

Report to Council and Executive Board

May 27, 2015
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Executive Director

Virtual Membership Meeting 2015 (VMM15)

VMM15 will take place on June 4 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Central). [Registration](#) is now open. A variety of communications from ALA President Courtney Young, including an e-mail to Council, and information in *American Libraries* magazine, AL Direct, ALA social media, the ALA website, ALA Connect, and other communications channels are promoting the meeting. Here are useful links:

Registration: <http://bit.ly/VMM15Register>
ALA Webpage: www.ala.org/membership/vmm
ALA Connect Group: <http://connect.ala.org/node/221931>
ALA Committee on Membership Meetings (COMM):
www.ala.org/groups/committees/ala/ala-comm
Accessibility: www.ala.org/membership/vmm#accessibility

2015 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction Shortlist Announced

Six books comprising [the shortlist for the 2015 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction](#) were announced on April 6 via press release, the [Booklist Online Exclusives e-newsletter](#), social media, and other channels reaching hundreds of thousands of readers. The titles were selected from a longlist based on the most recent Booklist Editors' Choice and RUSA Notable Books List. The two winners will be announced at a celebratory event at ALA Annual Conference on Saturday, June 27 in San Francisco. Information about the shortlisted titles and the awards is available on the [awards website](#).

Hundreds Gather in D.C. for 41st Annual National Library Legislative Day

In May, more than 400 library advocates met in Washington, D.C. to speak with their legislators about the importance of libraries as part of the 41st annual National Library Legislative Day. The Honorable Former Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) started the opening briefing discussion by speaking about the importance of constituent advocacy. Additional speakers included American Library Association President Courtney Young, Patrice McDermott, Director of OpenTheGovernment.org and several congressional staff experts. During the event, the ALA Washington Office presented the 2015 White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIST) Award to [Mas'ood Cajee](#), a library advocate from Stockton, California.

Office for Intellectual Freedom's *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, Ninth Edition Released

ALA Editions released the ninth edition of the Office for Intellectual Freedom's *Intellectual Freedom Manual* on April 20, 2015. The new edition is completely revised and revamped for

use by working librarians and includes new features in addition to ALA policy statements and documents on intellectual freedom. The new features include "at-a-glance" lists summarizing key issues such as access, challenge response, censorship, and requests from law enforcement; explanations of legal issues in clear, easy-to-understand language; checklists that provide step-by-step guidance on addressing particular concerns; and an expanded glossary and selected bibliography.

ALA OFFICES

Membership Development

Membership

At the end of March 2015, total ALA membership was 56,547. This is 766 greater than February 2015. Three divisions (ACRL, ASCLA, and YALSA) and seven round tables (EMIERT, GAMERT, GLBTRT, RMRT, SRRT, SRORT and SUSTAINRT) had increased membership compared to February 2014.

Joint ALA Student Membership with State Library Associations (Chapters)

In March, the Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan chapters agreed to participate in the joint student membership program. Arkansas, Delaware and Kentucky joined the program in April. Mississippi is currently considering joining the program. Student recruitment is 245 members better than the same time last year.

Ongoing Recruitment and Retention Activities

- Ongoing membership recruitment and retention activities include quarterly e-mail (Informz) campaigns to lapsed and prospective organizational members, and monthly e-mail campaigns to lapsed and to prospective personal members.
- The quarterly e-publication, *MVP (Member Value Programs) Digest*, which helps members become more aware of their ALA tangible benefits, will be distributed to all members the first week of May.
- Student AL Direct will go out in May as well.

Virtual Membership Meeting 2015 (VMM15)

(See highlights section)

Office for Accreditation (OA)

Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures (AP3) Release Scheduled for Early June

Committee on Accreditation review and Executive Board approval of revisions for the next (4th) edition of *Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures (AP3)* have been accomplished. Release of the edition is scheduled for early June.

Office for Government Relations (OGR)

ALA Welcomes White House's ConnectED: Library Challenge

On April 29, the White House announced the launch of ConnectED: Library Challenge, a new initiative to ensure that all school students receive public library cards through their schools. The ALA Washington Office secured an opportunity for American Library Association President Courtney Young to meet with President Barack Obama immediately prior to the launch of the ConnectED: Library Challenge initiative. Young responded to the Challenge by calling on school and public library leaders to work collaboratively with school administrators and civic leaders to ensure that each and every student has a public library card. In the fall, the Institute of Museum and Library Services will convene a meeting of the national library, government and school leaders to discuss best practices for developing and implementing school-public library card programs in their local districts.

ALA Joins Copyright Coalition Re:Create

In late April, ALA joined almost one dozen other founding member trade and civil society organizations to launch “Re:Create: Innovators, Creators and Consumers United for Balanced Copyright.” The group is a new coalition formed in anticipation of at least some, and potentially sweeping, efforts beginning in the current Congress to “reform” copyright law. Detailed information about Re:Create, its mission, objectives and positions on a broad range of issues is online at: www.recreatecoalition.org.

District Dispatch Subscriber Count Doubles

In the past six months, the ALA Washington Office has more than doubled the number of subscribers to the *District Dispatch*, the Office’s policy blog. Since ALA Washington Office Press Officer Jazzy Wright rolled out the technical and graphic redesign of the *District Dispatch* blog and ALA Grassroots Communications Specialist Lisa Lindle began her social media work, the Office’s policy blog has more than doubled from 3,000 to just under 6,100 subscribers.

ALA Testifies in Support of Library Funding at U.S. House LHHS Hearing

On April 28, Emily Sheketoff, Executive Director of the ALA Washington Office, called on the U.S. House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS), Education, and Related Agencies to support federal library funding at an appropriations hearing that took place

in Washington, D.C. Sheketoff advocated for the House Subcommittee to include \$186.6 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) under the Institute of Museum and Library Services and \$25 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program under the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Hundreds Gather in D.C. for 41st Annual National Library Legislative Day

(See highlights section)

ALA Takes Strong Stand for USA PATRIOT Act Reform; Backs New USA FREEDOM Act of 2015

In April, Congress introduced the USA FREEDOM Act, a bill that will improve the balance between terrorism prevention and personal privacy protection, in the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate. American Library Association President Courtney Young responded to the USA FREEDOM Act of 2015, saying that “the latest USA FREEDOM Act is a long way from perfect, but ALA believes that—if enacted as introduced or improved—it will make important changes in the USA PATRIOT Act critical to making progress on what will be a long road to restoring library users’ and all Americans’ civil liberties.” ALA opposed Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s (R-KY) bill (S. 103) to reauthorize the “library provision,” Section 215, of the USA PATRIOT Act until 2020.

