

american libraries

June 2023

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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NEWSMAKER:
Ken Jennings p. 24

PLUS: New Parent
Delivery, Personal Care
Kits, Quiet Quitting



Chicago

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Preview, Dining Guide,
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p. 28

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Our Kind of Town



Sanhita SinhaRoy

If you're like us, you're more than ready for ALA's Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago—and this year we have the additional pleasure of hosting you. Read about anticipated programs, events, and speakers, including poet Amanda Gorman and authors Nikki Grimes and Rick Riordan, in our conference preview (cover story, p. 28).

Even as a longtime resident, I'm still in awe of the eclectic dining options the city offers. Pointing you toward everything from grab-and-go grub to Michelin-starred standouts, writer Kate Silver helps you plan your mealtimes with our handy Dining Guide (p. 36).

If you have time to explore, check out our staff picks for things to do and see ("Welcome to the Windy City," p. 42). We compiled a list of favorite spots, all just a bus, cab, train, or bike ride away. From historic sites to centers of arts and culture to green spaces, we share insider tips that we hope will make your visit more fun. (Tag us on Twitter or Facebook if you visit one!)

For something truly unique, consider a trip to the International Museum of Surgical Science, which holds rare medical texts, journals, and illustrations in its collection (Bookend, p. 64). Located in an elegant, once-private home along Chicago's scenic Lake Shore Drive, the museum is the only one in North America devoted to the art and science of surgery.

Somebody who likely knows that bit of trivia is Ken Jennings, our Newsmaker this issue (p. 24). The record *Jeopardy!* champion-turned-host talks with Associate Editor Megan Bennett about his new book (which was largely written in a university library), the impact of libraries on his life, and why librarians make the best contestants on the long-running TV game show.

Other stories you won't want to miss: public libraries installing fridges to help address food insecurity ("Fresh Ideas," p. 16); libraries providing hygiene products that anyone can discreetly take ("Personal Care," p. 18); and home delivery services expanding for growing families ("Special Delivery," p. 20).

We hope these reads will energize you for the informative and innovative ideas you'll hear about at conference. Hope to see you in Chicago.

Sanhita

With our
conference
preview, dining
guide, and
staff picks,
this issue will
guide you
during your
Chicago stay.

Until We Meet Again

Together we embrace change and strive for success



**Lessa Kanani'opua
Pelayo-Lozada**

We will
continue to
galvanize
our friends,
family, and
communities
to stand with
us in solidarity,
speak loudly,
and take
action to save
the freedom
to read.

As I look back on our year together, I remain inspired and encouraged by our brave communities. Despite the obstacles we face, libraries remain valued, trusted institutions.

I know this because libraries are constantly evolving places, and our workers stand up to the test of constant change, ensuring our communities have access to information, the freedom to read, and a love of lifelong learning, now and for years to come.

As I contemplate the future of libraries, I am reminded of adrienne maree brown's book *Emergent Strategy*. In the chapter "Intentional Adaptation: How We Change," she describes the need to be an active participant in change—to not resist but embrace it—and to be as intentional as possible during the process while being in community with one another. Brown reminds us that we cannot predict the future, but we can prepare for it and approach change with excitement to help ensure that our communities grow.

When I decided in summer 2020 to run for ALA president, we were in the beginning stages of a global pandemic and seeing worldwide protests over the murder of George Floyd and affirmations that Black Lives Matter. I did not know what my presidency would hold.

I did not know that my presidential year would be consumed with a record number of book challenges across the country by an organized, vocal minority trying to strip our society of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC voices.

I could not have predicted how a divided country would turn its focus on libraries to erode trust in essential institutions. Yet despite this lack of certainty, I prepared myself for making intentional leadership choices every step of the way during my term.

Together, ALA members focused on a proactive response to the challenges our libraries face.

We modernized our Association with a historic bylaws revision that was years in the making. We laid the groundwork for members to effectively use the ALA–Allied Professional Association, a companion organization that provides library workers with the tools and resources they need to work in safe, inclusive, and equitable environments. We showed what it looked like to be “all in” on intellectual freedom and library workers.

These successes were in addition to the everyday work of our Association to support library workers with professional development opportunities, programs, and more.

Together, we have done a lot this year. And through initiatives like Unite Against Book Bans, we will continue to support our colleagues who are experiencing challenges and adversity. We will continue to galvanize our friends, family, and communities to stand with us in solidarity, speak loudly, and take action to save the freedom to read.

I have met many library workers and advocates who do this work every day in their communities. We will succeed because we are passionate about our core values and our libraries. We will succeed because we firmly know that free people read freely.

And I know we will succeed because, in the words of Hawai'i's 19th-century Queen Kapi'olani, “Kūlia i ka nu'u.” *We will strive for the summit*. We know that summit will always remain just out of reach, but we will never become complacent. We will always grow, adapt, and change for the heart of our communities.

It has been an honor to serve as your president, and I look forward to continuing to strive for the summit with all of you.

Kūlia i ka nu'u, and a hui hou. **AL**

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



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Confessions of a Bad Librarian

The chances we take—and mistakes we make—define our leadership



Tracie D. Hall

Leadership is all about weighing the balance between risk and reward, between taking a chance and doing nothing.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with a group of undergraduates to talk about how I've navigated my career. The professor who invited me noted that I had taken brave professional stances. When it was time for questions, one young woman, expressing her anxiety about leadership, asked earnestly, "Do you ever get scared that you'll make a mistake?"

"All the time!" I answered. "But mistakes are unavoidable. Part of being a leader is not letting the fear of making a mistake or taking a chance stop you from doing what you think is right or important." I have learned this firsthand. My entire professional journey has been about taking chances and risking failure.

I shared the story of when I was assigned interim oversight of a department that was planning to sunset a longstanding literacy program. The intergenerational program took place at a satellite site inside an infamous housing project. Attendance had begun to lag, and it was starting to be perceived as another cost center. Rather than take everyone's word for it, I began visiting the site at least once a week. By the end of my first month, I had determined that though the number of attendees was limited, many children who used the program were showing better school persistence and academic success.

Parents shared that the program, and the social network it provided, had also given them confidence to advocate for their children at school and for themselves at work and in the community. So rather than endorse the program's closure, I decided to work from the site two days a week.

Lawyer and *Just Mercy* author Bryan Stevenson talks about the power of *proximity*, which he defines as being "willing to get close to those who are suffering." By getting close to the people being served by the very program I was expected to help close, I was able to attest to its successes and, most importantly, to advocate for additional

resources. I took a chance and used my administrative authority to focus on assets rather than deficits. Now, more than a decade later, the program and site are still thriving.

But the distinction between chances and mistakes is sometimes blurred. This spring I received an award from scaleLIT, a Chicago-based adult literacy coalition. The truth is that my work in literacy began by taking a chance and breaking the rules.

When I was a newly minted branch manager, a few of my patrons revealed that they struggled with reading and that there were no literacy instruction programs on our side of town. I asked our library director—whom I greatly admired—if I could open one in my branch. The answer was no. Not because it wasn't important, but because we had limited staff resources and space.

Thinking about those who stood to benefit, I took a chance and did it anyway. One of my staff members and I completed the training to become literacy instructors, and we turned the library's basement storage area into a classroom.

We recruited other instructors, and soon our quiet middays were filled with busy classes teeming with adults striving to learn to read. To my embarrassment, we won an award for best literacy program shortly afterward. I was so afraid of being caught for this unsanctioned activity that I didn't stay for the whole ceremony.

What I learned is that leadership is all about weighing the balance between risk and reward, between taking a chance and doing nothing. I still think about my decision, one of both benevolence and defiance, and wonder if a more practiced and mature me would have done the same. One thing is clear: The roots of my being honored with an award were planted because I was a "bad librarian." And I may still be. **AL**

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

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f What a wonderful thing—to write a book and present it with your sister! I'm sure it'll be a fantastic presentation. ❤️

JULIE SEEL RENAUD, in response to Idina Menzel and Cara Mentzel's upcoming presentation at ALA's 2023 Annual Conference for their book *Proud Mouse*

Conference Concerns

Author Jodi Picoult recently said, "There is absolutely nothing wrong with a parent deciding a certain book is not right for [their] child. There is a colossal problem with a parent deciding that, therefore, no child should be allowed to read that book."

In Picoult's second sentence, the word *parent* can also be replaced with "Florida's legislative and executive actions." And such actions go way beyond books.

It is my opinion that the American Association of School Libraries (AASL), by holding the 2023 AASL National Conference in Tampa, Florida, is indirectly

complying with these actions. I hope everyone in AASL is mindful of the significant ramifications that come with holding a conference in Florida, a state that is very much attacking the basic tenets of intellectual freedom.

The censorship actions of Florida will cause hardships to students, children, parents, teachers, higher educators, and librarians—not just school librarians. They also cause concern among people who believe in intellectual freedom. Holding a national conference in such a place is a slap in the face.

The notion of going to support the state school librarians in their actions to counter what is

happening doesn't hold water. There are many ways to support a state organization of school librarians that don't involve having a conference in that state. I ask AASL leaders to take swift and exemplary action by moving the conference out of Florida in protest.

Betty Marcoux
Port Angeles, Washington

Addressing Book Bans

Book bans are horrible, political, and intrusive—both on the rights of readers and on the limited time and resources of the library community. It is a horrible shame that there is a concerted, coordinated political movement

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to drive interest in limiting the access to a small segment of the books that libraries acquire. The number of titles targeted has jumped nearly tenfold since 2020, according to ALA. Book bans are leading to more significant, negative effects on public libraries, up to and including the attempted and potential closure or defunding of libraries, like in Llano County, Texas, and the state of Missouri.

There are many ways to address this problem. Libraries and their supporters can leverage

overwhelming community support to push back against attempts to ban books either locally or statewide. Organizations dedicated to intellectual freedom, such as ALA, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the National Coalition Against Censorship, have had success filing lawsuits against library book bans. We can draw attention to the attempts of a vocal minority, in hopes they will be stopped.

One strategy receiving lots of attention is using book banning groups' methods to make

a mockery of their attempts. This includes challenging books like the Bible and, in Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis's new book. This is entirely misguided. Current culture focuses a lot of attention on trolling. However, supporters of libraries should be concerned about book bans of all content, not just the content from one side or another. Supporters of intellectual freedom should object to any attempt to limit content, including those of political opponents.

Todd A. Carpenter
Baltimore

f Let's value education and knowledge, put librarians back in schools, give them your support, and stop trying to censor things because *one* parent didn't want it there.

MIKI LINDSEY, in response to School Library Month, held annually in April

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Hohl Wins 2024–2025 ALA Presidency

Cindy Hohl, director of policy analysis and operational support at Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library, has been elected 2024–2025 president of the American Library Association (ALA).

Hohl received 4,965 votes, while her opponent, Eric D. Suess, director of Marshall Public Library in Pocatello, Idaho, received 2,409 votes.

Upon learning the election's outcome, Hohl provided the following statement:

"Thank you to everyone who voted, and I am truly humbled to take these next steps together with all of you. It is an honor and privilege to support library staff across the field, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as 2024–2025 ALA president. A special thank you to Eric Suess for standing for election with me.

"We have a lot of good work ahead of us in libraries, and I look forward to listening to feedback, hearing your ideas, and moving forward with that inspiration to uphold the professional ethics of our trusted profession as we highlight the high value of libraries. Wopida Tanka, many thanks to all the



Cindy Hohl

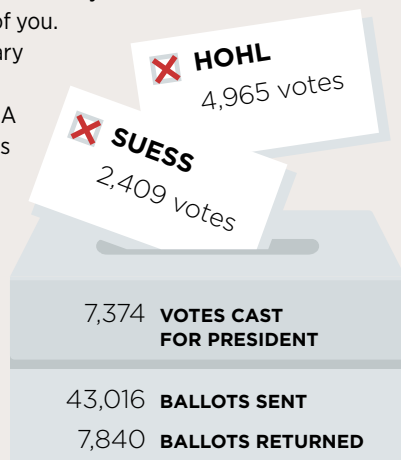
ALA leaders who have worked with diligence and fortitude to represent us well. These combined achievements strengthen our Association for the better, and there has never been a better time to be a librarian."

Hohl is past president of the American Indian Library Association and an active member of other ALA affiliates, including the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, Black Caucus of the ALA, Chinese American Librarians Association, and Reforma: the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking.

As a member of the Public Library Association (PLA), a

division of ALA, Hohl currently cochairs the Membership Advisory Group and was a member of the PLA Strategic Plan Review Team. She is a member of several round tables, including the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, Library Research Round Table, and Social Responsibilities Round Table.

Hohl holds a bachelor's degree in organization management and leadership from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas; an MLIS from Wayne State University in Detroit; and a master's in business administration from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas. ●



Record EDI and ESG Funds in ALA Endowment

The ALA Endowment trustees reported during the April governance meetings that equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) funds make up 60.7% of the Association's total endowment portfolio.

This percentage represents the highest reported by the trustees since the fund began in 2004, according to Mario M. González, senior endowment trustee. "The performance of these funds reaffirms that investing in EDI/ESG is

not just the right thing to do but should remain a portfolio priority," González told *American Libraries*.

As of March 31, the ALA Endowment was \$56.7 million. The seven-member trustee group is charged with managing the ALA Endowment Fund with the responsibility of acting on investment strategies on behalf of the ALA Executive Board.

Next ALA Connect Live Series Announced

Incoming ALA President Emily Drabinski has announced the preliminary lineup

for her ALA Connect Live series during her 2023–2024 term. These town hall-inspired conversations allow for an open dialogue among members, the ALA Executive Board, and fellow library professionals.

The lineup is as follows: "How We Started a Union" (September), "How We Negotiated Our First Contract" (November), "How We Organized Against Book Bans" (February 2024), and "Climate Action from a Native Perspective" (April 2024).

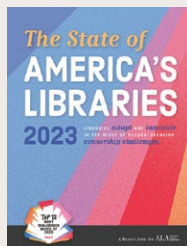
For more information, visit bit.ly/ALACoConnectLive.

State of America's Libraries 2023 Report Released

The number of reported book challenges in libraries reached 1,269 in 2022. This is the highest figure since ALA began compiling this data more than 20 years ago, according to its annual *State of America's Libraries* report, released April 24. The 2023 report summarizes library trends and outlines statistics and issues affecting libraries during the previous calendar year. It is released during National Library Week, this year April 23–29.

The report also includes a list of the Top 13 Most Challenged Books of 2022. A record 2,571 unique titles were targeted for censorship, a 38% increase from the 1,858 in 2021. Most targeted books were by or about Black or LGBTQIA+ individuals.

To read the full report, visit bit.ly/SOALRep-23. ●



Tornado Damages Mississippi Libraries

On March 24, an intense EF-4 tornado swept through Alabama and Mississippi, severely damaging the Sharkey–Issaquena County (Miss.) Library and Amory (Miss.) Municipal Library.

ALA is collecting donations through its Disaster Relief Fund to help these libraries reestablish services to their communities. The fund supports libraries in the US and around the world that have been damaged or destroyed because of natural or man-made disasters.

For more information, including how to donate to the libraries affected, visit bit.ly/ALA-DRFund.

Ukraine Libraries Receive ALA Donations

ALA's International Relations Office reported in early March that the Association had raised \$25,000 for the Ukrainian Library Association (ULA) through its Ukraine Library Relief Fund.

Through the fund, ULA has so far disbursed \$15,000 to libraries and library workers who have suffered losses amid

the Russian invasion. Relief fund recipients include Izium Central City Library, which lost 40% of its book collection when the town was under occupation, and Okhtyrka Public Library, which will use funds to repair rooms and windows destroyed by airstrikes. ULA says the remaining funds will be distributed soon.

For more information or to donate to the Ukraine Library Relief Fund, visit bit.ly/ALA-ULAFund.

Registration Opens for ACRL's RBMS Conference

Registration is now open for the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Conference, to be held June 27–30 at Indiana University Bloomington.

The conference theme is “A New Kind of Professional,” with programs focusing on how to welcome, prepare, and retain new workers to the fields of archives, libraries, museums, and special collections.

A virtual option of the conference will also be available. For more information, visit bit.ly/RBMSCon-23.

CALENDAR

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OCT. 1–7

Banned Books Week

bannedbooksweek.org

OCT. 4

Banned Websites Awareness Day

ala.org/aasl/advocacy/bwad

OCT. 15–21

National Friends of Libraries Week

bit.ly/ALA-NFLW

OCT. 19–21

AASL National Conference

Tampa, Florida
bit.ly/AASL-23

OCT. 23–29

Open Access Week

openaccessweek.org

NOV.

International Games Month

bit.ly/ALA-igm

NOV. 10–12

YALSA's Young Adult Services Symposium

St. Louis

ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium

JAN. 19–22, 2024

2024 LibLearnX

Baltimore

2024.alaliblearnx.org

APR. 3–5, 2024

PLA 2024 Conference

Columbus, Ohio

placonference.org

ACRL Acquires Achievement Test

On March 27, ACRL announced it had acquired the Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy (TATIL).

Based on ACRL's 2017 Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, TATIL launched in 2018 and has been used by more than 75 educational institutions. Its reports identify students' strengths and areas for improvement, helping educators take action to improve their pupils' academic performance.

Following a redesign, TATIL will relaunch under the ACRL brand this summer. For more information, visit bit.ly/ACRL-TATIL.

