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JULY/AUGUST 2015

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



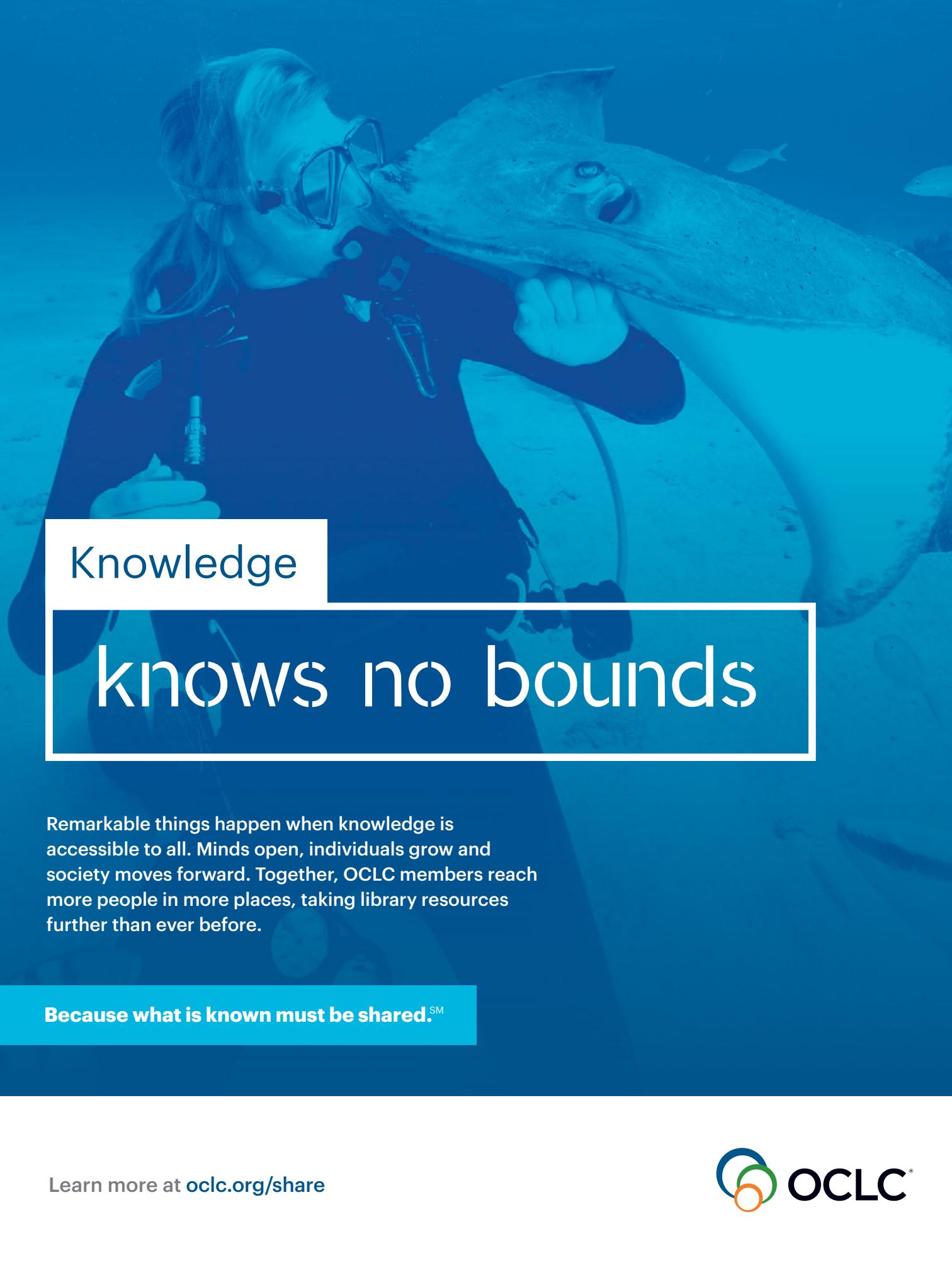
2015
Annual
Conference
Wrap-Up

p. 14

PLUS

■ Exhibit Hall Tech Trends p. 21

■ Build a Local History Reference Collection p. 26

A blue-tinted photograph of a diver in a wetsuit and mask kissing a shark on the nose underwater. The diver is on the left, and the shark is on the right, facing the diver. The background shows other fish and the sandy ocean floor.

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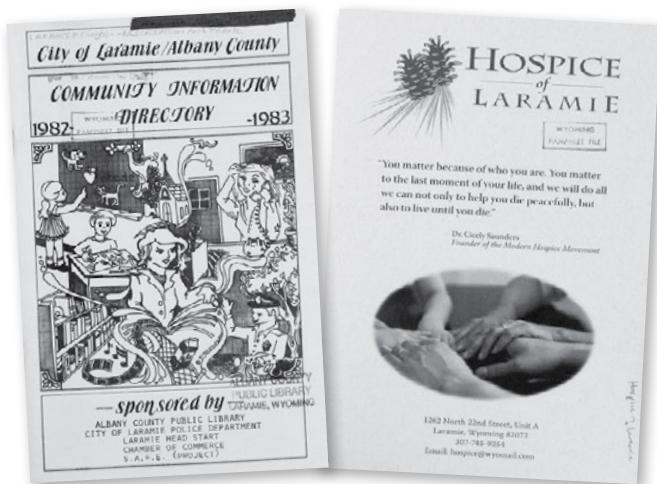


CONTENTS

AMERICAN LIBRARIES | July/August 2015

Features

- 26** **WHAT TO COLLECT?**
Building a local history reference collection at your library
BY KATHY MARQUIS AND LESLIE WAGGENER



- 14** **COVER STORY**
PRIDE AND DIVERSITY AT ANNUAL 2015
More than 22,000 convene in San Francisco
BY GREG LANDGRAF
- 21** **A LOOK AT TECH**
Patron-engaging products in the exhibit hall
BY MARSHALL BREEDING

On the cover: Gloria Steinem
Photo: Curtis Compton

CONTENTS

AMERICAN LIBRARIES | JULY/AUGUST 2015 | VOLUME 46 #7/8 | ISSN 0002-9769



Updates and Trends

- 7 ALA
- 10 NEWSMAKER: Steve Potash



Departments

PEOPLE

- 30 CURRENTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 34 SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES
Digitizing History

OPINION AND COMMENTARY

- 4 FROM THE EDITOR
An Annual to Remember *BY LAURIE D. BORMAN*
- 5 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Libraries Transform *BY SARI FELDMAN*
- 6 COMMENT ENABLED
- 12 NOTED AND QUOTED

SPOTLIGHT

- 36 THE BOOKEND
Librarians Show Their Pride

JOBS

- 32 CAREER LEADS FROM JOBLIST
Your #1 Source for Job Openings

advertisers | page

The Crowley Company | 13 • OCLC | Cover 2 • American Library Association ALA Office for Library Advocacy | 11 • American Association of School Librarians | 3 • American Libraries | Cover 4 • Booklist | Cover 3 • Conference Services | 25 • Editions | 32 • RDA | 33

experience education evolution

AASL 17th National Conference & Exhibition

NOVEMBER 5–8, 2015 | COLUMBUS, OHIO

AUTHOR EVENTS

Events included with general registration

SATURDAY GENERAL SESSION

Saturday, November 7 | 7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.



Brian Selznick is an award-winning author and illustrator of children's books. Selznick's ground-breaking book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* was awarded the 2008 Caldecott Medal and was nominated for a National Book Award. It was also the basis for Martin Scorsese's Oscar-winning film *Hugo*.
Appearance made possible by Scholastic.

Events requiring additional registration fee

DIVERSE AUTHORS, DIVERSE VOICES AUTHOR BANQUET

Friday, November 6 | 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. | \$65



Matt de la Peña
Author of *A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis*. Appearance made possible by Penguin Young Readers Group.



Sonia Manzano
Starring as "Maria" on Sesame Street, and author of *No Dogs Allowed!* and *The Revolution of Eva Serrano*. Appearance made possible by Scholastic.



Rita Williams-Garcia
Author of *One Crazy Summer*, 2011 Coretta Scott King Award Winner and Newbery Honor Book. Appearance made possible by HarperCollins Children's Books.

AUTHOR MEET & GREETs

Sat., Nov. 7, 5:15 p.m. | \$20

Mingle with and ask questions of multiple authors in a casual, friendly setting.

GIRLS ROCK THE FANTASY WORLD AUTHOR BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 8 | 8:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m. | \$40



Josephine Angelini | Author of the *Starcrossed* trilogy and the *Worldwalker* trilogy. Appearance made possible by Feiwel and Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.



Rae Carson | Author of best-selling *Fire and Thorns* series: *The Girl of Fire and Thorns*, *The Crown of Embers*, and *The Bitter Kingdom*. Appearance made possible by HarperCollins Children's Books.



Colleen Gleason | Author of the urban fantasy series *The Gardella Vampire Hunters* and *Stoker & Holmes*, a YA steampunk series. Appearance made possible by Chronicle Books.



Kate Messner | Author of *The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z*, *All the Answers*, *Wake Up Missing*, and *Eye of the Storm*. Appearance made possible by Bloomsbury Children's Books.



Sabaa Tahir | Editor on the foreign desk at *The Washington Post*. Debut novel, *An Ember in the Ashes*. Appearance made possible by Penguin Young Readers Group.



An Annual to Remember

by Laurie D. Borman

Even if the country's biggest Pride parade and the US Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality hadn't happened on the same weekend as the 2015 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition, San Francisco still would have been a very busy place June 25–30 with so many librarians and other library professionals in town for one of our best-attended conferences outside of Chicago. As of the final day, nearly 22,700 people had signed up, compared with about 19,900 in Las Vegas in 2014 and 23,545 in Chicago in 2013.

There was so much to see and do. The exhibit hall overflowed into two areas with more than 800 booths. Meeting rooms were packed—sometimes standing room only—with the hundreds of programs offered. And of course, lines formed to meet so many authors and collect advance reading copies of books.

Standing-room-only crowds packed some events, including Steinem's speech.

Celebrities abounded, with speeches from witty and popular actor Nick Offerman to activist Gloria Steinem (one of those SRO events) to musician Robbie Robertson, among others.

Sonia Manzano, "Maria" of *Sesame Street* fame, announced to conference attendees her retirement from the show after nearly 45 years, and *American Libraries*' tweet about it echoed in newsrooms across the country, from CNN to NPR to *The New York Times*. See more of our extensive online conference coverage, including video clips and blog posts, at americanlibrariesmagazine.org/tag/alaac15.

One of my highlights was meeting the two newest winners of the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction at a reception Saturday, June 27. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the NBA's all-time leading scorer and a Basketball Hall of Fame inductee, as well as an author of 10 books, gave a humorous personal keynote address. Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (Spiegel & Grau, 2014), won the medal for adult nonfiction and Anthony Doerr, author of *All the Light We Cannot See* (Scribner, 2014), won the medal for adult fiction. Doerr appeared at two other ALA events on Sunday, so attendees were able to get his signature on a book that has won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction as well as the Andrew Carnegie Medal. You can read highlights of *Booklist*'s interviews with the authors on page 16, and see video at bit.ly/1fYuUFj.

See our wrap-up of this amazing conference on page 14 and coverage of the exhibit hall news on page 21.

At the inaugural brunch, incoming ALA President Sari Feldman announced the new public awareness campaign, "Libraries Transform," and outlined her goals for it. Read more about this campaign in Feldman's message on page 5.

It truly was an Annual to remember. ■

american libraries

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Libraries Transform

Making a difference for our profession

by Sari Feldman

Because my grandchildren will use technologies I cannot even imagine, libraries transform.

Because algorithms don't inspire readers, libraries transform.

Because solving for X doesn't always give us the "why," libraries transform.

Welcome to ALA's new, multi-year public awareness campaign, "Libraries Transform." Its ultimate goal is to increase funding support for libraries and advance information policy issues in alignment with ALA's advocacy goals. The "Libraries Transform" campaign demonstrates how libraries of all types support individual opportunity and community progress.

I feel optimistic about the future of libraries after attending the recent ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition. It provided the opportunity to connect, collaborate, and celebrate our profession and the contribution of all libraries across the nation. It was incredible to be in San Francisco on the day the US Supreme Court delivered its milestone ruling on marriage equality—and it seemed especially fitting to celebrate diversity, equality, and inclusion with members of a profession that lives those values each and every day. Of course, I also enjoyed a personally significant milestone at the ALA inaugural brunch. Surrounded by friends, family, and colleagues, I launched the "Libraries Transform" campaign.

The campaign can be translated

as a statement of the dramatic outcomes we achieve every single day: Libraries transform people by supporting exploration and learning that drives individual opportunity. Libraries are committed to advancing their legacy of reading and developing a digitally inclusive society.

