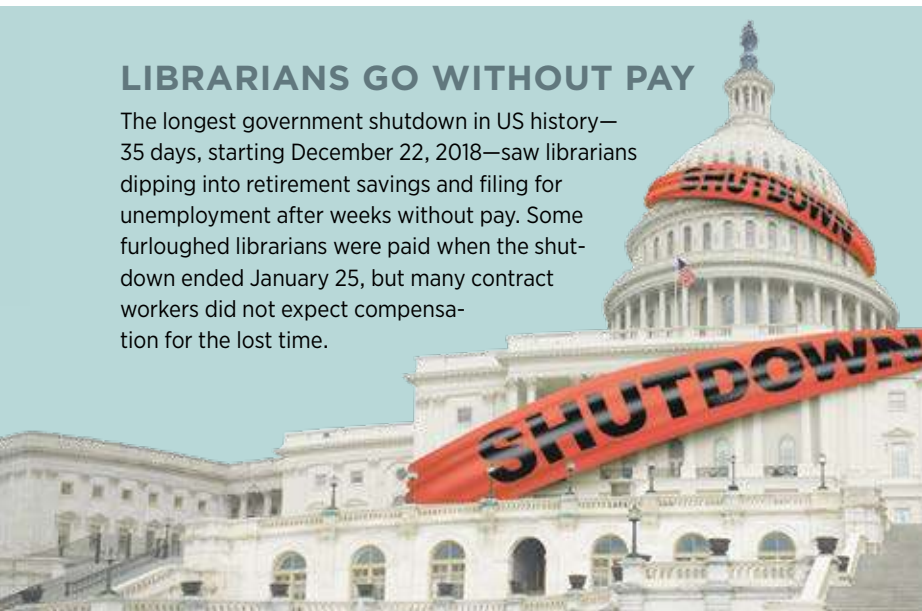
Librarians march against apartheid during ALA's 1985 Midwinter Meeting.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE TURNS 50

Since its founding in 1969, ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) has promoted progressive values in the library profession. SRRT celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019. Kenny A. Garcia, member-at-large of SRRT's Action Council, praises SRRT for its "commitment to ensuring that our libraries, our society, our profession, continue to think about and act on social justice issues."

LIBRARIANS GO WITHOUT PAY

The longest government shutdown in US history—35 days, starting December 22, 2018—saw librarians dipping into retirement savings and filing for unemployment after weeks without pay. Some furloughed librarians were paid when the shutdown ended January 25, but many contract workers did not expect compensation for the lost time.



CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY GOES FINE-FREE

On October 1, Chicago Public Library became the largest library system in the US to stop collecting overdue fines. The new policy is expected to remove barriers to basic library access, especially for youth and low-income patrons.





Actor and author Ossie Davis accepts the 1979 award for *Escape to Freedom*.

HALF A CENTURY OF THE CSK BOOK AWARDS

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards observed their 50th anniversary at the 2019 Annual Conference with commemorations featuring past winners and honorees. Since their founding in 1969, CSK Awards have been bestowed on illustrious children's book creators such as Walter Dean Myers, Christopher Paul Curtis, Mildred D. Taylor, and Virginia Hamilton, among many others.



"DEAR APPROPRIATOR" LETTERS CAMPAIGN

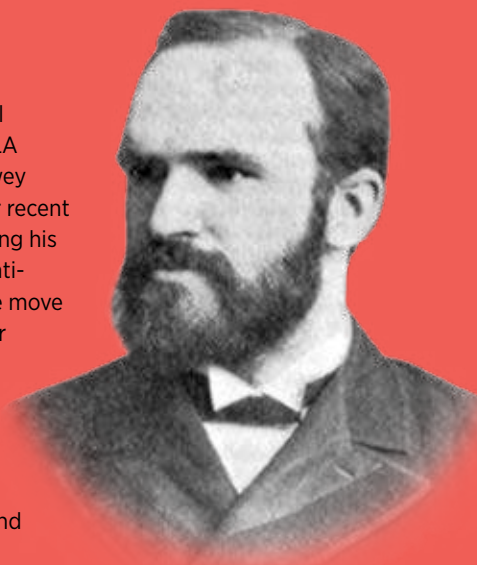
ALA's annual campaign to secure funding for the federal Library Services and Technology Act and Innovative Approaches to Literacy program was a success, with outreach to more than 100 newly elected members of Congress and an increase in signatures and bipartisan support in the House.

SUPREME COURT REJECTS CENSUS CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

In June, the US Supreme Court ruled 5–4 to block the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. ALA and other groups had argued the question would suppress responses and reduce data quality. On July 11, the White House abandoned efforts to include the question.

DEWEY MEDAL NAME TO CHANGE

ALA Council voted at the 2019 Annual Conference to remove the name of ALA cofounder Melvil Dewey from the Dewey Medal (which recognizes librarians for recent creative leadership of high order), citing his well documented history of racism, anti-Semitism, and sexual harassment. The move follows a year after the Association for Library Service to Children's 2018 decision to change the name of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award to the Children's Literature Legacy Award, pointing to Wilder's "dated cultural attitudes toward indigenous people and people of color."



Photos: ALA Archives (CSK); Wikipedia (Dewey)

NO RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN (OUTSIDE EUROPE)

The European Court of Justice ruled in September that sensitive personal data must be removed on demand from Google search results in Europe, but not outside the continent.



LIBRARIAN WINS BIG ON JEOPARDY!

Emma Boettcher, user experience resident librarian at University of Chicago, was nicknamed the “Giant Killer” by *Jeopardy!* host Alex Trebek after she ended longtime champ James Holzhauer’s 32-game winning streak during a game broadcast in June. Two more wins earned her \$97,002.



New York Public Library commemorated Stonewall’s legacy with historic photos such as this 1973 image from noted photojournalist Diana Davies.

A PROUD ANNIVERSARY

June marked the 50th anniversary of the police raids and riots at New York City’s Stonewall Inn, a momentous turning point for LGBT activism. Libraries across the country celebrated with exhibits and events; New York Public Library alone planned more than 50 public programs around the anniversary.

BIG CHANGES AT ALA

The Association embraced many changes in 2019, including the potential sale of its headquarters buildings, the formation and recommendations of the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness, the proposed restructuring of the Mid-winter Meeting & Exhibits, and the addition of sustainability as a core value.

FOR SALE
UNDER CONTRACT

Referenda

ROUNDUP ☒

How states performed on library measures in 2019

BY Anne Ford

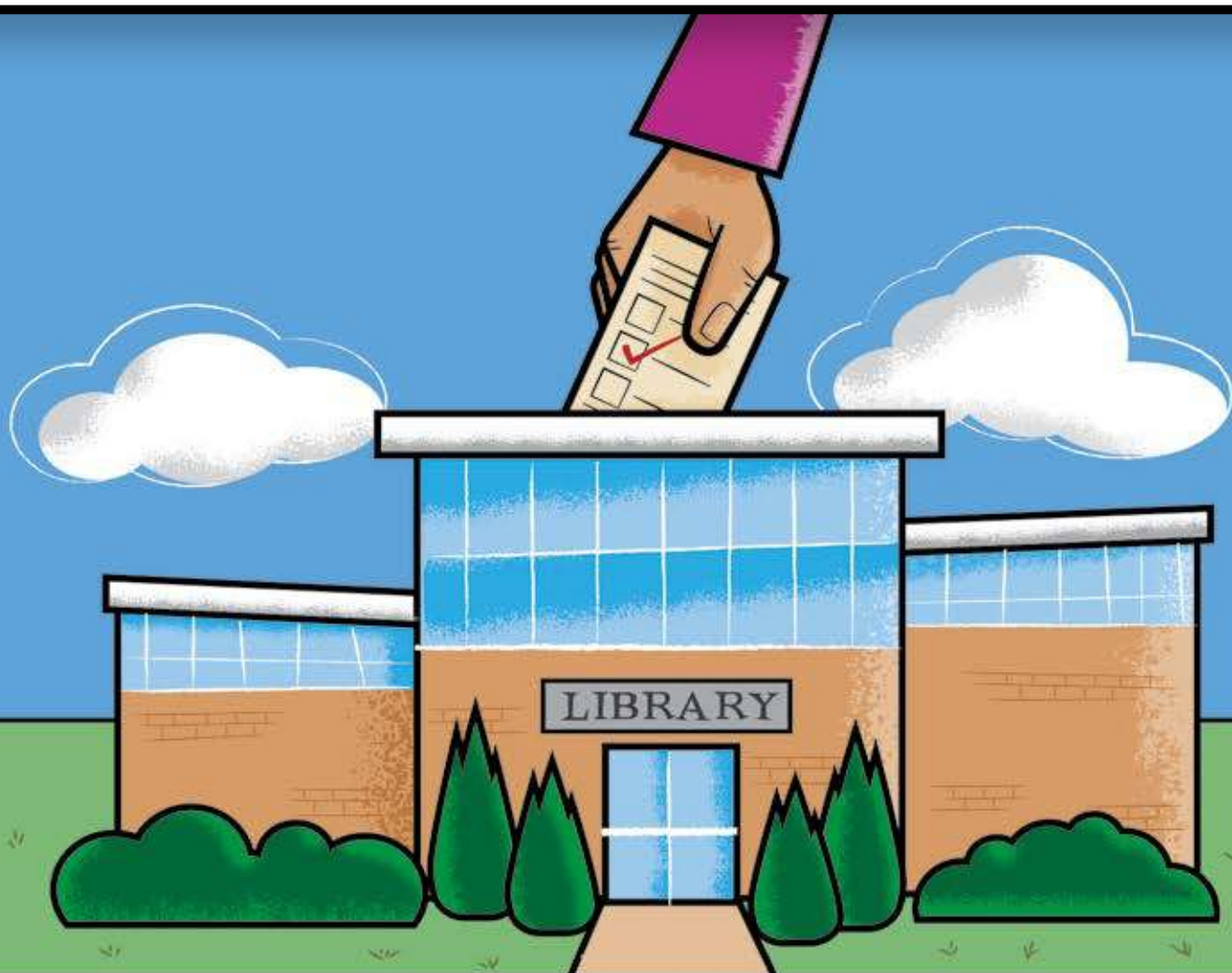


Illustration: Tom Deja

In the 2019 election year, *American Libraries*, in partnership with the Public Library Association, tracked more than 100 library referenda across 24 states (for an extended online version, see bit.ly/2019Referenda). While this year's referenda crop appears less bountiful than last (in 2018, we featured 146 across 33 states), the success rate is higher: Nearly 90% of this year's votes ended in the library's favor (as compared with last year's rate of nearly 80%).

In terms of the number of referenda approved, Ohio and New York were the front-runners; each boasted more than 20 victories. Colorado, too, had a big year, with at least eight measures passed.

ALABAMA

❑ In **Leeds**, voters rejected a proposed property tax increase of 9 mills by 1,506 to 971 in January. The funds generated would have gone toward the construction of a new library as well as a new high school athletics complex and other projects.

ARIZONA

❑ In **Phoenix**, Proposition 106—which would have capped budgets for some city programs if pensions weren't funded—failed in August. Opponents of the proposition argued that it would have resulted in decreased funding for libraries and other city services.

CALIFORNIA

✔ **Long Beach** residents approved Long Beach Public Library's \$3.6 million budget in May.

❑ The **Los Angeles** Unified School District in June saw the defeat of a parcel tax that would have raised \$500 million annually for 12 years. If approved, the tax would have supported counseling, nursing, library services, and other offerings. The measure needed a two-thirds majority to pass but received only 46% of the vote.

COLORADO

✔ A proposal to increase property taxes from 2.5 mills to 4 mills in **Bayfield's** Pine River Library District passed; unofficial results showed 59% in favor, 41% opposed.

❑ In **Brighton**, a ballot issue that would have increased a mill levy for residents of the Anythink/Rangeview Library District failed by about 3,700 votes. If passed, the increase would have represented a cost of \$1.32 every month for each \$100,000 of a home's assessed value.

✔ Taxpayers voted to legalize recreational cannabis and to levy a 4% variable tax on its sales to support the Moffat County Library in **Craig** (as well as the town's Museum of Northwest Colorado) for five years.

❑ In **Delta County**, a measure that would have generated funds for the public library district in a 2.7-mill levy increase failed with about 56% of voters in opposition.

✔ **Eagle County** voters approved an operating levy adjustment to maintain the amount of revenue generated by the Eagle Valley Library District's existing 2.75-mill levy, which was approved in 1993. Voters were 64% in favor, 36% opposed.

✔ **Garfield County** Public Library District will receive approximately \$4 million in annual revenue, thanks to the passage of a 1.5-mill levy. The money will be used to restore services and operating hours to the six-branch system. Preliminary results showed the levy passing by a narrow margin: 51.5% in favor, 48.5% opposed.

✔ A proposal to increase property taxes by 1.9 mills on behalf of the **Gunnison County** Library District passed by a vote of 3,304 to 2,552.

✔ Southwest **La Plata County** will have a new library district, thanks to an approved tax increase of 1.5 mills to fund operations and services, with 52.1% of voters in favor and 47.9% in opposition.

❑ **Loveland** voters rejected a proposed three-tenths of a cent sales tax that would have raised funds for several projects, including a new \$18.6 million branch library. Preliminary results showed 53.1% of voters in opposition.

✔ In **Manitou Springs**, voters approved by three votes the proposed Manitou Arts, Culture, and Heritage 0.3% sales tax, which will generate about \$400,000 annually for projects that include the expansion and remodeling of the Pikes Peak Library District's historic Carnegie Library.

✔ **Pueblo City-County** Library District saw the renewal of its 20-year-old mill levy and will supply \$1.1 million annually for library programs, materials, and equipment. Early ballot counts saw the renewal passing by a vote of 21,278 in favor to 14,932 opposed.

✔ In **Telluride**, Wilkinson County Public Library's proposal for a 0.75-mill increase in property taxes passed by 73%, according to unofficial results.

CONNECTICUT

✔ In **Cromwell**, voters in May approved by 234 to 77 a general

government budget of nearly \$17 million, which includes funds to support Cromwell Belden Public Library.

✓ By 1,387 to 691, **Madison** voters approved in May a \$150,000 addition to the operating budget of the E. C. Scranton Memorial Library in anticipation of a new building opening in 2020.

✓ **Stafford** Public Library will receive about \$571,000, thanks to an approved town budget of \$41.3 million. The budget was approved in May by a vote of 538 to 396.

GEORGIA

✓ A 1% special-purpose, local-option sales tax was approved in **Athens-Clarke County** with 78.4% of the vote. The tax will fund 37 construction and infrastructure projects, including a new public library building on the county's east side.

IDAHO

□ With a vote of 35,545 to 15,878, **Boise** voters approved a proposition to require a citywide election on any library project of \$25 million or more. The measure was in response to plans by Mayor David Bieter and the city council to build a new main library designed by architect Moshe Safdie at a cost of more than \$100 million. In the works for several years, the fate of the new library is now uncertain.

✓ Thanks to the voters who favored a plant facilities levy in May by 3,354 to 1,640, **Meridian's** library system will see significant renovations, expansions, and additions. The levy will cost \$1.4 million annually for a period of 10 years. It is the first Meridian Library District funding measure to be passed since 1995.

ILLINOIS

□ By a narrow vote of 3,853 to 3,690, **Barrington** Area Unit District 220's referendum—which would have raised property taxes to pay for \$185 million in building projects, including the renovation of Barrington High School's library—failed in April.

