

american libraries

September/October 2022

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

2022

LIBRARY DESIGN

SHOWCASE p. 20

Improving Building
Signage p. 36

NEWSMAKER:
George Saunders
p. 16

PLUS: ALA Awards,
Bike Gear Library,
Family Workstations



ALA American Library Association

Because all those

CONCERTS, **STORYTIMES**, COMPUTER CLASSES,
ARTS, **BOOK CLUBS**, COMMUNITY DIALOGUES,
WORKSHOPS, **MAKERSPACES**, CONCERTS, AUTHOR
TALKS, **EXHIBITIONS**, **ESL COURSES**, COMMUNITY
CLASSES, **ART EXHIBITIONS**, **ESL CLASSES**,
AUTHOR TALKS, **STORYTIMES**, COMPUTER CLASSES,
CONCERTS, **COMMUNITY DIALOGUES**, ART EXHIBITIONS

don't plan themselves.

PROGRAMMING
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from the
EDITOR

Stepping Outside



Sanhita SinhaRoy

This year's Library Design Showcase (cover story, p. 20) features projects—all completed during the ongoing pandemic—that reflect the changing needs of users. Many of these new and renovated constructions thoughtfully incorporate outdoor spaces and are designed to reestablish community connections. And they're fun. The interior design of Fulton County (Ga.) Library System's renovated Central Library in Atlanta (cover) seems to have come straight from the imagination of artist M. C. Escher. Inventively and sustainably conceived, the renovation reused 95% of the building's existing structure.

For more design, flip to page 28 for a look at the winners of the 2022 ALA/AIA Library Building Awards. And turn to "Show and Tell" (p. 36) to learn the best practices for signage design. This feature is excerpted from Mark Aaron Polger's *Library Signage and Wayfinding Design* (ALA Editions, 2021).

Speaking of finding your way, award-winning author and professor George Saunders (Newsmaker, p. 16) talks with Managing Editor Terra Dankowski about how a trip to the library changed his life.

As we all know, libraries do change lives, and many Texas libraries are doing just that by getting enhanced library cards into the hands of patrons ("ID Made Easier," p. 12). Initially created with undocumented communities in mind, these cards have also helped other marginalized groups. Cass Balzer interviews library workers and immigration advocates who are making a difference.

Some of you may have gone camping this summer. But have you gone bike camping? Check out "Riders' Advisory" (Bookend, p. 48) to see how the gear library of the Radical Adventure Riders Atlanta chapter is making cycling more accessible. The photo, by Georgia-based photographer Dessa Lohrey, will have you eager to get outdoors.

With this issue we say a reluctant good-bye to Associate Editor Sallyann Price, who is relocating to the Pacific Northwest. We wish her all the best as she begins her next chapter—and hope she gets to spend plenty of time in the open air.

Sanhita

Many of the
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renovated
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cover story
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to reestablish
community
connections.

Representation Matters

Our core values and unique identities are what root us



**Lessa Kanani'opua
Pelayo-Lozada**

Seasons
come and go,
but libraries
are always
present:
creating
community,
ensuring
representation,
and upholding
our values.

Fall is my favorite time of the year. The air turns crisp; holy days and holidays—both religious and secular—come in quick succession; hope for the school year abounds; and heritage, awareness, and history months are in full swing. Embracing these celebrations, identities, and hopes is foundational to our shared core values of diversity, lifelong learning, and social responsibility. The importance of representation resonates across these values. Helping people feel seen and heard—and assisting them in solidifying their place in our society's fabric—are roles that libraries play in building community. Our values are essential to our future as institutions, library workers, and library lovers.

The library ecosystem encompasses the life cycles of both our users (to provide representation and touchstones at each stage of a person's life) and library workers (to assist at each stage of our careers). Seasons come and go, but libraries are always present: creating community, ensuring representation, and upholding our values. Here are some roles in the library ecosystem and the potential each one holds:

- **As library workers.** When we bring our whole selves to work and make connections with our users, we do our best work. Our personal identities allow patrons to see themselves in those who have power and authority in an institution, and our openness fosters partnership, empowering patrons in a world that often strips them of autonomy.
- **As library supporters and lovers.** When we are represented and full partners with the library, we become the best advocates; we fight to ensure they remain for generations to come.
- **As institutions.** When we use an equity lens and remember we serve our communities and library workers in all their identities, we become community centers and places of connection.

- **As an association.** When we understand the complexities that make up the ecosystem and the cycles that go along with it, we harness the strength of these networks to focus on our mission and advocate on the local and national levels to ensure information access.

At the American Library Association (ALA), members of the library ecosystem come together to ensure information access for all. Our divisions, round tables, and affiliates create spaces for representation around our varied identities to do this essential work. As leaders in embracing intersectionality, ALA is home to the Rainbow Round Table, the oldest LGBTQ+ professional organization in the country. We have awards celebrating authors of color like the Coretta Scott King Book Awards and the Pura Belpré Award, given in conjunction with Reforma, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking.

We also partner with our affiliates to embrace representation, collaborating on projects and highlighting awards from the National Association of Librarians of Color and the Association of Jewish Libraries, among others. Our divisions advocate for representation of our members, like the American Association of School Librarians supporting legislation that acknowledges the vital role of certified school librarians. And of course, we support library workers of all backgrounds with the tools needed to support their journeys in the library ecosystem.

This fall, as we celebrate our intersectionalities through events like Library Card Sign-Up Month and Banned Books Week, remember that both representation and our core values root us in what matters: creating community and ensuring information access for all. **AL**

LESSA KANANI'OPUA PELAYO-LOZADA is adult services assistant manager at Palos Verdes Library District in Rolling Hills Estates, California.

Librarianship as Resistance

Defying the silence and erasure of censorship



Tracie D. Hall

ALA is the first organization to launch a nationwide public-facing anticensorship campaign, Unite Against Book Bans.

Writing in the 1st to 2nd centuries AD, Roman poet Juvenal asked a haunting question: *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* Or: “Who will watch the watchers?” In other words, who will regulate those who seek the authority to regulate others?

In the present age of neo-censorship—which journalist Rohan Jayasekera describes as “a kind of control on opinion that moves beyond the traditional model” (that of the state, the law, and the secret police) to now include “big business, courtrooms, schools, newsrooms [that] block ideas out of habit, or prejudice, or fear”—the contemporary answer to Juvenal’s question would be librarians.

Speaking to two dozen librarians and library associations for a recent *New York Times* article, reporters Elizabeth A. Harris and Alexandra Alter observed: “As highly visible and politicized book bans have exploded across the country, librarians ... have found themselves on the front lines of an acrimonious culture war, with their careers and their personal reputations at risk.”

These past two years, ALA has registered the highest numbers of censorship challenges since its Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) began tracking them two decades ago. OIF has been actively involved in providing legal and personal counsel to hundreds of librarians embroiled in these challenges. When I spoke to one such librarian who was placed on involuntary leave for highlighting how parents and their children could use *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe to foster open dialogue, she wearily protested, “But I am not an activist.”

Activism, according to its Merriam-Webster definition, is “a doctrine or practice that emphasizes direct vigorous action, especially in support of or opposition to one side of a controversial issue.” *Resistance*, by contrast, is “the inherent ability of an organism to resist harmful influences (such as disease, toxic agents, or infection).”

If our colleague is not, by her own interpretation, an activist, then she is certainly part of the resistance when it comes to censorship.

And so are we—as a profession, and as members of ALA.

Writing in 2003, Judith Krug, OIF’s founding director, noted: “The attitude of librarians toward intellectual freedom has undergone continual change since the late 1800s when, through ALA, the profession first began to approach such issues with the semblance of a unified voice.”

During the height of McCarthyism, ALA held its first Conference on Intellectual Freedom in New York City. Books like *Civil Disobedience* and *Robin Hood* were being pilloried. Authors such as W. E. B. Du Bois and Langston Hughes were being tried as “un-American,” and librarians like Ruth W. Brown of Bartlesville (Okla.) Public Library (and later the library’s entire board) were fired because of efforts to preserve public access to censored books and to desegregate library services.

Contesting the notion that book selection should be taken away from professionally trained librarians in the name of censorship, the 1952 convening concluded: “You don’t object to the doctor impressing his point of view upon you when he tells you that you are dangerously ill. You don’t talk about his ‘point of view.’ Librarians should be expert or else they are not a profession.”

It is fitting then, that seven decades later, ALA is the first organization to launch a nationwide public-facing anticensorship campaign, Unite Against Book Bans (uniteagainstabookbans.org). We seek to fulfill one of the closing tenets of the Library Bill of Rights: to “cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.” In so doing, we inhabit our full charge—to not just be the resistance but to grow it. **AL**

TRACIE D. HALL is executive director of the American Library Association. Reach her at thall@ala.org.

f My comic book hero! 🙌🙌🙌

DANNY THIEN LE, in response to our photo of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles cocreator Kevin Eastman at ALA's 2022 Annual Conference (June 26)

t Umm ... wow! Our panel was featured in *American Libraries* magazine! So honored to have this opportunity to present about historically underrepresented readers at #alaac22.

@KATRYNWRITES, in response to "Uplifting Underrepresented Readers" (The Scoop, June 27)

Staying Abreast

Thank you so much for the *Daily Scoop* e-newsletters during ALA's Annual Conference. Even though everything was on a smaller scale this year, it's still impossible to cover everything of interest, so these reports offered a glimpse into some important areas.

I have been going to Annual for more years than I care to remember, and I sat in on Council meetings as an editor of *Library Hotline* and contributor to *Library Journal*. I allow myself to skip them now that I'm retired, but your reporting (The Scoop, June 25–27) gave me a sense of the issues facing our elected representatives as they negotiate the future of ALA.

For many years, we as an Association have been dealing with the reality that we don't always reflect the communities we serve. In D.C. this year, I was amazed and reassured when I saw the age levels and diversity of attendees. I was energized and grateful for all of it.

Susan DiMattia
Stamford, Connecticut

The Risk Remains

I've grown pretty weary over the last two years; I know that everyone has. But as I've seen ALA—and now many other librarian groups—either insisting on having in-person conferences (often with no or very limited virtual/hybrid presence) or pushing heavily to shift back toward

in-person conferences, I wanted to speak up and say that this is grossly irresponsible.

COVID-19 hasn't gone anywhere. As of press time, the CDC was still recording an average of 366 deaths per day. While vaccines and quality masks can prevent most of us from suffering the worst effects, we can absolutely still get it—and spread it to the most vulnerable among us.

I'm not ready to risk my health and that of others by hopping back into a giant germ soup with thousands of other librarians in the same building, and it is irresponsible of ALA to push for it.

I applaud the round tables and groups that have continued to look to virtual models or are at least providing fully hybrid options for people who do not want to contribute to the spread.

Daniel Wilson
Placentia, California

Dangerous Heights

When is ALA going to finally start advocating for a ban on atriums in libraries?

San Francisco Public Library just had its third atrium "jumper" in five years: May 4, 2022; September 4, 2019; and July 27, 2017. It seems to me these incidents are not widely reported to minimize bad publicity and copycat acts. How will this situation ever be addressed if we don't acknowledge that the design of the building is part of the problem?

Library suicides and suicide attempts have happened at

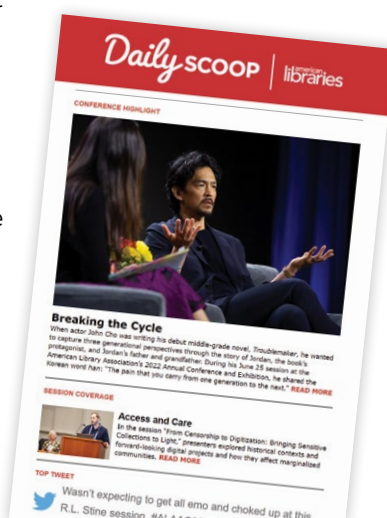
public libraries in San Diego, Salt Lake City, and Cincinnati, as well as at NYU, UCLA, and San José (Calif.) State University libraries—and, further afield, in Winnipeg, Manitoba; Birmingham, England; and Hong Kong. How many other communities have been affected? Is anyone tracking the data?

ALA should acknowledge the issue and stop recognizing architects who design libraries with atriums. In addition to the pain and suffering of families and friends, these deaths cause PTSD for witnesses. ALA should be taking the lead on this issue.

Lisa Dunseth
San Francisco

CORRECTION

The June 29 edition of *AL Direct* misidentified Tressie McMillan Cottom as a librarian. She is a sociologist and professor at the School of Information and Library Science at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



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, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601.