"Libraries Transform" is also a reflection on how libraries evolve to meet changing needs. From technology integration to a more outcome-intensive focus, libraries have transformed over time to keep pace with a dynamic knowledge economy.

Finally, "Libraries Transform" shows that we are most powerful when we recognize that we are one profession serving thousands of communities.

This campaign is made possible by generous support from OverDrive and will draw its power from the ALA membership. It will be effective only if we all commit to delivering its key messages. Please visit librariestransform.org, where you'll find downloadable content and information about the trends influencing library transformation.

Our campaign will be successful if we can accomplish three goals:

1. Increase awareness of and support for transforming libraries.
2. Shift perceptions of libraries and library work from "obsolete" or "nice to have" to essential.
3. Energize and engage all library workers as well as build external advocates to influence local, state, and national decision makers.



This campaign will be effective only if we all commit to delivering its key messages.

Over the next two months, you will be invited to brainstorm national, state, and lo-

cal implementation strategies. We want to hear your ideas for how this campaign can be brought to life in your local community. The public campaign launches in October.

In addition to the awareness campaign, we'll be working with the Center for the Future of Libraries to aggregate tools and resources to help library professionals deal with the cultural implications of this transformation.

We are also working with the ALA Knowledge Alliance to recruit smart, talented, and diverse individuals to the profession. We believe our story of library transformation will be an incredibly compelling recruitment strategy.

Transforming ourselves, transforming our organizations, and transforming our image is how we will move boldly into the future, advancing the Association and enhancing libraries. Let's spark progress together. Let's show the world how libraries transform. ■

SARI FELDMAN is executive director of Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library. Email: sfeldman@cuyahogalibrary.org

Comment Enabled

A national digital platform

In a perfect world where hacking, funding, and copyright are not issues, a national digital platform would be great (“The National Digital Platform for Libraries and Museums,” *AL E-Content Digital Supplement* to June 2015). Libraries and museums of all types having a shared point of accessible resources sounds like what the Digital Public Library of America (dp.la) is trying to accomplish. The operations and maintenance of such a digital platform would demand much dedication and responsibility of a managing party. Who would be responsible for 24/7 management? And how does one motivate librarians who have to deal with the bureaucracy of their own libraries and/or library systems they belong to? And finally, where does funding come from, besides a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services? Are for-profit organizations considered? If they are, wouldn't they have an interest beyond support and perhaps want to advertise? Even if McDonald's would provide a billion dollars in funding, I would not want to see a Big Mac advertised as I search for digitized content on medieval literature.

Alessandro Russo
Kensington, Maryland

Thoughts on ebook pricing

I really can't understand why the major publishers don't get behind a universal distribution/pay-per-use business model for ebooks (“Thoughts on BEA 2015: Everything You Need to Know to Succeed,” *The Scoop*, June 2). They should be eager to get almost every

book they have, new or old, as an ebook into every public library in the country, allow multiple checkouts at a time, and make their money on per-checkout fees. And yes, it'd be okay to charge more per checkout for a hot new bestseller than for a book on their backlist.

A too-narrow focus on sales numbers is perhaps one reason for their blindness. They've grown so accustomed to measuring success by the initial hardback sales that they can imagine no other way to earn money.

They're acting like the American railroads after World War II, which thought they were in the rail transport business. But faced with goods moving by trucks and people moving by planes, the railroads failed to adapt. If they'd been smarter, they'd have realized that they were in the transportation business, adding trucking to their business model to deliver to customers who weren't close to rail lines. They'd have shown more sense with passenger rail too, retaining it where it made sense (the northeastern US) and conceding the market to private autos and planes where it didn't (almost everywhere else).

When technology and culture change, business models need to change. The companies that get that right will do well. Those that don't will be in trouble.

I might add that, when it comes to digital sales, publishers should be pushing to clarify the lease-or-own problem rather than slipping it under the rug. When I purchase an ebook from Random House, what have I done? Have I just licensed my access to it, or do I own it, having a right to sell it to others

Operations and maintenance of a digital platform would demand dedication and responsibility of a managing party ... Even if McDonald's would provide a billion dollars in funding, I would not want to see a Big Mac advertised as I search for digitized content on medieval literature.

or give it in my will? That uncertainty is likely to come back and bite publishing.

Michael W. Perry
Seattle

Inspiring interview

Your interview with Carla Hayden (“Baltimore's Library Stays Open during Unrest: Q&A with CEO Carla Hayden,” *The Scoop*, May 1) is so inspiring to me because as a student in the library science program at East Carolina University, I am learning ways that libraries have historically been important to communities. Today's libraries are more than just a place to find books and do research. They can also serve as community centers. Every community needs a place that is going to remain in times of financial ups and downs as well as in times of social crisis. Way to go, Enoch Pratt Free Library, for your bravery and for continuing to be there for your community during this time of unrest.

Lisa Oxendine
Greenville, North Carolina

ALA Releases New National Policy Agenda for Libraries

On June 26 at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Francisco, the American Library Association (ALA) released the National Policy Agenda for Libraries to guide a proactive legislative policy shift.

The agenda was developed in collaboration with library organizations that serve on the Library Advisory Committee for the Policy Revolution! initiative and with input from the public. Funding is provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of a three-year grant that also supports efforts to deepen na-

tional engagement and increase library advocacy.

“Too often, decision makers do not yet understand the extent to which libraries can be catalysts for opportunity and progress,” said ALA President Courtney L. Young in a June 26 statement. “As a result, investments in libraries and librarians lag behind our potential to contribute to the missions of the federal government and other national institutions. We must take concerted action to advance shared policy goals.”

The agenda articulates two themes—building library capacity to advance national priorities and ad-

vancing the public interest. Among the areas for capacity building are education and learning, entrepreneurship, and health and wellness. Public interest topics include balanced copyright and licensing, systems for digital content, and privacy and transparency. The agenda also identifies specific populations for which there are significant demographic shifts or bipartisan opportunities to address specialized needs.

Using the agenda, the ALA Washington Office will begin advancing policy goals in partnership with other library organizations and allies.

Read the agenda at bit.ly/1QUamyg.

ALA Calls for Librarian to Lead Library of Congress

ALA has called for President Barack Obama to appoint a librarian to lead the Library of Congress (LC). The request comes in the wake of the announcement of James H. Billington’s retirement as the Librarian of Congress. Billington has held the position for 28 years and will leave in January 2016.

In a letter to Obama, ALA President Courtney L. Young makes a compelling case for the president to consider appointing a librarian to lead the nation’s library.

“The American Library Association believes that the position of Librarian of Congress is critically important as a leader for our nation’s libraries and cultural institutions and as a global role model for democratic principles, economic development, and new

education models,” Young writes. “Diversity and inclusion are foundational values of the library profession and essential elements in the provision of library resources, services, and staffing. We therefore urge that in making this appointment, strong consideration be given to a nominee who is a library leader reflective of the diversity of this nation.”

Young detailed several competencies that the next LC leader should possess, including experience leading a major library serving the public or research community, an understanding of scholarly research and scholarly communication, deep expertise in librarianship and the management of digital assets, and a commitment to collaboration.

Read Young’s letter in full at bit.ly/1BMhqGM.

ALA Applauds Marriage Equality

ALA has expressed its full support of the US Supreme Court’s June 26 ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, a decision that will provide same-sex couples throughout the country the legal right to marry without restrictions and with the same legal protections as heterosexual couples.

“The American Library Association applauds today’s ruling and supports efforts to safeguard the right of every US citizen to marry regardless of who they love,” Young said in a June 26 statement. “The ALA is thrilled that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender library workers will now have the same protections and rights as their heterosexual peers.

“The ALA believes that diversity and inclusion are essential in a 21st century society. Providing equal rights to same-sex couples is a step

CALENDAR

ALA EVENTS

Sept.: National Library Card Sign-Up Month, ala.org/librarycardsignup.

Sept. 27–Oct. 3: Banned Books Week, ala.org/bbooks.

Sept. 30: Banned Websites Awareness Day, ala.org/aasl/bwad.

Oct. 18–24: National Friends of Libraries Week, bit.ly/1DB8YbS.

Oct. 18–24: Teen Read Week, teenreadweek.ning.com.

Nov.: Picture Book Month, picturebookmonth.com.

Nov. 5–8: American Association of School Libraries National Conference, Columbus, Ohio.

Nov. 21: International Games Day, igd.ala.org.

2016

Jan. 8–12: ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, Boston.

June 23–28: ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition, Orlando, Florida.

Mar. 6–12: Teen Tech Week, teentechweek.ning.com.

Mar. 16: Freedom of Information Day, bit.ly/1F2ljpZ.

Apr. 5–9: Public Library Association Conference, Denver.

toward strengthening families and elevating our nation to one of equal opportunity, opposed to one of marginalized populations.

“[The] ruling not only paves the way for equality and acceptance but also serves as a victory for those—gay and straight—who fought to end discrimination in the library profession and in library user populations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.”

Two Libraries Razed by Fire Receive Grants

Old Dock Elementary School in Whiteville, North Carolina, and James Monroe Elementary in Edison, New Jersey, are the recipients of the 2015 catastrophic disaster relief grants offered as a part of the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Beyond Words Grant funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Each school will receive \$50,000.

Two catastrophic grants are awarded yearly to schools that have suffered a 90% or greater loss to their school library program because of a natural disaster, fire, or act recognized by the federal government as terrorism. Both Old Dock Elementary School and James Monroe Elementary School were destroyed by fire.

Since 2006, the Beyond Words grant program has provided relief to public school libraries nationwide. To date, more than \$1.6 million has been awarded to more than 150 schools. Funds replaced or supplemented damaged books, media, and equipment or offset costs incurred by schools that opened their doors to significant numbers of new students displaced by the disaster. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis and can be accessed online at ala.org/aasl/disasterrelief.

AASL Is Accepting Proposals for Annual

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) seeks proposals for sessions to be presented during the 2016 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition, which will be held June 23–28 in Orlando, Florida. All programs should include up to three learning objectives and address how the session supports the AASL Strategic Plan, the AASL *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner*, or *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Programs*.

AASL will evaluate proposals for clarity, originality, and timeliness. Consideration will be given to submissions that demonstrate innovative thinking and new perspectives, present strategies for effectively implementing new ideas and technology, include activities that will incorporate various learning styles, and demonstrate how learning outcomes will be achieved.

The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. Central time on September 15. Submissions will only be accepted online. For more information, visit ala.org/aasl/rfp.

IMLS Grant to Aid ALA Adult Literacy Efforts

ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services, in partnership with ProLiteracy, has received a \$106,669 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to develop online training and supporting resources to better equip librarians and library staff to serve adult learners.

The grant will put into practice priorities outlined in Adult Literacy through Libraries: An Action Agenda, a collaborative effort of ProLiteracy, ALA, and Onondaga County (N.Y.) Public Library. Titled “Adult Literacy: Libraries in Action (ALL in Action),” the project's goal

EMERGING LEADERS PRESENT AT ANNUAL

is to increase and expand adult literacy services in public libraries across the nation. It will operate through March 31, 2017.

For more information, visit bit.ly/1NJTxQJ.

ALSC Seeks Members for Evaluation Seminar

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is accepting applications for the 2016 ALSC Bill Morris Seminar: Book Evaluation to be held on January 8, 2016, prior to the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Boston.

This seminar will bring new ALSC members and members with limited evaluation experience together with those who have served on ALSC's media evaluation committees for training and mentoring in the group process and in children's media evaluation techniques.

Selected attendees must be able to complete pre-seminar assignments so that they are able to fully participate. This will include reading articles, books, and materials for discussion. Some materials will be accessible online.

The ALSC William C. Morris Endowment will support those selected to attend by offering the seminar at no charge. All materials, breakfast, and lunch will be covered. To help defray additional costs for hotel and other expenses, a \$300 stipend will be provided.

The endowment was established in 2000 and activated in 2003 upon the death of Morris, the former vice president and director of library promotion at HarperCollins Children's Books. Morris was a long-time ALSC member, the recipient of the first ALSC Distinguished Service Award, and an advocate for children's literature and librarians.

For more information, additional entry requirements, and a link to the online application form, visit ala.org/alsc/morrisseminar.

The 2015 ALA Emerging Leaders presented their final projects at a poster session during the 2015 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Francisco. The Emerging Leaders were divided into groups to explore issues related to a sponsoring ALA division, committee, or round table.

Groups used iPads and other forms of media to demonstrate the projects they had worked on since first meeting at the 2015 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Chicago.

New marketing, design, community building, and advocacy initiatives were among the topics that the new librarians tackled.

The team representing the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) analyzed library publisher services and concluded that a need exists for such services beyond academic libraries. They recommended that RUSA initiate a discussion or interest group to investigate their findings further and build an online space for library publishing resources.

The Emerging Leaders credit the program for strengthening their collaborative skills.