Traveling Exhibition on Holocaust Extended

The *Americans and the Holocaust* traveling exhibition, created by the United States Holocaust Museum in

Hall Named to *Time*'s 100 List

On April 13, *Time* magazine named ALA Executive Director Tracie D. Hall to its 2023 TIME100, its annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

"To be recognized alongside so many extraordinary individuals is incredible in itself," Hall said in an April 13 ALA announcement. "But to be recognized for working to protect the right to read and to advance the ability to read as a librarian is doubly incredible and a sign to keep going. Those working in libraries today are on the frontlines of protecting our right to free speech and diverse narratives, which is the basis of any true democracy. Their work to keep libraries open and accessible, even as censorship efforts escalate and become more extreme, is a testimony to their unrelenting commitment. It is for this reason that this honor is really a collective one in that it recognizes the power and importance of libraries and librarianship at this crucial moment in our nation."

For more information, including where to find the full TIME100 list, visit bit.ly/ALAHallTIME.

collaboration with ALA's Public Programs Office, will be coming to 50 more communities from 2024 to 2026.

The exhibit, which examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war,

Imagine a Different Future

Join the Washington State Library in expanding prison library services in Washington.

tinyurl.com/BranchLibrarianILS

tinyurl.com/LibraryAssociateILS



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Washington State Library

and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s, traveled to 50 US public and academic libraries from 2021 to 2023.

Public and academic libraries can apply between June 14 and October 14 to be part of the extended tour. For more information about applications and eligibility requirements, visit bit.ly/ALAPPO-AHEX.

RUSA Journal *RUSQ* to Relaunch in 2024

On March 22, the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) announced it will relaunch its *Reference & User Services Quarterly* (*RUSQ*) journal. The next issue will be published in January 2024.

RUSQ went on hiatus after its last issue in December 2021. *RUSQ* Editor Barry Trott will serve a three-year term and lead the relaunch.


For more information, visit bit.ly/RUSA-RUSQ. 

Policy Corps Cadre Created to Combat Book Banning

On April 7, ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office, in partnership with ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, announced it was launching a new initiative to combat book banning and censorship in libraries.

A cadre of ALA Policy Corps members who will oversee this initiative first met in late March to develop plans for concrete action in the coming months. The group plans to boost efforts to show how libraries and library workers provide essential resources to their communities and raise awareness about the importance of intellectual freedom through media interviews, op-eds, articles, social media posts, and the recruitment of new advocates.

"From official letters advocating on behalf of libraries and librarians to decision makers to hundreds of hours of team counseling to free digital infrastructure and technical assistance for activism, ALA is supporting dozens of libraries and library associations facing challenges," said ALA President Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada in the announcement. "And we know more is needed. Together, we are an antidote to the pervasive censorship poisoning our communities."

For more information, visit bit.ly/ALACadreBB. 



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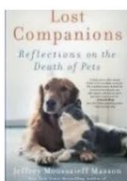
OPEN
ARCHITECTURE

Suggested Reading: Living With Pets

Pets in America
Grier, Katherine C.



Lost Companions
Masson, J. Moussaieff



The Animals Among Us
Bradshaw, John



Run, Spot, Run
Pierce, Jessica



Nati



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TRENDS



A patron at Charleston County (S.C.) Public Library picks up fruits and vegetables from a Free and Fresh Fridge. These fridges opened at three branches in 2021.

Fresh Ideas

Libraries install fridges to address food insecurity

BY Megan Bennett

Kathleen Montgomery views food, much like access to information, as a fundamental right.

“We know that if people don’t have enough food, every other need they have is going to seem secondary,” says Montgomery, associate director of community engagement at Charleston County (S.C.) Public Library (CCPL).

The pandemic exacerbated food insecurity throughout the country, with an estimated 3 million more US residents facing food insecurity in 2020 than in 2019, according to data from the nonprofit Feeding America. In 2021, with support from local service organizations, CCPL installed Free and

Fresh Fridges within three of its 18 branches. These branches are located in areas with the highest level of need. At any given time, an assortment of potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, and other fresh produce is available free of charge.

CCPL is one of several library systems in recent years to install community fridges with the goal of nourishing their neighborhoods and reducing the stigma around food assistance. While dry goods pantries have become somewhat common at many library facilities, community fridges are a more recent trend and enable access to fresh and perishable foods.

As COVID-era expansions of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program, or SNAP, are set to expire at the end of 2023 and likely to raise food insecurity rates, the library could be another resource for communities seeking support.

“Our mission is to strengthen our community by connecting people with the ideas and tools they need to enrich their lives,” says Nikki Hayter, supervising librarian at Des Moines (Iowa) Public Library’s (DMPL) Franklin Avenue branch. “I don’t know what could be much more enriching than food.”

DMPL installed two fridges in 2022: at its South Side branch in October and its Franklin Avenue location in December. Hayter and Alicia Mangin, South Side’s senior librarian, worked alongside food rescue nonprofit Eat Greater Des Moines to apply for grants to fund the project. Each branch received \$5,000.

Mangin was inspired to take action after local data indicated that her library’s zip code had one of the highest concentrations of food pantry use in Des Moines from July 2021 to June 2022. Recent inflationary pressures on the price of food and other basic needs also tightened patrons’ grocery budgets, leading Hayter to expand her perspective on what food insecurity can look like.

“There’s this tendency to always think of it as very extreme,” Hayter says, “which it is—if you’re hungry, that’s extreme—but people can transition in and out of food insecurity.”

Photo: Charleston County (S.C.) Public Library

A safe space

The fridge at Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Public Library District (PPLD) began as a high school class project and is now largely managed by local teens. In spring 2022, three students began collecting donations, first obtaining three fridges and about \$2,000, most of which came through GoFundMe. When the three were searching for a location for the first fridge installation, community members suggested PPLD.

"The library's a place where [people] feel safe, comfortable, and able to be in community with each other," says Trevor Brooks, 17, one of the student organizers.

The collaboration was an "easy yes," says T. J. Lamanna, head of community engagement at PPLD. In October 2022, the fridge was installed at PPLD's Adriance Memorial Library within the city of Poughkeepsie, where an estimated one in four households face food insecurity.

Additionally, Lamanna notes, the fridge requires little staff time. The students continue to oversee the donations and stop in regularly to restock.

Finding food

To fill the fridges, the libraries receive deliveries from local groups—food assistance nonprofits, churches, farms, and small businesses, for example—as well as donations from individuals, both in the form of food and money to purchase items. While CCPL focuses on fresh fruits and vegetables, DMPL and PPLD accept a variety of food, including dairy products, bread, canned and frozen goods, and prepared meals.

"There could be a teen after school grabbing a snack, an

"We know that if people don't have enough food, every other need they have is going to seem secondary."

KATHLEEN MONTGOMERY, associate director of community engagement at Charleston County (S.C.) Public Library

unhoused person that's grabbing a prepared meal for the day, or maybe a mother has a screaming toddler and there's a milk carton in there," Lamanna says. "I've seen all these situations happen."

Libraries can also provide guidelines for donations from individuals. For example, PPLD has a sign requesting that items include ingredient and allergen labels and that they not be open or past expiration and best-by dates.

The three library systems do not limit how much people can take from their fridges, noting they do not know users' household sizes or whom they may be bringing food to.

"It's really a take-what-you-need model," Montgomery says. "We find that everyone is following that."

Tracking use

Cleaning the fridge and checking for expired items can be done by staff or volunteers. Community fridges housed at nonprofit organizations are also generally

BY THE NUMBERS

Gardening

71

Number of institutions recognized by the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries. These libraries are often housed within public gardens, arboreturns, or universities around the world.

2004

Year the first seed library opened in a public library. Hudson Valley Seed Library—which has since evolved into Hudson Valley Seed Company, selling seeds and garden-themed art—got its start at Gardiner (N.Y.) Public Library thanks to librarian Ken Greene. Today, there are hundreds of seed libraries across the US.



65,000

Number of photos and records available through the Archives of American Gardens. The archive, located at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., includes

photographs and documents for more than 10,000 historic and extant green spaces.

18

Number of plots in Salt Lake City Public Library's (SLCPL) community garden. The produce and herb garden, located at SLCPL's Main Library and known simply as The Plot,

is considered a learning laboratory for individuals and organizations who apply to plant and maintain a plot through a lottery system. ●



Continued on page 19 ▶



In January, Billings (Mont.) Public Library installed the Community Cabinet in its lobby. The cabinet contains hygiene products that patrons can take freely and discreetly.

Personal Care

Libraries distribute free hygiene kits

BY Rosie Newmark

Last summer, Taylor Arnold, media and reference librarian at Billings (Mont.) Public Library (BPL), pedaled a bike library around the city. From an out-fitted tricycle, he distributed books, taught yoga classes, and provided outreach services to the community.

During one of his routes, Arnold stopped at a downtown skate park and noticed that many of the people who approached him weren't skaters and had atypical requests.

"I had multiple interactions with folks who were like, 'Do you have any period products? Do you have soap?'" Arnold remembers. "That's what motivated me to start asking more of the folks there, 'What other things do you want? Let's see what I can get you.'"

These frequent conversations at the park, during which Arnold learned about individuals' transitional living situations, motivated him to create BPL's Community Cabinet. The library installed the cabinet in its lobby in January, stocking it with free toiletries and

hygiene products that anyone can discreetly take.

"You don't have to be using or patronizing the library to come in and use the cabinet," Arnold says. "You can just pop in the front door before anyone has really seen you or talked to you yet."

Other libraries across the country are identifying similar needs in their communities and implementing hygiene product distribution programs at their institutions.

"It's great that it's being used, but it's sad that folks are having to use the Community Cabinet for these resources," Arnold says. "Everyone should have access to these products for an ideal level of comfort."

Kits create connections

BPL's Community Cabinet, which relies on public donations, has six bins dedicated to different types of items: dental products, soaps, hair products, period products, clothing, and skin care items. Arnold says he restocks the cabinet once or

twice a day and usually finds it empty by the time he returns.

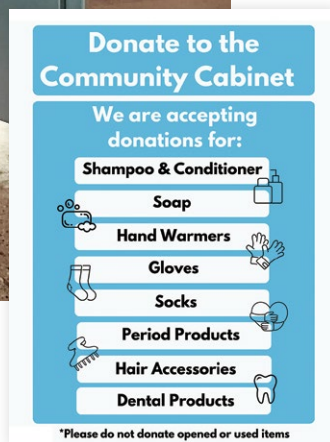
In 2021, DC Public Library (DCPL) in Washington, D.C., launched its Care Kits program using a Library Services and Technology Act grant and funding from the DC Public Library Foundation. The library spent \$20,000 on the initiative in 2022 to make items like shampoo, hand

wipes, lotions, clothing, and period products available to those in need.

"I think the community really appreciates that the public library offers these items," says Jean Badalamenti, manager of health and human services at DCPL, who oversees the program. "And I think our branches appreciate having them available to people."

Nearly all of DCPL's 26 locations carry Care Kits, says Badalamenti, but each branch decides on a distribution model appropriate for its customers. At Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, where Badalamenti works, patrons request kits at the front desk. Across town, the Northeast branch keeps its kits in a basket across from the circulation desk. Northeast Branch Manager Amy Steinbauer says her staffers felt the grab-and-go option created a dignified experience for patrons.

"Sometimes people take more than one kit, or one of our patrons would take the food items out of each bag and leave the rest," Steinbauer says. "Ultimately, we felt



that it was still better to have them available than to try to control how people used them.”

Steinbauer says the Care Kits have enabled her team to grow relationships with their regular patrons, many of whom are unhoused. She recalls a rainy day when a patron came in and took off his wet socks to dry on the radiator. Steinbauer told him he couldn’t do that but offered a kit with a fresh pair of socks in them, which he was grateful for.

“Even though he was a regular, and I knew his name, we had never officially met,” Steinbauer says. “From this moment, he asked me my name and introduced himself. That Care Kit brought a lot of positive interactions with him.”

Removing the stigma

The township of Oak Park, Illinois, wants to make personal care products more accessible for a specific population: children and teens.

Oak Park Township’s Youth and Family Services (YFS) Director Megan Traficano says that the topic of hygiene comes up often when working with this age group. Youth notice their bodies are changing and may have questions about puberty, she says, but many are too embarrassed to talk about it or get bullied if their families can’t afford hygiene supplies.

“We really wanted to destigmatize and make it where somebody didn’t necessarily have to come in and say ‘I need this,’” Traficano says, “because sometimes, especially for youth, they might not feel comfortable doing that.”

Though the local agency offers hygiene kits onsite and via delivery through the township, it had been looking to provide a more discreet distribution method. In 2022, YFS partnered with Oak Park Public Library (OPPL) to install a latched cabinet containing free toiletries in

the restroom of the library’s children’s department.

The cabinet gets restocked nightly because it’s so popular, says OPPL Children’s Librarian Genevieve Grove. She notes the most-used items are toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, and body lotion.

“Sometimes unhoused adults come in and take things, and that’s fine,” Grove says. “It’s not like the township has strictly said these supplies can only go for youth, but the first part of our mission is to try to get them in family spaces.”

Grove says there has been discussion about expanding hygiene product distribution to other libraries and schools in Oak Park—and is excited by the prospect that these programs will emerge elsewhere across the country.

“You don’t have to be using or patronizing the library to come in and use the cabinet.”

TAYLOR ARNOLD, media and reference librarian at Billings (Mont.) Public Library

For his part, Arnold wants to secure more sustainable funding for BPL’s Community Cabinet. He views the cabinet as just a first step toward addressing larger societal concerns, such as financial and housing insecurity.

“Libraries are about creating an ease of access to items and information,” Arnold says, “and that’s really what the Community Cabinet strives to do.” **AL**

ROSIE NEWMARK studies journalism at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

◀ Continued from page 17

protected against liability under the federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (bit.ly/EmersonAct).

Documenting how often fridges are used can be challenging for several reasons, one of which is libraries’ obligation to respect patron privacy. Hayter says her DMPL branch leaves out a sheet of paper and asks visitors to draw hashmarks after taking food. They average around 100 withdrawals weekly, knowing it could be an undercount. CCPL’s Montgomery measures use by the weight of food delivered to its branches, which was 50,000 pounds in 2022, but doesn’t include any patron-donated foods.

Lamanna of PPLD does not measure input or output, saying that quantifying the fridge’s success is simple: Food comes in, food goes out.

“I don’t think everything in the library needs to be datafied,” he says. “If you’re going to do community-based work, you have to be willing to let go of that a little bit and accept the will of the community.”

For library workers considering installing a fridge, Hayter and Mangin say it is important to take inventory of local needs and what programs already exist to best determine what role the library should play. Since they installed the fridges, the two say that people on both sides—those who use and those who add to them—have shared their gratitude for DMPL’s efforts.

“Are we going to solve food insecurity in the community? No,” Hayter says. “But what we’ve done so far is instrumental in addressing the need.” **AL**

MEGAN BENNETT is an associate editor for *American Libraries*.

Special Delivery

Homebound services expand for growing families

BY Emily Udell

When outreach librarian Annie Spence was working from home during the pandemic, a colleague dropped off a care package of books at her doorstep. The package made her family feel less isolated, and she didn't soon forget the gesture.

"We had run out of books to read," says Spence, a mom of two who works at the Grosse Pointe Public Library (GPPL) in suburban Detroit. Her children were ages 1 and 6 at the time, and she says the gift "felt like Christmas for everyone in the house."

When she returned to onsite work, she thought about the stress new parents and caregivers sometimes feel and how similar

deliveries could help keep them connected to the library.

"Young mothers would come in all the time with overdue books, saying they couldn't get out of the house," Spence says. "You have to get groceries and get gas, but the library is the [errand] that maybe you sacrifice if the kids need a nap."

GPPL is among a handful of libraries across the country that have expanded their home delivery service—typically designed for older patrons and those with illnesses or disabilities—to now include families with new children. This includes children from adoption and foster care.

GPPL soft-launched the service in January 2022. Since then, 40–50 families have used it to order books and other materials. For their first delivery, new parents receive a welcome kit that includes information about library resources, free board books, and a baby cap made by Spence's mom.

The service lasts about a year from the time of bringing home a new child, and participants can order anything from the library's catalog for any member of the household.

"We've gotten excellent feedback," Spence

Since January 2022, Grosse Pointe (Mich.) Public Library has been delivering a welcome kit, along with a handmade baby cap, to new parents.

says. She recalls one parent telling her that the library's service was keeping them sane. "People are really grateful."

Offering support

At the beginning of this year, North Canton (Ohio) Public Library (NCPL) launched a similar service after director Andrea Legg read online about GPPL's efforts.

"When we typically think of home delivery and that type of outreach, we think of delivering to people who are older or who have had a major life event and can't leave the house," Legg says. "I had never thought that could include new parents as well."

In August 2022, NCPL received a new custom-built Sprinter van through an American Rescue Plan Act grant distributed by the state library. Around the same time, NCPL added an outreach associate position, making it an opportune time to pilot the program.

The new service operates like its existing homebound delivery, which offers patrons a special library card that doesn't incur fines. NCPL gathers contact information from users via Google Forms and asks only that families attest to having a new child.

"We want this to be the most supportive and helpful service possible so we're not adding to [any] stress," Legg says. "We're just trying to enrich their lives during this transition."

Like other libraries offering this service, NCPL allows patrons to select specific items or make more general requests—such as alphabet books or potty-training resources—that outreach staff then fulfill. Users can select a two- or four-week delivery cycle.

Since the program's debut, staffers have had only three patron inquiries, but Legg is confident the



program will catch on with time. To reach families in their service area, NCPL staffers plan to partner with local utility companies to include fliers with their bills and establish a network of contacts with nearby pediatricians and obstetricians. Legg says they will also continue to spread the word via social media and other marketing channels.