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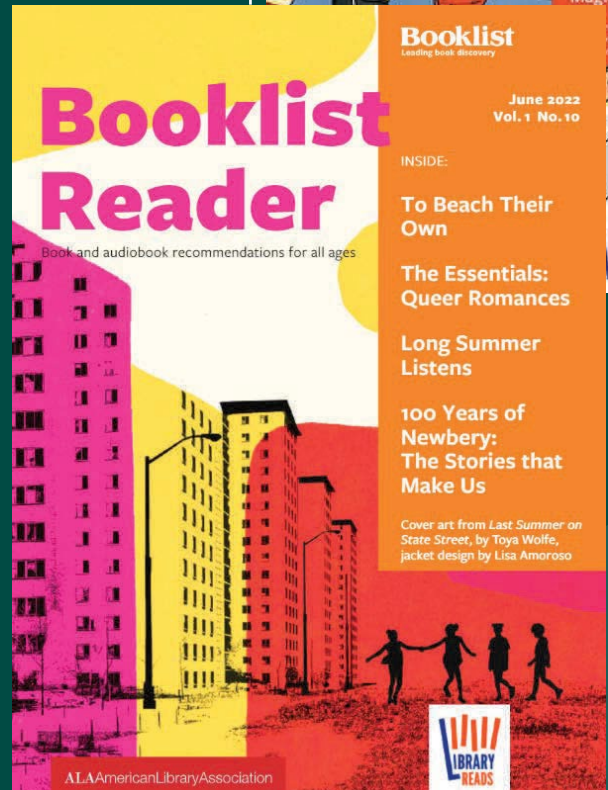
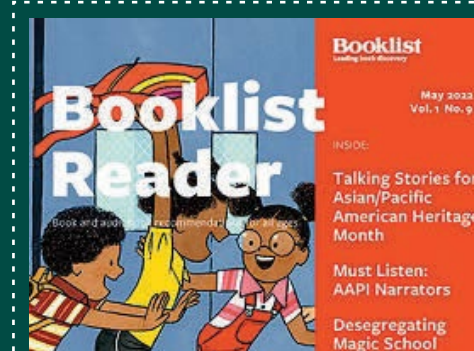
Booklist Reader

Print is coming in
January!

Deliver *Booklist's*
unparalleled reading
recommendations
directly to patrons
and library visitors.

Start sharing *Booklist
Reader* digitally now.
Activate your Booklist
Online profile today!

Visit www.bit.ly/printiscoming for details



ALA Stands with Libraries against Threats of Violence

On June 24, in response to the increase in acts of aggression toward library workers and patrons across the country, the American Library Association (ALA) Executive Board released the following statement:

"[ALA] condemns, in the strongest terms possible, violence, threats of violence, and other acts of intimidation increasingly taking place in America's libraries, particularly those acts that aim to erase the stories and identities of [those who are] gay, queer, transgender, Black, Indigenous, [and] persons of color; those with disabilities; and religious minorities.

"ALA stands with our members, all library workers, and those who govern libraries [while] courageously [facing] threats to their personal and professional well-being

because of their efforts to celebrate diversity and foster inclusion in their communities, in the belief that every human being deserves respect and dignity. ALA stands shoulder to shoulder with our LGBTQIA+ colleagues and other library workers who are disproportionately harmed by these attacks. ALA calls upon all library workers to support their colleagues and reaffirm our shared commitment to equity of access to information for all communities.

"ALA stands with community members, whom local libraries exist to serve, especially those library users whose stories hatemongers would wish to erase. The message of libraries, and of ALA, is one of welcome for people everywhere who believe in the peaceful exchange of ideas."

To read the full statement, visit bit.ly/ALA-0624. ●

Nominations Open for the I Love My Librarian Award

ALA announced on July 8 that it is seeking nominations from library users nationwide for the annual I Love My Librarian Award. The national award recognizes the contributions of librarians working in public, school, college, community college, and university libraries. Nominations will be accepted online through September 30.

Ten librarians will receive \$5,000 each in recognition of their achievements. Awardees will be honored at the I Love My Librarian Award ceremony at the 2023 LibLearnX Conference in New Orleans. Honorees will also receive complimentary full-conference registration as part of their award packages.

Since the award was established in 2008, more than 22,000 nominations have been submitted, and 140 librarians have received the award.

For more information, including eligibility criteria and tips for writing

a nomination, visit bit.ly/ILoveMyLibrarian2023.

ALA Condemns Destruction of Libraries in Ukraine

On June 25, ALA Council passed CD#57, a resolution condemning the damage to, and destruction of, Ukrainian libraries, schools, and cultural institutions resulting from the continued occupation of Ukraine by the Russian Federation government (bit.ly/ALACD57).

ALA urges its members, communities, the US government, and nongovernmental organizations to support those librarians and their institutions through funds and material assistance where possible.

In partnership with the Ukraine Library Association (ULA), ALA created the Ukraine Library Relief Fund (bit.ly/ALA-ULAFund) in May to collect tax-deductible donations, with all funds raised sent to ULA each month. ALA members and other library supporters

have so far donated \$12,000 to the Ukrainian library community.

Registration Opens for YALSA 2022 Symposium

Registration is now open for the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) 2022 Young Adult Services Symposium, taking place November 4–6 in Baltimore. Early bird registration rates are valid through September 15. This year's theme is "Rediscovering Our Charm: Supporting Teens and Each Other in Our Libraries." The symposium will explore new ways to uplift and support librarians and teens through services and stories.

The symposium will feature education sessions, networking opportunities, and panels, including appearances from authors Lamar Giles, Jas Hammonds, Rex Ogle, Francesca Padilla, Nic Stone, Aiden Thomas, and Vincent Tirado.

For more information, including the program agenda, visit bit.ly/YALSA2022Symposium.

FCC and IMLS Partner to Close Digital Divide

On June 24, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) signed a memorandum of understanding to help close the digital divide.

Then-ALA President Patricia “Patty” M. Wong said in a June 24 statement addressing the action: “Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, IMLS investments enabled libraries nationwide to assess connectivity needs, procure affordable broadband services, complete E-Rate applications, train staff, and obtain technology. ALA appreciates IMLS’s initiative in reaching this memorandum of understanding.

“We hope that this new relationship between the FCC and IMLS will not only connect more Americans to the internet but also connect them to the digital skills needed to use it. From the young person learning to code computers to the patron using a mouse for the first time to students doing research, libraries provide both the technology and the expertise that fosters lifelong learning and opportunity.” To read the memorandum, visit bit.ly/FCC-IMLS. ●

Call for Volunteers to Serve on ALA Committees

ALA President-Elect Emily Drabinski announced a call for members to volunteer for ALA, Council, and joint committees for the 2023–2025 term beginning July 1, 2023.

To be considered for the 2023–2025 term, applications must be submitted no later than September 30. Forms received after that date will be considered for the following term (2024–2026). Association committees seeking volunteers include Awards, Conference, Constitution and Bylaws, Literacy, and Membership.

Drabinski will make committee appointments in consultation with both the Committee on Appointments (for ALA and joint committee appointments) and the Committee on Committees (for Council committee appointments). Appointments will be approved by the ALA Executive Board in January 2023, with notifications sent to appointed individuals in spring 2023.

For more information, including the full list of committees seeking volunteers and how to apply, visit bit.ly/ALAVolunteers2023-25.

ALA Accepting Applications for 2023 Emerging Leaders

ALA is accepting applications for the 2023 class of Emerging Leaders. The program fosters leadership development and enables newer library workers from across the country and Canada to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, evaluate ALA structure, and see opportunities to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. Participation can lead to ALA committee volunteerism as well as other professional library-related organizations.

An ALA division, round table, ethnic association affiliate, state chapter, or school library media association affiliate will sponsor approximately two-thirds of the selected applicants. Each sponsor will contribute a minimum of \$1,000

CALENDAR

SEPT.

Library Card Sign-Up Month
ala.org/librarycardsignup

SEPT. 14–17

Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference

Chattanooga, Tennessee
arsl.org/2022-conference

SEPT. 18–24

Banned Books Week

bannedbooksweek.org

SEPT. 21

Banned Websites Awareness Day

ala.org/aasl/advocacy/bwad

SEPT. 29–OCT. 1

ALSC National Institute

Kansas City, Missouri
ala.org/alsc/confscce/institute

OCT.

TeenTober

ala.org/yalsa/teentober

OCT. 5–9

National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color

St. Pete Beach, Florida
jclcinc.org

OCT. 13–15

Core Forum | Salt Lake City
coreforum.org

OCT. 16–22

National Friends of Libraries Week

bit.ly/alafolweek

OCT. 24–30

International Open Access Week
openaccessweek.org

NOV.

International Games Month
bit.ly/ALA-igm

NOV.

Picture Book Month
picturebookmonth.com

NOV. 4–6

YALSA's Young Adult Services Symposium | Baltimore

ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium

JAN. 27–30, 2023

LibLearnX | New Orleans
2023.alaliblearnx.org

UPDATE

toward the expense of attending ALA's LibLearnX and Annual conferences (\$500 for each conference). Sponsorship is not required for participation in the program. A list of sponsoring units is included as part of the online application.

The deadline to apply is September 9. For more information, visit bit.ly/ALA-EmergingLeaders.

How School Librarians Can Aid One-to-One Laptop Programs

Newly published research from *School Library Research* examines variables related to teachers' perceptions of one-to-one laptop programs and how school librarians can assist.

In "Teacher Perceptions of One-to-One Laptop Implementation: Suggestions for the Role of School Librarians," findings indicate a positive association between participants' self-perception levels of technology adoption and their belief

that students' academic performance improved with the use of laptops.

To read the full article, visit bit.ly/SLR-Laptops.

September Is Library Card Sign-Up Month

Tony Award-winning performer, actor, singer-songwriter, and philanthropist Idina Menzel and her sister, author and educator Cara Mentzel, are the honorary chairs of this year's Library Card Sign-Up Month. The two have joined ALA and libraries nationwide to promote the benefits of having a library card. The sisters' debut picture book, *Loud Mouse*, will be released on September 27.

During Library Card Sign-Up Month, Menzel and Mentzel will encourage individuals and families to explore library offerings, such as new children's books, technology, and educational programming.

Posters featuring Dee, the titular Loud Mouse, singing "Find your voice at the la, la, la, library—get a library card" are available for purchase at the ALA Store. Free Library Card Sign-Up Month graphics are also available, along with media tools such as a press release template, proclamation, and sample social media posts. For more information, visit ala.org/librarycardsignup.

Grants Awarded to Libraries to Expand Gaming Programs

On June 26, ALA's Games and Gaming Round Table (GameRT) announced its two recipients of the Game On! Grant for 2022: Roselle (Ill.) Public Library District (RPLD) and Seward County (Kans.) Community College Library (SCCCL).

RPLD plans to use the \$250 grant to expand its existing multigenerational program, Grandparents Got Game, to



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Candidates Needed for 2023 ALA Election

The Nominating Committee for the 2023 ALA election is seeking candidates to run on the spring ballot for the offices of ALA president-elect and councilor-at-large.

The committee will select candidates to run for president-elect and no fewer than 50 candidates for the 33 at-large council seats. The president-elect will serve a three-year term: as president-elect in 2023–2024, as president in 2024–2025, and as immediate past president in 2025–2026. The councilors-at-large will serve a three-year term beginning after ALA's 2023 Annual Conference and ending at

the adjournment of the 2026 Annual Conference. The ALA president and councilors also serve in corresponding roles in the ALA-Allied Professional Association.

To nominate candidates, members must complete the form at bit.ly/ALA-NominationForm2023. Self-nominations are encouraged. The committee may request recorded videos from candidates or set up interviews with candidates. Nominations and forms must be received no later than September 30.

The 2023 ALA elections will take place March 13–April 5, 2023. For more information, visit bit.ly/ALA-elections. ●

include outdoor activities, to better accommodate patrons at higher risk for COVID-19.

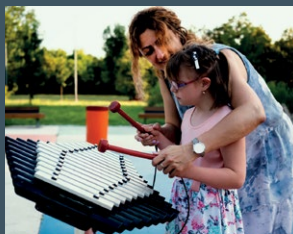
SCCCL hosted its first-ever chess tournament in 2021. The library plans to put the \$250 grant toward improving the

tournament experience with new chess sets and time-keeping clocks.

GameRT introduced the Game On! program in 2020 to provide libraries with the opportunity to receive funds to develop gaming programs or

collections for their communities. The grants allow for GameRT to award one grant of \$500 or two of \$250 each year; any type of library is eligible to apply. For more information, visit bit.ly/ALA-GameOnGrants. AL

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TRENDS



Patrons display their new enhanced library cards at an April 6 sign-up event at the Fairbanks branch of Harris County (Tex.) Public Library. The cards offer another form of ID.

ID Made Easier

Enhanced library cards allow some Texas patrons to establish identification

BY Cass Balzer

Photo identification is an essential part of American life. But for large swaths of the populace, photo IDs can be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

“We saw how hard it was for [residents] to get electricity, rent an apartment, open a bank account, or pick up their children from school” without them, says Damaris Gonzalez, an immigration rights organizer with the nonprofit Texas Organizing Project (TOP), which has been advocating for enhanced library cards in the state.

