

# american libraries

June 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## New Orleans

Annual Conference  
Preview + Dining Guide

p. 62



Librarians in  
the Newsroom p. 40

Dewey's #MeToo  
Moment p. 48

**PLUS:** Hasan Minhaj, Medical  
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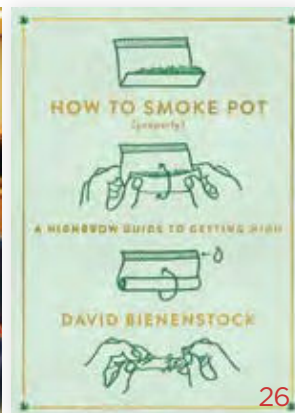
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# Big Ideas in the Big Easy



Sanhita SinhaRoy

New Orleans is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year, and ALA members will have a chance to join the festivities at the Annual Conference and Exhibition later this month. Our team highlights some of the speakers, programs, events, and networking opportunities in our conference preview (p. 62). And if you missed the big news: Former First Lady Michelle Obama will keynote on June 22.

Also attending will be actor Emilio Estevez, who will screen his new film *The Public* and hold several Q&A sessions moderated by Ryan J. Dowd, author of *The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness* (ALA Editions, 2018), which we excerpt on page 54.

If you attend Annual, be sure to explore New Orleans' rich history, culture, and culinary traditions, many of which you can sample with the help of our "Big Easy Eats" dining guide by Diana K. Schwam (p. 70).

Another conference plug: *American Libraries* is proud to present "So You Want to Podcast..." on June 24, moderated by Phil Morehart, host of our *Dewey Decibel* podcast. A panel of librarian podcasters will guide attendees on how to start and maintain their own successful shows.

As for Dewey the person, Anne Ford looks at the controversial legacy of Melvil in the #MeToo era (p. 48). The feature provides resources for library workers seeking materials on all forms of harassment.

Librarians and journalists have long shared many professional values: each is committed to disseminating information and building civic knowledge in their communities. Marcus Banks—who is both a librarian and journalist—explores the crossover roles of these two vocations and how they're a perfect partnership (p. 40).

Librarians also have an affinity with the city and people of New Orleans. ALA's 2006 Annual Conference was the first major meeting after Hurricane Katrina in the then-beleaguered city, and residents to this day remain grateful to librarians. When we assigned Susan Poag to photograph *The Bookend* (p. 88), we received this reply: "People here still appreciate how [ALA] was the first major convention to be held in New Orleans following Katrina, and it really gave the city a boost."

Hope to see you in New Orleans.

*Sanhita*

Celebrate New Orleans' rich history, culture, and culinary traditions during the city's tricentennial.

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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# Value and Impact

Making progress toward strengthening the future of ALA, libraries



**Jim Neal**

We have made important progress, but the fight to advance our mission and to strengthen ALA goes on.

**M**y service as president of the American Library Association (ALA) will end at the close of the 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans. It has been a challenging, provocative, and rousing year. We have made important progress in several areas critical to the future vitality of the Association and the success of libraries.

Perhaps the most pressing arena has been federal funding for libraries and a wide range of legislative and legal battles in areas like intellectual freedom, privacy, net neutrality, copyright, and government information. We implemented the ALA Policy Corps: individuals who will develop deep and sustained knowledge of key policy sectors and will receive training in legislative work and media engagement. We are also building a national network of library advocates, with the goal of at least one individual in each of the 435 congressional districts.

Another priority has been the recruitment and appointment of a new ALA executive director. The first round of the search was not successful. In January, Mary Ghikas—who had been serving as interim executive director—agreed to serve as executive director through the 2020 Midwinter Meeting, where the goal is to introduce the new executive director. The search will resume early in 2019 as the matter of the educational requirements continues to be resolved.

The future financial and organizational health of the Association has also been a key focus. A comprehensive review of the governance and organization of ALA is advancing. Consultants are working with ALA on a review of membership models and engagement, and on communication and marketing. At the 2018 Annual Conference in New Orleans, there will be changes that will help streamline and enhance the experience for attendees. And work has begun on rethinking Midwinter.

In the financial sphere, the new business development process has been reactivated, a study on the future of the Association facility in Chicago and the improvement of staff work areas is moving forward, and major new investments in information technology, fundraising, and advocacy have been approved.

Some key initiatives have been launched and will continue during 2018–2019: expanded support for library disaster relief; advocacy for school libraries; improving the recruitment and retention of a diverse library workforce; stronger working relationships with national libraries and other library associations; and more rigorous library data collection and analysis.

The Libraries Transform campaign is our compelling and consistent message to communicate and celebrate the value and impact of libraries and library workers in lives and communities. A new focus to this message is “Libraries Lead,” as we provide influence, innovation, and solutions in our organizations, communities, profession, nation, and world.

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Conference in New Orleans, where there will be valuable opportunities for learning, sharing, networking, and fun. There will be a wide range of professional development opportunities, and the always valuable interaction with publishers and vendors on the exhibit floor. Come listen to the keynote speakers we have recruited: Viola Davis, Tracy K. Smith, Jose Antonio Vargas, and Michelle Obama.

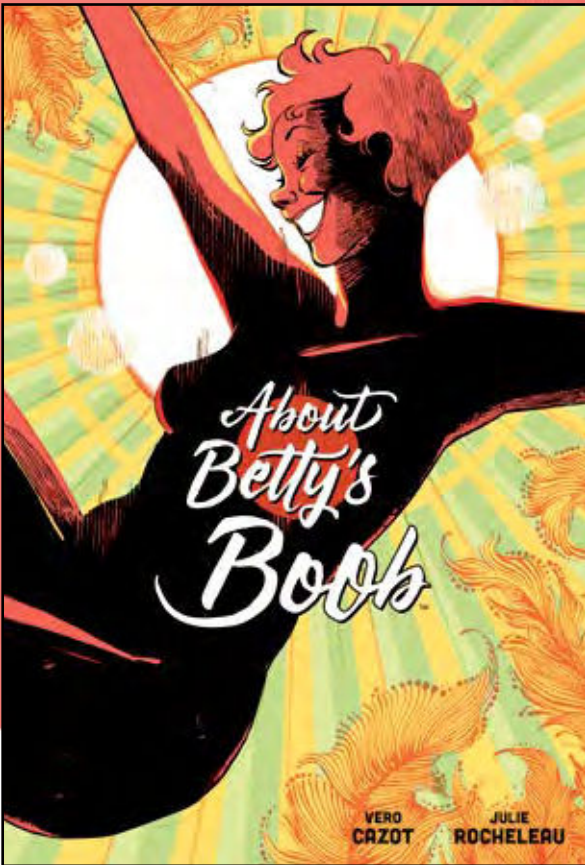
I have enjoyed meeting so many colleagues at state conferences and library visits. And I thank the Council and Executive Board, a powerhouse advisory committee, and the outstanding division presidents for their guidance. And as ALA president, nothing is possible without the assistance and support of the remarkable ALA staff. **AL**

---

**JIM NEAL** is university librarian emeritus at Columbia University in New York.



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# Modernizing Our Association

Working together to create an agile, more effective ALA



Mary Ghikas

**T**en months ago, I stepped into the role of interim executive director of the American Library Association (ALA) and then into the executive director role. Much of my focus during the past months has been on working with the Executive Board, ALA members and staff, and professional colleagues in many areas to examine the Association and its mission during a period of significant change and challenge.

In the November/December issue of *American Libraries*, ALA President Jim Neal issued a call to ALA members to consider the 21st-century effectiveness and agility of an organization with governance documents dating back more than 140 years. He called for a review of ALA's organizational effectiveness with the aim of revitalizing the Association.

At the 2018 Midwinter Meeting, members of ALA Council, members of the Planning and Budget Assembly, and others responded to three questions: What does our ideal organization do? What does our ideal organization look like? What are three ways we can get there?

We received more than 300 responses, which were reviewed by the Executive Board's working group on governance and organizational effectiveness, a group that includes me, Andrew K. Pace, Lessa K. Pelayo-Lozada, and Patricia "Patty" Wong.

The Midwinter discussions largely confirmed—and extended in important ways—earlier findings from a series of "Kitchen Table Conversations" held by ALA: People want a welcoming, inclusive, engaged, relevant, and supportive organization. But they're also concerned that ALA's complexity makes it difficult to navigate and that the Association needs to be more welcoming to new members and new ideas.

As people talk more about these concerns, they talk about silos, bureaucracy, having too many choices, and there being too much "noise." They say we need to concentrate on building

relationships and developing a sense of community, we need more focus, and we need to continue the conversations. They say members need flexible ways to participate meaningfully and that ALA should be a safe place to learn and grow.

If we—ALA leadership, division leadership, round table leadership, and staff—worked on this together, members report they would be more likely to step forward to help. People are more likely to trust leaders who can work collaboratively in stressful times. Overall, people believe we are stronger together and have more in common than we realize, but they also want their differences heard and acknowledged.

The 2018 Midwinter discussions also indicated a need for ALA to be relevant to everyone who works in libraries, does work related to libraries, and supports libraries. There was a clearly expressed desire for stronger attention to the needs and interests of library workers, suggesting that a comprehensive look at ALA might involve a look at the ALA–Allied Professional Association. Those 300 responses also pointed to a focus on advocacy and education, consistent relationship development, collaboration, and a reduction in complexity and redundancy. At the same time, there is a clear tension between reducing complexity and redundancy and providing a home for everyone.

At the upcoming ALA Annual Conference—and in a series of web-based conversations—there will be opportunity to explore a range of "what if" questions. Over the next 18 months, we will work together to accomplish the difficult work of negotiating a solution in a highly participative and multifaceted organization. This work is important. As Maggie Farrell, a member of the Budget Analysis and Review Committee, noted: We need "a modern Association for a modern profession."

See you in New Orleans—and online. **AL**

---

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

As we  
reexamine  
ALA and  
its mission,  
we must  
build trust,  
welcome  
new ideas,  
and create  
a sense of  
community.

## School Library Advocacy

I was pleased to encounter Jim Neal's call for action and advocacy of school libraries ("Fight for School Libraries," Mar./Apr., p. 4). Our world is divided enough; as librarians, wherever we work, we owe it to our profession and all the people we serve to understand the work done by our peers in different types of libraries and champion the importance of them. I'm inspired to engage with the ongoing battle for school libraries.

However, I was pretty annoyed with Neal's phrasing in what could have been a quotable clarification call. In the first paragraph he refers to "our collective work for students *who love to read*..."

In 2018, librarians know that we do not work just for people who love to read. While for many of us those may be the

most satisfying and easiest-to-understand patrons, limiting our profession in such a way does us all a great disservice. School libraries, in particular—as the rest of Neal's column makes clear—do not merely administer to regular patrons, mini-librarians, quiet bookworms, or voracious readers. By summing up our service population as people "who love to read" we are excluding everyone who doesn't and effectively telling them the library is not for them—sometimes for life. Those four little words do just the opposite of what Neal is asking for.

As a public librarian, I see patrons who think they are wasting my time because they don't love to read and I obviously must. I see patrons who have discovered the library in older age because they've never been readers and so never thought

there was anything here for them. We have to stop perpetuating this myth if we're all going to survive.

If we are going to advocate for each other, for our profession, for what we do and provide, we must cease to limit ourselves by aligning merely with book lovers. The stereotype is tired and harmful. Libraries and librarians are so much more than that, as *American Libraries* successfully shows us in every issue.


