



# american libraries

June 2019

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**PREVIEW  
+ DINING GUIDE**

p. 62

**50 Years of the  
CSK Book Awards**

p. 28

**Preparing for  
the 2020 Census**

p. 44

**PLUS:** Tomi Adeyemi, Voice  
Assistants, Community Courts

# FATHOM EVENTS BRINGS LITERATURE TO LIFE ON THE BIG SCREEN

**HAMLET: NT LIVE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
JULY 8

**MARGARET ATWOOD: LIVE IN CINEMAS**  
FROM THE HANDMAID'S TALE TO THE TESTAMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 10

TCM BIG SCREEN CLASSICS PRESENTS  
**THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
SEPTEMBER 22, 24 & 25

TCM BIG SCREEN CLASSICS PRESENTS  
**THE GODFATHER PART II**  
NOVEMBER 10, 12 & 13



FATHOM  
EVENTS



**BUY TICKETS**

AT THE BOX OFFICE OR AT [FATHOMEVENTS.COM](http://FATHOMEVENTS.COM)

ARTS | CLASSICS | COMEDY | INSPIRATIONAL | MUSIC | ORIGINALS | PREMIERES | SPORTS



# CONTENTS

June 2019

American Libraries | Volume 50 #6 | ISSN 0002-9769

## COVER STORY

### 62 **2019 Annual Conference Preview**

Washington, D.C.  
June 20–25

EDITED BY Greg Landgraf

### 70 **A Culinary Capital**

Dining in D.C. during  
Annual Conference

BY Meredith Pratt



48



## FEATURES

### 28 **50 Years of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards**

A conversation with nine winners and committee members who have been part of the influential children's book awards

AS TOLD TO Anne Ford

### 34 **Your Library Needs to Speak to You**

Getting ahead of the voice assistant hype

BY Carrie Smith

### 38 **Give Them Shelter?**

Libraries face tough choices when homeless patrons set up permanent residence

BY Claire Zulkey

### 44 **Making It Count**

Librarians get ready for the 2020 Census

BY Timothy Inklebarger

### 48 **Target: Librarians**

What happens when our work leads to harassment—or worse

BY Lara Ewen

### 54 **Notable Dissertations**

For new practices, look to breaking research

BY Kathy Rosa



28



34

44



# CONTENTS

20



26



## UP FRONT

- 4 **From the Editor**  
Coming to Our Census  
By Sanhita SinhaRoy
- 7 **From Our Readers**

## ALA

- 5 **From the President**  
Moving the Needle  
By Loida Garcia-Febo
- 6 **From the Executive Director**  
At the Core of Our Work  
By Mary Ghikas
- 10 **Update**  
What's happening at ALA

## TRENDS

- 16 **Courting Libraries**  
Partnerships bring social services and restorative justice to communities  
By Kirsti MacPherson
- 18 **Everyone on the Same Page**  
Adults with disabilities find engagement, community in book clubs  
By Alison Marcotte
- 20 **Under Lock and Key for Safety's Sake**  
Gun lock giveaways hope to curb suicide, accidents  
By Timothy Inklebarger
- 22 **Toward a Trauma-Informed Model**  
Learn to ask "What happened?"—not "What's wrong?"  
By Anne Ford
- 24 **A Sensory Wonderland**  
A programming space for the special needs community  
By Michael Damron
- 26 **Tomí Adeyemi**  
Author brings magic to YA fiction

## PLUS

- 17 By the Numbers
- 25 Global Reach
- 27 Noted & Quoted

## PERSPECTIVES

### IN PRACTICE

- 78 **Is "Fit" a Bad Fit?**  
By Meredith Farkas

### DISPATCHES

- 79 **Online Learning Is Here to Stay**  
By Lucy Santos Green

### YOUTH MATTERS

- 80 **Building Inclusive Libraries**  
By Julie Stivers

### LIBRARIAN'S LIBRARY

- 82 **A Librarian's Good-Bye**  
By Karen Muller

## SOLUTIONS

- 84 **All-Hours Access**  
Automated 24-hour access solutions

## PEOPLE

- 86 **Announcements**

## THE BOOKEND

- 88 **Finding Flora and Fauna**



88

## ADVERTISER INDEX

American Book Returns 23 | Connectrac Cover Wrap, Cover 3 | Crowley 12 | Emporia University Cover 4 | Fathom Events Cover 2 | GEICO 21 | Library of Congress Federal Credit Union 47 | READsquared 13 | San José State University 19 | Scannx 9 | University of Nebraska 8 | University of Washington 15 | American Library Association American Libraries 81 | Development Office 3, 43, 60-61 | Editions 53 | Graphics 81



# TRANSFORM THE FUTURE

## Leave a Legacy

**A**LA has left an indelible mark on society and our world. Since 1876, ALA has supported and nurtured library leaders, while advocating for literacy; access to information; intellectual freedom; and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The ALA Legacy Society includes members who are committed to leaving a legacy of their values and visions by including ALA in their will, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other estate plan. The 1876 Club is targeted to those under the age of 50 when they join who are planning to include ALA in their will, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other estate plan.

Through the Legacy Society and 1876 Club, ALA members are helping to transform the future of libraries. The Development Office staff is happy to work with you to design the right planned gift for you. Whether you are interested in an estate gift or naming ALA as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan, the Development Office can help you guide your planned gift.



### 1876 CLUB CHARTER MEMBERS

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

### ALA LEGACY SOCIETY HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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



CONTACT THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A PLANNED GIFT TO ALA:

**Development Office, American Library Association**

50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2795

(312) 280-3259 • [development@ala.org](mailto:development@ala.org) • [www.ala.org/plannedgiving](http://www.ala.org/plannedgiving)

\*Charter Member

\*\*ALA Legacy Member/15x15 planned giving campaign

# Coming to Our Census



Sanhita SinhaRoy

Washington, D.C.—famous for its museums, monuments, and memorials—plays host to this year’s Annual Conference and Exhibition. We feature some of the highlights in our conference preview (p. 62), along with tips on where to dine in the District (p. 70).

While you’re at Annual, be sure to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards at one of many special events (p. 68). To commemorate this milestone, Anne Ford spoke with nine authors, illustrators, and committee members about the impact this influential book award has had on literature and representation (p. 28).

Stories that reflect people of color and other marginalized communities are critical, says YA author and conference speaker Tomi Adeyemi in our Newsmaker interview (p. 26). The *Children of Blood and Bone* author shares the “devastating effects” that the lack of representation in books and media had on her as a child.

Three middle school students are trying to curb those effects with the help of their school librarian, Julie Stivers, who relays their tips for making libraries more inclusive (p. 80).

The 2020 Census kicks off next spring, and libraries across the country are preparing for this crucial count—which can determine billions in funding for such things as school lunch programs and Medicaid. The data can also determine the number of electoral college votes each state will have. And for the first time, the census questionnaire can be completed online. Timothy Inklebarger explains how librarians are gearing up for the tally (p. 44).

Among those likely to be undercounted? People experiencing homelessness. Claire Zulkey reports how some libraries are addressing the spike in unsheltered people camping on library grounds (p. 38). It’s a process that has required “strategy, patience, and grace,” Zulkey writes.

If you haven’t visited [AmericanLibrariesMagazine.org](http://AmericanLibrariesMagazine.org) in a while, we have many online-exclusive articles worth a read, including a Q&A with Dav Pilkey, author of the *Captain Underpants* series. (My 6-year-old is thrilled.)

See you in D.C.

*Sanhita*

Come celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards at the Annual Conference in D.C.

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

**ALA** American Library Association

Address: 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611  
Website: [americanlibrariesmagazine.org](http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org)  
Email: [americanlibraries@ala.org](mailto:americanlibraries@ala.org)  
Phone: 800-545-2433 plus extension  
Career Ads: [JobLIST.ala.org](http://JobLIST.ala.org)



**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER**  
Sanhita SinhaRoy  
[ssinharoy@ala.org](mailto:ssinharoy@ala.org) | x4219  
National Portrait Gallery

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Terra Dankowski  
[tdankowski@ala.org](mailto:tdankowski@ala.org) | x5282  
National Building Museum

**SENIOR EDITORS**  
Amy Carlton  
[acarlton@ala.org](mailto:acarlton@ala.org) | x5105  
Library of Congress

International Spy Museum  
George M. Eberhart  
[geberhart@ala.org](mailto:geberhart@ala.org) | x4212

Phil Morehart  
[pmorehart@ala.org](mailto:pmorehart@ala.org) | x4218  
Smash! Records

Newseum  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
Sallyann Price  
[sprice@ala.org](mailto:sprice@ala.org) | x4213

**EDITOR-AT-LARGE**  
Anne Ford  
[aford@ala.org](mailto:aford@ala.org) | x2157

**EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING ASSISTANT**  
Carrie Smith  
[casmith@ala.org](mailto:casmith@ala.org) | x4216  
Still Life with Spirit and Xitle

Georgetown  
**ART DIRECTOR**  
Rebecca Lomax  
[rlomax@ala.org](mailto:rlomax@ala.org) | x4217

**ADVERTISING**  
Michael Stack [mstack@ala.org](mailto:mstack@ala.org) | 847-367-7120  
Acceptance of advertising does not constitute endorsement. ALA reserves the right to refuse advertising.

**PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT**  
Mary Mackay  
Associate Executive Director  
Lincoln Memorial  
Mary Jo Bolduc  
Rights, Permissions, Reprints | x5416  
Politics and Prose

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Lorelle Swader, Associate Executive Director

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Susan H. Polos (Chair), Salvador Avila, Joseph M. Eagan, Sonja Eyley, Mary L. Hastler, Ben Allen Hunter, Jasmina Jusic, Sigrid Kelsey. Committee associate: Lisa Anne Romano  
Editorial policy: ALA Policy Manual, section A.8.2

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

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

**PUBLISHED**  
*American Libraries* (ISSN 0002-9769) is published 6 times yearly with occasional supplements by the American Library Association (ALA). Printed in USA. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Personal members: Send address changes to *American Libraries*, c/o Membership Records, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795. ©2019 American Library Association. All rights reserved. No portion of this magazine may be reproduced or republished without written permission from the publisher.



# Moving the Needle

Empowering our Association, profession, libraries, communities



**Loida Garcia-Febo**

**A**s I complete my year as American Library Association (ALA) president, I am honored to know that together we moved the needle in key areas that affect our Association, profession, libraries, and the communities we serve.

During this time, I treasured the opportunity of being the first Puerto Rican American and second-youngest ALA president in the organization's 143-year history. I have loved representing ALA nationally and internationally and collaborating with a talented Executive Board.

Over the past year, ALA has helped secure funding for libraries to keep them open, equipped, and staffed. We have advocated for myriad public policies to benefit our communities. We established strategies to review our governance structure and search for the Association's next executive director.

Thanks to my brilliant advisory board and the amazing ALA staff, we brought the following efforts to fruition:

**Advocacy:** We created comprehensive resources for advocacy ([bit.ly/advocacylib](http://bit.ly/advocacylib)) to become a one-stop clearinghouse. We developed videos ([bit.ly/ALAVideos](http://bit.ly/ALAVideos)) to help libraries use the power of storytelling to impact advocacy, with additional resources on digital storytelling. And the #MyLibraryMyStory campaign successfully allowed advocates to share their libraries' stories during National Library Week.


**Wellness:** The ALA–Allied Professional Association Wellness website ([ala-apa.org/wellness](http://ala-apa.org/wellness)) for library workers was revamped with new content. Its page on emotional wellness will soon contain a series of webinars that offer strategies for people experiencing microaggressions and workplace stress. A task force on safety and workplace well-being in libraries has been established. ALA-APA has partnered with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine to present courses. And the inaugural ALA Presidential Citation for

Wellness in the Workplace ([bit.ly/WellAward](http://bit.ly/WellAward)) will recognize wellness efforts by libraries.

**International:** Last fall we created the I Am ALA International Spotlight to help acknowledge ALA's 1,700 international members. At conferences, we have exhibited the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions' Library Map of the World to promote global exchanges. We presented webinars and partnered with the UN's Dag Hammarskjöld Library for an event about sustainable development goals.

**Diversity:** To support the work of ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services, we developed videos ([bit.ly/EDIVideos](http://bit.ly/EDIVideos)) to deepen understanding of the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in our nation's libraries. At conferences, my programs have reflected EDI themes. A new EDI fellows program is forthcoming, as is a statement from ALA and other US library associations that will reaffirm our commitment to EDI.

**Library Tour:** Under the Libraries = Strong Communities campaign, our advocacy efforts took us to academic, public, and school libraries in the nation's capital as well as six states. Elected officials, community organizations, state librarians, and presidents of library associations spoke at these events. We created a toolkit ([bit.ly/LibStrong](http://bit.ly/LibStrong)) that contains news coverage, checklists, social media, and graphics templates, along with new "Because" statements that highlight the value of libraries and empower patrons to advocate on their behalf.

My main takeaway from this past year? ALA is its members. My call to each library worker is to continue working with ALA leadership and staff to better our Association, profession, and the communities we serve. We are in this together! 

**LOIDA GARCIA-FEBO** is an international library consultant.

Over the past year, ALA has helped secure funding for libraries to keep them open, equipped, and staffed.

# At the Core of Our Work

Using the fundamentals of associations to reimagine our future



Mary Ghikas

I am frequently asked why we need associations. In thinking about the question, we can clarify our assets and our sources of power.

In my last column, I noted that we are engaged—together—in the difficult but essential work of change. This requires that we collaborate in good faith, trusting one another’s commitment to the important work we do at the American Library Association (ALA) and as a profession. It also requires introspection about *why* we have come together in an association so we retain those fundamental attributes as we move forward.

In the most basic terms, an association is simply a voluntary organization of persons with common interests and ends, joining formally to achieve things they could not achieve—or could not achieve as well—alone. It’s an observation made in the early 1800s in *Democracy in America* by French historian Alexis de Tocqueville as he witnessed Americans organizing societies around politics, faith, and economics. But *Democracy in America* was written more than 180 years ago. Times—and technology—have changed.

What does this mean for ALA?

- We are mission-driven, providing “leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.”
- We are our members—the essential force for fulfilling our mission.
- We are the formal structure that organizes the work of 58,000 members, as well as staff and others in the “ALA community.”

I am frequently asked why we need associations today. It’s an important question. In thinking about it, we can clarify our assets and our sources of power, and understand the core functions we want to preserve.

First, an association is about persistence: persistence of memory, mission, and effort in the face of time, opposition, and—perhaps most dangerous—indifference. Fighting for libraries, library employees, and the communities they

serve is an ongoing necessity that will span generations. So it’s important to consider assets that support this: legal structure and standing, governance and decision making, financial assets, processes, procedures, and more.

Second, an association is about conversation and context, difference and discovery. While ALA is made of individual people and organizations, those individuals are part of the community, the collective. Shared directions are discovered in the push and pull of opposing concepts and differing perspectives. Like libraries, associations can take you out of your comfort zone, within the relative safety of the community.

Third, associations are about active engagement: about accepting, creating, and codesigning participation. This is a process of collaboratively innovating within an association. Each of us must ask, “How do I affect my association in order to contribute my own passion, my vision, my voice, and my skills?”

As we work through the process of change, with its inherent risks, uncertainties, and disagreements, it will be helpful to keep in mind these fundamental “whys” of what we do.

With changes to specific structures and processes, we must remember that these are means to accomplish common aims.

With new models, we must remember to ensure the Association’s ability to persist.

With new recommendations, we must remember there are ways to craft shared direction from differing opinions, perceptions, and experiences.

To me, associations, like libraries, are fundamentally optimistic. While they honor the past, they look forward. They assume continuous learning and improvement.

Let’s acknowledge tradition and base new solutions on our strengths. **AL**

---

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



## Lessons from Tragedy

As senior librarian of the Will and Ariel Durant branch of Los Angeles Public Library, I have been at ground zero for the types of security issues Kelly Clark describes in his op-ed (“Keep Library Workers Safe,” AL Online, Apr. 23).

Frontline library workers are facing a new and more challenging reality. In my six years at this branch I have found that a proactive approach works better than a reactive one. The solution is better staff training and allocation of security-related resources.

Our greatest contribution as information professionals may be sharing knowledge with our colleagues. If we are to maintain a compassionate and sustainable institution, we must pool our ideas and stand together.

**John Frank**  
Los Angeles

I had two reactions when I read “Keep Library Workers Safe.” The first was extreme sadness for the author’s loss and the loss of a fellow librarian. The second

was extreme anger that any librarian would have to make a professional plea for basic physical safety after the work-related death of a loved one.

I have long been a proponent of better library safety. I have presented multiple times with a colleague about sexual harassment in libraries, and yet there are still administrators who don’t believe that safety is a problem. I hear about managers who worry more about the potential for negative PR than they do about employees’ safety, or who keep safety information from frontline staff because it “doesn’t concern them.” Worse, I hear about library employees who come forward with safety concerns that aren’t taken seriously.

Do we have to wait until a librarian’s life is lost before we start talking about this? If I raise an issue at work, do I have to first convince the powers that be that my safety merits consideration? Must I suppress all emotion and make sure to ask nicely? Do I have to keep reliving

these experiences over and over in the hope that someone will eventually listen? Is an aggressive patron’s right to harass staff more important than my well-being?

The fact is, safety issues can happen at any library, and no amount of PR or wishful thinking will protect us. I know many, many librarians who want to work toward better safety, but this letter isn’t aimed at them. It’s aimed at the people in power who hear our pleas and still choose to do nothing.

**Katie Horner**  
Wheeling, Illinois

My heart breaks for Kelly Clark, author of “Keep Library Workers Safe,” and the pain of his loss. In his column he also mentions a recent tragedy at my workplace, Fort Myers Beach (Fla.) Public Library, where our beloved director was murdered in January.

The alleged killer—who was spotted, reported, and apprehended immediately, thanks to a group of passersby—was known to all of us as one of the people experiencing homelessness who spend their days at our library. Since the murder, we no longer feel safe. We look at everyone who enters our facility with a critical eye.

We’re working with local law enforcement to upgrade security and increase awareness. Thank you for this post, which will also increase awareness of the dangers we face in any public place.

**Esther Whatley**  
Fort Myers Beach, Florida

 To my fellow teacher-librarians who are ready to dip their toes into giving their school library the long-overdue deep weeding it deserves, do yourself a favor & listen to @rebeccavnuuk on this podcast. Now if you’ll excuse me, I’m off to create my own “cart of shame” from the weeded 🗑️! #MUSTIE



**@MRS\_BOOK\_NERD**, in response to the *Dewey Decibel* podcast’s “Spring Cleaning: Weeding Your Collections” episode (Mar. 29)


 Amber’s family will never forget her and neither will we. Her husband, Kelly, has penned an op-ed for @amlibraries that brings attention to an issue increasingly concerning to those who work in libraries—keeping staff safe as they work in a community space we all love.

@SACLIB, in response to “Keep Library Workers Safe” (AL Online, Apr. 23)

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

### FOLLOW US:

 @amlibraries  
 [facebook.com/amlibraries](https://www.facebook.com/amlibraries)

 @Fobettarh's invited talk on bad librarians and vocational awe was straight up 🔥🔥🔥 and has inspired me. Also her ability to handle Q&A is beyond excellent. #ACRL2019

@CATLADYLIB, in response to "Why Being Bad Is Good" (The Scoop, Apr. 13)

### Recognize Civilians

Thank you for highlighting the American Library Association's (ALA) recent advocacy event ("Washington Fly-In Teaches Strategic Library Advocacy," The Scoop, Feb. 26). As a participant and a panelist for the event, I came away with a great understanding of and confidence in my abilities as an advocate. Your article did a good job of conveying participants' excitement and energy, which is important to share with all ALA members and nonmembers. Particularly considering ALA's renewed focus on advocacy, these events empower all of us concerned about the future of library funding.

The original article noted that "more than 90 librarians were invited" to the event. I write



Sara Kamal (right), American Library Association (ALA) Public Policy and Advocacy associate, talks with Rowan Bost, legislative correspondent for Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), at ALA's Washington, D.C., fly-in.

to remind you that civilian advocates are also important to include and recognize. I see this as a missed opportunity to recognize the community of library supporters, including trustees,

foundation members, Friends, and donors. *American Libraries* inadvertently marginalized those of us advocates who are not librarians, which is frustrating, disappointing, and inaccurate.

Photo: Dana Rene Photography

## 100% ONLINE Bachelor's Degree in Library Science

▶▶▶ THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



### Position yourself for success in today's 21<sup>st</sup> century libraries.

*Why earn a library science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha?*

- Accredited, Affordable University
- Award-Winning Faculty
- Engaged Advising
- High Employment Placement Rates
- Field Site Experiences
- Local and Regional Professional Networks

### Apply now to start this fall.

#### Get started:

[online.nebraska.edu/library](https://online.nebraska.edu/library)  
(888) 622-0332

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Online

KEARNEY | LINCOLN | OMAHA | MEDICAL CENTER



I took time from my nonlibrary job to come to D.C. to speak to my legislative representatives. I shared my experience with corporate-library partnerships and the role of libraries in communities' economic health. I was not the only nonlibrarian in attendance. I sat with a library trustee and was joined on the panel by two other civilian advocates.

Reporting around topics of advocacy should be inclusive of civilian advocates. Simply put: We want to be recognized as part of the library family at the advocacy table and not merely serving those at the table.

**Skip Dye**  
New York City

### To Aid or Not to Aid?

I found Chera Kowalski's argument in favor of library staff administering Narcan to combat

opioid overdose deeply flawed ("Other Duties as Assigned," Jan./Feb., p. 40). This is the embodiment of mission creep.

Coming to the aid of six overdose victims, as Kowalski did, is remarkable, and she has earned her platform. For many of us, however, there are practical concerns to be considered. The first is the consistent availability of volunteer responders, such as Kowalski. If we cannot compel our staffers to act in unison, then how do we offer aid in a sustained manner? Libraries must also have a system in place to protect staff in the instance the revived person lashes out. These instances are in the minority but not rare—and they can be violent.

The reflexive equating of overdose events with heart attacks or seizures is disingenuous. They are all medical emergencies,

certainly, but how many libraries stock nitroglycerin pills? Or insulin, Benadryl, or even aspirin for patrons? What recourse do we have aside from calling 911?

Reducing the discussion to a binary choice between helping or watching a person die is a stunningly narrow response to the problem of overdoses in libraries. There is no easy solution, it is true, but criticizing colleagues because they are resistant to following your vision of librarianship is certainly not the answer.

**Joseph Logue**  
Newport, Rhode Island

### CORRECTION

In "Ebooks Made Easy" (Mar./Apr., p. 52), the number of digital rights management-free titles added to ProQuest's Ebook Central in 2018 was incorrectly identified. The actual figure is 100,000.

 *American Libraries* magazine covered our very own Amy Fyn!

 Read about the #ACRL2019 presentation "Why We Leave: Exploring Academic Librarian Turnover"

#CCUKLIB #CCU  
#ChantsUp

@KIMBELLIBRARY,  
in response to "Why Librarians Leave"  
(The Scoop, Apr. 12)



## The Most Advanced Book and Document Scanners Now with Translation Services!



*Scan, Copy, Print, Fax, and Translate*

[www.scannx.com](http://www.scannx.com)

### Jefferson Wins 2020–2021 ALA Presidency

Julius C. Jefferson Jr., section head of Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., has been elected president-elect of the American Library Association (ALA). Jefferson received 5,108 votes, while his opponent, Lance Werner, executive director of Kent District Library in Comstock Park, Michigan, received 3,011.



Julius C. Jefferson Jr.

“It is an immense honor to be elected 2020–2021 president of the American Library Association,” Jefferson said in an April 10 statement. “I am both humbled and appreciative of the confidence you have demonstrated in my ability to lead ALA in the service of libraries and library workers.” He said his goal is to collaborate with members to strengthen core values and address challenges: “It is my vision that together we will transform ALA into a modern library association, ensuring that libraries remain at the center of public engagement and enrich the lives of the communities we serve.”

Jefferson has been an active ALA member for 15 years. He has served on ALA Council since 2011 and recently completed a term on the ALA Executive Board. He has also been a member of several committees, including the Budget Analysis

and Review Committee (BARC), the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and the Chapter Relations Committee.

Jefferson is a member of the Library

Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), the Black Caucus of the ALA, and the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association.

He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Howard University and an MLS from the University of Maryland.

#### Farrell elected ALA treasurer

Maggie Farrell, dean of university libraries at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, has been elected ALA treasurer for 2019–2022. Farrell received 5,221 votes, while her opponent, Andrew K. Pace, executive director of technical research at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio, received 2,735 votes.



Maggie Farrell

“I am honored to serve ALA members as we consider the financial infrastructure required to advance our strategic initiatives,” Farrell said in an April 10 statement.

An ALA member for 30 years, Farrell is currently chair of BARC. She served on ALA Council as councilor-at-large and as Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) division councilor. She is an active member of ACRL, LLAMA, and United for Libraries, as well as the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table; Social Responsibilities Round Table; Intellectual Freedom Round Table; and Reforma: The National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking.

Farrell was appointed by the Wyoming governor to the Wyoming Commission on Judicial Conduct and Ethics, serving as its 2013–2014 chair. She participated in Leadership Wyoming from 2006 to 2007.

Farrell holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri–Kansas City, an MLS from the University of Arizona, and a master's in public administration from Arizona State University.

#### Councilors elected

Thirty-four ALA members have been elected councilors-at-large on the ALA Council for a three-year term. The term begins at the close of the 2019 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C., and extends through the end of the 2022 Annual Conference and Exhibition, also in Washington, D.C. Four members were elected to finish two-year terms, which begin immediately and expire at the end of the 2021 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago.

For full election results, including those for divisions and round tables, visit [ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection](http://ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection). ●

**JEFFERSON**  
5,108 votes

**WERNER**  
3,011 votes

8,119 **VOTES CAST FOR PRESIDENT**

48,080 **BALLOTS SENT**

8,905 **BALLOTS RETURNED**

## ALA Joins in Census Amicus Brief

On April 1, ALA joined an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court opposing the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. ALA joined the American Statistical Association, American Sociological Association, and Population Association of America in support of the plaintiffs in *New York v. Department of Commerce*. The case was appealed directly to the Supreme Court after a federal court ruled for the plaintiffs and ordered the US Commerce Department to remove the question.

“Accurate and reliable census information features in an astonishing array of decisions, from where voters cast their ballots to where small businesses choose to invest to how the federal government allocates money to how emergency responders prepare for natural disasters, among many others,” the brief states. It argues that the Commerce Department’s addition of the citizenship question is inconsistent with the department’s own standards and that requesting such information threatens the integrity of census data.

The Supreme Court heard arguments on April 23 and is expected to rule by late June, when census forms are scheduled to go to press.

The amicus brief represents ALA’s opposition to the citizenship question and is part of ALA’s broader advocacy regarding the role of libraries in the 2020 Census. Led by the 2020 Census Library Outreach and Education Task Force, ALA members and staff are working in three areas: developing resources and education to support the library field, coordinating with the Census Bureau and other stakeholders to increase awareness of library roles, and advancing policy-making that will support libraries and the communities they serve.

For more information about ALA’s Census efforts, see our story on page 44. ●

### ALA Supports Net Neutrality Legislation

On March 6, House and Senate Democrats introduced the Save the Internet Act of 2019 to restore net neutrality. That same day, ALA released a statement in support.

“A free and open internet is critical for equitable access to online information and resources for the nearly 120,000 libraries ALA represents and the communities we serve across America,” said ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo in the statement. According to a recent Program for Public Consultation at the University of Maryland poll, 86% of respondents support strong, enforceable net neutrality rules that protect lawful internet traffic

against blocking, throttling, and other interference. “That’s why we continue to work on this important issue and appreciate the efforts of lawmakers today to restore net neutrality protections,” Garcia-Febo added.

The Save the Internet Act passed the House of Representatives on April 10 but as of press time had not been heard in the Senate.

### Nominating Committee Seeks 2020 Candidates

The Nominating Committee for the 2020 ALA election is soliciting nominees to run on the next spring ballot for the offices of ALA president-elect and councilor-at-large.

## CALENDAR

### JUNE

#### GLBT Book Month

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

### JUNE 20-25

#### ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition

Washington, D.C.  
[2019.alaannual.org](http://2019.alaannual.org)

### AUG. 24-30

#### IFLA World Library and Information Congress

Athens, Greece  
[2019.ifla.org](http://2019.ifla.org)

### SEPT.

#### Library Card Sign-Up Month

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

### SEPT. 22-28

#### Banned Books Week

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

### SEPT. 25

#### Banned Websites Awareness Day

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

### OCT. 20-26

#### National Friends of Libraries Week

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

### OCT. 21-27

#### Open Access Week

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

### NOV. 1-3

#### YALSA Young Adult Services Symposium

Memphis, Tennessee

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

### NOV. 3-9

#### International Games Week

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

### NOV. 14-16

#### AASL National Conference and Exhibition

Louisville, Kentucky

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

### JAN. 24-28

#### ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits

Philadelphia

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

### FEB. 25-29

#### Public Library Association Conference

Nashville, Tennessee

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



## UPDATE

The Nominating Committee will select two candidates to run for president-elect and no fewer than 51 candidates for the 34 at-large Council seats to be filled in the 2020 spring election.

Members who wish to make nominations should submit the nominee name, current position, institution, address, telephone number, and email address. Self-nominations are encouraged. All potential nominees must complete the Potential Candidate Biographical Form found at [officers.directnominations.net](http://officers.directnominations.net).

Nominations and forms must be received no later than July 10.

### Garcia-Febo Voices Support for Youth in Puerto Rico

On March 5, ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo joined library leaders at the Puerto Rico Center for the Book in San Juan to participate in a discussion titled “Read to Heal and Transform Lives,” a local effort



**ALA ANNUAL**  
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION  
JUNE 20-25, 2019  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



**Booth 1949**  
**Big Things Are Happening**  
**Exclusive ScanStudio Demo**  
**Reserve a Space Today**  
**(240) 215-0224**

Scanners & Conversion Services  
[www.thecrowleycompany.com](http://www.thecrowleycompany.com)



## Celebrate PLA's 75th Anniversary

The Public Library Association (PLA) will turn 75 years old on October 13, and the entire public library field is encouraged to participate in its anniversary celebration.