These cards are designed to address the need for photo IDs, often displaying the holder’s photo, name, date of birth, address, and gender. And many public libraries in Texas are leading the way on getting these cards into people’s hands.

“Public libraries have been, for generations, very responsive” to the needs of their communities,

says Dale McNeill, assistant director for public services at San Antonio Public Library (SAPL). The library began offering enhanced cards in 2020—making it among the first in the nation to do so—after putting out a call for proposals for a new integrated library system (ILS) that had the ability to store photos. With the new ILS in place, incorporating the enhanced cards was “pretty straightforward,” McNeill says.

Spurred to action

The demand for enhanced library cards gained urgency in early 2018, with the onset of then-President Donald Trump’s immigration policies. The termination of DACA (the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program), for example, prompted members of TOP to act.

Also in 2018, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law SB4, known as the “show me your papers” law,

which requires local governments and law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration officers.

According to Gonzalez, libraries are uniquely equipped to provide this form of identification. Compared with municipal IDs available in New York City and elsewhere, enhanced library cards via public libraries are safer, Gonzalez says, because public libraries protect patron privacy and are not subject to SB4.

While TOP and other advocacy groups initiated the project with immigrant and undocumented communities in mind, the cards have also been beneficial for unhoused people, formerly incarcerated individuals, folks working toward ID recovery following fraud or a natural disaster, and LGBTQ people in need of gender-affirming identification. The cards are not accepted as proof of identification at the voting booth or to board an airplane.

Funding and training

Enhanced library card implementation varies by library system. In Harris County, Texas—which includes Houston—a county commissioner contacted Harris County Public Library (HCPL) to ask if it could legally issue photo identification cards. After consulting with county attorneys, the library determined it could issue cards but with a crucial stipulation: Neither the library nor Harris County has the authority to say that anyone is

“We saw how hard it was for [residents] to get electricity, rent an apartment, open a bank account, or pick up their children from school.”

DAMARIS GONZALEZ, immigration rights organizer with Texas Organizing Project

required to take it as legal identification, HCPL Library Director Edward Melton explains.

The library was approved for \$297,000 to implement the project. Funds cover hardware, software, and supplies needed to print the cards and can be used to cover additional supply-related expenses for several years.

Securing funding was similarly simple at San Marcos (Tex.) Public Library (SMPL), which partnered with nonprofit immigrants' rights group Mano Amiga. The group raised about \$6,000 to pay for ink cartridges, a printer, a dedicated laptop, plastic cards, a cart to house everything in one place, and other materials.

SAPL offers enhanced library cards at four of its locations. Program materials—a digital camera and a backdrop—cost around \$600 at each of them, McNeill says.

After establishing enhanced library cards, training and policy changes have been the next key steps. “[Our policy] used to be

pretty strict,” SMPL Director Diane Insley says. Until changes were implemented, patrons had to present a Texas driver's license or photo ID or an electric bill with their name on it to get these new cards. “We added a whole slew of things that people can [now] use to verify who they are,” she says, including school transcripts, expired IDs, and medical records.

Fred Schumacher, circulation services manager at HCPL, says that people applying for an enhanced library card can freely express their gender identity. To make this process go more smoothly and to create an inclusive library environment, he says staff members were trained on how to provide the service without judgment.

Local need

In most cases, enhanced library cards have been a surprising success. HCPL distributed more than 2,000 enhanced library cards in the two months following its mid-March launch. “The response has been more brisk than I anticipated,” Schumacher says.

Libraries that have implemented these cards say that clearly communicating their use is essential. Working with a city or county attorney establishes legality, and partnering with a nonprofit organization can help expand use outside of the library, especially in areas with significant community challenges.

Says SAPL's McNeill: “A lot of times, the public library isn't the one [necessarily] advocating for change, but the one ready to change.” **AL**

CASS BALZER is a writer in Chicago.

BY THE NUMBERS



Halloween

19th

Century in which Halloween was popularized in the US, thanks in part to the arrival of Irish and Scottish immigrants. Halloween has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival Samhain.

3,000

Number of items in the Witchcraft Collection at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The collection contains documents, broadsides, movie posters, letters, and other manuscripts mainly focused on the persecution of so-called witches in Europe and New England.

\$2,500

Amount that horror author Stephen King received as an advance from Doubleday Publishing for his first novel, *Carrie* (1974). King used the money to buy a Ford Pinto and move his family from a trailer into an apartment.

2

Number of ghost hunting kits that Plain City (Ohio) Public Library has available for loan. The kits include an electromagnetic field reader, a flashlight, a video camera, and a walkie-talkie set. •



For more tricks and treats, check out *Call Number* podcast's Halloween episode at bit.ly/CallNumberPodcast on October 17.





Play areas next to desks give caregivers flexibility at Henrico County (Va.) Public Library's Fairfield branch.

A Carrel and a Corral

Easing access to library computers for caregivers of small children

In January, images of some unusual new workstations at Fairfield Area Library—part of Henrico County (Va.) Public Library (HCPL)—went viral on social media and across national and international news media. What caught people's attention: the way the desks with attached play areas for babies and small children allowed adults to work comfortably at computers while keeping their young ones safe, nearby, and in view. These work-and-play stations are a novel solution to a problem that caregivers often face in the library—using public computers while accompanied by a small child. It is a longstanding problem, and these new, supportive furniture pieces are one way libraries can help.

BY Patty Conway

The emphasis in children's areas of the library is often on literacy and learning, which is a significant part of any library's work. But parents and caregivers of children have information needs of their own. The public library can be a crucial source of computer access to caregivers who don't have internet or computers at home. For anyone

seeking a career change, reentering the workforce, or starting a small business, computer access can be critical to their lives and livelihoods. We believe people shouldn't need to arrange childcare just to visit the library and use the computers. We want intergenerational groups to visit us all together, and we want the library to meet all their needs at once.

Meeting the needs of families with members of varying ages was integral to the design of the new Fairfield branch, which opened three years ago. When planning the new building, Quinn Evans architects worked with library staffers and local officials to initiate a series of community input sessions. Community members of all ages emphasized that the library's design should focus on supporting young people learning and families visiting the library together. The entire second floor was designed to support children and families: extra study rooms in the children's area, a youth conference room, a family comfort room to support lactation and calming, a dedicated tween section with its own librarian, and a central family collaboration zone.

At the same time, Library Director Barbara Weedman was formulating an idea she had been contemplating throughout her career. With the architects welcoming additional ideas on what else could be done, Weedman shared her vision for an adult-sized computer desk in the children's section with a comfortable play enclosure directly next to it. Designer Shannon Wray of Quinn Evans approached fabricator TMC Furniture to create the stations. The play enclosure has rounded edges and a padded, vinyl-covered base that can be easily wiped down, with finishes durable enough to withstand both active play and frequent cleanings. HCPL's Youth Services Coordinator Rick Samuelson suggested developmentally appropriate, interactive, and interchangeable wooden panels mounted on the inside of the play

space, with mirrors inset low on the walls to encourage tummy time for infants.

The stations were built and then installed the day before the new library opened in October 2019. On opening day, a mother sat down at a computer and intuitively placed her infant in the adjoining carrel without direction. Another attendee took a photo, capturing the moment, and shared it on social media, where it quickly was picked up by parenting sites. Use of the carrels grew steadily when library buildings reopened after the pandemic shutdown.

Then earlier this year, Ali Faruk of Families Forward Virginia tweeted a photo of the workstations and his post went viral. Interest in the pieces spread internationally—particularly among parents who

We believe people shouldn't need to arrange childcare just to visit the library and use the computers.

had been struggling to balance work and childcare during the pandemic—including from as far away as Japan and the Netherlands. One parent, interviewed by local television news and *The Washington Post*, discussed how she was designing business cards for her new small business on the computer while her little one played

next to her. “Thank God for the library,” she said.

Those who work in public libraries have always resolved to support families in our communities through our services and family-friendly environments. Our team at HCPL hopes the widespread attention these workstations have received will remind parents everywhere that their public library continues to innovate to meet their evolving needs. We further hope these workstations—and the spirit of service and caring inherent in their design—will inspire libraries to continue to support caregivers and little ones while they learn, work, and play. **AL**

PATTY CONWAY is community relations coordinator at Henrico County (Va.) Public Library.

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George Saunders

Award-winning author and professor on how fiction breeds understanding



George Saunders is best known for his dystopic short stories that satirize—and humanize—the absurdities of our shared reality. His forthcoming collection *Liberation Day* (Random House, October) is no exception, exploring themes of power, ethics, and justice amid backdrops of a hailstorm, a tyrannical government, and an underground theme park. *American Libraries* spoke with the Man Booker Prize winner (for *Lincoln in the Bardo*) and National Book Award finalist (for *Tenth of December*) about today's partisanship, his love of teaching, and his connection to libraries.

BY Terra Dankowski

In *Liberation Day*, “Love Letter” is about a grandfather who writes to his grandson in an authoritarian near-future, expressing caution about the political situation and observing that people are unpersuaded by others’ beliefs. Is this a speculative tale or do you think our country is at an impasse?

In “Love Letter,” I was turning the lens on myself. I noticed that during that [2020] preelection time, I was so weirdly patriotic and suddenly realizing, “God, I really have taken for granted all of this stuff.” So I had a discussion with a friend on the right. And then I had a discussion with a friend who is even to the left of me. The conversations were quite loving, actually. They got a little energetic, but that’s one of the ways a country gets made: high-functioning conversations that have warmth, even if they’re in opposition. I thought, “Let me try to do a slightly askew version of what I’m feeling right now.”

Are we going to be able to learn to talk to one another again? Maybe I’m naive, but I think fiction is one way we can train ourselves in that kind of openness.

You’ve been an instructor at Syracuse (N.Y.) University for 25 years,

and you also lead classes online.

What drives you to teach? At first it was just money. But over the years that really shifted, and it became the spiritual center of my life. Selfishly, it’s a way of reminding yourself that you don’t understand your art form yet. When you’re teaching, you’re constantly opening the hood of the car asking, “How does this particular model work?” I love that. And the students we have, they’re so good. You get a chance to be in fresh connection with young people, with their creative energy and their curiosity and vision. It’s a way of enforcing humility on yourself. I hope I do it until I’m 180. I’d have to be propped up: “Show, don’t tell!”

What role have libraries played in your life? When I was in my 20s, I was floundering. I was living with my aunt, doing roofing jobs, and trying to be a writer but hadn’t read enough contemporary fiction. Every time I read, I would just want to read Hemingway again. I don’t know what compelled me to do this, but I took the train downtown

to [Chicago Public Library’s main library], in the middle of the day in my roofing clothes. And that day there was a beautifully stocked shelf of literary journals. I got about 15 of these journals that I had never heard of—I had never seen them in a bookstore—and just piled them on the table and started reading. I hit a story by Stuart Dybeck, “Hot Ice,” and instantly recognized the syntax and the diction of the South Side, where I was from. He was talking about neighborhoods the way that we talked about them. My face got so hot and red. “Oh, you stupid idiot. What have you been doing all these years?”