"Each of us had different but complementary strengths," Beth Boatright, information services and instruction librarian at the Helmke Library at Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne, said of her team. "We learned a lot about how to make it work."

Boatright said the Emerging Leaders experience allowed her to see up close what ALA and its divisions do, how the Association operates, and what it has to offer. "All of RUSA was very supportive," she said. "This has been a good step into the Association."

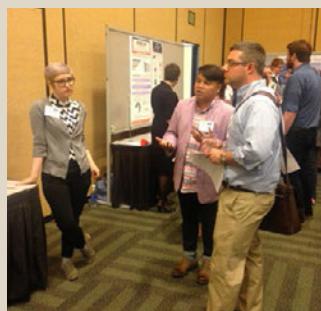
Applications for the 2016 class of Emerging Leaders, the program that

puts new librarians on the fast track to ALA and professional leadership, are now being accepted. Emerging Leaders gain firsthand knowledge of ALA structure and experience with library leadership by participating in projects, networking events, and other activities throughout the year. The program is open to librarians of any age who are new to the profession and who have fewer than five years of experience working at a professional or paraprofessional level in a library.

For more information on the program and to submit an application, visit ala.org/educationcareers/leadership/emergingleaders. The deadline for submissions is August 1.



The RUSA-sponsored Emerging Leaders team. From left: Angela Kent, Rebecca Marrall, Beth Boatright, Crystal Boyce, Sarah Espinosa.



Ivy Weir and Paolo Gujilde from the Association for Library Collections and Services-sponsored team discuss their work.

NEWSMAKER: STEVE POTASH

Steve Potash founded OverDrive in 1986 and built it into the predominant provider of ebooks, audiobooks, and other digital media for American libraries and schools. It is estimated that OverDrive has about 90% of the US public library market. So when the company announced in March that it would be purchased by Rakuten—a large international online retailer and e-content provider based in Japan—there were plenty of questions about what it will mean to libraries and to library users. Rakuten also owns Kobo, the Canadian ebook and e-reader company. In a telephone interview, Potash talked about the acquisition, the potential benefits for US libraries, and the advantages of joining a company ranked by *Forbes* as one of the top 20 most innovative worldwide.



to Kindle ebooks through Amazon, for instance, patrons have to share information with Amazon. How will patron information be protected from Rakuten? OverDrive has always respected and adopted the policies and practices that libraries and schools have required. In every case, including the one you mentioned, it's an opt-in by the reader. If the reader wants to use a particular device or app, our job has been to ensure that they can do so if they elect to anonymously. We expect that those two tenets will allow us to continue our track record of respecting patron and reader privacy.

How will Rakuten's acquisition of OverDrive lead to a better experience for libraries and their users?

STEVE POTASH: The first and the most obvious win for our library and school partners is going to be more content. Because Kobo has been operating globally, we expect to make more content available faster for library lending and for schools.

On service, [Rakuten is] focused on improving its technologies under one primary principle, which is empowering customers. So the collection of technologies will give us significantly faster access to innovate the service component for our library partners.

Innovation and flexibility to respond quickly to library needs have been a hallmark of OverDrive. Within the new company, will this remain? One of the five principles of success at Rakuten is built around speed.

When you are in an internet and digital content business, speed is an important asset. We expect to have new resources to help us innovate even faster and provide more op-

tions to consider how we may bring value to our library partners and their readers.

Given Rakuten's presence as an online retailer, should we expect a new emphasis on selling content through libraries, such as the "buy it now" requirement that Simon & Schuster tried to impose that was subsequently rolled back? OverDrive, working with many of our public library directors, has offered buy-it-now service, alongside ebooks and digital audiobooks, as early as four or five years ago. Many of these programs are going to be opportunities for libraries to opt in. OverDrive was using Kobo as one of the online retailers that patrons could choose to order from using the buy-it-now feature. So we don't expect any changes in the ability for libraries, if they're interested, to add a buy-it-now option to serve their community. I don't think we'll see any changes in this.

Reader privacy is a key tenet for librarians. Yet in order to get access

What can ALA and other library organizations do to further improve the public's access to ebooks and other digital content? The next big space to consider regarding advocacy with publishers is around education. While you have made great progress with the trade houses, we're in the very early days of getting appreciation for library lending of digital books from textbook publishers and those providing the curriculum in the classroom. The other thing I would say is supporting open standards. We are one of the first to fully support the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF) EPUB 3. This makes sure libraries have long-term compatibility with all the new mobile devices and screens that are in our future and in our readers' future. ■

Read the full interview with OverDrive CEO Steve Potash at bit.ly/overdrive_amlibs.

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THEIR FINGERTIPS
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CAN BE A
SCARY PLACE.**

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What They Said

“My first job on *Sesame Street* [as Maria] was as a librarian. And we did that because we wanted to have a community feeling, that people would share books and that the library was a place where you hung out and sang songs between reading chapters. Unfortunately my own experience with libraries was very little, as it is for kids who grow up in the inner city. There might have been a small library in the public school that I went to, but it had very few books. That’s why it’s very important to find ways to take books and the library experience to children who don’t have that experience. And I’m sorry to say I did not have that experience as a child.”

SONIA MANZANO, Emmy Award-winning writer and actor who defined the role of Maria on *Sesame Street*, on how the show created a community space and encouraged sharing, in “2015 ALA Annual Conference—Sonia Manzano on *Sesame Street* and Libraries” (youtu.be/kH3Zk8-rpdY), June 29.

“Growing up, librarians were like this algorithm of mystery in finding books. You would say, ‘I finished this book last weekend. What should I try next?’ I was probably the only kid in the east side of Cleveland reading somebody like Paul Bowles or Ralph Ellison or Italo Calvino. These were names that I couldn’t pronounce and would have never discovered those books if librarians weren’t putting them in my hands and trusting me to understand them and to not be in over my head or saying that these books were too old or they were outside my age range.”

ANTHONY DOERR, 2015 Andrew Carnegie Medal winner for excellence in fiction for *All the Light We Cannot See*, on how librarians

“I was rescued by librarians everywhere I went. Librarians saved my internal life.”

GLORIA STEINEM, writer, lecturer, editor, journalist, and social and political activist, on the importance of librarians, during her Auditorium Speaker Series presentation at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition, June 26.

ians have helped him throughout his life, in “2015 ALA Annual Conference—Anthony Doerr on the Carnegie Medal” (youtu.be/nBXny6Wzfpcc), June 28.

“I think in many parts of our country, everything seems closed. You’ve got a lot of people living in the margins of society. I work with kids who are born into violent families, they go to violent schools, they’re chased by violent gangs. Their life is shaped by really despairing, desperate, intimidating forces. Libraries are portals to another world. They’re spaces where you can go through a door and everything is possible. And that opportunity to walk through a portal, particularly when you’re living in the margins of society, particularly when people don’t have high expectations for you, particularly when you’re being menaced and threatened by so many things, is absolutely lifesaving.”

BRYAN STEVENSON, 2015 Andrew Carnegie Medal winner for excellence in nonfiction for *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* and founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, on the opportunities that libraries provide children, in “2015 ALA Annual Conference—Bryan Stevenson on the Carnegie Medal” (youtu.be/7DQi2Tz9DXM), June 28.

“There’s probably 40 of us now in the Minooka, Illinois, area. And with the exception of me, the weird black sheep,

we are schoolteachers, firemen, paramedics, nurses, librarians, and farmers, and my brother brews beer. So they’re all doing the Lord’s work; they’re all the salt of the earth, and then I’m this weird dancer off doing my thing. And so not only do we have librarians in the family, but even though they are these great, goodhearted people, the whole family reads. We love to read books, and we always have. We love watching good TV and going to the movies, but I’d say our main form of entertainment is reading books.”

NICK OFFERMAN, humorist, author, woodworker, and actor best known for playing Ron Swanson on NBC’s *Parks and Recreation*, on how influential libraries have been in his family’s life, in “2015 ALA Annual Conference—Nick Offerman on Libraries and Technology” (youtu.be/WcJqU04KkKU), June 27.

“It was a physical refuge to me, my town library. And especially I think because until I was 11, I grew up in a town without any library, including my school had no library. It had a shelf with some books on it. Because we lived out in the country and went to this country school. And then when I was 11, my family moved to this college town. And my sister and I loved two things: We loved books, and we loved to roller skate. And that first summer we were there in this college town, there were sidewalks, which we didn’t have out in the country, and there was a library,

and so every day we would roller skate over to the public library. And we just couldn't believe you could just live someplace where you could go to the library every single day, instead of having to make this long, long drive. It was really important especially to us because our family—it's not that books weren't important. It was that one book was important, which was the Bible. And it is an important book, but just having this other place where you could discover all these new ideas and people that had nothing to do with you and your family necessarily. The physical place was important."

SARAH VOWELL, journalist, essayist, social commentator, and *New York Times* best-selling author of nonfiction books on American history and culture, on how libraries shaped her education and served as a refuge, in "2015 ALA Annual Conference—Sarah Vowell on Libraries" (youtu.be/f1RKtXQ1Lhg), June 27.

"We go to books and to libraries to both discover ourselves, to see ourselves, and also to expand ourselves. That's one of the things I learned in writing *The Rise*. The libraries that we have offer public domains as well, spaces where we can transform from all sorts of circumstances to allow for the growth that can come no other way."

SARAH LEWIS, art historian, curator, critic, and author of *The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery*, on the value of libraries in our culture, in "2015 ALA Annual Conference—Sarah Lewis on Finding Ourselves in Libraries" (youtu.be/ieeGh-h3wYw), June 28.

"But now, working with librarians, being in touch with them with your own books and them telling you about their experiences with the kids, there's a massive amount of—patience is the wrong word, because sometimes it is patience, but it's always just that they care for a much different reason than anybody else does. This isn't a hugely capitalistic business or anything. They're not all sharks swimming

"Libraries are sacred places of knowledge and literacy ... that offer the whole wisdom of humanity."

NANCY PELOSI, minority leader of the House of Representatives, during the Opening General Session at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition, June 26.

around looking for a payday. But librarians have this totally emotional connection to this stuff that is over and above what they would need to do their job. They just really care deeply about connecting this to this, connecting the right kid to the right book, and understanding that there's not just one silver-bullet book for all kids. Some of them maybe a few books, really special ones, but there's also the special kid who wants this particular book and is really going to do it. And to keep your eyes open as wide as they do to that kind of opportunity. I don't think I knew that they did that until I started working with them with my own books."

JON KLASSEN, author and Caldecott Medal winner, on the care and effort librarians put into helping children find books, in "Caldecott Winner Jon Klassen on Picture Books and Drawing," *The Scoop* (bit.ly/1HtHgBv), June 29.

"Every week, on the federal level, billions of dollars are being spent on guns and other weapons, to fight violent stupidity in distant lands. Here at home, we can't pay for Babar. Or the Count of Monte Cristo. We can't pay for those palaces of human art, history, science, and intelligence that we call libraries. We can't pay for those books and services (including librarians) that gave so many of us our American lives. It's time we stop the drift toward stupidity. It's time to give libraries the money they need. To show our new Americans that Shakespeare belongs

to them, too. And Montaigne. And Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Faulkner. Here is García Márquez, baby. And if you think of hip-hop as poetry, wait'll you get to Yeats, Pablo Neruda, and Langston Hughes. Here. In the richest city in the Republic. Hold a book to your chest. Love it. You will have it for all of your life."

PETE HAMILL, writing about his love for the Brooklyn Public Library, which became his home away from home as a child growing up poor during the Great Depression, in "It's Time for America to Give Libraries the Money They Need and Deserve," *New York Daily News*, June 13.

"I think pretty much every day should be a reading day."

RACHIDA MAHAMED, 12, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, who argued before the city council to keep the library system open on Sundays during the summer. The change took effect in May, according to the *Argus Leader*, June 3. ■

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PRIDE AND DIVERSITY AT ANNUAL 2015

More than 22,000 convene in San Francisco

By Greg Landgraf

Given that the 2015 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition, held June 25–30 in San Francisco, coincided with the San Francisco Pride celebration and parade, it's hardly surprising that matters of inclusiveness and diversity emerged as major themes of the conference. The national news only sharpened this focus,

as the US Supreme Court's *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling that legalized same-sex marriage throughout the country was announced just hours before the conference began Friday.

In the wake of this news, attorney Roberta Kaplan keynoted the Opening General Session. Kaplan successfully argued *United States v. Windsor*, the 2013 case that ruled

part of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional. She referred to *Windsor* as the “big kick in the butt” that moved the Supreme Court forward on a series of decisions that have fundamentally recognized the equality of gay people in our society.

Kaplan noted that librarians were at the forefront of many civil rights issues, particularly regarding cen-

sorship during the era when many gay men and lesbians had to live their lives in the closet. “Librarians were incredibly important in making sure information got out to people who were living lives that are almost unimaginable today,” she said.