✓ **Huntley** Area Public Library will renovate and expand its facility, thanks to a \$12.9 million bond issuance that was approved by a 2-to-1 margin in April.

✓ **Palatine** Public Library District's request to increase the annual property tax levy by 29%—from 27 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to 35 cents—was approved in April by a vote of 4,434 to 2,429. Over six years, \$5.8 million will go to fix the library's roof; install energy-efficient lighting; and upgrade the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system.

□ In April, **River Grove** voters rejected—with 1,043 against and 471 in favor—a plan to issue \$9 million in bonds for the purchase and renovation of a new library building.

✓ In **Rockton**, Talcott Free Library will be able to carry out renovations and expansions after voters approved (by 895 to 398) in April a referendum to increase residents' tax rate from 0.21 to 0.28 mills.

IOWA

✓ Voters in **Butler, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Jasper, Marshall, Poweshiek**, and **Tama counties** have approved a \$32 million general obligation bond referendum for the Iowa Valley Community College District. The funds will support several projects including improvements to Marshalltown Community College's library. Voters were 62.4% in favor, 37.6% against.

✓ A one-cent sales tax increase in **Des Moines** (and five neighboring cities) expected to generate \$48.4 million annually was approved by voters in March. Part of the funds will be used to expand Des Moines Public Library hours.

✓ In **Oxford**, voters authorized the indefinite levying of 27 cents per \$1,000 valuation for the purpose of increasing the annual operating budget of Oxford Public Library. Sixty-eight percent voted in favor.

LOUISIANA

✓ Lafayette City-Parish Council voted 7 to 1 in June to approve the use of \$12 million in library reserve funds to build a new regional library and to expand an existing facility in **Carencro**.

□ Voters approved on October 12 a resolution to rededicate \$10 million of **Lafayette Parish** Public Library's surplus fund to roads and drainage. The measure passed with a vote of 59%. Library Director Teresa Elbertson said she was disappointed but not surprised that the resolution passed but added that library patrons would not be immediately affected.

MAINE

✓ In **Kittery**, Rice Public Library will receive a \$5 million renovation and expansion, thanks to voters who approved a bond referendum 1,719 to 582.

✓ **Paris** residents voted in June to add \$4,500 to the budget of the Paris Public and Hamlin Memorial Libraries.

✓ Voters in **Skowhegan** approved a \$12 million budget in June that included \$120,294 for Skowhegan Free Public Library.

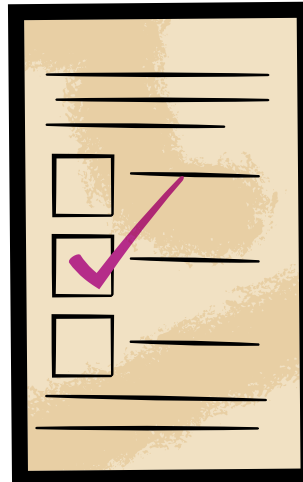
MASSACHUSETTS

- ✓ **Greenfield** will receive a new \$19.5 million public library, thanks to a vote of 3,294 to 2,108 that upheld a previous city council decision.
- ✓ In May in **Littleton**, 538 voted for and 117 against a plan to borrow funds to renovate Reuben Hoar Library. Estimated costs for the project are \$13.1 million.
- ✓ **Sandwich** taxpayers voted October 28 to approve a bond of \$3.5 million for the interior renovation of Sandwich Public Library.
- ✓ A measure that would borrow \$10.5 million for a new **Sharon** Public Library building passed in May, with 541 voters in favor and 118 against.

MICHIGAN

- ✓ In **Flint**, a \$12.6 million bond will fund a complete renovation of Flint Public Library, thanks to a vote that found 68% in favor. In addition, the library's 2-mill operating budget has been renewed, with 75% of voters in favor.
- ✓ In **Madison Heights**, a proposal to amend the city charter to increase its general operating millage passed with 51% of the vote. The amendment changes the maximum authorized levy on property from 10 mills to 16 mills and allows increased spending on several city services, including the public library.
- A proposed 15-year, 1.25-mill levy to fund building renovations for a community center that abuts **Memphis** Public Library and that hosts many of its programs failed by 84 to 72.
- ✓ **Pleasant Ridge** voters approved, by a 91% margin, the renewal of a 0.5-mill, five-year levy for library services. It is expected to raise about \$80,106 in 2020.

- ✓ Voters in **Portage** have approved a proposed tax rate increase of 0.5 mill for 10 years to support Portage District Library. The first such increase in 27 years, the proposal passed with 59% of voters in favor.
- ✓ With a vote of 269 to 78, **Wakefield** renewed a five-year, 1-mill levy that will provide funds for Wakefield Public Library.



public library funding, with 1,058 in favor and 184 against.

- ✓ In **Chester**, a proposition to increase the town's annual contribution to the public library from \$633,992 to \$671,971 passed with a vote of 1,457 to 1,022.
- ✓ **Fair Haven** voters approved an increase of \$15,000 to \$45,000 for Fair Haven Public Library with 291 in favor and 115 against.

MISSOURI

- ✓ **De Soto** Public Library will benefit from a 16-cent property tax increase approved by 62.3% of the voters in April—its first in 28 years.

NEW JERSEY

- ✓ **Mahwah** voters approved the increase of the tax rate that supports the Free Public Library from 3.33 cents to 3.75 cents per \$100 of assessed equalized value of real property. The ballot question was passed with 73% of the vote.

NEW MEXICO

- ✓ **Albuquerque** taxpayers authorized, with 72% of the vote, \$8.8 million in general obligation bonds for constructing, renovating, and modernizing public libraries.

NEW YORK

- ✓ **Auburn** voters approved a tax levy for Seymour Library of \$830,000, an increase of about \$18,000. It passed by a vote of 103 to 9.
- ✓ In **Ballston Spa**, voters approved in May the collection of \$57,750 for

- ✓ In **Garden City**, voters in May approved the use of \$1.8 million in capital reserve funds to reconfigure the high school library.

✓ **Garrison** residents voted 264 to 162 in May to increase annual funding for Desmond-Fish Public Library by 300%, from \$75,000 to \$300,000. This represents an annual tax increase from 17 cents per \$1,000 of assessed home value to 64 cents per \$1,000 of assessed home value.

- ✓ The **Great Neck** Library's proposed \$9.6 million budget was approved in May, with 1,199 voters in favor and 323 against.

✓ **Guilderland** will see \$8.4 million in improvements and expansions to its public library, thanks to a vote of 2,612 to 1,502 in May. Among those improvements will be an expansion of the children's section.

✓ **Lindenhurst** voters approved in October, by a vote of 474 to 399, a 15-year, \$9.4 million bond to renovate and expand the public library. It is the library's first bond since its construction in 1969.

- ✓ In **Lockport** in May, Barker Public Library's request for a \$1,500 tax levy increase to \$76,500 was approved by a vote of 112 in favor, 39 against.

✔ With a vote of 245 in favor and 81 against, **Montauk** agreed in May to authorize its library to issue bonds for \$7.5 million for renovation and expansion.

✔ In May, **Newburgh** residents voted to levy \$5.2 million in taxes for Newburgh Free Library. The measure passed 1,802 to 662.

❑ **Ogdensburg** voters rejected in May, by a vote of 340 to 226, a proposed levy that would have benefited Ogdensburg Public Library. The library had requested a tax increase of \$75,000.

✔ Funding to Field Library in **Peekskill** will increase by \$75,000.

✔ **Phoenicia** Library will receive its first tax levy increase in three years, thanks to a vote of 635 to 402 that approved a \$10,000 hike to \$172,000.

✔ In **Victor**, voters approved in June, with a vote of 228 in favor, 47 against, a 1.5-cent tax increase per \$1,000 in assessed property value to benefit Victor Farmington Library.

OHIO

✔ **Ada** voters approved a five-year, 1-mill levy for Ada Public Library, passing it with 62.7% of the vote.

✔ **Ashtabula County** voters approved by two votes a 0.25-mill continuous levy that will help fund technology and improvements for Ashtabula County District Library. The vote found 4,436 in favor, 4,434 in opposition. In the same county, a vote to renew a five-year, 1.5-mill levy for current expenses of Rock Creek Public Library passed with a vote of 467 to 157.

✔ **Bellevue** Public Library had its 1-mill tax levy renewed by a large margin in four different counties.

OHIO

Statewide, 29 of 30 library levies passed, including two new levies. The average approval rating was 66%, according to the Ohio Library Council. A year ago, voters approved 35 library levies statewide.

The levy was approved 666 to 244 in Sandusky County. It was approved by similar margins in the other counties—Erie, Huron, and Seneca.

✔ **Canton** saw the approval of a 2-mill, eight-year property tax levy in May that will generate an additional \$3.2 million annually for Stark County District Library, allowing it to provide extra services and materials, as well as maintain and upgrade buildings.

✔ **Champaign County** and **Madison County** saw a levy for Mechanicsburg Public Library approved, with 65% of voters in favor. The money generated by the levy represents about a quarter of the library's operating funds.

✔ In **Delaware County**, a five-year, 1-mill renewal levy to generate about \$820,000 annually for the Community Library of Sunbury was approved with 70% of the vote.

✔ Harris-Elmore Library in **Elmore** saw the renewal of a five-year, 1.1-mill

levy for current expenses passed by a vote of 2,116 to 802.

✔ The Forest-Jackson Public Library in **Forest** will benefit from a 0.7-mill, five-year levy for operating expenses, which was passed 891 to 298.

✔ In **Granville**, voters have approved a five-year renewal of the public library's existing 1-mill levy. About 80% of voters favored the renewal.

✔ In **Lake County**, a 1-mill levy to benefit Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library was renewed with a 1-mill increase, thanks to a vote of 65% in favor. The increase will yield an additional \$1.5 million per year for seven years.

✔ **London** Public Library's renewal levy passed with 76% of the vote; the \$480,000 a year it is expected to generate represents 45% of the library's budget. The levy will cost residents about \$41 a year per \$100,000 of property value.

✔ In May, voters approved the renewal of a five-year, 1.91-mill levy for the North Ridgeville branch of **Lorain** Public Library. The vote saw 2,938 in favor, 976 opposing.

✔ **Oberlin** Public Library will benefit from a five-year, 1.5-mill levy, thanks to a May vote of 1,074 to 401.

✔ Voters moved to increase by 0.6 mills **Orrville** Public Library's eight-year, 0.75-mill levy. The levy passed 1,050 to 388.

✔ In **Portsmouth**, a 1-mill renewal levy for the public library system passed 6,922 to 3,194.

✔ A tax levy of 1.75 mills was renewed in **Richland County** to support

Marvin Memorial Library, thanks to a vote of 1,806 in favor, 576 against.

❑ Just over half (51%) of **Stark County** voters failed to approve a 1-mill renewal to benefit Louisville Public Library, 2,774 to 2,671.

✔ The Public Library of **Steubenville and Jefferson County** has seen the renewal of a five-year, 1-mill levy via a vote of 9,727 to 4,028. The levy is expected to generate about \$1.4 million a year (about a third of the library's budget).

✔ **Tuscarawas County** voters have renewed a 1-mill levy for Gnadenhutten Public Library, with 71% in favor.

✔ In **Warren**, Warren-Trumbull County Public Library will receive \$985,172 annually for materials, technology, and infrastructure updates, and expanded space for children and teen programming and community meetings, thanks to the passage of the library's 0.4-mill continuing tax levy. The levy passed by a vote of 59% to 41%, per unofficial results.

✔ In **West Jefferson**, Hurt-Battelle Memorial Library will benefit from a levy that will cost residents about \$38 annually per \$100,000 of assessed property value and generate about 44% of the library's budget revenue. The levy passed with 72% of the vote.

✔ In **West Milton**, voters renewed a 0.7-mill levy that provides nearly a third of Milton-Union Public Library's annual budget. The levy passed with 75% of the vote.

✔ In **Williams County**, a five-year, 1-mill levy for the public library passed with 77% of the vote.

✔ A five-year, 2.4-mill renewal levy to benefit Public Library of **Youngstown and Mahoning County** has passed with 66% of the vote. The levy provides more than half of the library's budget.

OREGON

✔ **Lincoln County** voters passed the renewal of a five-year, \$1.98 million levy that will allow unincorporated residents to retain their access to libraries in nearby Lincoln City, Newport, and Toledo without paying additional fees.

✔ **Union Gap** taxpayers voted 236 to 139 to annex a new library into the Yakima County Library District. Doing so will increase property taxes by about 43 cents per \$1,000 property value.

PENNSYLVANIA

✔ Voters overwhelmingly approved in May a 0.55-mill tax for upkeep and programming at the Union Library of **Hatboro**. The initiative passed by a vote of 724 in favor, 287 against.

✔ **Lower Macungie** Library will benefit from a 0.25-mill property tax that was passed with 54% of the vote. The tax, which is expected to raise \$600,000 for the library, represents a 13% increase in the library's annual funding.

SOUTH CAROLINA

✔ **Dorchester County** voters approved a property tax referendum that will provide \$30 million in library funding. Preliminary results found 11,289 in favor, 6,122 opposed.

VERMONT

✔ In **Charlotte**, voters in March approved 629 to 236 the issuance of up to \$700,000 in bonds to build an addition to the public library. For taxpayers, that represents an annual increase of \$5 per \$100,000 of property for 20 years.

WASHINGTON

✔ In **Lopez Island**, a proposition to increase the Lopez Island Library

District levy from 39 cents to 48 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value was approved with 68.7% of the vote.

✔ **Pend Oreille County** Library District saw the restoration of the property tax levy that funds its operations and maintenance, from 37 cents to 50 cents per \$1,000 assessed value. The levy was restored via a vote of 2,293 in favor, 1,286 against.

✔ **Seattle** Public Library will receive \$219 million over seven years thanks to a levy renewal in August that saw 73% of voters in favor. The funds will support the library's operations, e-materials, early learning programs, and seismic upgrades, as well as expand its operating hours; the vote also eliminated fines for overdue materials.

✔ A property tax levy that funds **Spokane County** Library District's operations was restored in August to 50 cents per \$1,000 assessed value (up from 43 cents per \$1,000 assessed value). Approximately 53% of residents voted in favor.

WISCONSIN

✔ Jack Young Middle School in **Baraboo** will receive \$42 million in renovations—including updates to the school library—thanks to an April vote that saw 2,322 in favor and 2,100 against.

❑ **Kaukauna** voters have rejected a \$32.9 million referendum that would have funded school renovations including library upgrades. The referendum failed with 3,007 votes against and 2,690 in favor. AL



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

LIBRARY CHAMPIONS MAKE IT POSSIBLE...



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

LEAD SPONSOR

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

Rakuten
OverDrive[®]

overdrive.com

SUSTAINERS

\$25,000 AND ABOVE



capitalone.com



dollargeneral.com

INVESTORS

\$10,000 AND ABOVE



finra.org



norarobertsfoundation.org



sagepub.com

PATRON

\$7,500 AND ABOVE



btsb.com

LIBRARIES TRANSFORM[®]

BECAUSE CHAMPIONS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Library Champions make the Libraries Transform campaign possible. This campaign educates and advocates to raise awareness of the value of libraries in the 21st century. In 2019, Libraries Transform grew to more than 15,000 participants, all committed to fostering public support for libraries and the ways they benefit their communities. Library Champions ensure that libraries across the country continue to thrive and grow.