Media Interest in Washington

In [“Long Lines for Freedom,”](#) an op-ed published in Washington’s popular “CongressBlog” on National Library Legislative Day, President Young recounted librarians’ long history of opposition to the bulk surveillance of Americans’ phone and library records and called strongly on Congress to pass the new USA FREEDOM Act to finally end those practices. Additionally, the cover story of *The Nation* magazine’s upcoming May 25 issue (now available online) chronicles the library community’s past and present advocacy and lobbying efforts to protect the public from intrusive government surveillance in a feature-length article titled [“Librarians Versus the NSA.”](#) The piece includes quotations from ALA Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff, OGR Managing Director Adam Eisgrau, OIF Director Barbara Jones and Alison Macrina of the Library Freedom Project. The [issue’s cover](#) is boldly titled “Not Your Grandmother’s Librarian: Fighting Big Brother in the Digital Age” and features a full-page illustration of a serious, book tattoo-sporting librarian in an updated take on the iconic “Rosie the Riveter” image.

Library Copyright Alliance Applauds Introduction of Breaking Down Barriers to Innovation Act

In April, the Library Copyright Alliance applauded the introduction of the Barriers to Innovation Act of 2015 in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would address serious problems with the rulemaking process under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DCMA). It also would correct deficiencies in several of the existing exceptions to the DMCA. Under current law, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act could be understood as prohibiting the circumvention of technological protection measures or “digital locks” for non-infringing purposes.

Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP)

Library Broadband Speed Test Shows Increased Capacity; Still Room for Improvement

Broadband speeds in U.S. public libraries have improved significantly in recent years yet continue to lag behind national broadband connectivity standards, according to “Broadband Quality in Public Libraries,” a new supplementary report released jointly in April by the American Library Association and the Information Policy & Access Center at the University of Maryland College Park as part of the Digital Inclusion Survey. Libraries reported progress in their public Internet speeds—nearly half of all libraries report subscribed Internet download speeds as being greater than 10 Mbps in 2013, compared with only 18 percent of libraries four years earlier. Despite the growth in increased broadband capacity, two-thirds of all libraries indicate that they would like to improve their broadband speeds.

Strong Coalition Calls on Libraries to Plan Now to Secure E-Rate Funding

Now that the 2015 E-rate application window is closed, several library organizations are encouraging libraries to revisit their plans for 2016 and beyond with the new opportunities in mind. In April, a broad coalition of library associations, including ALA, released a letter updating library leaders on the next phase of E-rate advocacy. Library coalition members include the American Indian Library Association; the American Library Association; the Association for Rural & Small Libraries; the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums; the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; the Public Library Association; and the Urban Libraries Council. (*see also coverage of this and a link to the letter in the PLA section of this report*)

ALA Commends FCC Chairman Wheeler

ALA President Courtney Young, ALA E-rate Task Force Chair Kathi Peiffer, and OITP Associate Director Marijke Visser presented Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler with the ALA Council resolution thanking him and the Commission for its efforts on behalf of libraries. The Council “Resolved, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members: 1) extends its deepest appreciation to Chairman Wheeler for his vision for connecting America’s libraries and schools to high-capacity broadband to best serve our communities nationwide; and 2) recognizes with gratitude Chairman Wheeler and the Commission for their unflagging work throughout the 18-month E-rate Modernization proceeding.”

Simon & Schuster Provides 5,000 Ebooks to Libraries During National Library Week

Working with ALA, Simon & Schuster announced the distribution of 5,000 ebook copies of the Academy Award-winning producer Brian Grazer’s new book, “A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life” to libraries. In addition to the ebook distribution during National Library Week, Simon & Schuster cooperated with ALA to promote the program and the important role of libraries. Jonathan Karp, President and Publisher of Simon & Schuster, said, “Libraries make knowledge accessible to everyone. We could not think of any better way to honor National

Library Week than by sharing a book that celebrates the quest for knowledge with libraries across the country and around the world.”

OITP Director Participates in IMLS Digital Convening

On April 28, IMLS held the first of three convenings on revisiting its digital priorities for grant programs. OITP director Alan Inouye participated in this first convening, which focused on the national digital platform. He offered several comments on advocacy and staffing directors for the advancement of the national digital platform concept.

OITP Engages with Graduate Students at the University of Maryland

Johnna Percell, a graduate student at the College of Information Studies, was named as the 2015 ALA Google Policy Fellow. Her fellowship at OITP will begin on June 8. In addition, Johnna and more than a dozen of her classmates visited the Washington Office for an evening discussion of information policy led by Emily Sheketoff, Alan Inouye, and Larra Clark.

Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)

Office for Intellectual Freedom's *Intellectual Freedom Manual*, Ninth Edition Released

(See highlights section)

Webinar on Revised Manual

The Office for Intellectual Freedom presented a webinar to introduce the revised Intellectual Freedom Manual on May 12; presenters included editors Trina Magi and Martin Garnar, and contributors Sarah Houghton, Helen Adams, Deborah Caldwell Stone, and Nanette Perez. Attendees received a discount code to purchase the new manual and one attendee won a free copy of the Manual, courtesy of ALA Editions. Over 460 people signed up to either attend the webinar or have the recording link emailed to them.

New Challenge Reports

The Office for Intellectual Freedom has received over 60 new challenge reports this spring. Among these was a challenge to Sherman Alexie's award winning *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. As a result of the challenge, the book was removed from all the middle school classrooms of Waterloo School District. The Office for Intellectual Freedom joined with the Iowa Library Association (ILA) to send a letter urging the school district to reconsider its decision. ILA president Duncan Stewart and ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee chair Michael Wright both signed the letter. Also in the news are challenges to Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* and John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. OIF is working closely with the local librarians involved to ensure that students retain access to these books.

Alternate Poster and Bookmark Available for Banned Books Week

In response to comments and concerns regarding the graphics for this year's Banned Books Week campaign, the Office for Intellectual Freedom has developed an alternate poster and bookmark design available for purchase at the ALA Store. The alternate graphics can be viewed online at <http://www.alastore.ala.org/>. For more information on the controversy, please visit the [OIF blog](#).

OIF and Staff Mentioned Prominently in New Book by David K. Shipler

The Office for Intellectual Freedom and its staff are mentioned prominently in the new book by Pulitzer-Prize winning author, David K. Shipler, in *Freedom of Speech: Mightier Than the Sword* (Knopf, 2015). Chapter 3, "Fear of Reading," is based on Mr. Shipler's consultation with the office. On p. 65 he states: "The great national defender of freedom in literature is the American Library Association . . ." Prominently covered is staff member Kristin Pekoll's challenge at her former job as Youth Librarian at West Bend (WI) Public Library.

OIF Director's Intellectual Freedom Chapter in New LIS Textbook Edited by Sandra Hirsh

OIF Director Barbara Jones contributed the intellectual freedom chapter for the new library and information science textbook, *Information Services Today: An Introduction* (2015), published by Rowman & Littlefield and edited by Sandra Hirsh. It is dedicated to Sandy's "role model and mom," Executive Board member Gail Schlachter, who recently passed away.