In her speech, she also detailed her decision to take on Edie Windsor’s case: Thea Spyer, Windsor’s partner of 44 years, was the therapist Kaplan saw during her coming out process. Spyer’s death, and the \$363,000 tax bill resulting from Windsor’s lack of inheritance rights, prompted the case.

While #WeNeedDiverseBooks emerged as a major theme of this year’s Midwinter Meeting, the “Diverse Books Need Us” program showed that those books need librarian support to thrive. Author Mike Jung cofounded We Need Diverse Books in response to BookCon’s lineup of BookExpo America authors that lacked any people of color. “We’re working toward the long haul,” he said, noting that the industry needs diversity not only in books, but also in its authors, book characters, agents, marketing staff, editors, and readers.

Panelist CM! Winters-Palacio, chair of the library department at Malcolm X College in Chicago, recommended that one step all librarians take to support diverse books is to learn how the acquisition process works, especially in school libraries. When there are programs based around diverse books, libraries need to buy multiple copies of those books so they are available to hand out to patrons.

The “Girls Like Fart Jokes and Boys Have Feelings” session examined how the gender divide in children’s and young adult books—where “girl books” have romance while “boy books” have action—emerged and how librarians can counter it.

“Boy books and girl books are

marketing constructs,” said panelist Jordan Brown, a children’s book editor with HarperCollins. “They can be useful in a lot of ways, but they are problematic when there are greater issues in the culture around gender. Then ‘great book for boys’ becomes ‘great book *only* for boys.’”

Author Hannah Gomez recommended that librarians “teach people how to close-read” and learn to talk about the many subjects of a book other than just what is depicted on the cover.

Panelists also pointed to Maureen Johnson’s Coverflip project, which challenged traditional gender-based marketing tropes by reimaging book covers with the author’s gender switched—George R. R. Martin’s *A Game of Thrones* got a swirly castle-and-princess cover when “written” by Georgette R. Martin, for example.

The GraphiCon 2015 mini-conference—sponsored by ALA’s Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries Member Initiative Group—started with a forum that explored diversity in comics, particularly re-

lated to gender and LGBTQ representation. During the #WeNeedDiverseComics panel, *Princeless* creator Jeremy Whitley said, “There are a lot of white guys in the Marvel universe; DC too. I’m drawn to telling stories I want to see and don’t see, and things that I want my daughter to see.”

During GraphiCon’s “His, Hers, and Theirs: Gender and Comics” panel, *Babymouse* cocreator Jennifer L. Holm observed that librarians and others currently have a unique opportunity. “[Diversity] is at the forefront of the media right now,” she said. “It’s up to librarians, teachers, and [authors] to continue the change.”

At the Closing General Session, Robbie Robertson (Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and leader of The Band) and Caldecott Honor-winning illustrator David Shannon discussed their collaboration on *Hiawatha and the Peacemaker* (Abrams, 2015), a new children’s book illustrated by Shannon’s oil paintings and accompanied by a CD of original music by Robertson.

Robertson, who is of Mohawk and



Ferguson (Mo.) Public Library Director Scott Bonner (second from right) receives the Lemoyne Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity.

A Q&A

WITH THE 2015 WINNERS OF THE ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDALS FOR EXCELLENCE IN FICTION AND NONFICTION

The following excerpts are from interviews with authors Anthony Doerr, winner of the fiction medal for *All the Light We Cannot See*, and Bryan Stevenson, winner of the nonfiction medal for *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. The interviews were conducted by *Booklist* editors Donna Seaman and Brad Hooper. Both authors attended the awards announcement and ceremony in San Francisco. Read the full interviews at BooklistOnline.com.



ANTHONY DOERR,
All the Light We Cannot See

BOOKLIST: What is the perennial attraction of historical fiction, to both writers and readers?

DOERR: History is about studying how, when, and where large numbers of human beings fell under the spell of various myths. But storytelling is about

watching individuals operate inside those historical narratives. In my case, I'm drawn to reading fully imagined fictions, because I want to watch individuals move under those greater forces, whether they're aware of them or not. So I love finding writers who can make the past feel sensual and grounded and seamless—who can transport me fully into the life and mind of another human being. Their characters might live in a different era, but they go through the same emotional processes we do, and so they make me feel more connected to the ghosts of our collective past.

BOOKLIST: To represent the occupied side of France and the occupier side, you chose two young, interesting characters. Why those two particular characters?

DOERR: Inspiration for me comes from finding subjects that interest me very deeply. I read as much as I can about that subject, and sometimes, maybe three times out of 10, I'm able to start constructing a successful narrative around that central curiosity. In this case, Werner came out of my fascination with radio. And Marie-Laure came out of my twin loves for marine biology and novels. I wanted to create a girl who loved to read and who loved the sea. Once I conceived her as blind and I started trying to plausibly render her world in language, it allowed me to play with other types of blindness—and visibility and invisibility—in the book. Marie-Laure can't see in the physical universe, for example, but she sees a lot more in the moral universe than Werner can.

All of that has to do with wonder: finding things in the world that elicit a sense of wonder. If a beginning writer wants

advice from me, I ask her, "What dazzles you?" All of my favorite artists are, at some level, wildly in love with the world.



BRYAN STEVENSON,
Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

BOOKLIST: In your introduction, you describe growing up in "a poor, rural, racially segregated settlement" on the coast of Delaware. Did books play a role in your childhood? Did you have access to a public library?

STEVENSON: Although we were poor, my mother believed deeply in the power of a book. Her grandfather was born into slavery but learned to read while enslaved at great risk. He taught my grandmother that reading was a great weapon to battle forces that might destroy you. My mother taught me the same thing. She would say to me all the time, "You make me so happy when I see you reading." Reading became a powerfully endorsed and affirmed act in our house.

The nearby public library was racially segregated when we were small, so my mother refused to use it or to take us there. She insisted on buying *World Book Encyclopedia* on a book-a-month plan, and this created additional debt for our family, which was a source of some tension. But each month the arrival of the new encyclopedia book was a big deal, and my brother, sister, and I would gather around our mother to read through each new addition with great joy.

BOOKLIST: Do we need to more actively address the full truth about racial inequality in the justice system? How can we begin to do this?

STEVENSON: In the American South, where I live, the land is littered with monuments and markers to the Confederacy. My project, the Equal Justice Initiative, has put up slave markers to memorialize Montgomery, Alabama's slave trade history. I want to memorialize the locations where lynchings took place in the US to raise consciousness about our history of racial injustice. What Germany has done to recover from the Holocaust by creating markers, monuments, and museums is difficult but necessary. In that country, you are encouraged to go to the memorials and museums at the Holocaust sites to reflect soberly on that horrific legacy. We do the opposite in the US. We deny and diminish the impact of our long history of racial injustice against Native Americans, Asians, Latinos, new immigrant communities, and African Americans.

Cayuga descent, said he heard the story of Hiawatha and his spiritual guide, the Peacemaker, when he was 9 years old on the Six Nations Indian Reserve in Ontario, Canada. Hiawatha, a Mohawk, was chosen to translate the Peacemaker's message of unity for the five warring Iroquois nations during the 14th century. This message helped unite the tribes and changed how the Iroquois governed themselves—and became a model for democracy, later inspiring the authors of the US Constitution.

Robertson and Shannon pointed out that their story of Hiawatha bears little resemblance to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's famous but historically inaccurate poem, *The Song of Hiawatha*. When new ALA President Sari Feldman, who hosted the discussion, asked how librarians could balance cultural sensitivity and accuracy without limiting access to historical literature, Robertson said he believes it's possible to still appreciate Longfellow the storyteller.

Shannon agreed: "There's truth in fiction and there's truth in history, and they don't always coincide. Learning where you're wrong is as important as learning where you're right."

New campaign focuses on transformation

ALA's multiyear focus on transformation took another step at Annual. At the inaugural brunch, Feldman introduced Libraries Transform, a new public awareness campaign to elevate the ways libraries support individual opportunity and community progress.

The campaign's goals:

- Increase support for libraries by showing the transformative nature of today's libraries.
- Elevate awareness of the critical role that libraries and library professionals play in the digital age.
- Update the image of libraries and



Andrew Medlar, 2015–2016 ALSC president, and others attend the June 28 Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder Banquet to recognize the year's most distinguished books for children.

library professionals.

- Attract the best and the brightest from all walks of life to grow and expand the profession.
- Influence key decision makers at the national, state, and local levels to generate support for library funding and information policy positions.

The new Libraries Transform website, librariestransform.org, includes a video for public awareness and a toolkit for libraries, with downloadable web banners, posters, and postcards. (Read more about this initiative in Feldman's column, on page 5.)

Conversation Starter sessions throughout the weekend addressed a variety of emerging opportunities for libraries in lecture, panel, or discussion format. For example, in "From Maker to Make-HER," Nancy Andrus described how Sunnyvale (Calif.) Library's Make-HER program works to attract girls to STEM programming. Make-HER workshops are open to girls 8–12, Andrus said, because "that's the time girls start to lose interest and confidence in STEM."

Individual workshops are led by women (dubbed "#LadyMakers") who Andrus recruited from local museum and education programs. The girls who participate in the workshops are accompanied by their

mothers or other adult women who can understand and support the girls' maker efforts outside of the library. The program's blog, sunnyvalemaker.wordpress.com, provides profiles, resources, and try-at-home projects for people who can't attend the workshops.

Another Conversation Starter titled "The Library–Museum Connection" discussed how libraries and museums can become part of the artistic process. Presenter Erinn Batykefer, program coordinator at New Canaan (Conn.) Library, helped create the Library as Incubator Project to facilitate collaboration between libraries and artists while she was an LIS student at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. One of the project's early successes was *Bookless*, a 2012 event at Madison Public Library in which the library invited more than 100 artists to create an interactive show in its Central Public Library building—which was then empty in preparation for remodeling.

That program has inspired many others. Rebecca Hopman, outreach librarian at the Corning (N.Y.) Museum of Glass, detailed how through the museum's artist-in-residency program, "Artists come to the museum, get inspired, make something, and we document it and add



From left: Art historian and author Sarah Lewis discusses why “near wins” are important for mastering your craft, at the June 28 President’s Program. Authors and humorists Nick Offerman and Sarah Vowell moderated each other’s talks on June 27.

it to our collection.”

Celebrity speakers inspire and entertain

In the Auditorium Speaker Series, a host of authors, thinkers, and entertainers offered their unique perspectives to eager attendees.

Sonia Manzano delighted the crowd with a reel of highlights from her nearly 45 years portraying Maria on *Sesame Street*. Sighs of nostalgic recognition and bursts of laughter accompanied the three-minute video, followed by sadness when she announced she was retiring from the show. Growing up poor in the Bronx in a household torn by alcoholism and violence, Manzano said little in her early life would have predicted a career in the arts (let alone 15 Emmy awards for writing). She said she succeeded because of her childhood, not in spite of it. “You can make something out of any life,” she said. Her childhood experiences informed not only the character of Maria but also her writing for other characters. Manzano said she feels responsible to a little girl in a disruptive household who may

find comfort in the show.

Manzano lamented that children are now often assessed and tested before they are able to discover the joy of using their imagination and thinking for themselves. “The last place to imagine is in the books that librarians give them,” she said. “Reading books is the only time right answers are not required.”

Ms. magazine cofounder Gloria Steinem argued that libraries fill the need for a physical community meeting place that fosters connections between people. “Pressing ‘send’ is not organizing,” she noted. She also emphasized the importance of librarians in protecting unpopular opinions and history that can’t be found elsewhere. “Your profession is the greatest profession,” she said. “You democratize knowledge. Nothing on earth is more important.”

At ALA President Courtney L. Young’s President’s Program, Harvard professor Sarah Lewis discussed the upside of failure. For her debut book *The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery*, she researched 150 historical

and contemporary figures. In each case, she said, “They weren’t aiming for success but a kind of mastery. I saw that the ability to sustain that mastery came from being willing to be, at times, a deliberate amateur.”

Libraries can provide a private domain where individuals can process, strengthen, and grow, she added. “[Librarians] uphold that timeless part of the creative process, the timeless part of personal transformation.”

Acclaimed author Edwidge Danticat called librarians “wonderful angels of the book.” She grew up in Haiti under Jean-Claude Duvalier’s dictatorship, where certain books were forbidden. Her first encounter with a public library was in Brooklyn after moving to the United States at age 12. She spoke no English, but the library had a small section of books in French, where she checked out the limit of 10 books and told her father, “I can’t believe they’re going to let me take these books home!” Her photo now hangs in that library.

As a writer, Danticat said she tries “to tell very hard truths in



plain ways.” She read from her new picture book, *Mama’s Nightingale*, about a young girl who sees her undocumented mother detained and then deported. She said she hopes the book stresses the realities of the immigrant experience, which can include triumph, hope, trauma, despair, opportunity, and sacrifice.