MEMBERS

\$5,000


 <p>baker-taylor.com</p>	 <p>brodart.com</p>	 <p>candlewick.com</p>	 <p>demco.com</p>
 <p>ebsco.com</p>	 <p>elsevier.com</p>	 <p>gale.com</p>	 <p>ingramcontent.com/libraries</p>
 <p>midwesttape.com</p>	 <p>morningstar.com/goto/mirc</p>	 <p>oclc.org</p>	 <p>proquest.com</p>
 <p>ReferenceUSA.com</p>	 <p>scholastic.com/librarypublishing</p>	 <p>sirsidynix.com</p>	 <p>sistersincrime.org</p>
 <p>springernature.com</p>	 <p>tandf.co.uk/libsite</p>		



UNCOVER THE PAST

With digitization, libraries
bring treasures to light

by Lauren Emily Whalen



A young Congolese immigrant waves excitedly at the camera before playing the piano at her elementary school Christmas concert. A Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer steps outside a church with his new bride. A Khmer-Krom baby sleeps swaddled in his carrier, oblivious to his own one-month birthday celebration.

Caught on old home movies, each image offers an intriguing glimpse of a specific community. But if those movies stay trapped on dusty VHS tapes or forgotten reels of 8-millimeter film, their stories—and those of the populations they belong to—stay hidden.

That's why some libraries in the United States and Canada are



ING



offering patrons the opportunity to digitize, and sometimes publicly archive, personal history items such as photographs, VHS tapes, and other ephemera. Whether they're turned into MP3s, MP4s, or some other file type entirely, precious relics of the past are coming into their full glory. Along the way, they're adding to the historical record stories that have too often been overlooked or dismissed.

"I feel it's empowering, because in the past there were only select people who were involved in what is represented and preserved as part of history," says Suzanne Im, an archivist and metadata librarian who works in digitization and special collections at Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL). "And in the past, that has not been very diverse."

SEEKING COMMUNITY STORIES

Thanks to an Institute for Museum and Library Services grant, LAPL's DIY Memory Lab allows patrons to convert the contents of legacy media such as slides, reel-to-reel audio tape, and floppy disks into digital files to take home. But not everyone in the community, of course, is aware of this opportunity or even has a library card.

That's why LAPL offers the Mobile Memory Lab, a pop-up program that brings digitization equipment

to the community "as a way to democratize cultural heritage," Im says. On "scanning days," community members are invited to bring photographs, letters, and other keepsakes to be digitized and archived in LAPL's digital collections portal, Tessa, as well as the Digital Public Library of America (a free, large-scale digital library that aggregates metadata and thumbnail images from libraries, archives, and museums throughout the country).

"We will add anything that's related to a person or family's experience living in Los Angeles," says Im. Participants also receive their digitized items on a flash drive to keep.

Funded by a mini-grant from the Los Angeles Library Foundation, the Mobile Memory Lab travels to LAPL branches and does not require participants to have a



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

MOBILE MEMORY LAB METADATA COLLECTION

This form is intended to tell us about your item. Please fill it out to the best of your ability. Many specific details are possible.

ID Number (Full name)

Item Medium (photo, pamphlet, certificate, journal, etc.)

Names(s) Associated with Item (e.g. people or organizations appearing in photo)

Item Creator (e.g. photographer, illustrator, organization, company)

Item Location (e.g. address, cross streets, neighborhood, etc. (be as specific as possible))

Date Item Was Created

Measurements (height x width) (example: 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches)

Relationship to Item

Notes (such as)

Location of events related to the item

Relationship between creator and event associated with item

Relationship between creator and event associated with item

Above, a Congolese immigrant waves to the camera in a screenshot from a home movie archived by Home Made Visible. Right, metadata is collected for a photo submitted to Los Angeles Public Library's Mobile Memory Lab.



library card. “We try to target specific demographics,” Im says. For example, “the Jefferson Park branch library held its [scanning day during] African-American Heritage Month, while Echo Park had more Latinx people attending.” The Mobile Memory Lab also has an oral history component, with staffers interviewing up to four members of the specific community who have interesting stories or are active politically. Those oral histories are also given to participants and archived.

Im sees the DIY Memory Lab as a response to a national need for information on preserving the past, as well as public access to the necessary tools. “The average person is not necessarily knowledgeable about how to care for ... heirlooms of varying formats,” she says. “Personal items like photographs, letters, and diaries are not only important to future generations but might also become national treasures.”

As for the Mobile Memory Lab pop-up program, Im says, the goal is to “democratize the archive” and illuminate the history of Los Angeles’ diverse populations. “What makes this program powerful is that Angelenos of every stripe can help determine what should be preserved and made accessible as part of our city’s cultural heritage.”

BUILDING TRUST

For many people, particularly those from underrepresented communities, the idea of putting invaluable family keepsakes into someone else’s hands can be disconcerting. York University Libraries (YUL) in Toronto knows this well.

Between 2017 and 2019, YUL, by offering free home-movie digitization, helped preserve the memories of Canada’s indigenous and visible minority families. (“Visible minority” is a common Canadian term for “persons, other than aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or nonwhite in color,” per government definition.)

Through Home Made Visible, a partnership with Regent Park Film Festival

Stills from a home movie of the wedding of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer archived on Home Made Visible.

“PERSONAL ITEMS LIKE PHOTOGRAPHS, LETTERS, AND DIARIES ARE NOT ONLY IMPORTANT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS BUT MIGHT ALSO BECOME NATIONAL TREASURES.”

SUZANNE IM, archivist and metadata librarian at Los Angeles Public Library

became less so once questions of accessibility and transparency emerged.

“Families were like, ‘Oh, I want everyone to see [our home movie],’ and then, ‘Wait—I can Google my family name and it comes up?’” says Anna St. Onge, YUL director of digital scholarship infrastructure. She and her colleagues learned to address those concerns through clear and open explanations: “This is what we mean when we say ‘open,’ and this is what we mean when we say ‘access.’”

Each family found its own comfort level. “Some family members decided only to donate clips that did not feature their families, to maintain privacy,” says Cohen-Palacios. “There were others who wanted to show weddings, birthdays, or Christmas gifts being unwrapped. Some chose to donate an entire two-hour VHS tape.”

Footage is still being uploaded to YUL’s digital archives; in the meantime, clips are available on the Home Made Visible website. Cohen-Palacios considers the project a resounding success. “Everyone saw the importance of the project to amplify self-representation,” she says.

and Charles Street Video, YUL solicited and digitized home movies at no cost to participants, who were asked to donate a minimum of five minutes’ footage from their home movies to the YUL archives. Building the trust that the project required entailed what media archivist Katrina Cohen-Palacios calls “a lot of talks.”

“Two years isn’t really enough time to build the gradual relationships” that projects like this often require, points out Cohen-Palacios, who spearheaded YUL’s part of the project with colleague Michael Moir, archivist at the libraries’ Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections (which houses the Home Made Visible archive).

Since many participants were already familiar with the film festival and YUL, “they felt comfortable donating their home movies,” Cohen-Palacios says. Others, while enthusiastic about participating at first,



Visitors to the California African American Museum used Los Angeles Public Library's Mobile Memory Lab to digitize family photos and documents at an August 2019 event at the museum.

YUL's next digital archiving endeavor is a partnership with the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation and the History of Indigenous Peoples Network. Led by St. Onge, YUL will build a sustainable digital preservation infrastructure, with modes of access for specific community members and groups to ensure cultural protocol and accuracy. "We want to give access that can be mediated by authorities within the community, as opposed to content that got deposited with the archives [with] the archivist as the gatekeeper," St. Onge says.

"What we're learning is that it's not always our story to tell," says YUL Dean of Libraries Joy Kirchner.

THE CHALLENGES OF DIGITIZATION

Even when libraries focus their digitization efforts in-house, rather than in the community, the challenges of turning, say, a battered shoebox full of photographs into files on a sleek, slim flash drive can be considerable.

Patrons of Stark County (Ohio) District Library in Canton have been able to scan photographs on their own for many years. But in 2018, the library expanded its offerings by opening a full digitization lab. In addition to video, film, and audio conversion, Technology and Literacy Trainer Jesse Peek and Technology Training Coordinator Dee Rondinella offer quarterly digitization workshops and hands-on assistance.

Patrons can call or walk in to set up an appointment; from there, says Peek, "it's a matter of figuring out exactly

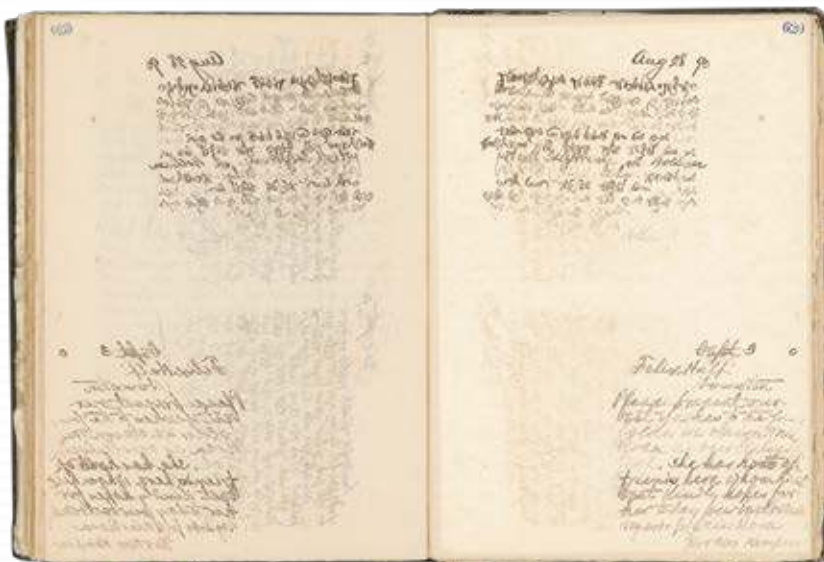
what they have and setting up equipment correctly." He and Rondinella provide individual instruction and oversight so patrons can safely and accurately do their own digitizing.

The chief challenge, Peek and Rondinella agree, is time—both theirs and that of patrons. Though individual appointments can be made for Monday through Thursday, the studio is open for walk-ins only on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, so that Peek and Rondinella can ensure they devote the time each person needs. When patrons bring in large boxes of items, Rondinella says, "we panic a little bit."

"In the case of slides, each one has to be photographed, digitized, saved, and transferred," she says. "When we see [something] that will potentially take eight hours to convert, they're so excited, and we have to say, 'Are you ready to sit?' We've had a couple [of projects] that were six hours long."

Peek can recall only one flat-out failure, when he was unable to extract a tape from a patron's camcorder, but he is always willing to troubleshoot. "We've had to order cables so we can connect to their media, or ask them if they have the cable at home," he says.

Still, the gratified reactions of patrons make all the challenges worthwhile, he and Rondinella say. "Just this week, a man who played in a football game many years ago was sitting there watching himself play," says Rondinella. "I've had people bring themselves to tears seeing themselves act in a play when they were 9 years old."



A late-1800s ledger containing handwritten copies of letters sent by H. Kempner in English and Yiddish, from University of North Texas in Denton's Portal to Texas History.

To her surprise, the digitization lab has drawn interest from an unexpected quarter: young people. “With older adults it’s about the ability to preserve,” she says. “But with teens, there’s a curiosity that this even exists. I’ve had them tour the space and say, ‘I’m going to go home and see if we have something [to digitize].’”

THE STEPS BEHIND THE SCENES

As at Stark County District Library, time and labor are the major digitization challenges of the University of North Texas in Denton's Portal to Texas History, a digital gateway to historic materials from private collectors and partners such as libraries and museums. Conceived in 2002, the portal focuses on the history of small Texas communities.

First made available online in 2004 with material from 13 partners, the portal now features 1.3 million visible items from 412 partners and adds an average of 16,000 items per month, says Project Development Librarian Jacob Mangum, who sees letters, photographs, journals, and “just about anything you can imagine” come through the portal’s digital doors.

After a partner submits an item for inclusion along with an inventory form, a staff member cross-checks the form and makes notes about the item’s condition. Staff then create a wiki page for the item and enter it on a whiteboard, designating the student workers and digitizing steps that will be involved. Once the item reaches the top of the scanning queue, it undergoes two levels of quality control. The first level, Mangum says, involves a student worker comparing the physical items with the scans to make sure nothing was

missed in the scanning process. During the second level, a librarian reviews digital files to make sure the scanning is up to specific standards including resolution, scale, and file format. (A rundown of specs is available on the portal’s website.)

“We make sure the images meet our standards as far as pixels per inch and dimensions,” Mangum says. “We also try to do limited processing [making sure colors are precisely depicted] because we want to create a faithful representation.” When the lab team scans a black-and-white image, for example, “we want to make sure the blacks are black and

the whitest part of the image is a true white,” he says. In the name of accuracy, however, the lab does not digitally repair an item. “[I]f there is a rip, we will show it,” Mangum says. The process is conducted “with the goal of creating a faithful representation of the actual item, a digital surrogate.”

The image is then uploaded to the portal as a hidden file so metadata can be created. Once the image is visible, the staff does a file inventory and provides the partner with its own personal drive. The drive itself depends on file size, Mangum says, and ranges from a flash drive for a smaller project to a multiterabyte external hard drive for the larger projects.

How long does it all take? Depends on the item’s size and place in the digitization queue. “I usually tell people that with around 300 photographs, we’re looking about a year and a half,” he says. “Because of our desire to be as thorough and equitable as possible, it isn’t just slapping something on a scanner.”

Mangum says the wait is worth it. One of his favorite items is a ledger from Galveston’s Kempner family, who owned the well-known Imperial Sugar Company. One side of each rice-paper sheet contains a standard business letter; the other, a personal letter in phonetic Yiddish. “They created carbon copies in the 1870s and found a rabbi in Boston [a few years ago] who translated and transcribed [them],” he says. “The meaning of words changes over time, and I like to think how the rabbi had to consider the Yiddish words they were reading in current context, as well as what the words might have meant nearly 150 years ago.” **AL**



LAUREN EMILY WHALEN is a writer living in Chicago.

TRANSFORM THE FUTURE

Leave a Legacy

Would you like to leave a legacy of your values and vision? Contact the American Library Association's Development Office to learn more about joining the Legacy Society or our planned giving circle for people under 50, the 1876 Club. We are happy to work with you to design the right planned gift for you, whether you are interested in an estate gift or in naming ALA as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan. Email us at development@ala.org or call 312-280-3259 and start your legacy today.