Changes Proposed to ALA's Intellectual Freedom Policies

The Intellectual Freedom Committee is proposing a number of changes to ALA's intellectual freedom policies, and the committee is hoping to receive comments from as many members as possible before bringing final versions forward at Annual. Members can access the revised Interpretations and leave comments on the proposed Interpretations on ALA Connect. The interpretations include:

- "[Labeling Systems: An Interpretation to the Library Bill of Rights](#),"
- "[Rating Systems: An Interpretation to the Library Bill of Rights](#)"
- "[User Generated Content: An Interpretation to the Library Bill of Rights](#)," and
- "[Internet Filtering: An Interpretation to the Library Bill of Rights](#),"

Presentations for State, National and International Library Organizations in March and April

The staff of the Office for Intellectual Freedom was busy doing presentations for state, national and international library organizations in March and April.

- Director Barbara Jones was the guest visitor to the Library Science program at the Cologne (Germany) University of Applied Sciences, for the morning of May 5, 2015. Her topic was: "The Office for Intellectual Freedom." She talked about OIF within the context of ALA, and about OIF's primary programs addressing ethics, intellectual freedom, and privacy.
- Deputy Director Deborah Caldwell Stone talked about "Libraries and Privacy in a Digital Age" at a joint CILIP/FAIFE workshop (Chartered Institute of Library and Information

Professionals/Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) on library privacy in London, England; conducted a webinar for the Delaware Division of Libraries on "Libraries, Intellectual Freedom and the Law;" and presented a talk on internet filtering and the Children's Internet Protection Act at the REFORMA National Conference in San Diego.

- Assistant Director Kristin Pekoll presented the keynote talk at the Tennessee Library Association Intellectual Freedom Luncheon, "A Place at the Table. Diversity and Transparency"; spoke on " How Censorship Affects You" at the Colorado Teen Literature Conference; discussed how to handle challenges as part of the Alaska Public Librarians Virtual Meeting; and gave a presentation on using social media to activate a community during a challenge at "Outlawed: The Naked Truth about Censored Literature for Young People," a conference sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Fresno State University.

Office for Research and Statistics (ORS)

ORS at the Florida Library Association (FLA) Annual Conference

ORS Director Kathy Rosa made two presentations at the 2015 FLA Annual Conference on May 12-15. Rosa discussed the Digital Inclusion Survey, including national and Florida specific results, during a research poster presentation. The study is funded by the Institute for Museum & Library Services. The second presentation, which has been given by several staff members at state conferences, was the ALA Kitchen Table Conversation Program, "Florida Libraries into the Future."

Public Information Office (PIO)

ALA Election Results

PIO worked closely with the Governance Office to assist with the announcement of the [Presidential Election](#) results. PIO reached out to library trade publications, mainstream book and education editors, and print, radio and television contacts within Austin, Texas, to promote the announcement of Dr. Julie Todaro as ALA President for the 2016-2017 term. Coverage highlights include [American Libraries](#), [Publishers Weekly](#), [Austin \(Texas\) Community College Blog](#), and [Library Journal](#).

Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction Shortlist/Winners

ALA announced the shortlist for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction on April 6 and PIO secured placement with the Associated Press (AP). The shortlist AP article was picked up by the [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), [Yahoo News](#) and a host of others. The Carnegie Medals shortlist announcement also was distributed via [PR Newswire](#).

Media outreach efforts resulted in a media snapshot of more than 670 mentions and a circulation total of more than 546 million.

National Library Week

PIO led National Library Week, April 12 – 18, publicity efforts and secured more than 2,000 print placements/mentions resulting in a circulation rate of more than 1.1 billion. Radio stations in Chicago; Baltimore; San Francisco; San Jose, CA; and Buffalo, NY, aired National Library Week Public Service Announcements. Media coverage focused on the [changing role of libraries](#); the 2015 State of America's Libraries Report; the [2014 Top Ten List of Frequently Challenged Books](#); [National Library Worker's Day](#), [National Bookmobile Day](#); and [National Library Week activities](#). ALA leadership participated in media interviews with the [Associated Press](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Market Watch News](#), [National Public Radio](#), and [MTV News](#).

Money Smart Week

Hundreds of libraries celebrated Money Smart Week @ your library from April 19 – 25. PIO worked with ALA Chapter Relations to secure coverage of Money Smart Week. PIO developed a [Web Press kit](#), calendar notice and event press release. Efforts resulted in more than 168 media clips resulting in a circulation rate of more than 114 million. ALA leadership participated in interviews with [USA Today](#) and Bloomberg News. Highlights include [Knoxville Public Radio](#), [Detroit Free Press](#), and [Chicago Tribune](#).

Preservation Week

PIO coordinated PSA recordings for ALCTS' Preservation Week, April 26 – May 2, 2015. PIO worked with Preservation Week Honorary Chair Brad Meltzer and Broward County Public Library to record [Preservation Week PSAs](#). PIO secured placements with radio stations in Chicago and multiple stations in Pennsylvania. Other noteworthy support included [Preservation Week member publicity tools](#); [Web press kit](#); and work on a variety of media materials including tweets, fact sheets, calendar notice, and press releases. Coverage highlights include [About.com](#), [Smithsonian Blog](#), and [Chicago Sun-Times](#). Publicity outreach efforts resulted in a circulation rate of more than 95 million.

Día Diversity in Action (April 30)

PIO worked closely with ALSC to secure coverage of El Día De Los Niños, El Día De Los Libros, also known as Diversity in Action. PIO provided member [publicity tools](#), bilingual [Web Press Kit](#), calendar notice, talking points and event press release. Coverage was achieved with both English and [Spanish](#) media as PIO reached out to radio, print, and [television](#) media targets. Overall efforts resulted in more than 410 media placements and a circulation rate of 37 million. Coverage highlights include [Huffington Post](#), [San Jose Mercury News](#), [Chicago Daily Herald](#), and [La Jornada Latina](#).

Future Publicity Efforts

PIO is currently working on publicity efforts to support the following initiatives within mainstream and library trade media:

- ALA Annual Conference (June 25 – 30)
- Banned Books Week (September 27 – October 3)
- Teen Read Week™ (October 18 – 24)

Public Programs Office (PPO)

Application Review Underway for *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*

More than 330 sites applied for [*Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*](#), a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)-funded grant opportunity that will bring programming about Latino American history and culture to 200 sites. Applicants included 135 public, 71 academic, and 31 community college libraries, as well as museums, humanities councils, arts and cultural organizations, and other nonprofits. Peer reviewers are currently reading the applications, and awards will be made in mid-June. NEH and the Public Programs Office will offer [three *Latino Americans* sessions](#) at the ALA Annual Conference: two are open to any conference-goers, and one is a closed session for grantees.

NASA Applications in Progress

PPO is partnering with outside organizations on four applications for NASA funding to bring STEM programming to libraries. Partners include the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore; the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston (two applications pending); and the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colorado. Decisions are expected in fall 2015.