Emily Vieyra  
Milwaukee

Thank you for your advocacy and support of school libraries. The teachers and pupils in my high school of 2,000 students understand the value and importance of our school library—and all it has to offer—with regard to having a certified professional librarian, space, support for learning, instructional technology, information literacy, and reading choice. Convincing district administration is often more difficult.

Dana Kepler  
Kansas City, Missouri

## Remembering Z

"Blazing Trails" (Jan./Feb., p. 38) reminded me of many pioneering African-American librarians who are no longer with us, notably Clara Stanton Jones and E. J. Josey, past presidents of the

 The conversation on which this thread is based sure sums up this entire conference for me; I'm so thrown about how to ethically balance my beliefs in intellectual freedom and social responsibility. #alamw18

@THEMOONACCEPTS  
in response to "Are Libraries Neutral?"  
(The Scoop, Feb. 12)



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 This is awesome.

@BOOKSANDSASS  
in response to  
“Inked RA”  
(Mar./Apr., p. 14)

American Library Association (ALA). They faced unheard-of obstacles in pursuit of excellence. Several of them were mentors and advisors to me in my early career, especially when I became ALA executive director. I would like to pay a special tribute to a librarian who is illustrative of all the unsung African-American librarians who paved the way.

L. Zenobia Coleman was head librarian of Tougaloo (Miss.) College, a historically black institution north of Jackson, and a 1940s graduate of the School of Library Service at Columbia University in New York. In the 1960s, Brown University became a sister school to Tougaloo and sent a delegation of faculty and staff to Mississippi each spring to

In 2018,  
librarians know  
that we do not  
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love to read.

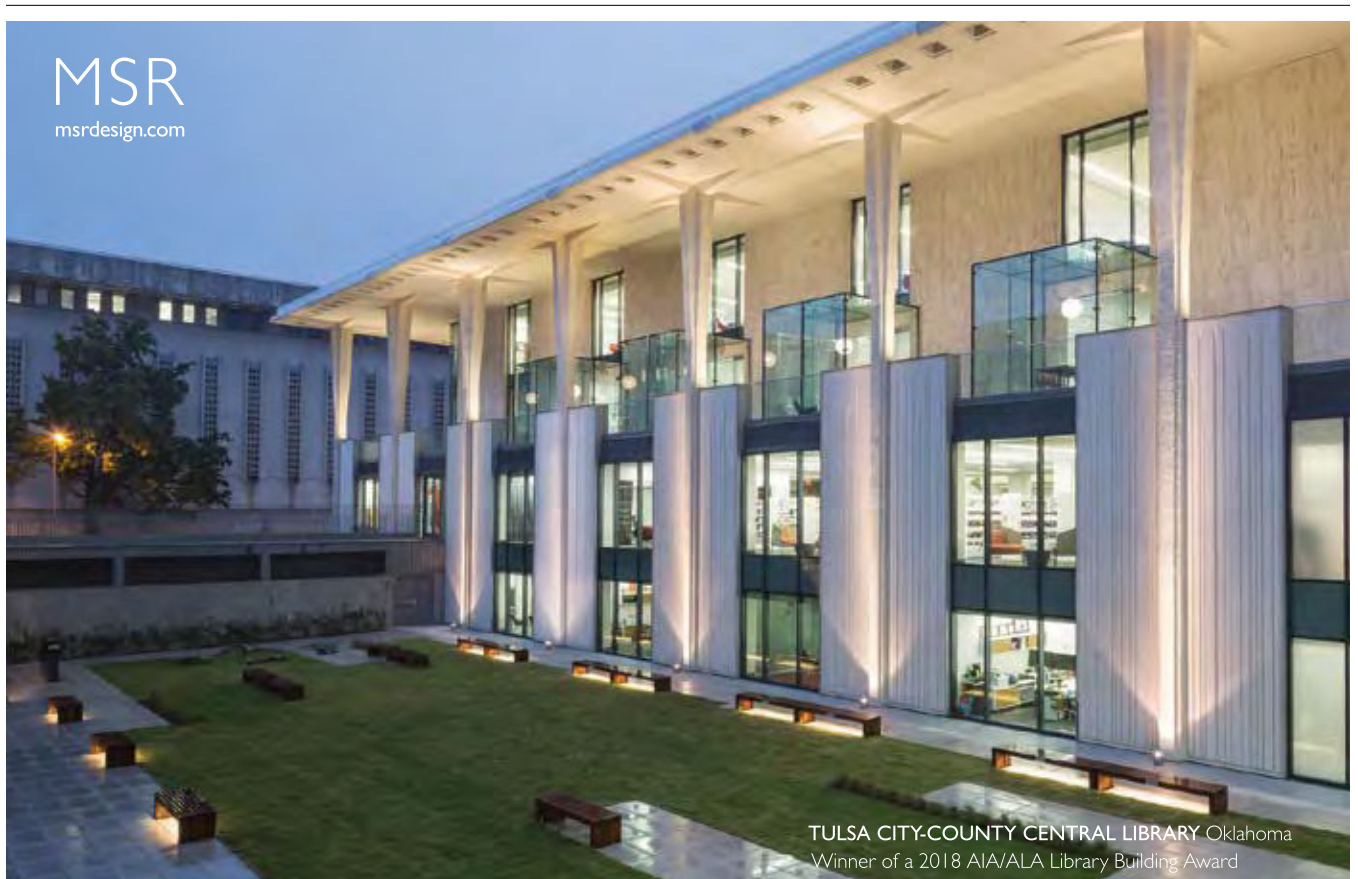
EMILY VIEYRA, Milwaukee

assist. As a young librarian at Brown, I joined the delegations in 1968 and 1969.

“Z” (as her staff and I called her) was a tiny woman who had bright, intelligent eyes and a sly smile. On my first visit, she had me assess the quality of

Tougaloo’s collections. I soon found that she had developed an outstanding collection for a small liberal arts college library on a meager budget. The card catalog also had exceptional bibliographic integrity.

On my last visit, she allowed me to meet with her staff and ask their opinions of what the library needed. Then she invited me into her office for tea and suddenly stunned me by saying that she thought all the visits by mostly white faculty and staff from up north was a communist conspiracy. She thought that as soon as things were running smoothly, another group would come down to disrupt operations with strange ideas and leave turmoil behind. I sat there not knowing what to say to her frustrations.



That night I made a note in my journal that has always reminded me of that encounter.

The Tougaloo College Library, now appropriately named the L. Zenobia Coleman Library, is Z's legacy. Her reaction to the wrenching changes that were occurring in the 1960s may have been atypical, but it spoke to her efforts to understand a world over which she had limited control and that was falling apart. Many African-American librarians paid a price for the progress the civil rights movement brought about—some with lost jobs, undesirable reassignments, or psychological distress. Let us not forget the sacrifices they made.

**Robert Wedgeworth**  
Chicago

### Opposed to Regulation

As one who was there and listened to Tim Wu at the 2018 Public Library Association Conference in Philadelphia (“A Free and Public-Serving Internet,” *The Scoop*, Mar. 26), his closing comments as reported are accurate and are a point of concern. His example of “Wikipedia as an example of what happens when your company mission is to serve the public” fails to underscore its inaccuracies and potential for abuse. His suggestion that Facebook has become a “machine of mass surveillance, time-suckingness, and mass manipulation” is a generalization—especially regarding surveillance and manipulation—that needs

considerable clarification on how he reached these conclusions.

The call for accountability should raise red flags for advocates of intellectual freedom. Stating that “these companies must start operating with a true sense of fiduciary and public duty or face regulatory consequences” is a call for judgment by government regulators on what Facebook and other web companies are doing. Considering how the focus of government administrations can rapidly change, do you want to trust a local, state, or federal official to make these calls for you? When he said, “I hope the librarians are on the same side as me as this one,” I for one am not.

**Jimmie E. Epling**  
Hartsville, South Carolina

 I like the diversity here represented in a field that is overwhelmingly white. 🙌

#librarianship  
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@CHICALIBRARIAN  
in response to “Emerging Leaders” (May, p. 36)



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### Brown Wins 2019–2020 ALA Presidency

Wanda Brown, director of library services at C. G. O’Kelly Library at Winston-Salem (N.C.) State University, has been elected president-elect of the American Library Association (ALA). She defeated Peter Hepburn, head librarian at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, California. Brown received 6,066 votes out of the 10,132 cast for president, while Hepburn received 4,066.

“It is truly an honor to be elected as the next ALA president,” Brown said upon learning the election results. “I thank you for the opportunity to lead. I look forward to working closely with the membership in advocating for libraries, fostering diversity and inclusion, and demonstrating our profession’s value.”

An ALA member for 30 years, Brown is an active member of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA). She has served in multiple leadership roles in each.

Brown is the current treasurer of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA). Previously she served as its president and as an executive board member. She was the 2011–2013 president of the North Carolina Library

Association (NCLA) and has held various other positions with NCLA, including treasurer and chair of the finance committee.

Brown received the 2015 Demco/ALA Black Caucus Award for Excellence, the 2013 BCALA Leadership Award, and the 2012 BCALA Distinguished Service Award. In 2009, she received the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) Kovacs Award for Outstanding Alumni



Wanda Brown

Achievement, and in 2013 she received the UNCG School of Education Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award.

Brown holds a bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in psychology from Winston-Salem State University and an MLS from UNCG.

Brown will serve as president-elect for one year before stepping into her role as president at the close of the 2019 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C.

#### Councilors elected

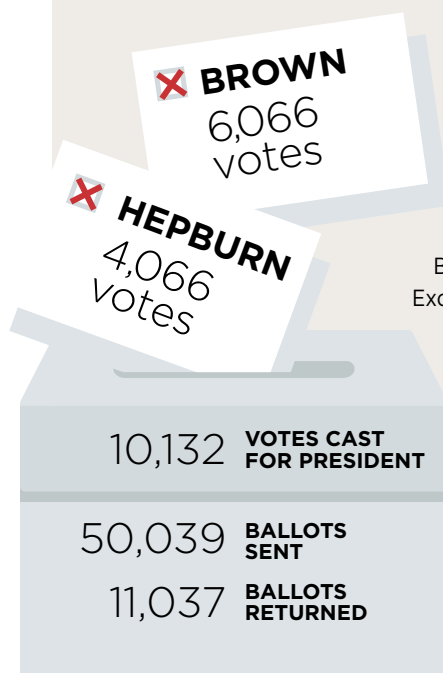
Thirty-four ALA members have been elected as councilors-at-large on the ALA Council for a three-year term. The term begins at the close of the 2018 Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans and extends through the end of the 2021 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Chicago. Two members were elected to complete two-year terms, which begin immediately and expire at the end of the 2020 Annual Conference and Exhibition, also in Chicago.

#### Ballot measure results

The proposed amendment to ALA Policy A.4.1.1, which would require ALA’s next executive director to hold an ALA-accredited master’s degree, was not approved. A total of 10,405 members voted on the measure, representing 20.8% of eligible voters, short of the 25% participation required to move the amendment forward; 3,890 members voted for MLS preferred, while 6,515 voted for MLS required.

By a vote of 7,663 to 2,684, members passed a measure to increase personal member dues \$1–\$5, depending on membership type, effective in September. In a separate measure, by a vote of 7,420 to 2,862, ALA members approved a dues adjustment that will increase Association dues over the next five years, not to exceed the percentage change in the national average Consumer Price Index, with the annual review and approval of the ALA Executive Board.