ALA LEGACY SOCIETY HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Anonymous (3)	Shirley Fitzgibbons	Suellen Hoy	Robert Newlen	Roberta & George Stevens**
Leo Albert~	Barbara J. Ford*	Alexia Hudson-Ward**	Sylvia K. Norton	Peggy Sullivan*
William G. Asp**	Ruth Frame~	Richard L. Huffine**	Margaret "Peg" Oettinger*~	Teri Switzer
Susan D. and Roger Ballard**	Eleanore Futas~	Dr. Em Claire Knowles**	Joyce L. Ogburn & Steven A. Eichner**	Ann & John Symons*
Robert E. Banks**	Florence Gambino~	Nancy Kranich	Kimberly Patton**	Ruth~ & Jay Toor
Peggy Barber*~	Charles Garris	Charles E. Kratz, Jr. and William Varady, Jr.	Mildred Othmer Peterson~	William L. Turner, Jr.**
Anne K. Beaubien**	Reiza Gaunt~	John A. Lehner	Mary Jane Petrowski**	Betty Turock*
John W. and Alice M. Berry**	Julia Gelfand & David Lang**	Sarah Ann Long**	Molly & Ted Raphael**	Beatriz Pascual Wallace**
Katharina Blackstead**	Carolyn Giambra**	Shirley Loo*	Jim & Monica Rettig	Patricia A. Wand**
Irene L. Briggs**	Dr. Joan R. Giesecke~	Geri Hansen Mann**	Larry Romans~ & Mike Morgan	Marina Welmers
Francis J. Buckley, Jr.	Lori Goetsch & Martin Courtois	Mike Marlin	Frances R. Roscello	Lee Wheeler~
Michele V. Cloonan & Sidney E. Berger**	Ruth I. Gordon*~	Stephen L. Matthews	Robert F. Rose	J. Linda Williams**
Emily Cloyd~	William R. Gordon*	Carse McDaniel*	April Roy	Patricia "Patty" Wong
Arthur Curley~	Ellin Greene*~	Regina Minudri	Patricia Glass Schuman	
Trevor A. Dawes**	Dr. Ken Haycock**	John N. Mitchell*	Helen H. Spalding & Karl F. Johnson**	
Carol Pitts Diedrichs**	Anne Heanue	Sara Elizabeth Mitchell~	David & Cindy Steinhoff	
Mary Ruth Y. Duncan~	Rodney M. & Susan C. Hersberger	Virginia B. Moore**		
Lenore England	Helga Herz~	William C. Morris~		
Ellen Fader**	Nann Blaine Hilyard*	David Mowery**		
Janice Feye-Stukas**	Gerald Hodges*~	Jim & Fran Neal**		
Carole & Stan Fiore*	Pam Spencer Holley	Jeraline N. Nerney~		

1876 CLUB CHARTER MEMBERS

Anonymous
Peter Daniel Coyl
Ann Dutton Ewbank
Maryanne Flynn
John "Mack" Freeman
Edward Andrew Garcia
Loida Garcia-Febo
Peter Hepburn
Andrew M. Medlar
Sheila O'Donnell
Andrew K. Pace
Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada
Gina Persichini
Nicole L. Powell
Steven D. Yates
Courtney L. Young

* Charter Member
~ Deceased
** ALA Legacy Member/15x15 planned giving campaign

Development Office, American Library Association

50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2795 • (312) 280-3259 • development@ala.org • www.ala.org/plannedgiving

Know Your Rights— and Theirs

How
libraries
prepare
for possible
ICE activity

BY Claire Zulkey

U S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests rose 11% in fiscal year 2018 over the previous year (bit.ly/ICE-Stats), and the agency has detained or arrested undocumented immigrants in homes, parking lots, courthouses, places of work, and even hospitals. But no raids have been reported to date in libraries.

Will that change? No one is certain. Though ICE's official policy states it will avoid carrying out enforcement actions at "sensitive locations" (bit.ly/ICE-SensLoc) such as daycares and places of worship, libraries are not specifically named among those locations. In this politically tense climate when immigration has been a major focus, some libraries wonder how they should respond if ICE agents show up.

Fortunately, the American Library Association (ALA) has established official guidelines for libraries if an ICE raid occurs (bit.ly/ALA-ICE). And several libraries, hoping to empower and protect their communities, have gone a step further by educating staff on their rights and responsibilities during a potential raid, patrons on their own rights, and supporters on protecting the rights of others.



Illustration: ©ellagrin/Adobe Stock and Rebecca Lomax/American Libraries



The 5 Ds of Bystander Intervention

Harassment of any type can occur inside a library as well as at professional events and on the street. Hollaback!, which has provided intervention training for the ALA, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library, and others, recommends five methods of bystander intervention.

1 Distract: Take an indirect approach to deescalate the situation. Start a conversation with the target or find another way to draw attention away from them. Ask them for directions or the time, or drop something.



2 Delegate: Get help from someone else. Find someone in a position of authority—like a security guard or supervisor—and ask them for help. Check in with the person being harassed. You can ask if they want you to call the police.

3 Delay: After the incident is over, check in with the person who was harassed. You can say: “Can I sit with you? Can I accompany you somewhere? What do you need?”

4 Direct: After assessing your safety, speak up about the harassment. Be firm and clear. If the harasser tries to escalate the situation into a back-and-forth, don’t engage. Afterward, ask the person being harassed how you can assist: “Are you okay? Should I get help? Should we get out of here?”



5 Document: It can be helpful for the target to have a video of the incident. Laws about recording in public vary, so check local laws first. Keep a safe distance. Film street signs or other landmarks that help identify the location. Say the day and time.

Always ask the person targeted what they want to do with the footage. Never post it online or use it without their permission. Keep your attention on the person being harassed—make sure anything you do is focused on supporting them. ●

Help for immigrant communities

Since 2016, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library (BPL)—many branches of which serve a largely Caribbean immigrant community—has displayed plain-English posters and handed out palm cards giving information about who to contact if a family member is detained, where to find emergency legal assistance, and what to do in case of an outstanding deportation order.

Eva Raison, director of outreach services, says BPL has also conducted several trainings to inform staffers of high-quality resources and “what information we could make available to the public.”

Janel Peterson, who coordinates immigrant services at the library, wanted to come up with a know-your-rights curriculum that would be helpful to people who attend BPL’s English-language, literacy, and citizenship classes. Because just one of those classes can contain people from “15 different countries,” she says, it was crucial to provide information in a way that can be understood at a beginning English speaker’s level. The courses were provided in the form of weekly workshops, she says, so that “people are able to feel a little bit more comfortable talking about such a sensitive topic” with a familiar instructor and in a familiar setting.

Peterson recommends that if other libraries step up services for their own immigrant communities, they should be judicious with the content—and timing—of the information they disseminate. “Make sure you’re providing consistent, accurate information and not just responding to the next thing that’s

coming out in the news,” she says.

BPL’s programs were cocreated with other community-based organizations, and engagement has been robust: In the past year, more than 300 participants attended more than 20 workshops held at several BPL branches.

In July 2019, when ICE officials made multiple attempts to arrest undocumented residents of Brooklyn’s Sunset Park neighborhood, Raison was delighted that residents knew to thwart those attempts by refusing to open their doors, knowing



Poster with emergency numbers designed for Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library branches

their rights, and asking for judicial warrants. “I was so proud to see how a coordinated effort of sharing people’s rights across an entire community really made an impact,” she says.

Public versus private space

While exploring its internal policy around potential ICE action in the library, BPL connected its legal team with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, which provides legal support to community organizations. “We really wanted to make sure we were clear on what we had the right to do and what we didn’t have the right to do,” Raison says.

One of the things she’s learned is that to some degree, an organization’s options for responding to ICE activity hinge on whether that activity takes place in a defined public space: “The level of response differs if you’re in a public park versus if you’re in your own home or a car, and libraries are public space.” In other words, public libraries are not sanctuaries.

“It’s never easy to say no when someone asks us ‘Are you a sanctuary space?’” she adds. “I think staff are sometimes surprised by that.”

On the flip side, staff areas, as well as areas of the library that require registration (such as ESL classes), are not considered public spaces, meaning that “we can require that someone show us a judicial warrant before they enter those spaces,” says Raison. She notes that according to New York law, while staffers cannot instruct patrons to escape, they can document and film ICE activity.

Engaging bystanders

A 2018 brush with police left Oakland (Calif.) Public Library (OPL) staff eager for clarity on their rights around potential interactions with law enforcement, including ICE. During that incident, police detained an OPL patron in the library “because he fit a vague description,” says senior librarian Emily Weak. After proving he was not the suspect they were after, the patron was released. Still, Weak says, “staff didn’t intervene, and [the patron] felt that they—or someone in the library—should have.”

OPL patrons and staffers agreed that they needed more training in this area, especially in a city where more than 65% of its residents do not identify themselves as white, according to the 2010 Census. “We’re a sanctuary city, and we have some Dreamers on staff, plus some patrons who are documented and undocumented immigrants,” Weak says.

Initially, some staffers wanted to bar ICE from the library completely and were disappointed to learn that they couldn’t (though, Weak says, they *can* make an announcement saying, “Will the ICE officer who just entered please come to the circulation desk?”).

Instead, OPL’s main library has begun offering trainings aimed at potential bystanders to harassment or ICE actions. In bystander training, attendees are taught to interrupt harassment via techniques known as distraction, delegation, delayed response, direct response, and documentation (see sidebar).

OPL has hosted bystander intervention training from the Council on American-Islamic Relations as well as joint

programming from the Alameda County Immigration Legal and Education Partnership and Anti Police-Terror Project, which gave a 2018 workshop about documenting police brutality. “I was impressed,” says Weak. “When I think about library programs, I think of them being two hours [long] and most

people getting punchy at the end. They had five hours, and 60 people stayed.”

BPL, too, has hosted bystander intervention training. It has paired with groups like Hollaback!—a grassroots initiative to combat harassment in public spaces, including harassment regarding perceived immigration status—to train patrons in skills such as deescalating a situation in which a patron appears to be the target of bigotry and harassment. Hollaback! also partnered with ALA to create a bystander intervention curriculum specifically for members of ALA and the Association for Library Service to Children (bit.ly/ALSC-Hollaback).

“Because libraries are public spaces, they aren’t always as safe as you may want them to be,” says Hollaback! cofounder and executive director Emily May. “Like in any institution, bias, discrimination, harassment occur inside their doors. That’s where bystander interventions start to come into play.”

“It’s never
easy to say
no when
someone
asks us
‘Are you a
sanctuary
space?’”

EVA RAISON, director of outreach services, Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library

The library’s mission

Why should public libraries concern themselves with immigration matters? BPL’s mission is to respond to the communities it serves, and that means “not just immigrant communities but also folks who want to stand by their neighbors,” Raison says. “Libraries are the foundation of democratic society.”

Weak adds that the relationship between immigrant communities and their local libraries is a longstanding one.

“It’s the only place you can go that’s free and nonjudgmental, and we’re going to give you the information you need to make your life better,” she says. “That’s the basic ethical underpinning behind libraries: We are committed to providing education and information. That translates to wanting to make sure people have good lives. You get to know people in your community, and you don’t want them to be hurt.” **AL**



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

2020

Midwinter

PREVIEW



Prepare for a knockout
meeting in the
City of Brotherly Love

EDITED BY Greg Landgraf

Photos: John Sterling Ruth/Visit Philadelphia (bell); ©Sergey Borisov/Adobe Stock (skyline)

Like Rocky Balboa, one of Philadelphia's most famous characters, libraries are championed for their guts and determination. They provide services to all, no matter how fierce the opposition. So it's only appropriate that the American Library Association's (ALA) Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits returns to the Pennsylvania Convention Center January 24–28, to give librarians a chance to make connections, discuss ideas, and discover new research to help build a strong future for libraries, even in the face of overwhelming odds.



WES MOORE



ECHO BROWN



MAIA AND ALEX SHIBUTANI

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Opening Session

Friday, January 24, 4–5:15 p.m.

Author and social entrepreneur **Wes Moore** will open ALA's Midwinter Meeting. Raised by a single mom in Baltimore and the Bronx, Moore overcame childhood challenges to become a Rhodes Scholar, decorated captain and paratrooper with the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division, and White House Fellow to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He is a regular contributor to NBC News and CEO at Robin Hood, an anti-poverty organization.

His forthcoming book, *Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City* (coauthored with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Erica L. Green, and available in spring), traces the experiences of seven characters in Baltimore in the week following Freddie Gray's death in police custody in 2015.

Auditorium Speaker Series

Saturday, January 25, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Visionary storyteller **Echo Brown**, whose solo show *Black Virgins Are*

Not for Hipsters was named one of the 10 best shows of 2015 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, seeks to inspire and provoke with her words. Her first book, *Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard* (January), explores the intersections of poverty, sexual violence, depression, racism, and sexism in a coming-of-age story that is heavily autobiographical but infused with magical realism.

Sunday, January 26, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Two-time Olympic medalists **Maia and Alex Shibutani**—the first ice dancers of Asian descent to medal at the Olympics—will speak about their family bond, world travels, social media success, and forthcoming book *Kudo Kids: The Mystery of the Masked Medalist* (May). The novel, featuring a fictionalized duo of ice dancers, is the first in a mystery series for middle-grade readers set at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Arthur Curley Memorial Lecture

Saturday, January 25, 1–2 p.m.

Poet, novelist, and essayist **Julia Alvarez** will speak to the challenge of learning American English upon coming to the US from the Dominican Republic at age 10. Alvarez has taught and mentored writers in schools and communities across the country, and was writer-in-residence at Middlebury (Vt.) College until her 2016 retirement. Alvarez is the author of six novels (including *Afterlife*, forthcoming in April), three books of nonfiction, three poetry collections, and 11 books for children and young adults.



JULIA ALVAREZ

ALA President's Program

Sunday, January 26, 3:30–5 p.m.

Award-winning chef and author **Jeff Henderson** will address his journey from prison to the culinary arts in ALA President Wanda Kay Brown's program. Henderson discovered his love for cooking while serving 10 years for drug trafficking and was told his conviction would prevent him from ever getting a job. With help from the library and fellow inmates, he gained skills and eventually rose to become the first African-American chef de cuisine at Caesars Palace and executive chef at Café Bellagio. He also leads initiatives to eradicate workplace bias and to connect marginalized youth to opportunity. His bestseller *Cooked: My Journey from the Streets to the Stove* (2009) will be adapted into a film by Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith.



JEFF HENDERSON

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration

Monday, January 27, 6:30–7:30 a.m.

The 21st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration commemorates King's legacy and recognizes the connection between his life's work and the library world. The event will feature a keynote address from **Imani Perry**, Hughes-Rogers Professor of African-American Studies and

faculty associate in Gender and Sexuality Studies and the Program in Law and Public Affairs at Princeton (N.J.) University, and author of *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* (2019). ALA Past President **Loida Garcia-Febo** will deliver the call to action. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be served.

Closing Session

Monday, January 27, 2–3 p.m.

Known only as Emily Doe at the time of a widely publicized sexual assault trial, **Chanel Miller** read a victim impact statement that instantly went viral, resonating with survivors around the world. It has been translated globally and read on the floor of Congress, inspired changes in California law, and led to the recall of the judge in her case. In *Know My Name: A Memoir* (2019), Miller reclaims her identity to tell her story of trauma and healing, from her sexual assault on the campus of Stanford University, through the trial and its aftermath, amid shifting cultural conversations around sexual violence and the experiences of women.



CHANEL MILLER

SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

The Center for the Future of Libraries will once again sponsor the Symposium on the Future of Libraries, three days of sessions exploring current trends inspiring library innovation and longer-term trends shaping patrons' evolving needs. Symposium entry is included with full conference registration.

Each day opens with a plenary session featuring civic, social, and education innovators, 8:30–10 a.m. Saturday–Monday. The full schedule is available at bit.ly/MWSymposiumschedule. Highlights include:

Sustainability Is Now a Core Value. So ... Now What?

Saturday, January 25, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

ALA Council voted in 2019 to make sustainability a core value of librarianship. In this session, **Rebekkah Smith Aldrich**, executive director of Mid-Hudson Library System in Poughkeepsie, New York, and cochair of the ALA Special Task Force on Sustainability, joins **Matthew Bollerman**, CEO of Hauppauge (N.Y.) Public Library and SustainRT's first ALA Councilor, to discuss how librarians can embed sustainability into their work, their spaces, and their Association.

Disrupting Tech While Being Pro-Tech

Saturday, January 25, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Library workers who seek to implement new technologies must vet tools to ensure they meet patron needs and protect patron privacy. **Elisa Rodrigues**, systems library assistant, and **Anders Lyon**, user experience/web design librarian, both at University of San Francisco Gleeson Library's Geschke Center, will lead a discussion on how library staff can think critically about reviewing and integrating technology into services.