The point is, I could have gone into a million bookstores and probably would have never found that story, and I couldn’t afford to buy 15 journals. The library—democratization—let me, a roofer with \$8 in my pocket, sit down and get a quick snapshot of contemporary American literature, and it changed my life. **AL**

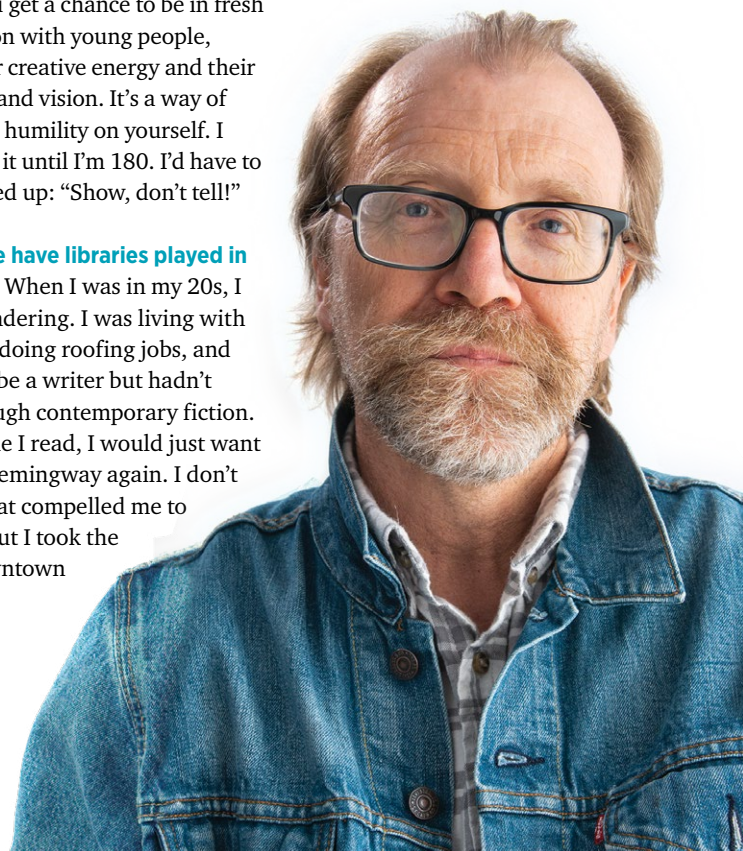


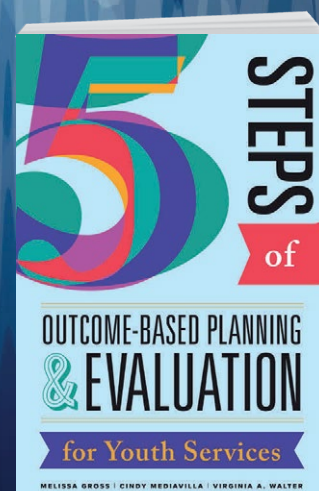
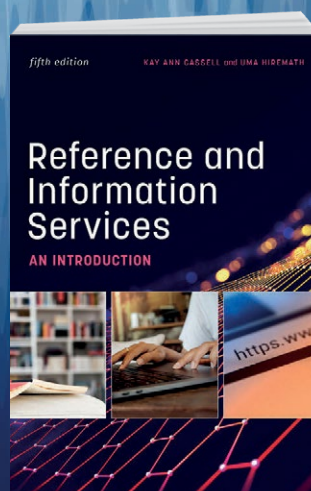
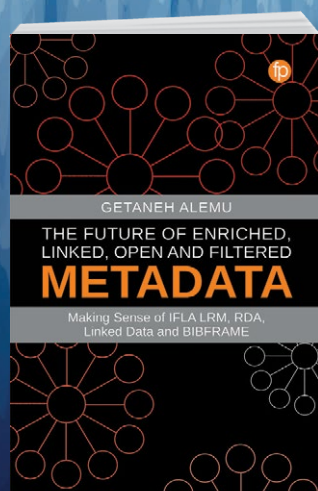
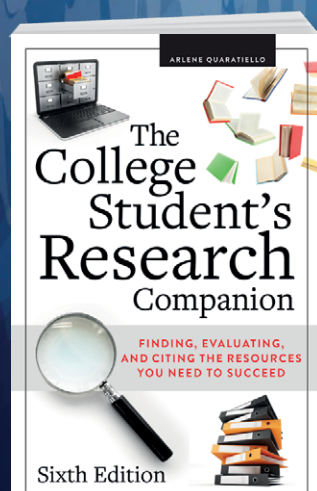
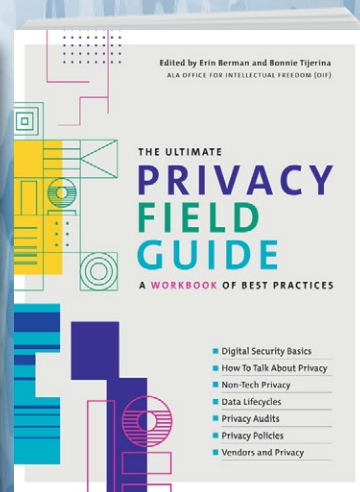
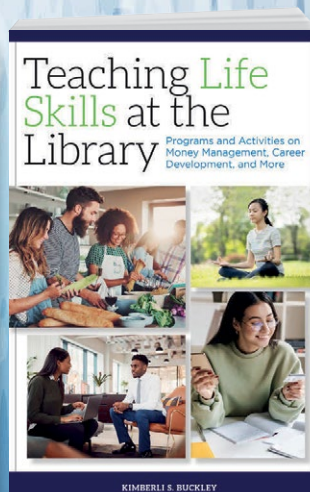
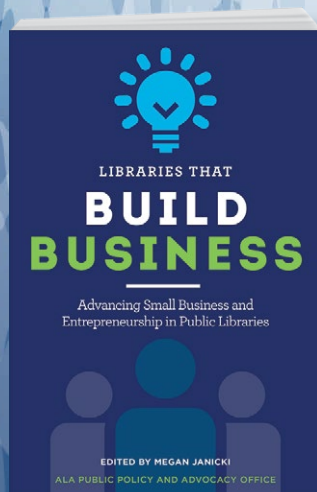
Photo: Zach Krahmer



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“I think that that is what fiction does best—mine *accepted* truths. Bring to the forefront what is whispered about behind closed doors, bring what is thought to be shameful out, and ventilate the subjugated next to the dominant narratives to find the reasons behind what makes one narrative hold and another disappear.”

GABRIELA ALEMÁN in “The PEN Ten: An Interview with Gabriela Alemán,” PEN America, July 7.



“Kids can handle the material. Their minds are open; they don’t prejudge. What if the cop [who killed George Floyd] read a book that humanized Black children 20 years ago? Imagine how our country would be different.”

CARL LENNERTZ in “Meet the Authors with Philadelphia Ties Working to Diversify Children’s Books,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 14.

“WHEN SURVIVAL IS ON THE LINE, BOOKS CAN DRILL INTO THE CORE HUMAN QUESTION OF HOW WE TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER AND OURSELVES.”

HEATHER HANSMAN, “As the Climate Changes, So Does Fiction,” *The Atlantic*, May 10.

“This is a movement that was formed online, so it’s not so much that these activists are moving online ... as they are moving the target from schools to teachers and librarians. And it’s not going to stop there.”

JONATHAN FRIEDMAN in “The Book Ban Movement Has a Chilling New Tactic: Harassing Teachers on Social Media,” *MIT Technology Review*, July 15.

“It’s crushing. You know what your job is, you know what the best practices and standards are for your profession, and you’re being made to do things that you know violate all of that.”

CAROLYN FOOTE in “With Rising Book Bans, Librarians Have Come Under Attack,” *The New York Times*, July 6.

“There [have] always been books for toddlers and young kids about feelings, and exploring the range of feelings, positive and what we might call ‘negative’ feelings. But definitely in the past two years there’s been an increase in those general feelings books, and I would say in the last year there’s been a big increase in books on anxiety, books on depression—whether it’s in the parent or the child—and a lot of books on mindfulness. Yoga for children has just boomed.”

ANGELA CROCOMBE in “‘There’s Obviously a Market’: Why Are There So Many Children’s Books about Anxiety?” *The Guardian* (UK), July 7.

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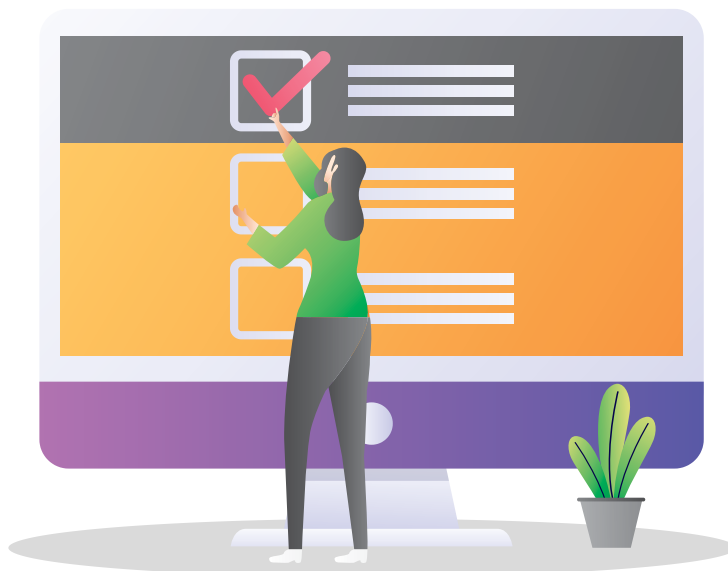


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2022

LIBRARY DESIGN

SHOWCASE

The year's most impressive
new and renovated libraries

by Sallyann Price

Welcome to the 2022 Library Design Showcase, *American Libraries'* annual celebration of new and renovated libraries that address user needs in inventive, interesting, and effective ways. This year's slate—similar to last year's—features building projects completed during the ongoing pandemic. Despite continued challenges and shifting trends, like the rise in popularity of outdoor programming and convertible features that can adapt to any reality, beautiful new facilities and updated spaces have continued to open to the public. Overhauls and expansions again take center stage, highlighting the innovative ways that communities are honoring existing structures while moving them into the future. For more photos of the showcase entries, visit americanlibraries.org on September 1. 



Tune in to the September episode of our *Call Number* podcast for conversations about library architecture and design.

Listen at bit.ly/CallNumberPodcast



ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

◀ **Fulton County (Ga.) Library System, Central Library in Atlanta**

The interior design of the renovated downtown Central Library prioritizes accessibility, flexibility, and transparency, with large windows, multipurpose collaboration spaces, and a two-story atrium wrapping around a central staircase. The building, which is LEED Gold-certified, also emphasizes sustainability. By renovating instead of building entirely new, the library was able to reuse 95% of its existing structure.

PROJECT TYPE: Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Cooper Carry, Moody Nolan **SIZE:** 193,000 square feet
COST: \$44.2 million **PHOTO:** Jonathan Hillyer

▼ **Charlotte and William Bloomberg Medford (Mass.) Public Library**

The new Medford Public Library is the first net-zero-energy public library in Massachusetts, meaning that it creates more energy on site than it consumes. More than 600 solar panels line the building's curved, hull-like roofs, which were inspired by the city's rich history as a clipper ship manufacturing hub. The library offers a 100-person multipurpose meeting room, makerspace, tech lab, local history room, and separate reading rooms for adults, teens, and children.

PROJECT TYPE: New construction **ARCHITECT:** Schwartz/Silver Architects **SIZE:** 45,000 square feet
COST: \$27.5 million **PHOTO:** Paul Burk





EMBRACING GREEN SPACE

▲ Clinton-Macomb (Mich.) Public Library, North branch

A distinctive dome elevates the profile of this single-story structure, which incorporates wood from beech trees that came down to make way for the property. It is now a hub for collections, meeting spaces, and activities for all ages. The library's new location, which is adjacent to a civic green and wetland area and includes interactive elements such as outdoor musical instruments and courtyard programming, helps foster connections with nature. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Quinn Evans **SIZE:** 28,000 square feet **COST:** \$19.4 million **PHOTO:** Justin Maconochie



St. Joe County (Ind.) Public Library, Main Library in South Bend ▲

This project—the renovation of an 85,000-square-foot library, addition of a 40,000-square-foot Community Learning Center, and development of a garden between them—occupies a full city block in downtown South Bend, its campus serving as a cornerstone for community connections. The new learning center includes classrooms, a makerspace, multipurpose and event spaces, and a 252-seat auditorium. And the courtyard connects directly to the ground-floor event space and main lobby coffee shop, making it ideal for hosting outdoor events and programming. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation, new construction **ARCHITECT:** Robert A. M. Stern Architects **SIZE:** 125,000 square feet **COST:** \$40 million **PHOTO:** Miller + Miller Architectural Photography

RISING FROM THE ASHES

► Hale Library at Kansas State University in Manhattan

After a fire wiped out much of Hale Library in 2018, library administrators took the opportunity to completely reimagine Kansas State's main academic research library and meet evolving student needs in novel ways. The renovated library includes a new main entrance, learning commons, and innovation lab alongside preserved areas of the original 1927 structure. (Former Dean of Libraries Lori A. Goetsch wrote about the renovation process for *American Libraries* in 2019: bit.ly/AL-KSU-lib.)