Essayist and historian Sarah Vowell and actor Nick Offerman are longtime friends, so while they were scheduled at separate Auditorium Speaker Series sessions, they wound up moderating each other’s talks. Both have new books that examine individuals who have helped shape America. Vowell’s *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States* follows her travels through the US researching French aristocrat turned US Revolutionary War general, the Marquis de Lafayette. Offerman’s *Gumption* details 21 historic and modern figures—from George Washington to Yoko Ono—who have inspired him.

Also an inspiration to Offerman (unlike Ron Swanson, his library-loathing *Parks and Recreation* char-

Council Approves

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN, AWARD

Council approved CD#37, the new ALA Strategic Directions document, overwhelmingly. Strategic Directions is the Association’s new five-year strategic plan, which focuses on advocacy, information policy, and professional and leadership development. It replaces the ALA 2015 plan.

A new award, the Ernest A. DiMattia Jr. Award for Innovation and Service to the Community and the Profession (CD#7), passed with no discussion. The \$5,000 award will be presented annually.

The Committee on Legislation’s resolution against mass surveillance of the American people (CD#42) was referred back to the Committee on Legislation and the Intellectual Freedom Committee after extensive debate, as was CD#20.2, a resolution on the passage of the USA Freedom Act and Reaffirming ALA’s Commitment to Surveillance Law Reform, a proposed substitute for CD#42.

Three action items from the Intellectual Freedom Committee on internet filtering (CD#19.3), labeling systems (CD#19.4), and rating systems (CD#19.5) each passed.

Resolutions approved by council include:

- CD#46_62915_act, endorsing the statement from the Movement for Black Lives on the Charleston shooting
- CD#38_Revised-2_62915_act, on improving access to Spanish and bilingual books in various languages for children in detention centers
- CD#45, an amended resolution on gun violence
- CD#36, on the importance of sustainable libraries
- CD#43, denouncing the systemic racism that motivated the South Carolina shootings

A Resolution on Libraries and Schools Affected by the Conflict in Gaza and Israel in 2014 (CD#40) was defeated.

Council received reports from the International Relations Committee (CD#18.2) and the Freedom to Read Foundation (CD#22.1).

Council passed memorials for Charles Benton, Ruth C. Carter, Cynthia D. Clark, David Cohen, Floyd C. Dickman, Zoia Horn, Cynthia G. Hurd, William Vernon Jackson, Elizabeth H. (Betsy) Park, and Gail A. Schlachter.

Council passed tributes to Jessie Carney Smith, the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the 35th anniversary of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, and the 50th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

acter) are the librarians in his life. His aunt is a librarian and his sister is director of Three Rivers Public Library District in Channahon, Illinois. “I adore librarians because you’re the curators,” he said. “You’re better than a really good weed dealer; better than a good weed farmer. You’re the best of dispensaries.”

More service ideas

The Affordable Care Act defines health literacy as the ability to obtain, communicate, process, and understand basic health information and services to make appropriate health decisions. Nearly 90 million adults in the US have basic or below basic levels of health



Alison King, youth services librarian at Penn Wynne Library in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, reads an excerpt from *And Tango Makes Three*. Attendees were invited to read from their favorite banned book and have it recorded for the Banned Books Week YouTube channel (youtube.com/bannedbooksweek).

literacy—which increases health care costs by up to \$236 billion per year due to increased but preventable use of emergency rooms, longer hospitalizations, and other issues. Panelists at “Public Health and Public Libraries: Librarians as Health Literacy First Responders” argued that librarians are well positioned to help address this lack of literacy.

“It is incumbent on libraries to promote reliable resources,” said Anita Kinney, data analyst at Prince George’s County (Md.) Memorial Library System. For example, the recent resurgence of measles is correlated to poor health literacy: Studies show that up to a third of parents still believe vaccines cause autism. But there have been successes as well: The “Back to Sleep” education campaign to combat SIDS, for example, helped reduce infant death rates by 50% in the US.

Maureen Hartmann, division manager for strategic services at

Hennepin County (Minn.) Library, argued that libraries may need to cull services in order to provide more vital ones, in the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) session “What I Stopped Doing: Improving Services by Giving Things Up.” Teen services and demographics are changing across the country, as detailed in YALSA’s *The Future of Library Services for and with Teens*.

“I can’t tell you exactly what you need to give up and what you need to do to implement this report in your library,” Hartmann explained, “because it’s so different for each community, for the kind of library you work with, for what your staffing looks like, and what position you’re in.” But the report does put into context that librarians may need to make tough choices in order to try something new.

Michelle Frisque, chief of technology, content, and innovation at Chicago Public Library (CPL), and

Luke Swarthout, director of adult education services at New York Public Library (NYPL), discussed their libraries’ experiments with lending Wi-Fi hotspots to users in high-need communities, in their Library and Information Technology Association session “A Tale of Two Cities: NYPL and CPL Wi-Fi Lending Projects.” Swarthout said that NYPL’s pilot program helped some of the 27% of New Yorkers with no home internet access overcome barriers to home access. “Libraries expose patrons to online resources that show the value of internet access,” he said, as well as “provide training and support that patrons can access to utilize internet resources.”

Via Skype, journalist Glenn Greenwald spoke about the reverberations of his work bringing National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden into the public sphere. “Librarians, since the 9/11 attacks, have been the most unyielding and vicious defenders of liberties,” he said. “I’ve watched with admiration and gratitude how steadfast your group has been.”

Greenwald added that he wishes that more Americans were as concerned about privacy issues as librarians. Many people are tolerant of mass surveillance because they think they have nothing to hide. Greenwald thinks such complacency is dangerous, noting that we all use security measures like passwords, locks, or fences every day.

Total attendance was 22,696, including 15,883 attendees and 6,813 exhibitor staff. Last year’s conference in Las Vegas attracted 19,889 attendees, while 23,545 attended the 2013 conference in Chicago.

Compiled by Greg Landgraf from blog posts by Laurie D. Borman, Amy Carlton, Krystal Corbray, Erika Jenns, Phil Morehart, and Sanhita SinhaRoy.

Read more conference coverage at americanlibrariansmagazine.org/tag/alaac15. ■



A LOOK AT TECH

Patron-engaging products in the exhibit hall

By Marshall Breeding

The exhibit hall at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference offered an almost complete representation of the technology products and services available to libraries in North America. For technology providers, the conference is an opportunity to showcase products to more than

20,000 attendees. Those considering resource management systems, discovery services, self-service or automated materials-handling products, ebook lending services, or digitizing equipment can get a firsthand glimpse of the available options.

One current trend in library technol-

ogy aims to improve the engagement of patrons with libraries or to provide tools to help users work more effectively. In many respects, the technologies on display reinforced the theme of the “Library Systems Report 2015” (*AL*, May, p. 28–41), operationalizing the innovations brewing in recent years,

including the increased adoption of Semantic Web technologies or linked open data, an emphasis on user experience, and ever more emphasis on optimizing interfaces for mobile devices.

Resource management products, including library services platforms and integrated library systems, generally mature in features, now distinguish themselves in their ability to enable optimized workflows for library staff and to deliver actionable data and statistics in support of intelligent collection development. Discovery services compete on the comprehensiveness of coverage, improved relevancy rankings, and tools that help users explore collections and engage with library services. Providers increasingly tout the application programming interfaces (APIs) exposed by their products to enable interoperability and extensibility, especially important to larger libraries that exchange data and services with many external systems.

Integrated systems

The ALA exhibit floor reflected an industry dominated by a small number of large companies that are challenged by a tier of midsized and small companies.

Innovative Interfaces came to the conference with news that more than 600 libraries have selected its Sierra integrated library system (ILS). The company has completed its initial installations of the national project awarded earlier in 2015 for all of the public library services in Ireland. Innovative has also joined the Zepheira Libhub Initiative to encourage the adoption of linked data by libraries using its Sierra, Polaris, or Virtua products. Initial services include the extraction of records for transformation to BIBFRAME or schema.org data models.

The BLUEcloud brand was featured at the SirsiDynix booth, consisting of an expanding suite of web-based products that work in tandem with the company's existing Horizon and Symphony platforms. In addition to eResource Central for ebook and electronic resource man-



The author (left center) chats with an OCLC rep in the busy exhibit hall.

agement, and its Enterprise and Portfolio discovery platforms, SirsiDynix is rolling out BLUEcloud versions of selected ILS modules. SirsiDynix has also taken the plunge into the realm of linked open data, engaging with Zepheira to develop products and services to help libraries gain better exposure of their resources on the web.

Ex Libris Group has pulled out all the stops in promoting Alma, its library services platform designed specifically for academic and research libraries. News promoted at the conference included the selection by the 23 California State University campuses to replace the previously separate components for print and electronic resource management and discovery with a systemwide implementation of Alma and Primo. An announcement made just after the conference mentioned Leiden University as the 500th institution to select Alma.

Ex Libris and EBSCO Information Services announced an agreement that will improve full-text linking and optimize workflows through the acquisition of print and ebooks from EBSCOhost into Alma via the APIs of the respective platforms. This agreement may represent a warming in relations between these two companies that were recently in a high-profile dispute regarding metadata sharing.

The Library Corporation (TLC) demonstrated both its Library-Solution and CARL-X integrated library systems.

Featured products include the new CARL-Connect modules that provide web-based interfaces for selected modules of CARL-X, consistent with this broad industry trend. TLC has also become active in engaging its customer libraries with social media and now serves as the exclusive distributor of the SocialFlow platform for this sector.

Auto-Graphics featured its VERSO ILS and the SHAREit resource sharing solution. One of VERSO's newest customers is the Rancho Mirage (Calif.) Public Library.

ProQuest continues to foster interest in Intota, its upcoming comprehensive library services platform. The company announced an expanding list of libraries that have acquired and implemented its initial Intota offering that focuses primarily on the management and discovery of electronic resources. ProQuest is showcasing Intota v2, anticipated for release next year, which adds print resources to the mix. John "JG" Chirapurath, appointed in June as senior vice president and general manager of ProQuest Workflow Solutions, now leads the Intota initiative.

Enhancements

ALA attendees were able to visit with OCLC reps and discuss its incredibly diverse range of products and services. Its technology-oriented products increasingly converge around two platforms: WorldShare for tools intended

for use by library personnel, and WorldCat for services presented to library patrons. Prominently featured offerings included WorldCat Discovery Services as the successor to both FirstSearch and WorldCat local, with the added perk of an article-level index. WorldShare Management Services, offering management of print and electronic resources, continues to see wide adoption, especially in academic libraries. OCLC announced that VU University Amsterdam in the Netherlands was the latest of some 330 libraries to select WorldShare.

Follett demonstrated its impressive line of products and services oriented to PreK–12 schools and districts. In addition to its books and electronic content products, Follett demonstrated its Destiny family of technology products, including those for library management of textbooks and other assets.

Other vendors in the exhibit hall included:

- Biblionix, focusing on small public libraries, demonstrated its fully web-based Apollo ILS, which has been implemented by more than 500 libraries.
- The Dutch company Reindex demonstrated its library management system oriented to special and school libraries.
- Insignia Software presented its ILS oriented to schools and small academic or public libraries.
- BiblioCommons came to the con-

ference showing off new enhancements to its BiblioCore discovery service and patron engagement platform for public libraries, as well as the BiblioCMS service it recently launched to deliver a comprehensive web presence. The new BiblioCore catalog was designed to be especially useful on mobile devices. The adoption of BiblioCMS by the Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library to front its Polaris ILS was announced at the conference.

■ SeeSearch, based in Dublin, Ireland, demonstrated its library-resource discovery interface that features a visual representation of result facets.

Open source

Open source library management products attracted considerable attention. ByWater Solutions, providing hosting and support services for the Koha ILS, demonstrated a new MARC record editor it is developing. ByWater also highlighted its partnership with EBSCO to integrate EBSCO Discovery Service for libraries using Koha.

Equinox Software promoted its services for Evergreen and Koha, its Sequoia hosting platform, and its other suite of services for open source software. The Evergreen community also hosted a booth to promote this open source ILS.

Media Flex demonstrated its open source OPALS integrated library system that has been widely adopted by school districts as well as small libraries, such as those in churches and synagogues.

LibLime demonstrated the open source platform that it has recently branded as Bibliovation, which it offers exclusively as a hosted service.

Index Data welcomed conference attendees to discuss its open source products and technologies. Index Data infrastructure components are used behind the scenes in many technology products used by libraries.

Though the Quali Foundation did not have an exhibit, ALA attendees had multiple opportunities to hear the latest developments surrounding the organization's open source OLE project to develop a resource management platform for academic libraries on panels and programs. Early versions have been implemented in three academic libraries.