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



# Legislation to Broaden Library Roles Advances in Congress

Two bills that could strengthen the national and international role of libraries were introduced in Congress in March and are being followed closely by library advocates.

On March 15, the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act (S. 2559) was introduced in the Senate. The treaty provides a copyright exception for libraries—the first ever in an international treaty—as entities authorized to make copies of entire articles and books accessible to people with print disabilities and to distribute those copies across borders.

If the act is passed and signed by President Trump, the bill will increase access for English speakers with print disabilities, particularly in developing countries, where less than 1% of all published print content is available in accessible format. It would also make available an additional 350,000 accessible books for people with print disabilities living in the US, according to Manisha Singh, assistant secretary of the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs at the US State Department.

The Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Modernization Act (H.R. 5305) was introduced March 15 and approved by the Committee on House Administration April 12. The bill would allow more libraries to participate in the FDLP, making the program's services more widely available to the public. In addition, the bill would improve public access to and preservation of government information and increase transparency and program oversight.

“Through their decades-long collaboration with the FDLP, libraries help the public find, use, and understand government information,” said ALA President Jim Neal in an April 12 statement. “The FDLP Modernization Act will bolster that critical partnership and secure the public's right to know.”

For legislative updates and to get involved in advocacy programs, visit [bit.ly/ALAAActionCenter](http://bit.ly/ALAAActionCenter). ●

## Senate Support for Library Funding Holds Strong

This year's Dear Appropriator campaign proved a success in the Senate, with an increased number of signatures on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) letter and sustained support for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) letter.

The bipartisan LSTA letter, led by Sens. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), called for at least \$189 million in funding for LSTA. Forty-six senators signed the letter this year, one more than

last year. That's the highest number of signatures ever generated for LSTA in the Senate. Every senator who signed last year signed again, and newly sworn-in Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) signed for the first time. The IAL letter, led by Reed and Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), requested level funding for IAL at \$27 million. This year, 35 senators lent their support, one fewer than last year.

This follows the successful House campaign, which saw a near-record number of representatives signing the LSTA letter and a strong showing on the IAL letter.

## CALENDAR

### JUNE

#### GLBT Book Month

[facebook.com/glbttbookmonth](https://facebook.com/glbttbookmonth)

### JUNE 21-26

#### ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition

New Orleans  
[alaannual.org](http://alaannual.org)

### SEPT.

#### Library Card Sign-Up Month

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

### SEPT. 23-29

#### Banned Books Week

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

### SEPT. 26

#### Banned Websites

#### Awareness Day

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

### SEPT. 26-30

#### Joint Conference of Librarians of Color

Albuquerque, New Mexico  
[jclcinc.org/conference/2018](http://jclcinc.org/conference/2018)

### SEPT. 27-29

#### ALSC National Institute

Cincinnati  
[ala.org/alsc/confevents/institute](http://ala.org/alsc/confevents/institute)

### OCT. 7-13

#### Teen Read Week

[teenreadweek.ning.com](http://teenreadweek.ning.com)

### OCT. 21-27

#### National Friends of Libraries Week

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

### OCT. 22-28

#### Open Access Week

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

### NOV.

#### Picture Book Month

[facebook.com/picturebookmonth](https://facebook.com/picturebookmonth)

### NOV. 2-4

#### YALSA Young Adult Services Symposium

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

### NOV. 4-10

#### International Games Week

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

### NOV. 8-10

#### LITA Forum

Minneapolis  
[forum.lita.org](http://forum.lita.org)

## National Library Week Heads to Congress

During National Library Week (April 9–13), ALA’s Washington Office hosted events on Capitol Hill to engage lawmakers with the important work of libraries.

To invite members of Congress and their staffers into the world of library makerspaces, on April 11 the Washington Office partnered with D.C. Public Library (DCPL) which brought its Fab Lab to an event hosted by Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.Mex.), a member of the Congressional Maker Caucus. Congressional staff and supporters of community maker centers were able to experience 3D printers and other technologies hands on and view photos of more than 50 public and academic library makerspaces.

On April 12, the Washington Office hosted senior policymakers, librarians, and telecommunications experts from across the nation at a panel luncheon to discuss broadband in tribal and rural libraries. The panel, moderated by National Museum of the American Indian Librarian Elayne Silversmith, focused on how broadband connectivity and telecommunications infrastructure in tribal and rural regions advances education, provides economic opportunity, and can close the digital divide. ●



Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero and DCPL Adult Services Librarian Esti Brennan at the “Digital Fab!” event on April 11.

### Libraries Selected for TRHT Great Stories Club Pilot

Twenty-five libraries have been selected to participate in the pilot phase of the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Great Stories Club, a thematic reading and discussion program series that will engage underserved teens through literature-based library outreach programs and racial healing work.

An expansion of ALA’s longstanding Great Stories Club program model, the TRHT Great Stories Club will feature books that explore coming-of-age experiences of young people in historically marginalized groups. The club is part of the Kellogg Foundation’s Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation efforts, a comprehensive national and community-based process to plan for and bring about transformational and sustainable change,

and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism.

The grantees represent 20 public libraries, two K–12 school libraries, one academic library, and two prison libraries. Some grantees will work in partnership with alternative schools, youth detention centers, and other organizations that serve youth. View a full list of grantee libraries and their partner organizations at [bit.ly/TRHTGSCPilot](http://bit.ly/TRHTGSCPilot).

### New Voter Perception Study Released

The Public Library Association (PLA) and ALA’s Office for Library Advocacy, in partnership with OCLC, released *From Awareness to Funding: Voter Perceptions and Support of Public Libraries in 2018* March 21. The research updates OCLC’s 2008 study, which explored



voter perceptions, use, and attitudes toward public libraries, librarians, and library funding.

The 2018 survey was conducted by Leo

Burnett USA. It repeated questions and segmentation analysis from the original study to allow for comparison with 2008 results. Key findings include:

- A majority of US voters believe public libraries are essential to communities and a source of civic pride.
- Voters still highly value traditional library services, but also increasingly value the library as a community hub.
- Although a majority of voters are likely to support library funding,



fewer are committed to definite support than a decade ago.

- A majority of voters are unaware that the primary source of library funding is local.

The full report, infographics, and additional resources can be found online at [oc.lc/awareness2018](http://oc.lc/awareness2018).

### Short Story Dispensers Come to Public Libraries

On March 22, PLA announced a new partnership with community publisher Short Edition to promote reading through public libraries in four US communities. The joint project will also encourage writers from diverse backgrounds to share their work through Short Edition's digital content platform while promoting library programs and services for readers and writers of all ages.

Local libraries will determine placement and partners for launch in the coming months. The following libraries will receive story dispensers funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation:

- Akron–Summit County (Ohio) Public Library
- Free Library of Philadelphia
- Richland (S.C.) Library
- Wichita (Kans.) Public Library

The dispensers will let readers print one-, three-, or five-minute stories, based on estimated reading time, from a range of genres by pressing a button. The kiosks will be branded to each library, letting them increase their reach and visibility and connect each story to their collections and programs.

### 2018 Teen Read Week: It's Written in the Stars

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) encourages libraries to connect with teens around the theme "It's Written in the Stars: READ" during Teen Read Week October 7–13. Teen Read Week is a national adolescent literacies initiative created by YALSA and held each

October. Its purpose is to encourage all teens to be regular readers and library users.

Library staff, after-school providers, and educators can use this year's theme to encourage teens to think and read outside the box and to seek out fantasy, science fiction, and other out-of-this-world reads.

Library staff are also encouraged to join the free Teen Read Week resource site ([teenreadweek.ning.com](http://teenreadweek.ning.com)) for full access to a variety of resources to help plan their Teen Read Week activities, including forums, grants, planning and publicity tools, and webinars.

### New Workshop: Make Your Training Stick

ALA Publishing eLearning Solutions will offer a new 90-minute workshop, "Make Your Training Stick: Facilitating Learning That Lasts," with Andrew Sanderbeck on June 7.

Sanderbeck will draw on level three of Kirkpatrick's four-level training evaluation model to show how to construct sessions that emphasize practical application and retention.

Registration is available at [alastore.ala.org](http://alastore.ala.org). This workshop is licensed for use by staff or users of the purchasing institution or library organization.

### 2018 Carnegie-Whitney Grants Awarded

The ALA Publishing Committee announced 12 winners of the 2018 Carnegie-Whitney grants. The winners' proposed projects promote reading or the use of library resources.

The grants provide for the preparation, in print or electronically, of popular or scholarly reading lists, webliographies, indexes, and other guides to library resources that will be useful to patrons of all types of libraries in the US.

Winners this year included resources on women in STEM, the 19th Amendment, disability representation, and positive reinforcement.

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## UPDATE

For more information, visit [bit.ly/CarnegieWhitney](http://bit.ly/CarnegieWhitney) or contact Mary Jo Bolduc, grant administrator, at [mbolduc@ala.org](mailto:mbolduc@ala.org).

Applications for the next cycle are open and must be received by November 2. Recipients will be notified by the end of February 2019.

### Moulaison Sandy Wins 2018 LITA/Library Hi Tech Award

Heather Moulaison Sandy won the 2018 LITA/Library Hi Tech Award for Outstanding Communication in Library and Information Technology. Moulaison Sandy is recognized for her contributions to ongoing professional development across the discipline, which include five books and more than 25 peer-reviewed journal articles. Her work has been presented at more than 100 local, national, and international venues in nearly 15 countries as well as



Heather Moulaison Sandy

at numerous online webinars and talks. Moulaison Sandy is an associate professor at the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri in Columbia and works primarily at the intersection of the organization of information and the online environment.

Emerald Publishing and the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) sponsor the award, which recognizes outstanding individuals or institutions for their long-term contributions in the area of library and information science technology and its application.

### AASL Publishes New Research on Diversity in Graphic Novels

New research published in the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL)

peer-reviewed online journal, *School Library Research (SLR)*, examines how race is depicted in graphic novels.

In their article "Drawing Diversity: Representations of Race in Graphic Novels for Young Adults," Robin A. Moeller and Kim Becnel share the results of a textual analysis they conducted on a sample of books from YALSA's 2015 "Great Graphic Novels for Teens" recommendation list.

Moeller and Becnel, both associate professors of library science at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, sought to answer the questions: How many people of color are depicted in the sample? Are the people of color the main characters, supporting characters, or background characters? What are the races of the authors and illustrators of these graphic novels?

*SLR* promotes and publishes original research concerning the management,



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implementation, and evaluation of school library programs. Articles can be accessed for free at [ala.org/aasl/slr](http://ala.org/aasl/slr).

### ACRL Launches Research Project

ACRL has selected the team of Rebecca R. Kennison, principal at K|N Consultants, and Nancy L. Maron, founder of BlueSky to BluePrint, to design, develop, and deliver a new report on effective and promising practices within the research environment and scholarly communication system and identify areas for further research. The researchers will aim to include the perspectives of historically underrepresented communities in hopes of expanding the profession's understanding of these environments and systems.

The report will provide an overview of trends, identify effective and promising practices, and delineate important

## Color in This Library Book

**C**heck *This Out!* A Coloring Book for Library Lovers, the first coloring book published by ALA Editions, caters to both children and adults with more than 40 library-themed pages.