Itinerary Announced for Nationwide Tour of Shakespeare's First Folio

The [travel itinerary](#) has been announced for the 50 sites that will host the much-anticipated [*First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*](#) in 2016. Part of the international events planned for 2016, the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, the tour will bring a 1623 original edition of the playwright's first published collection, along with six interpretive panels, [to all 50 United States](#). The tour will begin in January 2016. The exhibition was organized in partnership with the Folger Shakespeare Library and Cincinnati Museum Center.

PPO Programs at 2015 Annual Conference

- Preconference Workshop: ["StoryCorps @ your library: Enhance Library Programming through Oral History Narratives"](#) Friday, June 26, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. StoryCorps staff will lead this highly interactive hands-on workshop, offering practical tips for ensuring that your programs are a success. Topics will include establishing a StoryCorps-inspired program model; recording and preserving conversations; a discussion of equipment needs; and suggestions and strategies for creating engaging and successful public programs at your institution.
- Session: ["Turning Outward to Lead Change in Your Community"](#) All sessions held Saturday, June 27. In four sessions, library professionals will gain practical tools to aid in decision-making, planning and group facilitation and will discuss methods to remain engaged and rejuvenated professionally and personally. Each stand-alone session

focuses on a single tool; taken together, they become a powerful framework for engaging community and leading change. The sessions are offered as part of the Libraries Transforming Communities initiative.

- Session: ["Connecting with STEM Professionals for Powerful Public Programs"](#) Saturday, June 27, 1 – 2:30 p.m. Take your community partnerships to a new level; tap into regional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) expertise through free resources and opportunities from the STAR Library Education Network (STAR_Net)! Learn how to contact STEM experts from your area's educational institutions, hobby groups, citizen scientist organizations, and local offices of national agencies. Learn ways your library can support the national call to engage learners in STEM while supporting your lifelong learning mission. Explore tested ways to bring in STEM expertise as you plan and present amazing programs, and experience hands-on activities that you can use immediately with your new collaborators.
- Session: ["How Much Punch Does that Program Pack? Best Practices to Evaluate Program Success"](#) Saturday, June 27, 3 – 4 p.m. Librarians who host programs in their libraries can agree that counting attendance will never tell the holistic story of whether a program was a success or failure. Panelists will discuss different methods for measuring a program's impact. Hear strategies from an academic library that ensures programs and exhibits support and add to the curriculum. Also learn about two public libraries use of data to drive programming decisions.
- Session: ["NEH's Latino Americans: 500 Years of History, Session 1: Humanities Themes and Scholarship"](#) Sunday, June 28, 8:30 – 10 a.m. NEH's *Latino Americans* project was developed to support the public's exploration of the history and experiences of Latinos, and how they've shaped the U.S. over the last 500 years. Project scholars and staff will speak about the humanities themes within WETA's LATINO AMERICANS documentary series, including the diversity of immigrant experiences and the creation of Latino identities. They will also discuss the project's use of documentary film to spark dialogue about the past, present, and future of Latino communities, and in so doing, will highlight the project's national scope and significance.
- Session: ["NEH's Latino Americans: 500 Years of History, Session 2: Grassroots Outreach and Local History Programming"](#) Sunday, June 28, 10:30 a.m. – noon. NEH's *Latino Americans* was developed in partnership with ALA to support the public's exploration of the history and experiences of Latinos in the United States over the last 500 years. The initiative will engage people in examining and documenting the histories of Latino Americans in their communities and foster understanding of local histories in regional, national, and international contexts. The project's national outreach advisor, an oral history scholar, and a veteran programming librarian will offer guidance on forging local partnerships, conducting grassroots outreach, reaching diverse audiences with bilingual programming, and developing oral and local history programs in support of the project's goals.
- Session: ["NEH's Latino Americans: 500 Years of History, Session 3: Model Program and Breakout Sessions for Grantees"](#) Sunday, June 28, 1 – 2:30 p.m. (Note: This is a closed session for grantees.) NEH's *Latino Americans* was developed in partnership with ALA to support the public's exploration of the history and experiences of Latinos in the United States, over the last 500 years. Offered only to recipients of the NEH/ALA grant, this session will involve participants in a scholar-led viewing and discussion model program, and will provide opportunities for project directors to connect and share their programming ideas, marketing plans, outreach strategies, and more.

- Meetings:
 - [Public and Cultural Programs Advisory Committee Meeting 1](#). Saturday, June 27, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 - [Programming Librarian Interest Group](#). Saturday, June 27, 4:30 -5:30 p.m.
 - [Public and Cultural Programs Advisory Committee Meeting 2](#). Monday, June 29, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
 - [Libraries Foster Community Engagement Interest Group](#). Sunday, June 28, 8:30 – 10 a.m.
 - [Center for Civic Life Committee Meeting](#). Sunday, June 28, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

ALA DIVISIONS

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

Church Elected 2016-2017 AASL President

Audrey Church, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia, has been elected as the 2016-2017 American Association of School Librarians (AASL) President. Church will serve as President-elect during 2015-2016 under AASL President Leslie Preddy.

AASL Opens Registration for its 17th National Conference & Exhibition

Registration is now open for the AASL 17th National Conference & Exhibition. The conference, themed “Experience Education Evolution,” will be held November 5-8, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio, and is the only national conference dedicated solely to the needs of school librarians and their roles as educational leaders. New this year: Each school librarian registration is eligible to add on a complimentary administrator registration. See the [full list of rates and deadlines](#).

New AASL Pins Mark Member Milestones

New and continuing AASL members can now wear their membership proudly with the distribution of new AASL member pins. New members will receive the pin, featuring the AASL logo, with their welcome packets upon joining the association. Pins will also be mailed to lifetime members and those who have reached the milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of continuous membership. Lifetime and milestone pins will include a bar recognizing their years of service to the association. Pins will be distributed to members annually.

AASL Seeks School Librarians for Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force

AASL is seeking school librarians to serve on an implementation task force for a new iteration of the association’s learning standards and program guidelines, slated to launch in the fall of 2017. The task force will be responsible for developing a plan to support states, school systems and individual schools preparing to implement the new publication. [Read the RFP](#).

AASL Seeks Manuscripts for *Knowledge Quest*

AASL is seeking original, unpublished manuscripts for publication in its professional journal, *Knowledge Quest*. Potential topics, requirements for consideration and deadlines can be found at knowledgequest.aasl.org/manuscripts.

AASL's Educators of School Librarians Section Opens Call for Papers

The AASL Educators of School Librarians Section (ESLS) invites submissions for papers on original research focusing on school library practice or school librarianship. Selected papers will be presented in a concurrent session at the AASL 17th National Conference & Exhibition to be held from November 5-8, 2015 in Columbus, Ohio. More information about the conference can be found at national.aasl.org.