PROJECT TYPE: Renovation and expansion **ARCHITECT:** PGAV Architects

SIZE: 405,460 square feet **COST:** \$33 million **PHOTO:** Randy Braley Photography



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WINDOWS TO THE WORLD

▲ Albert B. Weaver Science-Engineering Library and Main Library at University of Arizona in Tucson

Overhauling two floors of two campus libraries in tandem involved converting areas dense with shelving into airy, versatile spaces for student collaboration. The redesign relied on the buildings' original concrete waffle-slab construction and incorporated stunning views of the sunny Tucson campus. Service points and wayfinding elements are shared across the two libraries for a seamless experience. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** The Miller Hull Partnership, Poster Mirto McDonald **SIZE:** 105,000 square feet **COST:** \$16 million **PHOTO:** Chipper Hatter



Robarts Common at University of Toronto Libraries ▲

The expansion of Robarts Common introduced 50,000 square feet of space for solo and group study over four floors, as well as a new accessible entrance and plaza. The faceted glass façade is a counterpoint to the original concrete structure, bringing in natural light to both illuminate student activity within and invite engagement with the community. **PROJECT TYPE:** Expansion **ARCHITECT:** Diamond Schmitt **SIZE:** 50,000 square feet **COST:** \$31.4 million Canadian (\$24.5 million US) **PHOTO:** Diamond Schmitt

▼ Carroll County (Md.) Public Library, Exploration Commons at 50 East in Westminster

Exploration Commons at 50 East is a collaborative learning center outfitted with a workforce development program that includes a state-of-the-art makerspace and a commercial teaching kitchen. The renovation involved retrofitting an existing basement space and adding an exterior elevator, stairs, and a large-format, professional-quality meeting room. **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** Manns Woodward Studios **SIZE:** 14,000 square feet **COST:** \$6 million **PHOTO:** Maximilian Franz



▼ Pasco County (Fla.) Libraries, Starkey Ranch Theatre Library Cultural Center in Odessa

Biophilic design—or the practice of connecting people with nature in built environments—influenced the layout of this library, a partnership with the Pasco County School District to serve students at a neighboring school and the community at large. Glass walls and skylights maximize views of the wetland preserves surrounding the library, and the main entrance includes a living wall of greenery and natural wood accents. The courtyard between the library and the school features a stage for outdoor lectures and programs, performances, movie screenings, and storytimes. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** FleischmanGarciaMaslowski **SIZE:** 28,940 square feet **COST:** \$12 million **PHOTO:** Seamus Payne Commercial Photography



FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

► Sevier County (Tenn.) Public Library System, Williams Family Seymour branch

The expansion of the Seymour branch more than tripled the library's original size, transforming it from a cramped, shadowy space into a bright, open-concept library with a skylight and craftsman-influenced woodwork throughout. The new children's area includes a whimsical story room with murals inspired by historic events, and the library now devotes spaces to tweens, teens, and all-ages programming.

PROJECT TYPE: Expansion **ARCHITECT:** SRA Architects **SIZE:** 10,089 square feet
COST: \$2.5 million **PHOTO:** Robin Cogdill



▼ Conyers-Rockdale (Ga.) Library System

This project involved converting a 3,200-square-foot portion of the library's adult collection into a dynamic place for teens to gather and learn. Working within the constraints of the existing structure, the architects added new angular bulkheads overhead to define spatial zones, create a sense of progression, and provide visual interest (unobstructed park views help, too). **PROJECT TYPE:** Renovation **ARCHITECT:** McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture **SIZE:** 3,200 square feet **COST:** \$146,000

PHOTO: Kris Decker/Firewater Photography





SCENIC ROUTES

▲ Missoula (Mont.) Public Library, Main Library

The interior main staircase at the heart of Missoula's new Main Library was inspired by a mountain climb, drawing patrons upward through four floors of books and communal spaces, flanked by views of the Montana landscape. The library is colocated with four other organizations, including two science education centers and Missoula Community Access TV, and features a marketplace, demonstration kitchen, genealogy center, and an exterior patio on the top floor for public engagement. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECTS:** MSR Design, A&E Architects **SIZE:** 106,675 square feet **COST:** \$40.7 million **PHOTO:** Lara Swimmer



▲ Salt Lake County (Utah) Library, Daybreak branch

The new Daybreak branch was designed to meet neighborhood needs by focusing on outdoor just as much as indoor pursuits. In addition to an amphitheater, the branch boasts a landscaped walking path lined with native plants and a rooftop garden with views of the surrounding mountains. The rooftop space is covered with a solar panel canopy, which has contributed to the library's LEED Gold certification and distinction of being the first net-zero municipal building in Utah. **PROJECT TYPE:** New construction **ARCHITECT:** Arch Nexus **SIZE:** 27,059 square feet **COST:** \$12.6 million **PHOTO:** Salt Lake County Library

2022 ALA/AIA

LIBRARY BUILDING

AWARDS

The following libraries are winners of the 2022 Library Building Awards, sponsored by Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures (a division of the American Library Association) and the American Institute of Architects. The awards recognize the best in library architecture and design and are open to any architect licensed in the United States. Projects may be located anywhere in the world. **AL**



▲ Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library, Adams Street branch

ARCHITECT: WORKac (Work Architecture Company)

PHOTO: Bruce Damonte





► **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C.**

ARCHITECT: OTJ Architects
PHOTO: Trent Bell



▲ **Olathe (Kans.) Public Library, Indian Creek branch**

ARCHITECT: Gould Evans
PHOTO: Michael Robinson Photography



◀ **Cruzen-Murray Library, College of Idaho in Caldwell**

ARCHITECT: Richârd | Kennedy Architects
PHOTO: Gabe Border

▼ **Maricopa County (Ariz.) Library District, Asante branch**


ARCHITECT: Richârd | Kennedy Architects
PHOTO: Roehner + Ryan



2022 ALA Award Winners

Honoring excellence and leadership in the profession

Each year, the American Library Association (ALA) recognizes the achievements of more than 200 individuals and institutions with an array of awards. This year's winners, chosen by juries of their colleagues and peers, embody the best of the profession's leadership, vision, and service as well as a continued commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and outreach.

Winners were honored at a ceremony and reception held June 26 at ALA's 2022 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C. This selection represents only some of those recognized in 2022; for a complete list, visit ala.org/awardsgrants. 

ELIZABETH FUTAS CATALYST FOR CHANGE AWARD

Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada

Pelayo-Lozada, who now serves as ALA president (see p. 4), has been recognized for her commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion and ability to bring groups together. As adult services assistant manager at Palos Verdes Library District in Rolling Hills Estates, California—and in her many roles with ALA—she has inspired those around her with her passion for hard work, cooperation, and fostering understanding.

She has served on many Association committees, task forces, and boards. Notably, Pelayo-Lozada is the immediate past executive director of the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), is a former ALA councilor and Executive Board member, and has chaired the Steering Committee for Organizational Effectiveness. Her nominators noted that she creates change by pushing ideas forward and listening to others, while her colleagues describe her as a compassionate and inspiring visionary. Read more at bit.ly/Pelayo-Lozada.

This \$1,000 award is given biennially to an individual for making positive changes in the profession of librarianship. **Donor:** Elizabeth Futas Memorial Fund



SULLIVAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATORS SUPPORTING SERVICES TO CHILDREN

Marie Jarry

Jarry, director of public services at Hartford (Conn.) Public Library (HPL), was selected for her success in developing initiatives to support community needs, managing systemwide collection development, and working to ensure library design principles create an environment welcoming to all.

She helps to lead Boundless, an educational partnership between HPL and Hartford Public Schools that aims to improve learning outcomes by increasing literacy and access to print and digital resources. Jarrry has also secured more than \$200,000 in grants for STEM programming and early childhood initiatives. She created the library's STEM Lab on the Go program, which includes a mobile science lab, ongoing STEM events, and training for librarians.

Bridget Quinn, president and CEO of HPL, noted that Jarrry has promoted organizational growth through the professional development of engaged, service-minded staffers.

Read more at bit.ly/AL-Jarry.

This award includes a commemorative gift and recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional understanding and support of public library service to children while maintaining administrative responsibilities. **Donor:** Peggy Sullivan



JOSEPH W. LIPPINCOTT AWARD

Kenneth A. Yamashita

In his six decades in the profession, Yamashita has brought significant creativity and a deep commitment to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in libraries and librarianship. The jury recognized his tireless efforts to confront injustice and bring library services to communities of color.

Yamashita entered the profession in the early 1970s, when many librarians were retiring, recruitment and retention of new librarians became a national priority, and activists were pushing for social changes in the workplace. Throughout his career, he has held multiple leadership positions within ALA: He has done committee work with the Office of Library Outreach Services (now the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services) and Spectrum Initiative, served as president of APALA, and been a member of ALA Council. He currently serves on the board of the Joint Council of Librarians of Color.

His experiences have made him a dedicated mentor and go-to person for insight into ALA culture, procedures, and policy. His nominators cite his generosity, persistence, and commitment to core values and diversity of all types. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Yamashita.

This \$1,500 award recognizes distinguished service in the profession of librarianship. **Donor:** Joseph W. Lippincott III

SCHOLASTIC LIBRARY PUBLISHING AWARD

Jillian Rudes

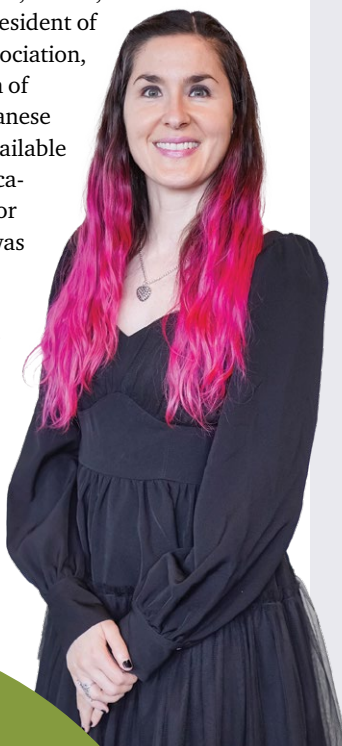
When Rudes was hired by Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School (MELS) in 2014, there were very few manga titles on the library's shelves. Today, her New York City school has an extensive manga collection and hosts its own comic cons, and the solo librarian shares her collection development knowledge through published articles, panel discussions, and her Manga in Libraries webinar series.

Rudes has been honored for the expertise, enthusiasm, and excitement that she brings to her students, school, and professional communities. She is president of the New York City School Librarians' Association, is a member of the American Association of School Librarians, and manages the Japanese Culture and Manga special collection available to all New York City Department of Education students. She has curated content for librarians at New York Comic Con and was a 2014 ALA Emerging Leader.

MELS principals Damon McCord and Patrick Finley said that Rudes "has completely transformed the culture of [the] school." Read more at bit.ly/AL-Rudes.

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

Donor: Scholastic Library Publishing



EQUALITY AWARD

Sarah Cutchall, Emily Best, and Fulton County (Pa.) Library

Patrons Cutchall and Best were appalled when they learned that two Fulton County commissioners had refused to approve \$3,000 in additional funding for Fulton County Library (FCL) over its meeting room policy.

FCL allows all who live, work, and learn in the county to use the meeting rooms. The two commissioners made negative public remarks upon discovering that an LGBTQ group was using the meeting rooms and classified the group as a "hate group." Spurred by these two commissioners' comments and actions, Cutchall and Best independently established two online fundraising campaigns for FCL. Together, they raised more than \$40,000 for the library. Read more at bit.ly/AL-FultonPA.

This \$1,000 award recognizes an outstanding contribution toward promoting equality in the library profession. The award may be given for an activist or scholarly contribution in such areas as pay equity, affirmative action, legislative work, and nonsexist education. **Sponsor:** Rowman & Littlefield



April Leese, youth services coordinator at Fulton County (Pa.) Library, accepted the award on behalf of the library.

ALA MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

Judith Cannan

Cannan, chief of the Policy, Training, and Cooperative Programs Division at the Library of Congress, has been recognized for her long and distinguished career in cataloging. Nominators have called her an "indispensable" colleague, exemplified by her leadership in transitioning the library from AACR2 to RDA (Resource Description and Access) rules and from MARC (machine-readable cataloging) to linked data standards.

Her nominators praised her expertise in cataloging, capacity for embracing change, and ability to provide essential training for a community of practitioners at national and international levels. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Cannan.

This \$2,000 award annually recognizes creative leadership, particularly in the fields of library management, library training, cataloging and classification, and the tools and techniques of librarianship. **Sponsor:** OCLC



LEMONY SNICKET PRIZE FOR NOBLE LIBRARIANS FACED WITH ADVERSITY

Martha Hickson

Censorship in school libraries dominated headlines in 2021—but for Hickson, media specialist at North Hunterdon High School in Annandale, New Jersey, book challenges have been pervasive since she became a high school librarian in 2005.

Last year, the book battle reached a peak in Hickson's community, when a group attended a board of education meeting and demanded that *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe and *Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison—and, later, three additional LGBTQ titles—be pulled from the shelves. The group labeled Hickson as a pornographer and pedophile for providing access to these titles, and she endured hate mail, threats, vandalism, and even questions about her judgment and integrity from her administration.

Despite this hostility, Hickson did not waver in her defense of her students' right to read. She galvanized allies to attend board meetings, gathered testimonies from LGBTQ students, and recruited local author David Levithan to write a statement of support. As a result, the resolution to ban the books in question was effectively voted down, and the challenged titles remained in the library. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Hickson.

This award annually recognizes a librarian who has faced adversity with integrity and dignity intact. The honoree receives \$10,000 and an object from author Daniel Handler's private collection.