Inside this book, readers will find a variety of coloring pages arranged according to Dewey Decimal numbers. Available through the ALA Store ([alastore.ala.org](http://alastore.ala.org)), *Check This Out!* makes an excellent gift for your favorite librarian, staff member, or bibliophile and a great all-ages activity for library events. Purchases support the mission of ALA by helping to fund advocacy, awareness, and accreditation programs for library professionals worldwide. ●



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questions where deeper inquiry is needed to accelerate the transition to more open, inclusive, and equitable systems of scholarship.

Their work began in late March and an in-person open forum will be held at the 2018 Annual Conference and Exhibition on June 24. The final report will be publicly released in early 2019.

### **ALCTS Leads Preservation Project in New Orleans**

On June 22, the ALCTS Preservation and Reformatting Section will hold its third Preservation in Action program at Preservation Hall in New Orleans. Designed to promote understanding of the importance of preservation while engaging with cultural heritage collections, this program will provide a hands-on opportunity to help preserve the culture and traditions of New Orleans.

The daylong program includes preservation care and handling training and rehousing activities. Working with archival collections that center primarily on photographs by Grauman Marks from the 1950s and 1960s, participants will learn about the preservation needs of diverse types of materials, appropriate storage, and best practices.

Preservation Hall was established in 1961 to preserve, perpetuate, and protect traditional New Orleans jazz. Today the hall operates as a music venue, record label, and nonprofit organization, and houses a touring band.

For more information about the program, visit [ala.org/alcts/pia2018](http://ala.org/alcts/pia2018).

### **ALSC Names Notable Books, Recordings, and Digital Media**

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) has selected its inaugural list of great digital media for children. The committee chose apps for this year's selections, but future lists will include a wide array of digital media, including websites and video streaming.

ALSC also announced its 2018 lists of notable children's books and recordings. The lists feature works of fiction,

## ALA Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates for 2019

The Nominating Committee for the 2019 ALA election is soliciting nominees to run on the 2019 spring ballot for the offices of ALA president-elect, treasurer, and councilor-at-large.

The committee will select two candidates for president-elect, two candidates for treasurer, and no fewer than 50 candidates for the 33 at-large Council seats to be filled in the 2019 spring election.

The president-elect will serve a three-year term: as president-elect in 2019–2020, president in 2020–2021, and immediate past president in 2021–2022. The treasurer and councilors-at-large will serve three-year terms (2019–2022).

Members who wish to make nominations should submit the following information: nominee name, present position, institution, address, telephone, and email address. Self-nominations are encouraged. All potential nominees must complete the Potential Candidate Biographical Form at [bit.ly/ALA2019nominations](http://bit.ly/ALA2019nominations).

Nominations may be sent to any member of the Nominating Committee, and forms must be received no later than July 11. ●

nonfiction, and poetry that demonstrate respect for young people's intelligence and imagination, exhibit venturesome creativity, and reflect and encourage children's interests in exemplary ways.

Read the lists at [bit.ly/ALSCnotables](http://bit.ly/ALSCnotables).

### **11 Schools Receive Inspire Grants**

Eleven schools have been awarded AASL Inspire Grants. The grant program, sponsored by AASL member Marina "Marney" Welmers, provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to update their existing collections or plan a special event to enhance student learning.

The Inspire Collection Development Grant provides funds to extend, update, and diversify a school's collections. The Inspire Special Event Grant provides funding to a school library that wants to engage students with school library resources and promote reading, books, literacy, and authors. The full list of awardees is available at [bit.ly/InspGrants2018](http://bit.ly/InspGrants2018).

### **2018 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants Announced**

The 2018 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Growth Grant, for a library that would like to expand its graphic novel services, has been awarded to the Kraemer Family Library at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs for its project "Through the Eyes of Veterans: A Community Collaboration." The library will partner with the Colorado Springs Bemis School of Art's Military Artistic Healing for Active Duty and Veterans program on a series of creative workshops.

The 2018 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Innovation Grant, for the initiation of a graphic novel service, program, or initiative, has been presented to the Tuscarawas County (Ohio) Public Library System. Its project "Illustrate-HER: Empowering Girls through Visual Storytelling and Multimodal Reading" aims to motivate girls in grades 3–12 to enhance their media literacy skills, develop their emotional intelligence, and discover new ways to engage with

literature while reading female-driven graphic novels.

Each winning library will receive a \$2,000 book voucher from Diamond Book Distributors, \$1,000 to host a graphic novel-themed event, a travel stipend to attend the 2018 Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans, a collection of Will Eisner's work and biographies about him, and copies of this year's Will Eisner Award-nominated graphic novels.

The grants, funded by the Will and Ann Eisner Family Foundation, are administered by ALA's Games and Gaming Round Table and the Graphic Novels and Comics in Libraries Member Initiative Group.


### **YALSA Awarded Grant for "Transforming Teen Services"**

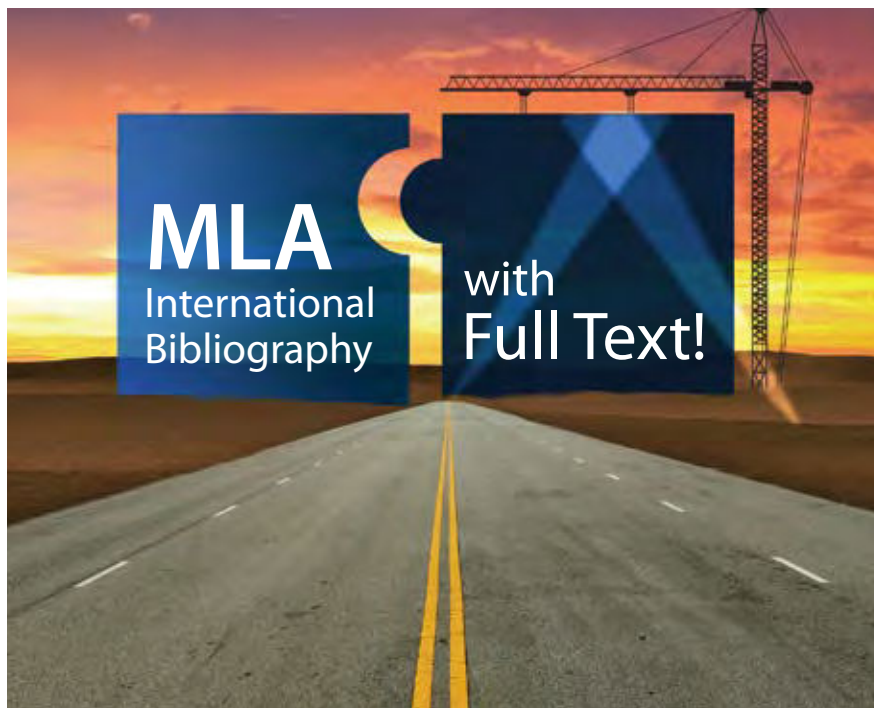
YALSA, in partnership with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, will implement "Transforming Teen Services: A Train-the-Trainer Approach" from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2021. The three-year project has been funded by a \$497,635 grant from IMLS.

The project will bring together state library agency youth consultants and frontline library staff from US states and territories to help them build connected learning, computer science, cultural competence, and other skills to better serve and meet the learning needs of youth in their communities.

After a pilot session, the project will train 55 state library agency staff and 55 frontline library staff members to deliver continuing education to other library staff in their state, who will in turn provide programs and services for youth, especially underrepresented youth.

Various resources such as free webinars and e-courses will be made available to the library community, along with a report at the conclusion of the project.

To learn more, visit [ala.org/yalsa/train-trainer-project](http://ala.org/yalsa/train-trainer-project). 



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# TRENDS



## When Ransomware Attacks

How three libraries handled cyberextortion

BY Greg Landgraf

**O**n the morning of January 29, a library technician at Spartanburg County (S.C.) Public Library (SCPL) encountered a notice on the library website announcing that its computers had been encrypted with ransomware. The library immediately shut down all computer-related services to quarantine the malware.

County Librarian Todd Stephens says that he and his colleagues suspect the attack came through an infected email message opened by a staff member, though the exact mechanism is uncertain. The anonymous attacker demanded 3.6 to 3.8 bitcoins in payment—then valued at about \$36,000.

Ransomware, a form of computer malware that encrypts a victim's

data to extort payment, is one of the fastest-growing computer security threats. In 2017, such attacks cost businesses, individuals, and other organizations an estimated \$5 billion, up from \$325 million in 2015, according to research firm Cybersecurity Ventures ([bit.ly/2H3k56b](http://bit.ly/2H3k56b)).

And while libraries haven't been singled out as targets, libraries like SCPL can attest to the logistical headaches that can follow. Much of the library's day-to-day functioning was seriously affected. SCPL took down its website, public catalog, digital collections, and intranet. Circulation was interrupted, although staff began manually checking out materials with handwritten barcode numbers within a couple of days.

SCPL Coordinator of Systems Chris McSwain says the library had 23 servers that were encrypted to some extent, and many of its client computers were affected as well. The attackers did not capture any sensitive user data: Credit card information used to pay fines is kept by a third-party vendor and wasn't encrypted, and the library doesn't keep other sensitive data like Social Security or driver's license numbers.

The library refused to pay the ransom. "You have no guarantee that what you're getting back is clean data or hasn't been replicated," Stephens explains.

### Trouble elsewhere

Brownsburg (Ind.) Public Library was similarly resourceful when it suffered a ransomware attack on June 26, 2017. Director Denise Robinson was attending the American Library Association's Annual Conference when she received a call from staff members who couldn't log in to their computers. "We think that when the server rebooted to do a Windows update, our SQL database got infected," Robinson says. The SQL database operates the library's integrated system, so patrons couldn't search the catalog or check books out.

As a stop-gap solution, "we did a lot of creative searching to find books, like using Indianapolis Public Library's catalog to determine where a requested book would likely be," and manually circulated books, Robinson says.

After attempting to restore the encrypted systems, the library ultimately paid the attackers' ransom demands—half a bitcoin, worth about \$1,500 at the time. Robinson says the library's decision to pay the attackers came about

“Backup files were two years old. The librarians had to do their best to update the missing information.”

**LEVIN EDWARDS,**  
technology coordinator at  
Hardin County (Tenn.) Schools

because its most recent full backup was three months old. Fortunately, the library received the unlock code only a few hours after it made the payment. Systems were back online within three weeks.

At Hardin County (Tenn.) Schools, which suffered an attack on its library computer network over the 2016–2017 winter break, hackers demanded 1.5 bitcoins—then worth \$1,341—with an increase to \$1,788 if the demand wasn't immediately met. “After much research, it was decided that we would not pay the ransom,” says Technology Coordinator Levin Edwards. Instead, the school was able to decrypt some backup files.

That success was only partial, however, as the “backup files were two years old. The librarians had to do their best to update the missing information,” Edwards says. As a result of the attack, students were unable to check out books from the school library for about four weeks.

### Lessons learned

It's likely not possible to prevent ransomware incidents completely. “The attacks are sophisticated and will continue to morph,” Stephens observes.

There are, however, ways to defeat some attacks or mitigate their impact. “Have backups and test them fully—not just that you can restore files,” McSwain advises. Keeping a virtual backup also works, he adds.

SCPL is strengthening its password policies, limiting the use of third-party apps by staff, and auditing its security systems, but it's also addressing the human side of the equation. “We're working with staff to be very thoughtful about the emails that come in,” Stephens says. The library intentionally sent a phishing email to staff to learn how they interact with potentially dangerous messages.