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)

2015 ACRL Election Results

Irene M. H. Herold, University Librarian at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, has been elected ACRL vice-president/president-elect. She will become president-elect following the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco, and assume the presidency in July 2016 for a one-year term. Beth McNeil, Associate Dean of the Purdue University Libraries, and Lori J. Ostapowicz-Critz, Head of Faculty Engagement Department at the Georgia Institute of Technology, have been elected to the ACRL Board of Directors as directors-at-large. Full 2015 election results are available on the [ACRL website](http://acrl.ala.org).

2015 ACRL Legislative Agenda

Each year, the ACRL Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the ACRL Board of Directors and staff, formulates an ACRL Legislative Agenda. Drafted with input from key ACRL committees, ACRL leaders, and the ALA Washington Office, the ACRL Legislative Agenda is prioritized and focuses on issues at the national level affecting the welfare of academic and research libraries. The [2015 ACRL Legislative Agenda](http://acrl.ala.org) focuses on two issues that the U.S. Congress has recently taken—or will most likely take action on in the year ahead: access to federally funded research and curbing government surveillance. The agenda also includes a watch list of policy issues of great concern to academic librarians. Legislation on these issues is not likely to arise and, moreover, ACRL does not believe that any legislation about these issues is necessary. Issues on the watch list are: net neutrality, copyright reform, fair use, “making available” right, preservation and reproduction exceptions, orphan works, and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Teams Selected for Third Year of ACRL “Assessment in Action” Learning Community

ACRL has selected 54 institutional teams to participate in the third year of the program Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success (AiA). The program is made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and carried out in partnership with the Association for Institutional Research and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. The teams, representing all types of institutions, come from 23 states, the District of Columbia and Australia. For a list of currently confirmed institutions, see the [AiA program webpage](#).

Keeping Up With... Competency-Based Education

The latest edition of Keeping Up With..., ACRL’s online current awareness publication featuring concise briefs on trends in academic librarianship and higher education, is now available. This month’s issue features a discussion of [Competency-Based Education](#) by Lindley Homol and Robert Miller. ACRL is currently accepting topic suggestions for future editions of Keeping Up With.... Visit the [Keeping Up With...website](#) for more information.

Meaningful Metrics

ACRL announces the release of *Meaningful Metrics: A 21st Century Librarian’s Guide to Bibliometrics, Altmetrics, and Research Impact* by Robin Chin Roemer and Rachel Borchardt. Chin Roemer and Borchardt provide information and insight applicable to a range of readers from those with little to no background on the subject to those looking to become movers and shakers in the current scholarly metrics movement. Tips, tricks, and real-world examples illustrate how librarians can support the successful adoption of research metrics, whether in their institutions or across academia as a whole. *Meaningful Metrics: A 21st Century Librarian’s Guide to Bibliometrics, Altmetrics, and Research Impact* is available for purchase in [print](#), as an [e-book](#), and as a [print/ e-book bundle](#) through the ALA Online Store; in [print](#) and for [Kindle](#) through Amazon.com; and by telephone order at (866) 746-7252 in the U.S. or (770) 442-8633 for international customers.

ACRL Preconferences @ 2015 ALA Annual Conference

ACRL is offering four preconferences in conjunction with the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco on Friday, June 26, 2015. Preconferences include *Reflective Teaching: Self-evaluation to Assess and Improve Your Teaching Practice*; *Data Visualization: Tools, Techniques, and Practice*; *Storytelling 101: Craft Narratives to Engage and Persuade*; and *Writing Data Management Plans Across the Curriculum*. Complete details, including descriptions, learning outcomes, and registration materials, are available on the [ACRL website](#).

e-Learning Update

ACRL’s e-Learning program offered two live webcasts and two online courses during this report period. 78 individuals and 11 groups participated in the e-Learning events focusing on community college libraries, data management plans, and research strategies. Upcoming online seminars and webcast topics include metrics and digital humanities. Full details and registration information are available on the [ACRL website](#).

Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS)

2015 Preservation Week Attracts Great Participation

Preservation Week was celebrated April 29 – May 2 with honorary chair Brad Meltzer and a new [website](#). Reports indicate another successful year, with many libraries from around the country offering special events during the week. Over 550 individuals and libraries viewed this year's webinars on digital preservation, moving image preservation, and disaster response. Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr were active with posts using the hashtag #preswk. Preservation Week will have an outreach booth at the ALA Annual Conference and at the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting in August in Cleveland. Preservation Week for 2016 will be held April 24-30.

ALCTS Will Offer Virtual Preconference in June

Planning for the Evolving Role of Metadata Services, an ALCTS Virtual Preconference, June 2–4, 2015. Although relatively new to the library scene, expectations for metadata services within and outside the library are changing. This preconference explores some of the emerging responsibilities for metadata specialists by focusing on the need for metadata consultation within the data management lifecycle, the assessment of metadata workflows situated in traditional cataloging departments, and the movement to standardize and share local vocabularies. This preconference will consist of three 90-minute sessions over three days:

- Metadata Services for Research Data Management
- Assessing Metadata Staffing and Workflows
- Techniques and Technologies for Developing Local Controlled Vocabularies

This virtual preconference was organized by the ALCTS Metadata Interest Group. Visit the [ALCTS website](#) for registration and more information.

Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)

2015 Summer Reading Lists

ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee updated [ALSC's Summer Reading Lists](#) with new titles intended to keep children engaged in reading throughout the summer. Three customizable book lists are available for download for children from Kindergarten – 2nd grade, 3rd – 5th grade and 6th – 8th grade.

Media Mentorship in Libraries Serving Youth White Paper

On March 11, 2015, the ALSC Board of Directors voted to adopt a white paper titled [Media Mentorship in Libraries Serving Youth](#). This paper was written for ALSC by Cen Campbell, Claudia Haines, Amy Koester, and Dorothy Stoltz. The paper explores the role of children's librarians as mentors of new media and responsibility to support families in their intentional, appropriate, and positive use of media.

ALSC at National Library Legislative Day

ALSC leadership attended National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC on May 2-5. ALSC's delegation consisted of Ellen Riordan, ALSC President; Andrew Medlar, ALSC Vice President/President-Elect; Helen Bloch, ALSC Advocacy and Legislation Committee Member; Aimee Strittmatter, ALSC Executive Director; and Joanna Ison, ALSC Program Officer for Projects and Partnerships. ALSC met with the following groups: New America, IMLS, the Health and Human Services' Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care, Reach Out and Read, National Summer Learning Association, the Senate's HELP Committee, and the House of Representative's Education and the Workforce Committee.

Virtual National Library Legislative Day

ALSC's Advocacy and Legislative Committee developed [resources for ALSC members](#) to participate in National Library Legislative Day from their homes. The committee developed talking points, a letter to Congress template, social media language and a kick-off blog post. ALSC members were encouraged to contact their Congressmen and Senators throughout the Week of May 4 and ask them to support libraries.