Making Real Change: Moving Beyond the Interpersonal to Create Actual Diverse, Inclusive, and Equitable Environments for Both Library Users and Employees

Saturday, January 25, 1–2 p.m.

Librarianship has traditionally focused on individual expressions of anti-oppressive practices (AOP) that seek to thwart power imbalances and structural forces like racism and sexism. More challenging, however, are institutional and ideological expressions of AOP. University of Denver's **Erin N. Elzi**, design and discovery librarian, and **Elia Trucks**, user experience and student outreach librarian, will lead a discussion of the AOP framework and give participants tools for starting larger conversations at their own institutions.

Tomorrow's Scholars Today: Collaborating to Empower Undergraduate Students to Become Knowledge Creators

Saturday, January 25, 1–2 p.m.

Opportunities for college students to pursue their own innovative research and contribute to scholarly knowledge are always expanding. Such endeavors require academic librarians and faculty to share their expertise as equal instruction partners. **Ashley R. Lierman**, instruction and education librarian, and **Whitney Cox**, lecturer of philosophy and world religions—both at Rowan

Sustainability at Midwinter

In 2019 ALA adopted sustainability as a core value of librarianship. ALA Conference Services will help fight global warming with a carbon offset in partnership with Native Energy, an organization that helps to build indigenous-owned and community-based projects. This year's carbon offset will support the Jagers Ranch Grasslands Conservation project in southeastern Colorado. Attendees will have the option to purchase a \$4 carbon offset credit at registration.



Midwinter will incorporate a "Reduce, Repurpose, Recycle" initiative to promote sustainable business practices. In support of this initiative, the ALA Midwinter mobile app, slide presentations, and other resources will replace paper-based materials. (A limited supply of printed program books will be available for \$2 each.) All Midwinter facilities offer onsite recycling, and leftover event items will be donated to charitable organizations. Learn more at alamidwinter.org/sustainability.

University in Glassboro, New Jersey—will share their experiences as the teaching team of a research methods course and lead a discussion on the barriers to and benefits of similar partnerships.

Young Changemakers in 21st Century Libraries

Saturday, January 25, 3–4 p.m.

In January 2019, the Massachusetts Library System and Harvard University's Democratic Knowledge Project (DKP) assembled a cohort of school and public librarians to design professional development resources. The goal was implementation of DKP's *Ten Questions for Young Changemakers*, a framework that seeks to help youth develop into successful civic agents. State cohort members **Luke Kirkland** (teen specialist at Waltham Public Library), **Alexandra Remy** (branch supervisor of Forest Park Branch Library in Springfield), and **Melissa Bennett** (young adult and assistant children's librarian at Turner Free Library in Randolph) will present the training materials and learning modules they produced.

An Awesome Ideas Pitch for Libraries

Saturday, January 25, 5–6 p.m.

The libraries chapter of the Awesome Foundation, an international network of philanthropists, will host a program

of short, inspiring ideas that could have a big impact on library communities. Judges and the audience will choose a presenter's idea to fund with \$1,000.

Navigating Queer Realities in School Libraries

Sunday, January 26, 1–2 p.m.

This session, presented by **Rae-Anne Montague** of Chicago State University's Department of Information Studies, will explore effective practices for school librarians in collection development, instruction, online resources, programs, and events to recognize the contributions of LGBTQ individuals and groups.

Libraries at the Nexus of Migration

Sunday, January 26, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Libraries are increasingly at the center of shifting migration patterns and policies. A panel of speakers will highlight projects at public, government, and academic libraries that provide information access and services to migrant and detained migrant populations and confront the social impact of migration and detention. Speakers include **Julie Botnick** (education and outreach librarian at the National Network of Libraries of Medicine [NNLM], Pacific Southwest Region, at University of California at Los Angeles Biomedical Library), **Derek Johnson** (health

professionals outreach specialist for NNLM, Greater Midwest Region, at the University of Iowa Hardin Library for the Health Sciences in Iowa City), **Alex Gil** (digital scholarship librarian at Columbia University Libraries in New York City), and **Ady Huertas** (supervising librarian, youth and family services, San Diego Public Library).

Measuring the Library's Impact on Your Community's Social Infrastructure

Monday, January 27, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

A growing body of evidence supports the idea that social infrastructure is critical to a better future for society. In this workshop, participants will learn how economists, urban planners, and other professionals are incorporating outcome measurement techniques to quantify health and well-being and applying outcome measurement in their own work. The workshop will be led by **Margaret Sullivan**, principal of Margaret Sullivan Studio in New York City, **Lyna Vuong**, senior design strategist for Margaret Sullivan Studio, and **Alexandra Sutherland-Brown**, urban planning strategist for Karp Strategies in New York City.

Making the News: Library Advocacy and Local Media

Monday, January 27, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Understanding and working with the local press is vital to demonstrating a library's impact on its community. Pennsylvania Library Association Executive Director **Christi Buker** and ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office (PPAO) Assistant Director of Public Policy and Strategic Initiatives **Megan Ortegon** will lead a session that discusses how news outlets curate news and how libraries can be a productive part of the discussion.

BOOKS AND AWARDS

Midwinter is one of the premier events of the year for books, book lovers, and the librarians who put books in their



Support Local Businesses

ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services has compiled a selection of minority-, women-, and LGBTQ-owned businesses in Philadelphia, with a focus on those closest to the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Explore the map of locations at bit.ly/MWODLOmap.

hands. Honor some of the best works and notable librarians of the year and rub shoulders with favorite authors and illustrators at the following events.

United for Libraries Gala Author Tea

Sunday, January 26, 2–4 p.m.

Bestselling authors **Judy Batalion**, **Janelle Brown**, **Amy Engel**, **Lily King**, **Sam Lansky**, and **David Nicholls** will discuss their writing lives and forthcoming books. Tea and light refreshments will be served, and a book signing will follow. Tickets are \$55 in advance for United for Libraries members, \$60 for nonmembers, or \$65 onsite; advance purchase is recommended.

RUSA Book and Media Awards

Sunday, January 26, 5–7 p.m.

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) will announce the winners of awards recognizing some of the best books for adults. Announcements include the **Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction**, the **Dartmouth Medal** for outstanding reference work, and the **Sophie Brody Medal** for Jewish literature. RUSA will also unveil this year's **Notable Books List**, **Reading List**, **Listen List**, and **Outstanding Reference Sources** selections.

Youth Media Awards

Monday, January 27, 8–9 a.m.

The Philadelphia Convention Center will be the center of the youth literature world Monday morning as the year's most outstanding books, videos, and other materials for children and teens are named. More than 20 awards will be announced, including the **Newbery**, **Caldecott**, **Coretta Scott King**, **Printz**, **Schneider Family**, **Pura Belpré**, and **Stonewall** awards. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the **John Steptoe New Talent Award** and the 10th anniversary of the **Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement**. Follow the results via live webcast on Facebook or by following #alayma on Twitter.

Morris and Nonfiction Award Presentation

Monday, January 27, 10:30 a.m.–noon

The winners and finalists for the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) 2020 William C. Morris Award and Young Adult Nonfiction Award will speak about their honored titles at the award presentation. After the speeches, mingle with the authors and pick up free copies of their books. Coffee, tea, and pastries will also be served. Tickets are \$25.

I Love My Librarian!
Award

I Love My Librarian Award Ceremony

Saturday, January 25, 3–4:30 p.m.

For the first time in the award's history, Midwinter will host the ceremony to honor winners of the national I Love My Librarian Award, which recognizes outstanding service contributions of librarians who transform libraries and improve communities. Winners will share their inspiring stories at the ceremony.



In the Exhibit Hall

With more than 400 exhibitors offering the latest in products, titles, and services for every type of library, multiple stages featuring the hottest names in publishing, and plenty of special events, the exhibit hall at Midwinter is essential to learning and networking. The floor will include specialty pavilions dedicated to mobile applications, small presses, and university presses.

Live stages include the **Book Buzz Theater**, for the latest on new titles, and the **PopTop Stage**, which features readings, discussions, presentations, and signings from authors in trending genres.

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Friday, January 24,
5:30–7 p.m.
Saturday, January 25,
9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday, January 26,
9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Monday, January 27,
9 a.m.–2 p.m.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

The News You Can Use series offers updates from experts on policy, research, statistics, technology, and more, all based on new surveys, reports, legislation, regulations, and projects. Highlights are reviewed below, but see the full schedule at alamidwinter.org/news-you-can-use.

2020 Census: How Libraries Can Support a Complete Count

Saturday, January 25, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Larra Clark, deputy director of the Public Library Association and PPAO, will moderate a discussion among **Burton Reist** (assistant director for communications for the US Census Bureau), **Ana Ndumu** (assistant professor at the University of Maryland College of Information Studies), and **Kelvin Watson** (director of libraries for Broward County [Fla.] Libraries Division) about how libraries can help to

achieve an accurate and inclusive count in the 2020 Census.

Introducing the ALA/AASL/CAEP School Librarian Preparation Standards

Saturday, January 25, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Members of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Coordinating Committee will present the revised School Librarian Preparation Standards, which replace 2010's Standards for the Initial Preparation of School Librarians. Presenters are **Elizabeth A. Burns** (assistant professor, Old Dominion University), **April Dawkins** (assistant professor, University of North Carolina–Greensboro), **Gail Dickinson** (associate dean, Old Dominion University), **Audrey Church** (professor, Longwood University), **Mona Kerby** (professor, McDaniel College), and **Sherry Crow** (professor, University of Nebraska).

ALA Store

Extended store hours and easy access near Registration make it convenient to shop and browse at the ALA Store in the Pennsylvania Convention Center Grand Hall. The ALA Store offers products that meet the widest range of your promotional, continuing education, and professional development needs—as well as fun gift items.

STORE HOURS

Friday, January 24,
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 25,
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday, January 26,
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Monday, January 27,
8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. ●

Diversity Research Update

Saturday, January 25, 3–4 p.m.

ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services will provide an update on projects recently funded through ALA's Diversity Research Grant program.

ACRL/SPARC Scholarly Communication Forum

Saturday, January 25, 3–4:30 p.m.

The Association of College and Research Libraries and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition present their annual forum to broaden the base of librarians who are knowledgeable about and engaged in scholarly communication issues. Topics and speakers are chosen closer to Midwinter to ensure relevance.

From Nonvoters to New Voters: How Libraries Can Engage Their Communities in the 2020 Elections and Beyond

Saturday, January 25, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Voting experts and librarians will share information about how libraries can deliver nonpartisan information and programs that promote engagement and equitable participation in elections. The panel includes **Nancy Kranich** (lecturer and special projects librarian at Rutgers University), **Kendra Cochran** (statewide voter engagement coordinator at POWER: Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild), **Maggie Bush** (programs and outreach director with the League of Women Voters of the US), **Abby Kiesa** (director of impact at the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement), **Jean M. Canosa Albano** (assistant director for public services at Springfield [Mass.] City Library), and **Michelle Francis** (executive director of the Ohio Library Council).

LITA Top Technology Trends

Sunday, January 26, 1–2 p.m.

The Library and Information Technology Association's premier program on

changes and advances in technology will feature a round table discussion with a panel of technology experts and thought leaders. Find more information about the program at ala.org/lita/ttt.

Supporting Librarians' Roles in Emergencies and Natural Disasters

Sunday, January 26, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

A team from University of South Carolina (USC) and South Carolina State Library (SCSL) will share the results of their investigation of how libraries and cooperative organizations and agencies can better plan for and respond to natural disasters. Presenters include **Denise R. Lyons**, deputy director of SCSL; **Caroline Smith**, inclusive services consultant at SCSL; and **Feili Tu-Keefner**, associate professor at USC's School of Library and Information Science.

Low-Cost Immersive Classrooms: Making Digital Inclusion Accessible to Smaller and Rural Institutions

Monday, January 27, 9–10 a.m.

With funding from an IMLS National Leadership Grant, Fort Hays (Kans.)

Stay Connected



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



Track #alamw20 and follow @alamw



Join the Facebook event at bit.ly/MW2020FB



Follow pinterest.com/alamidwinter



Keep up on Instagram with #alamw20 and at bit.ly/ALAinstagram

State University's Forsyth Library and its Institute for New Media Studies (INMS) have built a portable, modular, low-cost immersive classroom kit that provides a space for data visualization, 3D exploration and collaboration, and interactive exhibits. **Claire Nickerson**, learning initiatives and Open Educational Resources librarian, and INMS Director **Gordon Carlson** will share lessons from the prototyping process and advice for other organizations interested in building their own immersive classroom kit.

TICKETED EVENTS

No matter what your professional specialty or interests, Midwinter's preconference institutes and other ticketed professional development opportunities can help you take your work to the next level. Visit the Ticketed Events page for more information: bit.ly/MWticketed.

RUSA Genealogy Institute

Friday, January 24, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

The RUSA Genealogy Institute will explore a variety of topics in genealogy and historical research through individual presentations and panel sessions. Lunch will be provided. The event is free but registration is required.

RDA Toolkit Workshop

Friday, January 24, 8:30–11:30 a.m. or 1:30–4:30 p.m.

ALA Publishing representatives will provide an in-depth update on the RDA beta site and recent changes. Please bring your laptop. Both workshops will present the same content, so register for only one. Tickets are \$100 for ALA members, \$110 for nonmembers.

United for Libraries Institute: Trustees, Friends, and Foundations

Saturday, January 25, 1–4 p.m.

Library trustees, Friends groups, foundations, and staff are invited to join an afternoon of expert speakers and

learning opportunities. The event is free but registration is required.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

YALSA Trends Impacting YA Services: Civic Literacy for Teens

Saturday, January 25, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Liz Allen, youth services librarian at Middle Country Public Library in Centereach, New York, will present a paper that explores the importance of civic literacy to adolescent development and teen services in public libraries, as well as public librarians' practices and perceptions of civic literacy instruction.

Wellness in the Library Workplace for Administrators and Managers

Sunday, January 26, 8:30–10 a.m.

This Library Leadership and Management Association session will provide methods for library managers and administrators to ensure that work environments are happy, healthy, and safe. The session will be presented by **Bobbi Newman**, community engagement and outreach specialist for the NNLM Greater Midwest Region at the University of Iowa's Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, and **Christina Pryor**, library engagement and Missouri coordinator for the NNLM Midcontinental Region at J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library at the University of Missouri.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

One of the most powerful parts of Midwinter is the range of informal opportunities to ask questions, make recommendations, explore ideas, and reflect on the implications of updates, conversations, and lessons learned.

Take advantage of these opportunities at more than 200 **Discussion Groups** meeting at Midwinter. These are loosely

Business and Financial Meetings

Friday, January 24

- 8:30 a.m.–noon, ALA Executive Board Meeting I
- 12:30–4 p.m., Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) and Finance and Audit Joint Meeting

Saturday, January 25

- 8–11 a.m., Council Orientation Session
- 3:30–5 p.m., ALA Council/Executive Board/Member-ship Information Session
- 5–6 p.m., ALA Presidential Candidates' Forum

Sunday, January 26

- 8:30–9 a.m., ALA-APA Council Session
- 9–11 a.m., ALA Council I
- 1–3 p.m., Planning and Budget Assembly, BARC, and Division Joint Meeting

Monday, January 27

- 10 a.m.–noon, ALA Council II
- 2–4 p.m., ALA Executive Board Meeting II
- 4–4:30 p.m., ALA-APA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 28

- 8:30–11:30 a.m., ALA Council III
- 12:15–1:15 p.m., Executive Board Candidates' Forum
- 12:30–4:30 p.m., ALA Executive Board Meeting III •

organized sessions on broad and timely topics, each sponsored by an ALA division, round table, or office.