In Brownsburg, Robinson says that the library now has enhanced the security precautions in place and that “we do backups every night now” with an offsite backup every 30 days. “Our backups are encrypted as well,” she says, for an extra layer of security. The library also installed Cylance, an anti-virus package that identifies and prevents patterns of activity related to malware.

Robinson says patrons have been understanding and sympathetic, thanks in part to the library's transparency about the situation. “Sharing as much information as we could really put people at ease,” she says. In particular, the library confirmed that the only personal data it retained were patron names, phone numbers, and addresses—no credit card or Social Security information. And, while the manual checkouts could have provided an opening

Continued on page 23 ▶

## BY THE NUMBERS

# New Orleans

## 16,964

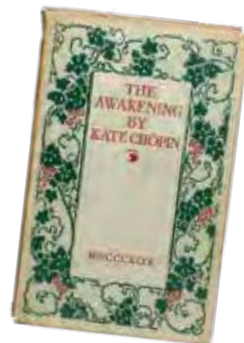
Number of Annual attendees in 2006, the year ALA was the first national group to hold a conference in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina and the convention center's reopening.

## 1

Number of Katrina-damaged branches in the NOPL system that have yet to reopen. The Seventh Ward's Nora Navra location is currently undergoing reconstruction.

## 1899

Year that Kate Chopin's novel *The Awakening* was published. Criticized at the time for its questioning of traditional female roles, the book is set in New Orleans and on nearby Grand Isle.



## 1014

Dumaine Street address of the town house once owned by playwright Tennessee Williams.

## 181

Years that *The Times-Picayune*, the oldest present-day newspaper in the Crescent City, has been in operation.

## 800

Block of Canal Street where a life-size bronze statue of Ignatius J. Reilly, protagonist of John Kennedy Toole's posthumously Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *A Confederacy of Dunces*, stands in front of the former D. H. Holmes department store. ●





Packages of donated books from the NYC Books Through Bars collective are ready to be mailed to prisons.

# Restricting Books behind Bars

## Books-to-prisoners groups face roadblocks

BY Timothy Inklebarger

**B**acklash was swift when it was publicized in January that the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) had begun requiring that packages to prisoners come from a handful of state-approved vendors only.

While the package contents were not limited to books, the proposed change hampered books-to-prisoners organizations in their mission to provide reading material to the incarcerated. A large part of the controversy stemmed from the initial five vendors' limited selection of fewer than 100 books, many of which were coloring or puzzle books. Stories in *The New York Times* and elsewhere exposed the decision, prompting Gov. Andrew Cuomo to reverse the policy.

That rapid change in response to public scrutiny mirrored one that

took place in New Jersey a few days prior to Cuomo's decision. The New Jersey Department of Corrections had banned prisoners from reading Michelle Alexander's 2010 book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, which explores the US prison system and the incarceration of African Americans. The decision to lift the book ban came within hours of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey sending a letter to the department of corrections demanding it remove the restriction.

On May 3 the US Bureau of Prisons made a similar move when it rescinded a policy that banned direct delivery of books from publishers, book clubs, and bookstores to inmates in federal prisons.

Ben Schatz, a public defender in New York City who runs a program called Books Beyond Bars, says

efforts to block books-to-prisons groups is "enormously frustrating."

"This is not an attempt to get *The Anarchist Cookbook* to prisoners," he says. "It's largely people who want to learn a skill or trade."

Newspaper headlines and letters from attorneys threatening legal action often get results, but the challenge of getting reading material to prisoners is widespread and recurring—once one problem is fixed in one state, the issue often emerges in another.

Organizations in smaller states often find little recourse when individual prisons and prison systems decide to shut them out. These groups must rely instead on negotiating with corrections departments.

*American Libraries* found books-to-prisoners organizations in Arizona and Mississippi that also have recently dealt with policy changes at corrections departments that they say have put restrictions on their programs. And though the immediate battle in places like New York appears over, advocates there are waiting for the next move by DOCCS. They argue that prisoners who are allowed to read are less likely to end up back behind bars ([rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR266.html](http://rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR266.html)), and many are requesting

A form sent to Books Beyond Bars from DOCCS describes why the group's packages were not delivered.

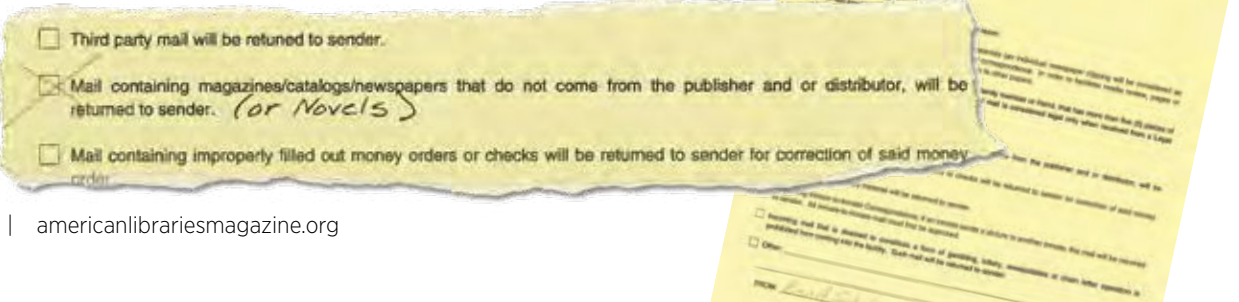


Photo: NYC Books Through Bars collective



reading materials—some commonly requested books are dictionaries and books on learning a trade and how to start a business—to prepare themselves for life after release.

Books-to-prisoners groups in New York lauded Cuomo's decision to reverse the recent DOCCS policy there, but Amy Peterson, of the NYC Books Through Bars collective, says her group is waiting to see if the department revises the original policy.

In a January 9, 2018, story in *The New Yorker*, DOCCS Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci was quoted as saying that the policy is an effort to reduce the amount of contraband, such as drugs and weapons, smuggled into the state prisons. But Peterson, whose group sends books upon request to prisoners in 40 states, believes such policies are largely focused on the bottom line.

"Contraband is the easy excuse for those kinds of directives, but it's also a way to save money in the packaging room," Peterson says.

The fewer the number of packages that come in from multiple sources, the easier and less expensive it is to check them for contraband, she says. In addition to saving money on the back end, some prisons can turn exclusive vendor deals into a revenue stream, Peterson adds. It's not the case in New York, she says, but some systems will negotiate a contract with vendors and get a percentage of the sales.

Peterson says books-to-prisoners groups are also frustrated by banned books lists, which are frequently not made public. "They have these lists, but they won't share them with anyone because they don't want anyone to raise their eyebrows," she alleges.

In November 2017, *The Dallas Morning News* exposed such a list

in Texas that included more than 10,000 titles. Books like *The Color Purple*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and *Freakonomics* are on the list, but others, such as Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and two titles by white supremacist David Duke, are allowed, the newspaper reported. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice reviewed the policy following media coverage of those lists.

Exposure of policies blocking books-to-prisoners groups does not always work. In spring 2017, the Arizona Department of Corrections instituted a policy requiring books intended for individual prisoners to come from major publishers and retailers. Donated publications not from recognized institutions would be "processed as contraband or donated to an inmate library," according to Arizona Department of Corrections Department Order #914, enacted April 7, 2017.

Matt Peters says his group, Read Between the Bars, did not learn of the policy until the prisons began returning their packages.

Peters says Read Between the Bars, which was founded in 2007, has filed public information requests with the state in search of proof that contraband has been a problem with books programs. "If this is an issue with safety, why has that not come up in 2007 or 2008 or 2009?" he asks. Peters says he would share their concern if people were slipping drugs between the pages of books, "but they've given us nothing."

"[Prisoners] are humans. Their humanity is key to it as well," Peters says. "If it is to help them pass the time, I think that's a legitimate reason. What we consider entertainment has cognitive value. There are benefits down the road when rejoining society." <sup>AL</sup>

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



After losing computer access during a ransomware attack, Brownsburg (Ind.) Public Library processed book checkouts and returns manually.

◀ Continued from page 21

for unscrupulous patrons to steal library materials, an end-of-year inventory found fewer than 2,000 items unaccounted for—some of which had been weeded anyhow—out of a collection of 100,000.

SCPL also put a priority on communications. The day of the attack, the library posted signs about the shutdown of computers while it assessed the situation. The next day, when it was clear what was happening, the library notified trustees, the county council, media outlets, and its social media followers. Stephens also used the library's emergency text notification to provide updates to staff at least once a day for the next week and a half.

Library administration and IT staff also need to be in regular communication, Stephens advises. He and McSwain met three times a day for three weeks during the recovery. One additional piece of advice he offers for the long days that IT staff will face bringing systems back online: "Make sure you buy their lunch." <sup>AL</sup>

**GREG LANDGRAF** is web content specialist at Greene County (Ohio) Public Library and a regular contributor to *American Libraries*.



Drew Alvey (in red shirt), manager of Houston Public Library's Stimley-Blue Ridge branch, models interactive play for families.

# Bringing Libraries to WIC

Public libraries and the Women, Infants, and Children program partner on early literacy and health

BY Terra Dankowski

Is it free?"

It's a question that Marisa Conner, manager of youth and family engagement at Baltimore County (Md.) Public Library (BCPL), says her staffers are often asked when doing outreach at Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) centers. She explains: Many WIC clients, particularly those originally from other countries, aren't sure what a library is or costs.

But thanks to an increasing number of partnerships between public libraries and WIC—the federally funded, state-administered program that provides supplemental food, nutrition counseling, and social services screenings to low-income and nutritionally at-risk mothers, pregnant women, and kids up to age 5—users of both institutions are learning about the services the other has to offer.

"How can we reach the people who don't know about us?" asks

Conner. "A WIC center seemed like a really logical place to go."

Libraries and WIC have a lot in common: Both have tens of thousands of locations across the US, are known for giving information referrals and upholding customer privacy, and are considered lifelines by underserved populations. Now these entities are collaborating to extend their reach, advance common goals, and team up on early literacy and health initiatives—in, near, and outside of the library.

## Shared spaces

"It all started with a directive from the mayor to start pooling our resources," says Drew Alvey, manager of Houston Public Library's (HPL) Stimley-Blue Ridge branch.

The WIC center located in that building is the result of a complete remodeling paid for by the City of Houston Health Department. The space celebrated its reopening with

a health fair in May 2017, and as far as Mary Wagoner, senior manager of special projects, is aware, it is the first co-located library and WIC clinic in the country.

Though the library and WIC keep their working spaces separate because of medical privacy concerns, partners share programming spaces, a meeting room, and a break room. "And most importantly, customers and aligned missions," says Wagoner.

Another area of convergence is a long hallway that serves as the WIC waiting room. While families wait for consultations, library personnel greet them, engage them with toys and lively activities, and point them to offerings of interest, such as bilingual storytimes, parenting classes, after-school programs, community resources, literacy kits, and free books from a vending machine.

"Because we value customers' confidentiality so much, we tend to [make referrals] assuming everyone could benefit," says Alvey. "More than not, these parents start engaging with us on early literacy."

Stimley-Blue Ridge saw its share of detractors in the beginning—those with negative stereotypes of WIC—but Alvey says once those people saw a storytime in the new library, many changed their minds and became advocates.