PLA is gathering member stories for its 75th-anniversary website. The division is seeking stories about how it has made a difference in your professional life and supported your work in public libraries. To submit your story, visit [bit.ly/PLA75StorySubmit](http://bit.ly/PLA75StorySubmit).

PLA will also commemorate the 75th anniversary at various events, including at the 2019 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., and the PLA 2020 Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

For more information on ways to participate—including contests, articles, and stories in PLA's e-newsletter—visit [75years.pla.org](http://75years.pla.org).

to provide library services to girls and young women in Puerto Rico who have experienced trauma.

Garcia-Febo discussed the role libraries play in strengthening communities and her presidential effort to support health and wellness within the profession of librarianship. Other library professionals and staff from Hogar Escuela Sor María Rafaela, a local government institution for girls and young women who have experienced trauma, discussed their work to support healing efforts through reading.

The Puerto Rico Center for the Book will offer events including author colloquia, workshops, reading festivals, and contests to explore the making and writing of books. A makerspace is currently under development, as is a virtual space to stimulate creativity and innovation in reading and writing.

### New Digital Storytelling Advocacy Resources

In April, ALA released two new tools to help library advocates and libraries across the country share their stories on digital platforms: a Live Stream and Video Storytelling Checklist and a Social Media Advocacy Toolkit. The resources are rolling out in conjunction with the #MyLibraryMyStory initiative, a video and social media effort that aims to encourage library advocates and users

to create and share videos and content about their libraries.

The Social Media Advocacy Toolkit includes best practices and simple but effective tips for enhancing the appeal and impact of library stories, such as tagging strategically to attract the attention of decision makers. The kit also includes shareable graphics and sample posts for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Advocates can use the Live Stream and Video Storytelling Checklist to create high-quality videos on social media. The checklist includes a list of necessary equipment and step-by-step instructions for shooting video for Facebook Live and Instagram Live.

These and other advocacy resources are available at [ala.org/advocacy](http://ala.org/advocacy).

### Critical Thinking Toolkit

A new Libraries Transform toolkit with free public awareness resources relating to critical thinking, created by ALA in collaboration with SAGE Publishing, is now available.

The toolkit contains messaging, data, and print and digital graphics for libraries to use in their marketing and advocacy efforts around critical thinking. Libraries and supporters can download the free materials to help students and others find and evaluate reliable information.

The toolkit is available on the Libraries Transform website at [bit.ly/ALACritThinkingToolkit](http://bit.ly/ALACritThinkingToolkit).

### Candidates Sought for Endowment Trustee Positions

Applications are being accepted for two three-year terms on the ALA Endowment Trustees committee. The ALA Endowment Trustees hold, invest, and disburse endowment and other long-term investment funds as directed by the ALA Executive Board. The deadline for applications is June 1.

Candidates must be or become members of ALA and have working knowledge of investment opportunities available to the endowment and other long-term investment funds, as well as benchmarks used to judge fund performance.

Candidates must also have experience in the management or oversight of investment funds in a business setting and must be able to contribute to the preparation of semiannual reports to the ALA Executive Board and Council. Additionally, candidates must be able to participate in any scheduled conference calls and attend two to four meetings per year in person.

The ALA Executive Board will select candidates during the 2019 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C. Trustees will begin serving immediately upon notification of their selection.

For additional information regarding qualifications and responsibilities, contact Keith D. Brown, ALA senior financial analyst, at 800-545-2433, ext. 4255, or [kbrown@ala.org](mailto:kbrown@ala.org).

## Success for Dear Appropriator Letters

The Dear Appropriator letters campaign for fiscal year 2020 ended April 11 on a positive note for library funding, thanks to the thousands of calls, emails, and visits made by ALA advocates across the country.

With federal library funding sources under threat of elimination from the White House for the third straight year, library advocates responded forcefully.

Advocates reached out to more than 100 new members of Congress, many of whom were unfamiliar with the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) programs. In the House, 37 freshmen representatives signed the LSTA letter and 25 signed the IAL letter.

House support for both letters increased: LSTA signatures increased from 136 last year to 150, and IAL support grew from 98 to 128 signatures. Bipartisan leadership on the FY2020 LSTA letter helped secure several additional Republicans. As a result, seven House Republicans signed LSTA and five signed IAL, while only four had supported each last year.

Support for LSTA and IAL remained steady in the Senate. The FY2020 IAL letter retained a level 36 signatures. The LSTA letter dropped from 46 to 45.

ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office continues to provide resources for ALA members to cultivate relationships with their members of Congress and congressional staff at home in their districts. These resources include details for inviting a member of Congress to tour your library; tips on telling your library's story to local media; tools for advocating on social media platforms, including steps for livestreaming events; one-page fact sheets for sharing IMLS funding information from your state; and worksheets to prepare for reaching out to your member of Congress. ●

Visit us at  
Booth 3119

**READ**squared  
Habit Forming

## Premier Reading Program Solutions



## Full Featured Mobile App!



Test drive our  
school and library  
solution today  
by going to:

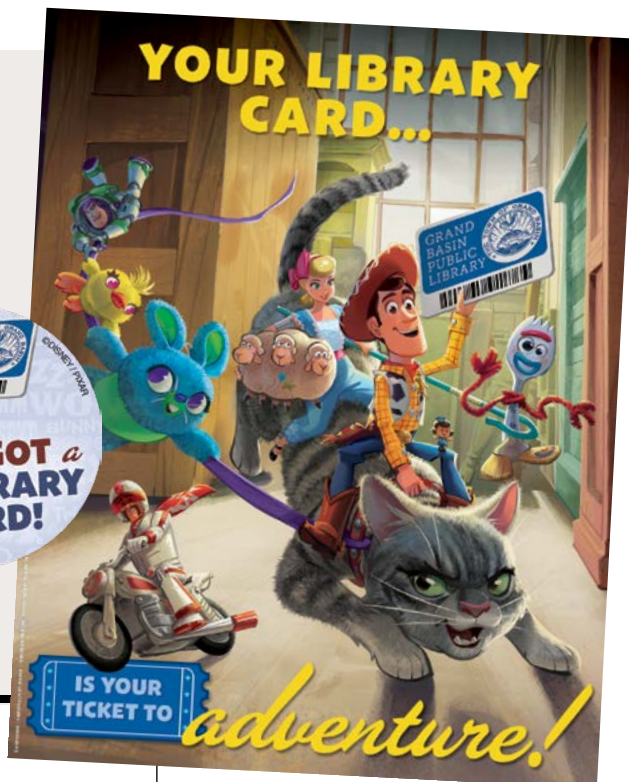
[www.READsquared.com](http://www.READsquared.com)

## Toy Story 4 Cast Heads Library Card Sign-Up Month

In September, Disney and Pixar's *Toy Story 4* characters Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Bo Peep, and friends will act as Library Card Sign-Up Month Honorary Chairs. They will remind the public that signing up for a library card opens a world of possibilities and can help bring great stories to life.

Themed *Toy Story 4* posters, stickers, and bookmarks are available through the ALA Store at [alastore.ala.org](http://alastore.ala.org).

Free library card artwork, as well as other print and digital graphics featuring *Toy Story 4* characters, will be available for libraries to use. Sample tools including a proclamation, press release, radio PSA scripts, and social media posts will also be provided. Visit [ala.org/librarycardsignup](http://ala.org/librarycardsignup) for more information. ●



### YALSA Summer Learning Grant Recipients

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has chosen 25 libraries to receive a 2019 Summer Learning Resources Grant, sponsored by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

The grants allow libraries to purchase literacy resources that will strengthen and expand the impact of summer learning programs for teens who are most vulnerable to summer learning loss. This includes teens who speak English as a second language, teens in socioeconomically challenged communities, and teens who are at risk of failing out of school.

A full list of recipients is available online at [bit.ly/YALSA-SLgrantees19](http://bit.ly/YALSA-SLgrantees19). To learn more about the grant, visit [bit.ly/YALSSummerLearningGrant](http://bit.ly/YALSSummerLearningGrant).

### PLA and NNLM Partner for "All of Us"

PLA has expanded its partnership with the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM), a program of the National Library of Medicine.

PLA and NNLM will work together to raise awareness of the National Institutes

of Health's All of Us research program, an effort to gather data from more than 1 million people living in the US to accelerate research and improve health. The two groups will also support public libraries to increase health literacy, address health research inequities, and strengthen community partnerships with health advocates and providers.

Additional information about All of Us can be found at [joinallofus.org/nlm](http://joinallofus.org/nlm). Information on PLA's health initiatives can be found at [bit.ly/PLAHealthLiteracy](http://bit.ly/PLAHealthLiteracy).

### Ray Bradbury Park Declared Literary Landmark

United for Libraries, in partnership with the Illinois State Library and Illinois Center for the Book, designated Ray Bradbury Park a Literary Landmark on March 16. Held in Bradbury's hometown of Waukegan, Illinois, the unveiling ceremony began at 4:51 p.m. in honor of Bradbury's novel *Fahrenheit 451*.

Bradbury, a prolific author best known for his science fiction, was also an outspoken library advocate. The park, located in Bradbury's childhood

neighborhood, played a major part in his upbringing and was referenced in his works "Dandelion Wine," *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, and *Farewell Summer*.

Ray Bradbury Park is the first Literary Landmark established in Lake County, Illinois, and the eighth in the state of Illinois. More information about the dedication ceremony can be found at [raybradburyexperiencemuseum.org](http://raybradburyexperiencemuseum.org).

Any library or group may apply for a Literary Landmark designation through United for Libraries. For more information, visit [bit.ly/LitLandmarks](http://bit.ly/LitLandmarks).

### Free "Write and Cite" Webinar

ALA Publishing eLearning Solutions, in partnership with the University of Chicago Press, has made the webinar "Write and Cite 'Chicago Style': Helping Students and Patrons Understand *The Chicago Manual of Style* and *Turabian*" free to access at [bit.ly/ALAWriteandCite](http://bit.ly/ALAWriteandCite).

Rebecca Gerber, electronic resources librarian at ALA, interviews *Chicago Manual of Style* (CMOS) expert Carol



Saller, editor of the CMOS Online Q&A and the CMOS Shop Talk blog. They discuss using CMOS for citation building and more.

The webinar addresses how to help students and patrons use The Chicago Manual of Style Online and Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers* to find answers to questions about citation, grammar, punctuation, and other rules of writing.

### ALSC Announces Bookapalooza Program Winners

The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) has awarded 2019 Bookapalooza materials to three libraries: McNary (Ariz.) Community Library; Jaffrey (N.H.) Public Library; and Lawrence County (Tenn.) Public Library.

The winning libraries will be given books, DVDs, and audiobooks received from publishers for ALSC selection

committees to evaluate for awards. To make room for next year's publications, ALSC created Bookapalooza to infuse three library collections with new materials for children up to age 14.


### Jim Neal Named Senior Policy Fellow

On March 27, ALA appointed Jim Neal senior policy fellow. Neal, who is immediate past president of ALA, will advise the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office in Washington, D.C., on copyright and licensing matters, and provide leadership on selected priority initiatives including the ALA Policy Corps, established in 2017 as one of his presidential initiatives.

Neal is university librarian emeritus at Columbia University in New York. Neal has chaired the boards of the Association of Research Libraries and the National Information Standards

Organization, and has served on other boards and committees.

As a recognized national expert on copyright and licensing issues in higher education, Neal has testified before Congress and was an advisor to the US delegation at the World Intellectual Property Organization diplomatic conference on copyright. He was the US representative on the Committee on Copyright and Other Legal Matters for the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and continues as an external advisor.

Neal joins Sari Feldman, Jon Peha, Robert Bocher, senior counsel Alan Fishel, and senior advisor Roger Rosen as senior strategic advisors to the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office. 



Jim Neal

# MAKE YOUR MOVE

Our #2-ranked Master of Library and Information Science program is your gateway to careers such as:

- Digital librarian
- Taxonomist
- Reference and instruction librarian
- Data analyst
- Web content or records manager
- UX designer
- Metadata specialist
- Adult or youth services librarian
- Special collections manager
- School librarian
- Information architect
- Research librarian

[ischool.uw.edu](http://ischool.uw.edu)



Aydin Kwan, '18, and Le Button, '18.

**TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR CAREER:  
EARN YOUR MLIS ON CAMPUS OR ONLINE**



Information School  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



# TRENDS



Spokane Community Court, held in the Spokane (Wash.) Public Library, connects about 1,000 participants per year with onsite social services.

to everyone, and there isn't the stigma that a courthouse might have. It's a welcoming place."

## Resources on tap

Community courts typically consist of two rooms: one in which a judge holds court, and one that acts as a community resource center (CRC), in which social-service providers help defendants and members of the public with counseling, housing, and other needs. Those providers might include public health workers, technical schools or community colleges, health care nonprofits, and temp agencies looking for workers.

At King County (Wash.) Library System (KCLS)—which has hosted a community court in its Redmond branch since April of last year—the CRC includes about 45 providers, all of which are available to the general public as well as to defendants. "You don't have to have a criminal charge," says Francis Adewale, a public defender for the city of Spokane. In fact, he adds, "twice as many people are accessing the library to get the services than are charged."

The Redmond library-court partnership appears to be a win in other ways as well. The court has processed almost 100 cases; only four of those defendants have had to return to the traditional court system, according to Ericka Cooley, the city's community court coordinator. And, she says, "community members are happy because they can get information—and

## Courting Libraries

Partnerships bring social services and restorative justice to communities

BY Kirsti MacPherson

Crimes like murder or arson require a traditional court of justice. Crimes like graffiti or shoplifting don't have to.

That's the reasoning behind the community-court model, which has been around since the early 1990s. Designed with restorative justice in mind, community courts typically focus on nonviolent cases. The legally binding sentences they issue usually include community service as well as a commitment on the part of the defendant to get help, such as drug treatment or other health care.

Still, when Andrew Chanse, executive director of Spokane (Wash.) Public Library, got a phone call in 2013 requesting that his library host a community court, he wasn't sure what to think.

"When the judge asked, I just didn't see it at first," Chanse says. But when he learned that onsite social-service providers were a key component of the community-court model, he began to see what libraries had to offer in this regard: "I said, 'Well, that's information—not in a book on a shelf, but it's information, and people really need it.'"

Spokane Public Library's downtown branch began hosting a community court in December 2013, and it now sees about 1,000 participants annually. In Chanse's view, information isn't the only thing the library provides. "When you walk into a courthouse, there isn't necessarily a sense of hope or opportunity," says Chanse. "The library helps provide that. It's open

the service providers are happy because they know there will be a full house.”

### Where to start

Which types of defendants appear in community court? That’s up to each community to decide.

Spokane’s community court handles cases of theft, trespass, and malicious mischief, among others, according to Judge Mary Logan, who hears cases at the court in Spokane Public Library’s downtown branch.

Hosting a community court increases a library’s workload somewhat, says Dan Shaffer, adult services librarian at KCLS’s Redmond branch. While the library is not responsible for additional security on court days (the city provides that), library staff set up the rooms for the court and the CRC. The library also provides a staff representative and a technology volunteer, who helps patrons with their phones and other devices, for the CRC.

Libraries that don’t have the space or the staff to host a court on site can still participate in the community-court model. Since

2015, Seattle Public Library (SPL) has staffed a service point in the Seattle Municipal Court’s Community Resource Center twice a week for two hours at a time, registering people for library cards, waiving or lowering fines, and providing reference assistance.

Malik Moore, SPL assistant manager for borrower services, says that in a typical week, 40 to 50 people take advantage of the library’s presence at the court’s CRC. Not only are more patrons able to access library services this way, Moore explains, but library workers get to spread their wings a bit as well: “We wanted to get more from a talented and dedicated staff, to allow them to utilize their skills in a nonlibrary environment.”

Libraries that are unable to host a community court or staff an external service point have another option, Cooley points out: establishing their own CRC. She calls it “the first step to creating a community court—getting those agencies together in one place to offer help.”

Whatever a particular library-court partnership looks like, it’s likely to have lasting positive effects on the community.

“Sometimes people do more community service than we ask them to do,” comments Adewale.

Not only that, but some former offenders “come by just to say, ‘I’m still doing well,’” says Logan. “It is truly extraordinary what happens down at the library.” **AL**

**KIRSTI MACPHERSON** is a freelance writer based in Evanston, Illinois.

## BY THE NUMBERS

# Literary Washington, D.C.

9

Number of years since the American Library Association last held its Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

260,000

Number of printed books housed at the Folger Shakespeare Library. The collection also contains 60,000 manuscripts; 90,000 drawings, prints, paintings, photographs, and works of art; and 82 copies of the *First Folio* of 1623.

12,000

Approximate number of items the Library of Congress adds to its collections daily.

\$10

Cost of a mojito at Busboys and Poets, a community gathering place for artists, writers, and activists with seven locations in the D.C. area, named to honor poet Langston Hughes. (For more on Busboys and Poets, and other places to eat and drink in D.C., see our dining guide on p. 70.)

800

Number of electronic newspaper front pages the Newseum receives each day from around the world. The museum enlarges and prints 80 for display in its Today’s Front Pages gallery.

21

Number of specialized research libraries that make up the Smithsonian Libraries network. (To read about the Biodiversity Heritage Library, of which Smithsonian Libraries is a founding member, see our Bookend on p. 88.) ●



“Twice as many people are accessing the library to get the [social] services than are charged.”

**FRANCIS ADEWALE**, public defender, City of Spokane





Members of Books for Dessert, Port Washington (N.Y.) Public Library's book club for adults over 21 with intellectual disabilities, meet to discuss *The Case of the Bicycle Bandit*.

another day available, I'm sure he'd want to go to that one, too. He adores reading and talking about the books he's read."

Like any other book club, part of the draw of Books for Dessert is the chance for participants to make connections between their own lives and the lives of the characters they read about. When his club recently read the Judy Blume middle-grade novel *Blubber*, for example, longtime participant Howie Bauer could easily relate to the theme of bullying. "My upstate school, they teased me because I was too slow," he told the other group members.

Books for Dessert is just one of many library-hosted book clubs across the country meant specifically for adults with intellectual and other disabilities. Many of those are affiliated with the Next Chapter Book Club ([bit.ly/ncbookclub](http://bit.ly/ncbookclub)), a community-based program for adolescents and adults with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, and other disabilities.

Founded in 2002, Next Chapter aims to give people with those disabilities the chance to read, learn, and make friends in a relaxed, community setting such as a public library. "It's not really about learning to read—it's about reading to learn," says Program Manager Lyna Smith. That's why, at Next Chapter clubs, each participant has the chance to read aloud, regardless of skill level. Each club meets weekly or biweekly for an hour and typically draws four to eight participants and two volunteer facilitators.

## Everyone on the Same Page

Adults with disabilities find engagement, community in book clubs

BY Alison Marcotte

**W**hen Jamie Comer turned 21, his mother Nancy celebrated—but she also worried. Jamie has Down syndrome, and as Comer knew, it can be difficult for people with developmental disabilities to find intellectual stimulation and a supportive community once they age out of school.

"When people with developmental disabilities become 21, that's the end of education for them, as if they don't need to keep learning like other people keep learning as they get older," says Comer, a trustee of the Port Washington (N.Y.) Public Library (PWPL). She enrolled her son in a local day program but found that "they concentrated on just keeping him busy

during the day, basically." That didn't sit well with her.

So with the help of PWPL, in 2003 she founded Books for Dessert, a program comprising two book clubs for adults with intellectual disabilities. Each club meets weekly at the library, and each reads everything from novels and non-fiction to poems, short stories, and plays. Past favorites have included *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and an adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*. Meetings end with dessert and the chance to socialize.

And Jamie? "He's been in the program since day one," Comer says. "He's always been in the Thursday night group, but now goes to the Monday morning book club group as well. If there were

With more than 300 clubs in the United States, Australia, Canada, Germany, and Rwanda, Next Chapter offers online and in-person training for organizations and individuals who want to become affiliates.

Skokie (Ill.) Public Library's (SPL) Let's Get Together Book Club ([bit.ly/skokieclub](http://bit.ly/skokieclub)) for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities started as a Next Chapter Book Club but now runs independently. Dawn Wlezien, SPL accessible library specialist, organizes the club and has seen for herself how it helps participants gradually grow in confidence. At first, she said, some attendees would just say "pass" when it was their turn to read aloud—but eventually they started participating. "They look forward to it," she says.

Not all book clubs for people with disabilities focus on intellectual disabilities. In Jefferson City, Missouri, the Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library (a free service for state residents who are unable to use standard print materials because of a visual or other disability) offers three book clubs ([bit.ly/wolfnerclubs](http://bit.ly/wolfnerclubs)) via conference call for their patrons, many of whom are homebound.

To participate, patrons call the library to register for the club of their choice—Novel Reads, the fiction group; Big Ideas, which reads nonfiction; or Good Reads, which focuses on fiction and nonfiction with little to no sex, violence, or strong language. They are then mailed the books in Braille, audio, or large-print format. When the club meets,

"It's not really about learning to read—it's about reading to learn."

**LYNA SMITH,**  
Next Chapter program manager

participants call a toll-free number for the group discussion.

"This is [many patrons'] only connection with the outside world, and we take that responsibility very seriously," says retired Wolfner Library Director Donna Riegel. "I don't know that public libraries realize how much of a social role they play in people's lives." **AL**

**ALISON MARCOTTE** is a freelance writer for *American Libraries*.

## TURN THE JOB YOU LIKE INTO A CAREER YOU LOVE.

Ready to take your career to the next level? Enroll in our award-winning 100% online Master of Library and Information Science degree program and choose from a wide variety of exciting courses to fit your career goals.

### You're Invited

We're excited for ALA Annual! Join us for our Community Poster Session during our networking reception.

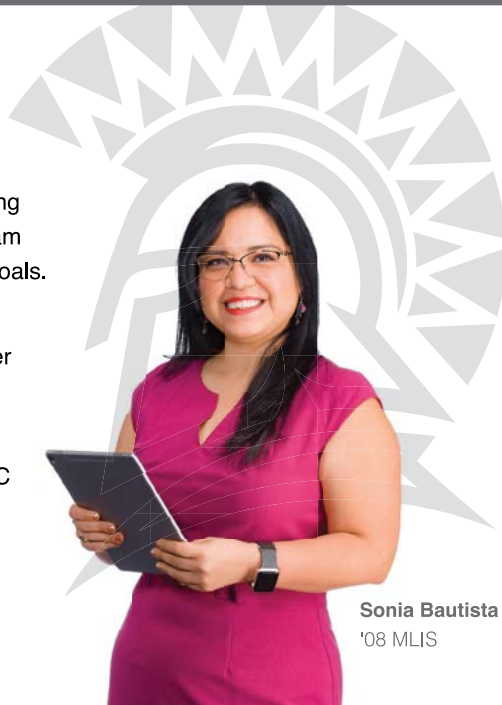
**Saturday, June 22, 2019 • 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

City Tap House Penn Quarter • 901 9th St NW, Washington, DC

Visit us at **Booth #3621** in the exhibit hall!



Accredited with  
Continued status by ALA



**Sonia Bautista**  
'08 MLIS



Explore the value of an MLIS degree!  
[ischool.sjsu.edu](http://ischool.sjsu.edu)

**SJSU** SAN JOSÉ STATE  
UNIVERSITY



Stephanie Jewett, manager at Salt Lake County Library's Columbus branch, displays a gun lock available at the library.

# Under Lock and Key for Safety's Sake

Gun lock giveaways hope to curb suicide, accidents

BY Timothy Inklebarger

**A**fter a string of teen suicides hit Salt Lake County, Utah, in 2017 and 2018, Leslie Schow, manager of Salt Lake County Library's (SLCL) Herriman branch, decided to act. Working with Healthy Herriman, a community organization connected with the city of Herriman and the Salt Lake County Health Department, SLCL started hosting classes on the

QPR (question, persuade, refer) method of identifying and preventing suicidal ideation. As part of the class, SLCL made gun locks available to community members.

Although not all the suicides in Herriman were gun related, Schow notes, statistically the use of firearms is the most common method of suicide in the country. According to the Suicide Prevention

Resource Center, 51% of suicides in 2017 were committed with guns. The goal in giving away gun locks is to prevent the impulsive nature of some suicides—buying time for people to reconsider, she says. The locks can also help prevent children who find a firearm from using it as a toy, she adds. SLCL partnered with the Utah Department of Public Safety in November 2018 to offer locks at the system's 18 branches, resulting in the distribution of about 1,000 gun locks in a 24-hour period.

Such partnerships to make gun locks available have been popping up across the country: Law enforcement and public safety organizations provide the locks, while libraries serve as distribution centers.

In Kansas City, Missouri, two accidental shooting deaths in short succession in 2017 prompted Kansas City Public Library (KCPL) officials to team with the Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) for a gun lock giveaway program. Kim Gile, community reference manager for KCPL, says the giveaway launched that fall. That's when the library hosted a program by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a national gun-violence prevention advocacy organization, to discuss such topics as how to have a conversation with other parents about gun safety and how to keep your own weapon secured.

The event was broadcast on Facebook Live, and gun locks were handed out to attendees. The library has hosted four of the forums to date and distributed about 50 locks. Gile says library



staffers have discussed setting up a station at the library with representatives from Moms Demand Action and KCPD to continue the conversation and make more locks available to patrons. “Right now our library is focused a little bit more on having a larger conversation about violence in Kansas City as a whole; intentional violence is a much greater issue for us than accidental,” she says.

The gun lock giveaway program at Indianapolis Public Library (IPL) began in 2014 and was driven by the Marion County Sheriff’s Office, according to Ruth Hans, manager of IPL’s Warren branch: “They offered gun locks for the branches, and we jumped on it.” The branches have given out hundreds of the locks over the last five years, but the program has slowed down over time.

“At first, we just put a box of them out and discovered that people were taking many, and then we heard that word on the street was that people were selling them,” she says. That prompted library staffers to place the locks behind the front desk, with a sign letting patrons know to ask for them. Hans says she was not deterred by the possibility that some people would take advantage of the program. “It’s more important for us to get the gun locks out there,” she says.

Schow says that although SLCL has distributed more than 1,000 locks, it’s still difficult to quantify success, since there’s no way to tell if someone is profiting off them. But as the program has gained attention in the press, a few other library systems have contacted SLCL to

## The locks can prevent children who find a firearm from using it as a toy.

find out more. She says that along with other public health programs, such as their naloxone program to prevent opioid overdoses, the gun locks giveaway is just another way libraries are providing services for the community.

“As libraries change and morph over time and become community centers, it’s important for us to take an active role in the health of our community,” Schow says. <sup>AL</sup>

**TIMOTHY INKLEBARGER** is a writer living in Chicago.

# switch

Is that bugging you? It’s an easy fix.  
Just like it’s an easy switch to GEICO.

**American Library Association members** could save even more with a special discount on auto insurance. When you get a quote, don’t forget to ask about homeowners, renters or condo insurance, too.

**GEICO** | MEMBER DISCOUNT

geico.com | 1-800-368-2734

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. GEICO contracts with various membership entities and other organizations, but these entities do not underwrite the offered insurance products. Discount amount varies in some states. One group discount applicable per policy. Coverage is individual. In New York a premium reduction may be available. GEICO may not be involved in a formal relationship with each organization; however, you still may qualify for a special discount based on your membership, employment or affiliation with those organizations. Homeowners, renters and condo coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, DC 20076, a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2019 GEICO



Students Olivia Ricketts (left), Simone Moonsammy (center), and Lydia Hall from the University of Georgia School of Social Work provide trauma-informed services and training at Athens-Clarke County (Ga.) Library.

# Toward a Trauma-Informed Model

Learn to ask “What happened?”—not “What’s wrong?”

BY Anne Ford

Intention on finding a safe place to spend the day, the elderly woman trudged into the public library, burdened with several bags of precious possessions. She was immediately greeted by the sight of a library worker thrusting out a hand and snapping, “No, you can’t bring those things in here.”

“She said she felt like she was being struck,” explains Caroline Sharkey. A licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) on the faculty of the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work in Athens, Sharkey heard the story from a librarian acquaintance who witnessed the incident.

As it happened, the woman had experienced domestic violence that led to her becoming homeless. According to the acquaintance, the stern words and gesture of a probably well-meaning worker had reignited that trauma, leaving her feeling far less safe than before she stepped inside.

Sharkey, who is program coordinator for Athens-Clarke County (Ga.) Library’s (ACCL) Trauma-Informed Library Transformation initiative, suggests that we imagine a different scenario.

Ideally, the library could provide a place for patrons to store their things. Failing that, Sharkey says, “this would be an opportunity for staffers to smile, keep their hands down, and speak in a tone of voice that’s welcoming but firm: ‘Hey, I want to remind you that we don’t allow people to come in with extra bags. If you wouldn’t mind finding a place to store those, we’d love to have you come back afterward.’”

The difference between these scenarios? In the latter, the library worker is using a trauma-informed tactic.

## A new method

Over the last 30 years, trauma-informed approaches have gradually been adopted by mental

health facilities, criminal justice institutions, and substance-abuse treatment centers. The basic idea, as Sharkey explains it: “Even though we don’t know everyone’s story, we can assume that people have had experiences that could be traumatizing—such as a history of abuse or mental health issues—and therefore we want to be very thoughtful about how we navigate interactions with them.” That shift in perception is often characterized as a movement away from thinking, “What’s wrong with this person?” and instead asking, “What happened to this person?”

Now, as more libraries bring social workers on staff, these new trauma-informed approaches are changing not just policies and protocols that affect patrons, but those involving staff as well.

“We provide training on trauma-informed services and approaches, and that includes how trauma often underlies experiences of homelessness, mental health issues, and more,” explains Elissa Hardy, LCSW and community resource manager of Denver Public Library (DPL). “Within that, we offer specific approaches on how to deescalate a situation through a trauma-informed lens.”