Donor: Daniel Handler (Lemony Snicket)



EBSCO INFORMATION SERVICES LIBRARY STAFF DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Arab Federation for Libraries and Information

The Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI) is considered the largest vocational organization in the Arab world for librarianship and information science. Through its Staff E-Training on Emerging Technology and Developed Services program, AFLI has worked to provide its member countries and their public librarians with opportunities to develop competencies in new technologies and engage in international networking.

The jury was impressed by the ways in which this program has positively affected the professional lives of international librarians and fostered skills to meet the needs of public libraries in the Middle East and North Africa. Read more at bit.ly/AL-AFLI.

This \$3,500 award goes to a library organization that demonstrates merit in a staff development program that furthers the goals and objectives of the organization. **Donor:** EBSCO Information Services

Executive officers of the Arab Federation for Libraries and Information, from left: Hassan Alsereihy, Emad Saleh, Nabil Ben Ammar, Sabiha Khemir, Souhem Badi, Hassan M. Saafi, Abdullah Al-Hinai, Heba Ismail

Hubbard (Ohio) Public Library Children's Room

The Toy Lending Library in the children's room of Hubbard (Ohio) Public Library, which opened in July 2020, is the only collection of its kind within a three-county area. The items in the toy library—from dollhouses and family board games to early-learning backpacks and puzzles that hone problem-solving skills—filled a void in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when programming had to be canceled.

The children's room team of (pictured, from left) Heather Phibbs, Amanda Balla, Mary Anne Russo, and Dana Tirabassi has been honored for this innovative addition and the many ways they seek to engage young people in their community. For instance, the team created

Grab, Go, and Read Bags, which contain age-appropriate books for infants and toddlers. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Hubbard.

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

Donor: The DiMattia Family



Kelvin Watson,
executive
director of Las
Vegas-Clark
County (Nev.)
Library District

ALA/INFORMATION TODAY LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE AWARD

Las Vegas-Clark County (Nev.) Library District

Las Vegas-Clark County (Nev.) Library District (LVCCCLD) has been selected for its Bringing the Library to Transit Riders program, a partnership with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada. The program enables riders to sign up for access to LVCCCLD's online materials via the Libby app, using the free onboard Wi-Fi that RTC offers on 400 city buses across the Las Vegas area.

Riders can borrow ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and movies at no cost by downloading the Libby app using a QR code featured on bus posters. To access materials, riders provide their phone number. The program also allows temporary library access to riders who are visiting Las Vegas via a seven-day pass.

RTC's internet-enabled buses average 3 million passengers per month, giving LVCCCLD the potential to reach more users—including those who are lower income or have never accessed library resources before. Read more at bit.ly/AL-LVCCCLD.

This \$1,500 award annually recognizes a library, library consortium, group of librarians, or support organization for innovative planning, application, or development of patron-focused support relating to information technology in libraries. **Donor:** Information Today

YOUNG READERS

Darren Lebeuf and Ashley Barron

My City Speaks, written by Darren Lebeuf (right) and illustrated by Ashley Barron, tells the story of a girl with a visual impairment who journeys around her city with her father. The two enjoy many familiar stops on their way to a concert stage in the park, in this book that the committee described as a “sensory delight.”

A Walk in the Words, written and illustrated by Hudson Talbott, and A Sky-Blue Bench, written by Bahram Rahman and illustrated by Peggy Collins, are the young readers honor titles.



MIDDLE READERS

Alison Green Myers

A Bird Will Soar, by Alison Green Myers, follows a bird-loving boy with autism named Axel whose disability strongly shapes his identity. Axel tries to heal his broken family and an injured eaglet in this tale about strength. The committee praised Myers’s ability to weave poetry and science into the narrative.

Stuntboy, in the Meantime, written by Jason Reynolds and illustrated by Raúl the Third, and A Kind of Spark, by Elle McNicoll, are the middle readers honor titles.



TEEN READERS

Asphyxia

Words in My Hands, written and illustrated by Asphyxia, is a work of speculative fiction in which a Deaf teenager named Piper searches for her identity through art and activism in a dystopian Australia. At a time when the country is rife with food insecurity, fuel shortages, political corruption, and censorship, Piper learns to celebrate her Deafness and advocate for a more sustainable world.

A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome, by Ariel Henley, is the teen readers honor title. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Schneider22.



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

W. Y. BOYD LITERARY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MILITARY FICTION

Jeff Shaara

The Eagle’s Claw details the Battle of Midway between the naval forces of the US and Japan that occurred in June 1942. It is considered one of the most crucial naval battles of World War II, in which more than 2,800 service members were killed and 430 aircraft were destroyed.

Shaara’s well-researched account provides readers with an overview of both

sides during the battle, from the perspective of admirals, gunnery sergeants, pilots, and even a code breaker who changed history. The US victory struck a blow to Japan’s expansion in the Pacific. Read more at bit.ly/AL-Shaara.

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





Show

*Library
signage and
wayfinding
design*

and

Tell

by Mark Aaron Polger

Libraries are complicated. They have a maze of departments, a specific method for retrieving books, and many rooms with different purposes: public and staff areas, service desks, and storage areas for materials, with varying access policies. Library signs can help guide users through this unfamiliar maze, allowing them to find what they came for with minimal anxiety.

Interior signage includes identification signs for service points, office room numbers, elevators, stairways, restrooms, entrances, and exits; directional signs; signs for orientation (call number ranges, floor directory); and regulatory signs (fire exits, fire alarm pulls). Exterior signage usually includes signs for site identification, entrances, exits, parking (and accessible parking), and directional signs.

At its most basic, a library signage system should have a directory at a building's entrance to give users an overview of the layout. Directional signage along high-use channels also aids wayfinding. Identification signage can help users recognize different spaces in the library building, telling them what each space is for so they can find the space that meets their needs. Stack signage identifies call number ranges, allowing users to find and retrieve books.

Other types of signage—promotional, policy, and instructional signage—can help the user discover library services and resources, understand library policies, and carry out particular tasks (as when an instructional sign is mounted over a copy machine explaining how to use it).

Principles of wayfinding

The International Health Facility Guidelines (2016) establish the following wayshowing principles—or rather, means of guiding users' own wayfinding:

- Create a unique identity of shapes and colors at each location.
- Give each region a unique visual character.
- Make use of sightlines.
- Create simple, intuitive paths that are easy to navigate.
- Make use of landmarks.
- Avoid information overload.

- Provide signs at decision points.
- Provide wall maps and printed material for users to take.

In interior spaces, particularly those where architectural cues cannot be added or changed, wayfinding designers need to focus on the last three principles—designing wayfinding signage and informational material that help users get from point A to point B. Users must be able to locate the entrance, exit, emergency exits, stairwells, elevator, restrooms, and permanent physical landmarks (such as beams, columns, a drinking fountain, a staircase, or an elevator) at any time.

Signs can be mounted permanently on walls to become architectural features, but of course this makes them difficult to move or remove. Other types of signs may be mounted on walls or ceilings to make them more flexible as building districts or collections evolve to reflect changing patron needs. Signs can be single- or double-sided, illuminated, or dynamic. All these types of signs can be helpful in a comprehensive wayshowing system designed to help library users navigate the space.

Designing effective wayfinding signage can be broken down into five steps you can use to see where your existing signage may need updating:

1. Research your audience.
2. Analyze the data.
3. Develop a wayfinding document that maps out your users' pathways.
4. Select decision points.
5. Select sign types.



Excerpted from *Library Signage and Wayfinding Design: Communicating Effectively with Your Users* by Mark Aaron Polger (ALA Editions, 2021).

Practical matters

The best practices of signage design, synthesized from the body of previous work on library signage and on effective signage more broadly, are detailed here.

Make signs succinct and legible. Sign text should be brief and maintain clarity; don't overburden the user with too much information. Use active words, and make several passes at editing the text, continuously condensing your message without losing its meaning. Avoid library jargon; use plain language instead. Sign text must be legible from both a reasonable distance and up close.

Choose a sans serif typeface and avoid handwritten signs, which are often illegible and not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), making them inaccessible to some users.

Keep user experience (UX) design principles in mind. Design thinking is a framework that comes from design-based research and is often associated with UX design. It seeks to understand the user's needs and preferences through an iterative process that works with the user to identify problems and provide solutions. Every library choice should be intentional and have purpose. If you cannot identify the value or purpose of an element of your library (and particularly of a sign), then you may have to reconsider it.

Make text and visuals consistent. Because a signage system represents a whole network or family of signs, you should use consistent language and visual vocabulary throughout. All signs should share the same typeface, sizes, and color palette.

Textual and visual consistency may reduce user anxiety and confusion. Prepare a signage policy that includes a design template, style guidelines, and a set of controlled vocabulary. The policy should specify which terms to use when. *Quiet*, *silence*, and *soft conversations*, for example, mean different things, and if used synonymously, they can cause misunderstandings. For familiarity and clarity, use the same consistent design and terms across all promotional and communication channels, such as library brochures, websites, annual reports, newsletters, and social media messages.

To ensure this consistency, library signage should be planned, evaluated, designed, and implemented by a small committee or working group. The expression "too many cooks spoil the broth" is very true when it comes to library signage.

Design for ADA compliance. ADA concerns must be considered in any signage design project. In "Sign Redesign: Applying Design Principles to Improve Signage in an Academic Library," a 2014 article

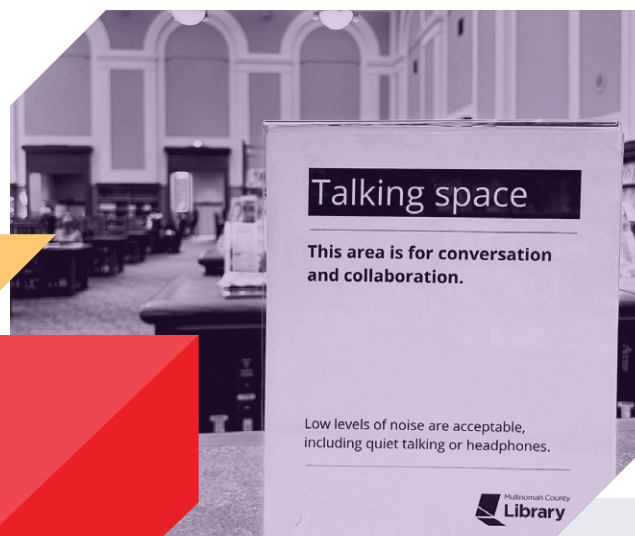
in the journal *Pennsylvania Libraries: Research and Practice*, Sheila Kasperek specifically focuses on how to use ADA compliance standards to create well-designed, accessible signs. She discusses color and typeface contrast, color schemes, serif versus sans serif font, alignment, placement, logo design, viewing distance, repetition, and composition.

Kasperek describes three elements of ADA-compliant design: contrast, alignment, and repetition.

1. ADA compliant signs should have at least 70% color contrast. Signage in low-lighting areas needs even higher contrasts: Adjacent colors must be significantly different from each other in low-light situations. For consistency, your signage template should include the RGB (red, green, blue) or HEX (hexacode) numbers for each of the colors used. Font size contrast is also important: The title section of the sign should have a larger font size than the other sections of the sign.
2. Alignment is how text and images are placed on the design canvas. There are psychological differences in how users perceive centered content versus left- or right-aligned content. Titles or headings should be aligned to center, and secondary content should be aligned left or right. Alignment also covers bulleting (or chunking) text, which can help with readability.
3. Repetition is the repeated use of text or images in a particular sign. Repetition can help reinforce the sign's message, but don't go overboard; too much repetition may annoy readers or cause them to tune the sign out.

Place signage with purpose. For maximum effectiveness, signs must be located strategically. What's most important: Signs should be placed where users make decisions. These points should be determined through user research. Consider creating a signage locator map, which marks the most effective places to mount or display signs to reach the largest audience.

Vary sign design to fit location, which determines how users will engage with the sign. Waiting areas, such as the line for the circulation desk, are suited for point-of-wait



signs; these signs should contain more text because users will engage with the sign for longer periods of time. For high-traffic areas, point-of-transit signs are appropriate; these should be highly visual and contain little text because users will probably not stop to read the sign. Promotional or informational signs should be placed in clear sightlines so library users can see them from a distance.

Signs must be placed at a height where most viewers can read them, and the font size should vary with how far the sign is from the viewer. The font size-to-viewing distance ratio is approximately one inch of font height for every 10 to 12 feet of viewing distance. (Text that is one inch high corresponds to 72-point font.)

Other considerations

The number of signs matters. Having fewer helps avoid visual noise. Sometimes, an overabundance of signs produces inconsistencies; when new signs are simply added on top of existing ones, it can be confusing or contradictory. When library workers create too many signs, the signage becomes overwhelming and ineffective.