LibraryThing has launched a new catalog and circulation system for small libraries called TinyCat. Oriented to libraries with collections fewer than 10,000 titles, TinyCat provides a modern and full-featured online catalog that makes use of the LibraryThing database and platform. The majority of items held by these small libraries may already be represented on LibraryThing, greatly simplifying the cataloging process. The company also demonstrated Library Thing for Libraries, a service to deliver cover art, tags, and other enhancements to library catalogs.

A number of publishers and vendors offering discovery services made announcements at the conference in support of the Open Discovery Initiative (ODI), which allows organizations offering content products or discovery services to document their conformance with the ODI Recommended Practice. Companies publishing statements of conformance to the initiative included EBSCO, ProQuest, ExLibris, Credo, Gale, IEEE, and Sage.

Ebooks

Products and services related to ebook management and access drew attention as public libraries face incredible challenges to meet patron



The exhibit hall entrance at the 2015 ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

demand and to forge sustainable business models.

■ OverDrive, reporting more than 34,000 library customers worldwide, stands as the dominant provider of ebook lending services to public libraries, coming to the conference a few months following its acquisition by the Japanese company Rakuten—which also owns Kobo, a more consumer-focused ebook company. OverDrive’s announcements reflected its new strategic priorities, including to welcome “new users quickly and easily,” to offer “deeper engagement with readers,” and to “reach more of the library community.” (Read our interview with OverDrive CEO Steve Potash on page 10.)

■ 3M Library Systems, a longtime player in security and self-service products for physical materials, continues to expand and enhance its ebook lending services. The new interface for its self-service kiosks aims to go beyond rote transactions to engage patrons, blending ebook offerings and recommendation services.

■ Baker & Taylor featured its recently launched comprehensive Axis 360 mobile app to discover, download, and read ebooks.

■ Odilo entered the North American ebook scene recently, offering new competition to the more established providers. Odilo’s catalog now includes front and backlist titles from major international publishers and enables libraries to create collections of ebooks acquired through other channels.

■ Total Boox promoted its ebook lending service based on a business model that meters and charges based on pages read instead of title loans.

On the academic ebook front, both EBSCO and ProQuest have strengthened their offerings. EBSCO launched its new ebooks mobile app and a new web-based viewer that improves the user experience for its ebooks on EBSCOhost. ProQuest demonstrated the beta version of its new Ebook Central platform, which brings together its incumbent ebrary and EBL services.

Those looking for discovery services, self-service products, or ebook lending got a firsthand look at the options.

The new Free Ebook Foundation was announced at the conference. This nonprofit brings together two prior ebook initiatives, Unglue.it and GfTenberg. The foundation will be led by Eric Hellman and work on a sustainable model for the creation and distribution of free ebooks.

Other hardware and software

The strong presence of providers of self-service kiosks, sorters, and other automated material-handling equipment reflects the reality that interest in physical materials remains as strong as ever in public libraries. Some of the companies with technologies that enable libraries to manage and secure their physical collections included Bibliotheca, 3M Library Systems, D-Tech, Tech Logic, EnvisionWare, Lyngsoe Systems, P.V. Supa, and mk Solutions.

■ Bibliotheca announced its partnership with NoveList to integrate recommendations into its new smart terminal line of self-service kiosks.

■ Media Surfer from Tech Logic and computeIT from D-Tech are examples of equipment and software in support of automated lending services for tablets or laptops.

■ EnvisionWare also showed off its PC Reservation solution, MobilePrint, and other print management products, and its Library Document Station for digital scanning.

■ Evanced, now a division of Demco, demonstrated products that help libraries schedule access to meeting spaces, events, and programs.

■ Comprise Technologies provides hardware and software products to help libraries manage payments for fines, fees, and services, either online or in person.

Interest in technologies to help libraries reach their users with mobile devices has never been higher. Boopsie has established itself as a specialist in mobile technologies for libraries. The company’s platform can be used to deliver a mobile version of an online catalog or other virtual services. Boopsie demonstrated work it had done with the San Diego County (Calif.) Library to use its mobile technologies to increase engagement with its community. The mobile app pavilion in the exhibit hall highlighted mobile apps from a variety of publishers and service providers.

Digitization continues as an important activity in libraries, including work performed by library personnel to convert manuscripts, books, and other collection items, as well as to enable patrons to scan materials to supplement or replace traditional photocopying. Companies that demonstrated scanning equipment included Digital Library Systems Group (Image Access), Scannx, BayScan Technologies, and Digital Transitions. ST Imaging specializes in creating digital images from microfilm.

Seeing the latest tech provided by nearly all the organizations in the library industry is essential for anyone with an interest in keeping up with current products and trends. The breadth of personnel that most vendors brought to the conference was impressive, ranging from the top executives to product sales- and support personnel and developers.

In addition to seeing their products, it’s even more helpful to tap into vendors’ expertise, to hear their perspectives on pressing issues, and to learn about each company’s long-term plans and product road maps. It’s the networking and conversations that make spending time in the exhibits at the ALA conferences most worthwhile. ■



MARSHALL BREEDING is an independent consultant, speaker, and author.

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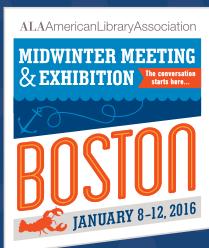
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WHAT TO COLLECT?

Building a local history reference collection at your library

By Kathy Marquis and Leslie Waggener

Public libraries gather a wide variety of materials to build a local history reference collection (LHRC), everything from cemetery records to hand-tied flies for anglers' poles to whatever patrons give them. Determining what to collect is probably the most important set of decisions to make and is, in fact, the place to start.



WHERE TO BEGIN

The patron base for your LHRC will help determine types of materials and subject matter to acquire. Another factor is how much space you have to house the materials. And, of course, your budget is an important consid-

eration. What can your library afford?

You may have to build slowly, but that's okay. You may already have local history materials scattered throughout your library. Besides local history items, consider materials that provide context to your community's past, such

as regional industrial histories, area ethnic studies, and national histories.

For example, if you are located in the Great Plains, an area that became known as the Dust Bowl during the 1930s economic depression, or if you are in a part of the US where Dust Bowl

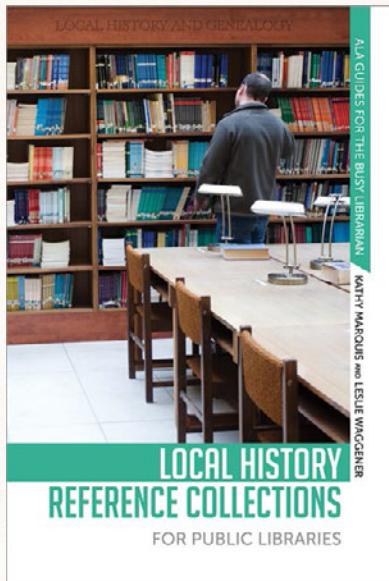
migrants sought employment, you may want to consider histories that examine that era on a broader national scale.

Let's look at what is usually found in a local history assemblage of published materials. You will most likely find:

- printed/published materials on a geographic area
- atlases
- county histories
- video/audio recordings
- municipal histories
- organizational histories
- census records and indexes
- histories of local industries
- church histories
- college catalogs
- biographies
- maps
- local writers' published works
- periodicals/journals
- city and telephone directories
- area guidebooks
- business directories
- organization directories
- cookbooks (local history/biography)
- church histories
- local newspapers and serials
- school yearbooks
- genealogy how-to guidelines
- publications about local institutions
- locally produced family histories

You may not be able to house everything on this list. No problem. What you discover through talking with and surveying patrons can help you prioritize.

One note about locally produced family histories: You may find that some family members dispute facts provided by a relative's familial his-



This is an excerpt from *Local History Reference Collections for Public Libraries*, by Kathy Marquis and Leslie Waggener (ALA Editions, 2015).

tory. If an item such as this is part of your collection development policy, then it is still worth acquiring. The veracity of all the items in your library's collection is not within your purview. Resist the temptation to "amend" the item. Interpretation is up to the patrons; we just provide the resource.

OTHER CATEGORIES TO CONSIDER

Clippings: We recommend caution with such materials. Don't accept large donations of random clippings or entire newspapers unless you have the labor on hand to sift through them to find local stories you want to copy and file. All in all, clippings are wonderful additions to vertical files, but they

require work to locate, as well as time needed to duplicate the acidic newsprint onto copier paper. We recommend keeping the duplicated clippings and disposing of originals.

Oral histories: These are valuable resources and can be particularly successful in capturing your community's social history. However, there are considerations before taking on these materials from a donor.

Are there release forms signed by the interviewees making them aware that their words are becoming part of a research collection? What type of media are the interviews on—cassette tape, reel-to-reel, something even older? Can your library preserve this media or digitize it? Are there transcripts? Transcripts are often what a patron will most want to review. If there are no transcripts, do you have the budget or resources to create them?

Ephemera: Bumper stickers, political buttons, broadsides, playbills, brochures, pamphlets, and fliers can speak volumes about the personalities of past citizens and leaders who shaped your community and about the types of activities considered of importance to local residents. Storage and access are concerns. Although paper-based items are not so difficult to store—think vertical files—how to provide access to the vertical files must be considered. With items such as buttons, just throwing them all into a box may be a simple solution but will not go very far with their preservation.

Since theft can be a problem with small-sized ephemera, you will need

YOU MAY HAVE TO BUILD YOUR LHRC SLOWLY, BUT THAT'S OKAY. GET STARTED WITH LOCAL HISTORY MATERIALS ALREADY SCATTERED THROUGHOUT YOUR LIBRARY.

to consider providing access under a watchful eye. Do you have the resources to do so?

Taking on oral histories or ephemera may enhance your LHRC, but they are not materials to acquire without forethought and planning. If you find yourself lacking the means to properly preserve and provide access to items such as these, it would be wise to direct a donor to another institution with better resources. If there is not one, or if a sister institution also does not take such things as ephemera, this does not mean you have to take it. Gone are the days when you can accept the advice of ALA President Charles Ammi Cutter from the late 1880s: "Every town library must collect exhaustively and preserve tenaciously every book, pamphlet, map, placard, poster, every scrap of written or printed matter relating to that town, and less exhaustively to the neighboring towns."

You may want to collect every piece of history in your niche, but libraries have limited resources.

HOW DO WE GET MATERIALS?

Your library may already have local history resources in its collection. If you choose to do so, you can gather those materials into one section. You can also highlight electronic resources in a section of your library's website, but check to see if these materials are up to date. Printed and electronic materials are usually acquired through purchase in the case of books, serials, microforms, maps, databases, and DVDs, with funds often coming from the library's general acquisitions budget. Some LHRCs have endowment funds. For newer titles, watch for publication information in local media. For older titles, prowl eBay and Amazon and review the catalogs of reputable used and rare-book dealers, as your selection budget allows. Let your local used booksellers know of your interests. Only purchase rare titles if you can provide security to warrant the expenditure.

If you are not in charge of acquisitions, your library's acquisitions department should receive a list of subjects and authors needed for the LHRC. A want list of rare and out-of-print materials should be maintained. This is a good time to discover what other local archives and libraries have in their collections. Coauthor Kathy Marquis was pleased to discover that the archival repository in her town was willing to scan and make available the out-of-print published local history in constant use in her library—and in danger of disintegrating at any moment. This was a great win for collaboration.

Although purchasing is common for acquiring local history items, donations can be equally important. Don't forget about your Friends group. They may have materials for you, or know of someone who does. Be specific when describing your needs for the collection to them.

Authors of local history may consider donating copies of their works to your library. Make it a win-win by publicizing their work as a new acquisition for your library or by hosting a book signing—your collection benefits and so does the author.

Publishers of local newsletters may be willing to put you on their distribution lists for free. Remind them that

you can store their back copies for future reference.

Consider creating a display indicating your library's local history collecting areas. Showing potential donors what you are looking for often reminds them that their materials can be useful to others.