“The response we’ve received from parents who might not have a new baby or new child now is that they wished that they had had something like this,” Legg says, “and that’s heartening to hear.”

Families ‘more invested’

Fountaindale Public Library District (FPLD) in Bolingbrook, Illinois, began promoting a similar service earlier this year. At the time, staff members were

brainstorming programming ideas to remove barriers to access that some patrons face.

“Everyone in the community deserves access to materials, whether they are able to come to the library or not,” says Tana Petrov, FPLD’s outreach services manager.

So far, FPLD has had one eligible patron interested in the service, which delivers materials via the library’s two vans, both of which circulate in the community as part of regular outreach. Prospective participants submit a form on the library’s website, and staff follow up with a call to confirm they are a library cardholder in good standing.

“We know that parenting is a hard job to do,” Petrov says. “It’s a joyful experience, but it can be a stressful time for parents ... adjusting to a new way of life.”

“We want this to be the most supportive and helpful service possible so we’re not adding to [any] stress.”

ANDREA LEGG, director of North Canton (Ohio) Public Library

At GPPL, Spence says that participants in this expanded home delivery program have forged deeper connections with the library.

“I’ve noticed them showing up more to our programs,” she says. “Maybe they always got books, but now they are a little more invested.” AL

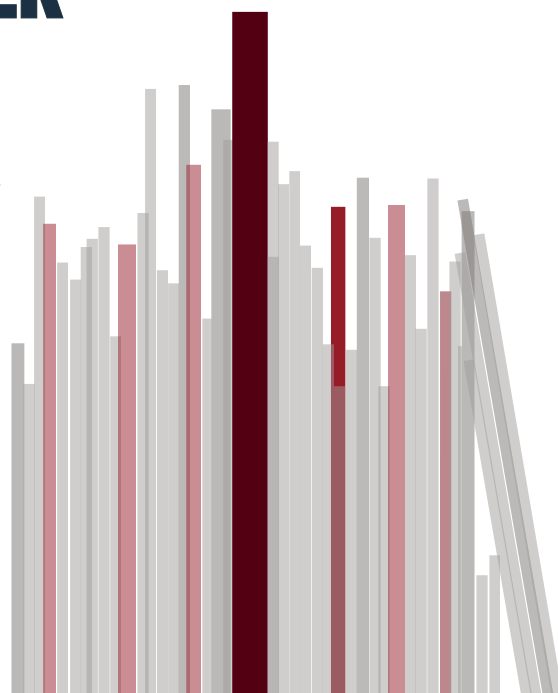
EMILY UDELL is a freelance writer based in Indianapolis.

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Students in the English for Older Beginners class at Jones Library in Amherst, Massachusetts, build their language skills through activities like field trips and writing get-well cards.

Older Beginners

Library tailors ESL program to seniors

It's not unusual for libraries to offer English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship preparation programs. But Jones Library (JL) in Amherst, Massachusetts, has designed a program specifically for older adult beginners ages 50 and over.

A college town that attracts workers and academics from around the world, Amherst has a higher immigrant population rate than the country as a whole. According to 2021 US Census data, nearly 17% of people living in Amherst were born in another country, as compared with the national rate of 13.6%.

In 2022, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced it would offer grants for innovative citizen preparation programs that prioritize hard-to-reach immigrant populations. This past fall, USCIS provided JL with a two-year, \$121,000 grant to design, field-test, and make publicly available its English for Older Beginners curriculum. ESL and Citizenship Coordinator Lynne Weintraub expects to publish the curriculum on JL's website by late 2023.

BY Lynne Weintraub

It's never too late to learn new skills. My mission is to help adult newcomers to the United States find a way to learn English, whether through individual tutoring, informal conversation groups, or program referrals. I aim to find a solution for any community member who asks for help, but over the years this has been a challenge for older beginners.

My colleagues and I have found that many older residents come into the library asking for practical

communication skills, but they don't necessarily thrive in the fast-moving programs usually designed for younger immigrants. And volunteer tutors often don't have the time and skillset to work effectively with true beginners—those who cannot yet name letters or answer basic personal background questions.

In 2018, after a local ESL classroom had turned away an older Tibetan man because his goals didn't align with the program's focus on college and career

readiness, I was inspired to start teaching a group of JL patrons in their 50s to 80s. My objectives were to provide this group with the tools for oral communication and literacy and an orientation to our

community and customs as they embarked on their journey to citizenship.

Over time, the class size has fluctuated from six to 10 people. My current

older adult students have come from China, Russia, and Vietnam.

The USCIS grant has allowed me to join JL full-time. It will soon fund the program's expansion from two to three lessons per week and bring in a coteacher to help ensure the guide we're creating is useful to novice instructors.

Students' speed of auditory processing and working memory may vary with age, so I relax the instruction's pace, offer more refreshers, and provide extra time for students to formulate responses to questions. New information is presented in careful stages, and each new skill is practiced before another is introduced.

I've so far learned that older beginners do best when instruction is highly contextualized and relates to their daily lives rather than the academic or workplace language that adult ESL classes typically focus on. My students learn by talking about themselves and using vocabulary related to where they're from, where they live, their grandchildren, their daily routines, and their emotions, health, and safety.

Students also learn about the community and its services by visiting places within walking

distance of the library. We've visited the senior center, an art gallery, and the town hall—where they seemed surprised by the easy and inexpensive transaction of me getting a dog license. Before each trip, I identify key vocabulary related to the location and organize scavenger hunts for items mentioned during those lessons. Students also get closer to becoming citizens by reviewing basic test questions. They have the option to participate in practice interviews, proving to them that citizenship is indeed a possibility.

Another implicit goal of the class is to reduce feelings of isolation. Social isolation is common among older adults, but linguistic isolation makes it so much more difficult for immigrants. As they learn about one another, they build connections. They bring in cultural foods or

gifts during holidays and help one another when possible. They learn social expressions to communicate in a meaningful way. I teach congratulations when a new grandchild arrives, or we write get-well cards when a classmate is sick. During one class, a normally shy student turned to a classmate who had just lost a relative and—with a deep well of empathy—shared an “I’m sorry.”

It’s important that these students have consistent classroom routines and know they will never be rushed or pressured to perform. Building confidence and a cooperative learning environment should be emphasized, and every success should be celebrated. Students have come and gone—especially because of the yearlong gap in classes caused by the pandemic—but I’ve seen clear progress in English proficiency and

Older beginners do best when instruction is highly contextualized and relates to their daily lives.

citizenship test readiness. The students are more engaged, confident, and genuinely happy to be spending time together productively. **AL**

LYNNE WEINTRAUB is ESL and citizenship coordinator at Jones Library in Amherst, Massachusetts. She is also author of the Citizenship: Passing the Test textbook series. For information on offering ESL instruction to older patrons in your community, contact Weintraub at weintraubl@joneslibrary.org.



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Ken Jennings

Jeopardy! star discusses new book and hosting duties



librarians possess that make them successful on the show? Librarians are amazing at *Jeopardy!* We've talked about having an all-librarian tournament just because we get

so many high-level applicants who work in libraries.

Jeopardy! rewards not depth of expertise but a vast, shallow expertise—knowing a little bit about everything.

Effectively, the host is the library patron who's pestering you with a new subject every 30 seconds, and you have to be ready to change mental gears and stop thinking about the Franco-Prussian War and start thinking about disco music. I think a lot of their jobs are just an eight-hour shift at *Jeopardy!*

It's been almost a year since you've been named *Jeopardy!* host. Is it more nerve-racking as a host or contestant? I was surprised at how much harder being a host is than being a contestant. To really host the show convincingly, you have to do everything that contestants do, playing along at the same speed. But then you're also doing all the

host stuff layered on top of that: keeping track of the horse race for the home viewer

and trying to adjudicate tricky judgment calls like an umpire.

At first, I was terrified because we had all seen Alex [Trebek] do the job perfectly for decades. It was very stressful. Luckily, I've been able to relax a little and enjoy what's fun about the job, which is meeting all the amazing contestants and getting to spend time with them. I feel like they're my people. **AL**

MORE ONLINE

For the extended interview, visit bit.ly/AL-Jennings starting June 1.

As a kid growing up during the 1970s and 1980s, record *Jeopardy!* champion-turned-host Ken Jennings was surrounded by stories about the world's greatest mysteries: the Bermuda Triangle, UFOs, Bigfoot. But for him, what's beyond our physical world has always been the biggest and most exciting enigma.

Jennings explores the afterlife in his latest book, *100 Places to See After You Die* (Scribner, June). The satirical travel guide offers tips for visiting the Great Unknown, as it's been described in popular culture and lore throughout history.

American Libraries spoke with Jennings about his afterlife research, game show hosting duties, and what impact libraries have had on him.

BY Megan Bennett

What kind of research went into finding and selecting afterlife destinations for *100 Places to See After You Die*?

The book was largely written at University of Washington Libraries in Seattle, which is not far from where I live and is where

I went to school. The book was delayed because they first closed the library and then reopened it only to students [during the pandemic]. I was out my primary sources: all of Dante and a couple of translations, the Buddhist sutras that describe paradise.

The main thing was to just cast as wide a net as possible. I wanted to make sure there were traditional Asian, African, and Native American mythologies but also that we went to Disneyland, Marvel Comics, Hieronymus Bosch paintings, and videogames. I spent a long time asking friends and acquaintances to tell me about their favorite afterlives from movies and TV shows to make sure I didn't miss anything good.

What role have libraries played in your life and work?

I would probably be a completely different person without libraries. My mom was an elementary school librarian my whole life, basically, so I grew up in libraries.

One of my formative memories is public librarians being bewildered when I wanted to check out reference books. I wanted to take the atlas or the encyclopedia home and they were just baffled, saying, "Just go read a Hardy Boys book, you weird kid." We always took our kids to libraries once a week. We're a big library family.

Many librarians have performed well as *Jeopardy!* contestants. What qualities do you think



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“When you try to ban books that are different from your view of the world, what you’re doing is siloing yourself off even more. That’s not what makes critical thinkers.”

Children’s book author **K. A. HOLT**, in “Book Banners Are Now Trying to Close Public Libraries,” *The Daily Beast*, April 15.



“It really seems that people want to read about people falling in love and being good to each other. Because the world is so sharp and pointy, we need something nicer.”

Novelist **MARIAN KEYES**, in “‘We Want to Read about People Falling in Love’: Curtis Sittenfeld and Marian Keyes on the Romcom Revival,” *The Guardian*, April 1.

“Thinking librarians are passive or pushovers just shows how little [Missouri elected officials] actually know about us. We are intellectual freedom fighters. We specialize in bringing order to disordered things. For every one quiet librarian, there are 10 loud ones.”

MISSOURI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, @molibraries on Twitter, April 14.

“FOUND A RAD NEW COWORKING SPOT CALLED THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, VERY COOL, SUPER AFFORDABLE.”

Artist, organizer, and climate activist **ASHLEY FAIRBANKS**, @ziibiing on Twitter, April 20.

“Parents who believe in the value and necessity of books and knowledge, who want their children to know history and all its perspectives, who are in the majority, must stand up. We may be reluctant participants in a debate we didn’t want to be in, but this is the time to resist.”

Author **ISABEL WILKERSON**, in “‘My Book Was Banned’: This Oprah’s Book Club Author Tells Us the Full Story,” *Oprah Daily*, April 3.


“When Julius Caesar burned the Library of Alexandria, it was hard to imagine a greater destruction of scholarship. Now, 2,000 years later, some petty, litigious schmucks are ready to deal an even bigger blow to the literary canon. This is fundamentally a strike against taxpayer-funded public services by corporations and private individuals.”

Opinion columnist **CHRISTINE KELLEY**, “If We Lose the Internet Archive, We’re Screwed,” *The Statesman* (Stony Brook, N.Y.), April 4.

A black and white photograph of a person from behind, holding a large sign above their head. The person has their hair in a ponytail and is wearing a dark jacket. The background is a blurred crowd of people at an outdoor event. The sign has three orange rectangular sections with white text.

It's time to
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The logo features a stylized graphic of an open book with lines radiating from the top, resembling a fan or sunburst.

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2023

ANNUAL

CONFERENCE PREVIEW

Chicago | June 22–27

EDITED BY Bill Furbee

It's been five years since librarianship's largest event has taken place in Chicago, the hometown of the American Library Association (ALA). So much, both in the profession and the world around us, has changed since then. But so much of the 2023 Annual Conference and Exhibition will feel familiar—including top-tier authors, educational sessions, awards and celebrations, state-of-the-art

exhibits, networking opportunities, and compelling speakers.

The conference, which will be held June 22–27 at McCormick Place, promises to showcase conversations and innovations that will help to shape the future of libraries for years to come. This preview offers a small sample of what to expect.


For registration information and a complete list of events, visit alaannual.org.



Illustration: ©greens87/Adobe Stock

A portrait of Maysoon Zayid, a woman with long dark hair, smiling.

Maysoon Zayid

A portrait of Cara Mentzel and Idina Menzel, two women with dark hair, smiling.

Cara Mentzel (left)
and Idina Menzel

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Check the Annual Conference Scheduler (bit.ly/ALA-AC23-sched) for the latest information on dates, times, and locations. All times listed are Central.


Comedian, actress, writer, and advocate for people with disabilities **MAYSOON ZAYID** will discuss her debut graphic novel *Shiny Misfits* **9–10 a.m. Saturday, June 24**. Zayid, one of America's most prominent Muslim woman comedians, is cofounder and coexecutive producer of the New York Arab-American Comedy Festival and Muslim Funny Fest. She's also author of the 2020 memoir *Find Another Dream*.

Sisters **IDINA MENZEL** and **CARA MENTZEL** will share the inspiration behind their lyrical picture book, *Proud Mouse*, **11 a.m.–noon Saturday, June 24**. Menzel is an actor and singer-songwriter known for her performances in the musicals *Rent* and *Wicked*, and as Elsa in the movie *Frozen*. Mentzel is author of *Voice Lessons: A Sisters Story* (about the pair's relationship) and a former

elementary school teacher who has focused on children's literacy.

Authors **RICK RIORDAN** and **MARK OSHIRO** will talk about their new coauthored book *The Sun and the Star: A Nico di Angelo Adventure*, based on a popular character in Riordan's middle-grade Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, **1–2 p.m. Sunday, June 25**. Riordan's other bestselling fantasy series include the Kane Chronicles and Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard. Oshiro is author of the young adult titles *Anger Is a Gift* and *Each of Us a Desert* and the middle-grade books *The Insiders* and *You Only Live Once, David Bravo*.

Author **NIKKI GRIMES** and illustrator **BRIAN PINKNEY** will discuss their new book, *A Walk in the Woods*—a title that Brian's father, renowned illustrator Jerry Pinkney, began illustrating before his death in 2021, and Brian was called on to finish—**3–4 p.m. Sunday, June 25**. Grimes has received many accolades for her writing, including

A portrait of Rick Riordan and Mark Oshiro. Rick Riordan is on the left, wearing glasses and a purple shirt. Mark Oshiro is on the right, wearing a floral headband and a patterned shirt.

Rick Riordan (left)
and Mark Oshiro

A portrait of Nikki Grimes and Brian Pinkney. Nikki Grimes is on the left, wearing a red patterned top. Brian Pinkney is on the right, wearing glasses and a black shirt.

Nikki Grimes (left)
and Brian Pinkney

the Coretta Scott King Author Award for *Bronx Masquerade* and a Coretta Scott King Author Honor for *Jazmin's Notebook*. Pinkney is the artist behind books such as *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*, written by his wife, Andrea Pinkney; *The Faithful Friend* by Robert D. San Souci; and *In the Time of the Drums* by Kim L. Siegelson, which earned him the Coretta Scott



Hinailemoana Wong-Kalu

King Illustrator Award in 2000. Join ALA President Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada for her President's Program **3:30–5:30 p.m. Sunday, June 25**. The session will feature a conversation with Native Hawaiian filmmaker and activist **HINALEIMOANA WONG-KALU** about her children's book *Kapaemahu*, cowritten with Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson and illustrated by Daniel Sousa.

Poet **AMANDA GORMAN** and illustrator **CHRISTIAN ROBINSON** will close the conference **11 a.m.–noon Tuesday, June 27**, with a discussion of their forthcoming book, *Something, Someday*. Gorman is the youngest presidential inaugural poet in US history, having recited her poem “The Hill We Climb” at the inauguration of President Joe Biden in January 2021. Robinson has won many awards for his work, including a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor for *Nina: A Story of Nina Simone* in 2022.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Changing the Narrative: ALA Policy Corps Takes on Book Banners

9–10 a.m. Saturday, June 24

At this session led by ALA Policy Corps members, attendees will learn successful strategies for engaging legislators across the political spectrum, securing positive media placements, mobilizing allies, and strengthening relationships with key stakeholders to support libraries, library workers, and library values.

Equip Communities to “Be MediaWise” with a Misinformation Resilience Toolkit

9–10 a.m. Saturday, June 24

Older adults, communities of color, and rural populations in the US are disproportionately affected by misinformation. In collaboration with ALA's Public Programs Office and Stanford University's Social

Media Lab, Poynter Institute's MediaWise has created a digital toolkit that librarians across the country can use to teach digital media literacy to their patrons. This session will teach librarians how to describe strategies that professional fact-checkers use to avoid sharing misinformation, introduce research-based approaches to counteract misinformation, and integrate the toolkit at their own library.