Compounding the problem is the fact that these signs are often negative. The overload of signs expresses library workers' frustration with users who break policies (like "no eating in the library"). Sometimes, these workers create signage that scolds users. Similarly, when workers are frustrated with repeated directional questions, they create signs to deflect them—and their frustration comes through. While a lack of signage may result in more reference questions, confusion, and user anxiety, too many signs can result in an environment that is aggressive, unwelcoming, policing, lacks focus, and can cause too much visual noise.

Revisit your signs often. Signs are living documents that require continuous assessment and revision. Signage systems should not be left to run on autopilot. Keep tabs on your library users' changing needs and ways of using the library. Run periodic research with users, have library workers unobtrusively observe users to assess how they engage with signs, and stay aware as your library's pathways and decision points change. A monthly sweep of the library's sign locations can be a useful check-in to see if signs are clean, in good condition, and in their appropriate places. Reassess signage placement, height, visibility, and sightlines, and check for any new barriers to users seeing or using each sign.

Signs should be professionally designed. When you look for a signage company, check whether they are a member of a professional signage association, such as the International Sign Association or the US Sign Council Foundation. There are full-service signage companies that can survey the physical environment and design, develop, and install your signage. (If you use this type of full-service

Library signs can help guide users through the unfamiliar maze, allowing them to find what they came for with minimal anxiety.

company, however, you should still conduct user research with your patrons. Most sign companies do not offer this service.)

Signage companies have different specialties: Some provide custom-built signs, catering to a niche market such as small businesses, while others produce mass quantities of indoor or outdoor signs for larger businesses, like chains of hotels or restaurants. If you are unsure which company would be the best fit for your project, there are sign brokers and signage consultants who act as liaisons between you and the signage company. If you choose a signage company that simply manufactures signs to your specifications (not a full-service company), these signage consultants can provide guidance on large-scale signage projects and redesigns.

Create a signage policy. It is good to have a document that records the specific parameters of your library's signage, which are chosen during a signage audit for usability, consistency, and branding. The document provides guidelines for style, design, typeface, color schemes, sizing, placement, and the management of the library signage system. It includes a controlled vocabulary, design templates, and image files of your library's logo. It names the stakeholders involved with signage, including the members of the committee or working group that makes decisions about signage. Finally, it lays out processes and schedules for auditing and maintaining all library signage. **AL**



MARK AARON POLGER is associate professor and coordinator of library outreach at College of Staten Island, City University of New York. His research interests include library marketing, library signage, and user experience design.

Busting Brain Myths

What really works in information literacy tutorials

BY Yvonne Mery



YVONNE MERY is associate librarian and leader of instructional design and e-learning at University of Arizona Libraries in Tucson and adjunct professor at University of Arizona's School of Information.

When I taught undergraduate education courses, I had to design lesson plans to engage students at all levels with different learning styles. But the concept of learning styles, like visual and kinetic—along with ideas like left-versus-right-brain dominance and that we use only 10% of our brains—is a neuromyth. Neuromyths are long-held erroneous beliefs about how our brains work. Research shows that presenting students with information according to their learning styles makes no impact (bit.ly/Dispatches-LearningStyles), but it's still true that every learner is different. Here are strategies for meeting students where they are.

Focus on andragogy when teaching adult students. Pedagogy centers on how children learn, while andragogy is about how adults learn. Activating our adult students' prior knowledge allows them to reflect on what they may already know about a topic and build on that with new information. Allow adult students to choose different paths and skills based on their goals.

Employ user-centered content. Most information literacy (IL) tutorials claim to focus on users but instead put content at the forefront while user experience takes a back seat. When designing an experience for the user, first ask yourself how you will motivate and engage the student throughout the tutorial. Only then should you consider the content and in what order you will present it.

Include gamification. Games can be engaging and motivating but are often missing from IL tutorials, possibly because gamification may be associated with elaborate storylines, characters, and graphics. However, simple gaming elements can enhance a tutorial. Most content-authoring tools allow you to easily add points to questions, levels, a timer, and rewards or extras for correct actions.

Use brain boosts. One of the most effective ways to encourage retention of new information is to bring it up again. Simple multiple-choice questions in a tutorial, even if presented just a few minutes after, can aid retention. If possible, scatter questions throughout the tutorial so students must recall information they encountered at different points during the instruction.

Implement Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. UDL means designing instruction that will allow all students to improve learning and provide for more individualized instruction (bit.ly/AL-UDL). The three main principles of UDL are:

- Provide multiple means of engagement by allowing students to choose from different topics and levels.

- Provide multiple means of representation by communicating material through video, text, and images.

- Provide multiple means of action and expression through different types of assessment questions (for example, multiple choice, short answer, reflection).

Design for microlearning.

Tutorials more than 10 minutes long are common in IL instruction, but they may cover too much information for a student to work through and retain in one session. Instead, divide tutorials into chunks that are less than five minutes long each, while maintaining a complete lesson with an introduction, practice, and assessment.

Flip the learning. I am a firm believer in the effectiveness of online tutorials when they are designed around the students. However, they also have their limitations. IL skills need repeated practice and real-life application.

Tutorials are best used in conjunction with a class session where students can ask questions about the tutorials' content and use their new skills and knowledge to complete a task or assignment.

Allow students to choose different paths and skills based on their goals.

We are just beginning to understand online learning, and it's vital that instructional librarians embrace current pedagogical—and andragogical—theories around what works in online instruction.

Adapted from "Designing Information Literacy Tutorials: Tips, Techniques, and Trends," Library Technology Reports vol. 58, no. 5 (July 2022). AL

United We Stand

Create better working conditions and stronger libraries with unions

BY Angelo Moreno



ANGELO MORENO is adult services librarian at East Lansing (Mich.) Public Library.

Libraries are great places to work, generally speaking, especially for book lovers. On top of the satisfaction I derive from engaging with patrons, I'm grateful my library offers tangible employment benefits like fair compensation with guaranteed yearly wage increases and paid time off. It also confers a measure of dignity and respect and a voice in decision-making processes. This has not always been the case for us. We, the library's workers, created the conditions that made this possible when we formed our first union and negotiated our first contract in 2020.

Here are some strategies that helped us along the way:

Talk with colleagues. Building worker power begins when workers talk with one another about their experiences on the job. When my colleagues and I started talking more, we realized that many of us shared the same issues and were able to discuss what we believed to be the root causes of those issues. We shared our visions for how we might address them and what a better workplace could look like.

We learned a great deal about one another during these discussions. We learned that though many of us had strong feelings about problems at work, some did not believe anything would ever change. Some of us knew something had to be done but were afraid to speak up or take action.

Contact a union. Once we were ready to implement our vision, we reached out to the United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, which represents a sizable group of workers at a district library in our area. The union put us in contact with one of its organizers, who helped us form an organizing committee and offered guidance as we built workplace unity and leadership. We came to understand that having both a committee and an organizer kept us motivated and accountable throughout the process.

Accept that the fight is never over. Once an overwhelming majority of library staffers signed up for the union, we asked our library administration to voluntarily recognize us. Many employers resist this ask and instead push for an election. This happened to us, but because we had already built majority support and maintained workplace unity, we won the election handily.

After the election, we moved into what became a roughly yearlong process of negotiating our first contract. Our bargaining team included representatives from each of the main areas of work: circulation, tech services, and librarians. This broad representation was key to our strength and resonance with fellow workers. Though the final contract does not reflect every single change we believed would make for

a better workplace, our bargaining team fought hard for and won key victories, including contractual protections from arbitrary discipline, among other wins.

During our final push for a fair contract, we invited the public to speak at a library board meeting in support of our efforts. Workers from three different libraries, representing both public and academic libraries, came out in support.

I am heartened by the increasing visibility of workplace organizing—especially among part-time service workers, a category that describes many public-facing library workers—and the resources developed to assist others. The ALA–Allied Professional Association explicitly names unionization as a resource and strategy to improve library worker salaries and status, and its website provides information on how to start a union (bit.ly/ALA-APA-unions). I have also relied greatly on the resources, information, and news provided by the media

and organizing group Labor Notes, especially its indispensable book, *Secrets of a Successful Organizer*.

None of us would claim that building worker power is easy or comfortable, but meaningful change rarely is. These conversations

are happening at

libraries across the country, and more people are understanding—as my fellow workers and I do—that collective power is a public good. **AL**

Building worker power begins when workers talk with one another about their experiences on the job.

Project Management Basics

Resources to power your next initiative



**ARACELI MÉNDEZ
HINTERMEISTER**

is knowledge manager at Uplift Education in Dallas.

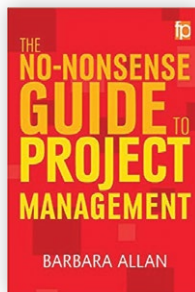


Launching Large-Scale Library Initiatives: Innovation and Collaboration

By Valerie Horton

With years of library experience under her belt, Horton knows that project management involves various stages of planning and a careful balance of preparation, collaboration, and management of resources. In this title, Horton presents lessons and techniques from project management across various industries and adapts them for the library environment. This approach gives the reader the insight needed to create actionable projects that can garner buy-in from colleagues and patrons alike. Whether this is your first large-scale initiative or your hundredth, Horton provides a better understanding of the key concepts and functions of project management.

ALA Editions, 2021. 160 p. \$54.99.
978-0-8389-4987-0.



The No-Nonsense Guide to Project Management

By Barbara Allan

Allan's book is a practical guide to project management, from small-scale initiatives such as the launch of a new workshop to larger projects like a shared program across library branches. With examples from a variety of projects and libraries, this book considers the foundational practices of project management and discusses how to manage variables such as people, money, change, and partnerships. Equally important, Allan showcases how project management can also be a part of professional development. Facet Publishing, 2017. 240 p. \$74. 978-1-78330-203-1.



Strategic Project Management Made Simple: Solution Tools for Leaders and Teams, 2nd edition

By Terry Dean Schmidt

Schmidt links strategy and project management to guide new and experienced project managers as they turn ideas, problems, and opportunities within their organizations into future projects. With a framework that can be easily adapted for any project or organization, the book presents step-by-step guidance on planning, leading, and executing projects while aligning stakeholders on a path forward. Presented in a simple and accessible format, this second edition is filled with information on how projects relate to business strategies.

Wiley, 2021. 256 p. \$30. 978-1-119-71817-8. (Also available as an ebook.)

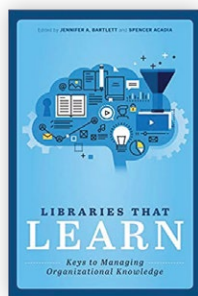
BY Araceli Méndez Hintermeister



Project Management in Libraries: On Time, On Budget, On Target

By Carly Wiggins Searcy

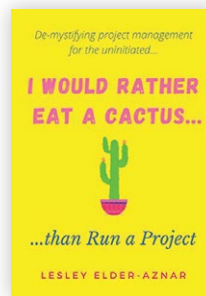
Can your projects be considered successful if you're not on time or on budget? In this approachable read for library staffers at all levels, Searcy, a certified project management professional and librarian, provides guidance on executing projects while keeping a watchful eye on the potential risks that can derail all the hard work involved. In addition to the basics, she highlights how the way a person approaches project management can lead to effective and thoughtful decisions. Examples include how to manage meetings more effectively, how to get the most engagement out of your stakeholders, and how to leverage the strengths of your collaborators. ALA Editions, 2019. 136 p. \$54.99. 978-0-8389-1719-0.



Libraries That Learn: Keys to Managing Organizational Knowledge


Edited by Jennifer A. Bartlett and Spencer Acadia

A project's success stems from variables and conditions that go way beyond the planning and implementation stages. While every project is different, it is highly likely that your library already has the knowledge about why projects have failed, succeeded, or plateaued in the past. Harnessing that organizational knowledge can better inform how you take on a new project. This book first introduces central ideas and concepts of knowledge management before presenting case studies of how libraries are capturing, organizing, and applying this knowledge for change. ALA Editions, 2019. 184 p. \$64.99. 978-0-8389-1831-9. (Also available as an ebook.)



I Would Rather Eat a Cactus ... Than Run a Project: Demystifying Project Management for the Uninitiated

By Lesley Elder-Aznar

If you need to get up to speed with project management skills rather quickly, or you keep getting lost in the jargon of other books, then Elder-Aznar's lighthearted and practical approach to project management is for you. The book is for newcomers, career changers, and those on the periphery who are learning to work with project managers, such as function specialists and subject matter experts. By the end, you'll not only be introduced to a demystified topic, but you'll also be on the path to completing your first project. Independently published, 2021. 194 p. \$23.99. 979-8734979129. (Also available as an ebook.) 

Good Vibrations

Libraries supply sensory spaces

BY Carrie Smith

Libraries are making room for sensory spaces, which give library users with autism, sensory processing disorders, and other disabilities a place to experience the library more comfortably. Finding the right items for a space that encourages both quiet meditation and sensory exploration can be difficult. Here, we talk with workers from three libraries about products they offer in their sensory spaces.