For example, DPL’s previous protocol called for summoning the police when a patron was found injecting illegal drugs in the library’s bathroom. Because drug abuse often indicates a history of trauma, this procedure can shame and retraumatize someone. “And it was also stressful for the staff to sit

with that person and wait for the police to come,” Hardy points out.

Today, if patrons are found in that situation, a member of the library’s social work team is dispatched to connect them with a harm-reduction program or a source for clean needles. Of course, “it’s still against our library-use policy” for patrons to use drugs onsite, Hardy says. “People still do get suspended from the library, but at least they’ve first made a connection with a social worker.”

ACCL began incorporating its trauma-informed approach in January, thanks to an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant that allowed it to bring in a team of students and staff from the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work. In addition to providing training sessions on trauma for

staffers, the team has its own office hours in the library so that patrons in need can consult with social workers on request.

Valerie Bell, executive director of Athens Regional Library System, emphasizes that the trauma-informed approach applies not only to patrons but to library workers as well. In fact, “for me, that’s one of the biggest parts—the self-care for staff,” she says. For example, librarians who have difficult encounters with patrons are now encouraged to take a five-minute break in a private area to calm themselves and regroup.

How can libraries begin to work toward becoming trauma informed? “It’s not like there’s a *Trauma-Informed Library: The Manual*,” says Alicia Doktor. “There is no road map; we’re creating this

as we go along.” A former branch supervisor for Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library, Doktor is now a network manager at ACEs Connection, a social network for organizations implementing trauma-informed and resilience-building practices.

She urges libraries that would like to become trauma informed, particularly those without a social worker on staff, to begin by asking themselves, “Who are the community partners we can use?”

“It’s going to take a lot of perseverance for people to develop this model, to bring social work into the library creatively,” Doktor says. “It isn’t something we’re going to get in a webinar. This is a challenge to our profession.” **AL**

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

## LIVE PODCAST TAPING

# 50 Years of the CSK Book Awards

Join *American Libraries* for a conversation about the Coretta Scott King Book Awards with past winners and honorees, including:



**Jason Reynolds**  
Author



**Ekoa Holmes**  
Illustrator



**Christopher Myers**  
Illustrator

**Saturday,  
June 22  
at 9 a.m.**

PopTop  
Stage in the  
Exhibit Hall

The talk will be taped for a future episode of the *Dewey Decibel* podcast.

american  
libraries

# DEWEY DECIBEL

PODCAST



**BRAND NEW** Custom Graphics!

KEEP YOUR LOOK  
**Fresh!**



**11% Off** **Free Shipping!**

— PLUS —



EXTERIOR

INTERIOR

THRU WALL

BOOK TRUCK

Contact us today to take advantage of this offer or visit our website to see our full line of book returns:

**(888) 268-0294 | [bookdrops.com](http://bookdrops.com)**





A Louisville (Ohio) Public Library patron uses an LED softie, a large beanbag cushion with an integrated light source and fiber optics, that produces a calming effect.

The space is divided into two sections to help tailor the experience to specific needs. One section is filled with tactile objects providing physical interaction, delighting those who are understimulated in daily life and helping those with early onset dementia. These objects include an interactive balance beam, a musical vibration bench, and touch-sensitive walls. For example, the IRiS Musical Touch Wall from Experia helps users develop cause-and-effect skills, color and number recognition, and hand-eye coordination through its use of vibrant LED lights and touch sensitivity.

The second section is a relaxation area. Designed to limit stimuli for those who are overly stimulated, like children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the relaxation section is full of soothing colors, dim lights, and optical illusions.

The Discovery Center hosts weekly programs including story-time, adult relaxation yoga, and playtime. The space can also be reserved for groups to ensure that everyone has full access to all that the room has to offer.

“The Discovery Center is designed for the special needs community, but all our patrons benefit.”

**JASON BUYDOS**, director of the Louisville (Ohio) Public Library

# A Sensory Wonderland

A programming space for the special needs community

Louisville (Ohio) Public Library opened its innovative Sensory Space in August 2018 with the help of a \$50,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant. It offers teen sensory relaxation sessions, adult sensory exploration, sensory story-times, and other activities for patrons on the autism spectrum. Louisville is one of the first public libraries to offer a free multisensory environment, which is housed in the library’s Discovery Center.

BY Michael Damron

**M**otor coordination, concentration, color recognition, understanding cause and effect—these are some of the skills Louisville Public Library hopes to amplify in the children and adults with special needs who use its new Sensory Space. It’s not a large room; it can hold only 24 individuals at a time, and it is often at capacity. But it is a unique space for sensory exploration and programming. “It’s the only library in the state of Ohio offering something like this,” Library Director Jason Buydos says. “It is potentially an example of what libraries could or should be offering nationally.”

The idea came from two staff members who have children on the autism spectrum. Through an LSTA grant, the library built a space whose visual and auditory environment is controlled and designed for children and adults on the spectrum. Those with sensory integration issues find the Sensory Space particularly helpful, but even those who don’t need help with motor skills will enjoy the experience. “Although the Discovery Center is designed for the special needs community,” Buydos says, “all of our patrons can benefit from the programming hosted in the sensory space.”

## GLOBAL REACH

## WWII Trove Returned



Book of Hours  
in Latin (south-  
ern Netherlands  
[Bruges]),  
ca. 1460–1470

**GERMANY** In 2017, a Belgian woman named Tania Grégoire sent a trove of 150 antique books to Sotheby's auction house in London. Experts discovered that many of the books were missing title pages and bindings, which is where a library stamp usually appears. Some library marks, however, were still visible, and the experts linked the books to the University of Bonn. Michael Herkenhoff, the university library's curator of manuscripts, said it's possible that during World War II Belgian

soldiers plundered the book depots for valuable volumes. Grégoire led authorities to 450 more volumes stored in her garage in Brussels, beginning the process of repatriation for more than 600 books.

—*Smithsonian SmartNews*, Apr. 15; *Sotheby's*, Apr. 12; *The Art Newspaper*, Apr. 11.

**SPAIN** The Taber School in Barcelona has withdrawn from its library some 200 classic children's books, including *Sleeping Beauty* and *Little Red Riding Hood*, because of their depiction of sexist stereotypes. After analyzing the contents of its library for children up to age 6, school officials found that around a third of its stories were "toxic," and that only 10% of the books were written with female-positive characters. Anna Tutzó, who was on the commission that looked at the books, said gender bias pervades fairy tales and that the change of gender roles in society "is not being reflected in stories."

—*Newsweek*, Apr. 11; *El País (Barcelona)*, Apr. 11.

**SOUTH AFRICA** The South African Library for the Blind (the only library serving blind persons in southern Africa) celebrated 100 years in operation in Grahamstown on March 28. The day kicked off with a launch of its book *South African Library for the Blind: A Diary of the Library*. The library was founded during the height of the 1918 global influenza pandemic by a local nurse, Josephine (Josie) Wood, who established a small library in a little room in her house in 1919.—*Department of Arts and Culture, Pretoria*, Mar. 29.

**CANADA** Two services that operate interlibrary loans across Ontario, deliver books, and provide support and training for library staff took a huge hit in April from the provincial government in order to address a \$11.7 billion budget deficit. The Southern Ontario Library Service and the Ontario Library Service–North will see their budgets halved for the 2019–2020 fiscal year. A Change.org petition launched after the announcement called on the government to reverse its decision.—*Toronto Star*, Apr. 18; *Toronto Sun*, Apr. 19; *HuffPost*, Apr. 21. ●

The center opened its doors in August 2018 and was met with overwhelming interest and support from the community and throughout Ohio. Within its first week of operation, the Sensory Space saw more than 1,000 visitors—quickly reaching a goal that the library had hoped to achieve over the first year.

Staffers give frequent tours of the space to other librarians in the hope that this programming model will be duplicated at other libraries throughout the country. At the conclusion of every tour, excited librarians leave the building abuzz with numerous ideas that they take back to their communities.

Area schools and a local hospital have contacted the library to develop partnerships, and a nearby college teaches an education course in the Sensory Space as part of its curriculum for special needs educators.

Kristen Werstler, activities and events department assistant, has noticed firsthand the impact that the Sensory Space has had on the community. "A class of special needs students regularly attends our storytimes," Werstler says. "We have four Noisy Sound Walls, each of which depicts a different scene—a farm, a jungle, a city, and the galaxy. When I read a book about farm animals, I have the children take turns pressing the walls so we hear all the farm animals. This helps them associate real sounds with the words on the page, further developing their cognitive recognition."

"I can mostly speak for my daughter, a teen with Asperger's high-functioning autism and ADHD," says library patron Deborah Long. "The Sensory Space is one of her favorite places on earth." **AL**

**MICHAEL DAMRON** is communications manager for Louisville (Ohio) Public Library, which encourages anyone who is interested in learning about sensory programming in a library setting to call 330-875-1696 or contact public.relations@louisvillelibrary.org.

# Tomi Adeyemi

Author brings magic to YA fiction



**T**omi Adeyemi's debut YA novel *Children of Blood and Bone* (Henry Holt and Co., 2018) follows Zélie, who fights to bring magic back to her people in Orisha (named for Orisha, the Yoruba deities) under their ruthless monarchy. A film version is in development; the second book, *Children of Virtue and Vengeance*, is due in December.

Adeyemi will be an Auditorium Speaker at the 2019 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C., on June 24. *American Libraries* spoke with her about writing, her inspirations, and the importance of representation in media.

**From being a *New York Times* best-selling debut author to getting a movie deal, what has been the most surprising part of your career so far?** All of it is surprising. I still don't think of myself as a published author or the creator of *Children of Blood and Bone*, because most of my life I was doing all of these things. I was just doing them alone in my room. And in one sense, I still do these things alone in my room.

I've become aware of myself, I've had to grow in myself and become self-confident and go through all these challenges. But just as a human,

personality-wise, I'm still a huge nerd. I still just want to talk about K-pop and watch *The Last Airbender*.

***Children of Blood and Bone* is an epic fantasy that combines West African mythology and culture with police brutality and Black Lives Matter. Can you talk about how you weave these stories together and the inspiration behind your work?**

The inspiration came from a handful of different sources. From a purely creative standpoint, I was in a gift shop in Brazil just trying to avoid the rain. But then I saw these postcards with the Orisha on them, and I never even imagined there could be black gods and goddesses. Seeing that image exploded my imagination wide open, and the world of Orisha came to me pretty quickly, but I didn't have the story—I could see the magic system, I could see they were riding magical lions, but I didn't know what they were doing there.

The not-so-fun part is, my freshman year of college [2012] was when Trayvon Martin was shot, and it was also when *The Hunger Games* movie came out, and there was this bizarre backlash against the black characters because they were black. It was heart-breaking to me, but both of those were the start of my realization of how

far we still have to go and how deep hatred still runs.

**Box office numbers for movies like *Black Panther* and *The Hate U Give* show audiences crave representation in media, and a recent *Guardian* article ([bit.ly/AL-DiverseBooks](http://bit.ly/AL-DiverseBooks)) refers to a "seismic shift" in the diversity of US children's books.**

**Do you think we're on the cusp of a huge change regarding diversity in book publishing?** I'm really militant about representation because I know about the devastating effects [the lack of] it had on me. In my earliest stories, I had no problem putting myself in those adventures, but there was a 10-year period where I was still writing the adventures and fantasies that I wanted to have, but I was writing

#### MORE ONLINE

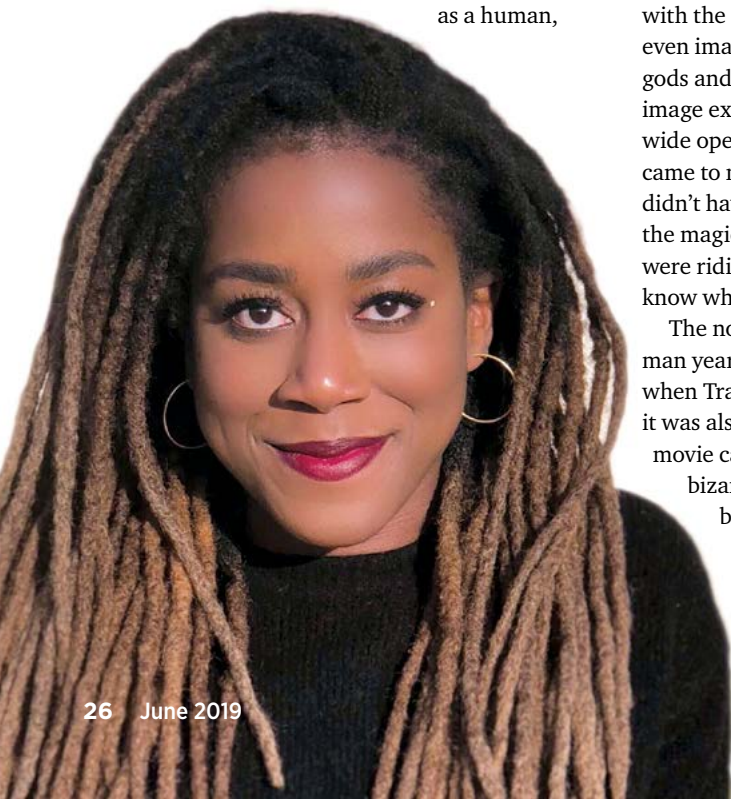
For the extended interview, visit [bit.ly/AL-Adeyemi](http://bit.ly/AL-Adeyemi) after June 3.

them as a white person or as a biracial person. I didn't show my stories to anyone until I was 21

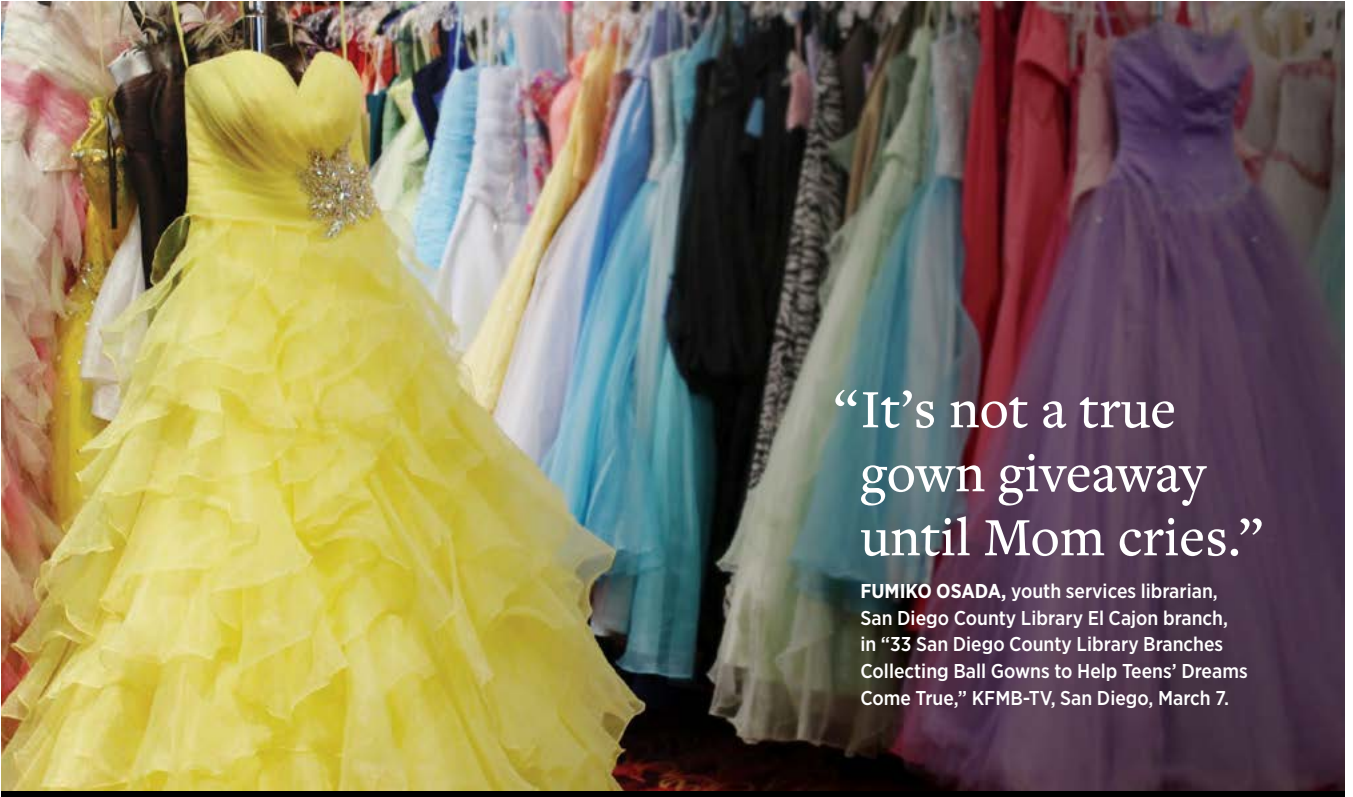
because I had internalized that black people couldn't be in stories and have adventures, so I literally couldn't put myself in my own imagination. I think we're making great strides, but we can't get complacent.

**What role have libraries played in your life?** Libraries hold a really special part of my childhood because I was this literate child during the summer reading challenges, who was like, "I'm going to read 50 Magic Tree House books, I'm going to get five Airheads"—they really made reading currency. And I loved it. When I think of libraries, I smile because so much of my summer was wrapped up in it.

You know how you laminate books for libraries? When I see that for *Children of Blood and Bone*, it's so official. And it feels really special. And whenever someone's like, "There's 200 holds [on it]," that's wild! **AL**







“It’s not a true gown giveaway until Mom cries.”

**FUMIKO OSADA**, youth services librarian, San Diego County Library El Cajon branch, in “33 San Diego County Library Branches Collecting Ball Gowns to Help Teens’ Dreams Come True,” KFMB-TV, San Diego, March 7.

“Westerners use their labels, so it makes tribes invisible. This is a way of reestablishing identity and saying these are our names and these our people.”

**ADOLFO TARANGO**, acting head librarian at Xwi7xwa Library, in “This Library Takes an Indigenous Approach to Categorizing Books,” *YES! Magazine*, March 22.

“More than a trend, we believe this is a seismic shift in children’s publishing and affirmation of the diverse experiences of all children and families in the United States. The data tells us that there is an increased chance for a child to walk into a local bookstore or library and find titles that reflect the racial and cultural diversity of this country.”

**NICOLE JOHNSON**, executive director of We Need Diverse Books, in “Campaigners Hail ‘Seismic Shift’ in Diversity of US Children’s Books,” *The Guardian* (UK), March 22.

“You can’t feed people the truth, but you can give them the means to access it, archive it, and preserve it.”

**ALISON BECHDEL**, author and cartoonist, at the Association of College and Research Libraries 2019 Conference Closing Session, April 13.

“LIBRARIANS ARE TEACHERS.... I DIDN’T REALIZE THAT WE AS A STATE REQUIRE OUR LIBRARIANS TO HAVE SPENT TWO YEARS IN THE CLASSROOM.”

**TEXAS REP. JANE NELSON** (R-Flower Mound), in “Texas Senate Unanimously Passes \$5,000 Teacher Pay Raises, Adding Librarians,” *The Texas Tribune*, March 4.





# 50 Years

OF THE

*Coretta Scott King*

BOOK AWARDS

1969

A conversation with nine winners and committee members who have been part of the influential children's book awards

AS TOLD TO Anne Ford



*Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush. A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich.*

This is just the smallest smattering of titles that have won Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Awards in the last half-century. Founded in 1969, the awards have become the mark of excellence for books that are authored or illustrated by African Americans and that demonstrate an appreciation of African-American culture and universal human values. In addition to awards and honors for authors and illustrators, the John Steptoe Award for New Talent and the CSK–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement are also presented annually.

*American Libraries* celebrates this amazing half-century of excellence by sharing stories and thoughts from nine of the awards' winners and committee members.

**When you were a child, did you have access to many books that featured black characters?**

**ASHLEY BRYAN:** No, not when I was growing up.

**ELOISE GREENFIELD:** In the 1930s, I didn't encounter any books with African-American characters, but I didn't know that the characters depicted were supposed to be white people. They didn't look like the white people I saw. Many books used line drawings, black lines around white paper. Later, I knew better.

**CLAIRE HARTFIELD:** When I was a kid—I mostly had my childhood in the Sixties—I don't remember black people being portrayed much in mainstream culture at all. The civil rights movement was going on at the same time, so I was well aware of Martin

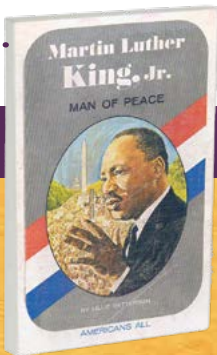
Luther King Jr. and the Black Panther Party, but it didn't trickle down into the books I was given. As a little kid, I didn't think, "Gee, why are there no portrayals?" It was more along the lines of: "Well, that's just the way it is." No one ever asked me about it. It wasn't till later that I realized there was an absence.

I used to read books about little girls a lot, and one of my favorite series was [Sydney Taylor's] All-of-a-Kind Family, which features a Jewish family. That was as close as I got to feeling like, "Okay, here's a family that's more like my family, not the typical white Christian family."

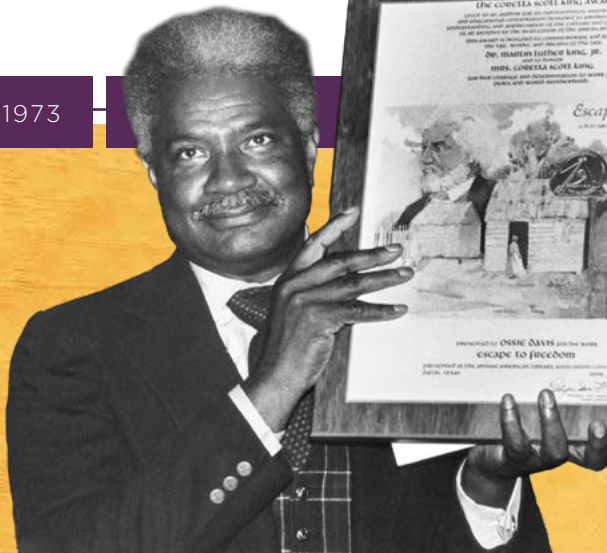
**BRYAN COLLIER:** There were only a few that really have stuck with me over the years. One is *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats [published in 1962]. I remember opening it up, and I noticed that Peter

Illustration on facing page by Ekua Holmes, winner of the 2018 Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Award for *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*.

1970



1973

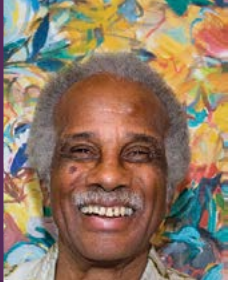


1979

Lillie Patterson was the inaugural winner of the CSK Book Award for *Martin Luther King Jr.: Man of Peace*

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





**ASHLEY BRYAN**

Recipient of the 2012 CSK-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement and three-time winner of the CSK award for illustration



**BRYAN COLLIER**

Has won the CSK Book Awards six times for illustration, most recently in 2016 for *Trombone Shorty*



**CAROLYN GARNES**

CSK Book Awards marketing chair and former deputy director of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System. From 1993 to 1997, she chaired the CSK Task Force, now known as the CSK Book Awards Committee



**ELOISE GREENFIELD**

Recipient of the 2018 CSK-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. In addition to six CSK author honor books, she wrote *Africa Dream*, winner of the 1978 author award



**CLAIRE HARTFIELD**

Won the 2019 CSK author award for *A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919*

and I looked just alike, and I remembered I had the same pajama print that Peter had in the book. I was 4 years old, and it just hit me at a visceral level. It felt almost bigger than magic.

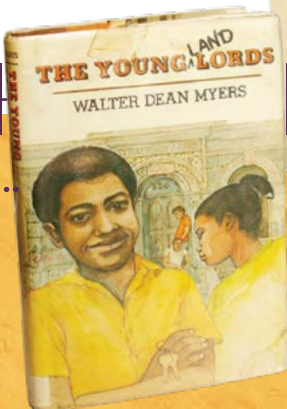
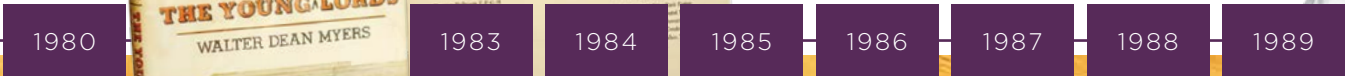
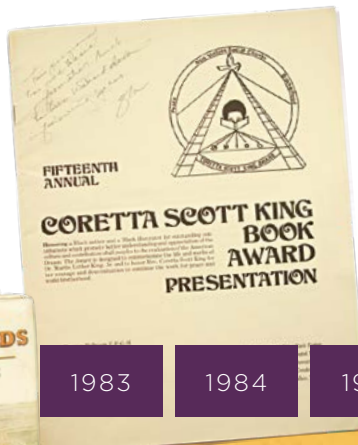
**DEBORAH TAYLOR:** I was a young adult librarian in the early to mid-1970s, and I worked in a majority-African-American community. If there were books about race, they were about the “Negro problem,” so to speak, never by anyone actually growing up and living through those experiences. You could find an occasional biography, but there was not a lot. And many of the books that were about African-American life were not written by African Americans. A little bit later, we started to get books by Walter Dean Myers, and things like [Mildred Taylor’s] *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*.

**SATIA ORANGE:** I’m almost 77. I’ll tell you what I had: I had *Little Black Sambo* [by Helen Bannerman].

*In 1969, the Coretta Scott King Book Award was founded by school librarians Mabel McKissick and Glyndon Greer, who met by chance at the ALA Annual Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey.*

**CAROLYN GARNES:** They were in the exhibit hall, and they were going to the booth of John Carroll, a book publisher, and he had posters of Martin Luther King Jr. [to give away]. They arrived at his booth at the same time, and John had only one poster left. Anyway, they were preparing to go to the Newbery-Caldecott banquet, and they said, “No African American has ever won,” and were lamenting that. And John Carroll said to them, “Why don’t you ladies start your own award?” They looked at him and decided to take him up on that idea.

Mrs. Greer was friends with Coretta Scott King. This was the year after Dr. King had died. Mrs. Greer said, “You know, so much is being named for Dr. King. We need to not name this award King,” so she thought of Coretta, her friend and his widow. She called Mrs. King and asked would she mind if we named the award for her. Mrs. King said yes, not knowing what the devil Mrs. Greer was naming for her.



*Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale* by John Steptoe





**CLAUDETTE MCLINN**

Chair of the CSK Awards Committee and executive director of the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature, a California-based nonprofit



**SATIA ORANGE**

Former director of ALA's Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (now known as the Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services) and former staff liaison to ALA's Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table



**JAVAKA STEPTOE**

Two-time winner of the CSK Book Award for illustration and the son of author and illustrator John Steptoe, for whom the CSK-John Steptoe Award for New Talent is named



**DEBORAH TAYLOR**

Recipient of the 2015 CSK-Virginia Hamilton Practitioner Award for Lifetime Achievement and former coordinator of school and student services for Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library. She chaired the CSK Book Awards Committee from 2007 to 2009

The founders had to struggle for submissions in the beginning, because there were not many African-American books in publication.

**ORANGE:** A couple of years later, Mrs. King came and spoke at the awards breakfast, and afterward she stayed for about an hour and shook hands and talked to individuals. The best part was, she called it "my award."

*Each year, ALA announces the winners of the top books for children and young adults, including the Coretta Scott King Book Awards, at its Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, while the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast is held at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition.*

**What do you remember about either winning your first Coretta Scott King Book Award, or making the call to tell others that they'd won?**

**GREENFIELD:** "Oh my goodness, I received *the call!*"

**JAVAKA STEPTOE:** Whenever Midwinter comes around, there's always a thought in the back of your head: "Am I gonna get a phone call or not?" They always call you at the crack of dawn. [*laughs*]

**GARNES:** People have asked me, "Why is the Coretta Scott King breakfast held so early in the morning?" Well, ALA's Annual Conference schedule was already established. We planned the breakfast for 7:30 in the morning so it wouldn't interfere with other activities. And you know, the committee doesn't want to change.

**COLLIER:** I didn't know anything about the Coretta Scott King Book Awards, and I got this call at six in the morning the day of the award, librarians screaming on the phone. They told me I'd won, and I said, "Okay," and then I hung the phone up and went back to sleep. They [*called back and*] said, "No, no, no, this is bigger than you think this is." I was pleased and excited in some regard, but I didn't know exactly what I was excited about until later. When I fully understood what the award meant, it was a great feeling.

Photo: Oscar & Associates Inc. (King)



1993

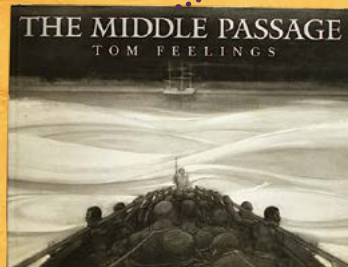
1994

1995

1996

1997

Coretta Scott King speaking at the CSK Awards Breakfast at the 1993 ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans





**TAYLOR:** I was jury chair in 2000, when *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis won both the Coretta Scott King Book Award and the Newbery Medal. That was really special. It must have been Dr. King's birthday when we were making the call, because [Curtis] kept saying, "And all on Dr. King's birthday! All on Dr. King's birthday!" I'll never forget it.