Biophilic Design: Impacting the Emotional Well-Being of Library Goers

11 a.m.–noon Saturday, June 24

Libraries should be places that elevate users' feelings and emotions in a safe and welcoming environment. Biophilic design concepts can do this by increasing one's connection to the natural environment. Architects will discuss strategies for implementing biophilic design principles to better support communities.

Wish There Was an App for That Library Service? Come Learn to Build One

1–2 p.m. Saturday, June 24

Tulsa (Okla.) City–County Library successfully launched two custom apps for its customers: one for developing early literacy skills and another for its summer reading program. Staffers will share tips on how to plan and design an app, from meeting specific user needs and coordinating development to generating content and testing functionality.

Collecting Stories from Underrepresented Communities: How to Cocreate a Community Archive at Your Public Library

2:30–3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24

Panelists from Tacoma (Wash.) Public Library and University of Washington in Seattle will discuss how they broadened an existing local history collection by cocreating an archive with local organizations and partners and including stories from underrepresented community members. This program is recommended for those who have an existing



Amanda Gorman (left) and Christian Robinson

THE DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

Library workers unable to attend Annual can register for the Digital Experience, a selection of more than 60 curated education programs, main stage speakers, and News You Can Use sessions that will be livestreamed directly from the conference. Registration includes on-demand access to these sessions through August 31. For more information, visit bit.ly/AC23-DE.

local history collection or are looking to build one.

The Freedom of Information Act: Requests to Redactions

2:30–3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24

What is the process for making Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests? And what role do librarians have in facilitating them? This program will examine how public libraries, academic libraries, and archives engage with FOIA and demystify the request process, from the perspectives of both the facilitator and receiver.

Narrowing the Divide: Using Intersectionality to Reexamine Pandemic Learning Loss and Online Library Usage

2:30–3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24

This program, hosted by Project Literate CEO **CANTRELL JOHNSON**, will explore the intersection of pandemic learning loss and online library usage. Participants will hear case studies and uncover core concepts that can help them strengthen efforts to address longstanding disparities in education that impede learning, access, and equity.

Supporting Invisibly Disabled Students in the Library Classroom

4–5 p.m. Saturday, June 24

Student populations in higher education are becoming increasingly diverse. Colleges are serving more nontraditional students and students from underrepresented backgrounds, and approximately 20% of undergraduates now report having a disability. This session will provide a brief overview of invisible disabilities, neurodivergence, and ableism, with a discussion of ways that librarians can proactively support invisibly disabled students in programs and services.

Protecting the Freedom to Access Reproductive Health Information

9–10 a.m. Sunday, June 25

In 2022, ALA affirmed its commitment



LIBRARY MARKETPLACE

With more than 550 exhibitors and 300 presentations, the Library Marketplace is a space to learn, network, and have fun. In the exhibit hall, registrants can discover the latest library services and technologies, attend book talks, meet prominent authors, watch short films and trailers, and take home giveaways. Returning are the popular Diversity in Publishing, PopTop, and What's Cooking @ ALA live stages.

ALA STORE

The ALA Store will be located near the entrance of the Library Marketplace and will be open noon–5:30 p.m. Friday, June 23; 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, June 24, and Sunday, June 25; and 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday, June 26. ●

EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Friday, June 23

5:30–7 p.m.

Saturday, June 24

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday, June 25

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Monday, June 26

9 a.m.–2 p.m.

to ensuring freedom of access to information about reproductive health, including abortion. Attendees will learn what legal protections are available for libraries and library workers who share this type of information, along with proactive steps libraries can take to protect patrons' privacy and intellectual freedom.

Sharing Knowledge: Projects and Outreach for Indigenous Patrons, Languages, and Documents

11 a.m.–noon Sunday, June 25

Panelists will discuss public, research, and academic libraries' efforts to reach Indigenous patrons through projects dedicated to sharing Indigenous art, Andean and Mesoamerican languages, and cartography.

StoryTeen: Encouraging Teen Interns and Volunteers to Offer Storytime, Support Early Literacy,

and Explore Careers in Early Education and Librarianship

11 a.m.–noon Sunday, June 25

Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library's internship program StoryTeen trains high school students in early literacy practices and creating their own storytimes, encouraging them to pursue careers in early childhood education and librarianship. Attendees, particularly children's librarians, will learn how to create similar teen volunteer and internship programs.

BookTube, Bookstagram, and BookTok, Oh My: Understanding the Online "Bookaverse" as a Tool for Professional Development

1–2 p.m. Sunday, June 25

Participants will learn how to use different social media platforms for professional development, whether as an observer or a creator. Topics covered will include collection development,

programming ideas, lesson planning, and advocacy, with a focus on addressing needs in the school library.

It's Not Either/Or: How to Include Open Access Materials to Transform Curriculum and Collections

1-2 p.m. Sunday, June 25

Academic librarians are uniquely positioned to be trusted facilitators in the changing information landscape brought on by the pandemic. Expanding curricula with open access (OA) materials provides students with innovative, high-quality resources they can access long after graduation. In this workshop, presenters will showcase successful OA training, support, discovery, and community building, as well as strategies for securing campus buy-in and resources for getting started right away.

Autism Is Welcome Here: Increase Access and Inclusion for Neurodivergent Youth

2:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 25

At this session, presenters will address the latest research, statistics, and feedback gathered from the autism community about their library experiences. Attendees will leave with ideas for creating an autism-friendly library climate, developing a collection with authentic and affirming representation, and designing programs for neurodivergent children and teens.

Creative Aging: Cultivating Healthier Older Adulthood for

STAY CONNECTED



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Library Patrons through Social and Creative Engagement

9-10 a.m. Monday, June 26

Creativity and social engagement can contribute to a healthy and happy older adulthood. This session will dive into the how and why of establishing creative aging programs and cover ways that public libraries can bring more opportunities for artistic expression, learning, and celebration to the older adults they serve.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Capacity-Building

1-2 p.m. Monday, June 26

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) capacity-building is a practice used to measure how an organization fulfills its DEI goals through management, governance, and dedication to assessing and achieving results. In this session

designed for library leaders, DEI will be discussed in the context of dialogue, collections, holding space, and avoiding burnout.

DIVISION, ROUND TABLE, AND AFFILIATE PRESIDENTS' PROGRAMS

CALA President's Program: A Panel Discussion with National Associations of Librarians of Color Leaders and Presidents

9-10 a.m. Saturday, June 24

This year, the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) marks its 50th anniversary. To celebrate, CALA President **RAYMOND PUN** will convene a panel discussion featuring presidents from the National Association of Librarians of Color, including the American Indian Library Association, Black Caucus of American Library Association, Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, and Reforma: the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking.

GNCRT President's Program: Comics in Libraries, Past, Present, and Future

10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 24

While comics have gained ground in libraries over the last two decades, there are still barriers to comics advocacy, including budget restrictions, skeptical colleagues, and organized challenges to titles. Graphic Novel and Comics Round Table (GNCRT)

ACCESSIBILITY

ALA wants to ensure that everyone's conference experience is a pleasant and accessible one. Accessibility measures at Annual include captioning during main sessions, accessible shuttle buses, acceptance of leader animals, mobility assistance, American Sign Language interpreters, and accessible rooms in the hotel block. For more information, visit bit.ly/AC23-Access. •

COMMUNITY OF CARE

ALA has implemented a Community of Care at Annual, with the goal of enhancing a sense of community and safety by upholding a Code of Conduct and providing resources that offer attendees tangible support. The Community of Care Quiet Room will be available for those looking for a calm space during conference, and mental health professionals will be available to offer counseling onsite. Read more about the Community of Care at bit.ly/AC23-CofC. •

JOBLIST PLACEMENT CENTER

ALA's JobLIST Placement and Career Development Center is designed to help job seekers at any stage of their career retool their skills, prepare for job searches, and connect with employers. For more information on the JobLIST Placement Center and its offerings, visit bit.ly/ALA-jobsatannual.

Career Coaching 10:30 a.m.–

4:50 p.m. Saturday, June 24, and

9 a.m.–4:50 p.m. Sunday, June 25. Meet

with a professional counselor who can help you strategize for the next phase of your career, solve a current job problem, and define your goals. Each one-on-one session is 20 minutes and confidential. Sign up for an appointment at bit.ly/ALA-AC23-CC.

Mentoring on the Fly 9 a.m.–noon

Saturday, June 24, and 1–4 p.m. Sunday,

June 25. Looking for career advice?

Attend short mentoring sessions with mentors from academic and public libraries. No appointments needed, walk-ins only.

Open House and Job Fair

10:30 a.m.–noon Sunday, June 25. At

this event, employers will be given the opportunity to talk with individuals about their institutions and available positions. Advanced signup is required for employers. Registration is not required for job seekers.

Photography Services 9 a.m.–

5 p.m. Saturday, June 24, and Sunday,

June 25. Get a professional headshot

photo taken and receive a set of digital images to use for job applications, social media, and other opportunities. The service will be complimentary for the first 100 people. After that, a fee of \$20 applies. ●

President **ROBIN BRENNER** will moderate a panel of special guests who will share stories and outline goals for a brighter future.

Reforma President's Program: Advancing Digital Inclusion in Latinx Communities

10:30–11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 24

In this session from Reforma, presenters will introduce a conceptual model to help understand the digital divide in the Latinx community and other marginalized communities. Librarians will speak about innovative services that strengthen digital inclusion for this group, including services for special populations such as day laborers, Spanish speakers, and people with limited computer skills.

Small and Rural Libraries: The Heart of Innovation

11 a.m.–noon Saturday, June 24

As this session presented by Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)

Executive Director **KATE LAUGHLIN** and President **JENNIE GARNER**, ARSL members from across the country will share how they are innovating to meet community needs.

Leading for Justice: Surveying the Intersection of Social Justice and User Services

1–2 p.m. Saturday, June 24

Join the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) for a panel discussion about the role social justice plays in user services. Speakers will include **ERIN ANDERSON**, library and information science graduate student at University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin); **CYNTHIA A. JOHNSON**, head of reference and the Grunigen Medical Library at University of California, Irvine; **LORIENE ROY**, professor at UT Austin's School of Information; **JOE SÁNCHEZ**, associate professor at Queens (N.Y.) College's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies; and **TATIANA SWANCY**, restorative

practices coordinator at Oak Park (Ill.) Public Library.

United for Libraries President's Program

11 a.m.–noon Sunday, June 25

Lawyer, activist, and social media influencer **EMILY AMICK** will speak about how book banning, censorship, and the current political climate has affected library staffers and supporters. Attendees will learn strategies for increasing awareness and engagement on these essential issues.

ACRL President's Program: Cultivating, Applying, and Assessing the DEIA Lens

1–2 p.m. Sunday, June 25

In this session hosted by the Association of College and Research Libraries, **STEVEN ADAMS** (life sciences librarian at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois) will facilitate a conversation with **KAWANNA BRIGHT** (assistant professor of library science at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina), and **DELA DOS** (senior director of learning and DEI at the Association of Research Libraries) about how to cultivate curiosity and institutional humility and move from abstraction to activation in libraries' diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) efforts.

RMRT President's Program

1–2 p.m. Sunday, June 25

The Retired Members Round Table will host a talk with **ANDREA FRIEDERICI ROSS**, school librarian and author of *Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick* and *Let the Lions Roar! The Evolution of Brookfield Zoo*. *Edith* was selected as the 2021 Book of the Year in Traditional Nonfiction by the Chicago Writers Association.

Leading with Your Hands and Your Heart: A Conversation about Leading from Wherever You Are

1–2:30 p.m. Monday, June 26

Join the Association for Library Service to Children for a conversation about

leadership with **LING HWEY JENG**, professor and director of the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Woman's University; **ELLEN OH**, CEO and cofounder of We Need Diverse Books; and **LINDA SUE PARK**, author of *A Single Shard* and *When My Name Was Keoko*. This program will explore ways to identify and activate one's leadership skills and areas of potential at all levels of librarianship.

BOOKS, AUTHORS, AND CELEBRATIONS

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from—and celebrate—dozens of bestselling authors and illustrators. For more information on ticketed events, visit bit.ly/AC23-tixevents.

Michael L. Printz Awards

8–10 p.m. Friday, June 23

Join the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and *Booklist* for the Michael L. Printz Award Ceremony, where **SABAA TAHIR**, author of this year's award winner *All My Rage*, and other honored authors will give speeches. A dessert and cocktail reception will follow the ceremony. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 onsite for YALSA members, \$50 in advance and \$55 onsite for ALA members, and \$55 in advance and \$60 onsite for nonmembers.

GNCRT's Magical Comics Tea

2–4 p.m. Saturday, June 24

At this afternoon tea event, GNCRT will host comics creators and other comics-loving library staffers who will talk about upcoming titles and projects. Wear your best tea-time outfit or come as you are and share in the comics camaraderie. Tickets are \$20 for GNCRT members, \$10 for student ALA members, and \$35 for non-GNCRT members.

The Laugh's on Us

5:30–7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24

Humor writers and comedians will entertain the crowd at this wine and cheese event from United for Libraries

GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

Friday, June 23

- ALA-APA Board of Directors Meeting, 8:30–9 a.m.
- ALA Executive Board Meeting I, 9 a.m.–noon
- ALA Joint Budget Analysis and Review/Finance and Audit Committees, 1–3 p.m.

Saturday, June 24

- ALA Council Orientation, 9–10 a.m.
- Joint ALA Information Session and Membership Meeting, 10 a.m.–noon
- ALA Council I, 2:30–5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 25

- ALA Council II, 9–11:30 a.m.
- Planning and Budget Assembly/Budget Analysis and Review Committee/Division Leadership Meeting, 1–3 p.m.

Monday, June 26

- ALA Council III, 9 a.m.–noon
- ALA Executive Board Meeting II, 1–5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 27

- ALA Executive Board Meeting III, 8–10:30 a.m. ●

(UFL). A book signing will follow, with free copies for attendees, subject to availability. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$70 onsite for UFL members, \$65 in advance and \$70 onsite for ALA members and nonmembers.

Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction Award Ceremony and Reception

7–10 p.m. Saturday, June 24

Presented by *Booklist* and RUSA, this year's ceremony will honor 2023 Carnegie Medals winners **JULIE OTSUKA** (for her novel *The Swimmers*) and

ED YONG (for his nonfiction title *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us*). Chicago poet and novelist **CHRIS ABANI**, whose works include *Smoking the Bible* and *The Secret History of Las Vegas*, will keynote. Held at the American Writers Museum in Chicago, the event will kick off with a cocktail hour and close with a reception and book signing. Tickets are \$25.

54th Annual Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast

7–10 a.m. Sunday, June 25

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast will feature leading authors and illustrators of quality children's books depicting African American experiences. Attendees will hear remarks from 2023 winners **AMINA LUQMAN-DAWSON** (for *Freewater*) and **FRANK MORRISON** (for *Standing in the Need of Prayer: A Modern Retelling of the Classic Spiritual*) and honorees. Tickets are \$65 in advance, \$75 onsite.

YA Author Coffee Klatch

9–10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 25

Enjoy a cup of coffee while meeting YALSA's award-winning and debut YA authors at this speed-dating style event. Authors will rotate from table to table to discuss their latest books. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 onsite for YALSA members, \$35 in advance and \$40 onsite for ALA members, and \$40 in advance and \$45 onsite for nonmembers.

Newbery-Caldecott-Legacy Awards Banquet

6:30–11 p.m. Sunday, June 25

This event celebrates the authors and illustrators of the year's most distinguished books for children. Newbery Medal winner **AMINA LUQMAN-DAWSON**, Caldecott Medal winner **DOUG SALATI**, and Children's Literature Legacy Award winner **JAMES E. RANSOME** will be recognized, along with other honorees. Tickets are \$99.

Rainbow Round Table 50th Anniversary Celebration

8–10:55 p.m. Sunday, June 25

In 2020, the Rainbow Round Table (RRT) marked its 50th anniversary, but a celebration was postponed because of the pandemic. This year, join RRT in recognition of the milestone with food, speeches, and dancing at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Free for RRT members registered for conference. RRT members can purchase guest tickets (for those also registered for conference) for \$25 each.

Gala Author Tea

2–4 p.m. Monday, June 26

Enjoy tea and treats while hearing from bestselling authors about their forthcoming titles. Attendees will receive advance reading copies, which they can have signed by authors, subject to availability. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$75 onsite for UFL members and \$65 in advance and \$70 onsite for ALA members and nonmembers.

International Librarians Reception

6–8 p.m. Monday, June 26

Join the International Relations Round Table in welcoming librarians from more than 70 countries. Open to all conference attendees, this reception offers a unique opportunity to network with hundreds of professionals from around the world. The recipients of the ALA Presidential Citation for Innovative International Projects will be announced, among other awards. Tickets are \$40.