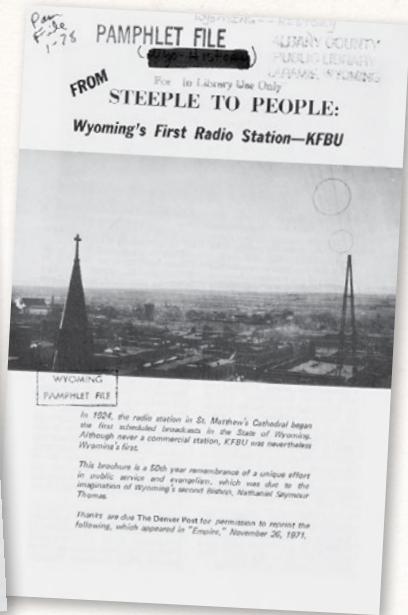
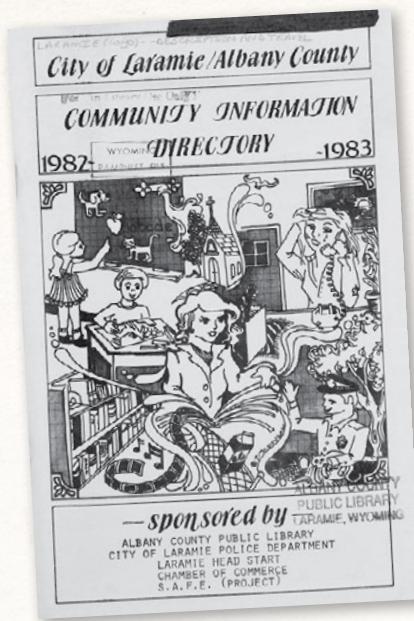
Don't forget to take advantage of casual conversations at the reference desk. When a local church historian finds your collection useful, ask for a copy of their resulting publication—maybe it's an anniversary booklet or an entire church history—for your LHRC.

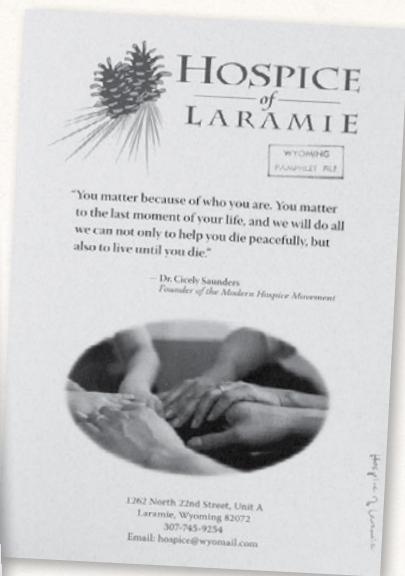
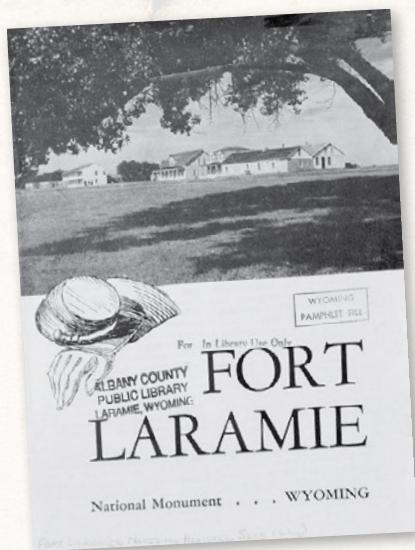
We do not necessarily recommend an open call for donations. You may find yourself overwhelmed with "treasures" from Grandma's attic. Be selective.

WHAT NOT TO COLLECT

When it comes to what not to collect, we will mostly refer to materials you commonly see in an archive or museum. Housing archival or museum materials requires additional resources in terms of secure storage, monitored reading room, and processing of collections.

Here is what we do not recommend you collect for an LHRC of mostly printed materials:





Ephemera from the local history reference collection at Albany County (Wyo.) Public Library in Laramie.

administrative buy-in, and so on? Once you have a policy in place, consider it again from time to time to see if adjustments are needed.

YOUR OTHER BEST FRIEND

You can benefit from a mission statement for your LHRC. It captures, in a few sentences, the essence of your library's goals and the philosophies underlying them. The best mission statements are clear, memorable, and concise and avoid jargon or stilted language. A mission statement is helpful not only as you think about what you're collecting, but why.

When you need text about your collection for brochures, websites, and presentations, or when someone asks you about the collection, the mission statement comes to the rescue. It's almost impossible to sell your LHRC to patrons if you can't explain its value. It can serve as a public statement about what people can expect from your LHRC. Once the statement is complete, you will find yourself turning to it again and again for various needs—and even for inspiration.

READY, SET, COLLECT

We hope we've encouraged you to acquire a range of materials that is both easy to care for and useful to your patrons. No need to stretch outside your budget and resources to create a worthwhile LHRC. Everything you need is all around you—dig into your collections and community and find your history. ■



KATHY MARQUIS is public services librarian at the Albany County (Wyo.) Public Library. **LESLIE WAGGENER** is Simpson Institute

Archivist at the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

- institutional records
- organizational records, such as committee files, correspondence, financial records, minutes, and charts
- personal papers, such as account books, diaries, financial records, letters, and unpublished memoirs
- photographs
- scrapbooks
- artifacts (unless a use can be found for these as displays)

If you want to add these types of materials to your LHRC, you are moving in the direction of establishing an archive. If you're thinking about going in this direction, consult reference sources for establishing an archive and books within the Society of American Archivists' Archival Fundamentals Series II.

YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND

Your library may already have collection development policies in place. Or maybe your library does not have these policies at all. We encourage you to think about establishing one for your LHRC. It's not as difficult as you might think, and it will come in handy as you build your history acquisitions.

An effective policy is:

- reflective of the objectives and plans of your library
- consistent

- flexible
- distinguishable from rules and procedures (policies allow latitude but rules and procedures remain firm)

Flesh out these basics a little: For what geographic area are you planning to collect and for what time periods? Will you collect everything about the history of your community or a representative sample, or are you trying to fill a niche, such as only genealogical materials or history of local businesses? What will you not collect in terms of subject and format? Who is the clientele for your LHRC? What types of programs will be supported by your collection—research, exhibits, community outreach, publications?

Will you take materials in languages other than English (consider the ethnic population in your area)? Will the materials be circulating or noncirculating? What about duplication of materials, especially fragile items? Can they be duplicated and, if so, who will be allowed to do it? Which staffers can make changes to the policy as the needs of the library change? How will staff handle gifts, purchases, exhibits, and special programs for the LHRC?

Again, do not think you have to answer these questions in a vacuum.

What are your sister libraries doing? What seems to fit best for your unique situation when it comes to staff, space,

Currents

- **Melanie Allen** recently joined the University of Tennessee Libraries in Knoxville as health sciences librarian.
- **Susan Ash** retired as director of Twin Falls (Idaho) Public Library April 30.
- **Colin B. Bailey** has been appointed director of the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City.
- **Rebecca Ballard** joined Oconee (Ga.) County Library as children's librarian in April.
- **Linda Robinson Barr** joined Austin (Tex.) Community College as head librarian, technical services and library automation.
- May 15 **Tara Bartley** became director of Twin Falls (Idaho) Public Library.
- In June **Nicky Berry** became librarian at Hartland (Maine) Public Library.
- **Dina Brasseur** became director of Russell Memorial Library in Acushnet, Massachusetts, in April.
- Santa Clara County (Calif.) Library District has appointed **Chris Brown** as deputy county librarian, community library development.
- **Beryl Brubaker** recently retired as director of Eastern Mennonite University's Sadie A. Hartzler Library in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
- Portland (Maine) Public Library named **Sarah I. Campbell** as executive director effective July 11.
- **John Clark** retired as librarian at Hartland (Maine) Public Library May 30.
- **Mary Coulon**, librarian at Jefferson Parish (La.) Public School System's Ruppel Academy for Advanced Studies, retired in May after 40 years with the system.
- **Chelse Dickson** was promoted to librarian at Chattahoochee Technical College's Mountain View Campus in Marietta, Georgia, in June.
- **Charles Diede** has



Linda Robinson Barr



Charles Diede



G. Marcille Frederick



Stephanie Hardy

been named assistant county librarian at Macon County (N.C.) Public Library.

■ **Joanne Douglass** retired as assistant librarian at Buckfield (Maine) Junior Senior High School in June.

■ June 1 **Libby Feil** became director of Jaffrey (N.H.) Public Library.

■ **G. Marcille "Marci" Frederick** became director of Eastern Mennonite University's Sadie A. Hartzler Library in Harrisonburg, Virginia, July 1.

■ **Mary Kay Geary** retired as public services librarian at the Northwestern University Transportation Library in Evanston, Illinois, April 29.

■ June 1 **Stephanie Hardy** became director of library services at Southern Virginia University in Buena Vista.

■ The University of Tennessee Libraries in Knoxville recently appointed **Christina Harlow** as cataloging and metadata librarian.

■ May 11 **Catherine Johnson** joined the US Naval Academy's Nimitz Library in Annapolis, Maryland, as head of reference and instruction.

■ Binghamton (N.Y.) University appointed **Curtis Kendrick** dean of libraries effective July 15.

■ April 15 **Lisa Lawless** joined Danbury (Conn.) Public Library as branch librarian.

■ **Kathie Matsil** retired in April as head of the youth services department at Meriden (Conn.) Public Library after 33 years with the library.

■ July 15 **Beth McNeil** became dean of Iowa State University Library in Ames.

■ **Tierney Miller** was recently named circulation supervisor at Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library in Sewell, New Jersey.

■ June 30 **Garet Nelson** retired as director of Samuel Read Hall Library at Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vermont.

■ April 1 **Rachel Radom** became scholarly communication librarian at the University of Tennessee Libraries in Knoxville.

■ **Hans L. Raum** recently retired as research and instruction librarian at Davis Family Library at Middlebury (Vt.) College.

■ **Caroline Redmond** recently joined the University of Tennessee Pender-

CITED

- **Lisa C. Wemett**, president of the Friends of Libraries Section of the New York Library Association (NYLA), received the first NYLA Above and Beyond Award at the association's 2014 annual conference. Additionally, NYLA's Youth Services Section has named its annual spring conference scholarship in Wemett's honor.

grass Library in Knoxville as assistant librarian.

■ Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, appointed **Christopher Richardson** library director and director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness June 15.

■ In April **Kassy Rodeheaver** was appointed lead librarian for business at Sno-Isle Libraries in Marysville, Washington.

■ **Teresa Roxburgh** recently became director of Minor Memorial Library in Roxbury, Connecticut.

■ **Richard Ryan** recently retired after 30 years as president of the library board of Barrington (Ill.) Area Library.

■ **Sherry Sakovich** recently joined Decatur (Ala.) Public Library as director.

■ Plum Creek Library System in Worthington, Minnesota, has appointed **Jim Trojanowski** as executive director.

■ **Lori Van Deman-Iseri** became head of technical services at Washington County (Oreg.) Cooperative Library Services' Cedar Mill Community Library April 13.

■ **Katherine Weadley** became director of Lyons (Colo.) Regional Library District July 1.

■ Lincoln (Nebr.) City



Christopher Richardson



Kassy Rodeheaver

OBITUARIES

■ **Cynthia D. Clark**, former associate dean of libraries at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York, died May 24. She previously held positions at the University at Albany (N.Y.), Princeton (N.J.) University, University of California at Irvine, and New York Public Library.

■ **David Cohen**, 105, professor emeritus of Queens (N.Y.) College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, died February 6. He cofounded the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table's Task Force on Ethnic Materials (which became the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table) and chaired ALA's Committee on the Treatment of Minorities in Library Materials in 1967. ALA created the David Cohen Multicultural Award in 1999.

■ **Cynthia Hurd**, 54, manager of Charleston County (S.C.) Public Library's St. Andrews Regional Library, was killed June 17 in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church shootings. Hurd worked in the Charleston County Library for 31 years, becoming manager of the John

L. Dart Branch in 1990 and the St. Andrews Regional Library in 2011. County officials said the St. Andrews library would be renamed in her honor.

■ **Jean Elizabeth Lowrie**, 96, who served as 1973–1974 ALA president, died November 9, 2014. Lowrie worked at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo from 1951 until her 1983 retirement, serving as librarian, professor, and eventually director of the School of Librarianship from 1970 to 1983. She also served as 1963–1964 president of the American Association of School Librarians and president of the International Association of School Librarianship from 1971 to 1977.

■ **T. H. Tsien**, 105, curator emeritus of the East Asian collection at the University of Chicago's Joseph Regenstein Library, died April 9. Tsien was considered one of the most influential Chinese librarians in the US, working at the university from 1947 until 1978, and continuing his research and writing after retirement. In 2007, Nanjing (China) University named its new library after him.

Libraries' Bennett Martin Public Library named **Erin Willis** curator of the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors effective March 27.

At ALA

■ **David Beske** joined ALA as human resources coordinator April 29.

■ **Tim Clifford** was promoted to senior produc-

tion editor in ALA Production Services April 15.

■ **Angela Hubbard** became program officer for projects and partnerships for the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) May 18.

■ **Krista Joy Johnson**, senior production editor for ALA Production Services, left ALA April 16.

■ **Mark Leon** joined ALA

as chief financial officer May 11.

■ **Stephen Mayeaux** has joined ALA's Washington Office as information manager.

■ **YaShica Robinson** joined the Washington Office as senior administrative assistant May 11.