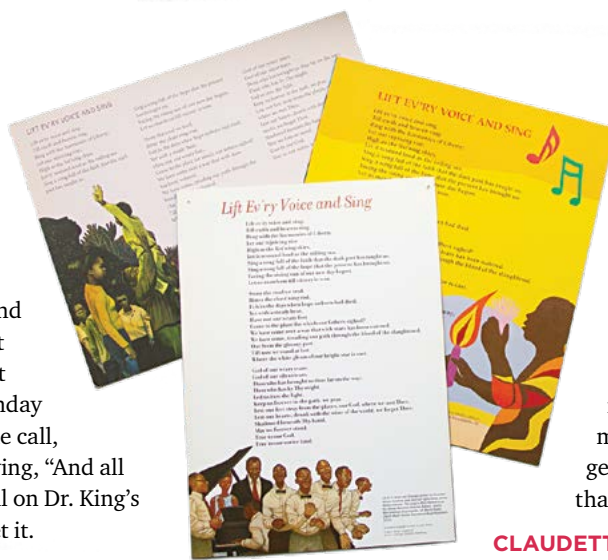
**HARTFIELD:** I was at the gym on the elliptical, listening to music through my phone, and the phone rang, and I looked at the caller ID, and it was something from Seattle. So I just clicked it off, and the music came back on. Then it rang again, same number. So I picked up, and there was this voice that said, "Hello, is this Claire Hartfield? We just want to tell you you've won the Coretta Scott King Book Award." It felt surreal. We talked for a few minutes, and then I went back to chugging away on the elliptical, trying to process it.

**GARNES:** They're excited, and they know the CSK award is a stamp of approval for that book, it's going to pretty much stay in print, and libraries all over the country are going to purchase it.

**What influence have the CSK awards had on your career?**

**COLLIER:** It took me seven years to get my first book deal. I went door to door to every publisher once a week with a portfolio. Over and over again. But once I got the award, I got 10 offers the next year.

**HARTFIELD:** Of course, I'm happy for myself, but what makes me happiest is that I've been trying to get people to know the history of what has come before. I was driven by a desire to contribute not just any old story that I was interested in, but to fill a chunk of history that no one had



Program books from past CSK Book Awards breakfasts. The event, held during the ALA Annual Conference, recognizes award winners and honorees.

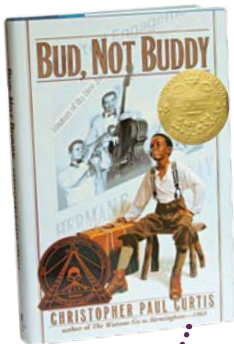
written about and that I felt was valuable for little kids to see. Through this award, I'm realizing that goal. I'm getting so many more inquiries. I feel like it's getting out there to the public, and that's really what I wanted.

**CLAUDETTE MCLINN:** The Coretta Scott King awards have launched the careers of many major authors and illustrators, and if it wasn't for the award, we wouldn't have this great body of work that is a part of children's literature now.

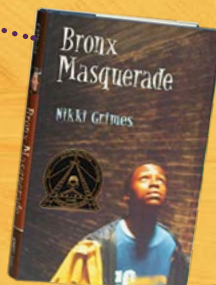
From 1992 to 2011, I had a multicultural children's bookstore in Los Angeles called Bright Lights. The majority of the books were African American. I recall a lady in her 90s coming in, and she started crying. She said, "I have never seen any book that looked like me." A lot of parents were overwhelmed. They said, "I just never knew there were so many books about us."

**STEPH TOE:** People like shiny things, so when they see a book with a medal on it, they say, "Oh, this must be a good book." So where a book might be overlooked, someone might then take a second look. When they become familiar with the CSK awards, they come to expect excellence. They say history is written by the victors. I am very happy and excited that I can have agency in how the story is being told.

**GARNES:** When my branch [at Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System] came up on its 35th anniversary, I knew I wanted to do something special, so I wrote a grant to develop my African-American children's collection. I actually got to order the [Coretta Scott King Book Award-winning] books. It was a rewarding experience. I had that collection in a special place, so when patrons walked in, they couldn't miss it. Some of the parents just went straight there.



*Uptown* by Bryan Collier





## How has the landscape of children's publishing changed in the last 50 years vis-à-vis African Americans?

**BRYAN:** A librarian can help a family now by directing them to books about black children and black people. There's much to refer to now.

**MCLINN:** It's better than what it was. But it's still not enough for me. It's not enough at all.

**HARTFIELD:** There are strides being made, for sure, and I definitely applaud that. But if we did not have the CSK awards, I think that a lot of really important children's literature by African Americans would fly under the radar. The reality is that getting an honor means something to the public, it just does. It's hard enough to get literature out into the world in any meaningful way, period, no matter what your race is.

By highlighting and spotlighting African-American literature specifically, it fills a hole in people's knowledge. You want African-American kids to grow up with lots of stories that represent them, the ones I didn't have when I was a kid. It gives you a different sense of self. I also think it's important for kids who are not of color, to incorporate into their world kids who are not like them in terms of how they look and what their experiences are.

**STEPTOE:** Whenever I go to ALA Annual, I see the same people most of the time. I love them, but there's enough of us to have a lot more fresh blood, you know?

That has to do not just with having [black] authors and illustrators but having people of color within the infrastructure of children's books—the sellers, the marketers, the editors. I haven't really seen that much change in those aspects. It would be good for younger generations to think about jobs in the publishing industry and library science.

**GARNES:** I am really proud of the African-American children's literature that exists today. There is a rich body of books available for children to enjoy, for adults to share



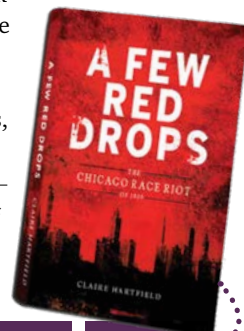
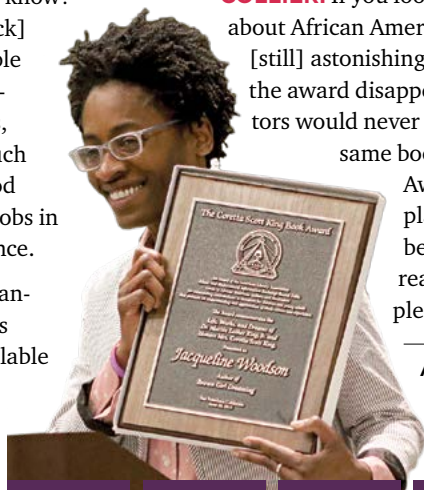
Ashley Bryan autographs one of his books at the 2012 CSK Book Awards Breakfast in Anaheim, California, where he received the Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement.

with children. It's still not where we would like it in terms of the number of books published.

African-American authors and illustrators still need that recognition of the CSK award to recognize their talent. Let's take Walter Dean Myers, for instance. He has won more Coretta Scott King awards than any other author: six awards and six honors. Myers was one of the authors who got young black boys reading. I don't think he would have achieved the level of literary success if he had not been recognized by the Coretta Scott King Book Awards.

**COLLIER:** If you look at books published and written about African Americans made by African Americans, it's [still] astonishingly low, like 1%–2% of the business. If the award disappeared, oftentimes writers and illustrators would never get recognized, even if they made the same book. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards were designed to level the playing field. The world would be empty without it. Continue reading and supporting the books, please. All hands on deck. **AL**

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



Jacqueline Woodson accepts the CSK Book Award for *brown girl dreaming* in 2015



*Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* by Javaka Steptoe

# Your Library Needs to Speak to You

Getting ahead of the voice assistant hype

BY Carrie Smith

**P**aige can recommend a book and tell you about resources available at her school library. And she's always ready with a joke if you need one. Included in her comic cache: "The past, present, and future walked into the library. It was tense!"

Paige isn't a librarian. She's not even human. She's a chatbot—a basic virtual assistant, programmed with a decision tree of potential questions, their answers, and code telling the bot how to respond. Cynthia Sandler, library media specialist at North Salem (N.Y.) Middle School and High School, created Paige in 2017 to help her students interact with the library through its website.

At the end of 2018, about 41% of US consumers owned a smart speaker—almost twice as many as in 2017—most of which were equipped with Amazon's virtual assistant, Alexa. Still more have access to voice assistants on their phones with Siri and Google Assistant. As the number of people interacting with their devices by voice grows, some libraries are exploring ways to build their presence on voice

platforms. Customized apps—which Alexa calls "skills" and Google Assistant calls "actions"—allow the virtual assistants to answer queries and find information in specialized ways. Libraries are using these voice assistant functions for event calendars, catalog searches, holds, and advocacy.

At North Salem, Sandler began experimenting with chatbots and virtual assistants after Gary Green, the district's



Students at North Salem (N.Y.) Middle School and High School interact with a Google Home smart speaker.

technology director, noticed his 3rd-grade daughter was using the family's Amazon Echo to ask Alexa for answers to her math homework.

"Gary and I are always looking for innovative things to do," Sandler says. "[Voice assistants are] something that the students are so familiar with that we as adults might still be blown away by."

The duo has since built chatbots for professional development events and to collect feedback and reflections after classes. And they're now teaching students to build their own.

Students have asked for virtual assistants that will give homework help, guide test prep, and even provide emotional support. When Sandler and Green polled them, one of the top requests was for a voice assistant that could talk to them when they're stressed. "A group of middle schoolers said they love talking [to Paige] because it's nonjudgmental," Green says.

"That's why I added the jokes to Paige," says Sandler.

### **It takes library skills**

In many ways, the current landscape for voice technology is similar to the advent of mobile apps, according to Nicole Hennig, e-learning developer at University of Arizona Libraries and author of *Siri, Alexa, and Other Digital Assistants: The Librarian's Quick Guide* (Libraries Unlimited, 2018). Voice search has "a lot of promise for people with disabilities, for elderly people, or opening up our skills to more people," Hennig says. With the ever-growing popularity and use of these devices, she says librarians should become familiar with this technology and try it for themselves: "Now is a good time to experiment and gather data about what works and what doesn't work for your community."

For Paige's next iteration, Sandler is migrating her onto a new platform to give her a voice and allow her to respond to spoken commands with Google actions.



"If you're looking to get into this, there are many, many tutorials out there on the web," Sandler says.

Sandler believes that this technology is here to stay. People will "continue to seek immediate, personalized information in conversation," she says. As a result, having tailor-made information accessible on voice platforms is important. "We can develop skills that our particular students need answers to," Sandler says. "That will be the key: to find out what information is unique to a place that generic Alexa won't be able to address."

In 2018, Spokane (Wash.) Public Library (SPL) staffers were brainstorming ways to get the word out about the city's upcoming bond election, which had the potential to fund three new library buildings and remodel four others. SPL's IT team stepped up with an unusual suggestion: What about an Alexa skill?

A few days later, SPL users could install the "Imagine the future of Spokane Public Library" skill and ask Alexa for information about the bond: proposed branch changes, how to comment, and where to get more information. "It wasn't an advocacy campaign," says Amanda Donovan, communications director at SPL. "It was a campaign to educate the public on what would happen if it failed and what would happen if it passed."

Staffers placed Echo Dots—the smallest Alexa-enabled speakers—in each branch with signs that prompted patrons to ask "Alexa, imagine the library." "It was a novelty, and it was a really fun thing to do," Donovan says. People interacted with Echo Dots in the libraries, and others downloaded the skill to their own smart speakers. Patrons queried the skill 90 times.

"We did a lot of work to get information out to the public," Donovan says. The bond passed in November, "and I like to think that the Alexa skill was just a small part of that."

### **Adding complexity**

In 2017, Iowa State University (ISU) Libraries in Ames developed its own skill, IowaStateLibFacts, to share information on collections, art, library spaces, and library history. "It was a pretty simple skill, but it gave us some experience in terms of what it takes to actually

develop an Alexa skill," says Greg Davis, assistant director for information technology at ISU. "It's not the hardest thing in the world to do, but it also isn't trivial."

While there wasn't much demand at the time for this skill, Davis and his colleagues wanted to get ahead of the trend after reading reports on the growth of smart assistants. With incoming students, they thought, "It's going to be a matter of time before they wanted to have access to library information through their smart systems as well," Davis says.

Last year, ISU Libraries expanded the skill. But in trying to create all the various ways a user can ask a question and then convert that data so the software can find the requested information, Davis says they encountered a roadblock.

"That's where it got beyond us in terms of trying to anticipate all those different ways someone may ask the question," he says. So ISU Libraries turned to ThickStat (now known as ConverSight.ai), a company that specializes in voice search skills. The new skill, Parks Libro, allows Alexa to answer more complicated questions, including catalog searches by title, author, or genre, as well as event searches.

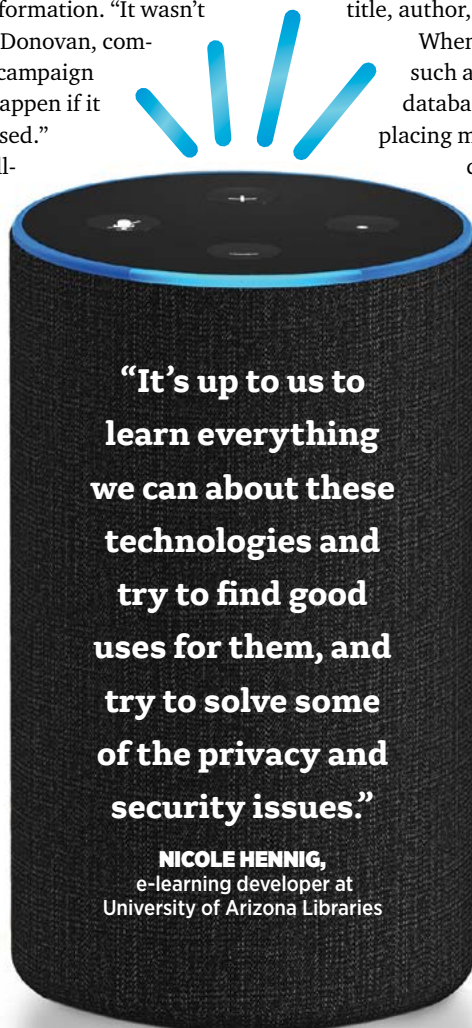
When it comes to more complicated skills—such as using voice assistants to conduct a database search or enter information, like placing materials on hold—the research and development necessary can be beyond a library's means.

Davis predicts that library vendors will eventually "provide these types of capabilities out of the box."

Public libraries already have some voice options for digital offerings through vendors. For instance, users of OverDrive's Libby app can ask questions via Google Assistant; they can query the app for recommended titles, search the catalog, or reserve materials. The company is planning to expand the platform in the near future to make voice search services more accessible for libraries, according to Steve Potash, CEO of OverDrive.

He acknowledges that companies like OverDrive have the resources and scale to tackle these types of technological innovations more easily than individual libraries can.

"We have the opportunity to do some [research and development] with holdings outside the library, such as major open educational



**"It's up to us to learn everything we can about these technologies and try to find good uses for them, and try to solve some of the privacy and security issues."**

**NICOLE HENNIG,**  
e-learning developer at  
University of Arizona Libraries



Spokane (Wash.) Public Library installed Echo Dots around the building so users could ask about the library's upcoming bond election.

resource materials,” Potash says. “In some cases, these are things that libraries themselves would be doing if they had the resources. In some cases, we become a willing agent.”

### Community skill set

For libraries that lack time or expertise to build their own skill or a budget to hire a developer, Hennig suggests they turn to experts within their communities. “Get in touch with people who are making informal skills and chat with them,” she advises.

For example, there are skills in the Alexa Skill Store for Houston Public Library and Los Angeles Public Library made by people who are unaffiliated with either library.

And in 2017, a patron approached Delaware County (Ohio) District Library (DCDL) about creating a voice assistant skill. Avneet Sarang, a local app developer, creates Alexa skills for his family as a hobby. When Sarang asked Alexa what was going on at the library, “of course she had no idea because nothing like that had been programmed,” says Nicole Fowles, communications manager at DCDL.

Sarang then brought the idea of creating a skill to the library. DCDL staffers surveyed other patrons to gauge interest and soon agreed to partner with Sarang’s consulting company to build it.

At first it started out small, providing branch hours and events information, but it has plans to evolve. “It would be very easy to say ‘Does the library have this book? Can you reserve it for me?’ That’s our next step,” Fowles says. “We’re very excited about just how the overall scale continues to grow and suit our patrons’ needs.”

Engagement within the community has been strong. Fowles says the library initially promoted the skill through press releases, the library website, and staff members, but patrons are now recommending it to one another.

Part of the appeal, too, is the ability to support a local entrepreneur. Sarang has gone on to develop Alexa skills for other libraries in the area as well.

### Voices of concern

As with any new technology, working with voice computing presents challenges. Most voice assistants run on third-party platforms, and many—including Alexa and Google Assistant—store recordings of requests until a user deletes them.

In New York, the state’s board of regents is considering an amendment that could limit the use of voice assistants in schools because of the potential risk of exposing students’ personally identifiable information. Hennig says that understanding these possible risks is key. “It’s a good idea to keep up with all of those issues and educate yourself about it,” she says, “rather than dismiss it out of hand.”

For Sandler and Green, it comes down to conscious design. “We’re not so concerned if Google knows that somebody wants to know what’s for lunch every day,” says Green. “When we’re doing the design or pre-design, we’re constantly thinking about ensuring that there’s no personal information.”

Another concern is that the systems sometimes stumble with proper names. SPL had trouble sharing information on its Shadle branch. “Alexa was having a hard time with the way [it’s] pronounced [SHAY-dole],” Donovan says. “You had to know how to pronounce it the wrong way, I guess, to talk to her about it. So that was a little tricky.”

“There are a lot of mispronunciations,” agrees Potash. “All of this natural language processing and AI is based on having giant data sets that keep correcting and improving.”

Fowles says DCDL will “need to stay on our game” with development. “It’s not something that can just sit there and run in the background.” While she acknowledges this could be daunting for some libraries, she remains enthusiastic. “For me it’s exciting.”

“So many experts are saying that this is the next big wave of computing,” Hennig says. “It’s up to us to learn everything we can about these technologies and try to find good uses for them, and try to solve some of the privacy and security issues. We should try to be involved in making them go in a good direction.” **AL**



**CARRIE SMITH** is editorial and advertising assistant for *American Libraries*.



# GIVE THEM SHELTER?

Libraries face tough choices when homeless patrons set up permanent residence

by Claire Zulkey



**L**ate last year, the city of Colorado Springs shut down the Quarry, its largest homeless encampment, forcing its residents to disperse. As a result, says John Spears, executive director of Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) in Colorado Springs, camping on library grounds reached its high point. About 90 people were sleeping on the grounds of PPLD's Penrose branch on any given night, which Spears says fostered an unsafe environment for its regular unsheltered patrons as new people entered their camps. "It became increasingly unsafe and untenable for us to allow it," he says. However, Spears and his colleagues wanted to consider solutions carefully: "We did not want to be one more place that just tried to play whack-a-mole and push the problem away."

Ultimately, earlier this year the library instituted a camping ban, wherein anyone found between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. on the grounds of one of PPLD's four branches could be ticketed for trespassing if they didn't leave. "It was one of the hardest things we've ever done," says Spears.

Some libraries across the country—particularly on the West Coast, which has the highest rates of people experiencing homelessness, according to a 2018 report from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development ([bit.ly/AL-HUD](http://bit.ly/AL-HUD))—are finding more unsheltered people camping on their grounds after hours. At some

locations this has created safety issues for all patrons and distractions for librarians. At one time, says Julie Retherford, director of Chetco Community Public Library (CCPL) in Brookings, Oregon, more than 20 people were living in the library's parking lot. She estimates that a quarter of the library staffers' time was spent mediating disputes between people living on the grounds and other patrons.

"Along with homelessness often comes mental illness or addiction, and those [conditions] would bring their own conflicts that would involve the police and keep our regular patrons from the library," she says. In late 2018, the library

board voted to prohibit overnight parking and the use of tents, tarps, structures, and furniture on library grounds. They needed to be especially careful in instituting the ban, as the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals had recently issued an opinion stating that criminalizing what the decision refers to as "life-sustaining" activities—like sleeping or camping—on the street is cruel and unusual punishment and violates the Constitution's Eighth Amendment.

As librarians across the country serve and support all patrons regardless of housing status, it is clear that no one-size-fits-all solution exists for those who seek shelter after hours. In Seattle's Ballard neighborhood, where the number of people experiencing homelessness has quadrupled in recent years, Seattle Public Library (SPL) has attempted to dissuade loitering by altering its architecture, first by removing tables and chairs in the front plaza of its Ballard branch, and then by installing metal bars on concrete blocks out front. This helped a little bit, says Regional Manager Kip Roberson, but the library still encountered issues with food debris, open alcohol consumption, outdoor bathroom use, and drug needles dropped through grates, all of which deterred other patrons from using the library.

"The open drug use, the harassment of patrons just reached a tipping point," he says. This spring, a team of outreach workers and police asked the campers to move to a park across the street. He knows it's only

---

A tent sits outside of Seattle Public Library's Ballard branch. The library installed exterior metal bars to discourage loitering.

a temporary fix. “We arrive in the morning, and there are still often campers who have spent the night,” he says. “We say, ‘Good morning. The library’s opening soon, so we’ll need you to pack up and move your stuff off library property.’”

## MAKING STRONGER CONNECTIONS

No solution regarding camping patrons comes without unease. “*Conflicted* is the right word,” says William O’Hearn, former director of Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois, of the city’s proposal to declare the library a closed campus in the evening. (The city council narrowly rejected the plan in July 2018 out of concerns that it would not effectively address the issue.)

The library property had turned into what O’Hearn describes as an “open-air bar” at night. He wants to make it clear that it wasn’t the library’s unsheltered regulars who were the issue—it was the 40–60 nighttime interlopers who came by to drink, sell or use drugs, engage in sex work, and harass and abuse the established campers. “While we wanted [the property] to be a community gathering space,” O’Hearn says, “I can’t say that was positive when people would defecate and urinate on the facilities.” A closed campus, he says, is different from a camping ban in that it does not target its unsheltered patrons specifically. “It was [proposed] very intentionally to not isolate just unsheltered individuals,” he says.

O’Hearn notes that the closed campus proposal, though rejected, still helped the library establish stronger connections with other city agencies that work with the unsheltered population, like its homeless shelter, police, and hospitals.

PPLD’s Spears was glad to see that through library efforts to relocate its campers, Colorado Springs shelters saw an increase of 30 unsheltered patrons. “While it was difficult, I feel good that we did get people into a much safer and more stable environment than what we could provide at the library,” he says. Another tactic the library took—in an attempt to curtail the number of bedrolls, shopping carts, and luggage some patrons were bringing to the library—was to cordon off eight spots in the parking lot and designate bins for personal effects. “That is something that both the sheltered and unsheltered have appreciated,” he says.

Relocating camping patrons takes strategy, patience, and grace. Spears says that prior to the ban, the library put up signs, provided informational fliers, and made social service workers available to try to help campers find alternate locations. “We wanted, as much as possible, to make sure that they were aware of what the other options were. Our goal was to find as many of them shelter as possible,” he says. Library staffers worked closely with the Colorado

Springs city attorney and police force to ensure they were adhering to the law and treating the campers with compassion. If police found someone who might be camping on the grounds of the library, for instance, “we didn’t want a citation to be issued straight off the bat,” Spears says.

Retherford says that prior to the legal process of removing the CCPL encampment, the library wanted to give the campers plenty of time and information on alternate places to go. “Most people cleared out before 48 hours were left,” she says. Some campers even helped others move out.

Christine Angeli, director of Milford (Conn.) Public Library, has had a smaller camping issue than her colleagues on the West Coast. Accordingly, the library decided against a curfew or parking ban. Instead it created a community group—including the mayor’s office, local police, health officials, the fire department, health care workers, and library staff members—to handle the issue effectively and with compassion. “We’re not evicting people just for being here outside the building. It has to be behavior based, whether it’s an altercation or substance abuse,” she says. She has also recommended resources to her staff, such as newsletters from Ryan J. Dowd, author of *The Librarian’s Guide to Homelessness* (ALA Editions, 2018).

Spears says that as difficult as the decision was to break up the library camp, there wasn’t much pushback, thanks to the relationships library staffers had built with their unsheltered users. “There had been a tremendous amount of trust built up between our library and our unsheltered users,” he says.

**“People will come in and say to me, ‘Thanks for getting rid of them. It’s such a better place now that they’re gone.’ Well, we’re not getting rid of them. They’re still welcome.”**

**JULIE RETHERFORD**, director of Chetco Community Public Library in Brookings, Oregon

“When we made the decision, they had the trust that we were not just one more agency that was trying to shuffle them along.”

Roberson says that even the campers outside SPL who need a little extra help waking up in the morning understand that librarians are allies. “Maybe they’re under the influence of something,” he says, “so you get a little pushback sometimes, but nobody’s really hostile. They understand where the library’s coming from, and they know that once the library is open, it’s a place they can come. They want to maintain that relationship with us.”

## COMMUNITY PUSHBACK

In contrast, it has been sheltered patrons who have often objected most vocally to bans and removals. Retherford calls the run-up to the camping removal a “frenzy.” At one board meeting, she says, 100 people showed up, and staff had to maintain the peace between shouting attendees. “I didn’t want this to turn into the idea that the library is against people without homes,” she says. “I was trying to take any opportunity I had to let anyone know that homeless people are always welcome here. Please come, please get warm, please use our facilities, please use our Wi-Fi.”

Spears encountered a similar reaction to PPLD’s ban. “That was probably one of the more upsetting parts of this—there was a part of the public that sees the library as one of the last refuges for people experiencing homelessness, and [they] felt we had betrayed that, even though the people experiencing homelessness did not,” he says. While Colorado Springs social service providers supported the



library’s decision and were heavily involved in the campers’ removal, he says, “a lot of their self-appointed guardians felt that it was unfair.”

Also upsetting, Spears says, were the reactions from patrons who felt the ban was insufficient. “There’s always that group, unfortunately, who thinks that that no matter what you do when it comes to people experiencing homelessness, it’s never enough—they want them gone,” he says.

Retherford deals with similar feedback. “The only negative thing I face regarding this issue on an ongoing basis [is that] there’s always a small portion of the community who don’t want [unsheltered people] around,” she says. “There’s a lot of complaints about smell, about computers being used up. People will come in and say to me, ‘Thanks for getting rid of them. It’s such a better place now that they’re gone.’ Well, we’re not getting rid of them. They’re still welcome.”

Roberson has seen a similar reaction, which makes him wary of

campers prepare to remove personal belongings from the parking lot of Chetco Community Public Library in Brookings, Oregon, after the library board voted to prohibit the use of tents, tarps, structures, and furniture on library grounds.

press coverage. “I worry whenever any of the local media calls,” he says. “The bias tends to be on the other side. I worry how this gets presented, no matter who is writing the story.” O’Hearn adds that news stories about removing encampments do not focus on what’s important: “Camping bans glaze over the fact that we help people get employment, get help.”

In Milford, at least, the public reaction has been one of concern, not outrage, with residents asking what they could do, and bringing food and blankets to the campers. “As far as those who are camping out—they were all Milford-born, Milford-raised,” says Angeli. “They’ve gone to school here and came upon hardships. They’re members of our community.”

## THE NEED FOR REAL SOLUTIONS

After the initial conflict, the ban in Colorado seemed to help. “We had built such a good relationship with [the campers] that very little





Earlier this year Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado Springs posted signs after instituting a camping ban between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. on the grounds of its four branches.

enforcement was necessary the first night. By that point, most of the people who had been camping here had already found other arrangements,” says Spears.

Retherford found the same: “Everyone was really respectful about it. ‘This is not where we can be any more.’ They just kind of moved on.” Now, she says CCPL staffers dedicate more time to patrons and spend less time mediating conflicts.

O’Hearn (who has since moved on to Eugene [Oreg.] Public Library), says an upside to the Springfield campus proposal was working with other organizations to address the issue holistically. “We were trying to focus on the whole situation rather than that particular moment,” he says. “What would be the long-term best thing that would happen? To get people the help they need to move forward with life.”

Thanks to the librarians’ engagement work in Pikes Peak, Spears says, the attitudes of many sheltered visitors seem to be softening. The library has been pulling meetings out of conference rooms and holding them in more central parts of the library. “As we’ve done more of these programs, we’re starting to see some of those barriers break down and the sheltered feel more comfortable around the unsheltered,” he says.

Roberson believes more librarians will need to face camping issues, especially after the US Court of Appeals decision in September.

“While it may be difficult to accept at first, I don’t disagree with the decision,” he says. “I think it’s going to force Seattle and other cities to actually step back and stop criminalizing the activity, but it’ll force them to finally start talking about real solutions.”

In the meantime, librarians still addressing their camping issues can learn from colleagues who feel they handled the removal of tents in a respectful way. Retherford says that CCPL and the city moved slowly and carefully, with many meetings and discussions, and she thinks that it was to their benefit. “It ultimately did shake out the right way,” she says. Afterward, Chetco was held up as a city model. “[Community members] turned their focus to other organizations and different parks, saying, ‘Why aren’t you acting like the library did?’”

Angeli advises librarians in the same situation to involve their community partners. “As much as we deal with it as librarians, there are trained professionals who are more up to date on services and ways to handle anybody with mental health or substance abuse [issues],” she says. When librarians have built up relationships with homeless patrons, they may be able to ease them into accepting social services. “This isn’t a library problem. It’s an issue that’s facing the whole community,” she points out. “If an individual is camping outside your library, they’re surely camping out elsewhere in your city, and you can’t just push people from one place to another. You have to find a solution together.” <sup>AL</sup>



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

**As librarians across the country serve and support all patrons regardless of housing status, it is clear that no one-size-fits-all solution exists for those who seek shelter after hours.**

# READY, SET, BANK<sup>SM</sup> ONLINE BANKING MADE EASY

## @ YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

Houston and Queens Public Libraries present the results of this innovative financial well-being program.



[www.readysetbank.org](http://www.readysetbank.org)

WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER / WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Sunday, June 23rd, 2019**

**10:30–11:30 AM | Room 152B**



READY, SET, BANK @ YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY is brought to communities nationwide by Capital One

# MAKING IT COUNT

## Librarians get ready for the 2020 Census

BY Timothy Inklebarger



**B**illions of dollars in population-based federal funding—for everything from Medicaid to school lunch programs to Library Services and Technology Act grants—hinges on next year’s census. That data also affects how congressional districts are determined and drawn, which in turn decides how many electoral college votes a state will have. The repercussions of next year’s count will echo for at least a decade, particularly for the country’s most vulnerable communities.