Make connections at the **Networking Uncommons** space, an area

equipped with Wi-Fi and a webcam where you can gather in small groups to have a quick meeting, hold impromptu sessions, polish your presentation, record summaries of sessions to stream or post, or just recharge yourself and your devices. Sign up for a time slot (8 a.m.–5 p.m. daily except for Friday, when it closes at 4 p.m.) or just show up.

Just next door to the Networking Uncommons, relax and regroup at the **ALA Lounge**. You'll be surrounded by information and have the chance to pick up plenty of swag—including special ribbons not available anywhere else. Hours are 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday.

Stop by the video booth in the ALA Lounge on Sunday, January 26, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. to participate in **Finding Your ALA**—an invitation to discover what ALA can do for you or what ALA has done for you. Member stories about finding a place or path within ALA will be recorded for a yearlong campaign. Advance sign-up is encouraged at bit.ly/FindingALA-MW.

ALA's **JobLIST Placement and Career Development Center** is open Saturday, January 25, and Sunday, January 26, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. The center offers free workshops, résumé review, a photography service, mock interviews, and confidential 20-minute Career Counseling sessions. Advance registration for counseling sessions at bit.ly/MWcounseling is strongly recommended, as time slots are limited.

Workshops include "Personal Branding for a Virtual World," "Job Search Strategies for Today's Market," and "Mindful Librarianship." Also, stop by the Orientation on Saturday, January 25, 8:30 a.m., and the Open House and Job Fair Sunday, January 26, 9–10:30 a.m. **AL**

For an up-to-date list of dates and times, see the Midwinter Conference Scheduler at alamidwinter.org/scheduler.

THE

Philly

FOOD

SCENE



Fried
cauliflower
at Zahav

Photo: Jason Varney/Zahav

Where to dine
during Midwinter

BY Reid Bramblett

Growing up, my friends and family never thought much about the food in Philadelphia beyond heated arguments over who makes the best cheesesteak (sorry, but it's Pudge's Steaks and Hoagies, and it's way out in the suburbs). When I returned to Philly to raise my children—and especially once I started writing *Frommer's Philadelphia Day by Day*—I discovered that the stalwarts of South Philly trattorias and Rittenhouse steakhouses were now part of a booming culinary scene, complete with local celebrity chefs and showers of accolades.

Here are the best of the best, from faux-colonial taverns to historic food-hall cornucopias, whiskey bars to funky vegan eateries, and Pennsylvania Dutch smorgasbords to Zahav, named the top restaurant in the country in 2019 by the James Beard Foundation.

Conventioneers are doubly fortunate to have the three dozen food stands of 125-year-old Reading Terminal Market right across the street from the convention center—plus great dim sum on the streets of nearby Chinatown.

One note: Due to the stratospheric cost of local liquor licenses, a number of Philadelphia eateries are BYOB, don't take credit cards, or both. I'll let you know if you should stop by an ATM and a state store (where many Pennsylvanians get their beer, liquor, and wine) on the way to your reservation.

PRICE GUIDE

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

- \$ under \$10
- \$\$ \$11–\$20
- \$\$\$ \$21–\$30
- \$\$\$\$ \$31 and up



Salt-baked shrimp, scallops, and squid at Lee How Fook

NEAR THE CONVENTION CENTER, CENTER CITY, AND CHINATOWN

Dim Sum Garden

1020 Race St.
215-873-0258
dimsumgardenphilly.com

The undisputed king of Chinatown's dim sum parlors since 2013, with delicious dumplings and braised pork noodle dishes. Get the signature *xiao long bao*, steamed pork soup dumplings with the broth actually inside the dumpling (put it on a spoon and bite off the top before eating). Don't despair at the long line to get in; the fast and furious Shanghai-style service (no Cantonese pushcarts here; you order, and it is brought to you) helps get customers seated and satiated quickly. **L, D daily \$**

El Vez

121 S. 13th St.
215-928-9800
elvezrestaurant.com
Made-to-order guac, margaritas that rock, and a lounge-y Mexi-Vegas atmosphere keep

this colorful modern Mexican spot in Center City busy night after night. **L, D daily \$\$**

Good Dog

224 S. 15th St.
215-985-9600
gooddogbar.com

At Center City's go-to spot for pub grub, wooden booths, great microbrews, and an impressive jukebox are just background noise to the Roquefort cheese-stuffed burger. You'll find happy hour food and drink specials weekdays 3–6 p.m. **L, D daily \$\$**

Jamonera

105 S. 13th St.
215-922-6061
jamonerarestaurant.com
This trendy Spanish wine bar serves both classic and *nueva* tapas and their larger cousins, *raciones*—plus three different takes on paella. **D daily \$\$–\$\$\$**

Lee How Fook

219 N. 11th St.
215-925-7266
newleehowfook.com
Garlicky good-for-you greens, hearty duck noodle soup, and salt-baked squid have kept this

family Chinatown BYOB packed night after night for more than 30 years. **L, D daily \$-\$\$**

Lolita

106 S. 13th St.
215-546-7100
lolitaphilly.com

Classic Mexican dishes get dressed up for a night on the town at this funky little Mid-town Village eatery. Try a fish, pork belly, or roasted mushroom taco or the famous carne asada. A new liquor license means you don't have to bring your own tequila for the fresh-fruit margaritas. **L (M-Sat), D daily \$\$**

Rangoon

112 N. 9th St.
215-829-8939
rangoonphilly.com

If you've never had the pleasure of digging into tea leaf salad, coconut rice, or thousand-layer bread (a grilled flatbread), do it at this casual, Burmese restaurant in Chinatown. **L, D daily \$\$**

Saint Honore Pastries

935 Race St.
215-925-5298
bit.ly/AL-SaintHonore

Don't let the name fool you; this is not a spot for croissants but a Chinatown bakery churning out hot Hong Kong buns stamped with lucky red characters and stuffed with sweet sesame or red bean fillings. Other specialties of this walk-up shop include mango shakes, tiny cakes, and pastry-wrapped hot dogs. **B, L, D daily \$**



Burmese
tofu salad
at Rangoon

Valanni

1229 Spruce St.
215-790-9494
valanni.com

Enjoy the modern lounge vibe, lobster mac and cheese, grilled octopus, shiitake polenta, *mezze* (small plate dishes), and paella meant for sharing at this modern Mediterranean-Latin Center City tapas joint. Half-price *mezze* and cocktails 4:30-7:30 p.m. **Brunch (Sun), D daily \$\$**

Vetri Cucina

1312 Spruce St.
215-732-3478
vetricucina.com

Chef Marc Vetri's elegant brownstone eatery consistently ranks among the best Italian restaurants in the US. It's chef's choice here—no à la carte, only a tasting menu (at a steep \$165). But, boy, what a menu: Two dozen (mercifully) tapas-sized dishes, solicitously crafted to your preferences

and served over several hours, along with a small but perfectly crafted wine list. **L (F), D daily \$\$\$\$**

Vietnam Restaurant

221 N. 11th St.
215-592-1163
eatatvietnam.com

Peanut-dusted rice vermicelli, crispy duck, lime-glazed chicken, and handsome surroundings make this gently exotic Chinatown spot popular. **L, D daily \$\$**

OLD CITY AND INDEPENDENCE MALL

Amada

217-219 Chestnut St.
215-398-6968
amadarestaurant.com

Amada offers contemporary tapas both chic and rustic in

the historic heart of town. Don't miss the Spanish cheeses and meats or the spinach, manchego, and artichoke empanadas—oh, or the scrumptious sangria. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (M-F), D daily \$\$**

Buddakan

325 Chestnut St.
215-574-9440
buddakan.com

This eternally trendy Old City Asian fusion spot serves up lobster fried rice, edamame dumplings, five-spice duck breast, and kung pao monkfish at a communal table beneath a giant golden Buddha. **L (M-F), D daily \$\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Café Ole

147 N. 3rd St.
215-627-2140

facebook.com/phillycafeole
If you haven't yet realized how Old City earned its nickname—the "hipstoric" district—you will once you set foot in this laid-back café. Stand in line for fresh-mint iced tea, sandwiches, yummy hummus plates, and Mediterranean salads that won't break the bank. **B, L, D daily \$**

City Tavern

138 S. 2nd St.
215-413-1443
citytavern.com

A faithful reconstruction of the original pub where the



Chocolate
milkshake,
Ziggy burger,
and sweet
potato fries
at HipCityVeg



ONLINE MAP

Find these restaurants and more
at bit.ly/MW20DiningGuideMap



Historic Food Halls

No visit to Philly is complete without a visit to one of its all-American, historic food halls, in which all kinds of cuisines crowd together to create a melting pot of smells and flavors.

The Bourse 111 S. Independence Mall E., theboursephilly.com:

Right at the crux of Independence Mall's L-shaped corridor of historic sites, the Bourse (built in 1895) was converted into a food hall in late 2018. Twenty-six vendors, restaurants, and stalls serve everything from Indian to Italian, Korean to Hawaiian, sandwiches to raw bar, breakfast to ice cream. **B, L, D (M-Sat), B, L (Sun) \$**

Reading Terminal Market 12th and Arch streets, 215-922-2317, readingterminalmarket.org:

This 125-year-old farmers market and eatery emporium in the old train station just south of the convention center offers three dozen food stalls, restaurants, and bakeries serving Amish, Indian, soul food, kebabs, Cajun, cheesesteaks, and more. And don't forget Bassetts famous ice cream. Seating can get tight at lunchtime as Center City workers, tourists, and conventioners pack the place. Some vendors accept credit cards. **B, L, D (M-Sat) \$-\$\$\$ •**

Founding Fathers hashed out details of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution over tankards of ale, City Tavern still serves many 18th-century dishes, from West Indies pepper pot soup and cornmeal-fried oysters to turkey potpie and Thomas Jefferson's home brew, all brought by servers in colonial garb. It's a bit touristy, yes, but it adds a tasty dimension to a day steeped in Revolutionary history at the historic sites and museums that surround it. **L, D daily \$\$\$**

Continental

138 Market St.
215-923-6069
continentalmartinibar.com
This eclectic chrome-heavy Old City corner diner has something for everyone—from steak frites to crab pad thai to sugary martinis. Vegetarians will love the "cheesesteak" made from thick-cut portobello mushrooms. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D daily \$\$\$**

Farmicia

15 S. 3rd St.
215-627-6274
farmiciarestaurant.com
This bakery-owned restaurant has super fresh, sustainably grown American fare like roasted chicken, pork chops, and pan-crisped fish fillets. Vegetarian and vegan options are available. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (Tue-F), D (Tue-Sun) \$\$\$-\$\$\$**

Fork

306 Market St.
215-625-9425
forkrestaurant.com
Fresh ingredients—king salmon, house-made sausage, burrata—shine at restaurateur Ellen Yin's award-winning, softly lit Old City neighborhood brasserie, a date-night favorite. **Brunch (Sun), D daily \$\$\$**

Franklin Fountain

116 Market St.
215-627-1899
franklinfountain.com
Homemade ice cream in flavors both familiar (vanilla bean,

mint chip, peach) and quaint (teaberry gum) are served by the scoop in parfaits, banana splits, floats, milkshakes, and more at this old-fashioned-on-purpose Old City soda fountain. **L, D daily \$**

High Street on Market

308 Market St.
215-625-0988
highstreetonmarket.com
Come for breakfast, lunch, or dinner to this all-day gourmet café, which boasts "the best grilled cheese ever" (made with cheddar on roasted potato bread). For a longer meal, try its more-formal sister restaurant, Fork, next door. **B, L daily, D (Tue-Sun) \$\$**

Jones

700 Chestnut St.
215-223-5663
jones-restaurant.com
Comfort food alert! Jones is just what the family ordered: mac and cheese, glazed carrots, meatloaf, and chicken nachos in a retro sunken dining room. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D daily \$\$\$**

Morimoto

723 Chestnut St.
215-413-9070
morimotorestaurant.com
Witness Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto's signature flash in an aptly futuristic showplace—his first branded restaurant. (He has since opened many locations.) Splurge on tableside-made tofu, luscious

So Many 'Steaks

No food says “Philly” more than the cheesesteak—a mound of shaved meat piled high on a hot bun, topped with onions and melted cheese. There’s no consensus on who makes the best ‘steak, so you’ll probably have to try them all.

Geno’s 1219 S. 9th St., 215-389-0659, genosteaks.com:

This player in this corner’s famous cheesesteak shack rivalry (Pat’s is right across the street) is bigger and brighter than its competitors. Few Philadelphians actually believe either Geno’s or Pat’s serves the best steak in town, but taste-testing both is a rite of passage. Open 24 hours. No credit cards. **B, L, D daily \$**

Jim’s South St. 400 South St., 215-928-1911,

jimssouthstreet.com: If it’s past 11 a.m., you can expect a line at this friendlier cousin to South Philly’s famous Pat’s and Geno’s (which was started by the son of Jim’s founder). Bonus: Unlike its competitors, Jim’s has indoor seating and serves beer. No credit cards. **L, D daily \$**

Pat’s King of Steaks 1237 E. Passyunk Ave.,

215-468-1546, patskingofsteaks.com: Pat’s (arguably) invented the famous Philly cheesesteak in 1930, back when it was just a hot dog cart. Now a roadside outdoor eatery, it features service that’s a little nicer than its glitzier rival across the street, Geno’s—though don’t worry, it’s still famously South Philly brusque and impatient. Order one “Whiz wit” (with Cheez Whiz and onions). Open 24 hours. No credit cards. **B, L, D daily \$**



Tony Luke’s 39 E. Oregon Ave., 215-892-1010,

tonylukes.com: This is neon-lit, no-nonsense, two-handed dining on cheesesteaks and classic Italian sandwiches. Try the roast pork with garlicky broccoli rabe and sharp provolone. **B (M–Sat), L, D daily \$ •**

toro tartare, and a selection of sake. **L (M–F), D daily \$\$–\$\$\$**

Zahav

237 St. James Place

215-625-8800

zahavrestaurant.com

In 2019, the James Beard Foundation christened Philly’s favorite Israeli/Middle Eastern restaurant the best restaurant in the country—the first time a Philly dining room has snagged the top honors. (Chef Michael Solomonov had already won outstanding chef honors in 2017.) Even before all the accolades, fans were swearing by the rich hummus and grilled lamb, chicken, and eggplant.

D daily \$\$

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

Alma de Cuba

1623 Walnut St.

215-988-1799

almadecubarestaurant.com

Nuevo Latin cuisine—lobster ceviche, smoked wahoo tacos, sugarcane tuna—served in Rockwell Group–designed decor makes for a glamorous night on the town. **D daily**

\$\$–\$\$\$

Devil’s Alley

1907 Chestnut St.

215-751-0707

devilsalleybarandgrill.com

This is a casual, popular Rittenhouse spot for barbecue pulled-pork sliders, ribs, smoked Cobb salad, creative burgers, and cold beers.

Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D daily \$\$

HipCityVeg

127 S. 18th St.

215-278-7605

hipcityveg.com

The excellent Asian-inflected vegan fast-food café serves meatless burgers, wraps,

soups, and salads—largely locally sourced. Try the sweet potato fries and a signature BFG (blended fruit and greens) smoothie. **L, D daily \$**

Le Bus Bakery

129 S. 18th St.

215-569-8299

lebusbakery.com

Grab a cold drink, a sandwich (try the tuna or roast beef), a chocolate chip cookie to go, and a bench in the square, and you’re all set. Just don’t pronounce it “le boos.” This Philly classic began life in 1978 as a bakery in an old school bus, so the name is literal—and pronounced American-style.

B (M–Sat), L daily \$

The Oyster House

1516 Sansom St.

215-567-7683

oysterhousephilly.com

Just about everything that swims comes in classic preparations like crab cakes, grilled halibut, and smoked fish chowder; the latter includes oysters opened by resident shuckers who’ve been at it for decades.

L, D (M–Sat) \$\$–\$\$\$

Tinto

114 S. 20th St.

215-665-9150

tintorestaurant.com

James Beard Award–winner Chef Jose Garces’s cozy lounge offers delicious Basque-inspired tapas like lamb brochettes and serrano-wrapped trout. **D daily \$\$–\$\$\$**

Vernick Food and Drink

2031 Walnut St.

267-639-6644

vernickphilly.com

Greg Vernick opened this nouveau American bistro—leaning surf, but with plenty of turf as well—in 2012. By 2017, the James Beard Foundation was



Tapas at Amada

calling him the best chef in the mid-Atlantic. The menu changes frequently, but be on the lookout for Atlantic halibut, savory pear custard, and baked boar lasagna. **D (Tue–Sun) \$\$\$–\$\$\$\$**

Village Whiskey

118 S. 20th St.
215-665-1088
villagewhiskey.com
One of Philly's longest whiskey lists is the claim to fame of this popular Rittenhouse gastropub from Jose Garces. Come for the spirits, stay for the Whiskey King burger and duck fat fries that'll knock you off that hard-won barstool. They serve until 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (M–F), D daily \$\$**

SOUTH STREET AND SOCIETY HILL

Beau Monde

624 S. 6th St.
215-592-0656
creperie-beaumonde.com
Known for its crepes—and the burlesque and cabaret stage upstairs—this pretty, bustling Bretagne-inspired brasserie also serves up lovely salads, French staples like ratatouille

and escargot, and romantic ambience. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D (Tue–Sun) \$\$**

Brauhaus Schmitz

718 South St.
267-909-8814
brauhausschmitz.com
Schnitzel, wieners, brats, spätzle, strudel, and 110 kinds of hearty Belgian and German brews make this convivial *bierhalle* the best wurst place in town. **L, D daily \$\$\$**

Famous Fourth Street Delicatessen

700 S. 4th St.
215-922-3274
famous4thstreetdelicatessen.com
Philly's most celebrated Jewish deli since 1923 offers pastrami sandwiches thick as phone books, matzo balls as big as grapefruits, and cannoli cake to die for. Still hungry? **B, L, D daily \$\$**

Pizzeria Stella

420 S. 2nd St.
215-320-8000
pizzeriastella.net
This cozy spot offers thin-crust pizzas with clever toppings like black truffle, egg, pesto, and pine nuts, plus juice glasses

of Prosecco and house-made gelato. **L, D daily \$\$**

Xochitl

408 S. 2nd St.
215-238-7280
xochitlphilly.com
Distinctive, refined, understated, and cool, the contemporary Mexican fare—shareable small-plate dishes, ceviche, tacos—and the sleek vibe are refreshingly sophisticated. **D daily \$\$**

SOUTH PHILLY AND BELLA VISTA

Dimitri's

795 S. 3rd St.
215-625-0556
dimitrisrestaurant.com
Seated elbow-to-elbow at this Queen Village BYOB spot, locals dig into Greek delicacies like grilled squid, fried flounder, and rice pudding. No credit cards and no reservations, but worth the wait. **D (W–Sun) \$\$\$**

Marra's

1734 E. Passyunk Ave.
215-463-9249
marrasone.com
One taste of the sublimely simple brick-oven pizzas at this

no-nonsense eatery—opened by Salvatore Marra in the 1920s—and you'll never eat at Pizza Hut again. The pastas and homemade escarole soup are good, too. **L (Tue–Sat), D (Tue–Sun) \$\$\$**

Ralph's

760 S. 9th St.
215-627-6011
ralphsrestaurant.com
Meatballs and red “gravy” (marinara), chicken Sorrento, and unpretentious service are staples at this fifth-generation family trattoria that's been serving Italian-American food since 1900. **L, D daily \$\$\$**

Sabrina's Café

910 Christian St.
215-574-1599
sabinascfe.com
The reason folks wait hours for a seat in this pink-and-blue-hued BYOB? Must be something in the humongous french toast. They also do good sandwiches and vegan fare. There's another branch in the underserved Fairmount/Art Museum area at 1804 Callowhill Street. **Brunch, B, L daily \$\$**

Victor Café

1303 Dickinson St.
215-468-3040
victorcafe.com
Giant veal chops and home-made pastas compete for fame with this 1933 trattoria's classically trained, opera-singing servers. The Victor is such a classic example of a South Philly Italian trattoria it served as the set for Adrian's, the retired champ's restaurant in 2006's *Rocky Balboa*. **D daily \$\$\$** AL



REID BRAMBLETT
is author of *Frommer's Philadelphia Day by Day*.

Your Library's Story

Taking control of the narrative

BY Meredith Farkas



MEREDITH FARKAS is faculty librarian at Portland (Oreg.) Community College. Follow her on Twitter @librarianmer.

Like many in our profession, I was dismayed to hear the administration of St. Cloud (Minn.) State University has laid off four tenured faculty librarians as part of its cost-cutting retrenchment efforts (bit.ly/AL-Story1). Beyond the terrible loss to the library and university community, what struck me was how the administration selectively used library data to justify its decision—data the library faculty argued was taken out of context (bit.ly/AL-Story2). Circulation and reference transaction data was reported from different time periods and didn't reflect the fact that academic librarians have increasingly focused on teaching within the curriculum, for example.

The idea that the library data we all collect and share could be used against us is troubling, and it has left me thinking about how important it is that library workers find ways to control the narrative about our own value. In an era of shrinking budgets, libraries must find ways to tell our stories, which often require us to go beyond simply reporting data. Not only have the ways that libraries serve their communities changed and expanded, but it's become clear that the outputs we usually report are far less significant than the outcomes—the impact of our collections and services on our communities.

At my place of work, we frequently discuss how our statistics don't capture everything we do. While we collect information on how many classes and individual students we reach with face-to-face instruction, we don't record or report the online research guides we create to support classes, the online classes in which librarians are embedded to support and instruct students, the research assignments we have collaboratively developed with faculty, and the librarian-created learning objects that faculty use to teach information literacy. If we only gather and report data that is easy to collect, we leave out so much of the valuable work we do.

Beyond numbers, we also need to consider how to gather and tell stories about how patrons use the library and its effect on their lives. We have many ways to capture these stories, from surveys, to collecting or recording testimonials, to simply taking time to write down meaningful interactions we've had with patrons. Sharing the number of reference transactions we provide each year will never have the emotional resonance that real anecdotes about valuable reference interactions do. It's through storytelling that library workers can engage their stakeholders and help them connect with the library's message. The State Library of Iowa's Telling the Library Story (bit.ly/AL-Story3) and the Library

Story toolkit (bit.ly/AL-Story4), produced by the State Library of Pennsylvania and Altoona Area Public Library, while designed for public libraries, provide valuable tips and tools that any library worker can use to better articulate their library's narrative.

Library Snapshot Days can also provide opportunities to tell stories about your library's value. Since the project was started in 2009 to demonstrate the collective value of New Jersey libraries, public, academic, and school libraries across the country have participated in the annual event, collecting photos, data, and stories about how patrons use and benefit from the library in a single day. This report from Chicago's DePaul University Library in 2016 (bit.ly/AL-Story5) illustrates some of the ways a library can capture the richness of what happens during a typical 24-hour period. Library Snapshot Day lets us show

stakeholders the breadth of the library's services and programming and how the community benefits from the library.

If libraries simply report outputs as we always have, we run the risk of someone else dictating our worth. Telling compelling stories about what we do and the impact we have

on our communities can bring new patrons into the library and secure funding to ensure we can continue our important work. **AL**

Sharing the number of reference transactions we provide each year will never have the emotional resonance that real anecdotes about valuable reference interactions do.

Understanding Blockchain

Opportunities for libraries

BY Michael Meth



MICHAEL METH is associate dean for research and learning services at Florida State University Libraries in Tallahassee.

Whether through the news, from excited computer-savvy friends, or over a family dinner, you may have heard of such cryptocurrencies as Bitcoin or Ethereum. These electronic financial currencies have rapidly risen from speculative digital tokens (once considered untraceable by regulators and with little intrinsic value) to tokens with quasicurrency status and an air of legitimacy. Blockchain is the underlying technology that supports cryptocurrencies. One of the reasons for Bitcoin's success is its use of the distributed ledger—shared, synchronized data spread across multiple nodes.

Blockchain bears a resemblance to a concept that many librarians are familiar with: LOCKSS (lockss.org). LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) is a digital preservation initiative started by Stanford University Libraries in 1999. Both LOCKSS and blockchain are decentralized, distributed computing protocols that are designed to provide access to digital content and ensure its integrity.

What exactly is blockchain?

Blockchain technology links blocks of data sequentially in a distributed ledger. Each block holds a wide variety of content, including its own unique identifier, or “hash,” that identifies and links it to all blocks preceding and following it. In a traditional ledger, one might record amounts, parties involved, time of transaction, and other pertinent information. The distributed ledger takes this information, places it online, and distributes identical copies of the ledger to all the computers in the system, thereby ensuring that validated copies exist in multiple places. Once the blocks are created, they ensure that a time-stamped, immutable record of the content exists.

An important component of blockchain is the use of private and public keys, an encrypted authentication mechanism that ensures the privacy of participants. Users can authenticate by making use of a private key that is known only to them. The verified authentication creates a public key, which is then associated with a transaction. The public key cannot be reverse engineered to the private key, thus ensuring privacy.

In practice, the data in the blocks can be queried and analyzed because only the public key is recorded along with each block. The amount that can be encoded in a block is limited for now. As the technology evolves, it will be possible to attach more complex data and such file formats as PDF, image, audio, video, or other file types that have not been previously associated with blockchain. This will be an important component for libraries, allowing for the preservation and authentication of digital artifacts and surrogates of physical objects (such as

contracts or 3D models) to be recorded in the blockchain.

Why should libraries care?

Some initiatives in libraries are already underway, such as the work being done at the iSchool at San José (Calif.) State University, which is looking into how blockchain can help libraries. As acceptance grows, the library


community will be presented with apps based on blockchain technology. Some will be developed by libraries for libraries, and others will come from commercial vendors.

It is not farfetched to imagine apps that will run some

It is not farfetched to imagine apps that will run some background library processes.

background library processes, as well as forward-facing services. Perhaps blockchain will be used to secure user records in libraries, document library acquisitions, and improve collections maintenance. Applications for special collections could allow for identification and discovery of unique holdings. The scholarly record is another use case that lends itself to blockchain by allowing researchers to record and timestamp their ideas and disseminate knowledge.

Libraries have a major opportunity to use blockchain technology to advance privacy for users, increase collaboration, and transform the way they work with each other and their communities. By keeping up to date, libraries can evaluate opportunities and make the best use of this technology.

Adapted from “Blockchain in Libraries,” Library Technology Reports vol. 55, no. 8 (Nov. 2019). 

Making Room for Inclusion

Create an accommodating environment when sensory programs may not be possible

BY Tricia Bohanon



TRICIA BOHANON

is librarian at Akron–Summit County (Ohio) Public Library. She received the Autism Society of North Carolina's Autism Professional of the Year Award in 2010. Email: btricia_@hotmail.com.

For a decade, I have led sensory storytime programs at libraries in North Carolina and Ohio and trained many staffers across the country in this specialized service. But one theme recurs: Attendance at these programs is hit or miss.

Despite interest from the communities I have served, numbers have been consistently low. Usually one to two families attend the monthly program. Recently, Akron–Summit County (Ohio) Public Library, where I work, made the decision to discontinue these storytimes.

When sensory programming may not be feasible—whether because of low attendance, inadequate staffing, or lack of administrative support—we can take steps in all programming to create a welcoming environment for those with different abilities. In doing so, we are practicing inclusion despite an absence of dedicated programs for these families.

The first step, I tell staffers, is simply to be aware of and respond to differently abled individuals. At storytime, that may mean not insisting everyone sit down during reading or stand up during dancing, instead allowing individuals to take in the event however they choose. It may also require recognizing that some participants might not return eye contact or give verbal responses or cues, as some peers would in the same situation. It's critical to respect these differences and understand that individuals absorb information in a variety of ways.

We can also take measures to ensure that our programming meets many different needs. Using a visual schedule board helps participants know what is happening next, reducing anxiety and providing comfort as it displays which activities are upcoming and how long the program will last. Making efforts to reduce distractions in the programming room can improve focus, as can offering adaptive seating—sitting wedges, Educube chairs, or at minimum, an area defined by carpet squares. Reading a book while sharing the story on a flannel board, or doing a second reading to repeat the story, can enrich the literacy experience.

Another way to be more inclusive is to relax programming age restrictions to “family” or “all ages” so that individuals who are developmentally outside their physical age can attend and enjoy. Also consider limiting registration numbers. Having smaller, more manageable program sizes welcomes those for whom a large number of noisy, active participants would be overwhelming.

Many of us may already incorporate motor-skills exercises in programs via hands-on activities with objects such as beanbags, felt pieces, scarves,

and stick props. Additionally, try using sensory integration equipment such as a tactile balance beam, sensory stepping stones, sensory beanbags, TheraBands, and textured balls. Other sensory-friendly items that may provide accommodations include weighted snakes and blankets, fidget toys, or noise-dampening headphones. Adaptive technology, such as the speech-generating device BIGmack, can allow a nonverbal person to participate.

Adding a social period or

playtime directly after your program has value for all involved. This time allows parents to connect with one another, children to practice their social skills, and staffers to act as a resource for families and put a friendly face on the library.

Finally, marketing

and networking are important parts of assuring the families we are trying to attract that we are working to create an inclusive atmosphere. Libraries have been historically viewed as quiet places, so let your users know that attitudes have changed and that stigma is not representative of today's libraries. The responsibility falls on us to show our community that all abilities are welcome and served and that we are proactively adding elements to foster an easy and pleasant experience for everyone who enters our doors.

Adapted from “Bringing Elements of Sensory Programming into All Programs” (ALSC Blog, Oct. 2, 2019). **AL**

We can practice inclusion despite an absence of programs for differently abled individuals.

Get with the Programming

How can library training evolve to prepare programming librarians?

BY Terrilyn Chun



TERRILYN CHUN is deputy director of Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library, and served as an advisor to the National Impact of Library Public Programs Assessment with the American Library Association's Public Programs Office.

Thoughts of libraries tend to bring to mind images of books and reading, but the trends tell another story: Circulation in public libraries is decreasing while public programs are growing in prominence, according to the 2017 Public Library Data Service report. I've witnessed the long arc of this trend in action over 20 years spent developing public programs—an expertise I gained prior to earning my MLS.

My first job at Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library (MCL) was in public relations, which involved writing and editing news releases, brochures, and fliers and, increasingly, planning programs and events. An operating levy, passed when I was a few years into the job, brought a wave of construction, renovations, and expanded public program offerings. New programming and event responsibilities fell to public relations staff rather than credentialed librarians. After all, public programming skills are among the least taught in MLS programs.