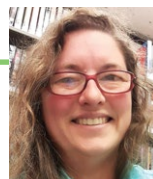


Experia USA's interactive game floor projects images that react to movement and play.

Experia USA Interactive Game Floor

What is the Experia USA interactive game floor?

The game floor uses a computer with a motion sensor and a projector to display educational and sensory games on a foam mat. The motion sensor allows the software to react to the player's movements. Ours was put together by Experia USA, which designed and sourced our sensory room.



USER: DEBORAH LONG, assistant director, Louisville (Ohio) Public Library

How is it used in your library? We use it during sensory storytimes as a reward for tweens after their programs and for adults during chair yoga (where they dangle their feet in a simulated koi pond and the water ripples and the fish react). We also use it when patrons make appointments to use the room.

What are the main benefits? This is easily one of our most popular pieces of sensory equipment. It's not only hugely fun, but it also engages gross motor skills. Players can jump in a pile of virtual leaves, create fireworks on the mat, play a piano or a game of soccer,

or just make beautiful patterns with their movements. My daughter, who is autistic, loves a game where you step on a virtual lever to make a dragon eat up balls (similar to *Hungry Hungry Hippos*). All the games require broad movements, and some layer educational content like the alphabet or the solar system onto that movement. Our patrons in wheelchairs are also able to play.

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

Turning it on can be a chore—we use a long stick to reach the power button on the computer mounted to the ceiling. By design, the system is not on the internet all the time, so updates are difficult. The sensor also requires recalibrating on a regular basis. More frequent additions to the game library would be helpful; some patrons

come for appointments weekly, and they sometimes want to try something new.

Alpha Egg Chair

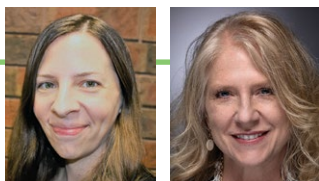
What is the Alpha Egg Chair?

This type of chair, where sound gets muffled and diffused a little bit, came up in our research on sensory spaces. It helps ease sensory overload by reducing external noises. You really feel like you are in a cocoon.

How is it used in your library? The intention of the sensory room is for it to be a place to unplug and unwind. Students who are experiencing anxiety or have autism, or any students who want to go in and have just a quiet, meditative space, are using the chairs. Faculty and staff have come in to use them, too. The chairs swivel, and we often see the chairs turned to face the wall so the person inside isn't facing the room.

What are the main benefits? One of the real benefits of the chair is having your own space. On tours, students and parents have commented that the sensory room is one of their favorite places on campus, and parents have asked if they could come back to school just to use the chairs.

What would you like to see improved or added to the product? I think that for a lot of libraries the cost of these chairs would be a heavy lift without partners to share the expense. We partnered with campus disability services and Stout Student Association and received funding through the chancellor's office. We'd also like to see a more durable interior fabric. We're already seeing some pilling after about a year of use.



USERS: TANYA GUNKEL, educational materials center librarian, and ANN MURPHY, director of disability services, University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie



Students at University of Wisconsin-Stout use egg chairs to unwind.

Vibro-Acoustic Platform

What is the Vibro-Acoustic Platform?

It is a vinyl-upholstered bench equipped with Bluetooth speakers, mounted underneath the platform, that create a pulse that can be felt through the entire body when music is playing. When wearing headphones, patrons can listen to music streamed from a Bluetooth-enabled device and feel the vibrations.

How is it used in your library? Patrons use this bench as a tool to reduce stress and anxiety. We have it in our sensory-friendly meeting room, which is also equipped with fluorescent light filters and soothing hues. Patrons who are neurodiverse and may feel overwhelmed in a library environment use the bench to help bring calm and focus, allowing them to spend time among their peers in a public setting. The Vibro-Acoustic Platform is used daily and has been very well received.

What are the main benefits? The platform has become a welcoming tool for an otherwise underserved population. Parents and caregivers have said that they appreciate having a place to go in the community that provides unique accommodations for children who are living with sensory sensitivities. Sensory products can be expensive, so providing this to our patrons has been a substantial benefit to the community.

What would you like to see improved or added to the product? Simplifying the process of connecting a music device and making the bench itself sturdier would be a welcome improvement. We'd also like to have upholstery options in colors other than white. **AL**



USERS: LYNN JOHNSON, director, and COLLEEN OLIVE, youth services librarian, Lewiston (Idaho) City Library



The Vibro-Acoustic Platform generates soothing vibrations in time with streamed music.

PEOPLE

Announcements

ON THE MOVE

In March **Alyssa Ali** became director of Cazenovia (N.Y.) Public Library and Museum.

Pahrump (Nev.) Community Library appointed **Vanja Anderson** director in May.

Anastasia Armendariz started in July as librarian for special collections and the Malibu historical collection at Pepperdine Libraries in Malibu, California.

September 1 **Guylaine Beaudry** becomes Trenholme Dean of Libraries at McGill University in Montreal.

Bailey Berry joined Pepperdine Libraries in Malibu, California, as librarian for digital conversion, publishing, and curation in March.

May 31 **Chris Cepil** joined Georgetown University Library in Washington, D.C., as print collections supervisor.

Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon, named **Stephanie Davidson** director of the law library and associate professor of law in May.



In May **Veronica De Fazio** joined Peoria (Ill.) Public Library as deputy director.

June 15 Laconia (N.H.) Public Library appointed **Sarah Frost** adult services librarian.

Criss Guy joined University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as student success and engagement librarian June 20.



In August **Cody Hackett** became electronic resources librarian at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Kudos

Talea Anderson, scholarly communication librarian at Washington State University Libraries in Pullman, has been selected as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for Diversity, Inclusion, and Cultural Heritage through the Rare Book School at University of Virginia in Charlottesville. ●



Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, appointed **Timothy Hackman** dean of university libraries effective July 25.



June 13 **Cyndi Harbeson** became director of Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown, Massachusetts.

Lea Hernandez joined San Diego Public Library's Rancho Bernardo branch as youth librarian in April.

Stanford (Calif.) University Libraries appointed **Peter Leonard** assistant university librarian for its new Research Data Services division, effective August.



May 2 **Katrina Linde-Moriarty** began as director of Portage Lake District Library in Houghton, Michigan.

Tor Loney joined New York State Library's Division of Library Development as library development specialist on June 9.

April 26 **Lori Lundstrom** became library services coordinator at Elk River (Minn.) Public Library.

Kimberly MacVaugh joined Georgetown University Library in Washington, D.C., as School of Foreign Service and government liaison and reference librarian July 18.

In May **Kevin Medows** was named executive director of Rolling Meadows (Ill.) Library.

Jennifer Meehan was appointed director of special collections at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., effective August 1.



Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor, Maine, appointed **Abby Morrow** youth services librarian effective May 24.

April 22 **Torsten Reimer** started as university librarian and dean of University of Chicago Library.



Hanna Roseen became branch librarian at East Wenatchee (Wash.) Public Library May 31.

August 15 **Joseph A. Salem Jr.** became Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and vice provost for library affairs at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Aimee Schreiber joined Farmington (Minn.) Library as children's librarian January 3.

Kevin L. Smith started as director of Colby College Libraries in Waterville, Maine, August 1.



Sidney (Neb.) Public Library appointed **Julie Stokes** adult librarian overseeing the bookmobile, effective April 22.

Jody Thomas was appointed city librarian of the new Carpinteria (Calif.) Community Library effective July 1.

August 22 **Stephanie Walker** joined University of Massachusetts Boston as dean of university libraries.

Xuemao Wang became Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian and dean of libraries at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, effective September 1.

PROMOTIONS

Texas A&M University in College Station promoted **Julie Mosbo Ballestro** to university librarian and assistant provost of university libraries, effective July 1.



In March **Sally Bryant** was promoted to associate university librarian for public services and instruction at Pepperdine Libraries in Malibu, California.

Laconia (N.H.) Public Library promoted **Jamie Dalton** to children's librarian May 11.

Deann Hunter was promoted to director at Laconia (N.H.) Public Library June 14.

Newburyport (Mass.) Public Library promoted **Sara Kelso** to head librarian in July.

In April New Orleans Public Library promoted **Emily Painton** to executive director and city librarian.

July 1 Johnson County (Kans.) Library promoted **Tricia Suellentrop** to county librarian.

Marc Vinyard was promoted in March to associate university librarian for graduate campus libraries at Pepperdine Libraries in Malibu, California.

Willard Library in Battle Creek, Michigan, promoted **Matt Willis** to director, effective July 1.

In Memory

Cynthia Cockerham, 75, a retired reference librarian at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and medical reference librarian at University of Alabama at Birmingham's Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, died January 16.

Vivian Hewitt, 102, the first Black person to hold a position in Pittsburgh's public library system and the first Black president of the Special Libraries Association, died May 29. Hewitt spent much of her career as a librarian in foundations, including the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. She retired as a librarian for the Council on Foreign Relations in 1988. She and her husband, John, amassed one of the largest private collections of paintings by African American artists in the country, including works by Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, and Jacob Lawrence. The core of the collection is now held by the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts and Culture in Charlotte, North Carolina, and has been displayed at more than two dozen museums nationwide. Hewitt often lectured at the openings of these exhibits.

John Jessen, 56, city librarian of New Haven, Connecticut, died May 27. He joined New Haven Free Public Library in 2004 and served as an outreach specialist, head of the Wilson branch, and the system's deputy director before being promoted to city librarian in 2019. As city librarian, he secured funding to keep open every branch on Sundays, eliminated late fees, and revamped the library website.



Edward Walter, 75, a retired librarian at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, died May 14. ●

RETIREMENTS

Mary Clute retired as children's librarian at Alpena (Mich.) County George N. Fletcher Public Library in spring.

Mae Corrión retired as youth services librarian at Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor, Maine, in May.

Judy Cross retired as librarian at Alpena (Mich.) County George N. Fletcher Public Library in spring.

June 30 **Cathy Lucas** retired as director of Willard Library in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Sheila McCormick retired June 3 as director of Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown, Massachusetts.

July 22 **Kent Oliver** retired as director of Nashville (Tenn.) Public Library after a 51-year career in public libraries.

Sarah Pritchard will retire in February as Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian and dean of libraries at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

In June **Shirley Sprenne** retired as branch librarian and manager of Lexington County (S.C.) Public Library's Pelion branch. **AL**



Riders' Advisory

The gear library of the Radical Adventure Riders Atlanta chapter (RAR-ATL) isn't the first of its kind for cycling gear, but it is one of the most organized and accessible. In researching other groups that loan cycling gear, "we hadn't come across a consistent model or a controlled vocabulary to replicate," says Sarah Cruz (pictured, left), one of its coleaders and an associate archivist for the Coca-Cola Archives. "You can't just grab a record and pop it in your catalog."

Founded in 2017, RAR's goal has been to make cycling more accessible for riders who are femme, transgender, women, nonbinary, Black, Indigenous, and people of color. The RAR-ATL Gear Library—which has a searchable online catalog with photos—is the work of Cruz, Hannah Griggs (center), and Devin Cowens (right). The trio has devoted dozens of hours to labeling and cataloging donated equipment including tents,

cycling-specific bags, and camp stoves. And Cruz's coleaders have received a crash course in library science, from creating borrower accounts to providing reference services.

Many people new to cycling and gear-intensive activities like touring and bike camping (using a bicycle to travel to and carry all you need for a camping trip) usually don't know where to start. Cruz and her coleaders help cyclists learn how to use the catalog and find items that best suit them for an excursion. "What is the use of the catalog if someone doesn't even know what they should be searching for?" Cruz says. "There are usually really fun and unexpected things that patrons may not anticipate needing." **AL**

THE BOOKEND showcases librarians, their work, and their work spaces. For consideration, email americanlibraries@ala.org.

ALA

eLearning



Grow Your Skills this Fall!

Webinars

All Webinars begin at 2:30pm Eastern

Collection Diversity Audits: 10 Steps to Success

A 90-Minute Webinar
Thursday, September 8, 2022

Cataloging Rare Materials with the Official Toolkit and DCRM

A 90-Minute Webinar
Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Serving Deaf Patrons in the Library

Two 90-Minute Sessions
Wednesdays, September 7 and 14, 2022

Virtual Teen Services via Discord: Community, Gaming, and Best Practices

A 90-Minute Webinar
Wednesday, October 5, 2022

ECourses

21st Century Feminist Libraries

A 4-Week Course
Starting Monday, September 12, 2022

The First Amendment and Library Services

A 4-Week Course
Starting Monday, September 12, 2022

Cultivating Civility, Resilience, and Reflection in the Library Workplace

A 4-Week Course
Starting Monday, September 26, 2022

Outreach Services for Underserved Children

A 4-Week Course
Starting Monday, October 17, 2022



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