The 2020 Census kicks off next April. As always, some census takers will be out knocking on doors. But for the first time, people will also be able to complete the questionnaires online. Librarians can help provide space, equipment, and information to guide patrons through the process.

Conducting a fair and accurate count isn’t as easy as it may seem. Many areas of the country have populations that are difficult to count. And a controversial new citizenship question proposed by the Trump administration could suppress the response rate (see sidebar on p. 46).

### GETTING A COMPLETE COUNT

The American Library Association (ALA) and its local, state, and federal partners have led the way to prepare libraries for the count. On April 1, ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo joined US Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham and other officials at a press conference to mark the one-year count-down to the census.

“People from all walks of life come to libraries with questions, and we help them find answers,” Garcia-Febo said. She called the census a “tremendous opportunity to promote equity,” given

that 99% of difficult-to-count areas—many of which are communities of color—are located within five miles of a public library ([censushardtocountmaps2020.us](http://censushardtocountmaps2020.us)). “Libraries are in inner-city schools, Hispanic-serving colleges, and remote tribal lands,” she said.

Garcia-Febo encouraged librarians to serve on Complete Count Committees ([bit.ly/AL-CCC](http://bit.ly/AL-CCC)), which bring together representatives from local, state, and tribal government; faith-based organizations; business associations; K–12 schools and universities; health care organizations; and other community groups to work to ensure accurate data. Assisting in the census can help libraries strengthen representation in their regions and provide an opportunity to demonstrate their value as they build relationships with local leaders.

“We want to make sure libraries are prepared and city, county, and state leaders understand the role libraries have played past and present,” says Larra Clark, deputy director of ALA’s Public





Policy and Advocacy Office and deputy director of the Public Library Association. Clark says that in 2010, more than 6,000 libraries served as Census questionnaire assistance centers. “Every time we see a new government program or service online, we see people turning to the library to be connected,” she explains. As she points out, ALA’s new census guide ([ala.org/census](http://ala.org/census)) includes timelines, resources, and frequently asked questions.

Some librarians already are joining Complete Count Committees, and some have created their own guides and plans for assisting. Erik Berman, coordinator of services to young adults at Alameda County (Calif.) Library, has been working with the California Library Association to release its census guide for libraries ([bit.ly/LibraryCensusToolkit](http://bit.ly/LibraryCensusToolkit)). “Our mandate is to position libraries as an essential resource for the 2020 Census,” he says. The guide includes marketing material to help get the word out, information about hard-to-count

## ARE YOU READY?

The census is fast approaching, and ALA and partner organizations have developed resources to help libraries ensure an accurate count. Here are some steps librarians can take to prepare.

- ✔ Join a local Complete Count Committee.
- ✔ Download the ALA Census Guide: [ala.org/census](http://ala.org/census).
- ✔ Consider hosting census job fairs and sharing information about census job opportunities.
- ✔ Check the 2020 Census Hard-to-Count map ([censushardtcountmaps2020.us](http://censushardtcountmaps2020.us)) for hard-to-count tracts near your library.
- ✔ Follow the Twitter hashtag #CountOnLibraries for updates.
- ✔ Begin planning promotional events and reserving space for them.
- ✔ Develop partnerships with city and county government officials.
- ✔ Evaluate the number of computers and other devices you have available for residents to complete the online questionnaire.
- ✔ Stay informed with ALA’s 2020 Census e-newsletter: [bit.ly/AL-CensusNews](http://bit.ly/AL-CensusNews).
- ✔ Prepare library staffers to help residents navigate to the online questionnaire. ●



groups, and other tools, according to Berman. He added that some libraries are developing innovative ways to help facilitate the process. Los Angeles Public Library, for instance, is working with Los Angeles County to host Census Action Kiosks (designated computers where patrons can complete the census questionnaire, supervised by a trained volunteer or staff person).

Helen Poyer, director of the Cobb County (Ga.) Public Library System (CCPLS), says she and two of her staff members recently attended a census training event hosted by the Georgia Municipal Association. The library also is planning to hold a job fair for those seeking work as census takers; officials from the local census office will visit the library for job training and recruitment, Poyer says.

## DATA AND THE CENSUS

CCPLS is taking a data-driven approach reviewing past census data from areas that were undercounted in 2010. “So far, we’ve found that age is a big factor in participation rates, as well as income and ethnicity,” says Corey Stegall, CCPLS geographic information system (GIS) analytics assistant. CCPLS will use the information to map branches in relation to those areas. “If people can’t get to libraries to use our computers, we can go out into the community with laptops and [mobile Wi-Fi] hotspots,” he adds.

Montana State Library is taking a similar approach by providing geographic data to the Montana Census and Economic Information Center, which helps ensure the center has up-to-date address information for its own GIS. Montana State Librarian Jennie Stapp, who serves on ALA’s 2020 Census Library Outreach and Education Task Force, says the census is critical for low-population states like Montana, where residents number about 1 million. Such states receive more federal funding since they likely don’t have a

tax base large enough to fund major projects. That makes a complete count even more important.

Stapp recommends that libraries across the country prepare for the online census by evaluating the broadband and hardware requirements necessary for it.

## RESOURCES FOR LIBRARIES

ALA’s 2020 Census Library Outreach and Education Task Force is supporting libraries as they plan for the count. Task Force Chair Tracy Strobel, deputy director of Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library, says working on the census is an

extension of what libraries already do to help less tech-savvy patrons with government forms. Some assistance may be as simple as showing patrons how to use a mouse or navigate between data fields in the online form, she says. She adds that the best thing library officials can do now is join Complete Count Committees: “It’s a double intention for advocacy for ourselves and advocacy for what we can do for others.” **AL**



**TIMOTHY INKLEBARGER**  
is a writer living in Chicago.

# CITIZENSHIP AND THE CENSUS

In March 2018, US Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced that the 2020 Census would ask whether respondents are US citizens. Ross, who argues that the question would help protect minority voting rights, nonetheless has testified to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that it could lead to a 1% undercount (representing more than 3 million people). In August, the American Library Association (ALA), along with more than 140 other organizations, signed a letter of opposition to the question. In addition, this past April ALA joined an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court ([bit.ly/AL-CensusSuit](http://bit.ly/AL-CensusSuit)) opposing the question.

Larra Clark, deputy director of ALA’s Public Policy and Advocacy Office and deputy director of the Public Library Association, says that the proposed question raises new fears for achieving a complete count. “The Census Bureau is required by law to secure the data, which cannot be used against [respondents] by any government agency or court,” she says. But surveys have shown ([bit.ly/AL-CensusSurvey](http://bit.ly/AL-CensusSurvey)) that immigrants and others do not have confidence that the information will remain private.

Oral arguments at the Supreme Court began April 23, and a decision is expected in June, when the census questionnaires are scheduled to be printed. Check The Scoop blog for updates: [bit.ly/AL-Scoop](http://bit.ly/AL-Scoop). •





*Better BANKING for Less*

Loans. Deposits. Insurance. Investments.

Proud supporter of the **ALA Annual Conference**  
June 20-25, Washington D.C.

**STOP BY OUR BOOTH #3104**

**YOU CAN JOIN**, get much **LOWER LOAN RATES**  
than banks and **EARN MORE** on your savings, CDs  
& checking - check us out at [www.LCFCU.org](http://www.LCFCU.org)



**Bank Whenever, Wherever You Choose**

*Online Banking & Mobile Banking with Mobile Check Deposit*

*Plus worldwide access to over 80,000 free ATMs & 5,600  
CO-OP Shared Branches. To find locations, visit LCFCU.org*

Federally insured by  
**NCUA**



**LCFCU.org** | **202.707.5852** OR **800.325.2328**



# TARGET: Librarians

What happens when our work leads to harassment—or worse

by Lara Ewen



Illustrations: David Michael Moore

**I**n 2017, Nicole A. Cooke, associate professor and MS/LIS program director at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's (UIUC) School of Information Sciences, and Miriam Sweeney, assistant professor at the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alabama, received a diversity research grant from the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services to examine microaggressions directed at racial and ethnic minority students who used library spaces and services on campus. The project received an unexpected reception—even before its results were made public.

“All hell broke loose when just the title of the grant [‘Minority Student Experiences with Racial Microaggressions in the Academic Library’] was discovered,” Cooke said at “Defeating Bullies and Trolls in the Library: Developing Strategies to Protect our Rights and Personhood,” a workshop held at Skokie (Ill.) Public Library on March 8.

A harassment campaign targeting Cooke and Sweeney began after Campus Reform, a conservative news website known for its negative coverage of professors and university faculty whose viewpoints it deems liberal, ran a story on the grant. While Sweeney received her share of harassing emails and phone calls, Cooke bore the brunt of the abuse.

Cooke and Sweeney detailed the experience at “Bullying, Trolling, and Doxxing, Oh My! Protecting Our Advocacy and Public Discourse around Diversity and Social Justice,” a panel discussion at the 2018 ALA Annual Conference. They described how their personal information was circulated online after the Campus Reform story was published. It's what's known as doxxing—short for dropping dox [documents]—and it refers to the online practice of finding and disseminating an individual's personally identifiable information to the public.

Sweeney, who is white, said she was challenged mainly for the presumed content of the research, while Cooke, who is African American,

was harassed in a way that made it clear that her race was a factor. Cooke was bombarded with hate mail and threatening voicemails. Both researchers feared that Cooke's photograph, email address, and phone number had been copied from UIUC's website and distributed throughout racist communities online.

“Nicole was particularly made a target by these sites,” Sweeney said on the panel. “She received phone calls whereas I only received emails. Emails directed to me were directed to the project itself, not towards my person. Of course, race and identity shape how these attacks played out and who was targeted.”

When Cooke asked for her contact information to be removed from the university's website, the request was not immediately met. William Bernhard, vice provost for academic affairs at UIUC, said in a statement that Cooke's experience—and those of other staffers—has led to change at UIUC.

“The personal and professional challenges experienced by Professor Cooke and other faculty and staff led our university to develop new policies and resources to support victims of trolling attacks,” he said. “We are committed to protecting the academic freedom of our faculty members. We want to ensure that they are able to pursue their scholarship on important subjects, even if some might disagree with their work or conclusions.”



In a separate statement, UIUC's public affairs office elaborated: "Faculty and staff have been able to request the removal of their information from public display previously. But the challenge has been that the processes for making those requests and the correct points of contact to do so can sometimes be unclear in a university of our size. And with many of our faculty and staff having appointments and affiliations in multiple units, it might mean having to work with several different units to hide or remove information, and various units might have different procedures. These [new procedures for handling trolling] now give our faculty and staff a single point of initial contact with the knowledge of our institutional processes to help facilitate the process."

## AN ONGOING ISSUE

Cooke is not alone in her experiences. Hostility geared toward work on the topics of equity and oppression has been going on for decades. But Campus Reform, which was founded in 2009 and is owned by the conservative Leadership Institute, represents a concerted effort by well-funded individuals and organizations to target higher education. Meanwhile, the internet—and social media in particular—has made it easier for groups to find and target people they disagree with. The main targets for this online abuse? Women and members of marginalized communities.

A 2016 study by the nonprofit groups Data and Society and the Center for Innovative Public Health Research found that "women and racial/ethnic minorities—particularly women who also identify with a racial/ethnic minority group—are most frequently targeted for certain types of online harassment." And a 2017 Pew Research Online Harassment report concluded that women are twice as likely as men to say that they have been targeted for online harassment because of their gender, and that one out of every four black people and one in 10 Hispanic people report being targeted for their race.

These findings are complemented by a December 2018 Amnesty International study that examined the scale of online abuse of women on Twitter. The project looked at tweets sent to women politicians and journalists in the UK and US in 2017. It found that 7.1% of these tweets were problematic or abusive—that's 1.1 million tweets in one year, or one every 30 seconds. Black women were 84% more likely than white women to be mentioned in these tweets.

## DISCUSSING THE PROBLEM

Cooke's experiences led her to help organize two events—the Skokie Public Library workshop as well as the panel at the

## Resources

For further study on this topic, or to get help, please consult the following resources:

### Library Freedom Project's Library Freedom Institute (LFI)

LFI is a free, privacy-focused, six-month program for librarians, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Librarians selected to participate spend five hours per week online on a combination of readings, webinars, exercises, class discussion, and assignments, with one in-person requirement that takes place over one weekend in New York City. Visit [libraryfreedomproject.org/lfi](http://libraryfreedomproject.org/lfi) for more information.

### University of Washington Library Guides to Privacy and Security

An extensive online repository for websites that cover safety and cybersecurity information, including how to change privacy settings across multiple websites. Visit [guides.lib.uw.edu/privacy](http://guides.lib.uw.edu/privacy).

### Anti-Oppression LibGuides from Simmons University

This multipage guide created by research and instruction librarian Stacy Collins covers topics including anti-oppression, antiracism, antitransmisia, anti-Islamomisia, and antiqueermisia. Visit [simmons.libguides.com/anti-oppression](http://simmons.libguides.com/anti-oppression).

### HACK\*BLOSSOM's Cybersecurity Guide

A DIY guide to feminist cybersecurity; also available in Spanish. Visit [hackblossom.org/cybersecurity](http://hackblossom.org/cybersecurity).

### Speak Up and Stay Safe(r)

This online guide to protecting yourself from online harassment was created by author Jaclyn Friedman, media critic and Feminist Frequency creator Anita Sarkeesian, and author Renee Bracey Sherman. Visit [onlinesafety.feministfrequency.com](http://onlinesafety.feministfrequency.com). ●

2018 ALA Annual Conference—where librarians could share personal stories of being harassed, bullied, or doxxed, either at work or elsewhere. The forums also presented ways that institutions and individuals can help.

"I knew that other professionals were going through it. And you feel very isolated," Cooke says. "I knew there were people who could possibly benefit from our experience. With that



said, it was not easy, but [gathering people] needs to be done.”

Stacy Collins, research and instruction librarian at Simmons University in Boston, participated in both events. In 2016 she published LibGuides on Simmons’ website that provide information about anti-oppression, diversity, and inclusion as well as resources for social justice issues key to the academic community. The guides created a national uproar for, among other things, noting that “greeting someone with ‘Merry Christmas’ conveys one’s perception that everyone is Christian or similarly saying ‘God bless you’ after someone sneezes conveys one’s perception that everyone believes in God.” Conservative outlets like *Campus Reform*, *National Review*, and *The O’Reilly Factor* on Fox News published pieces and aired segments criticizing the guides, and the university library received scores of phone complaints, says Collins.

“As a result of the media coverage of the posting of the LibGuides, the university received dozens of calls, emails, and letters from individuals around the nation,” said Jeremy Solomon, associate vice president of communications and public affairs at Simmons, in a statement. “Nearly all of these correspondences were vitriolic and threatening in nature. As such, our abiding concern was for the safety of our community, and we therefore offered communications advice to quell what was an inflammatory situation. Simmons, then and now, strongly stands by the free-speech rights of our librarians and faculty.”

Collins says that while her library colleagues were supportive, the larger university administration focused on telling her and others to be cautious about not responding to certain messages or asking them to be hypervigilant. That’s indicative of a larger problem, she says.

“Within our professional space there’s a misunderstanding, and sometimes an intentional misunderstanding, about why this is—and has been—happening,” Collins says.

## DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

For every librarian willing to talk about their harassment experiences, there are more who are not. For this article, most



of the potential sources contacted declined to be interviewed, and with good reason: The experience of being harassed, bullied, doxxed, threatened, or otherwise made to feel unsafe at work or at home is traumatic enough that many would rather not relive it through retelling. Then too, librarians have had difficulty finding effective support to safeguard them from this kind of threat, so many haven’t been able to find satisfying emotional or legal solutions.

“We have a problem with institutional denial and gaslighting,” says Alison Macrina, director and founder of Library Freedom Project, an initiative to turn library ethics into procedural and technical reality. “Which means we don’t even know how often it happens, because people are unwilling to come forward when it does. And it feels like a very isolating experience.”

The result is that librarians who go through the experience of harassment are then further alienated from institutions that are unable or unwilling to help them.

Says Cooke: “One of the things that’s come up—and I think people use this as an excuse—is that they don’t know what to do. People throw their hands up. I wound up doing legwork for three days trying to get my information removed [from the university website].”

---

# “If our profession is asking us to do this work, we need to be protected.”

**NICOLE A. COOKE**, associate professor and MS/LIS program director at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's (UIUC) School of Information Sciences

---

“I frequently have misunderstandings in the work I do in diversity and social justice. People say, ‘It doesn’t apply to us,’” Cooke continues. “I don’t know if people can understand the fear, and what comes along with being targeted and harassed. I think they think that because it hasn’t happened to them, it doesn’t matter to them.”

Sometimes she encountered outright callousness, she says: “Some people were being deliberately, willfully ignorant, and saying, ‘If you hadn’t been doing this work, this wouldn’t have happened.’”

Cooke says recognizing and acknowledging privilege is critical to the process of changing the conversation.

“We talk about privilege and marginalization, and sometimes people don’t understand they are experiencing great levels of privilege,” she says. “They don’t want to acknowledge that, because it brings on guilt. I can’t tell you how many times I have been interrupted and been corrected and have been told that my work is inflammatory. And there is even a willfulness about that. And I think this kind of willfulness and a lack of empathy is about protecting their own privilege and comfort, instead of saying, ‘You have been threatened and targeted, and I am willing to help you.’”

## HOW TO HELP

---

Macrina, who has been harassed online because of her work on racial and gender justice, says that helping librarians who have been targeted begins with self-reflection and ends with action.

“We can change the culture if those of us in some kind of position of privilege are willing to stand up for other people,” Macrina says. She notes that as a white woman, she has privilege not available to her nonwhite colleagues. Furthermore, the organization she runs has allotted her an additional level of social clout and influence. All of this protects her from harassment more than colleagues who lack that support, but it also compels her to use her position to create positive change. “The thing about privilege isn’t just that it shields you,” Macrina says, “It also gives you a platform.”

As part of the March 8 workshop at Skokie Public Library, attendees broke into groups to discuss hypothetical scenarios of librarians experiencing inappropriate behavior and how they and their institutions should react. The situations ranged from what to do if they witnessed coworkers being harassed by patrons on the library floor or by a colleague at an association function to how to handle online bullying and doxxing and support a coworker experiencing microaggressions on the job. The interactive sessions were designed to create understanding and to provide tools that librarians and institutions can use to better support their colleagues before incidents happen.

“We need to be proactive, not reactive,” Cooke said at the Skokie event. “If our profession is asking us to do this work, we need to be protected.”

Collins says she hopes these conversations will further the discussion regarding diversity and inclusion, beginning with what she calls “a culture of care,” and resulting in a space where marginalized people are not responsible for creating the necessary change. She added that allyship needs to be active rather than passive. “Allyship isn’t an identity,” Collins says. “It’s not something you are—it’s something you do. And racism is either something you’re doing or something you’re [actively] working against. There is no middle ground.”

Cooke says that supporting librarians who are working with issues of diversity and marginalization should go hand in hand with encouraging the work.

“We can’t crack that nut if we can’t get to the ethics of care. And we can’t get to the ethics of care until it’s naturalized, and until people do it without being told to, or being guilted into it,” she says. “You have to do it even when it’s not convenient for you. When it comes to rolling up your sleeves and being uncomfortable, you have to do it then.” **AL**



**LARA EWEN** is a freelance writer based in Brooklyn, New York. **PHIL MOREHART**, senior editor at *American Libraries*, provided additional reporting.



Highlight **award-winning books** in your library with these resources from

# GRAB-AND-GO AWARDS PAMPHLETS

Visit [alastore.ala.org/rfr](http://alastore.ala.org/rfr) to learn more!

**for readers are a great value and will help your library's users find their next favorite book!**

- ✓ Help your patrons build their “want-to-read” list by encouraging them to **explore your collection**.
- ✓ Easy to distribute, and they're also **time-saving tools** for creating book displays.
- ✓ With picks **for every type of reader**, they'll keep your patrons coming back for more.



## Marking the 50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Awards

and spotlighting the work of the author and illustrator winners and honorees since the awards' inception, this unique resource is an excellent tool for collection development, readers' advisory, and classroom use.



# Notable DISSERTATIONS

For new practices, look to breaking research

by Kathy Rosa

**W**ithin the research projects of doctoral students in library and information science lie ways to mitigate the challenges of an inequitable world. Too often, these valuable findings go underused. That's why, each year, *American Libraries* highlights the top dissertations that can make a difference—for rural areas, indigenous communities, people experiencing homelessness, and many other populations.

This year's crop includes research on the power of reading, librarian–teacher collaborations, and school librarians as academic leaders. The nine dissertations selected from digital archives and online databases have practical implications for school, public, academic, and special libraries; feature quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methodologies; and include measurable recommendations for change.

The students and their topics are:

**Reham Isa Alshaheen** (Simmons University in Boston) analyzed the user experience and information architecture of national library websites.

**Carolina Barton** (Concordia University Irvine in California) studied success factors in the transformation of academic libraries into learning commons.

**Angel Krystina Washington Durr** (University of North Texas in Denton) researched the challenge of identifying skill sets for data-science jobs.

**Melanie Ann Lewis** (Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia)

examined the role of school librarians as academic leaders.

**Sandra Littletree** (University of Washington in Seattle) explored the historical development of tribal libraries, with a view toward the design of current and future library services.

**Shelly Lynne McMullin** (University of North Texas in Denton) considered similarities in information literacy and critical thinking skills.

**Jessica M. Ross** (University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa) studied the challenges of information dissemination in rural communities.

**Jeanna Wersebe** (University of California, San Diego) examined factors that contribute to successful collaboration between school librarians and teachers.

**Deborah W. Yoho** (University of South Carolina in Columbia) found that reading provides a powerful respite in the lives of marginalized library patrons, such as people experiencing homelessness. [AL](#)



**KATHY ROSA** is director of ALA's Library and Research Center.



## User Experience and Information Architecture of National Library Websites

**SUMMARY:** Using methods such as content inventory, web information architecture assessment, and participant usability evaluation, Alshaheen analyzes the user experience and information architecture of 28 national library websites. The study examines the websites' structure, menus,



**Reham Isa Alshaheen**

PhD, Simmons University

colors, and information quality, as well as how deeply users trust the sites' content and the entities generating that content. Users were satisfied with the overall quality of these websites, though users who differ in age, gender, and educational background vary in their ratings of the sites.

This dissertation provides a list of content elements that commonly appear on national library websites as well as a practical procedure to evaluate these sites.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Alshaheen recommends regular usability testing of national library websites with a view to understanding the needs of all users. For example, national library websites serve not only graduate students and researchers but also teachers, teenagers, professional workers, and older adults. Other factors to consider include readability for global users, standardizing date formats across countries, and the trustworthiness of content. Menu construction should be easily understood and not too complex. Designers should stick with one language per page and eschew jargon, excessive information, and animations. (The latter can be distracting and confusing.)

**READ AT:** [bit.ly/ND19-Alshaheen](https://bit.ly/ND19-Alshaheen)

## Transforming an Academic Library to a Learning Commons Model: Strategies for Success

**SUMMARY:** In an effort to cope with the speed of technological change, some academic libraries are transforming themselves into learning commons. Barton uses a mixed-methods approach to identify successful strategies such as deploying surveys to understand student needs, gaining administrative support, ensuring the presence of adequate



**Carolina Barton**

EdD, Concordia University Irvine

technology, encouraging collaboration among library staff, introducing a café, and changing policies around food and noise in the library. Obstacles to success include inadequate funding, resistance among stakeholders and staff, difficulty in building partnerships with stakeholders, and ineffective teams.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Barton recommends a three-phase approach to developing a learning commons. Phase one

is the time to research information, build a shared vision and strategic plan, gain leadership's support, and secure resources. In phase two: design a welcoming, technology-rich, and flexible environment, with moveable furniture, group learning spaces, service desks, a sufficient number of power outlets, and virtual learning resources that are available 24/7. Phase three includes a technology plan to keep computers, printers, and other equipment up to date and in working condition. Further research is recommended to determine the effective development of staff members who work in a learning commons environment, as well as the best way to manage the sustainability of a learning commons.

**READ AT:** [bit.ly/ND19-Barton](http://bit.ly/ND19-Barton)

*Editor's note: Barton died October 7, 2018.*

## A Text Analysis of Data Science Career Opportunities and US iSchool Curriculum

**SUMMARY:** The proliferation of data requires the presence of data scientists—not only to manage and maintain it but also to make it available to those who need it. Durr posits that because there is no universal path to a data-science career, getting the right training for such a career can be challenging. Comparing iSchool course syllabi



**Angel Krystina Washington Durr**

PhD, University of North Texas

with data-science job postings, Durr finds that many of the skills required in these jobs are addressed in iSchool syllabi, with some topics receiving greater or lesser emphasis in each arena. The phrases *ICT* (information and communications technology) and *machine learning* appear more often in iSchool syllabi than in data-science job ads, while the phrase *programming languages* appears more often in data-science job ads. Also appearing more frequently in job ads than in

iSchool syllabi is the word *experience*, suggesting that it would be wise for iSchools to provide more opportunities for hands-on experience.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** One of the study's recommendations is the development of a competency-based framework for the education of data-science professionals. A network of data-science employers and iSchool program developers could, first, add needed job skills to the iSchool curriculum, and second, help educate employers about additional skills that iSchool students may possess.

**READ AT:** [bit.ly/ND19-Durr](http://bit.ly/ND19-Durr)



## A Collective Case Study to Examine Administrators' Instructional Leadership Perspective of the Role of Instructional Coaches and Teacher-Librarians in California Public Schools

**SUMMARY:** California school administrators assign leadership duties to both instructional coaches and teacher-librarians. This collective case study compares those roles in the context of implementing the California Common Core State Standards in English language arts. Lewis asks why administrators select instructional coaches



**Melanie Ann Lewis**  
EdD, Liberty University

and teacher-librarians for this task, and how these coaches and teacher-librarians collaborate to fulfill it. As Lewis shows, while administrators may choose either instructional coaches or teacher-librarians to fulfill this task, they prefer instructional coaches, viewing them as instructional leaders similar to themselves, while teacher-librarians are considered instructional resources to be called on only occasionally.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Lewis recommends that library media specialists actively promote school library research to district stakeholders. Students in teacher and administrator education programs need to learn about the instructional role of the teacher-librarian. School districts should develop and use appropriate job descriptions and evaluations to define and assess teacher-librarians. Further research might examine barriers or limitations that coaches and teacher-librarians encounter when providing instructional leadership.

**READ AT:** [bit.ly/ND19-Lewis](https://bit.ly/ND19-Lewis)

## “Let Me Tell You about Indian Libraries”: Self-Determination, Leadership, and Vision—The Basis of Tribal Library Development in the United States

**SUMMARY:** Using qualitative methodologies informed by indigenous approaches to knowledge, Littletree traces the history and development of tribal libraries. As she explains, in the 1960s it was found, first, that library services for American Indians were inadequate, and second, that federal responsibility for Indian education included the



**Sandra Littletree**  
PhD, University of Washington

responsibility to improve these services. By the 1970s, the country was in an era of self-determination, when people and communities were empowered to make their own choices, and American Indian library leaders, educators, community members, and allies sought opportunities with the US president and Congress to address the need for improved tribal libraries. Littletree notes that the 1978 White House Preconference on Indian Library and Information Services on or near Reservations may have been the most important step in the formation of tribal libraries.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** All libraries face challenges—for example, the advent of ubiquitous technology. Tribal libraries face these same challenges, plus other obstacles unique to their own communities. Littletree recommends the development of a vision to provide tribal leaders and librarians with paths toward excellence for tribal libraries; for instance, it may be time to consider a new National Indian Omnibus Library Bill. Tribal librarians could network with iSchools and LIS programs to incorporate the information needs of indigenous people and leadership for tribal librarians into the curriculum. Further research could explore effective leadership qualities in tribal librarianship, as well as the role of tribal councils in supporting library and information services in the community.

**READ AT:** [bit.ly/ND19-Littletree](https://bit.ly/ND19-Littletree)

## The Correlation between Information Literacy and Critical Thinking of College Students: An Exploratory Study

**SUMMARY:** In college learning, information literacy skills and critical-thinking skills are both important for success. Academics tend to believe the two skill sets are inherently related; however, to date, little evidence has supported this belief. McMullin uses an exploratory, mixed-methods approach to study the differences in information



**Shelly Lynne McMullin**

PhD, University of North Texas

literacy and critical-thinking skills, as well as gender differences that might occur within each skill set. In addition to surveys, scores from two standardized tests—the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) and the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS)—are analyzed, along with student survey results. McMullin finds that students perform better on the CCTST than on the SAILS, even though the CCTST is considered more difficult. Her

results show a statistically significant correlation between the tests, providing evidence that information literacy skills and critical-thinking skills may be inherently related in some categories.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** While critical-thinking skills and information literacy skills are imperative, academic professionals may need to change how these skills are taught. As cognitively linked constructs, the two skill sets could be taught in tandem. K–12 teachers may also consider providing learning experiences that marry information literacy with critical thinking.

**READ AT:** [bit.ly/ND19-McMullin](https://bit.ly/ND19-McMullin)

## The Role of Public Libraries in Rural Communication Infrastructure

**SUMMARY:** In rural communities without an integrated information infrastructure, or *infostructure*, it can be challenging for institutions to communicate accurate, up-to-date news and information. This exploratory, qualitative study examines how members of these communities create and disseminate information, as



**Jessica M. Ross**

PhD, University of Alabama

well as how they prefer to receive information. As the study notes, in close-knit communities there may be an information access gap for newcomers. As a result, marginalized people, including children, may be less informed about community news and information. Traditionally, public libraries are perceived as inclusive places; Ross's study affirms this perception.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Public libraries are perceived as welcoming places and provide a variety of information resources. Libraries can leverage these assets to serve those new to a community. Those assets may include programming that reflects the needs of minority populations as well as language assistance such as interpreters for programs and homework. Outreach programs can effectively welcome people to the community and provide awareness of what the library can offer them.