Babies Need Words Every Day – Changing Table Poster Project

ALSC has produced eight posters through the [Babies Need Words Every Day project](#). Each cheerfully designed poster is filled with age-appropriate finger plays and rhymes to help give caregivers tools and information on the importance of talking with their babies to develop the baby's brain and skills and lay the groundwork for future success. This spring and summer, ALSC will also be releasing an accompanying booklist, Spanish language posters and a marketing kit for libraries to use in order to promote the posters in their communities. The project will be launched at the [Babies Need Words Every Day: Bridging the Word Gap as a Community](#), an ALA Annual Conference program in San Francisco.

Summer Online Courses

Summer courses begin July 13. ALSC will be offering two courses this summer: *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs Made Easy* and *Storytelling with Puppets*. Both courses are being offered for CEU credit. Course descriptions and registration are available on the [ALSC website](#).

Continuing Education Proposals

The ALSC Education Committee is always considering new courses and webinars to add to ALSC's growing online education offerings. Members interested in teaching need to fill out an [online application](#) and provide a copy of their resume, teaching references, and a course syllabus (not needed for webinars). The Education Committee will be selecting proposals on a rolling basis to allow for courses to be added multiple times throughout the year.

Call for Program Proposals

ALSC is now accepting proposals for innovative programs for the 2016 ALA Annual Conference. To submit a program proposal, members are encouraged to fill out the [online program proposal form](#) on the ALSC website. All proposals must be submitted by Sunday, June 7, 2015. ALSC is also now accepting proposals for the 2016 ALSC National Institute. To submit a program proposal, members are encouraged to fill out the [online program proposal form](#) on the ALSC website. All proposals for the Institute must be submitted by Sunday, July 12, 2015. For both events, the ALSC Program Planning Committee is looking for a wide range of themes and topics such as advocacy, technology, multiculturalism, administration and management, early literacy, research, partnerships, best practices, programming, and outreach.

ALSC Student Session Tackles STEM Resources

In April, ALSC hosted a new student session entitled [How to Put the Library in STEM](#). This session was presented by Emily Bredberg, a school librarian at Lakeside Elementary in Coppell, Texas and Alicia Montgomery, a school librarian at Town Center Elementary in Coppell, Texas. Student sessions are administered by the ALSC Membership Committee and are free to the public.

ALSC Takes Part in 2015 Texas Library Association Conference

To thank Texas teachers and librarians for their participation in Día: Diversity in Action and to offer new resources to youth service librarians, ALSC hosted a booth at the 2015 Texas Library Association conference. Nine member volunteers helped staff the booth and connect with prospective members. ALSC invited conference attendees to participate in a giveaway for ALSC prizes including a selfie stick. More than 65 attendees participated in the giveaway.

2015 Annual Conference Activities

- ALSC Preconference Program: *Distinguished and Diverse: Celebrate the 2015 ALSC Honor Books*. ALSC will pilot an awards-focused [preconference](#) on June 26 from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The 2015 Honor Book recipients for the Newbery, Caldecott, Batchelder, Pura Belpré, Sibert and Geisel awards get their moment in the sun (or San Francisco fog) as we honor them, and the history and tradition of ALSC Honor Books and their creators. Featured speakers will also include K.T. Horning, Director of the Cooperative Children's Book Center, and Judy Freeman, Children's Literature Consultant.
- Charlemae Rollins President's Program: *More to the Core: From the Craft of Nonfiction to the Expertise in the Stacks*. At the 2015 ALSC President's Program on Monday, June 29, award-winning author and illustrator Melissa Sweet and literacy advocate Judy Cheatham, VP of Literacy Services at Reading is Fundamental, share the stage to present an informing and inspiring look at the creation of excellent nonfiction and the matchmaking of great books and kids who need them. Libraries' role in innovative implementation of programs and services to support the Common Core Standards (CCS) is a central skill and an important contribution to the communities we serve. Even if CCS isn't a part of your educational landscape, great nonfiction books – how they are

created and ways to connect them to children and families is central to our craft and critical to our ability to collaborate with our communities. Let's be inspired together.

- The 2015 Pura Belpré Award Celebración, will take place on Sunday, June 28, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ALSC and REFORMA are proud to request the honor of your presence at the Pura Belpré Award Celebración. Please join the winning authors and illustrators in a special event to honor and celebrate the 2015 medal and honor winners.
- Local Arrangements San Francisco Travel Information. ALSC's Local Arrangements committee has put together valuable information for attendees of the 2015 Annual Conference, including tips for local travel and transportation, restaurant recommendations, and must-see sights. More information is available on [ALSC's website](#).

Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)

ASCLA Elections

ASCLA congratulates and welcomes its new President-Elect, Michael Golrick, Head of Reference & Library Consultant, State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge. Full results of ASCLA elections can be found on the [ASCLA website](#).

Library and Information Technology Association (LITA)

LITA Webinars

- *Technology and Youth Services Programs: Early Literacy Apps and More* Webinar. Clair Moore from the Darien Public Library, led this webinar discussion on innovative and effective ways the library can create opportunities for children, parents and caregivers to explore new technologies on Wednesday, May 20..
- *After Hours: Circulating Technology to Improve Kids' Access* Webinar. Megan Egbert from the Meridian Library District (ID) led this webinar on Wednesday, May 27. Discover the benefits, opportunities, and, best practices for expanding kids' access to new types of technology beyond the library and into the home.
- *Learn to Teach Coding* Webinar. Kimberly Bryant, founder and Executive Director of Black Girls Code, and last year's President's Program speaker, and, Lake Raymond, also from Black Girls Code, led this free-informal webinar on May 26. This webinar was an introduction to what teaching coding is all about, and will be followed by the more comprehensive preconference offered at the Annual Conference.

LITA Preconferences/Workshops on Friday, June 26 at the ALA Annual Conference

- *Learn to Teach Coding and Mentor Technology Newbies—in Your Library or Anywhere!* Preconference. Building on the earlier Teach Coding webinar, the Black Girls Code experts are offering this more comprehensive preconference at Annual on Friday, June 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This full day workshop is designed to turn reasonably tech savvy librarians into master technology teachers. The workshop will help attendees

develop effective lesson plans and design projects their students can complete successfully in their own coding workshops. The schedule will feature presentations in the morning followed by afternoon breakout workgroups, in which attendees can experiment with programming languages such as Scratch, Ruby on Rails, and more.

- *Let's Hack a Collaborative Library Website!* Preconference. Kate Bronstad, web developer, and Heather Klish, systems librarian, both from Tufts, joined by Junior Tidal of New York City College of Technology, will provide a friendly atmosphere and creative hands-on experience introducing the attendees to web literacy for the 21st century librarian. The morning session provides in-depth introductions to the tools, while the afternoon will see participants split into working groups to build a single collaborative library website.
- *Build a Circuit & Learn to Program an Arduino in a Silicon Valley Hackerspace: Panel of Inventors & Librarians Working Together for a More Creative Tomorrow* Preconference. This workshop is being offered off-site at the Noisebridge Maker Space or Hackerspace in San Francisco. Attendees will learn practical skills such as soldering and learning the basics of Arduino programming and will be able to create and adapt programs for their own needs. A panel of Silicon Valley insiders and librarians will share how their institutions programs on programming contribute to analytical thinking.
- *Creating Better Tutorials Through User-Centered Instructional Design* Preconference. Experts at the University of Arizona will present this workshop on Friday, June 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a unique, hands-on workshop teaching the core and emerging principles of instructional and user experience design. Participants will apply what is learned to design, develop, and test a self-created tutorial. Attendees of this workshop will have another opportunity to discuss UX with the LITA President's Program speaker, Lou Rosenfeld.