ALA President Inaugural Celebration

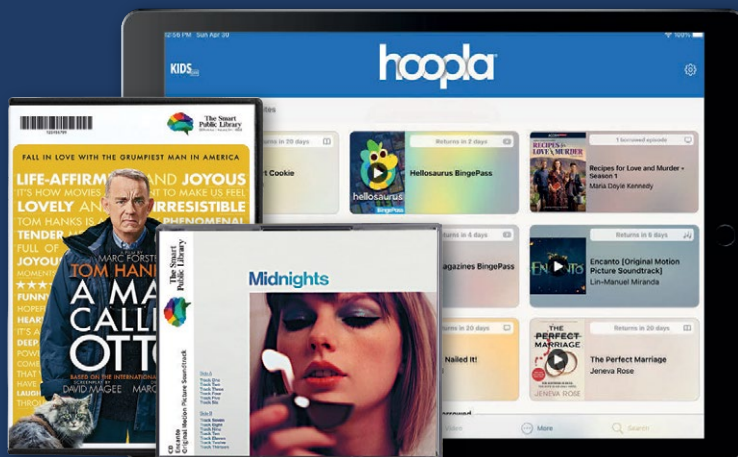
12:30–2:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 27

Outgoing ALA President Pelayo-Lozada will honor incoming ALA President **EMILY DRABINSKI** and the new division presidents. The inaugural luncheon immediately follows the Closing General Session and includes food and a performance from the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. Tickets are \$50. [AL](#)

For an up-to-date list of dates and times, please see the Annual Conference Scheduler (bit.ly/ALA-AC23-sched).

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Stop by **Booth 2220** to see what we're working on for 2023!

Second to None

From comfort food to high-end eats, Chicago restaurants have it all

BY Kate Silver

Welcome to Chicago! We have no doubt the American Library Association's 2023 Annual Conference will provide plenty of food for thought—these conferences always do. We go home with our brains bursting with new ideas, but while you're here, don't forget about *thought for food*, as well. Chicago is an incredible dining

town—home not just to local specialties like Italian beef sandwiches and pizza (both deep-dish and tavern-style thin crust) but also to critically acclaimed high-end restaurants and ethnically diverse eateries in any neighborhood you choose to explore.

In the following pages, you'll find some favorite spots within

a walk, train ride, cab, or water taxi from McCormick Place and downtown hotels. Many were also featured in my guidebook, *Frommer's Chicago Day by Day* (2019). Others have opened more recently, during the pandemic.

Let the eating begin!

PRICE GUIDE

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

\$ under \$14

\$\$ \$15–\$24

\$\$\$ \$25–\$50

\$\$\$\$ \$51 and up

Hudson Valley foie gras and a Belgian ale at Moody Tongue



SOUTH LOOP, HYDE PARK, AND NEAR SOUTH SIDE

Medici on 57th

1327 E. 57th St.

773-667-7394

medici57.com

This Hyde Park mainstay began as a coffeehouse in 1962, and the menu has grown over the years, offering an inventive and diverse collection of bakery items, snacks, and substantial meals. You'll find inspired breakfast and brunch creations, deli sandwiches, burgers, pizzas, soups, entrées, and some of the best apple pie ever.

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

Moody Tongue

2515 S. Wabash Ave.

312-600-5111

moodytongue.com

Welcome to the world's first two-Michelin-starred brewery, where the beers include a Caramelized Chocolate Churro Baltic Porter, a Juiced Lychee IPA, and other inspired combinations. They're brewed to pair with an extravagant tasting menu in The Dining Room (\$285, plus \$75 for

beer pairing, as of publication; reservation required). A more casual but still special experience of elevated American fare is available at The Bar. **D (W-Sat) \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Mustard Seed Kitchen

49 E. Cermak Rd.

312-326-0062

mustardseedkitchenchicago.com

For a grab-and-go option near the convention center, you won't do much better than Mustard Seed Kitchen. Acclaimed chef Erick Williams, who also owns Virtue (p. 38) and Daisy's Po-Boy and Tavern in Hyde Park, opened this takeout-and-delivery-only spot during the height of the pandemic. Available are classic American salads, pastas, burgers, and sandwiches, along with Southern fare like honey butter fried chicken and gumbo. **L, D (M-Sat) \$-\$\$**

Pizano's Pizza and Pasta

2106 S. Indiana Ave.

312-842-0777

pizanoschicago.com

If you're looking to splurge, calorically speaking, Pizano's deep-dish pizza is a fine choice. With a golden crust that's brushed with cornmeal and topped with scads of gooey cheese and thick sauce, pizza here will leave your mouth wanting more—though your stretched stomach may say no. For a lighter meal, the thin crust here is excellent, too. Fun fact: If you



Jive Turkey at
Mustard Seed Kitchen

opt for carb-free, the crust is a giant sausage patty.

L (F–Sun), D daily \$–\$\$

Valois Restaurant

1518 E. 53rd St.

773-667-0647

valoisrestaurant.com

Another Hyde Park classic—and President Barack Obama’s top breakfast spot in the city—Valois is as low-frills as it gets. (Its motto: “See your food.”) The neighborhood landmark is an old-school cafeteria, serving up inexpensive steak, ribs, bar-becue chicken, pork chops, an array of breakfast classics, and a hearty sense of community. B, L daily \$

Virtue Restaurant and Bar

1462 E. 53rd St.

773-947-8831

virtuerestaurant.com

Since opening in 2018, Virtue has been blowing the minds of diners and critics for its upscale Southern fare, including gizzards, gumbo, shrimp, crawfish, blackened catfish, biscuits and pimento cheese, and sweet potato pie. Last year, Chef Erick Williams received the James Beard Award for Best Chef: Great Lakes, and *Esquire* named the Hyde Park hot spot one of 2019’s Best New Restaurants in America. Prime-time reservations are hard to come by; schedule your visit well in advance, if possible. D (W–Sun) \$\$\$–\$\$\$\$

Woven + Bound

2121 S. Prairie Ave.

312-824-0500

bit.ly/WovenBound

This sit-down restaurant, located in the Marriott Marquis, serves upscale



Deep-dish and thin-crust pizza at Pizano’s Pizza and Pasta

American food—burgers, steak, seafood, salads, wine, cocktails—along with a breakfast menu and buffet.

B, L, D daily \$–\$\$\$

Yolk

Multiple locations, including 1120 S. Michigan Ave.

312-789-9655

eatyolk.com

For breakfast seekers, Yolk does a little of everything and does it well, from the traditional (corned beef hash and eggs) to the trendy (avocado toast with smoked salmon) to the decadent (red velvet french toast). Not up for breakfast? Choose from soups, salads, sandwiches, wraps, and burgers, with plenty of vegetarian-friendly options. B, L daily \$–\$\$

THE LOOP/ RIVER NORTH

Bistronomic

840 N. Wabash Ave.

312-944-8400

bistronomic.net

This bistro serves French dishes prepared with ingredients from local-ish farms when possible, like steak



Chicken Vesuvio at Harry Caray’s Italian Steakhouse

frites made with Midwestern beef. In true French fashion, there’s also house-made pâté and delectable cheese flights. Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (W–F), D (Tue–Sun) \$\$\$–\$\$\$\$

The Florentine

151 W. Adams St.

312-660-8866

the-florentine.net

The Florentine is a magnet for nearby financial district suits as well as guests at the JW Marriott, where it’s housed. The Italian fare—from the pasta to the gelato—is all made in-house. An extensive wine list and excellent cocktails complete the meal. Brunch (Sat, Sun), B, L, D daily \$–\$\$\$

Frontera Grill, Topolobampo, Xoco

445–449 N. Clark St.

312-661-1434

rickbayless.com/restaurants

At this trinity of Rick Bayless eateries, Frontera Grill offers

a casual atmosphere and well-prepared Mexican classics, while the fancier (and pricier) Topolobampo delivers more refined fare via a tasting menu. Xoco’s counter service is great for lunch—or for churros anytime. Reservations needed for Topolobampo. Frontera Grill: Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (Tue–F), D (Tue–Sun) \$\$\$–\$\$\$\$; Topolobampo: D (W–Sat) \$\$\$\$; Xoco: L, D (Tue–Sat) \$

The Gage

24 S. Michigan Ave.

312-372-4243

thegagechicago.com

Go higher-brow (ribeye or lamb shank) or lower-brow (the burger is amazing) at this effervescent gastropub across from Millennium Park. The Gage is also a great late-night stop for a local beer or a hefty wine pour in its lovely,

historic setting inside an old millinery, with floor-to-ceiling windows and an ornate tin ceiling. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D daily \$-\$\$\$\$**

Harry Caray's Italian Steakhouse

33 W. Kinzie St.

312-828-0966

harrycarays.com

Named for the legendary White Sox and Cubs (among other teams) announcer, this brick-lined restaurant in the River North neighborhood showcases all kinds of baseball memorabilia. Wet- and dry-aged steaks, chops, and Italian dishes—including the Chicago-born chicken Vesuvio, baked with garlic, peas, white wine, and potatoes—are served in enormous portions, and the bartenders spin a good yarn. **L, D daily \$-\$\$\$\$**

India House

59 W. Grand Ave.

312-645-9500

indiahousechicago.com

Downtown professionals love this old-school Indian spot, and the lunch buffet is a destination in itself. Be sure to order the Kashmiri naan, which is stuffed with cherries, cashews, and pistachios and cooked in a tandoori oven. **L, D daily \$-\$\$\$**

Portillo's

Multiple locations, including 100 W. Ontario St. 312-587-8910 portillos.com

This popular chain started in the 'burbs and has been fueling Midwesterners' love of food on a bun since the 1960s. At this River North spot, as at the other locations, find hot dogs, sausages, charbroiled burgers, Italian beef, and an Italian beef and sausage combo. They also have good salads and chicken sandwiches. For a fast-casual lunch or dinner, the Chicago-style dog is a must. Save room for a slice of the famous chocolate cake. **L, D daily \$**

Potbelly

Multiple locations, including 200 S. Michigan Ave. 312-428-2971 potbelly.com

For an easy and tasty lunch on the go, this popular quick-serve chain, which got its start in Chicago in the 1970s, serves a mean grilled sub. Favorite sandwiches include the Avo Turkey, Italian, and Veggie Melt, with toppings of your choice. Some patrons stop in just to buy the giardiniera (pickled hot peppers famously used in Chicago as an Italian beef add-on). **L, D daily \$**



Dosas from Revival Food Hall

FORAYS INTO FOOD HALLS

Whether you're solo or in a group, food halls are an ideal stop: They're convenient, speedy, and have something for everyone. Here are four standouts.

Eataly 43 E. Ohio St., 312-521-8700; eataly.com. Okay, so Eataly doesn't call itself a food hall, but the spirit is there. At this shrine to Italian cuisine in the River North area, you can eat and drink your way around two floors of restaurants, bars, and counters, offering fresh pasta, pizza, seafood, cheese, gelato, coffee, beer, and wine galore. Plus, find bread, pastries, and booze to take back to your hotel for later. (Individual hours vary; the market and Caffè Lavazza open at 8 a.m. daily). **B, L, D daily \$-\$\$\$**

Revival Food Hall 125 S. Clark St., 312-970-1180; revivalfoodhall.com. More than a dozen local restaurants have set up outposts here in the heart of the Loop, offering fast-casual bites such as ramen, tacos, empanadas, poke, barbecue, Indian dosas, sandwiches, pizza, and pastries. **B, L, D (M-F) \$-\$\$\$**

Showroom Food Hall 2121 S. Prairie Ave., 312-824-0500; bit.ly/ShowroomFH. The area around McCormick Place isn't exactly known as a restaurant haven, but Showroom Food Hall, located in the Marriott Marquis, is worth a look. It mixes things up with five different counters, including coffee, pastries, pizza, soup, sandwiches, salads, wings, spuds, beer, wine, and more—all just a few steps from the convention center. **L, D daily (individual stall hours vary) \$-\$\$**

Time Out Market 916 W. Fulton Market, 312-637-3888; timeoutmarket.com/chicago. This enormous West Loop food hall includes multiple bars and around 20 food and beverage vendors, serving up Japanese, American South, Lebanese, Greek, Indian, Korean, and Ethiopian food. You can order at the individual counters or grab a drink and a seat and order via the food hall's mobile app. **B, L, D daily (bakery opens early; kitchens open at 11 a.m.) \$-\$\$\$**



Handmade ravioli du jour at Bistronomic

ADVENTURES IN CHINATOWN

Eat your way through Chicago's Chinatown, feasting on dim sum, bubble tea, hot pot, egg custard tarts, dumplings, you name it—all just a mile or so from McCormick Place. Here are a few places to get you started.

Hing Kee 2140 S. Archer Ave., 312-808-9538; hingkeechinatown.com. As you page through the novel-length menu, know that you can't go wrong with anything involving noodles (they're made onsite). The xiao long bao and Singapore noodles are particularly excellent. **L, D daily \$-\$\$**

Joy Yee Multiple locations, including 2139 S. China Pl.; 312-328-0001; joyyee.com. You'll know you're at the right place when you see the intriguing and colorful fake food displayed in the windows. The enormous menu treks across Asia, including tastes of China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and beyond. An outdoor walk-up window serves boba tea and smoothies if you just want to grab one and explore the area. **L, D daily \$-\$\$**

Lao Sze Chuan Multiple locations, including 2172 S. Archer Ave.; 312-326-5040; laoszechuanchinatown.com. Take advantage of the wide-ranging menu and sample everything from sole fish fillet with sour pickle chili to the revered—and spicy—Tony's chicken with three chili. **L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

Nine Bar 216 W. Cermak Rd.; 312-225-4081; ninebarchicago.com. *Chicago* magazine

recently named Chinatown's new cocktail bar among the best in town. The drinks stand out for their Asian-inspired flavors, with ingredients such as Sichuan peppercorns, Thai basil, and Chinese five spice. Wings, dumplings, and other snacks are also available. **D (W-Sun) \$-\$\$**

Phoenix 2131 S. Archer Ave., 312-328-0848; chinatownphoenix.com. This casual but elegant Cantonese spot gets busy for the daily dim sum, as families and couples gather to choose noodles, buns, dumplings, and more off the carts that are wheeled around. Menu service is also available for entrées, ranging from chicken with broccoli and cashew shrimp to crispy garlic porkchops and Hong Kong steak. **L, D daily \$-\$\$**

Qing Xiang Yuan 2002 S. Wentworth Ave. #103, 312-799-1118; qxydumplings.com. The dumplings here are delectable, and you can find just about any kind, including pork and cabbage, lamb and coriander, lobster, sea urchin, chicken and mushroom, and tomato and egg. Choose them steamed, boiled, or pan-fried. **L, D daily \$-\$\$**

Shaw's Crab House

21 E. Hubbard St.
312-527-2722

shawscrabhouse.com

A 1940s-style local institution, Shaw's has a cushy dining room and an extensive seasonal seafood menu. Expect oysters, crab, lobster, fish, and quality steaks. Choices at the more casual Oyster Bar will please even the most sophisticated seafood lover, to a soundtrack of live jazz or blues. **L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Sushi-San

63 W. Grand Ave.
312-828-0575

sushisanrestaurant.com

Turns out, loud hip-hop and quality sushi go quite well together. Serving creative maki, nigiri, handrolls, and even a few grilled meat options, this Japanese eatery caters to a later-night crowd but also bustles throughout the day. In addition to the River North location, there's also one with counter service in Willis Tower. **L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

WEST LOOP/ NEAR WEST SIDE

Avec

615 W. Randolph St.
312-377-2002

avecrestaurant.com

Dine at communal tables at this hip, polished spot, which features Mediterranean shared plates made with seasonal Midwestern ingredients. The wine list showcases unexpected European finds. (There's a bigger location in River North that serves daily dinner and weekend brunch but no lunch.) **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (M-F), D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

INSIDER TIP: Make your Chinatown commute a cruise on the Chicago Water Taxi, which runs between downtown and Chinatown. Visit chicagowatertaxi.com or see page 45 for more information.



Dumplings and more at Qing Xiang Yuan

Photos: Tim McCoy (dumplings); Galdones Photography (pig face and egg)

Girl & the Goat

809 W. Randolph St.

312-492-6262

girlandthegoat.com/chicago

Wood-roasted pig face (it is exactly what it sounds like) is a popular request at this always-packed, shared-plate restaurant—as is anything made of goat. Not to be overshadowed, the vegetable preparations, including blistered shishito peppers, are divine. **D daily \$\$\$**

Lou Mitchell's

565 W. Jackson Blvd.

312-939-3111

loumitchells.com

A Chicago tradition since 1923, this no-frills diner draws local celebs and politicians for home-baked bread, excellent coffee, and airy omelets served in sizzling skillets. Bonus: Free

donut holes for all who enter! **B, L (W-Sun) \$-\$\$**

Tanoshii

720 W. Randolph St.

312-207-8894

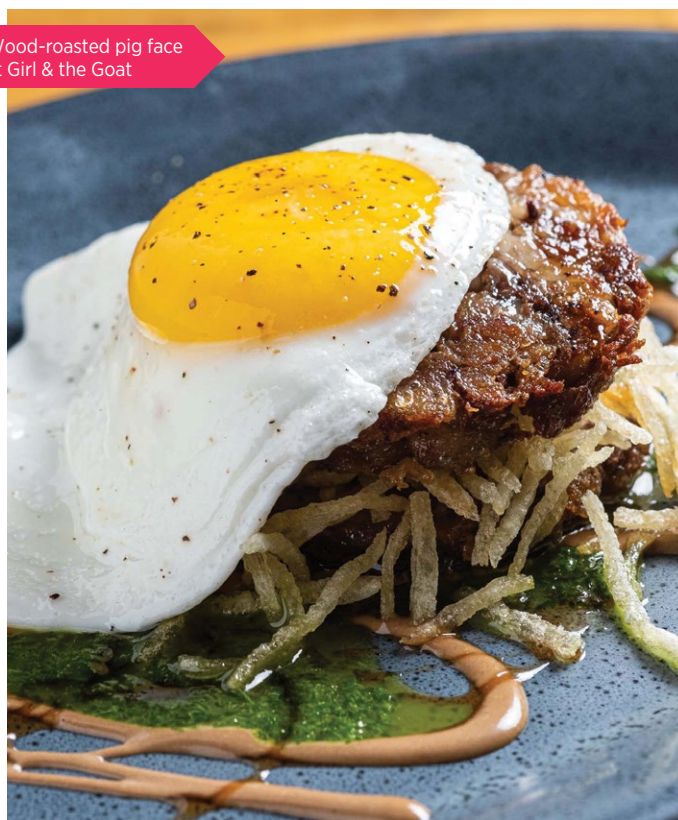
tanoshiisushi.com

This sushi restaurant serves an intriguing omakase menu, which entrusts dish selections to the chef. Blow torches, truffle oil, and fresh herbs make for a memorable sushi experience. Be forewarned: If you ask the chef what's in the roll you're eating, he's likely to respond with a cheeky answer: "Fish!" You can also order from the menu. **L (W, Th), D (Tue-Sun) \$\$-\$\$\$ AL**



KATE SILVER is a writer living in Chicago.