**READ AT:** [bit.ly/ND19-Ross](https://bit.ly/ND19-Ross)

## A Journey to Improve Collaboration Efforts Between Stakeholders and Teacher-Librarians: A Mixed-Method Study

**SUMMARY:** Wersebe seeks to understand how high school teachers, administrators, and teacher-librarians define collaboration, as well as the factors that contribute to successful collaboration. Results show that positive relationships among teachers, leadership, support staff, and students boost the success of collaborations. Other positive factors include



**Jeanna Wersebe**

EdD, University of California, San Diego

a staff that values collaboration, support from leadership, knowledge of the teacher-librarian's role and skill set, and a positive school culture. One barrier to successful collaboration: the view of the school library as merely a warehouse of books. Other barriers include lack of opportunities to collaborate, negative past experiences, and inflexible procedures.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Teacher-librarians are in leadership roles and can be proactive in providing opportunities for

collaboration. They have a responsibility to educate administrators, teachers, and students about the skill sets and proficiencies that define their role. Building positive relationships has long been the purview of the teacher-librarian, and this ability will enhance collaborative ventures. Administrators can improve collaborative relationships by inviting teacher-librarians to meetings about curriculum writing or new programs. Educational leadership programs in colleges and universities should provide discussions and readings of the teacher-librarian impact on student achievement. Teacher education programs might offer preservice activities that include collaboration with teacher-librarians. Further research into high school collaborations should be conducted, using varying methodologies and samples.

**READ AT:** [bit.ly/ND19-Wersebe](http://bit.ly/ND19-Wersebe)

## Intersection: Reading and Adult Homelessness and Public Libraries

**SUMMARY:** Public librarians seek to provide equitable access to all patrons, including those experiencing homelessness. In this qualitative study, Yoho documents the power of reading for transitional and homeless populations. She finds that reading provides a distraction from negative feelings of loneliness, melancholy, and boredom;



**Deborah W. Yoho**

PhD, University of South Carolina

temporarily allows the reader to mentally “transport” out of negative experiences; helps manage the personal behaviors that may be necessary to obtain social services; and ameliorates stress by providing calm and comfort in uncertain circumstances.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Yoho recommends training librarians to serve patrons from vulnerable populations, such as those experiencing homelessness. There may

even be a role for social-service training in LIS programs, though some may be more comfortable revisiting library policies to determine how to handle the social-services expectations of public library patrons. She recommends reviewing library policies and procedures around patron disruptions and complaints, as well as staff attitudes toward inclusiveness and outreach. In addition, she recommends creating programs that meet the digital literacy needs of vulnerable populations such as the homeless.

**READ AT:** [bit.ly/ND19-Yoho](http://bit.ly/ND19-Yoho)



# LIBRARY CHAMPIONS MAKE IT POSSIBLE...



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

## LEAD SPONSOR \$50,000 AND ABOVE

**Rakuten  
OverDrive**

[overdrive.com](http://overdrive.com)

## SUSTAINERS \$25,000 AND ABOVE



[capitalone.com](http://capitalone.com)



**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
LITERACY FOUNDATION

[dollargeneral.com](http://dollargeneral.com)

## INVESTORS \$10,000 AND ABOVE



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



[sagepub.com](http://sagepub.com)

## PATRONS \$7,500 AND ABOVE



[btsb.com](http://btsb.com)



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

# LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH 2019

The Toy Story crew knows library cards help bring great stories to life. From borrowing movies or museum passes, to enjoying story time or group play, there's no end to the exciting activities you can access with a library card. This September sign up for a library card and open a world full of adventure and infinite possibilities!



## MEMBERS

\$5,000

 <p>BAKER &amp; TAYLOR the future delivered</p> <p>baker-taylor.com</p>	 <p>BRO DART</p> <p>brodart.com</p>	 <p>Candlewick Press</p> <p>candlewick.com</p>	 <p>demco® imagine what's possible™</p> <p>demco.com</p>
 <p>EBSCO</p> <p>ebsco.com</p>	 <p>ELSEVIER</p> <p>elsevier.com</p>	 <p>GALE A Cengage Company</p> <p>gale.com</p>	 <p>INGRAM</p> <p>ingramcontent.com/libraries</p>
 <p>MORNINGSTAR®</p> <p>morningstar.com/goto/mirc</p>	 <p>OCLC</p> <p>oclc.org</p>	 <p>ProQuest</p> <p>proquest.com</p>	 <p>referenceUSA®</p> <p>ReferenceUSA.com</p>
 <p>SCHOLASTIC</p> <p>scholastic.com/librarypublishing</p>	 <p>SirsiDynix®</p> <p>sirsidynix.com</p>	 <p>Sisters in Crime</p> <p>sistersincrime.org</p>	 <p>SPRINGER NATURE</p> <p>springernature.com</p>
 <p>Taylor &amp; Francis Group an informa business</p> <p>tandf.co.uk/libsite</p>	 <p>LIBRARIES TRANSFORM®</p>		

2019

# ANNUAL

## CONFERENCE PREVIEW

WASHINGTON, D.C. | JUNE 20–25

Edited by Greg Landgraf



Washington, D.C., is intrinsically connected to libraries and information. It's a city that not only holds our shared history and culture in the Library of Congress but is also home to Capitol Hill, a site synonymous with our advocacy for policy and funding. After nine years away, ALA's Annual Conference and Exhibition returns to our nation's capital June 20–25. This year's conference offers a host of professional development opportunities, new ideas to help shape the future of libraries, and a full slate of author programs, interesting speakers, and special events. This preview features a small sample of what to expect. For a complete listing of events, visit [alaannual.org](http://alaannual.org).

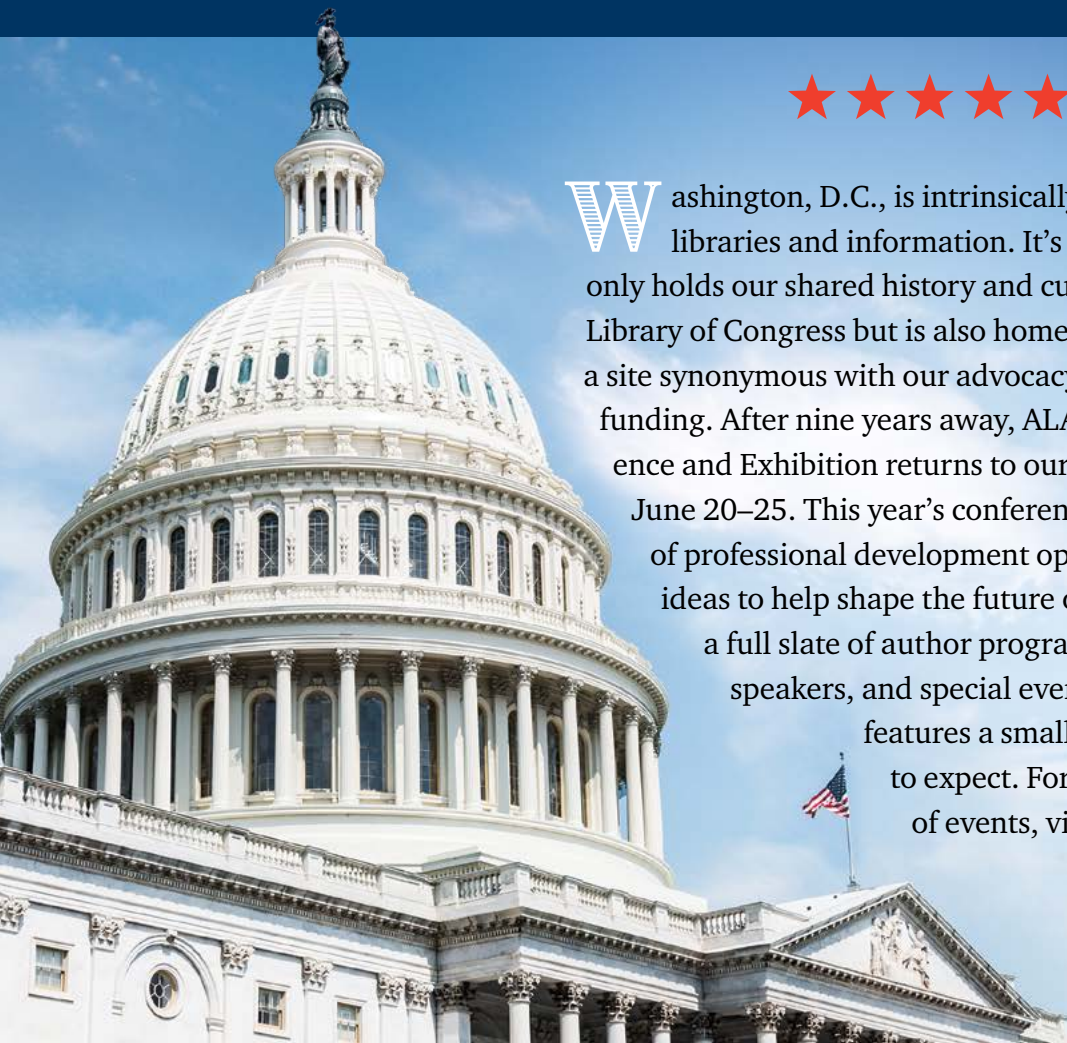


Photo: ©Sherry V. Smith Photography/Adobe Stock



## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo will welcome award-winning novelist and comic book writer **NNEDI OKORAFOR** as her **ALA President's Program** speaker **3-5:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 23**. Okorafor is known for weaving elements of African culture into her science fiction and fantasy work, and has won Hugo and Nebula awards for the first book in her Binti trilogy. The program will include the **ALA Awards Presentation**.

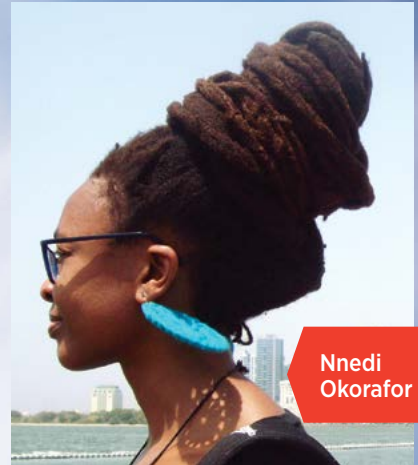
The Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) **Newbery-Caldecott-Legacy Awards Banquet**—a celebration to honor the authors and illustrators of the Newbery, Caldecott, and Children's Literature Legacy medalists and honorees—takes place **Sunday, June 23, 6-11 p.m.** Advance registration is required and tickets are \$96. A limited number of tickets will be available at onsite registration until noon Friday.

MacArthur Fellow, Pulitzer Prize winner, and author of *The Underground Railroad*, *Sag Harbor*, and the upcoming *The Nickel Boys* **COLSON WHITEHEAD** will keynote the **Freedom to Read Foundation's 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, June 22, 6-8 p.m.** Appetizers and a cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$25.

At "50 Years of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards: A Live Taping of the *Dewey Decibel* Podcast," **9 a.m. on Saturday, June 22**, *American Libraries* Senior Editor Phil Morehart will lead a panel discussion featuring past award and honor recipients **EKUA HOLMES** (illustrator of *The Stuff of Stars*), **CHRISTOPHER MYERS** (illustrator of *Firebird*), and **JASON REYNOLDS** (author of *Long Way Down*). For more on the Coretta Scott King Book Awards, see our feature on page 28 and our highlighted conference programs in the sidebar on page 68.

*CBS Sunday Morning* correspondent **MO ROCCA** will speak at the **Closing General Session on Tuesday, June 25, 10-11:30 a.m.** Rocca spent four years as a correspondent on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. His forthcoming book *Mobituaries*, based on his podcast of the same name, is an irreverent but deeply researched appreciation of extraordinary people, historical epochs, sitcom characters, and even snack foods that are no more.

The **Inaugural Luncheon** immediately follows the Closing General Session **11:45 a.m.-2 p.m.** and includes food and entertainment. Tickets are \$50.



Nnedi Okorafor



Colson Whitehead



Mo Rocca

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

The publisher-sponsored Auditorium Speaker Series brings accomplished authors, compelling celebrities, and exciting experts to the conference. This year's lineup includes:

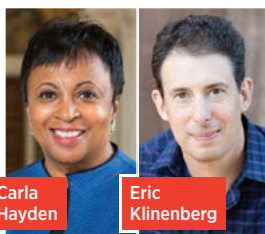


Hoda Kotb

**Saturday, June 22**  
10:30–11:30 a.m.

**HODA KOTB**, coanchor of NBC News' *Today*, has reported on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the war in Iraq, the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza, the war in Afghanistan, and the Olympics.

Her latest children's book, *You Are My Happy*, is about gratitude for the things that bring happiness.



Carla Hayden

Eric Klinenberg

**Saturday, June 22**  
3–4 p.m.

Librarian of Congress **CARLA HAYDEN** will discuss the important role libraries play in their communities with **ERIC KLINENBERG**, New York University sociology professor and

author of *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality*. The session will address the changing in-person and online needs of library users.



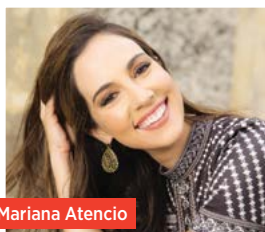
Frank Miller

Tom Wheeler

**Sunday, June 23**  
10:30–11:30 a.m.

Graphic novelist **FRANK MILLER**, known for his Sin City series, and **TOM WHEELER**, storywriter for the upcoming film *Dora and the Lost City of Gold*, are creating and producing the Netflix

show *Cursed*. Based on their book of the same name, the show follows a Druid named Nimue who teams up with a mysterious man to seek vengeance against the Red Paladins, who destroyed her family and village.



Mariana Atencio

**Monday, June 24**  
8:30–9:30 a.m.

A native of Venezuela, journalist **MARIANA ATENCIO** fled violence and oppression in her country and made a career in both Spanish- and English-language television in the US. Her new book,

*Perfectly You: Embracing the Power of Being Real*, is grounded in the discovery of how every person can find their own voice and purpose in a seemingly broken world.



George Takei

**Monday, June 24**  
10:30–11:30 a.m.

Actor **GEORGE TAKEI** is best known for his role as Hikaru Sulu, helmsman of the *Starship Enterprise*, on *Star Trek: The Original Series*—but his story goes where few stories have gone

before. Takei, who has become a leading figure in the fight for LGBTQ rights, will release a graphic memoir about his time in Japanese-American internment camps during World War II, *They Called Us Enemy* (with cowriters Justin Eisinger and Steven Scott and artist Harmony Becker).



Tomi Adeyemi

**Monday, June 24**  
3:30–4:30 p.m.

Author and creative writing coach **TOMI ADEYEMI** was a finalist for the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) 2019 William C. Morris YA Debut Award for her *New York Times*–bestselling

novel *Children of Blood and Bone*. For more on Adeyemi, see our interview on page 26.

## Accessibility

ALA works to make sure the conference experience is pleasant and accessible for all. For information on mobility assistance, interpreter services, and other accommodations, visit [alaannual.org/general-information/accessibility](http://alaannual.org/general-information/accessibility).

## ALA Store Hours

- Friday, June 21: 1:30–5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 22: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Sunday, June 23: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Monday, June 24: 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

A special pop-up ministore will operate near the registration area on Friday, June 21, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

## Curating the Capital

ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services has put together a resource guide on the indigenous history of the D.C. area ([ala.org/aboutala/indigenous-tribes-washington-dc](http://ala.org/aboutala/indigenous-tribes-washington-dc)), as well as a list and map of businesses owned by people of color, women, and members of the LGBTQ community ([bit.ly/dc19-diverse-businesses](http://bit.ly/dc19-diverse-businesses)). ●

## DIVISION PRESIDENTS' PROGRAMS

ALA's division presidents host intriguing thought leaders at every Annual Conference. This year's offerings include:



Matt de la Peña

### Saturday, June 22

9:30–11 a.m.

American Association of School Librarians (AASL) President Kathryn Roots Lewis will host **MATT DE LA PEÑA**, author of the Newbery Medal–winning *Last Stop on Market Street*, for

her program. De la Peña will speak about the journey that has influenced his writing, with a message of inclusiveness and equity.

### Saturday, June 22, 10:30 a.m.–noon

Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) President Lynn Hoffman will present a panel discussion on approaches and strategies for managers and administrators who are responding to incidents of harassment or bias, with a focus on trust-building and challenges to equity, diversity, and inclusion.



Angela Spranger

### Saturday, June 22

10:30 a.m.–noon

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) President Lauren Pressley welcomes **ANGELA SPRANGER**, author of *Why People Stay: Helping Your Employees Feel Seen, Safe, and*

*Valued*, to the program “Equity, Diversity, Inclusion ... and Leadership: Where Do We Go from Here?” Spranger will demonstrate how leaders can effectively influence and motivate teams that struggle with poor communication, collaboration, culture, change, and conflict.

### Saturday, June 22, 1–2 p.m.

The Marrakesh Treaty establishes rules for exchanging accessible formats across borders, a plan meant to increase the traditionally low number of foreign-language Braille books available in the US. Learn more in Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies President Adam Szczepaniak Jr.'s program, “Understanding the Marrakesh Treaty: Implications and Implementation for Librarians.”

### Saturday, June 22, 4–5:30 p.m.

In the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) program “Inequity and the Disappearance of Reference and User

## GET CONNECTED AND STAY INFORMED

The ALA **Annual Conference Scheduler** ([alaannual.org/scheduler](http://alaannual.org/scheduler)) and mobile app help you browse sessions, plan and organize your time, create a private or shareable calendar, add and update events and personal appointments, and keep track of exhibitor meetings.



Visit [alaannual.org](http://alaannual.org)



See what's happening at [bit.ly/alaac19Pin](https://bit.ly/alaac19Pin)



Join the event at [bit.ly/alaac19FB](https://bit.ly/alaac19FB)



Follow #alaac19 and [americanlibraryassociation](https://www.instagram.com/americanlibraryassociation)



Track #alaac19 and follow @alaannual

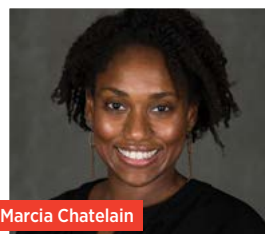
Services,” Ann K. G. Brown will host a discussion of the importance of reference and user services in a time when changing service models create barriers and disadvantage some users, such as first-generation college students, English-language learners, and others who may experience practical challenges to asking for information and help.

### Sunday, June 23, 1–2 p.m.

United for Libraries (UFL) President Skip Dye will host an advocacy-focused program.

### Sunday, June 23, 3–4 p.m.

Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) President Bohyun Kim's program will feature **MEREDITH BROUSSARD**, assistant professor at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute of New York University. Broussard, author of *Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World*, will look at the inner workings and outer limits of technology as well as the eagerness that has led the public to accept and implement digital systems, even those that don't work well.



Marcia Chatelain

### Monday, June 24

10:30 a.m.–noon

In Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) President Kristin E. Martin's program, **MARCIA CHATELAIN**, associate professor of history and African-

American studies at Georgetown University, will discuss how fast-food franchises became one of the primary generators of wealth among black Americans, supplanting traditional black-owned businesses.



# BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MEETINGS

## Friday, June 21

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

## Saturday, June 22

- ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session, 3–4:30 p.m.
- ALA Membership Meeting, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

## Sunday, June 23

- ALA Council I, 8–11 a.m.
- ALA Planning and Budget Assembly, 1–2 p.m.

## Monday, June 24

- ALA Council II, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
- ALA Executive Board II, 1–5 p.m.

## Tuesday, June 25

- ALA Council III, 7:45–9:45 a.m.
- ALA Executive Board III, 2:30–5 p.m.

# SCOE SESSIONS

ALA invites members to provide input on creating the Association of the 21st century at one of its **Remodel Recommendation Input Sessions with the Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness (SCOE)**. Sessions will focus on the models recommended by SCOE and ask for participant feedback. Those who cannot make one of the following times will be invited to participate online.

- **Saturday, June 22: noon–1:30 p.m. and 2:30–4 p.m.**
- **Sunday, June 23: noon–1:30 p.m. and 2:30–4 p.m.**
- **Monday, June 24: noon–1:30 p.m.** ●

## Monday, June 24, 10:30 a.m.–noon

YALSA President Crystle Martin’s program “Supporting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion through Outcomes and Assessment” will highlight how data can inform program development, implementation, and continuous learning in a way that redresses institutional inequality and systemic power imbalances in teen services and society.

## Monday, June 25, 1–2:30 p.m.

In the ALSC Charlemae Rollins President’s Program, “Subversive Activism: Creating Social Change through Libraries, Children’s Literature, and Art,” President Jamie Campbell Naidoo

welcomes a panel that will examine activism and social change through multiple lenses.

# BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from and meet dozens of bestselling authors and illustrators. Some of this year’s highlights include:

## Saturday, June 22, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

YALSA’s **Margaret A. Edwards Brunch** will feature author **M. T. ANDERSON**, winner of the 2019 Edwards Award recognizing significant and lasting contribution to writing for teens. Tickets are \$39.

## Saturday, June 22, 8–10 p.m.

The **Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction Ceremony**, cosponsored by RUSA and *Booklist*, will celebrate winners **KIESE LAYMON** (for *Heavy: An American Memoir*) and **REBECCA MAKKAI** (for *The Great Believers*). **LAURA LIPPMAN**, bestselling author of the Tess Monaghan series, will be the featured speaker. Attendees are invited to mingle with the authors during dessert and a cash-bar reception. Tickets are \$40.

## Sunday, June 23, 8–10 a.m.

RUSA’s **Literary Tastes: Celebrating the Best Reading of the Year** will feature several authors of works that won RUSA book awards or were included on its best-of lists for adults. Breakfast is included, and book signings will immediately follow the event. Registration is required. Tickets are \$15.

## Sunday, June 23, 9–10 a.m.

YALSA’s **YA Author Coffee Klatch**, a speed dating–style event, features authors who have appeared on one of YALSA’s selected book lists or received one of its literary awards. Attendees will sit at a table, and every few minutes a new author will arrive to talk about their upcoming books. Tickets are \$25.

## Sunday, June 23, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Comedian and UFL spokesperson **PAULA POUNDSTONE** will headline **The Laugh’s on Us**. The wine-and-cheese event will feature bestselling humor authors **BOBBIE BROWN**, **JUDY GOLD**, **JOSH GONDELMAN**, and **GARY JANETTI**, and a book signing will follow. Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$55 for UFL members, and \$65 onsite if available.

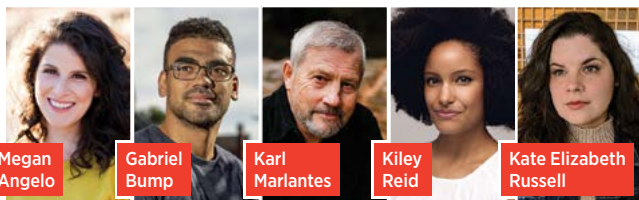


### Monday, June 25, 8-10:30 a.m.

The **ALSC Awards Presentation** will celebrate the Batchelder, Geisel, Sibert, and Excellence in Early Learning Digital Media awards. Continental breakfast and an opportunity to mingle with authors and illustrators precede the awards presentation, which starts promptly at 8:30 a.m.

### Monday, June 24, 2-4 p.m.

Enjoy beverages and light snacks at UFL's **Gala Author Tea**. Bestselling authors **MEGAN ANGELO**, **GABRIEL BUMP**, **KARL MARLANTES**, **KILEY REID**, and **KATE ELIZABETH RUSSELL** will discuss their writing lives and forthcoming books, and signings will follow. UFL will also recognize the winners of the Baker & Taylor Awards during this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$55 for UFL members, and \$65 onsite if available.



### Monday, June 24, 8-10 p.m.

At the **Michael L. Printz Program and Reception**, cosponsored by YALSA and *Booklist*, 2019 Printz Award-winning author **ELIZABETH ACEVEDO** and honor book authors **ELANA K. ARNOLD**, **DEB CALETTI**, and **MARY MCCOY** will speak about their writing. Tickets are \$39. Please note that the program is on Monday and not (as in past years) Friday.

## HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

This is a small selection of the hundreds of programs that will take place at Annual. See the full list at [alaannual.org/scheduler](http://alaannual.org/scheduler), or find events related to program interests such as accessibility and universal design, intellectual freedom and ethics, and privacy at [alaannual.org/whats-happening/program-interests](http://alaannual.org/whats-happening/program-interests).

### Friday, June 21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

ALCTS will host "Change Management in Libraries and Technical Services," a preconference that will explore change management both as a foundational concept and through specific examples and case studies such as ILS migrations, reorganizing technical services, or reallocating budgets. Tickets are \$219 for ALCTS members, \$269 for ALA members, and \$319 for nonmembers.

### Friday, June 21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The 2017 hurricane season in Puerto Rico will serve as a case study in "Better Networking for Disasters: Improving

Participation and Coordination for Disaster Response and Recovery of Cultural Heritage." The workshop will be a mix of formal presentations, moderated panels, and a breakout session, and speakers will include preservation librarians, responders, and representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Tickets are \$219 for ALCTS members, \$269 for ALA members, and \$319 for nonmembers.

### Friday, June 21, 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

ALA's Public Programs Office (PPO) and Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services (ODLOS) will present "Beyond the Racial Stalemate." Using a racial healing approach, facilitators will lead participants through a process of storytelling, vulnerability, and deep listening and provide them with a tool used to help uproot the flawed belief in a racial hierarchy. The two sessions of the program are identical; please register for only one. Tickets are \$70 for ALA members, \$75 for nonmembers.

### Friday, June 21, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The ACRL preconference "Building Your Research Data Management (RDM) Toolkit: Integrating RDM into Your Liaison Work" will help liaisons identify existing skills and mindsets they can transfer to RDM services and create a plan for learning RDM-specific knowledge needed to serve their subject disciplines. Tickets are \$255 for ACRL members, \$295 for ALA members, and \$335 for nonmembers.

### Friday, June 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook (N.Y.) University has developed a media literacy curriculum to help adults recognize fake news. The "Media Literacy at Your Library Training" preconference, presented by the Center and PPO, will train librarians in the curriculum, facilitate collaboration in brainstorming and developing program ideas, and help librarians develop a media literacy program plan. Tickets in advance are \$150 for ALA members, \$175 for nonmembers; onsite tickets are \$250 for ALA members, \$275 for nonmembers.

## JobLIST Placement Center

ALA's JobLIST Placement and Career Development Center is open **Saturday, June 22**, and **Sunday, June 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**, with an orientation **8:30 a.m. Saturday**.

Employers will be on hand to talk to conference attendees at the free **Open House and Job Fair on Sunday, June 23, 10:30 a.m.-noon**.

Career counseling with a professional career coach is available in free, confidential sessions when the center is open. Registration is recommended.

For a complete list of workshops, including sessions on mentoring, staff wellness, and résumé review, visit [bit.ly/JobLIST-alaac19](http://bit.ly/JobLIST-alaac19). ●



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Awards, which recognize outstanding books for children and young adults that reflect the African-American experience. Celebrate a half-century of exceptional literature at the following events:

### Saturday, June 22, 4–5 p.m.

Led by a team of educators, the program **Recognizing Children’s and Young Adult Books and Demonstrating an Appreciation of African-American Culture and Universal Human Values for 50 Years** will provide resources and ideas that libraries can use to create more inclusive environments for children.

### Saturday, June 22, 6–7:30 p.m.

The **CSK–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement Reception** will honor 2019 practitioner winner **PAULETTA BROWN BRACY**, professor of library science at North Carolina Central University in Durham, for her lifelong advocacy for high-quality African-American literature for young people.

### Sunday, June 23, 7–10 a.m.

The **CSK Book Awards Breakfast** honors award winners and honor book recipients, including author winner **CLAIRE HARTFIELD** (for *A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919*) and illustrator winner **EKUA HOLMES** (for *The Stuff of Stars*). Tickets are \$65.

See [alaannual.org/scheduler](http://alaannual.org/scheduler) for more CSK Book Awards programming. To read about the history of the awards, see our story on page 28. ●

### Saturday, June 22, 1–2 p.m.

How do you create advocates *before* a ballot initiative or budget request is on the agenda? In UFL’s “How Everyday Relationships Build Support and Help Libraries Transform,” the advocacy team from Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Public Library will demonstrate how it has built a community of library champions—ready to

be activated when needed—through strategic communications planning, the Libraries Transform campaign, and one-on-one meetings with stakeholders.

### Saturday, June 22, 2–3 p.m.

**SATIA ORANGE**, former director of ALA’s Office for Literacy and Outreach Services, will present the ODLOS-sponsored **Jean E. Coleman Lecture**, which aims to teach library professionals more about their roles in providing equity of access. Under Orange’s leadership, the office broadened the Association’s support and celebration of traditionally underserved library staff and library communities.

### Saturday, June 22, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Libraries are increasingly scaling back subscriptions. The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition–ACRL Forum, “If I Had a Million Dollars: Collective Reinvestment in Open Infrastructure,” will discuss how to reallocate these resources to achieve open research communication.

### Saturday, June 22, 3:30–5 p.m.

The **ODLOS Diversity and Outreach Fair** will highlight library services to underserved and underrepresented communities from all types of library institutions.

### Saturday, June 22, 5–7 p.m.

The **AASL Awards Ceremony** will highlight best practices in school librarianship through collaboration, leadership, innovative programming, national involvement, and upholding the principles of the profession. Awards for the best websites, apps, and social media superstars will also be announced.

### Sunday, June 23, 9–10 a.m.

In 2020, the US Census will be conducted primarily online for the first time. In the Public Policy and Advocacy Office’s “Ensuring Everyone Counts (and Is Counted) in the 2020 Census,” a panel of experts will discuss the implications of the 2020 Census and how libraries can help ensure a complete and inclusive count. For more on the 2020 Census, see our feature on page 44.