Sunday Afternoon with LITA at the Annual Conference

If you can tear yourself away from the parade, you will want to spend the afternoon with LITA starting with the Top Technology Trends panel discussion at 1:00 p.m., followed by the brief awards presentations and the LITA President's Program. Rachel Vacek, LITA president, is welcoming Lou Rosenfeld, an accomplished information architect and author, and, expert on user experience (UX).

Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA)

John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Awards Named

LLAMA received 77 entries, selecting the eight winners to receive the \$10,000 cash awards generously provided by EBSCO and the H.W. Wilson Foundation. The awards will be given at the John Cotton Dana (JCD) reception during the Annual Conference June 28, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in Hotel Nikko, Nikko Ballroom. The winning entries are:

- Contra Costa Library, which, inspired by its large community of veterans and the need to tell their stories, created War Ink, a powerful exhibit and forum that helps to bridge the divide between the veteran and civilian communities.

- Columbus State Library, which seized the opportunity during Banned Books Week to create a campaign designed to innovate, curate and disseminate. The Exhibit the Right to Read campaign offered multiple opportunities for community engagement and content creation, including an online exhibit exploring such themes as censorship and intellectual freedom.
- Durham County Library, which anchored its role in the community by creating a strong, meaningful campaign that was successful at engaging both current and new audiences.
- Flathead County Libraries, which took a huge risk by rebranding themselves completely to reflect a new generation of libraries, transforming into the ImagineIF Libraries.
- Loyola University Chicago Libraries for Celebrate Gorey, an extensive programming and outreach campaign on the writer and artist Edward Gorey.
- University of Maryland Libraries for “Thinking Big,” a data-driven communications campaign to increase awareness of UBorrow, an interlibrary loan service made available to students, faculty and staff as a result of the university’s joining the Big Ten.
- Hesburgh Library at the University of Notre Dame used the 50th anniversary of its iconic building – home of the famous mural *Word of Life* and affectionately known as “touchdown Jesus” – as an opportunity to build awareness of the library and its services among the Notre Dame community.

LLAMA Career Institute at Annual: *Mind Over Matter: Sustainable Success for Library Leaders*

LLAMA Career Institute's program, *Mind Over Matter: Sustainable Success for Library Leaders*, which will feature Kim Nicol and be offered on Friday, June 26, 2015, from 1 to 5 p.m. is sponsored by LLAMA's New Professionals Section and Human Resources Section. Librarians can face challenges that lead to career burnout. No matter what stage you are in your career, this half-day preconference will guide you through a series of concepts and practical tools to help sustain and empower your career. You will use mindfulness training to amplify your strengths and learn how career, leadership, and mindfulness are interconnected. You will also learn how your library can utilize a wellness program to improve employee productivity, efficiency, and morale. Mind Over Matter is presented by [Kim Nicol](#), a career development specialist based in San Francisco. Kim has traveled worldwide to lead retreats, continuing education classes, corporate trainings, and workshops.

LLAMA Webinars in June

LLAMA is presenting three webinars in June. Visit the [LLAMA website](#) for registration information.

- June 3, 1:30-3:00 p.m. “Embedded Librarianship: Connecting the Dots, and Avoiding the Pitfalls,” Presenter: David Shumaker.
- June 10, 1:30-3:00 p.m. “Putting a Library Internship Program to Work for You and Your Library,” Presenters: Sue Erickson and Susan Paddock.
- June 17, 1:30-3:00 p.m. “Grumble Theory in the Workplace: Understanding Employee Complaints,” Presenters: Michael Crumpton and Kathy Bradshaw

Public Library Association (PLA)

PLA Members Elect Thomas as President-elect; Brown Lawson and Millsap to Board

Felton Thomas, Jr., Director of the Cleveland Public Library (CPL), has been elected the 2016-2017 president of the Public Library Association (PLA). Also on the ballot were two director-at-large board vacancies; both three-year terms. PLA members elected Dr. Rhea Brown Lawson, Executive Director, Houston Public Library, and Gina Millsap, Chief Executive Officer, Topeka & Shawnee (Kansas) County Public Library. [Read the complete release.](#)

Free Webinar Introduces Project Outcome, to Help Libraries Measure Their True Impact

PLA's free webinar on May 13 introduced Project Outcome, PLA's latest field-driven initiative. Project Outcome, formerly referred to as the performance measures initiative, will help libraries better measure the outcomes of the services they offer to patrons and provide the resources and support to effectively communicate and implement their findings for advocacy, partnership and planning activities [Read the complete release.](#)

Over 500 Proposals Submitted for PLA 2016 Conference

The PLA 2016 Call for Proposals closed on April 17. More than 500 proposals for conference programming were submitted for approximately 120 available slots. New to PLA 2016, participants were asked to submit proposals that would challenge attendees to *Be Extraordinary*—both at conference and back in their libraries. The PLA 2016 Conference Program Subcommittee will review each submission by late-July 2015 at which time participants will be notified of their proposal's status. Learn more about [PLA 2016 Conference](#).

Coalition Calls on Libraries to Plan Now to Secure E-rate Funding

Libraries now have an extraordinary opportunity to upgrade their broadband following the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) vote to modernize the E-rate program and address the broadband capacity gap facing many public libraries. A broad coalition of library associations, called upon libraries to act to convert this policy win in Washington to real benefit for America's communities. The coalition includes the American Indian Library Association; the American Library Association; the Association for Rural & Small Libraries; the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums; the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies; the Public Library Association; and the Urban Libraries Council. The organizations released a letter updating library leaders on the next phase of E-rate advocacy. [Read the letter \(pdf\).](#)

DigitalLearn.org Adds Spanish Classes

[DigitalLearn.org](#), an online hub for digital literacy support and training, recently added two Spanish classes to its site. The classes cover computer basics such as what a computer is and how to use a mouse and keyboard, as well as how to use internet search engines. In addition to the two Spanish classes, a Spanish version of DigitalLearn.org is set to launch later in the year.

Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)

RUSA Elections

RUSA congratulates and welcomes its new President-Elect, Anne Houston, Director of Teaching, Learning & Research, Smith College Libraries, Northampton, MA. [See the full results of RUSA and section elections.](#)

United for Libraries: the Association for Library Trustees & Advocates (UNITED)

United for Libraries at the Texas Library Association Conference in April

United for Libraries had a presence at the Texas Library Association in April to share information with its members on how to access the rich resources available in the members-only portion of the United website. With Texas' statewide purchase of ALA and United for Libraries, staff felt it was important for our new members to visit our site and use our resources. This, we hope, will encourage the Texas State Library to renew membership again in FY2016.