Wood-roasted pig face at Girl & the Goat



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WALK OR BIKE FROM THE CONVENTION CENTER

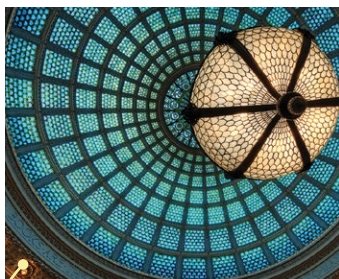
If you're looking for a quick way to get some fresh air, the **BURNHAM WILDLIFE CORRIDOR** starts at McCormick Place and runs south to 47th Street. Throughout this stretch of revitalized prairie are five **GATHERING SPACES** (bit.ly/AL-BurnhamGathering) designed and installed by local artists and community groups. The nearest, just a mile away from the convention center, is the spiraling structure *Caracol* (contratiempo.org/caracol), a great spot to sit and read while taking in views of the lake and skyline.



Venture further down the **LAKEFRONT TRAIL**, a path that spans 15 miles of the city's shoreline, using the city's Divvy bikeshare (see p. 45). Not far off the path, on park-lined Langley Avenue in the Bronzeville neighborhood, sits the **LIGHT OF TRUTH IDA B. WELLS NATIONAL MONUMENT**. Unveiled in 2021 and crowdfunded in part by Wells's descendants and neighborhood residents, including former residents of the historic Ida B. Wells Homes housing project, the monument honors the trailblazing journalist and civil rights activist just a few blocks from her former home.

WALK OR BIKE FROM DOWNTOWN

Across the street from **CLOUD GATE**, the outdoor sculpture best known as *The Bean*, is the **CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER**. The building, itself a former library, is an architectural feast for the eyes—particularly its two **Tiffany glass domes**.



The free exhibits within, which rotate year-round, are always fascinating. On June 23, the center will host a conference in conjunction with the **CHICAGO HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL** (bit.ly/ChiHMF) that celebrates the genre and its local roots. Those interested in the free festival can head to Humboldt Park on June 24. The park will also be hosting a **TASTE OF CHICAGO** pop-up event that day.

Looking for more world-renowned architecture? Take a tour with the acclaimed **CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER** (architecture.org). The center's 90-minute, docent-guided Chicago River cruises are popular in summertime, so book in advance. While worth it, the ticket price of a river tour can be steep (\$53.85–\$58.57), so consider a walking or bus tour (about \$30) instead. If a tour isn't doable, visit the center to see a scale model of Chicago that includes replicas of more than 4,000 buildings.

How about an elevated photo op? Visit **Skydeck Chicago's Ledge** inside **WILLIS TOWER** (theskydeck.com). At

1,353 feet up, the glass ledge is the highest observation deck in the country, with fully enclosed boxes that extend more than four feet from the skyscraper's 103rd floor. While kid-friendly and accessible, keep time restrictions in mind: Parties of three or fewer can be in the Ledge for 60 seconds; for four or more people, the maximum is 90 seconds. Advance tickets strongly recommended.

No trip to the Second City is complete without traversing the **CHICAGO RIVERWALK**, a 1.3-mile path with ample seating, restaurants, and entertainment. Don't be shy—take a seat on one of the beach chairs or pack a blanket for the grass, crack open an advance reading copy, and stay awhile. The riverwalk runs along Wacker Drive from Lake Michigan west to Lake Street, with street level access at each major intersection.



DESTINATIONS BY BUS

Catch the #21 bus west from the convention center to the **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART** (bit.ly/AL-NMMA) in the Pilsen neighborhood. The museum houses one of the country's preeminent Mexican art collections, spanning ancient artifacts to embroidered textiles, sculptures to surrealist contemporary paintings. Leave time for the wondrous gift shop. Afterward, wander east on **18TH STREET** to grab a coffee or tacos, take in the colorful *lotería*-style painted doors, or stop by **PILSEN COMMUNITY BOOKS**.



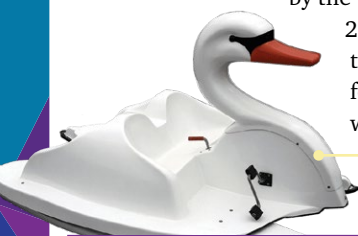
Low Rider by Tlacolulokos at the National Museum of Mexican Art

frozen treat from pushcart vendors selling paletas and helado de coco.

Summer is revered as the city's **FARMERS' MARKET** season (bit.ly/AL-ChiFarmers). While Logan Square Farmers Market, Green City Market, and Maxwell Street Market are among the most popular outdoor markets, smaller-scale operations can also be reached by bus and train and feature much of the same Midwestern produce, artisan brands, and local entertainment. Don't pass up an opportunity to taste-test products from Phoenix Bean Tofu, Karl's Craft Soup, or **River Valley Ranch mushroom farm**.



At the heart of Chicago's Puerto Rican community, accessible by the #65 or #70 buses, is the always-hopping, 200-acre **HUMBOLDT PARK** that gives the neighborhood its name, featuring a formal garden, a grand boathouse, and walking paths. Explore the lagoon in a **retro swan-shaped paddleboat** (bit.ly/AL-HPSwans). Too hot? Grab a



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GETTING AROUND TOWN

PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Chicago Transit Authority system is extensive, and its crown jewel is the L, or its elevated trains. If you're staying downtown, you have access to the Loop of tracks that give the city's central business district its name. Here you can access all major train lines and quickly reach North, South, and West side neighborhoods. Single rides are \$2.25-\$5 and an unlimited day pass is \$5. Pay with cash on the bus or at a Ventra kiosk, use mobile or contactless payment methods, or pick up a Ventra card (bit.ly/AL-CTAFares).

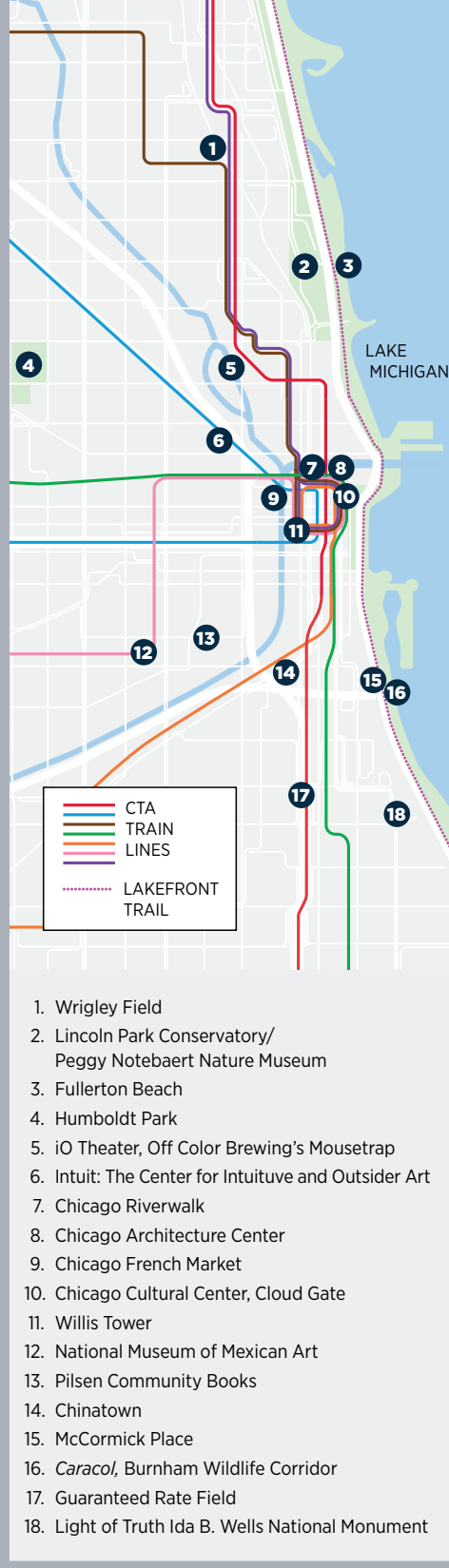
MICROTRANSIT

Divvy (divvybikes.com) is Chicago's bike share service, with stations in all 50 of the city's wards. The service offers both standard pedal bikes and electric-assist bikes. Download the Divvy or Lyft app to access information on nearby docks and easily check out bikes. Single rides are \$1 for checkout and \$0.17 per minute (\$0.42 per minute for e-bikes), while day passes are \$16.50—though e-bike rentals are not included in the day pass.

Electric scooters are available at some Divvy stations, and you'll find Lime, Spin, and Superpedestrian scooters scattered across the city—all easily located using their respective apps. Unlocking a scooter is \$1 across the board, with rides starting at \$0.39 per minute. Note that it's illegal to ride them on the sidewalk, the Lakefront Trail, or the Chicago Riverwalk.

WATER TAXI

If you're staying downtown, take a trip to Chinatown by water taxi (chicagowatertaxi.com). These yellow boats drop passengers off



near the pagoda in Ping Tom Memorial Park, and McCormick Place is just a short bus ride away. For dining suggestions, see our Chinatown sidebar on page 40. •

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TRIPS BY TRAIN

For a quick art break, hop on the Blue Line and head to **INTUIT: THE CENTER FOR INTUITIVE AND OUTSIDER ART** (art.org). This small museum's permanent collection of 1,300 pieces showcases the work of self-taught artists and others outside the mainstream art world. Highlights include rotating exhibits and the Henry Darger Room Collection, a re-creation of the late janitor and artist's studio apartment.

Take the Red Line to **IO THEATER** (ioimprov.com), an improv theater company that refreshingly prioritizes representation and inclusion. Black, queer, and women performer-led shows like Satirical Race Theory and That Time of the Month round out long-running productions like Improvised Shakespeare and the Armando Diaz Experience. Pop into **OFF COLOR BREWING'S MOUSETRAP** tap room (bit.ly/AL-OCBTap) across the street before the show to sample outstanding beers from one of Chicago's 160 breweries.

Off the Red and Brown lines are the **LINCOLN PARK CONSERVATORY** and **PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM**, located within Lincoln Park and each home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. Both are free and a great respite from big-city busyness. Just a few blocks east of the park is **FULLERTON BEACH** and a northern stretch of the **LAKEFRONT TRAIL**. Pack a picnic and time your visit to watch the sun set over the downtown skyline.

What better way to spend a summer afternoon or evening than at a ballpark? Both of Chicago's storied parks have their own stations on the Red Line. During conference, catch one of the three games the

CHICAGO WHITE SOX play against the Boston Red Sox at Guaranteed Rate Field (June 23–25). Or if you're a **CHICAGO CUBS** fan, watch the North Side team take on the Philadelphia Phillies at historic **Wrigley Field**



(June 27–29). Can't make it to a game? Consider a behind-the-scenes tour of Wrigley (bit.ly/AL-CubsTours). On non-gamedays, you can walk the grounds and sit the in dugout.

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(nps.gov/pull), a short ride south on the Metra Electric line, which has a station adjacent to McCormick Place. While the Pullman Company factory town was originally outside the city, it is now one of Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. See historic homes, the restored factory-complex administration building and clock tower, and the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum. Free ranger-led daily tours are available at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. And if you need a bite to eat, **ONE ELEVEN FOOD HALL** (oneelevenfoodhall.com), a stepping-stone for South Side food entrepreneurs, is right next door. **AL**



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CULTURALLY DIVERSE COLLECTIONS

Tips for a more inclusive school library

BY Elisabet
Kennedy

School libraries come in many forms. They may be book sanctuaries, hangout spots for learners during noninstructional time, technologically advanced media centers full of activity tubs and work tables, or a combination of these. Whatever your school's library is like, the opportunity to bring in culturally responsive principles exists.

If you are a school librarian, time is not always on your side. But with intentional steps, the culturally responsive practices that you decide to implement in your library can be structured into feasible tasks.

Each of the following tasks is grounded in a specific purpose and can be expanded or modified as appropriate. By trying out these strategies, you can engage learners authentically inside and outside the school library.



EXPAND READERS' ADVISORY NETWORKS

Culturally responsive materials may offer learners a look into their own culture or expose them to the cultures of others. These materials include the books on our shelves, the digital subscription services we maintain, the websites that we use to instruct learners, and the magazines that we have in print or digitally.

School librarians are expected to have suggestions for titles and websites in their back pocket, readily at hand when information is needed or recommendations are requested. Luckily, there are culturally responsive resources that can take your suggestions to a new level.

For example, the organization We Need Diverse Books offers a Pinterest board (pinterest.com/diversebooks) that houses culturally responsive read-alikes for a multitude of grade levels. Not only does this tool expand our readers' advisory skills and expose us to new titles, but it also offers the reader an explanation for why the second book is suggested.

This tool and those like it can also be used when curricula are being updated. Core texts that may be less culturally responsive can be supplemented by or combined with a more relevant title. This approach is also helpful when supporting a colleague within their classroom. Offering a fellow educator who has taught the same couple of books for years a chance to explore the same theme with newer characters may offer a welcome change.

Other valued resources are found within the book awards circuit. Many book awards and grants highlight

culturally inclusive titles. These awards lists can be nationwide, statewide, regional, and even hyperlocal. The lists can provide you with a solid readers' advisory database as well as suggestions for the school library collection.

DISPLAY THEMES AND THOUGHTFUL SELECTIONS

Book displays are a common practice in library work. We use them to highlight our school library's collection by setting a theme and pulling a few books from the shelves. Depending on the time of year, the grade band, the new hit show, or the latest internet trend, these displays offer school librarians a creative opportunity to draw in learners.

It is easiest to put together a display when we are knowledgeable about the theme, but exploring beyond known territory is worth the effort. Featuring culturally responsive materials in visible ways allows learners to explore serious topics in a safe, controlled environment without feeling like they are fighting a stigma. By exploring coming-of-age topics through the eyes of culturally inclusive characters, learners may feel empowered to discuss and work through potentially sensitive moments with peers or family or even within the school library space.

Buying and displaying books that include characters from racial and ethnic minorities, characters with disabilities, and characters who identify as LGBTQ+ written by authors who share their characters' identities shows that you are knowledgeable about the population you serve and are an advocate for all learners, including underrepresented voices. Not every book in the school library will represent every population, but including characters that learners can identify with is essential to increasing engagement with the collection.

A strategy that has proven helpful is to keep a yearly calendar that highlights widely recognized



awareness observances for different groups, cultures, and causes. This calendar will allow you to access a plethora of events to make displays for.

There are days of the year that are set aside to celebrate differences in ability, like World Braille Day in January, and monthlong celebrations such as National Native American Heritage Month in November that celebrate cultural groups. These calendars are sometimes called diversity calendars, multicultural calendars, or diversity and inclusivity calendars.

A benefit of using a calendar and modifying it as needed is that it acts like a planning document for the school library. Themed displays can be planned well in advance, supplemental materials can be gathered, and, if needed, approval can be granted.

Don't worry if you feel behind. Whatever our displays may have looked like yesterday, they will continue to evolve daily. We must push ourselves to embrace an environment of constant learning and inclusivity.

FOCUSING ON THE COLLECTION

Studying your school's population data will also give you a perspective on the cultural, socioeconomic, ability, and language demographics of the learners who use your library. If you already have an idea of your school's population, start exploring what students need and think critically about books that line the shelves. There is never enough time to focus on collection development properly, but taking a microscope to only one section may offer you fewer materials to work with and still have the desired effect.

For example, my learners were increasingly asking for graphic novels written in Spanish. As a result, I analyzed my collection. I saw that the collection was lacking, first in graphic novel options in general, but then more specifically those written in Spanish.

Seeing this as an opportunity to expand school library services, engage a new set of learners, and mold the collection based on learners' needs,

I took action. My bulk orders are processed through Follett Destiny, whose website offers the ability to filter search results by language, age recommendation, and series sets when appropriate.

There weren't many results, but it gave me a starting point. It also opened my eyes to the other Spanish-

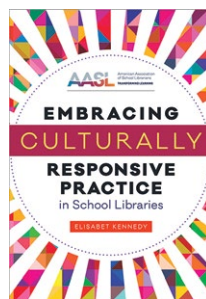
language titles available that may be useful as supplemental materials for classrooms, like a Spanish-language graphic novel version of *Pride and Prejudice*. This type of support through the ordering interface allowed me to fill the gap in the collection based on the needs of the learners.

I also turn to the learners who are more comfortable reading in Spanish for suggestions of stories of all kinds. This type of work can be done by making a passive form available in the school library space or by visiting language classes for insight. I focused on looking for Spanish-language fiction and nonfiction titles, but these strategies can be used for all language needs.