### Sunday, June 23, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

While librarians are well versed in protecting the right to read books, other types of information can be censored as well. In “Censorship Beyond Books,” librarians will share their experiences with challenges to nonbook resources, including a Black Lives Matter display, drag queen story hours, a Banned Books Week display, and an LGBTQ readers’ advisory list.

### Sunday, June 23, 1–2 p.m.

Artists, entrepreneurs, and inventors are using library makerspaces to create new works. But how can libraries help innovation evolve into new businesses? In “Make, Prototype, Patent, Manufacture: The Full Cycle of Inventing in Library Makerspaces,” a panel (that will include



# EXHIBITS AT THE CONFERENCE

With more than 900 exhibiting organizations, multiple pavilions, and stages featuring popular authors and related events, the exhibit floor is integral to your learning, professional development, and networking.

The official opening ceremony and ribbon cutting immediately follow the Opening General Session on **Friday, June 21, at 5:30 p.m.**, and feature a brief welcome by ALA leadership and local dignitaries. The **Opening Reception** includes food, drink, and entertainment.

Publishers will host author and illustrator events throughout the conference, including programs at the **Book Buzz Theater, What's Cooking @ ALA Demonstration Stage, PopTop Stage,** and the **Graphic Novel/Gaming Stage.** New this year is the **Chapter One Stage,** featuring panels of new and emerging authors, with each presentation focusing on a single genre or issue affecting libraries and publishing.

**Specialty Pavilions** will give attendees an in-depth look at the newest trends, products, and technologies in areas such as DVD and video, international and multilingual publications, library schools and instruction, presses, and zines. The new **Sound Garden** pavilion highlights audiobooks and publishing and book-related podcasts, and will include **Live from the 25,** a booth where attendees can record a short podcast with an author from the exhibits. ●



## EXHIBIT HOURS

**Friday, June 21, 5:30–7 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 22, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.**

**Sunday, June 23, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.**

**Monday, June 24, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.**

representatives from the US Patent and Trademark Office) will discuss how libraries can serve as centers of creation and incubators for business.

### **Sunday, June 23, 1–2:30 p.m.**

In LITA's "Top Technology Trends," panelists will describe the technological changes and advancements that they see affecting the library world and suggest how libraries can take advantage of these trends.

### **Sunday, June 23, 2:30–3:30 p.m.**

**LINNEA HEGARTY**, director of strategic partnerships for D.C. Public Library, will share lessons she learned from managing the library's online scavenger hunt during Banned Books Week, in "PR Forum: Takeaways from D.C. Public Library's #UncensoredDC Campaign." ALA Communications and Marketing Office Director **STEPHANIE HLYWAK** will also provide an overview of social media strategies libraries can use in marketing, advocacy, fundraising, and outreach.

### **Monday, June 24, 9–10 a.m.**

In "Resources for Rural and Tribal Libraries: Advocacy and Literacy," ALA's Committee on Rural, Native, and Tribal Libraries of All Kinds will examine literacy and advocacy, share its updated toolkit, and look ahead to projects for 2019.

### **Monday, June 24, 2:30–3:30 p.m.**

In the Public Library Association session "Advocating for Health at Your Library: Equity Starts with Us," attendees will be introduced to resources, partnership opportunities, communication assets, programming ideas, and training materials to assist patrons with health inquiries and healthy habits.

### **Monday, June 24, 2:30–3:30 p.m.**

Libraries worldwide share a commitment to the continued progress of humanity. In the International Relations Round Table's "International Leaders Forum: Leading a Vision for a Global Community of Libraries," library leaders will share their vision of a global community of libraries, the opportunities and challenges we face, and how libraries can collaborate to make it happen.

### **Monday, June 24, 7–9 p.m.**

Open to all conference attendees, the **International Libraries Reception** at the Library of Congress welcomes librarians from more than 70 countries with an evening of culture, ideas, and regional cuisine. Advance registration is required. Tickets are \$40. [AL](#)

For an up-to-date list of dates and times, see the Annual Conference Scheduler at [alaannual.org/scheduler](http://alaannual.org/scheduler).





**A CULINARY**

# CAPITAL

**DINING IN D.C. DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

BY Meredith Pratt





## PRICE GUIDE

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

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



Poulet rouge at Convivial

Photo: Convivial



Washington, D.C., is a city of many things: government, monuments, world-class museums, stunning architecture, history, and cherry trees. But until recently, its gourmet scene was known more for stodgy steakhouses than standout dining.

Today, rock-star chefs have transformed neighborhoods into epicurean destinations and turned what was once a dining drought into a wave of new restaurants, vibrant tastes, and international cuisines.

Ready to dig in? Here is a guide to the best flavors in our culinary capital, excerpted from *Frommer's EasyGuide to Washington, D.C., 2020*.

### NEAR THE CONVENTION CENTER

#### BUSBOYS AND POETS

2021 14th St., N.W.  
202-387-7638  
busboysandpoets.com

It's a bookstore, coffee shop, restaurant, theater, and community gathering place. The name refers to Langston Hughes, who worked as a busboy at the Wardman Park Hotel in the 1920s prior to gaining recognition as a poet. Go for the delectable breakfast of omelets and french toast, then go again for dinner to eat burgers, hot paninis, and pasta. Gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options are all available. **B, L, D daily \$**

#### CHERCHER

1334 9th St., N.W.  
202-299-9703  
chercherrestaurant.com

You won't get much closer to an authentic Ethiopian homestyle meal than at this unassuming rowhouse restaurant in D.C.'s Little Ethiopia neighborhood. Expats proclaim the food—boldly flavored dishes from Ethiopia's mountainous Chercher region—rivals their grandma's cooking. The menu features classic plates of *kitfo*, *gored gored*, *tibs*, and *tire siga*, all varieties of Ethiopian dishes made with beef, as well as vegetarian salads and vegan entrees. **L, D daily \$**

#### CONVIVAL

801 O St., N.W.  
202-525-2870  
convivialdc.com

Convivial is just as warm, friendly, and jovial as its name suggests. Located in



the heart of the historic Shaw neighborhood, this self-styled American café is spirited but not showy. Chef Cedric Maupillier presents traditional French food with a twist, including escargot “in a blanket.” Also great: roasted Parisian gnocchi with mushroom mousseline and fricassee, as well as bouillabaisse packed with sea bass, rockfish, and mussels in a saffron seafood broth. The menu changes frequently, but all the fish is sustainably sourced. The chef also supports the local Chesapeake Bay ecosystem by using invasive fish species in his dishes. **L, D daily \$\$**

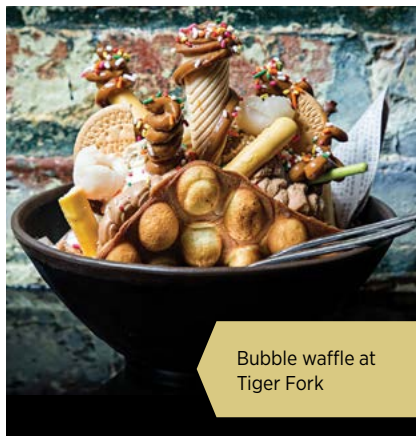
### CORDUROY

1122 9th St., N.W.

202-589-0699

corduroydc.com

In the bustling neighborhood around 9th St. NW, this rowhouse restaurant is a delightful retreat, with easy jazz music playing, crisp linens on the tables, and black-suited servers standing in wait. Chef-owner Tom Power’s combination of French, Japanese, and American tastes is working: The restaurant is continuously voted one of the best in the city. On the balanced, refreshing menu you’ll find everything from red snapper bisque to tuna tartare with crispy shallots and charcoal-grilled pork loin with bacon. The



Bubble waffle at Tiger Fork

five-course tasting menu for \$70 in the upstairs bar is one of the best deals in town. **D daily \$\$\$**

### THE DABNEY

122 Blagden Alley N.W.

202-450-1015

thedabney.com

Locals frequent this eatery, often several times a week, for the experience and food. One of only a handful of restaurants to earn Michelin stars in the D.C. area, the Dabney offers a small-plate menu, informed and attentive staff, and a cozy, farmhouse-style dining room. Try the delicious Eastern Shore-style chicken and dumplings or the seafood stew with

a side of melt-in-your-mouth corn bread. Don’t miss desserts such as the crumble with Stayman apples or the sweet potato bread pudding. Head to the Dabney Cellar for inventive cocktails while you wait for your table upstairs. **D (Tue-Sun) \$\$**

### FARMERS AND DISTILLERS

600 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.

202-464-3001

farmersanddistillers.com

With more than 100 dishes available, it’s not hard to find something to like here. This restaurant represents an ode of sorts to the farmers who own it as well as to George Washington (“the original Founding Farmer”) and the surrounding multi-ethnic neighborhood of Mount Vernon. Everything from French and South American to Chinese and German cuisine is represented on the menu, which includes beer-can roasted chicken, glazed bacon lollis, and fisherman’s pasta. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), B (M-F), L, D, daily \$\$**

### KINSHIP

1015 7th St., N.W.

202-737-7700

kinshipdc.com

Across the street from the Walter E. Washington Convention Center,



Maine lobster french toast at Kinship

Photos: Scott Suchman (Tiger Fork); Kinship

Kinship is a comfortable, sophisticated restaurant from veteran D.C. chef Eric Ziebold and partner Célia Laurent. There are three spaces in all: a book-lined lounge, a lively bar, and a minimalist dining room. Locals flock here for the modern à la carte American menu offering a little of everything: grilled Rhode Island squid, venison consommé, and crispy taro root. The menu changes frequently, but the delectable tastes and warm atmosphere won't. **D daily \$\$\$**

## MOMOFUKU CCDC

1090 I St., N.W.

202-602-1832

[ccdc.momofuku.com](http://ccdc.momofuku.com)

New York chef and restaurateur David Chang brought his acclaimed Momofuku to CityCenterDC in 2015, and it's been a star ever since. The dining room is big, loud, and just the spot for fun group dinners. The menu offers exciting takes on Chinese dishes from Chef Tae Strain. *Bing*, a Chinese flatbread that's grilled to order seven different ways, is complemented by spicy cucumber salad and branzino *ssäm*. Try the dry-aged beef rib eye. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D daily \$\$\$**

## POCA MADRE

777 I St., N.W., TechWorld Plaza

202-838-5300

[pocamadredc.com](http://pocamadredc.com)

Veteran restaurateur Victor Albus opened this upscale, Southwest-inspired companion to his popular chain Taco Bamba, located next door, in 2018. Taking its name from a popular Mexico City slang term meaning "cool," Poca Madre elevates traditional foods from the Yucatán, Oaxaca, and other parts of Mexico. Think a beet and burrata tostada with a pickled beet mole, or sablefish with *maduro* miso. **D daily \$\$**

## TIGER FORK

922 Blagden Alley N.W.

202-733-1152

[tigerforkdc.com](http://tigerforkdc.com)

Finding a table at this trendy Hong Kong-inspired restaurant in Blagden Alley can be tough, but the wait is well worth it. Drawing from Hong Kong's

# POLITICS AND LIBATIONS

Oh, the intrigue, the drama, the scandals. Like it or not, Washington, D.C., is the place for pure politics, the press hounds who trail elected officials, and the gossip that follows. Visit any of these local watering holes, and if you're lucky, you might just overhear a few state secrets of your own—or at the very least, rub elbows with D.C.'s movers and shakers.



### Off the Record Bar, Hay Adams Hotel,

800 16th St., N.W., 202-638-6600, [hayadams.com/dining](http://hayadams.com/dining): Grab a stool and chat with longtime bartenders who have seen (and heard) it all, and enjoy caricatures of some of the country's most powerful elites.

### The Capital Grill Lounge, 601 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., 202-737-6200,

[thecapitalgrille.com](http://thecapitalgrille.com): This clubby lounge is witness to power brokering, political scandals, and intrigue—plus premium whiskeys and wines.

### Round Robin Bar, Willard InterContinental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., 202-628-9100, [washington.intercontinental.com/food-drink/round-robin-bar](http://washington.intercontinental.com/food-drink/round-robin-bar):

D.C.'s political and social elite—including Woodrow Wilson, Mark Twain, and Walt Whitman—have imbibed here since 1847. Now the walls around this mahogany round bar bear their likenesses.



Round Robin Bar at Willard InterContinental Hotel

### Charlie Palmer Steak, 101 Constitution Ave., N.W., 202-547-8100, [charliepalmer.com](http://charliepalmer.com):

Just steps from the Capitol Building, this elegant outpost attracts the town's top political dogs for stiff drinks and steaks.

### Shelly's Back Room Tavern, 1331 F St., N.W., 202-737-3003, [shellysbackroom.com](http://shellysbackroom.com):

Disappear into this cigar-friendly establishment, just a block from the White House, for a generous selection of rare whiskeys and single malts. ●



fast-paced street food scene, this Shaw neighborhood-based Chinese restaurant features creative versions of dim sum, barbecue, and seafood. Favorites include the humble plate of chili wontons and cold *dan dan* noodles. The bar menu is impressive, with ingredients drawn from Asian medicine. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), D daily \$\$**

## UNCONVENTIONAL DINER

1207 9th St., N.W.

202-847-0122

[unconventionaldiner.com](http://unconventionaldiner.com)

A husband-and-wife duo are the masterminds behind this casual, eclectic restaurant serving comfort food with a twist. Chef David Deshaies shows off his skills with a “not-your-grandma’s” meatloaf, tempura-crisped kale nachos, and famed short ribs braised for 72 hours. Pastry chef Ana Deshaies bakes fresh corn bread muffins and desserts including a Smith Island carrot cake. Adjacent to the convention center, the diner is designed as two eateries—one open just for dinner,

the other for breakfast and lunch—and connected by a cocktail bar. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), B, L (M-F), D daily \$\$**

## DOWNTOWN

### CENTRAL MICHEL RICHARD

1001 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

202-626-0015

[centralmichelrichard.com](http://centralmichelrichard.com)

The late, great French chef Michel Richard, who died in 2016, opened Central more than a decade ago, and it has remained on the hot list ever since. Just five blocks from the White House, Central offers unfussy French-American fare in a fun, semicasual dining room. Of course, the classics are on the menu—including french onion soup, scallops, and cassoulet—but so are burgers, shrimp risotto, and Richard’s famed “faux gras,” made with chicken instead of duck or goose liver. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sun), L (M-F), D daily \$\$\$**

### FIOLA

601 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

202-525-1402

[fioladc.com](http://fioladc.com)

Chef Fabio Trabocchi and wife-partner Maria know how to have fun with their restaurants, which include Fiola Mare on Georgetown’s waterfront and Del Mar on the bustling Southwest waterfront. The restaurant has a head-turning, New York feel, with its wide swatch of bar at the front, white banquettes, and modern art. Trabocchi changes the menu daily, but the seasonal Italian fare is always superb. You might find lobster ravioli in cream sauce, olive-oil-poached Arctic char, or prosciutto-wrapped veal tenderloin. Reservations recommended. **L (M-F), D daily \$\$\$\$**

### THE HAMILTON

600 14th St., N.W.

202-787-1000

[thehamiltondc.com](http://thehamiltondc.com)

Craving sushi? How about a burger and fries? Or a late-night snack? The Hamilton

Mini burgers topped with onion straws at Matchbox



Photo: Deb Lindsey Photography



Pisto manchego con huevos at Jaleo



serves it all. A bustling, massive, two-story restaurant, the Hamilton balances a casual and often loud atmosphere with delectable fare upstairs and live music downstairs. A crispy shrimp tempura starter is complemented by poke bowls, short-rib poutine, and delicious clam chowder. Entrées include glazed meatloaf and sausage ragu. The bar menu is impressive, with at least 20 beers on draft and nearly 50 wines by the glass or bottle. Reservations recommended. **L, D daily \$\$**

## HILL COUNTRY BARBECUE MARKET

410 7th St., N.W.

202-556-2050

hillcountry.com/dc

Leave official Washington at the door when you enter Hill Country. This restaurant honors Austin, the self-styled barbecue and live-music capital of Texas. Known for its nightly live music downstairs and its low-country fare upstairs, Hill Country is true to its Texan roots. Dig into a mess of dry-rubbed Texas barbecue ribs, skillet corn bread, and sweet potato bourbon mash. Meats are priced by weight, from \$5.50 per half a pound of barbecue chicken to \$28 per pound of bone-in short ribs. There's a late-night menu until 10 p.m. weekdays and 11 p.m. weekends, as well as a late happy hour 10 p.m.–1 a.m. **L, D daily \$\$**

## JALEO

480 7th St., N.W.

202-628-7949

jaleo.com

In the 26 years since José Andrés first opened this Spanish tapas restaurant, Andrés himself has grown into a culinary and humanitarian phenom. Jaleo stays true, serving some of the best tapas in the city, with 60 individual small plates on the menu. Look for fried dates wrapped in bacon, cured pork chorizo, or the “ultimate Spanish tapa”: potato salad with imported conserved tuna, carrots, peas, and mayonnaise. Adventurous items include sea urchin with diced peppers and trout roe, or baby squid from Cádiz sautéed with Spanish white beans. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D daily \$\$**

## MATCHBOX

713 H St., N.W.

202-289-4441

matchboxrestaurants.com

Named for the 15-foot-wide, three-story-tall, matchbox-like space, this Chinatown pizzeria is a local favorite. It's been

### ONLINE MAP

Finding these  
restaurants is easy at  
[bit.ly/ALDCDiningMap](http://bit.ly/ALDCDiningMap)

plating thin-crust pizzas cooked in 900° wood-fired brick ovens for more than 10 years. Try the prosciutto and fig pizza with blue cheese and black pepper honey or the chicken pesto pizza. The appetizer of mini burgers topped with onion straws, the seared tuna and greens salad, and entrées like the shrimp and grits are all standouts. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D daily \$\$**

## OLD EBBITT GRILL

675 15th St., N.W.

202-347-4800

ebbitt.com

Open since 1856 (in this location since 1983), the Ebbitt is popular among tourists, but the elite of Washington show up too. Old Ebbitt is open very early to very late and offers a comforting menu of untrendy dishes like fried calamari, burgers, crab cakes, and hearty pastas. The oysters—among the freshest in town—are the standout here. Reservations recommended. **B, L, D daily \$\$**

## RASIKA

633 D St., N.W.

202-637-1222

rasikarestaurant.com

Dishing up the best in modern Indian food, Chef Vikram Sunderam frequently hosts power players from the capital and beyond. The restaurant's specialties are the *palak chaat* (crispy spinach in yogurt sauce), duck vindaloo, and tandoori salmon, along with a full menu of other Indian delights. Reservations recommended. **L (M-F), D (M-Sat) \$\$\$**

## ZAYTINYA

701 9th St., N.W.

202-638-0800

zaytinya.com

Restaurants come and go in D.C., but this Mediterranean tapas hotspot by José Andrés is a mainstay. Diners go on a culinary adventure here with *meze* (Mediterranean small plates) featuring a wide range of tastes from the Middle East, Greece, and Turkey. Signature dishes include baba ghanouj, crispy Brussels sprouts with coriander seed and barberies, and scallops in dill yogurt sauce. Reservations recommended. **L, D daily \$\$**



Ben's Chili Bowl

## 14TH STREET/ U STREET

### BEN'S CHILI BOWL

1213 U St., N.W.

202-667-0058

[benschilibowl.com](http://benschilibowl.com)

No restaurant in D.C. has as much historic cachet as Ben's Chili Bowl. Ben's opened in 1958 and stayed open even when riots broke out throughout the city following the April 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Ben's history is noted on its walls, featuring photographs that cover the city's past as well as Ben's. That includes snapshots of the many celebrities who've dined here, from President Barack Obama to musician Mary J. Blige. Its famous half smoke—a quarter-pound, half-beef, half-pork smoked sausage served inside a warm bun and smothered with chili sauce—is a favorite. Ben's has a few vegetarian-friendly options, too. Cash only. **B (M-Sat), L, D daily \$**

### CORK WINE BAR AND MARKET

1805 14th St., N.W.

202-265-2675

[corkdc.com](http://corkdc.com)

This cozy wine bar features an extensive menu of bottles, most from unusual, small producers, as well as wines by the glass. The menu includes about 20 small dishes nightly, all meant to be shared. Try the cheese and charcuterie boards, butternut squash risotto, or french fries with house-made ketchup. Then head to the café and market downstairs to shop for bottles of wine and gourmet food items. Reservations accepted. **Brunch (Sun), L, D daily \$\$**

### ESTADIO

1520 14th St., N.W.

202-319-1404

[estadio-dc.com](http://estadio-dc.com)

One of the best Spanish tapas spots in the city, Estadio is a sound pick for a downtown dinner that balances traditional Spanish cuisine with creative flair. Diners can easily build a meal from the cheeses and cured meats alone, or try the roasted

chorizos, grilled octopus, and seared scallops. The bar menu is impressive, with a variety of cocktails, beer, wine, and Spanish sherries to choose from. The "slushitos," mixed frozen cocktails, vary with the season and don't disappoint. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (F), D daily \$\$**

### LE DIPLOMATE

1601 14th St., N.W.

202-332-3333

[lediplomatedc.com](http://lediplomatedc.com)

Evoking the look of a Parisian brasserie with red banquettes, a zinc-topped bar, lace curtains, and sidewalk patio, this restaurant tastes French, too. All the Parisian favorites are here, including escargot, onion soup, steak frites, and cheese. Tables are tight; it's loud and fun, and always packed. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), D daily \$\$\$**

### PEARL DIVE OYSTER PALACE

1612 14th St., N.W.

202-319-1612

[pearldivedc.com](http://pearldivedc.com)

Freshly shucked oysters, while plentiful on the menu, aren't the only draw at this



lively seafood restaurant. It's also made its name with gumbos, beignets, and po' boy sandwiches. Cap the meal with a slice of pecan or key lime pie. The small inside/outside bar is the perfect people-watching spot on a warm evening. Waiting for a table? Head upstairs to Black Jack for craft cocktails and bocce courts. **Brunch (F-Sun), D daily \$\$**

## CAPITOL HILL

### GOOD STUFF EATERY

303 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E.

202-543-8222

goodstuffeatery.com

Top Chef contestant Spike Mendelsohn opened this restaurant in 2008 to lines stretching around the block, and the family-owned eatery is still regularly packed. The Prez Obama burger (with applewood bacon, onion marmalade, Roquefort cheese, and horseradish mayo) is a fan favorite. Try the Nashville hot chicken (fried chicken breast and bread-and-butter pickles on a brioche bun with spicy pepper oil). Vegetarian options are also available. Tables fill

up fast, so you might consider getting your burger to go, as many do. **L, D (Mon-Sat) \$**

### ROSE'S LUXURY

717 8th St., S.E.

202-580-8889

roseluxury.com

This quirky little restaurant in Barracks Row was named America's "best new restaurant" by *Bon Appetit* in 2014, and it's easy to see why. Chef-owner Aaron Silverman's success comes down to endearing service and a simple menu of unexpected tastes. The menu changes frequently, but a pork sausage-habanero-lychee salad is almost always included, as well as one family-style dish intended to share. Desserts are delightful, including a coconut-milk ice cream and popcorn brulée. Arrive early for seating. **D (Mon-Sat) \$\$**

### TED'S BULLETIN

505 8th St., S.E.

202-544-8337

tedsbulletin.com

This contemporary American diner planted its flag in Capitol Hill in 2010 and has since expanded to 14th Street,

Maryland, and Virginia. The retro vibe is entertaining, and diners enjoy a comfort-food menu of grilled cheese, tomato soup, fried chicken, chili, and all-day breakfast. For dessert, try an "adult" milkshake like the Grasshopper, a blend of Kahlúa and crème de menthe, or stick to family-friendly favorites like the homemade pop tarts. Reservations recommended. **B, L, D daily \$\$**

## GEORGETOWN

### FIOLA MARE

3050 K St., N.W.

202-525-1402

fiolamaredc.com

Sister restaurant to Fiola in Penn Quarter, Fiola Mare offers fine waterfront seafood dining. Sit outside on the sprawling patio overlooking the Potomac River or inside its glass-enclosed modern interior. Menus change daily and seasonally, but ahi tuna, burrata, and ceviche often set the stage for dishes like lobster ravioli, seafood *brodetto*, and roasted Norwegian halibut. Reservations recommended. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (Tue-F), D daily \$\$\$**

### MARTIN'S TAVERN

1264 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.

202-333-7370

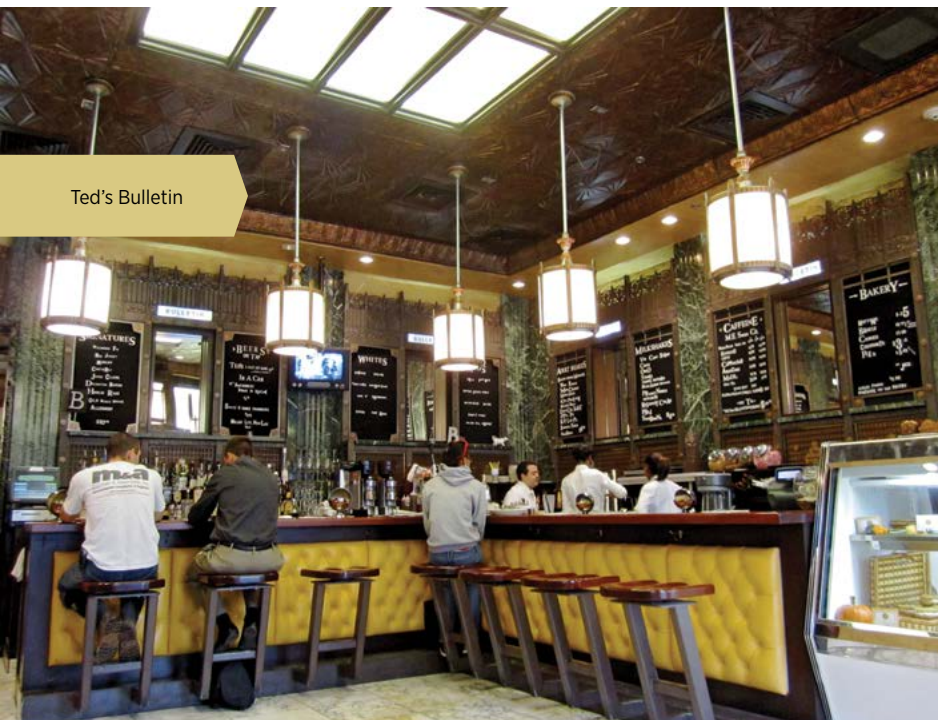
martinstavern.com

Neighborhood institution Martin's has served every president from Harry Truman to George W. Bush. JFK even proposed to Jackie here in 1953. Fourth-generation proprietor Billy Martin is usually behind the bar or greeting regulars. Get Grandma Martin's meatloaf, shepherd's pie (Billy's recipe), corned beef and cabbage, or Martin's Delight (roasted turkey on toast, smothered in rarebit sauce). Then wash it down with a Guinness stout or one of their house cocktails. **Brunch (Sat-Sun), L, D daily \$-\$\$ AL**



**MEREDITH PRATT** is author of *Frommer's EasyGuide to Washington, D.C., 2020*.

Photo: CherryRide



Ted's Bulletin



# Is “Fit” a Bad Fit?

How evaluating job candidates can stifle diversity

Cultural fit is often difficult to describe but refers to how well an employee matches the environment and values of their organization. Despite its ineffability, fit can play a significant role in hiring decisions. A survey of academic librarians ([bit.ly/AL-Fit1](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit1)) found that cultural fit was valued more highly in hiring than previous experience, job performance, skills, and knowledge of professional trends. I once worked at an institution where I was a poor fit for the culture and can attest to how demoralizing that situation can be. I've also served on hiring committees where it was clear that our conceptions of cultural fit held nearly as much weight in decision making as did the stated qualifications.

A major issue with hiring for cultural fit is the potential to stifle diversity. We are all influenced by cognitive biases, the shortcuts our brains are programmed to take to help us make decisions. Those biases often lead us to value and want to be around people who are more like us. Whether that means we prefer people who have similar interests or backgrounds, or who are graduates of our alma mater, affinity bias, among other biases, plays a huge role in keeping many industries homogeneous ([bit.ly/AL-Fit2](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit2)) and preventing people who do not match the dominant culture from climbing the career ladder ([bit.ly/AL-Fit3](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit3)).

While it's natural to feel more comfortable with people who are like us, we can generate significant benefits from workplace diversity and our discomfort. Having team members with unique backgrounds and perspectives can challenge entrenched beliefs and lead to better problem solving ([bit.ly/AL-Fit4](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit4)). One study



([bit.ly/AL-Fit5](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit5)) found that businesses that scored well on multidimensional measures of diversity developed more products in the same period of time, an important metric of innovation.

Some authors argue that hiring for cultural fit can ensure the applicant shares the values of the organization, which is important ([bit.ly/AL-Fit6](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit6)). However, it's often difficult to see when our considerations around cultural fit are leading us to discount diverse candidates. This is especially true when groups haven't explicitly developed a shared definition of what good fit looks like.

When you examine the library literature for mentions of cultural fit, it's easy to see how evaluating candidates this way can lead to a monoculture. In one article, a survey respondent wrote “we are a small academic library in a small city.... If a person seemed too ‘cosmopolitan’ we would not consider them”

Having team members with unique backgrounds and perspectives can challenge entrenched beliefs.

([bit.ly/AL-Fit7](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit7)). In another article the authors mentioned that they prejudged candidates based on the article they chose to share: “If the article was ... on a tenet with which [the unit members] did not agree, the group was less likely to respond favorably” ([bit.ly/AL-Fit8](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit8)).

The biggest challenge in combating these biases is that they are largely unconscious. It would help, then, to remove or reveal subjectivity in our decision making as much as possible. This could include blinding résumés to remove indicators of race, class, and gender; using standardized interview questions; using a scoring rubric to judge candidates; having antibias-trained outsiders who can uncover prejudices on your search committees; and having search committee members explicitly discuss their biases (see [bit.ly/AL-Fit9](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit9) and [bit.ly/AL-Fit10](http://bit.ly/AL-Fit10) for additional suggestions). While we can't entirely remove biases from our decision making, we can reveal and question the things members of the search committee value around fit.