Alvey urges libraries that might not have the money or space to replicate the Stimley-Blue Ridge model to "start bringing your library into the clinic." He also cautions that interacting with WIC clients requires a lot of adaptability, patience, and positivity from your team. "You do have to like the sound of crying babies," says Alvey.

## Partners by proximity

Branch Manager Meg Lloyd Robertson recalls what one WIC client said upon discovering Ramsey County (Minn.) Library's New Brighton branch: "Wow, all these resources, and I've never been in. I live just down the street." Robertson adds, "I've noticed an uptick of new immigrants who have never been in a library before. It's a delight to interact with those families."

When the branch opened in the New Brighton Community Center in 2011, WIC was an existing tenant in the building. Today the neighbors collaborate on early literacy.

With help from the library's Friends group, Robertson secured a grant in 2014 to create giveaway bags with early literacy toys, brochures, and two preschool-level books—one or both themed around nutritious food or physical activity. The library devised a clever approach to distribute the bags: Have WIC staff give bookmarks to clients after a visit that they could immediately use as vouchers.

Though the books are a big draw, "we consider the staff welcome to be the most important part of this program," Robertson says. Library staffers take time to explain the contents of the bag, show families the children's play area, and make new patrons feel comfortable.

Thanks to the bookmarks and survey data, Robertson knows that almost 500 families were referred in the first year and a half, and most made return visits.

Location was an asset when Nashville, Tennessee's mobile WIC program was scouting partner sites in the northernmost parts of Davidson County, where WIC didn't have physical offices. Nashville Public Library's (NPL) Goodlettsville and Madison branches offered a solution.

"I think they were really excited about the visibility that being in a

library would provide, having the WIC van parked out front," says Elizabeth Attack, program manager of NPL's Bringing Books to Life. "[And] the potential to cross-promote programs."

The mobile WIC clinic uses meeting spaces within the libraries for client appointments. In 2014, the program served 27 people; by 2017, that number had grown to 1,331. "It definitely brings in families who are the target audience for storytimes," says Attack.

NPL also conducts two monthly workshops in English and Spanish at brick-and-mortar WIC locations that incorporate a wellness component into Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) activities.

"This is a very good program and I really love this class. I'm very much looking forward to doing more reading with my son and taking him to the library," one WIC client wrote on a comment card.

"We've been invited to a lot of health fairs because of [the workshops]," Attack says. "It's a great opportunity to get facetime with families."

## Outcomes from outreach

BCPL is among those that bring the library to WIC. What started as a single program has expanded to all seven WIC centers in Baltimore County and approximately 1,200 families served in 2017.

Initially, BCPL caught pushback. "The big thing was how to get into the waiting rooms, because they don't let other agencies in," says Conner. Though WIC's priority was client confidentiality, the director agreed to allow BCPL staffers into its Woodlawn location.

"It took the pilot for them to see what was happening, and they saw it was positive," Conner says. "The engagement that we have with families meets the high standards of WIC."

Trained librarians from BCPL's 19 branches host hour-long, high-trafficked storytimes in WIC waiting rooms to model ECRR techniques on a rotating schedule. Like New Brighton, BCPL distributes bags of early literacy materials that include books, ECRR and technology tip sheets, fliers for library programs, and library card applications. Or if a staffer has the mobile technology available, "we'll often do a library card while they're there," Conner says.

The partnership is popular among librarians, who have commented that they love watching babies light up at the board books, matching clients to services, and chatting in Spanish with families. One staffer, for example, was able to recommend a language stimulation program at BCPL to a family that was worried their 2-year-old wasn't yet speaking.

What ultimately makes the program successful, Conner says, is that WIC clients feel the experience is nonthreatening and relaxing. "It was those personal relationships with the librarian," she says. "This has been one of the best outreach programs we've ever done." **AL**

**TERRA DANKOWSKI** is an associate editor for *American Libraries*.

Baltimore County (Md.) Public Library staffers distribute bags of early literacy materials to the families they serve at WIC clinics.





# Getting Blunt about Medical Marijuana

Libraries help educate would-be cannabis consumers

BY Anne Ford

**W**hen dispelling qualms about cannabis, Jennifer Hendzlik takes a highly hands-on approach.

Hendzlik, a collection buyer for Anythink Libraries in Adams County, Colorado, helped lead a presentation on medical marijuana and libraries at the 2016 Public Library Association Conference in Denver. As part of the presentation, Hendzlik handed out rolling papers and oregano and taught attendees how to make their own joints—“just to take the fear out of it,” she says.

Not every librarian might feel comfortable teaching patrons how to roll a joint. Still, now that numerous states have legalized cannabis in at least some form for medical or even recreational purposes, many libraries are stepping in to educate their communities about the conditions it treats, who is eligible to use it, how those patients can obtain it, what the laws are in their area, and how interested parties can get into the business of growing or selling it.

“We tend to think of stereotypes about what cannabis is—weed and stoners and 20-somethings eating Doritos—but I’ve learned that a lot of people are using marijuana for medical purposes, and this [information] is a great help to them,” Hendzlik says. “There are people who have moved to Colorado just to try to get some relief from their pain. As librarians, we should be talking about this and providing information.”

As part of that effort, Hendzlik has advised librarians around the country about how to build their collections of cannabis-related resources, from the business of growing medical marijuana to cannabis cookbooks and more. “There’s even a whole series for children called *Stinky Steve*, put out by the Michigan Cannabis Business Association, to help kids know how to be safe with marijuana in whatever situation they may come across it,” she says.

The primary thing Hendzlik tells librarians who contact her for

advice: “Know your community and what its needs are. If you’re in a fairly conservative community and you make a huge display [of books on cannabis], chances are that’s probably not going to go so great for you.” But, she says, that doesn’t mean you need to ignore the subject: “Maybe you have a small collection with basic information available. It’s just like any other service we provide that can be a little sensitive.”

In Oregon, cannabis was made legal for medical purposes in 1998. But it wasn’t until late 2016, when the state began issuing licenses to retailers of recreational marijuana, that Mary Hones (a librarian at the Ashland branch of Jackson County Library Services who has since retired) started to see increased patron demand for information. To take just one example, “people needed to get their marijuana workers’ permit, and that was done online, so you’d have farmer-looking people coming in using the computers to fill out their paperwork,” she recalls.

In response, she helped develop her branch’s cannabis resource collection and created an online guide that provides information on marijuana laws, terminology, conferences, websites, books, reports, and studies ([jcls.org/cannabis](http://jcls.org/cannabis)). It has proven extremely popular.

“I’m very happy whenever I look at the list of books—almost all the time, everything is checked out, so that makes me feel good,” Hones says. She’s happy, too, that the library’s public relations staff has helped publicize the guide: “Anything the library spends money on, you should be willing to back it up by letting people know, because who’s it for? It’s not for you. It’s for your patrons.”

As for pushback, she says she hasn’t received any. To the contrary, “there was a great deal of support,”

she says. “It’s such a resource for a wide variety of people. If you don’t need this information yourself, you know somebody who could find it useful. So I just got tons of positive feedback about it.”

Last September, the Charles County (Md.) Public Library (CCPL) prepared for the December 1 operationalization of the state’s medical marijuana program by partnering with the Maryland Economic Development Commission to hold a “community conversation” about the cannabis industry. The program drew about 70 people, many of whom, says CCPL Executive Director Janet Salazar, had questions such as: “How much is this [medical marijuana] going to cost? How do I get the card that says I need it? Is this going to lead to further drug use?”



“It was all the questions you could possibly think of,” Salazar says. “The industry people who were there were very forthcoming about how it’s going to be very regulated, like a pharmacy, and about the medical benefits of using cannabis as opposed to some other methods of pain control that are more addictive. Everybody was very respectful and very grateful for the opportunity to ask questions.”

Like Hones, Salazar has not encountered significant

opposition to the library’s educational efforts. “There are going to be some people who don’t understand why you’re doing this,” she says. “As long as you can say to them, ‘This is part of our mission and our strategic plan,’ most people are like, ‘Oh, okay.’” They understand, she says, that “we’re not just books; we are a gathering place where you get information. We are a trusted source.” **AL**

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

A few books that were featured at Jennifer Hendzlik’s presentation on medical marijuana and libraries at the 2016 Public Library Association Conference in Denver.

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Hommocks Middle School 6th-grader Avi Mehra shows off his current read in front of the data dashboard.

# Supporting Middle School Reading

Using a data dashboard to create a community of readers

Hommocks Middle School in Larchmont, New York, wanted to find out what its students were reading independently. School Librarian Kelsey Cohen helped set up a system that encourages kids to log their reading choices and gives both students and teachers instant visual feedback on what books are popular.

BY Kelsey Cohen

I've met many voracious readers. They are at our library door with their faces pressed against the glass each morning. They check out multiple books at a time, have a "to-read" list, and take risks with new genres, formats, and authors without hesitation.

But in the last few years, my colleagues and I have committed ourselves to reaching those who aren't pressing their faces against the glass. How do we know what or even whether they are reading? How do we get books they *can*—and most importantly, *want* to—read in their hands? For an institution of 1,300 students like Hommocks Middle School, this is not an easy task.

To launch our inquiry into how best to support these striving

readers, Assistant Principal Rob Andrews developed the idea of replacing paper-based reading logs with a Google form that students could complete after either finishing or abandoning a book. Logging independent reading has been a longstanding procedure, but this idea would link that data together so teachers, administrators, our Literacy Coach Lisa Ramos-Hillegers, and I could all use it. If students weren't reading, if they finished a book but had no idea what to read next, or if they abandoned multiple books in a row, we would know in real time. It was a game-changer.

We learned a lot the first year. We were asking too much. Our striving readers were not taking the time to complete the forms, so the

data wasn't accurate. The form's length also made it difficult for us to sort the data in the monster Google spreadsheet where the data came together. So we whittled it down to the essentials. Second, the students saw it as a thankless chore because they couldn't access their digital logs to use the records themselves. This made it meaningless.

Enter our instructional technology coach, Mike Sammartano, who declared, "Let's make a data dashboard!" He went to work with Google Data Studio and unveiled the hook for students, a collection of colorful graphs, charts, and lists that made the data come to life. (See how he used Google Apps to put it all together in this video: [bit.ly/2ILaoGx](http://bit.ly/2ILaoGx).) Students could see the most popular books read that month, how many books the entire school read, and the genres that were most often selected.

I started displaying it on a large monitor in the library. Kids ran up to it, sharing what they've read on the top 10 list and watching the total number of books read vary from week to week. Sammartano set up weekly emails to students that included their personal log. Our students became engaged in a meaningful way.

This increase in student engagement led more teachers to buy into the concept. Some started to use

The more we learn about our readers, the more ideas we generate.

the data during reading conferences. Sixth-grader Avi Mehra noticed that he was reading only science fiction when he reviewed his log with his teacher. “I decided to read *Scar Island* after that because it was realistic fiction,” he said. “The data monitor is a good way to keep [my teacher] up to date, and I like to see what I’ve read so far and what I’ve liked because I will reread it if I like it a lot.”

Ramos-Hillegers and I used the data to help students who were struggling get into a reading rhythm. We gave them first dibs on new book arrivals and created personalized book bins for them to peruse in classrooms. We used book trends to develop robust library collections. We became responsive to our readers’ wants and needs.