This is an excerpt from *Embracing Culturally Responsive Practice in School Libraries* by Elisabet Kennedy (ALA Editions and AASL, May).

Diversity audits (see p. 60) are also helpful when analyzing the collection, even if starting with a small subsection. Certain cataloging software, like Follett Destiny's Titlewave and Mackin, come equipped with a diversity audit function. The collection analysis capabilities highlight pertinent information about the entire collection, like publication dates, Dewey Decimal Classification system comparisons, incomplete records, number of items, and the age of the collection.

Take this data and narrow the scope. Pick a subsection of the school library's collection. I recommend starting with a section like the 900s, History and Geography. I focused on the 900s and dug deep into the collection, by the tens. This strategy showed me the different subsections



WE MUST PUSH OURSELVES TO EMBRACE
AN ENVIRONMENT OF CONSTANT
LEARNING AND INCLUSIVITY.





within the 900s section, which also correspond with the history of different parts of the world. The same can be done for the 800s section, Literature. Each of these sections houses materials from different places all over the world, and if your school library collection is anything like mine, many of those subsections will be underrepresented.

For example, I had hundreds of books in 940 History of Europe and 970 History of North America, but only about 30 books in 960 History of Africa and four books in 980 History of South America. Similar trends were found in the 800s section. If the school does not provide cataloging software that has collection analysis capabilities, a shelf read may just do the trick. Auditing the collection through a culturally responsive lens opens the door to students' voices. If you have volunteers or aides, this approach could be an opportunity to involve them in the collection maintenance process.

An excellent opportunity for learner involvement related to the school library collection is the formation of focus groups or advisory committees. Nurturing a small group of learners who care about their school library is difficult but worthwhile.

Online surveys and other digital tools make it easier to survey learners and understand their relationship with and habits within the school library. Once learners' school library habits are better understood, relationships can be formed, and agency can begin. A focus group or advisory committee can lend its time to collection analysis projects and diversity audits using resources like *Reading Diversity: A Tool for Selecting Diverse Texts* from the Southern Poverty Law Center's Learning for Justice initiative. With this tool, learners and other educators can survey a handful of books, with guided questions that relate to race, ethnicity, gender, class, age, ability, religion, place, immigration status, LGBTQ+ identities, and more. This tool might also be helpful when evaluating texts for stereotypes or

misrepresentations. Learning for Justice also offers classroom resources, magazines, professional development, and frameworks for instruction to support social justice work in education.

Small focus groups or advisory committees with dedicated members not only foster a sense of agency between the learners and the school library but also nurture critical thinking and advocacy efforts. The learners who take part in collection development can then go on to make displays, evaluate the space, analyze policy, and be advocates for the school library when called upon. Including learners in assembling essential pieces of the school library puzzle can cultivate a formative school library community.

ACCESS ACROSS PLATFORMS, SPACES, ABILITIES

Part of managing the collection is ensuring that the materials and resources can be accessed inside and outside the school building, which encourages and advances literacy while nurturing digital citizenship.

Guiding learners in the practice of responsible information gathering when they leave the school building can be facilitated by embracing digital technologies. Using online educational portals, virtual classroom spaces, and social media platforms can increase awareness of and engagement with the digital resources provided by the school library.

Please bear in mind that the digital divide is very real. Some of our learners lack sufficient internet access outside of school. Although this problem affects learners of all races and ethnicities, those from Black and Hispanic households are disproportionately affected. Familiarizing yourself with research about digital access and concerns about equitable access can benefit not only the learners affected but also other educators as they modify their lessons, assignments, and practices.

School libraries seldom have gadgets or internet access points for learners to borrow, but public libraries and local institutions can act as extended shared spaces for learners to study, complete their homework, access necessary resources, and grow. Empowering learners, especially those in typically marginalized populations, by pointing them in the direction of community public services is a vital practice in fostering culturally responsive school library spaces. **AL**



ELISABET KENNEDY works as a school librarian at a high school in New Jersey. She earned her MLIS from San José (Calif.) State University and a master's degree in education from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.

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Don't Ignore Quiet Quitting

Institutions must adjust to shifting workplaces and worker needs

BY Alejandro Marquez



ALEJANDRO MARQUEZ is collection development librarian at Auraria Library, which serves University of Colorado Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and Community College of Denver.

If the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us anything, it is that libraries are not going back to the way they were before and that it is time to reevaluate.

For some people experiencing burnout, the solution has been *quiet quitting*, the phenomenon of employees doing the absolute bare minimum. The *quitting* part is a misnomer. Individuals aren't quitting their jobs; they are setting clear boundaries. Quiet quitting is about self-preservation. A January survey found that more than one-third of US workers have disengaged (up from a typical 13%–18% between 2000 and 2022). The phenomenon's popularity is a sign that workers have higher expectations of their employers and workplaces.

My suggestions here are meant to help create a more sustainable work model for libraries and those who work in them, as well as other organizations. Some ideas for change include:

Assess your environment. Quiet quitting is a direct result of overwork, neglect, and low compensation. When people don't feel cared about, eventually they stop caring. Individuals and organizations need to take an honest look at their financial situation, staffing patterns, and employee workload. Using this information, they need to create sustainable environments. This doesn't mean giving up; it is, rather, a new beginning and an opportunity to get rid of preconceived ideas of what it means to be successful. It can be exhausting to live up to unrealistic ideals.

Prioritize health. The physical, mental, and emotional health and safety of individuals at all levels of the organization must be a priority. We need to create systems that heal.

For example, granting flexible schedules allows workers to spend more time with their families and balance child-care and other life commitments. What's more, diversity policies need to be integrated into all job duties, and everyone should be allowed adequate time during their work-week to move these objectives forward. Institutions need to have a robust medical and mental health plan for employees. A good benefits package can help with recruitment and retention, demonstrating that organizations care about their workers. Further, institutions and managers must nurture collective care, which is the duty to advocate for colleagues and their departmental work. It is our obligation to champion coworkers' health and wellness because we are all interdependently connected.

Pave paths for advancement. Many library professionals talk about administrative bloat, or the increase in the number of administrators in higher education and the large portion of institutions' budgets

dedicated to those salaries. That bloat, however, is often a racialized hierarchy. Many people of color in paraprofessional roles are expected to perform librarians' duties for half the pay, and support staffers have fewer opportunities to advance without obtaining an expensive master's degree. Leaders need to readdress relationships with historically marginalized employee groups by focusing on pay equity, promotion or tenure, and workload distribution.

Create a clear vision. Administrators need to view their institution's future in the long-term, instead of just focusing on the current budget year. This planning instills a sense of purpose and motivation in library workers at all levels, encouraging them to go the distance.

Offer support. A workplace needs to be designed to improve over time. It can't simply be yearly staff training. There needs

to be a continuous loop of feedback for improvement. Leaders must look at relationships that enhance psychological safety, empathy, vulnerability, and peer support. This will align structures and processes with institutional values and purpose.

Quiet quitting is a response to low

morale, but libraries and other organizations can make concrete changes to turn morale around. With workers reevaluating job satisfaction, institutions must reevaluate their policies too. **AL**

Quiet quitting is about self-preservation. Its popularity is a sign that workers have higher expectations.

Listen and Learn

Interacting with patrons who use speech-assistive technology

BY Jackie Kruzie



JACKIE KRUIE is a picture book author and acquisitions editor at Blue Whale Press, an imprint of Clear Fork Publishing. She has a master's in library science.

When my daughter Gracie was diagnosed with autism, we were advised to seek speech and other forms of therapy to help aid her development. When she was 7 years old, her speech pathologist recommended aided augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).

An estimated 4 million Americans cannot communicate using speech and rely on other forms of communication like AAC. These modalities may include gestures, sounds, written communication, pictures, photographs, body language, sign language, communication boards, and speech-generating technology devices.

For my daughter, we chose to purchase a small tablet and designate it as her *talker*; a common term used to describe personal AAC devices. For others, their talker may be a cellphone, laptop, or other multiuse device.

As librarians, we understand the importance of access to information for all individuals. When considering the services I wish my child would receive, I came up with a four-step approach I call the PASS Approach. PASS is short for patience, attention, speak, and support.

Patience. This is paramount when assisting a patron who uses a speech-generating device. While my daughter's AAC device is user-friendly and simple enough for a young child to navigate, it still takes time to select separate buttons and compose a sentence. Talkers are designed to announce each symbol pressed. A user must then press a go button before each selected item is read consecutively as a sentence. Remember to wait for them to hit go before responding. An AAC program allows only one sentence to be created at a time.

Attention. An interaction with a patron who uses a talker will take longer than average. Knowing and accepting that from the beginning will help library staffers provide the proper level of attention to ensure the patron is able to effectively communicate and access what they need.

Speak. Many people who use a talker will have a caregiver or aide who accompanies them. This does not mean the person using the AAC device is incapable of having a one-on-one conversation. When they use their devices to address you, address them back. Speak to them as you would anyone. They will pick up on your tone, body language, and capability to address them as an equal. If it's necessary to address the caregiver for clarification, immediately return your attention to the person operating the device. Don't cut them out of the conversation by addressing only the caregiver. Never speak about the patron to their caregiver as if they're not present.

Support. This is the most important step for libraries and library workers. It's imperative that directors, supervisors, and staff all support the

PASS Approach. When you notice a colleague engaged with someone using a talker, understand that they may be assisting that patron for quite some time. I was once told that my job is to direct the patron to what they need and move on. Exceptions must be made for those with communication issues. Staff and supervisors should support one another and allow ample time to spend with the patron even if that means a daily task is delayed.

Sometimes, unique opportunities to provide support present themselves. One scorching day my daughter's speech pathologist called, needing to cancel my daughter's therapy appointment because of a broken air conditioner. As the then-director of a small rural library, I suggested she temporarily use our conference area until the AC unit was fixed. Not only would this

prevent my daughter's session from being canceled, but it would also benefit her other clients who rely on seeing her consistently.

The library saw many new faces enter for therapy and leave

with a book. By using the PASS Approach, staffers ensured that the speech therapy clients who had not visited the library before were met with open arms and encouraged to return.

Adapted from Serving Patrons with Disabilities: Perspectives and Insights from People with Disabilities, edited by Kodi Laskin (ALA Editions, 2023). AL

Patience is paramount when assisting a patron who uses a speech-generating device.

Books Model Behaviors

How a picture book initiative can strengthen school culture

BY Mara Rosenberg
and Erica Thompson



MARA ROSENBERG is teacher-librarian at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School in Washington, D.C.



ERICA THOMPSON is assistant head of school for equity, diversity, and inclusion at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School in Washington, D.C.

Citywide and institution-wide book clubs have long been used to unify communities around literacy. In 2016, staffers at our school, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School in Washington, D.C., wondered if a book-of-the-month program would do the same for our K–5 division. Could a one-book initiative engage students and enrich our program?

We envisioned a club where students, teachers, and caregivers could share a common experience around literacy. But it was also important that book selections modeled positive behaviors that align with our school values and fostered conversations around social-emotional learning and equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice (EDISJ).

To bring our community together, we turned to picture books. Picture books are highly effective as schoolwide titles; they are short enough for readers to get through a new title each month but still cover a range of topics written at different levels. The books are read aloud in homerooms and advisories, and many are shared again during chapel services.

We piloted our Book of the Month program with grades K–3 during the 2016–2017 school year. Teachers in grades 4–5 became interested in how the books were promoting critical thinking and joined in. By the 2021–2022 school year, we expanded the initiative to include students in nursery through 8th grade.

Initially, instructors in grades 7–8 appeared skeptical, as they hadn't previously used picture books in their teaching. But the writings of educators Jillian Heise and Pernille Ripp, which show the value of using picture books to strengthen visual thinking and discuss complete and complex texts, reassured us that this medium would be successful. With older readers, for instance, we can ask "What is this book *really* about?"

Some of the titles we have selected throughout the years include *Norman Didn't Do It! (Yes, He Did)* by Ryan T. Higgins, *Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal, *Milo Imagines the World* by Matt de la Peña, and *After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)* by Dan Santat. The books have allowed us to delve into topics such as identity, gender bias, food insecurity, religious tolerance, and socioeconomics. Students often tell us they appreciate how the selections give them an opportunity to connect with other cultures.

As the program has progressed, we have formalized the selection process. Erica initially picked the books with input from the school library team. For the 2021–2022 school year, we used a grant from our parents' association to invite teachers and administrators to select titles

over the summer that met curricular goals and covered a range of developmental needs. Since then, a smaller group of librarians, EDISJ professionals, school counselors, and our director of teaching has chosen the books.

A selection committee ensures that a variety of artistic styles and identities—among authors, illustrators, and characters—are represented across titles. It also identifies behaviors and habits, such as empathy, agency, and resilience, that we want students to emulate. The books that have been the most influential are the ones in which students see the importance of the message in their daily lives.

To facilitate conversations about these books, Erica and our counselors created slides for teachers and advisors to use. Instructors can tailor the depth and sophistication of their discussions to fit their grade or classroom.

We use the phrase *exceptional literacy* to describe the core of our curriculum. Our

Book of the Month program has strengthened this foundation while supporting our students' social-emotional growth and upholding our strong sense of community.

If your school or library is interested in launching a similar book-of-the-month program, we recommend starting small. Gather a group of colleagues to plan your idea before presenting it to administrators. Try committing to just a few books the first year. We have developed resources (bit.ly/AL-YM-botm) to help you get started. **AL**

It was important
that book
selections
modeled positive
behaviors that
align with our
school values.

Let's Get Loud

Bringing attention to book bans—
outside the library bubble

BY Steve Tetreault



STEVE TETREAULT is librarian at William R. Satz Middle School in Holmdel Township, New Jersey. He is a member of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians' executive board.

At a meeting for my county education association last fall, I asked a room of 60 educators to raise their hand if they had heard about any book banning or censorship attempts in our state of New Jersey. Zero hands went up.

It's maddening that so few people outside the library profession—even those we work with—see what is going on. But unfortunately, it's not surprising. These days, news events reported across too many platforms compete for our limited time and attention. As local news outlets diminish, so does reporting on community events like school or public library board meetings. Once a ban is considered newsworthy, it is often either in process or in place. And in states where this wave of book challenges and bans is less pervasive, it can feel like a distant issue.

The school librarians I know are often too overworked and overextended to help create inroads within our school environments that mobilize teachers and other stakeholders to fight book bans alongside us. But in the absence of a celebrity spokesperson, it's up to us to break through the library bubble.

Energizing educators. There are simple ways to start conversations with colleagues and administrators. You can explain the difference between *age-relevant* and *age-appropriate* library materials for students. The latter is very subjective and can encourage purposeful avoidance of topics that could cause discomfort. The former is, ironically, more appropriate, as there are plenty of topics relevant to students that may not be considered polite. You can also cite the US Supreme Court decision in *Island Trees School District v. Pico* (1982), which ruled that school officials and boards could not remove material from their libraries based solely on their personal feelings about the topics they contain.

Depending on your state's student learning standards, there may be additional ways to address book bans. In New Jersey, for example, we are mandated to make materials available related to the Holocaust, social-emotional learning, diversity, and the histories of Asian American and Pacific Islander, Black, and LGBTQ people. Explaining to fellow educators how your library's materials can help schools meet state requirements like these could garner more support and room for discussion.

Informing others. In order to fight back, community members must know when and where to show up. I remind family and friends that school board meetings happen regularly and are open to the public; many can now be attended via Zoom. I share how they can preemptively

support intellectual freedom and student achievement by making a statement or by supporting someone else who does. The same is true for local libraries: It takes only a few minutes to send a positive email to the public library clearly expressing support for their collection and importance to the community.

We must leverage established relationships in schools to share firsthand accounts of the impact that removing books has on library patrons and library workers. *Soft censorship*, the act of limiting media prior to any opposition, is on the rise, as many book purchasers fear painting a target on their backs. I personally know several librarians whose

mental and physical health have been negatively affected by the prolonged stress of book challenges that have evolved into professional and personal attacks. Through informative conversation, you can inspire those around you to take this issue seriously.

It's not easy to deal with a

seemingly unending flood of bad news—especially when it feels like we're preaching to the choir. But librarians are all about sharing information with those around them. If we can build enough awareness and introduce accessible ways to help, we're more likely to get the support we need. **AL**

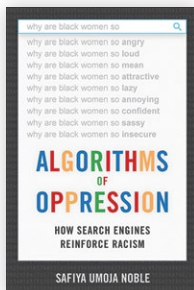
We must leverage established relationships in schools to share firsthand accounts of the impact that removing books has on library patrons and library workers.

Seize the Data

Understanding information access in the 21st century



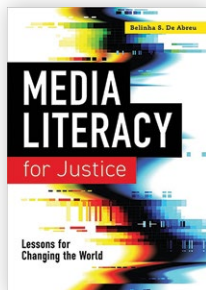
REANNA ESMAIL is lead librarian for instruction at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.



Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism

By Safiya Umoja Noble

Understanding algorithms is crucial for library workers grappling with emergent technologies such as artificial intelligence chatbots and their effect on information access. This is one of the first major books to examine algorithms and how they may perpetuate biased representation, remaining on point several years after its release. Drawing on her background in library and information science, Noble explores the ramifications of black box algorithms built for advertising and marketing rather than information retrieval. Her critical overview describes how algorithms work, how they affect information, and their potential harms. As a result, this book should be required reading for anyone working in libraries today. New York University Press, 2018. 248 p. \$28. PBK. 978-1-4798-3724-3. (Also available as an ebook.)