Fred Ruffner Posthumously Honored

United for Libraries posthumously honored Fred Ruffner (founder and president of Gale and Omnigraphics) with its occasional "Friend of Libraries U.S.A." award, given to a national figure who does good work for literacy and libraries. Fred Ruffner founded United for Libraries' "Literary Landmark" program. His two sons, Peter and Rick, attended the award ceremony to accept the honor which was held during the Literary Landmark celebration for Walter Dean Myers at the George Bruce Branch of the New York Public Library (NYPL), in Harlem.

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)

Finalists Announced for YALSA's Digital Literacy Shark Bowl

Of the 17 proposals about promoting digital literacy for and with teens that were received, six finalists were chosen who will compete at the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco. A panel of sharks will then select up to three winners, who will receive funds and tech to implement their proposals. Support for this project comes from 3D Systems and Tutor.com. [Read more details.](#)

YALSA Seeks Member Manager for Blog

YALSA's recently re-envisioned blog, The Hub, will provide timely information about emerging and new practices for evaluating, selecting and curating all types of library materials for teens; raise awareness about appropriate YALSA tools to facilitate innovation in teen collections; and

provide resources for members and the library community to support their efforts to continuously improve their teen collections. The member manager will lead an advisory board that provides oversight for the blog and solicits content from the YALSA community. [Get more details.](#)

New Readers' Advisory Tool

YALSA's [2015 Reads 4 Teens digital download](#) is now available in the ALA store and is a compilation of 37 pamphlets and 8 bookmarks, each featuring a different theme or genre. Download, photocopy and distribute these resources to your heart's content! The price is \$26.10 for members and \$29 for others.

New Grant Opportunity to Support Teen Programs

The Margaret Edwards Trust Literacies Programming Grant awards \$5,000 for a library to use towards launching a new- or expanding an existing successful program to help teens master text-based literacies. Up to five grants will be awarded in 2015. Successful applicants will address teen needs beyond traditional print reading comprehension and be inclusive of activities that help teens build skills to successfully navigate text-based literacies in both a print and an online world. Potential applicants can visit YALSA's [wiki](#) to learn more about multiple literacies. Apply by November 1, via this [online form](#).

Upcoming YALSA Activities & Events

- May 15 – June 15, [volunteer for a 2016-2017 award committee](#)
 - June 1, deadline to [submit a program proposal](#) for the 2016 ALA Annual Conference
 - June 1, deadline to [apply for funds](#) to present a paper at the 2016 Midwinter Meeting
 - June 15, deadline to apply for [travel funds for YALSA's symposium](#)
 - June 18, [Navigating Interpersonal Conflict in the Workplace webinar](#)
 - June 26 – 30, [ALA Annual Conference](#)
 - July 1 – October 1, [volunteer for a 2016-2017 selection committee](#)
 - July 6 – August 2, ["Welcoming Spaces" e-course](#) on transforming libraries into teen friendly spaces
 - October 18 – 24, [Teen Read Week™](#)
 - November 6-8, [YALSA Young Adult Services Symposium](#),
 -
- For more events and information, visit [YALSA'S wiki](#) or [Google calendar](#)

ALA PUBLISHING

ALA Editions and ALA Neal-Schuman

Some of the new professional development books published include [Intellectual Freedom Manual, Ninth Edition](#), Trina Magi, Editor, and Martin Garnar, Assistant Editor, for Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF); [New Routes to Library Success: 100+ Ideas from Outside the Stacks](#), by Elisabeth Doucett; [The Newbery and Caldecott Awards: A Guide to the Medal and](#)

[Honor Books, 2015 Edition](#), Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) (ALA Editions); [Technology Disaster Response and Recovery Planning: A LITA Guide](#), edited by Mary Mallory (ALA TechSource); and [The Purpose-Based Library: Finding Your Path to Survival, Success, and Growth](#), by John J. Huber and Steven V. Potter (ALA Neal-Schuman). For a full listing of titles including books, online workshops, and eCourses, visit the [ALA Store](#).
www.alastore.ala.org

American Libraries

A New Face at American Libraries

Patrick Burke joined American Libraries as Advertising/Editorial Assistant on May 4.

Enoch Pratt CEO Interviewed

American Libraries interviewed Enoch Pratt CEO Carla Hayden about keeping the Baltimore library open during the unrest there. The [interview](#) was posted online the day the indictments of six police officers accused of the killing of Freddie Gray were announced.

Booklist Publications

April Highlights

The April issues of *Booklist* spotlighted Series Nonfiction, Historical Fiction, and E-Reference. The quarterly supplement, *Book Links*, also published on April 1, highlighted the importance of word games, kids' play, and other learning fun. Kristin Fontichiaro co-authored an article called "[Maker Minds](#)," which talked about fostering a culture of hands-on creativity. It included Common Core Connections and a bibliography.

Makerspaces, Hacking Fashion, and e-Textiles Webinar

This article (noted above) paired with the "[Makerspaces, Hacking Fashion, and e-Textiles](#)" webinar where Kristin Fontichiaro shared simple instructions and inexpensive tools that patrons and students can employ to upcycle inexpensive thrift store purchases as raw materials for custom maker creations. The webinar had 2,057 registrants and over 930 live attendees.

May Is Mystery Month

In the first days of May, *Booklist* launched its sixth-annual Mystery Month. Find the full recap of its success in the next report, but #MysteryMonth is in full swing on social media—follow the fun!

Social Media Success

The @ALA_Booklist Twitter account currently has 20,687 followers. The ALA Booklist Facebook page has 8,340 followers. booklistonline.com

Online Learning

Some of the new workshops include [*Makerspaces: The Library's Legal Answers, Tumblr for Special Libraries*](#), and [*20 Subjects in 90 Minutes*](#). ALA Publishing in collaboration with the San Jose State University School of Information is offering two returning advanced eCourses: [Web Design and Development](#) and [Cataloging for Non-Catalogers](#). <http://www.alastore.ala.org/>

Digital Reference

RDA Toolkit Update

RDA Toolkit FY15 is ahead of budget by 3%. Subscriber renewals are at 81%, and the increase in international subscriptions continues. The April 2015 release included revisions and fixes to the French and German translations, and revisions and updates to the RDA: Element Set and MARC/RDA bibliographic mappings. The release also contained revisions to British Library Policy Statements (BL PS), Library of Congress-Program for Cooperative Cataloging Policy Statements (LC-PCC PS), and National Library of Australia Policy Statements (NLA PS). For a full update of the release, visit the [RDA Development Blog](#). Preparations are underway for the [Jane-athon](#) at the annual conference in San Francisco, where catalogers will learn how to create linked data in RDA.