Instead of focusing on hiring people who fit the dominant culture, libraries should explore why others are viewed as bad fits in the first place and how the organization can better appreciate people who don't conform. A critical part of diversity initiatives is inclusion, and organizations will have to look at how welcome and valued everyone is made to feel if they want to improve diversity in the long term. **AL**

**MEREDITH FARKAS** is a faculty librarian at Portland (Oreg.) Community College and a lecturer at San José (Calif.) State University School of Information. She blogs at [InformationWantsToBeFree.com](http://InformationWantsToBeFree.com). Email: [librarysuccess@gmail.com](mailto:librarysuccess@gmail.com)

# Online Learning Is Here to Stay

Librarians transform into digital instructors

My colleagues frequently debate the growth and application of online education. Those of us who are passionate about high-quality online learning are often surprised that anyone can be reluctant to consider—or even opposed to developing—a fully online course.

Whether we laud its growth or fear its presence, online learning is here to stay. The Babson Survey Research Group, in its 2018 report ([bit.ly/BabsonRept](http://bit.ly/BabsonRept)), found that enrollment for distance education students has steadily increased for the past 14 years, with nearly 69% of all distance education students now enrolled in public institutions.

Distance or online education in K–12 settings is also common. Students consistently need advanced placement courses, elective college courses, credit recovery, homebound placements, and home-schooling, and this has boosted online learning in K–12 school systems in all 50 states. In addition, the growing popularity of technologies such as Schoology, Edmodo, and Google Classroom means that even in face-to-face K–12 classrooms, students must develop a comfort level with online coursework in order to fully experience academic success.

For library professionals, this translates into making sure we are involved in multiple learning settings: face-to-face, online, hybrid, blended, flipped, and any number of other classroom combinations. Unfortunately, little evidence exists that LIS coursework prepares candidates to design and assess online learning. Many librarians pursue additional degrees, certification, or professional development



in instructional design, trying to keep up with an ever-changing list of tools, technologies, and institutional regulations.

Researchers have also generated a body of work that contextualizes librarianship in the world of online learning, with a specific focus on the librarian's role as instructional designer and instructor. Articles from 2005 to the present in the *Journal of Library and Information Services in Distance Learning* indicate a shift in librarians' focus from merely providing resources to collaboration and instruction.

A parallel evolution has taken place among school library researchers. In 2017, Stephanie A. Jones, Panne Andrea Burke, and I surveyed 85 school library preparation programs in 38 states to find out how they trained candidates to deliver instruction in fully online settings. This national study ([bit.ly/FullyOnline](http://bit.ly/FullyOnline))

Even in face-to-face K–12 classrooms, students must develop a comfort level with online coursework.

concluded that while the preparation program coursework did not directly address fully online school librarians, graduate programs acknowledged their importance by emphasizing technology-enabled learning, web design, and the teaching of digital literacy. K–12 students who have access to online learning can develop skill sets that will become helpful after graduation from high school.

Librarians are designing online classes, collaborating with professors, embedding themselves into online coursework, and developing online resources. Brenda Boyer, librarian at Kutztown (Pa.) Area School District, developed a robust virtual school library ([bit.ly/KutztownLib](http://bit.ly/KutztownLib)) that plays a central role in her high school's online instruction. Geography Librarian Amanda Hornby at University of Washington Libraries developed an online tutorial and research guide ([bit.ly/GeogTutor](http://bit.ly/GeogTutor)) for a geography course to help students navigate resources relevant to their research projects. Librarians at University of Texas at El Paso are collaborating with faculty ([bit.ly/ElPasoCollab](http://bit.ly/ElPasoCollab)) to integrate information literacy into course content.

We should examine the affordability of technology tools and the learning needs librarians are tasked with addressing. Ultimately, we need to meet our students where they are—and many of them are accessing content and enjoying rich learning experiences online. <sup>AL</sup>

**LUCY SANTOS GREEN** is associate professor of library and information science at the University of South Carolina. Adapted from "Librarians as Online Course Designers and Instructors," *Library Technology Reports* vol. 55, no. 4 (May/June 2019).

# Building Inclusive Libraries

Youth-driven frameworks and initiatives are key to welcoming all students

If we build our libraries on the assumption that youth matter, how then are we tangibly realizing this idea in our programs and services? Not only do our youth matter, but they also have valuable perspectives. We must meaningfully integrate who they are into our libraries and our work, consistently and joyously.

One way I've been fortunate enough to do this in my middle school library has been through an initiative called the #LibFive. With 8th graders Cesar Falcon, Jose Gomez, and Jaida Morris, the #LibFive has leveraged teen insights and experiences to create a student-driven professional development program for youth librarians—initially in our district and eventually across the US.

Our project was based on an initiative from the Chapel Hill–Carrboro (N.C.) City Schools Blue Ribbon Mentor–Advocate Program called the Student Six ([bit.ly/AL-student6](http://bit.ly/AL-student6)). The “six” refers to six culturally sustaining strategies for educators to better connect with students of color. The power of the Student Six made me want to explore this idea with teens, viewed through the lens of libraries.

The students at our alternative school have had experiences with multiple schools; they come to us and rewrite their school stories. Part of that rewriting happens in the library. I chose to work with three students who I saw often for an enrichment and remediation period.

To build a professional development framework, I guided Cesar, Jose, and Jaida through research. We looked at the powerful Mary Stone Hanley and George W. Noblit study “Cultural Responsiveness, Racial Identity, and Academic Success: A Review of Literature” (2009), which found



that positive racial identity leads to academic success for youth of color. From there, we unpacked the state of representation in books today and discussed the themes of #OwnVoices, counterstories, and the necessity of building reflective collections.

The students then did their own action-based research. They conducted library walks and considered the time they spent at libraries at their base schools. We brainstormed what makes a library feel welcoming and spoke to other students about their experiences. After months of work, we came up with the #LibFive—the five biggest ways that libraries can build an inclusive environment. They are:

1. See me. Listen to me.
2. Show me on the shelves and walls. Read those books yourself.
3. Graphic novels and manga are not extra.
4. Show the joy in our stories.
5. Make the library a sorting-free zone.

The possibilities for teen input are infinite—from programming and lesson planning to policies and layout.

By *sorting*, we mean separating students by perceived ability, grades, compliance, or other factors. Our libraries should not sort students, but treat all visitors as readers and scholars. To illustrate the harm of sorting, my students use book fairs as an example: Classes are broken into groups based on who has money to shop at the fair and who does not.

Using the #LibFive, we built a training session for librarians where Cesar, Jose, and Jaida share their perspectives and research. The list might seem obvious or simple, but I would implore people thinking along those lines to reflect and reconsider. The principles are powerful because of their simplicity. As Jose says at the end of our session, “These reasons help explain why we love our library so much. We want every library to also do these five things.”

The #LibFive can be universally applied to any library that serves youth—from school to special to public. I've pulled the foundations into an infographic ([bit.ly/libfivehandout](http://bit.ly/libfivehandout)) that can be printed and shared. I also invite you to think about an issue or opportunity in your library right now that you can explore with youth. The possibilities for teen input and design are infinite—from programming and lesson planning to policies and physical layout.

Authentically including teens in building an inclusive library not only improves service for all but shows them that they matter—through supported expression, the creation of empowered spaces, and the amplification of their amazing voices. **AL**

**JULIE STIVERS** is librarian at Mount Vernon Middle School in Raleigh, North Carolina. Find her on Twitter at @BespokeLib.



# CELEBRATE BANNED BOOKS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2019

Censorship leaves us in the dark by extinguishing information and silencing challenging discussions. But there are places that keep the light on, allowing everyone to access materials from an array of viewpoints. During Banned Books Week, inspire readers to spotlight censorship and explore the freedom to read with these illuminating materials.

Banned Books Week is an annual event that highlights the benefits of unrestricted reading and draws attention to censorship attempts. Find program and display ideas at [ala.org/bbooks](http://ala.org/bbooks).



Censorship Leaves Us in the Dark Poster



Censorship Leaves Us in the Dark Bookmark



Make Orwell Fiction Again Tote



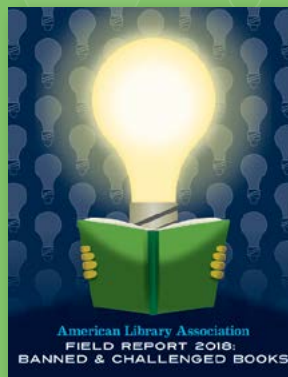
I Read Banned Books Sticker Roll

Censorship Leaves Us in the Dark Buttons

GLOWS IN THE DARK!



Most Challenged Books of 2018 Bookmark



Field Report 2018 50 Pack

An excellent handout, with descriptions of public challenges and ways to defend the freedom to read!

Shop for these items and more at [ALASTORE.ALA.ORG](http://ALASTORE.ALA.ORG)

Submit your order by **SEPTEMBER 9, 2019** to receive your materials in time for Banned Books Week using standard shipping.

# A Librarian's Good-Bye

## Career-spanning professional development essentials

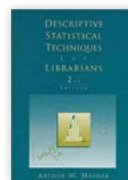
This column wraps eight years of writing about professional development books for *American Libraries*. And having retired from the Association more than a year ago, I have had time to contemplate books that shaped or informed my work—or were necessary guides to learning about new dimensions of librarianship—as my career evolved from library assistant to special collections cataloger to book marketing to association management and back to special librarianship. I strongly believe that professional education is ongoing and that it is our responsibility to continue building expertise through reading. These books—some out of print, sadly—have been vital during my journey.

In 1970, I was working in book receipts at Boston Public Library and just beginning to consider library school when I expressed an interest in cataloging during a coffee break with colleagues. Bill Crowe, who became dean of University of Kansas Libraries, suggested *Cataloging USA*, by



Paul S. Dunkin, published by the American Library Association (ALA) in 1969. Currently out of print, it was the first professional book in my personal library—and it's one of the few I have retained through multiple moves. I remain impressed by its clarity. The first sentence says it all: “*Cataloging USA* is not a how-to-do-it book. It is a why-do-it book.” Dunkin goes back to Charles Ammi Cutter and his rules for descriptive cataloging, briefly reviewing the various codes up to the first edition of *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, which had recently been published in 1967. For me, understanding the “why” of what I was doing was vital. Even for routine cataloging, Dunkin made me think about the user of the catalog record I was creating

and how that record would inform the reader's search for information.



Dunkin's book had a broad impact on my thinking. Two out-of-print books stand out because they introduced me to two important library management tools:

standards and statistics. Walt Crawford, in *Technical Standards: An Introduction for Librarians* (Knowledge Industry Publications, 1986), points out how our lives depend on consistent application of standards, starting with the electrical socket. It was definitely an aha moment for me, as at the time of reading I was negotiating the adoption of common standards for catalog sharing for three libraries that previously adhered to local practices. Arthur W. Hafner's *Descriptive Statistical Techniques for Librarians* (ALA Books, 1989) helped me understand how the hash marks I'd made on statistics sheets day after day were useful in contexts, particularly when aggregated with other metrics.



## THE BESTSELLERS LIST

### TOP 3 IN PRINT

**1 | National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries** by American Association of School Librarians



The *Standards* enables school librarians to influence and lead in their schools, districts, and states, and to develop plans that meet today's educational landscape.

**2 | Lessons Inspired by Picture Books for Primary Grades**

by Maureen Schlosser and Rebecca Granatini



This toolkit of lessons, worksheets, charts, assessments, and rubrics is designed to build learner competencies and examine ideas inspired by picture books.

**3 | Reference and Information Services: An Introduction, 4th edition** by Kay Ann Cassell and Uma Hiremath



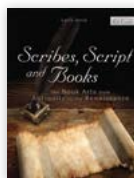
In this book, Cassell and Hiremath provide tools to manage the ebb and flow of changing reference services in today's libraries.



When I went to library school in the 1970s, we studied book selection. In the aftermath of the academic library growth of the 1960s, bibliographers and acquisitions librarians were developing guidelines for accomplishing their work in ways that incorporated evaluation. Initially, there was David L. Perkins's now out-of-print *Guidelines for Collection Development* (ALA Books, 1979), which was followed by a series of elaborations to individual guidelines for selection, training, allocation of resources, policy development, and other aspects of the evolving specialty. Thankfully, Peggy Johnson, who was part of this effort in



the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, has written four editions of *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management* (ALA Editions, 2018) that cover similar ground. ALA Editions, 2018. 432 P. \$85. PBK. 978-0-8389-1641-4.



I was an art history major, and I have long been interested in the artistry of rare books—a field in which I have worked only as a cataloger. Leila Avrin's *Scribes,*

*Script, and Books: The Book Arts from Antiquity to the Renaissance* (ALA Books, 1991) was the result of years of research into the history of writing, papermaking, bookmaking, and printing up to the introduction of movable type. Significantly, she includes Near Eastern and Asian sources as well as their influences on European developments. The more recent *Rare Books and Special Collections*, by Sidney E. Berger (ALA Neal-Schuman, 2014), is a thorough guide to the specialized area, with numerous glossary lists, illustrations, and practical asides that provide experiential context to his points. ALA Editions, 2010. 392 P. \$61. PBK. 978-0-8389-1038-2; ALA Neal-Schuman, 2014. 560 P. \$129. PBK. 978-1-55570-964-8.

As an art history major, I studied buildings. It provided useful background for the numerous questions on library buildings I fielded over the years. A new library building or major renovation is a significant event in a community, one most people manage only once. Over the years of responding to requests for assistance, even on something as simple as what kind of shelving should be used in a day care center, I came to rely on Philip D. Leighton and David C. Weber's update



of Keyes Metcalf's *Planning Academic and Research Library Buildings* (ALA Editions, 1999). It may be intended for academic libraries, but it has

sound planning advice, as well as charts for seating, shelving, and workstations useful in any type of library. The authors emphasize the planning process, considering how programming for the library affects the structure. As noted in my May 2018 column, this volume has been



updated in Fred Schlipf and John A. Moorman's *The Practical Handbook of Library Architecture: Creating Building Spaces That Work* (ALA Editions, 2018), but spending time with the earlier edition is still worthwhile if planning a new library. ALA Editions, 1999. 928 P. \$170. PBK. 978-0-8389-0747-4; ALA Editions, 2018. 1,040 P. \$149. PBK. 978-0-8389-1553-0.

My selection of influential books will remain on this librarian's bookshelf. What titles are on yours? **AL**

**KAREN MULLER** was librarian and knowledge management specialist for the ALA Library until her retirement in 2017.

## The Top-Selling Books from ALA Publishing (Since April 1, 2019)

### TOP 3 IN EBOOKS

**1 | Reference and Information Services: An Introduction, 4th edition** by Kay Ann Cassell and Uma Hiremath



In this book, Cassell and Hiremath provide tools to manage the ebb and flow of changing reference services in today's libraries.

**2 | Fake News and Alternative Facts: Informative Literacy in a Post-Truth Era** by Nicole A. Cooke



This ALA Editions Special Report shows how librarians can help patrons of all ages think critically about information, teaching them ways to separate fact from fiction.

**3 | The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction, 3rd edition** by Neal Wyatt and Joyce G. Saricks



This resource helps librarians and MLIS students become familiar with different fiction genres to help them connect readers to new books.



# SOLUTIONS

*Products and services*



Patrons can check out and return materials at D-Tech's self-service LendIT kiosks at any time of day.

books are automatically checked back in and made immediately available for checkout, cutting down on circulation staff time. To add items to the machine, libraries can load up to 50 items at a time into the loading column to be placed by the onboard robot, or insert them one at a time via the item access door, similar to making a return. Kiosks are available in three capacities: 200, 500, or 1,000 items. LendIT will loan items of all types, up to 9.5 inches by 11.5 inches, provided they are RFID tagged.

Basic models start at \$65,000, with additional features including custom colors and glass doors for an added cost. If located outdoors, LendIT also requires heating and cooling systems and a canopy for weather protection.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/SolLendIT](http://bit.ly/SolLendIT).

## **24-Hour Library**

EnvisionWare's 24-Hour Library is designed to act as a standalone, fully automated branch. Users can access Wi-Fi, search the library catalog, place holds, and check out physical and digital materials at any time of day.

Up to three users can browse items at the same time at the large 24-Hour Library, using two touchscreens mounted on the side and the front window and checkout screen. The three carousels inside the machine rotate independently and are usable concurrently.

The large unit holds up to 340 items, with 268 standard

## All-Hours Access

Automated 24-hour access solutions

**M**aking physical collections accessible remotely can go a long way toward providing access for people who can't make it to the library. Whether it's securely storing holds for 24-hour access or making portions of a collection available at offsite locations through a vending machine or an automated small branch, improving access outside traditional library hours can help underserved patrons take advantage of their library.

### **LendIT**

D-Tech's self-service library vending machine, LendIT, can be placed anywhere with a power outlet and internet connection with a fixed IP address. That could be right outside the library building or in a mall or community

center. Users can browse available books on screen, with images and descriptions provided by the library's discovery layer or generated by an onboard camera when books are loaded. Units with an optional clear front panel allow users to browse by looking directly into the machine, providing a more traditional experience.

D-Tech recently added a new software feature that gives users the ability to register for a library card at the machine. Information is forwarded to the library for approval. As soon as users are approved, they can check out items.

Patrons can choose to pick up holds at a LendIT location just like at a standard branch, if the library enables the feature and reserves space in the machine. Returned

## SUBMISSIONS

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

## CASE STUDY

# Toledo Knows When to Hold 'Em

**How do you use remote-Lockers?** The lockers are installed at several locations where we have a vestibule that can be left open during off hours. Customers can request hold materials to be placed in one of our lockers spread throughout the county.

**How do remoteLockers serve your library's needs?**

The remoteLockers give us and our customers more flexibility for accessing library books and media at times that work with busy schedules. We assumed that the lockers would be used most heavily in the evening and early morning, but we've learned most people are using the lockers just a few hours before we open, during a lunch break, or a few hours after we close.

**What are the main benefits?** One key benefit is the ability to provide a certain level of customer service to the community outside our regular hours. Aside from the added hours of access, the lockers could be used to expand access to library resources at locations

other than library branches. We haven't done this yet, but we know other systems have used these lockers at grocery stores and other places that don't typically have a library presence. Additionally, we've heard from customers that the increased privacy of their holds is something they appreciate.

**What would you like to see improved or added to the lockers?** In our experience, it would be helpful if there was an easier way to add additional items for

the same customer to a locker, and it would be helpful if we were alerted to the fact that a specific customer already has items in a locker. We also ran into some challenges combining first-generation lockers with subsequent generations, so considering future interoperability will be important. ●

**USER:** Jason Kucsma, acting director/fiscal officer, Toledo-Lucas County (Ohio) Public Library



**PRODUCT:** remoteLocker

**DETAILS:** Bibliotheca's remoteLockers allow patrons to access their holds by providing a secure locker they can open using their library card.



12.5-by-8.25-by-1.6-inch slots; 67 wider 2.4-inch slots; and five hold drawers for larger items. It can accept almost three times its lending capacity in returns, with space for 1,000 items in 14 return bins. The smaller unit holds 235 items in 188 standard and 47 wide slots, with room for 600 returns. Both units allow for hold checkouts. Saving staff time, items on hold are automatically moved to the return bin for reprocessing if they are not picked up in the time allotted by the library.

The 24-Hour Library will broadcast a Wi-Fi signal in its proximity when it has a hardwired internet connection. Units without a wired connection can operate using 3G or 4G service to interface with the library's systems but will not provide customer Wi-Fi access.

EnvisionWare provides project management, installation, and training for its 24-Hour Library. Typical budgets for installation, including the opening collection, start around \$150,000, and EnvisionWare offers leasing options. For more information, visit [bit.ly/Sol24hrLib](http://bit.ly/Sol24hrLib). **AL**

EnvisionWare's 24-Hour Library functions like a remote branch.



Holdings can be picked up from remoteLockers even during hours libraries are closed.

# PEOPLE

## Announcements

### ON THE MOVE

In January **Dawn Behrend** became instruction and outreach librarian at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina.

**Luke Bentley** was named assistant director at Guernsey County (Ohio) Public Library in February.

April 22 **Brett Bonfield** became chief operating officer for the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

April 1 **Jason Broughton** was appointed Vermont state librarian.

**Tiffani Carter** joined Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library as manager of its Livingston branch March 25.



**Haley Hart** joined Sawyer Free Library in Gloucester, Massachusetts, as teen librarian assistant in April.

**Krista Kugler** joined Fergus Falls (Minn.) Public Library as early learning librarian in April.

In April, Sawyer Free Library in Gloucester, Massachusetts, appointed **Jacklyn Linsky** as local history librarian.

**Cari Lovins** became assistant director of digital product strategy for Emory University Libraries in Atlanta in January.



March 7 **Sarah McFadden** joined the New York State Library's division of library development as librarian.

**Boaz Nadav-Manes** became executive director of libraries at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, March 1.

**Kristine Palacios** started as director of Dennis P. McHugh Piermont (N.Y.) Public Library March 25.

### Kudos

**Sandy Hester**, director of Coastal Plain Regional Library System in Tifton, Georgia, was named Public Librarian of the Year by Georgia Public Library Service.

**Kim Howell**, librarian at Stockwell Place Elementary School in Bossier City, Louisiana, was named School Librarian of the Year at the Louisiana Library Association conference March 14.

**Sherry Noon**, youth and family services manager at Anderson Public Library in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, received the Kentucky Library Association's "Miss Pickle" Award for excellence in developing and providing children's library services. ●

April 8 **John Schoppert** started as university librarian at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls.

**Amy Staples** joined Celina (Tex.) Public Library as youth services librarian in March.

Sawyer Free Library in Gloucester, Massachusetts, named **Gabriela Toth** technology librarian in April.

Dubuque County (Iowa) Library District appointed **Amanda Vazquez** assistant director in March.

**Lara Vilahomat** joined Sawyer Free Library in Gloucester, Massachusetts, in April as community librarian.

### PROMOTIONS

April 1 the Library of Congress promoted **Robin L. Dale** to associate librarian for library services.

Greenville (Ohio) Public Library promoted **Susi Halley** to director in January.

San Francisco promoted **Michael Lambert** to city librarian March 25.

In January **Ron Stafford** was promoted to head librarian at Northeastern Technical College in Cheraw, South Carolina.

### RETIREMENTS

**Sharon Bostick**, dean of libraries at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, retired March 29.

**Randall K. Burkett** retired as curator of African-American collections at Emory University's Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library in Atlanta in September.



**Sheryl Irwin** retired April 17 as librarian at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt in British Columbia.

**Karen Sigsworth**, manager of the North Ridgeville branch of Lorain (Ohio) Public Library System, retired February 28.

### AT ALA

**Stan Kessler** was promoted to database administrator in Information Technology and Telecommunication Services (ITTS).

**Ronny Khuri** joined *Booklist* March 18 as associate editor in the Books for Youth department.

**Autumn Ni** became development coordinator in the Development Office in February.

**Bill Ott** retired as editor and publisher of *Booklist* April 26, after nearly 40 years with the magazine.

**Steven Pate**, eStore project manager for ITTS, left ALA March 22.

March 25 **Grace Rosean** joined *Booklist* as marketing associate. AL



## In Memory

**Delores Kaye Gapen**, 75, an academic librarian for more than 35 years, died February 14. Gapen was director of library and academic services at Trinity Washington (D.C.) University (2005–2007) and vice president and provost (2007–2009); director of the library at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland (1991–1996); dean of the general library system at University of Wisconsin–Madison (1984–1991); and dean of libraries at University of Alabama (1981–1984).

**Mary Alice Hall**, 88, chief of public services at Prince George's County (Md.) Memorial Library System (1969–1992), died January 1. She had previously worked for libraries in Independence, Missouri, and Manhattan, Kansas.

**Leta Hamm**, 85, a librarian at Illinois State University in Normal and Lee County (Fla.) Library System until her retirement in 2009, died February 26.

**Belinda Hernandez**, 52, longtime librarian at Shadycrest Elementary School in Pearland, Texas, died March 23.

**John Leroy Hilbert**, 55, young adult/teen services librarian at Metropolitan Library System's Southern Oaks Library in Oklahoma City for 18 years, died January 7.

**Anne J. Hofmann**, 67, who worked at New York Public Library for more than 40 years and was a professor of public policy at Baruch College in New York City for 25 years, died March 30. She was active in the American Library Association (ALA) and served as president of the New York Library Association in 2000.

**Edythe "Edie" Huffman**, 67, who worked for Indiana State Library's Library Development Office for nearly two decades, died January 7. She previously worked for state library systems in Illinois, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, and Wisconsin and served on the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Library Statistics Working Group (2009–2012).

**Janell Pearce Mattheus**, 66, children's librarian for 30 years at Salt Lake County (Utah) Library's Whitmore branch until her 2018 retirement, died January 11.

**Francis L. Miksa**, 80, professor of cataloging at the University of Texas (UT) Graduate School of Library and Information Science until his 2008 retirement, died March 20. He began

his academic career at Louisiana State University in 1972. He joined UT in 1984 and earned the Texas Excellence in Teaching Award in 1985, 1989, and 2001.

**Charles V. Mutschler**, 63, archivist at Eastern Washington University (EWU) in Cheney for 37 years, died March 10. Mutschler was serving as interim dean of EWU's library system.

**Leland Park**, 77, director of Davidson (N.C.) College's E. H. Little Library until retiring in 2006, died February 13. He worked at the library for nearly 40 years, after a brief stint at the Charlotte Mecklenburg (N.C.) Public Library. Park received the G. Jackson Burney Community Service Award in 2011.



**Ronald F. Sigler**, 86, retired professor at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee School of Information Studies, died March 25. Sigler created the "Freedom to View" statement for the Educational Film Library Association, which ALA adopted. In 1981, he became the first librarian appointed to the Motion Picture Association of America's Classification and Rating Administration board.

**Norman D. Stevens**, 86, director of University of Connecticut Libraries until his 1994 retirement, died December 15. He worked at Rutgers University Libraries in New Jersey (1955–1968), interrupted by a stint as acting director of Howard University Libraries in Washington, D.C. (1961–1963). Stevens wrote seven books and hundreds of articles, and in the 1950s he cofounded the Molesworth Institute, dedicated to promoting library humor.

**Paul Underwood**, 71, assistant city librarian for San Francisco until retiring in 2006, died February 9. He had previously served as supervising librarian at San José (Calif.) Public Library and director of library services for San Mateo (Calif.) Public Library.

**Sidney Verba**, 86, professor emeritus and director of the Harvard University Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from 1984 until his 2007 retirement, died March 4. As director, he contributed to the development of Harvard's online library catalog, and during his tenure the library became one of the first participants in the Google Books library digitization project. ●



## Finding Flora and Fauna

Scientists who study specific types of animals or plants can be challenged by the fact that species information is often limited to only one or two libraries in faraway places. The Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), headquartered in the Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, D.C., was formed in 2007 as a consortium of institutions dedicated to making taxonomic information openly available through its digital portal at [biodiversitylibrary.org](http://biodiversitylibrary.org).

Martin R. Kalfatovic, BHL's program director, estimates that its 20 member libraries and 22 affiliates have scanned upwards of 147,000 titles, ranging from the 15th century to the present, with information on more than 180 million species. "Though most of them are scientists," he says, "about 72% of our users are also interested in the artwork that these sources contain." For example, artist Emily Williams found inspiration for her series of glass sculptures on ocean life in Henri Marie Ducrotay de Blainville's manual on marine invertebrates from the 1830s.

Kalfatovic says that BHL's other users include historians, librarians, archivists, museum curators, educators, students, conservationists, and citizen scientists.

Joshua Drew, a researcher at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, for example, finds the BHL collections vital for "characterizing what ecosystems used to look like and what species were present" so that he can help model conservation strategies for marine ecosystems in the South Pacific.

Perhaps the ultimate tribute was given by Hungarian zoologist Barna Páll-Gergely, who in 2015 named a new species of tiny snail from southeast Asia after BHL, *Vargapupa biheli*, as a way of thanking the library for the "multitude of rare literature" it provides. **AL**

Martin R. Kalfatovic is holding the digitized version of Edward Donovan's *An Epitome of the Natural History of the Insects of New Holland, New Zealand, New Guinea, Otaheite, and Other Islands in the Indian, Southern, and Pacific Oceans* (1805).

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





# FREEDOM FROM CORE DRILLING

Connectrac® raceways deliver power and data with an elegant and flexible, floor-based cable management solution unlike complicated and expensive methods such as core drilling, trenching or power poles. Our ultra-low profile raceway integrates with any furniture and can be moved or reconfigured as environments evolve.

See our new **Flex** raceways  
on display at **Booth 3707**  
**American Library Association**  
Show: **June 20 - June 25**

**CONNECTRAC®**  
*Freedom From Core Drilling!*

**Since 2005**

1.877.357.7183

PowerUpLibrary4U.com



# EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of LIBRARY & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



## Earn your Master of Library Science

A graduate degree in Library and Information Management complements previous education, offers prospects for increased earnings and provides flexible skills for the future. Be a part of the information profession that has exciting career opportunities such as public or academic librarian, media specialist, data manager, archivist, and many more.

- **Balance Online Learning and Occasional Weekend Intensive Classes**  
Enjoy personal interaction between students and faculty as you combine your MLS studies with an active life. Cohort locations include:

Portland, OR	Denver, CO
Salt Lake City, UT	Emporia, KS
Overland Park, KS	Sioux Falls, SD
Las Vegas, NV	Boise, ID

- **Leadership Development**  
Practice advocating for your library or information organization based on your new understanding of adaptive leadership.

- **SLIM's Heritage of Excellence for Over a Century**  
Share the inherited legacy of a worldwide network of SLIM alumni to further your career objectives.

**Special tuition rates available for certain residents of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana**

For more information contact:  
[sliminfo@emporia.edu](mailto:sliminfo@emporia.edu)  
or 620.341.5203

[emporia.edu/slim](http://emporia.edu/slim)