Media Literacy for Justice: Lessons for Changing the World

Edited by Belinha S. De Abreu

This practical reader provides a thorough introduction to digital media and is specifically designed for K–12 educators and public and academic library workers. De Abreu lays out tips and ideas for teaching media literacy that will help update curricula for the 21st century. This book's 10 chapters contain selected readings, lesson prompts, and curricular ideas related to misinformation, social media virality, Big Data, and many other vital topics in information and media literacy. ALA Neal-Shuman, 2022. 184 p. \$54.99. PBK. 978-0-8389-4892-7.

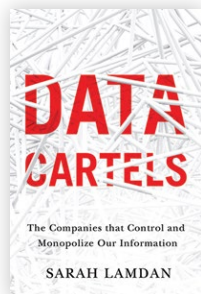


Masked by Trust: Bias in Library Discovery

By Matthew Reidsma

The author builds on discussions in Noble's *Algorithms of Oppression*, calling further attention to library discovery systems. With an overview of what algorithms are and how they structure results in search engines and library discovery systems, Reidsma also shares the ways biases in subject headings lead to algorithmic biases. Though released in 2019, the book still provides a poignant look into how algorithms affect libraries and does so in a way that is applicable and approachable for library workers building and maintaining systems as well as those helping patrons use them. Library Juice Press, 2019. 204 p. \$28. PBK. 978-1-63400-083-3.

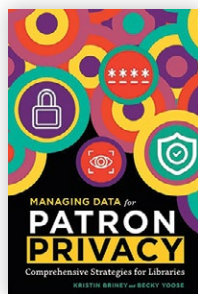
by Reanna Esmail



Data Cartels: The Companies That Control and Monopolize Our Information

By Sarah LAMDAN

This academic monograph addresses the history and consequences of library vendors participating in data collection, surveillance, and brokerage. Each chapter dives into a different informational market, covering the respective implications of academic, legal, and financial data brokering. This book shows the wide-reaching effects of datafication on information access, information creation, and the lived experiences of communities. Library workers should read it to better understand how increasing vendor costs are connected to tech monopolies and artificial intelligence, and how this could endanger library ethics related to privacy and equitable information access. Stanford University Press, 2022. 224 p. \$26. PBK. 978-1-5036-3371-1. (Also available in as an ebook.)



Managing Data for Patron Privacy: Comprehensive Strategies for Libraries

By Kristin Briney and Becky Yoose

The rise of Big Data threatens everyone's privacy rights. As library workers, managing patron privacy is far more complicated than ever before. This title provides a comprehensive guide to strengthening patron privacy policies. With a crash course in digital privacy education, the book outlines different approaches library workers can take when navigating vendor licensing, data retention, staff training, and more. In addition to providing practical advice, the authors highlight the importance of prioritizing library ethics and equitable information access in our day-to-day work, contracts, and policies. ALA Editions, 2022. 176 p. \$69.99. PBK. 978-0-8389-3828-7.



Anonymity

By Alison Macrina and Talya Cooper

Part of the Library Futures series, this pocket-size book packs a big punch. It provides a concise overview of why anonymity is imperative to intellectual freedom and the right to read. It highlights the ways anonymity is threatened by library vendors, major technology companies, and the lack of legislation protecting data privacy. Macrina, founder of the Library Freedom Project, and Cooper, an accomplished digital archivist, bring together discussions about privacy inside and outside of libraries. At 80 pages, it's easy for library workers to read and share with others interested in engaging in the larger conversation about anonymity and privacy rights. ALA Neal-Shuman, 2019. 80 p. \$24.99. PBK. 978-0-8389-1633-9. (Also available as an ebook.)

Building Diverse Collections

Options to review print and digital holdings through an inclusive lens

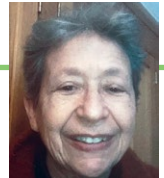
BY Carrie Smith

How can you spot the gaps in your collection and ensure that it reflects the needs of your community? Diversity audits have been a go-to approach for many libraries, but the data analysis can sometimes be daunting. We recently spoke with three library workers who have used self-serve or vendor-provided audit services to gain new perspective and develop collections that represent all people.



Monroe (Maine) Community Library used the Diverse BookFinder Collection Analysis Tool to update its children's picture book collection.

Diverse BookFinder Collection Analysis Tool



What is the Diverse BookFinder Collection Analysis Tool (DBF CAT)?

How does it work? Diverse BookFinder is a comprehensive database of children's picture books featuring characters who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color. It is continually updated and includes books published since 2002. DBF CAT compares your collection with that database to highlight strengths and weaknesses.

USER: ANDREA STARK, director at Monroe (Maine) Community Library

How is this tool used in your library? We received a small grant to expand our children's picture book collection. We submitted a spreadsheet including our books' ISBNs, and DBF CAT pinpointed areas where our collection was stronger or weaker in representation.

What are the main benefits? The tool is easy to use. Once you've identified the strengths or gaps in your collection, there are many ways of searching DBF's thousands of titles to help find books that meet the needs of your library. Our first reaction to the CAT report was that we have more chasms than gaps. Monroe is only an hour's drive from Indian Island, the current home of the Penobscot Nation. We have selected books across many categories that offer stories about Native American children, families, and leaders, as well as the importance of intergenerational relationships.

What would you like to see improved or added to the collection analysis tool? Navigating the database of books in the DBF collection can be overwhelming for a small library without specialized children's staff. That said, I'd rather have too much information and too many choices than too few, and the granular breakdown would be helpful for libraries where the local population is very diverse.

iCurate inClusive

What is iCurate inClusive? How

does it work? Ingram's iCurate inClusive is a diversity auditing service that identifies 11 under-represented categories in publishing, including topics related to LGBTQIA+ people, Indigenous and African American communities, and mental health. We sent Ingram a file with the ISBN of every print title in our collection. Ingram's coordinator sent back graphs and charts showing how our collection reflects diversity categories. There's even a section that compares our collection with those of other public libraries.



USER:
SAMANTHA HODGE, collection development librarian at Kent District Library in Comstock Park, Michigan

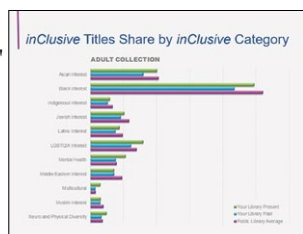
How is this service used in your library?

We took the data we received and put it into our MARC records so it's searchable in our catalog. On top of that, our data librarian created a dashboard that updates daily.

What are the main benefits?

The main benefit is how incredibly easy it is. It took our systems librarian minutes to put the file together, and Ingram did the rest of the work. Now we can seek out titles in gap areas to ensure all people are represented.

What would you like to see improved or added to this collection analysis service? As we input the data into our catalog, we discovered that the audit missed some older titles, specifically ones that were reprinted, because Ingram had the most recent ISBNs. Also, some self-published and indie titles were not included in the data.



This iCurate inClusive chart compares a library's present holdings with its past holdings and the public library average.

OverDrive Diversity Audit

What is OverDrive's diversity audit

service? The Diversity Audit is a report that OverDrive can run on a library's OverDrive collection. It breaks down held materials into a variety of focus areas that, together, show the diversity of your collection. The audit also compares a library's collection with the number of inclusive titles in the OverDrive Marketplace database.

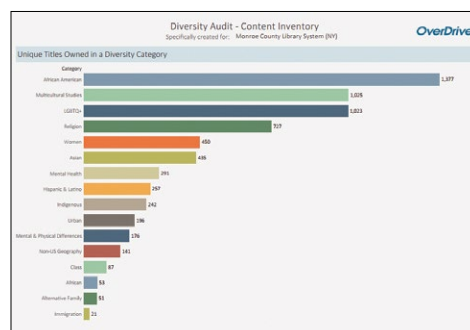


USER: **ALICIA GUNTHER**, librarian at Monroe County (N.Y.) Library System

How is this service used in your library? We share this report with libraries in our system so they can use the data when considering purchasing materials. The system also uses the reports to track changes in our collections over time and share that data with library boards and various government representatives.

What are the main benefits? The reports offer an easy way to see how diverse our digital library collection is and where there may be gaps and provide another way to see how our collections reflect our communities. They show us a breakdown of the collection by format, recommended age ranges, language, and diverse subject headings, including religion, immigration, and African American and LGBTQIA+ authors and characters.

What would you like to see improved or added to this diversity audit service? We would like to see usage data on how often patrons are checking out materials in a category. The diversity audit shows statistics for how many items we hold in a category, but we can't generate a checkout report for that same category. **AL**



OverDrive's Diversity Audit breaks down held materials to show the diversity of a collection.

PEOPLE

Announcements

ON THE MOVE

Dagan Bond-Turner joined Athens (Ala.) State University as acquisitions and collection development librarian in August.

In October **Lisa Burns** joined Grosse Pointe (Mich.) Public Library's Woods branch as teen librarian.

Mindy Farmer started as adult services librarian at Perry (Iowa) Public Library in October.

In October **Annelisa Gebhard** became children's librarian at Hood River County (Ore.) Library District.

March 15 **Christopher Harter** joined University of Cincinnati Libraries as university archivist and head of the Archives and Rare Books Library.

Kim Larsen became undergraduate engagement librarian at University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville July 1.

January 30 **Diana Lopez** became county librarian at Yolo County (Calif.) Library.

Ian Parsells became director of Weston (Conn.) Public Library March 6.

Adam Pecar joined Grosse Pointe (Mich.) Public Library's Woods branch as DREAM Lab librarian in June 2022.

January 9 **Alexis Smith** started as emerging technologies librarian at Grosse Pointe (Mich.) Public Library's Ewald branch.

Hannah Sommers joined the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., as associate librarian for researcher and collections services in the Library Collections and Services Group February 27.



Frank Sykes joined Geneva (N.Y.) Public Library as executive director November 28.

Kudos

In January Georgia Public Library Service named **Cameron Asbell**, director of Ohoopsee Regional Library System headquartered in Vidalia, its 2022 Director of the Year.

October 19 **Jeremy Barney**, assistant librarian for metadata and digital collections at Hope College's Van Wylen Library in Holland, Michigan, was named 2022 Academic Librarian of the Year by the Michigan Academic Library Association.

January 3 **Anita Tulp** became director of Valley City-Barnes County (N.Dak.) Public Library.

PROMOTIONS

January 30 **María R. Estorino** was promoted to vice provost for university libraries and university librarian at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



February 7 **Monica Harris** was promoted to executive director of Reaching Across Illinois Library System.



Jeff Maurer was promoted to part-time librarian at Grosse Pointe (Mich.) Public Library's Woods branch September 11.

Kinsley Riggs was promoted to deputy librarian at Johnson County (Kans.) Public Library in December.

November 6 **Cecilia Tovar** was promoted to assistant city librarian at Santa Monica (Calif.) Public Library.

RETIREMENTS

February 9 **Kathy Bennett** retired as children's services specialist at Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, Illinois.

Kathy Downes retired as dean of university libraries at Wichita (Kans.) State University in spring.

In April **Toni LaPorte** retired as director of Livonia (Mich.) Public Library.

December 31 **Janet Metzger** retired as head of children's services at Rodman Public Library in Alliance, Ohio.

Deb Meyer retired as children's librarian at Clyde (Ohio) Public Library November 30.

February 28 **Cristina A. Pope** retired as director of the Health Sciences Library at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York.

AT ALA

March 13 **Shakir Akbari** was promoted to director of enterprise applications for ALA's IT unit.

Megan Cusick, deputy director of state advocacy in the Public Policy and Advocacy Office, left ALA February 10.

David Dickson joined ALA as CPA controller March 20.

January 9 **Paige McLeod** joined ALA as IT business analyst.

December 15 the Public Library Association promoted **Megan Stewart** to program officer.

Jennifer Tam, accounting manager, left ALA March 30.

March 13 **Sherri Vanyek** was promoted to director of infrastructure for IT. [AL](#)

In Memory

N. Bernard “Buzzy” Basch, 88, founder of Basch Subscriptions and former vice president and general manager for EBSCO Subscription Services’ Midwest operations, died January 3. Basch served on the ALA Publishing Committee and the Committee on Program Evaluation and Support. He also held elected and appointed positions in the Special Libraries Association and the American Society for Information Science (now the Association for Information Science and Technology).



David S. Donovan, 68, retired librarian who worked in the reference and fine arts departments of Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 1981 to 2009, died September 27. Donovan was an accomplished classical musician who lectured, wrote magazine articles, and created library exhibits about local music history.

Rheda Epstein, 77, retired librarian who worked for Durham County (N.C.) Library (1992–2012) and Palm Beach County (Fla.) Library System (1989–1992), died December 3.

Damon Hickey, 80, emeritus director of libraries at the College of Wooster in Ohio, died December 26. From 1991 to 2008, Hickey oversaw multiple renovations, the development of the Special Collections department, and the transformation from card to online catalogs. He also cofounded the Five Colleges of Ohio Consortium in 1996 and served as interim director of the Lilly Project for the Exploration of Vocation, the basis for the college’s APEX Fellowships and Social Justice Internships. Previously, he was associate library director and curator of the Friends Historical Collection (now the Quaker Archives) at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Joyce G. McDonough, 70, who worked at Columbia University Libraries in New York City from 1990 until her retirement in 2016, died February 1. McDonough served as director of technical support and acquisitions and director of the continuing and electronic resources management division during her time at Columbia. She previously served as head of the acquisitions department at University of Louisville in Kentucky (1986–1991) and was a member of

the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) for 46 years. In 2017, McDonough received an ALCTS Honor for her outstanding contributions within the division.

Madeline E. Miller, 77, activist and former librarian at Harvard University’s Widener Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts, during the 1960s, died September 1. Miller was among the first women to attend Harvard Business School.

Bill Ott, 75, former editor and publisher of ALA’s flagship review magazine *Booklist*, died April 8. Ott served for 39 years on the *Booklist* staff—30 of which were at the helm—until his 2019 retirement. Under his leadership, *Booklist* added a website, developed 17 other digital products, and built a revenue-generating licensing program. Ott wrote more than 3,000 reviews and 400 Back Page columns for the publication, and he continued to edit and write his popular mystery and crime fiction reviews after his retirement. His final Spotlight on Mysteries and Thrillers appeared in the May 1 issue of *Booklist*.



David H. Stam, 87, university librarian emeritus at Syracuse (N.Y.) University, died February 7. Before his tenure as university librarian (1986–1998), Stam served as Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Research Libraries at New York Public Library (1978–1986). He also previously worked as librarian of Marlboro (Vt.) College, associate librarian at the Newberry Library in Chicago, and librarian of the Milton S. Eisenhower Library at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Stam served on the boards of the Research Libraries Group, Grolier Club, Association of Research Libraries, American Trust for the British Library, and library of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He edited the book *International Dictionary of Library Histories* (2001) and published his memoir *What Happened to Me: My Life with Books, Research Libraries, and Performing Arts* in 2014.

Bennie Whitton, 77, who worked as a librarian at Jasper (Tex.) Public Library for more than 20 years, died February 21. ●



At the Heart of Medical History

In a stately century-old mansion overlooking Lake Michigan on Chicago's scenic Lake Shore Drive sits the International Museum of Surgical Science, the only museum in North America devoted to the art and science of surgery.

"It's not a traditional library," says Michelle Rinard, referring to the museum's Thorek Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection. As curator and manager of exhibitions and development, Rinard stewards the library—home to more than 1,000 volumes of medical books, journals, illustrations, letters, and manuscripts dating from the 16th century to the present. Among the collection's rare texts are writings by French philosopher René Descartes, a seminal figure in the emergence of modern science, as well as Ambroise Paré, a French barber-surgeon who pioneered the practice of battlefield surgery.

Rinard's favorite item is a book by Andreas Vesalius, a 16th-century Belgian physician considered the founder of modern anatomy. "It's a revolutionary text for the history and

understanding of anatomy," she says of *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem* from 1543. "Vesalius challenged the canon at the time, [and] ultimately it changed the future of surgery and health."

Rinard, who has been with the museum since 2016, explains that its collections are divided into three sections: objects (like surgical tools and trephined skulls), documents (mainly letters and paraphernalia), and the library (open to the public and the only room in the once-private home to have its original walnut-wood paneling, cabinets, and locks).

If you're visiting the museum and limited on time, Rinard suggests viewing the Hall of Immortals, the Hall of Murals, and the library, all on the second floor. "Through these stories," she says, "you gain insights as to how far we've come in medicine." **AL**

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

kanopy

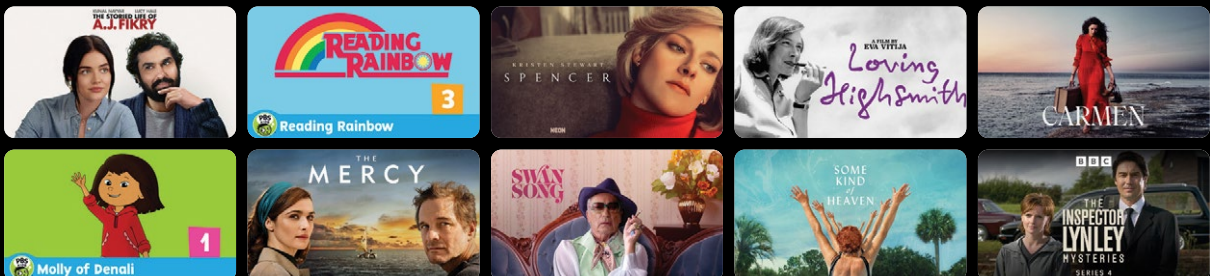
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