These predegree experiences opened my eyes to the value of library programming. Public programs help fulfill fundamental human needs for community, connection, and entertainment, and they can often mitigate barriers like language or reading ability. They offer a chance to take a break and do something fun, like try a hobby or craft or gain a technological skill. Like other library services, programs are free and open to all—an especially important fact for lower-income patrons who rely on the library for information and educational and job-seeking resources.

The scope of the practicalities surrounding programming is immense, and I faced a steep learning curve on the job. I learned how to source and vet performers and presenters, negotiate fees, and create professional services contracts. I also figured out where to rent tables and chairs, how to set up and troubleshoot sound systems, and when to apply for city permits for street closures. I created and managed budgets and timelines.

I also applied softer skills as I designed programs that would resonate with my community. I leaned on my communications background as I wrote program descriptions, marketing materials, grant applications, and funding proposals. When creating partnership agreements for joint programs, such as preview performances with the Portland Opera, I exercised diplomacy and balanced the interests of multiple stakeholders.

These positive experiences and professional growth opportunities eventually led me to library school, where formal training in programming competencies was limited to students in a youth services track.

My experience isn't unique. The American Library Association's National Impact of Library Public Programs Assessment (NILPPA, of

which I was an advisor) noted a distinct lack of training for professionals who develop programs. The assessment, funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, collected data from libraries across the country and identified core competencies required for professionals working with library programming, such as event planning, marketing, and financial skills.

It didn't surprise me to learn that only half of degreed librarians were formally trained on programming competencies in their master's programs; others learned from colleagues, by trial and error, or through outside work.

Like most of the libraries that were part of the project, which also encompassed small, rural, and academic libraries, MCL prioritizes programming as a core library service. We book an average of 1,000 programs per month throughout our system, and programs drew more than 214,000 attendees in fiscal year 2019. We maintain a database with more than 3,000 presenters and 3,600 programs.

Leaders in library education must give serious attention to determining which of the competencies identified in the NILPPA report are best taught as part of a degree program and which are more suited to on-the-job training or continuing education.

As libraries become more dynamic centers of community and activity, LIS curricula must evolve to prepare library professionals to lead these efforts through public programming. **AL**

Only half of degreed librarians gain programming experience in their master's programs.

Digital Strategies for Librarians

Guides for managing patrons' evolving tech needs



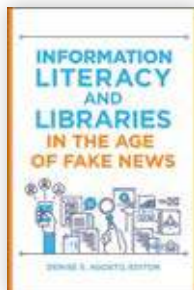
ANNA GOODING-CALL is reference and technology librarian at Nevins Memorial Library in Methuen, Massachusetts.



Your Technology Outreach Adventure: Tools for Human-Centered Problem Solving

By Erin Berman

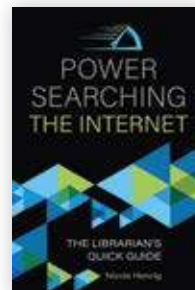
This title will guide professionals in exploring computer-focused library programming. While it provides good examples of tech programs that benefit from outreach, the bulk of the book deals with group planning and design. These are often applicable to any program series or project where planning happens in committee. Conference planners and professionals staging library-wide events may find its insights particularly useful. In addition to well-outlined brainstorming strategies, Berman details methods for transforming plans into effective programs while maintaining a spirit of cooperation among organizers. ALA Editions, 2019. 208 p. \$54.99. PBK. 978-0-8389-1778-7. (Also available as an ebook.)



Information Literacy and Libraries in the Age of Fake News

By Denise E. Agosto, editor

This collection of essays does an outstanding job presenting multiple philosophies, strategies, and viewpoints on the problem of digital disinformation. Unlike the titular fake news, these short pieces are uniformly researched, well sourced, and invested with extensive bibliographies. Several stand in stark contrast to their subject as pieces that argue a point well without skirting facts. Topics range from strategies to help patrons develop critical-thinking skills to the history of yellow journalism. The bibliographies for each essay contain a wealth of further reading and possible foundations for thesis and research papers. Libraries Unlimited, 2018. 184 p. \$65. PBK. 978-1-4408-6418-6. (Also available as an ebook.)



Power Searching the Internet: The Librarian's Quick Guide

By Nicole Hennig

Centered firmly on the practical, *Power Searching* compresses valuable information into a slim volume on the use of popular platforms like Twitter and especially Google as search resources. A particularly good resource for librarians who educate patrons about search habits, it reveals new sides to services that many people already know about. Its weakness is that it's a physical book in a digital world. Some of its advice, such as that about Google+, is already out of date. Even so, its pointers are professionally valuable, clearly conveyed, and worth its price. Libraries Unlimited, 2018. 103 p. \$35. PBK. 978-1-4408-6697-5. (Also available as an ebook.)

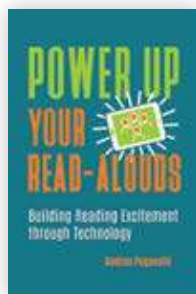
by Anna Gooding-Call



New Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know: A LITA Guide

By Kenneth J. Varnum

Varnum's 2014 *Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know* gets a follow-up in this collection of essays about emerging technologies. While professionals comfortable with the "internet of things" and HTML5 will feel right at home, the book is a worthwhile look into the near future. It is solutions-oriented and positive when it addresses problems like privacy and link rot. Each well-cited essay includes a bibliography, and a thorough index completes the entire work. Like its predecessor, this book is likely to be relevant for about five years, during which time it will be extremely useful. Highly recommended. ALA Editions, 2019. 304 p. \$70. PBK. 978-0-8389-1782-4. (Also available as an ebook.)



Power Up Your Read-Alouds: Building Reading Excitement through Technology

By Andrea Paganelli


It's safe to say that many librarians still aren't completely aware of transmedia, the digitally integrated storytelling strategy that makes books and storytimes interactive. This book represents a valuable self-education opportunity for any programming librarian, regardless of specialty. It even provides sample program-ready storytime plans. Despite its tech focus, much of this book's advice for tailoring storytimes to specific audiences could apply to a traditional, nondigital storytime. All in all, a strong choice for a brand-new children's librarian or LIS student. Libraries Unlimited, 2019. 150 p. \$45. PBK. 978-1-4408-6520-6. (Also available as an ebook.)



Tech-Savvy Reading Promotion: A Toolbox for Librarians and Other Educators

By Nancy J. Keane

Stuffed with helpful advice on online tools, this title focuses on empowering librarians to locate and create digital media. The plethora of (mostly free or free-mium) resources encompasses every format from infographics to virtual reality. Bulleted sublists help break down usage instructions into comprehensible chunks. Divided by category, the book explains each media type's definition and potential usage. However, handholding is minimal; it's meant for librarians who are already social-media aware. Any title about web pages is vulnerable to link death, and this one is no exception. For now, enjoy this indispensable work, and look for future updates.

Libraries Unlimited, 2019. 166 p. \$50. PBK. 978-1-4408-6850-4. (Also available as an ebook.) 

PEOPLE

Announcements

ON THE MOVE

Mark Coulbourne began as preservation librarian at University of Maryland, College Park, October 14.

September 1 **Stephanie De Leon** became digital resource professional at Lone Star College–University Park Digital Library in Houston.



In July **Diane Dias De Fazio** was appointed curator of rare books and book arts in Special Collections at University of Iowa Libraries in Iowa City.

Joni Floyd became curator for Maryland and Historical Collections at University of Maryland, College Park, Libraries September 16.

October 7 **Brock J. Hutchison** started as director of Louisville (Ky.) Public Library.

Kana Jenkins joined University of Maryland, College Park, as curator of the Gordon W. Prange Collection and librarian for East Asian Studies September 15.

Yan “Grace” Liu was named business librarian at West Chester (Pa.) University August 26.

Ron McColl became special collections librarian at West Chester (Pa.) University August 26.

Juliane Morian was named director of Rochester Hills (Mich.) Public Library in December.



November 15 **Elaina Norlin** joined the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries in Atlanta as program coordinator for professional development.



Kudos

In September, the **Chicago Botanic Garden’s Lenhardt Library** in Glencoe, Illinois, received the American Institute of Conservation’s 2019 Ross Merrill Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections.

The Geoscience Information Society recognized **Clara McLeod**, earth and planetary sciences librarian at Washington University in St. Louis, with its Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award at its annual meeting September 24. ●

Kim Olson-Charles

became head of library public services at University of Western States in Portland, Oregon, October 7.



In August **Margarita Shawcross** became health sciences librarian at University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

PROMOTIONS

August 15 Idaho Commission for Libraries in Boise promoted **Stephanie Bailey-White** to state librarian.



University of Western States in Portland, Oregon, promoted **Stephanie Debner** to university librarian October 1.

Washington-Centerville (Ohio) Public Library promoted **Elizabeth Fultz** to director October 7.

Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library promoted **Amy McLanahan** to manager of its Hilliard branch September 1.

Michigan State University in East Lansing promoted **Joseph Salem** to dean of university libraries September 10.



Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, promoted **Michelle Young** to dean of libraries September 18.

RETIREMENTS

Nancy E. Gwinn, director of the Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, D.C., retired in December.

Christine Lind Hage, director of Rochester Hills (Mich.) Public Library and former president of the Public Library Association (PLA) and United for Libraries, retired December 1.

October 31 **Stephen M. Hayes** retired as Entrepreneurial Spirit Endowed Business Librarian at University of Notre Dame (Ind.) Hesburgh Libraries.

Robin Nesbitt, manager of Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library’s Hilliard branch, retired August 30.

Janet Tapper retired as dean of library services at University of Western States in Portland, Oregon, October 31.



Mary Augusta Thomas, deputy director at the Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, D.C., and a member of the ALA Publishing Committee for five years, retired in September.

July 12 **Tanner Wray** retired as director of library and information services at Montgomery College in Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park, Maryland.

AT ALA

Nick Aleck joined the Information Technology department as user experience manager October 28.

In Memory

Helen Cline, 87, managing editor for the American Library Association's (ALA) Books and Publishing Services from 1968 until her 1991 retirement, died October 9. After retiring, she lived in Hennessey, Oklahoma, where she founded the Friends of the Hennessey Library.

Emily England Clyburn, 80, a longtime school and Veterans Administration librarian in South Carolina until her 1994 retirement, died September 19. She served as a librarian at W. G. Sanders Middle School in Columbia, Charleston Naval Academy, Simonton Elementary School and Burke High School in Charleston, and at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Columbia. She was married to US Rep. Jim Clyburn and used that position to raise tens of thousands of dollars to help students afford college. South Carolina State University awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2010.

Sylvia Darlene Kuhlmeier, 60, died June 28. She worked as a librarian at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, and as library director at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas, and Missouri State University in West Plains.

Willis Bernard "Bill" Lukenbill, 80, professor emeritus at University of Texas (UT) at Austin School of Information, died August 29. He taught library and information science at University of Maryland, College Park, 1972–1975 before joining UT in 1976; he retired in 2010. Lukenbill wrote eight

books and more than 40 professional articles, and he presented his research at many international conferences. After retirement, he volunteered as an archivist at Metropolitan Community Church in Austin.

Rose E. Mosley, 80, a member of the Maywood (Ill.) Public Library Board for 36 years, died September 10. Mosley was a member of the Illinois Library Trustee Forum starting in 1990 and held at various times the offices of secretary, vice president, and president. The Illinois Library Association awarded her its Outstanding Trustee Award and Citation in 1998. Mosley was a longtime ALA member and was one of the advocates for the merger of the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates with Friends of Libraries USA. In 2009, she became the 2009–2010 president of the merged organization, now known as United for Libraries.

Bill Ptacek, 69, Calgary (Alberta) Public Library CEO since 2014, died October 15. During his tenure, the library built 12 early learning centers across the city and opened two new locations and a new Central Library. Calgary named him as its 2018 Citizen of the Year, and the Urban Libraries Council awarded him the 2019 Executive Board Award. Prior to joining Calgary Public Library, Ptacek was director of King County (Wash.) Library System. ●



The Public Policy and Advocacy Office (PPAO) promoted **Gavin Baker** to deputy director, public policy and government relations, September 13.

Heather Booth joined *Booklist* as audio editor October 28.

Deborah Caldwell-Stone was promoted to director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom and executive director for the Freedom to Read Foundation October 24.

Will Clifft, PPAO public policy associate, left ALA September 13.

Megan Cusick was promoted to assistant director for state advocacy in PPAO September 13.

Megan Dougherty, program officer for continuing education for the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), left ALA September 13.

The Association for Library Service to Children named **Jordan Dubin** as awards coordinator October 21.

Tom Ferren was promoted to program officer for continuing education with ALCTS October 25.

Ryan LaFollette, assistant director of major gifts in the Development Office, left ALA September 13.

October 28 **Mark Leon**, chief financial officer, left ALA.

Hannah Murphy joined ALA Publishing as administrative assistant for eLearning Solutions October 28.

PPAO promoted **Megan Ortegon** to assistant director of public policy and strategic initiatives September 13.

Kathy Rosa, director of the ALA Library and Research Center, retired October 1.

Chrishelle Thomas joined the Library and Information Technology Association as membership and marketing manager September 9.

September 13 PPAO promoted **Emily Wagner** to deputy director of advocacy communications. [AL](#)



Medical Marvels

Unexpectedly finding a skeleton lounging in her office doesn't rattle Beth M. Lander, college librarian at the Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

"That's an excellent example of what it is like to work here," she says. "You never know what might happen next."

The college shares its library with the Mütter Museum, an institution known for its macabre medical materials, which span centuries. Sometimes those artifacts find their way into the hands of playful coworkers, so keeping an upbeat attitude is essential, Lander says.

The library holds more than 146,000 journals, monographs, photos, manuscripts, and other medical ephemera documenting more than 1,000 years of medical history. It also has five books bound in human skin—the largest such collection in the US. Three are bound in the skin of 28-year-old Irish immigrant Mary Lynch, who died at Philadelphia

General Hospital in 1869. For unknown reasons, a physician removed skin from Lynch's thigh during her autopsy and used it to bind rare books on women's health and reproduction printed between 1601 and 1797. Lander says these are her favorite books in the collection.

"I'm very protective of Mary," Lander says. "She lacked agency in her life. Her immigrant status and gender would have placed her near the lowest rung of society at that time."

Lander does not consider the books morbid curiosities. "As with the other specimens in the museum, the Lynch books are not freakish," she explains. "They represent a point in time in the history of medicine, as well as a perspective that physicians had toward the human body. Those perspectives continue to inform us today." **AL**

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





Connectrac In-Carpet Wireway

FREEDOM

TO MOVE YOUR PROJECT FORWARD

The Connectrac® In-Carpet Wireway delivers power and data with an elegant and flexible, floor-based cable management solution unlike complicated and expensive methods such as core drilling, trenching or power poles. Our ultra-low profile wireway integrates with any furniture and can be moved or reconfigured as environments evolve.

CONNECTRAC®

#TheLibraryLife's Next Stop...



Home of Country Music, Hot Chicken, & **Ingram.**

We Are Ready to **Welcome Y'all** to Music City!

**Two-step to Booth 1123 to lasso library swag,
#social opp, support, & solutions.**

Your Mission. Our Purpose. #TheLibraryLife



**Meet Your
Patrons' Needs.**

Our Reliable Service.



**Reclaim
Your Time.**

Our Flexible Tools.



**Build Your Best
Collection.**

Our Complimentary Curation.