■ **Chris Simon** joined *Booklist* as production editor May 18. ■

Send notices and color photographs for *Currents* to Phil Morehart, pmorehart@ala.org.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—The Board of Directors of the **Central Arkansas Library System (CALs)** is seeking a new executive director for the System. Dr. Bobby Roberts, who has led CALs for the past 27 years, has announced that he will retire in early 2016. The new executive director would be expected to assume his or her duties in or about January 2016. The central Arkansas/Little Rock area is a diverse community; CALs reflects and supports that diversity. CALs provides comprehensive services to approximately 335,000 citizens, and has agreements with more than 60 other libraries in 18 Arkansas counties that allow for reciprocal checkout of books, periodicals, CDs, and other physical materials. CALs' annual operating budget is approximately \$17,500,000, and it has approximately 320 employees. Annual circulation is about 2.7 million items, and yearly attendance is 2.5 million persons. The System manages 15 libraries, including the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library & Learning Center, a maintenance facility, a theater, a used bookstore/café, and numerous public meeting spaces. The System has won dozens of design awards. CALs takes pride in delivering what may be the broadest array of traditional and nontraditional services in the United States. It is a system with deep roots and support in the community. Salary negotiations will begin from \$130,000, with an excellent benefits package. **For a complete job description, including qualifications, attributes, and application process, go to www.cals.org, open the "About" tab to Employment Opportunities.**

CONTACT Email joblist@ala.org or call 800-545-2433, ext. 2513. Career Leads, American Libraries, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; fax 312-337-6787.



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Digitizing History

Cambridge goes online

Cambridge Archive Editions (CAE), in partnership with East View Information Services, has digitized its collection of British archival documents from the 18th to the 20th century, including original print volumes and accompanying maps, and made them available as online editions via the East View ebook platform.

Twenty-five years' worth of accumulated CAE content on the history, national heritage, and political development of the Middle East, Russia and the Balkans, the Caucasus, Southeast Asia, and China and the Far East will be accessible—more than 1,000 volumes with almost 700,000 pages of primary sources. The material is particularly useful for the study of boundaries, claims, and disputes. The full image files, along with metadata, are included.

East View's web-based platform provides basic and transliteration search functions and allows browsing by specific title, collection, or subject area. An optimized database lets users create custom collections that can be downloaded, printed, and shared via email. Additional features include thumbnail images, a page zoom function, highlighted text search results, and a virtual keyboard display.

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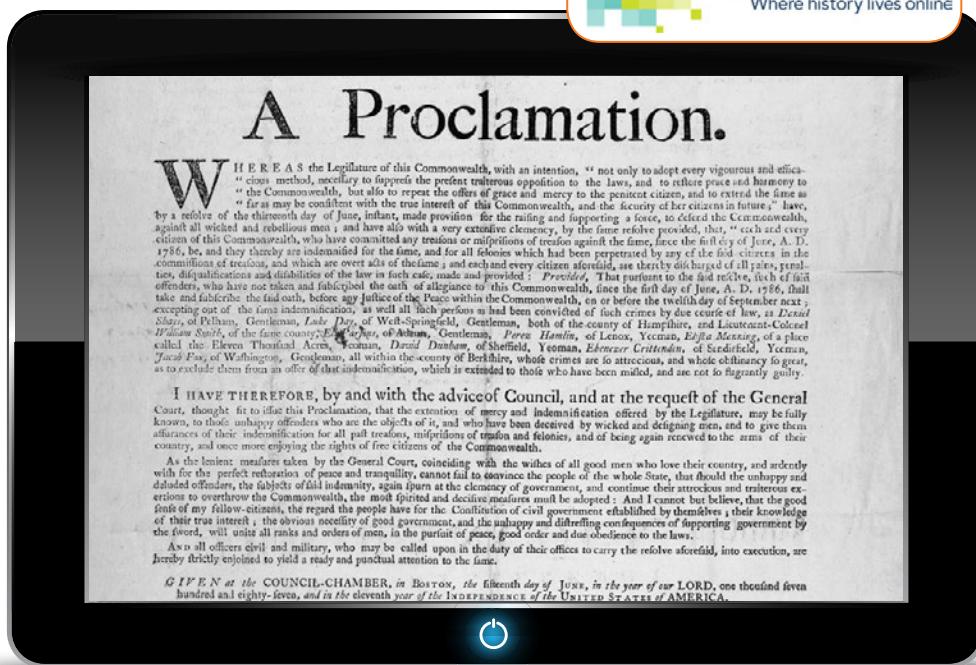
Gale unlocks the past

Gale, part of Cengage Learning, has made several new collections available on the Gale Artemis: Primary Sources platform.

The new collections include the next three installments of the Asso-

ciated Press (AP) Collections Online series and Brazilian and Portuguese History and Culture: The Oliveira Lima Library. Gale has also completed the migration of several historical newspaper and periodical collections onto the Artemis platform, which now includes more than 125 million pages of content.

AP Collections Online supports research and teaching in journalism, regional studies, international affairs, government, politics, and other disciplines. The new offerings include the Middle East Bureaus Collection, which provides records from the AP's most active international bureaus. These include Ankara, Beirut, Jerusalem, and surrounding areas; the European Bureaus Collection, a source for research on the Cold War, with dispatches from Prague, Vienna, and Warsaw, and



DDD FOR DIGITIZATION

Product: Digital Divide Data (DDD), digitaldividedata.com



Details: DDD is an impact sourcing services provider with expertise in project management for digitization projects.

User (pictured): Betsy Post, head librarian, Digital Library Program, University Libraries at Boston College



What are the main benefits? Our newspaper-use statistics are impressive. Users come from all over the world. The collection has been used as part of the history curriculum; and alumni, staff, and current students use it to build community and understand our history.

How do you use DDD's services? DDD provides METS/ALTO—XML standards maintained by the Library of Congress (LC)—with article segmentation for our newspapers.bc.edu site, which currently contains nine titles comprising 5,006 issues, 88,697 pages, and 318,875 articles. Our relationship with DDD began in 2010, when we were beginning to create a body of digital content to support Boston College's 150th anniversary in 2013. At that time we had no experience with newspaper digitization, and we worked directly with DDD to figure out how to accomplish our goals.

How does DDD serve University Libraries at Boston College's needs? For our initial project, DDD staff helped us find an imaging subcontractor and also facilitated work with our interface provider. DDD's primary function is to create the "magic" that makes the newspapers full-text searchable and provide search results at the article level. We believe that adherence to standards is a critical factor in building lasting collections. The fact that DDD uses METS/ALTO standards to encode the output is important.

Ninety-thousand pages formerly available only through fragile newsprint or microfilm are now widely accessible and readily discoverable. The accuracy of the text indexing and the parsing of the content into article zones provide a great user experience. Our work with DDD allows us to attain some of the virtues identified by S. R. Ranganathan in his five laws of library science. The full text and article segmentation "saves the time of the reader" and the wide online accessibility ensures that even our rare and fragile "books are for use."

Finally, newspaper digitization has had a positive impact on our reference function. With the online availability of our newspapers, staff time once spent poring through print and microfilm to answer reference questions can now be directed to other useful work.

What would you have liked to see improved or added to the service? In the future, we'd like to work with DDD to deliver output with check sums that can be validated. This might be accomplished using the BagIt specification standard that emerged from the California Digital Library's work with LC.

in-depth press analyses on the Cold War; and the Washington, D.C. Bureau Collection, Part II, which covers developments in the United States from 1915 to 1930, such as World War I, the Jazz Age, the Roaring Twenties, and the 1929 stock market crash.

Brazilian and Portuguese History and Culture: The Oliveira Lima Library includes the digitized library of Manoel de Oliveira Lima, a Brazilian diplomat, historian, and journalist. The collection covers colonialism, the Brazilian independence period, slavery and abolition,

the Catholic Church, indigenous peoples, immigration, ecology, agriculture, economic development, medicine and public health, international relations, and Brazilian and Portuguese literature.

For more information on these new collections, visit gale.cengage.com. ■

To have a new product considered for this section, contact Phil Morehart at pmorehart@ala.org.



LIBRARIANS SHOW THEIR PRIDE ALA AT THE SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE PARADE

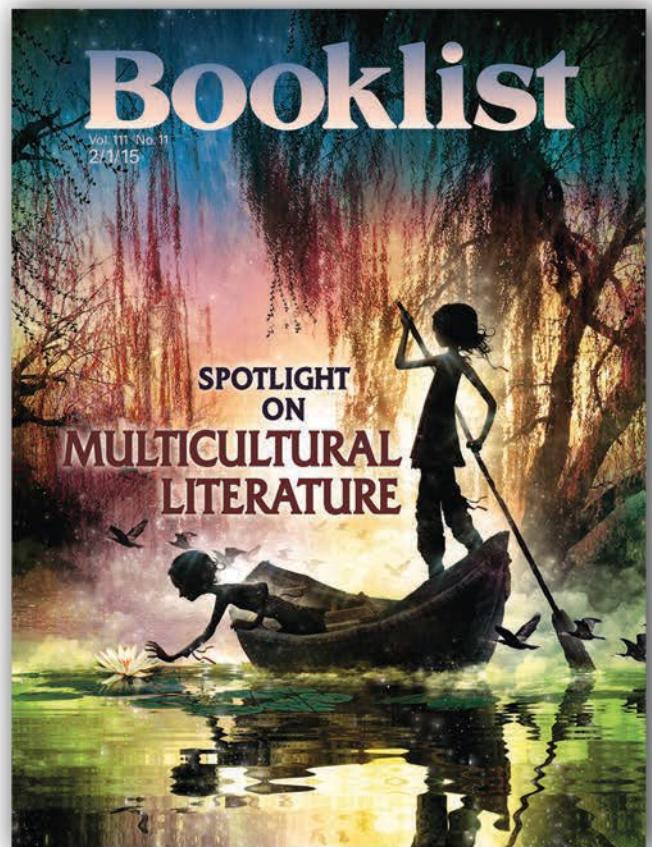
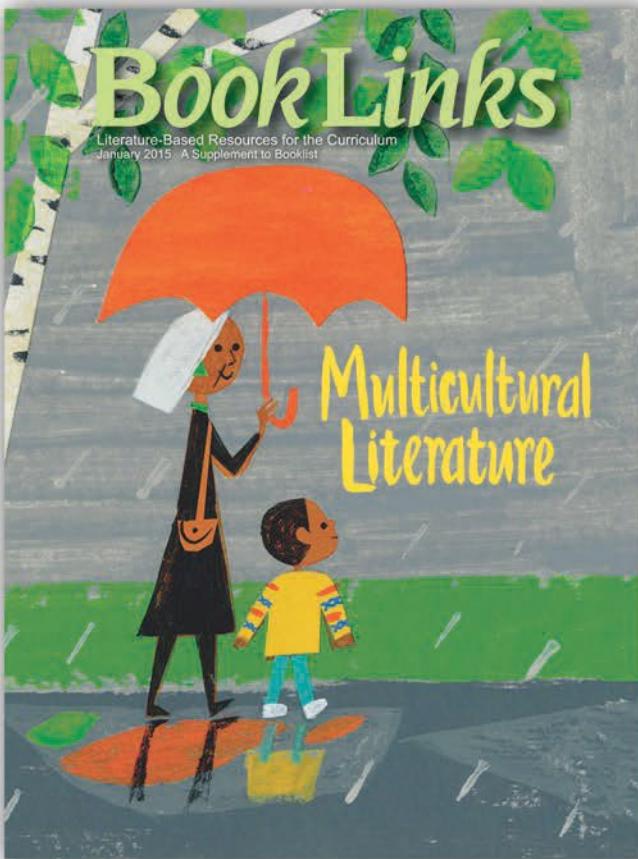
The 2015 San Francisco Pride Parade was held on June 28, and it was particularly joyous this year, taking place just two days after the Supreme Court's historic *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision that legalized same-sex marriage in the US. An estimated 1 million people gathered along Market Street in downtown San Francisco to watch, and approximately 26,000 people marched in the parade, including librarians and staffers from San Francisco Public Library (SFPL), many of whom took a break from ALA Annual Conference activities to walk, carry signs, and ride bikes alongside SFPL's Green Bookmobile and TechMobile.

Counterclockwise from top right: Keith Lu, bookmobile driver and library tech, waves a rainbow flag from the SFPL bookmobile; collections management assistant Alan Wong (center) and collections librarian Erin Dubois (right) strike a pose while waiting for the parade to begin; adult services librarian and bookmobile librarian Connie Porciuncula wears a pink wig in front of the TechMobile; Annemarie Dompe, student at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, holds a sign for Radclyffe Hall's 1928 book *The Well of Loneliness* in front of the bookmobile; SFPL city librarian Luis Herrera rides a balloon-covered bike, and SFPL deputy city librarian Michael Lambert rides a skateboard ahead of SFPL's marchers. ■

The Bookend showcases librarians, their work, and their work spaces. For consideration, please send high-resolution images and any press material to americanlibraries@ala.org.

Photos: San Francisco Public Library





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