There are still challenges and improvements we would like to make. We are hoping to develop an app using WorldCat, our student information system, and the library catalog so students can log their reading more efficiently, access a copy of their next book quickly, and see tailored recommendations. Expanding the use of the digital log within our district will allow us to track a student’s reading journey from kindergarten to graduation. The more we learn about our readers, the more ideas we generate.

This collaboration was a catalyst for me to rethink my role as a school librarian. I stopped waiting for the readers to walk through the door and started strategically reaching out to them. Here’s to more and more students pressing their faces on the library door glass each morning! **AL**

**KELSEY COHEN** is librarian at Hommocks Middle School in Larchmont, New York.

Qatar  
National  
Library  
in Doha

## GLOBAL REACH



### Doha Gets a New Library

**QATAR** Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani officially opened the new National Library in Doha on April 17 and symbolically presented its one-millionth acquisition, an 843-year-old manuscript copy of *Sahih al-Bukhari*, a collection of *hadith* (traditions) compiled by 9th-century Muslim scholar Muhammad al-Bukhari. The building was designed by Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas’s firm, the Office for Metropolitan Architecture. The 42,000-square-meter facility, conceived as a single room that houses both people and books, also serves as a public library and university library. It had a soft launch in November 2017, welcoming more than 200,000 visitors in the past five months.—*The Peninsula (Doha)*, Apr. 17; *Designboom*, Apr. 17.

**CANADA** On March 15, University of Toronto Libraries opened a family study space at Robarts Library, the first of its kind in the country. Designed for current students, faculty members, visiting scholars, and staff with children 12 years and younger, the space is intended to foster equity, diversity, and inclusion by addressing the unique needs of student parents. The room has a capacity of up to 20 adults and children, offering a variety of toys for children and computers for students.—*The Varsity*, Apr. 2.

**FRANCE** Research organizations and universities have canceled their subscriptions to Springer journals because of an impasse in fee negotiations between the publisher and Couperin, a national consortium representing more than 250 academic institutions. After more than a year of discussions, Couperin and Springer Nature, which publishes more than 2,000 scholarly journals, have failed to reach an agreement. The proposal includes an increase in journal prices, which the consortium says it will not accept.—*The Scientist*, Mar. 31.

**SOUTH AFRICA** An outbreak of violence over land reform in the tourist town of Hermanus, Western Cape province, led to the Zwelihle Public Library being set on fire and ransacked for computers and other equipment on March 26. Four days of unrest led to 67 arrests of residents who had been demanding affordable housing.—*The Times (Johannesburg)*, Mar. 27. ●

# Hasan Minhaj

The breakout star talks libraries, influences, and bringing data visualization to comedy

Comedian, actor, host, writer, and self-described “fake journalist” Hasan Minhaj is about to get even busier. Known for his correspondence work on *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* and his Peabody Award–nominated comedy special *Homecoming King*, he’s currently developing his own talk show for Netflix. *American Libraries* caught up with the multitreat Minhaj after his Closing Session speech at the Public Library Association Conference in Philadelphia in March.

**You share some intensely personal experiences in *Homecoming King* about being the child of an immigrant. Was it hard deciding what to codify into comedy?**

In a comedy special you have only 70 minutes, so a lot of times you’re working with coffee and you need to boil it down to comedy espresso. I’m trying to explain what the immigrant experience is. I need to pick the perfect touchstones that I feel have shaped who I am and have shaped a lot of people and what they’ve been through. It was really tough.

**When you hosted the White House Correspondents Dinner last year, you put considerable emphasis on the First Amendment and holding journalists accountable. Do you see librarians having a role in protecting speech and truth?**

Librarians are such a great catalyst to [a person] learning and understanding the world. One of the things I love the most about libraries is that they’re a place where information is free, which I think is a fundamental human right. Information should never have a paywall.

**What role have libraries played in your life?**

My parents brought me there because they worked a lot. The library was a safe place where they knew that I would be okay. It was a place where I was left to discover whatever I wanted.

In a weird way, my experiences at the library are similar to what I’m trying to do with comedy. You’re in this information universe, and you don’t realize you’re learning because it’s so fun. Maybe it adds something of value to your life or adds a perspective that you didn’t consider before. That was something that I hope continues to be around for my children.

**Are there any books or authors that have changed your way of thinking?**

Junot Díaz was one. When I read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, that was a book for me that was like, man, specificity is okay. People will follow you and go with you on that journey. It also taught me that you shouldn’t insult your audience. Don’t think that they won’t get it, because they’re a lot smarter than you think.

**Congratulations on your new Netflix talk show. Could you tell us what the format might look like?**

The model that we live in is: When you do monologue jokes, those exist as a standing monologue. If you do a deep dive, you have to do it at a desk. When you do an interview, you have to sit in two chairs across from each other. Most late-night shows, it’s either all desk or all Anthony Bourdain. What if it was all together?

I really want a new visual language and narrative tool. With data visualization, facts, or numbers, you kind of have to keep those out because it’s too boring or it’s too TED talk-y. But to me, those things matter. What if we could integrate it in such a way that it works and it translates? It’s figuring out how to go information fracking, and then disseminating that information. How do I talk about these heavy issues, like refugees or criminal justice reform, that are nuanced and significantly deep?

**We’d be remiss if we didn’t ask on behalf of librarians: Do you have plans to write a book?**

It’s something I definitely want to do at some point in my career. There are two avenues of artistic expression that I want to get into: one is writing a book, and the other is film. Both of those things live on for a really, really long time and can be revisited constantly. That’s pretty powerful. **AL**







“[Libraries were] my second home growing up when I was a kid. There was a library a mile and half from my house. We spent every day there, my sister and I. It was our babysitter—sorry, librarians, I know you don’t love that. But it was. I had my first kiss at that library. And one of the most important journeys of my life was when I was handed over from the children’s librarian to the adult librarian. And I remember her making the introduction for me and vouching for me that I should be allowed to go into those stacks now. And it was one of the most exciting moments of my life.”

**ELIZABETH GILBERT**, speaking at the Public Library Association Conference in Philadelphia, March 22.

**“I hope that you don’t feel this relationship is one-sided. I like to think that my incessant asks of you result in others seeing your value and perhaps in you getting an increase in visibility and funding. However, I also know that I don’t show you enough gratitude, so here it is. Thank you so, so much for everything you have given to me over the years. I firmly believe that without you, my reading life would be less rich and, as such, my life in the ‘real world’ would be less vivid, imaginative, and fulfilling.”**

**DANIELLE BOURGON**, “A Love Letter to the Library Hold System,” *Book Riot*, April 2.

**“I loved stories about places that opened up into other worlds because I thought, ‘I lived inside a library. I could open a door at any moment and maybe step into another world.’”**

**SHARON WASHINGTON**, in “Sharon Washington on ‘Feeding the Dragon’ and Growing Up above the NYPL,” *The Interval*, April 3.

**“‘I WISH THERE WAS A NETFLIX OR SPOTIFY FOR BOOKS.’  
‘LIBRARY. THE THING THAT YOU’RE  
LOOKING FOR IS A LIBRARY.’”**

**JENNA GUILLAUME**, @JennaGuillaume, on Twitter, March 27.

“I always talk about reading on the subway because it’s just a perfect place to read. I sort of pretend that Wi-Fi doesn’t exist and you can’t use a phone, and I just find it enormously relaxing. But more people recognize me on the subway and that takes some effort on my part, you know, to be alone in ways that are gracious. But libraries, people have their heads down. *Nobody* was interested in me. Everybody was far more interested in what they were reading.

“It’s a wonderful place, I think, for everybody to disappear. And also because it insists on boundaries. There’s almost no place I can think of, with the exception of a church or a temple or a mosque, that demands that kind of solitude and quiet and respect for others. And librarians are so great. I just think they are a rare and wonderful bird.”

**SARAH JESSICA PARKER**, in “Sarah Jessica Parker on Her New Book Imprint, and Why She’s Not in It for the TV Rights,” *Entertainment Weekly*, March 22.

# Are Libraries Neutral?

**A**t the 2018 Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Denver, American Library Association (ALA) President Jim Neal's program provided a commentary and conversation on the question of libraries as neutral organizations and librarianship as a neutral profession. This popular session featured a debate with two speakers in favor of neutrality, two speakers against neutrality, and a panel of four speakers reacting to the debaters. Their remarks have been edited here for clarity and space; their full remarks are linked when available. The full program video is at [bit.ly/mw18-pres](http://bit.ly/mw18-pres).



## The moderator



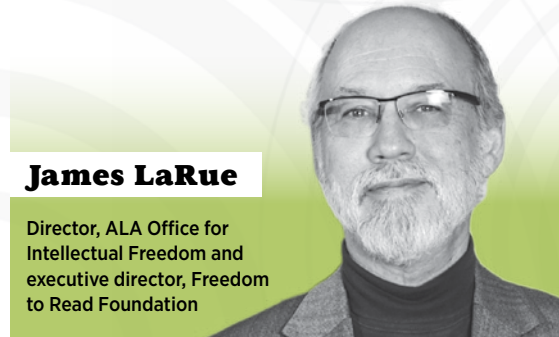
**Jim Neal**

ALA President

**A**re libraries neutral? Have they ever been? Should they be? Can libraries be neutral as part of societies and systems that are not neutral? Are libraries, through their processes, their practices, their collections and technologies, able to be neutral?

ALA has long advocated for certain principles, detailed in the Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations, in which the library is presented as content-neutral, open, and accessible to everybody. But some have argued that libraries have never been, are not now, and should not be neutral organizations. Rather, we should be vigorously advocating for a distinct set of values.

## The speakers



**James LaRue**

Director, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom and executive director, Freedom to Read Foundation

argue that neutrality has a precise and essential meaning: We do not deny access to library services and resources. We do not seek to silence people on the basis of their backgrounds or beliefs. We do set limits on behavior. People who start shouting at or punching other patrons get kicked out or arrested. But our courts have consistently held that speech, whether spoken, written, filmed, sung, or worn on a T-shirt, is not the same thing as action. There has to be imminent and immediate physical danger.

For librarians, neutrality has three dimensions. First is service. The Library Bill of Rights, Article V, says “a person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.” By policy we are not supposed to give preferential treatment to those who agree with us or discriminate against those who don’t.

Recently a librarian asked me: “Suppose someone asks me for contact information for a hate group.



Emily Knox speaks at the Midwinter President's Program.

Do I have to give it?” And the answer is yes. Once government officials—that would be us—start deciding who is and is not a hate group and what general information should or should not be shared, we will cease to be trusted. And in that case, no one should trust us.

Can librarians punch Nazis because of what they believe? Then we deny them the common legacy of humanity—the right to be really wrong in public. And possibly to learn something.

We also establish a principle that will turn on us.

The second dimension is access to facilities, including programs and technology. Under a well-tested body of law, if the Democrats get to use the room, you can't deny access to the Republicans. People should be able to investigate them both and make up their own minds.

The third dimension of neutrality is collections. Public scrutiny is the best defense against the spread of poisonous ideology. Library collections, even if they begin perfectly balanced on a topic, change because of three key factors: what the community wants more of, what we know about what's published, and the ongoing consensus of the field.

Neutrality is about the refusal to deny people access to a shared resource just because we don't like the way they think. That doesn't mean that anyone is immune from criticism. In fact, they can expect it. But first they get to speak. Everyone gets a seat at the table. Neutrality is essential to our role in public life. It is enshrined in our values, our laws, and our policies. We abandon it at our peril.

*Full remarks at [bit.ly/mw18-larue](http://bit.ly/mw18-larue).*

**“Neutrality is essential to our role in public life. It is enshrined in our values, our laws, and our policies. We abandon it at our peril.”**

**JAMES LARUE**, director, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom and executive director, Freedom to Read Foundation

## Chris Bourg

Director of libraries,  
Massachusetts Institute  
of Technology



**M**erriam-Webster and the Oxford English Dictionary both define *neutrality* as the state of not supporting or helping either side in a conflict, disagreement, or war. Neutrality, by definition, is not taking sides.

The very notion that shared, consolidated community resources ought to exist is not a neutral proposition. A library as an institution represents a decision about how a community spends its resources, and those decisions are not neutral. Decisions like how much funding a library gets, who should have access to a library, and even where the library is located are not neutral decisions.

And I can't talk about the lack of neutrality in the very notion of libraries as social institutions without acknowledging the fact that the origin of public libraries in the US is inextricably tied to the fact that the history of the United States is a history of settler colonialism, of slavery, of segregation, and of state-sponsored discrimination.

We are over 85% white as a profession, in a country where non-Hispanic whites make up only 63% of the population. I submit to you that a profession does not become so disproportionately white by chance, and there's nothing neutral about the fact that our profession and most of our organizations have remained stubbornly white for decades, despite changing national demographics and despite all of our rhetoric about how much we value diversity.

The idea that our collections should be inclusive of many points of view, even those points that members of our community find repellent, is not a neutral idea. According to a 2016 General Social Survey poll, 51% of people would favor removing a book by a Muslim clergyman who preaches hatred of the United States from their public library, 35% favor removing a book that argues that blacks are inferior, 25% favor removing

books by communists, and 17% favor removing books written by a man who admits to being a homosexual. How does a library remain neutral on this issue? One side says keep the book, another side says remove it. You can't have and not have the book at the same time. None of us, I think, work in Schrödinger's library.

You can't just include everything and claim neutrality because doing so means that you are taking the side of those who say include them over those who say remove those books.

I submit to you that allowing those who deny the humanity and the basic dignity of others to co-opt the legitimacy of our libraries and our profession is not a neutral choice.

*Full remarks at [bit.ly/mw18-bourg](http://bit.ly/mw18-bourg).*

### **Em Claire Knowles**

Assistant dean for student and alumni affairs, Simmons School of Library and Information Science in Boston



I am strongly committed to the core value of intellectual freedom. I further believe that we can achieve intellectual freedom only by beginning with a commitment to neutrality. Too often neutrality is presented as what occurs when we don't do or think anything. I would suggest quite the opposite. Neutrality is a process to which libraries and librarians must actively commit, a goal that must be continually sought, an aspiration that must be regularly renewed and reimagined so as to remain relevant to the institution and to the community it serves.

So how do we become actively neutral? In libraries, when we select materials, we should strive for balanced and unbiased choices. A good starting point would be with a plan or a collection development policy that explains our process. It has been documented that a clearly stated, unbiased, and balanced collection policy may prevent challenges to library materials.

We also must make sure that our libraries are safe, responsible spaces for diverging opinions. We must further acknowledge that our provision of access is not

an endorsement of content or of the host group. We must offer access to service to all people in the community and sometimes beyond. And as we do so, we must demonstrate respect for cultural expression and understandings while we also offer new ideas and help to explore new ways of thought.

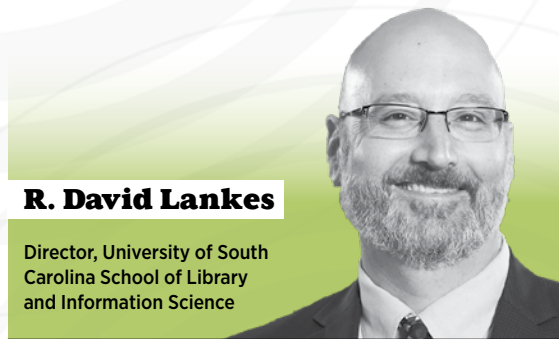
But here's where things get complicated because policies have to be written by people. And librarians cannot check their opinions, priorities, and passions at the door. It is in the writing of the policy that we have to be actively striving for neutrality. To write good policy, we must ensure that librarians are well trained and attentive to the importance of open access to materials, space, and services; that there is diversity of opinion among those writing the policy; and that the policy is written in a work environment where differences of opinion can be freely expressed and where they will be able to impact positively on the final product.

I am not suggesting that we do not have social goals. I don't think we should ever be indifferent to injustice. I can imagine that there is a middle ground, but I would err on the side of neutrality as the starting place for all communities. I think an active, engaged, continually reaffirmed neutrality is just the first rung on the ladder to advocacy and social justice.

*Full remarks at [bit.ly/mw18-knowles](http://bit.ly/mw18-knowles).*

### **R. David Lankes**

Director, University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science



The myth of neutrality prevents an engaged, professional conversation with our diverse communities to define the aspirations of that community. All communities, no matter how diverse, seek a better world for themselves. They rarely do this with a single voice, and contradictory definitions of *better* lead to discord, strife, and inequity. And if we as librarians do not seek to address those inequities as well as shape the definitions, then we are not neutral; we are harmful and instruments of oppression.

First, we are professionals engaging with our community. We long ago rejected the notion that this means we treat all equally. A poor child needs a different level of service to meet our mission than college-educated adults in terms of literacy, for example. If you differentiate or prioritize service in any way to those you serve, you are not neutral.

Second, our profession is not a uniform set of professionals with a single point of action. We are grounded in our communities, be those communities towns, schools, hospitals, or law firms. We are designed that way not for efficiency but because we believe that local knowledge of culture, of resources, of people makes us more effective.

This will look different in different communities because our communities are not neutral. I've seen public libraries implement content filters to reduce police surveillance and thereby improve access and privacy. I have seen school librarians refuse to print out Wikipedia pages, not because they are predetermining the validity of the source but because they know a Wikipedia citation will result in a failing grade for the student. I have seen libraries organize brutal conversations on racism that have included the views of white supremacists, not to ensure neutrality, but to directly counter hateful ideas. That is not neutral. That is being part of improving the very unique community before us.

Libraries are not buildings or collections or policies, but communities seeking the most fundamental

**“Does not supporting Black Lives Matter make the library neutral? No. It means you’ve made a decision. And making a decision is never neutral.”**

**EMILY KNOX**, assistant professor, School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

human quest—meaning. And to find meaning, they need professionals who are not neutral but advocates; are not unbiased but trusted; professionals who unshackled the chains from books, who stock diverse fiction in the face of elitist outcry, and who stood tall against the Patriot Act in the shadow of 9/11. Let us stop debating about how to be neutral and start arguing about how to use our power as a profession to shape a better society, a society that if we are going to claim can be better, can be improved, that we are going to be passionate advocates, not passionately neutral, then we must acknowledge that we have a point of view, and we must work every day to be honest brokers of a better tomorrow.

*Full remarks at [bit.ly/mw18-lankes](http://bit.ly/mw18-lankes).*

## The panel

**Emily Drabinski**

Coordinator of library instruction, Long Island University, Brooklyn



Libraries are spaces where we encounter real things. Books sit on shelves next to other books, and each book occupies a space that is strictly its own. There are only so many computer terminals in our computer labs and only so many minutes in each day to be parceled out to each seat. Libraries are material, just as library workers and library patrons are.

The debate about neutrality asks us to imagine a world where those real things are infinitely fungible, where we can buy and shelve all books and schedule every event. If we buy 45 copies of *Fire and Fury*, we can't also buy the run of books from Cave Canem. We have to make decisions about resources.

I don't think *neutral* is a thing that can exist. We are always siding with someone or something or some idea and against others. Those steeped in and rewarded by dominant ways of seeing the world don't have to know

how intensely political the ostensibly neutral position is. If the white supremacists booking your meeting space are not after you, you don't have to know how dangerous they are. Books about reparative therapy for gay people can be simply another view if yours is not the body and mind those authors seek to destroy. To imagine that neutrality could be something we could choose is an intensely privileged position.

In focusing a conversation on an idealized notion of neutrality that none of us encounter in our real lives, I think we offer an alibi to those who have the power to define themselves and their worldviews as normal, as neutral, as apolitical, and that's not most of us.

Full remarks at [bit.ly/mw18-drabinski](http://bit.ly/mw18-drabinski).

### Emily Knox

Assistant professor, School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Should libraries support black people? Sure. What about Black Lives Matter? Let's think about this a bit. What does it mean to support Black Lives Matter in your library? Does it mean to invite local leaders to speak, to have a display, or some other programming? Does not supporting Black Lives Matter mean a library is neutral?

Let me tell you why I am talking about Black Lives Matter. As we know, we have a very white profession, and I always tell my students, Black Lives Matter is not controversial in my family at all. Right? It is probably controversial in many of your families. There are probably many people out here whose families see Black Lives Matter as a hate group. What does it mean to support it in your libraries? Does not supporting Black Lives Matter make the library neutral? No. It means you've made a decision. And making a decision is never neutral.

Is a decision to not support the movement less controversial? Does it protect your library? I would



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say perhaps, but at what cost? And less controversial for whom?

If you have a Black History Month display in your library, then the library has already stated that black lives matter. Those historical figures being celebrated were the Black Lives Matter of their time.

It may seem like these kinds of choices don't matter, but a so-called neutral choice is almost always a choice for the status quo, even the case that I gave, though it may seem like a choice to protect the library. The choice can give cover to those who say Black Lives Matter is, say, a terrorist organization, or that they're "uneasy" with the movement. They may say, "Well, if it's too controversial for the library, then my uneasiness makes sense." But does it make sense to support people who feel that way?

*Full remarks at [bit.ly/mw18-knox](http://bit.ly/mw18-knox).*



### **Kathleen de la Peña McCook**

Distinguished university professor, University of South Florida

Neither of my parents finished high school, so they were afraid to go into the public library. My dad used to drop me off and say, "Go in, they will be nice to you there. But they wouldn't want us in there." I always remembered that, and I always think that sometimes issues of class are as important to keeping people out of the library as other issues that we sometimes think divide us.

A few months ago I had a problem in my house—I don't know, something fell down or broke—and I still had a lot of political signs up. The worker who came to my house to help me said, "You might not want me to come in. I am a deplorable." And I said, "Why would you say that?" And he said, "Your kind of people"—I guess I had Hillary things up still—"don't like me, and I don't want you to feel uncomfortable."

So we talked a little, and I asked him about the public library. Did he and his family use it? He said [he] "didn't think we are the kind of people that should be using the

library. I'd rather use the library at my church." And that made me start to think. We are not the only game in town. We need to realize that people will self-select outside of the library if we don't make them comfortable. We can't show them both sides if they don't come in.

*Full remarks at [bit.ly/mw18-mccook](http://bit.ly/mw18-mccook).*



### **Kelvin Watson**

Director, Broward County (Fla.) Libraries

My experience started in the book distribution arena, where we made virtually everything available to cover every interest and walk of life. I believe in the right of intellectual freedom, so regardless of my point of view, I believe that there should never be a suppression of ideas. The library is, after all, the place where our citizens are supposed to have access and discover differing views.

Being afforded the right to information and resources on diversity and equity, for example, has helped move marginal ideas from the fringes to the forefront. But this is where I diverge from the posture of libraries and librarians on neutrality.

[University of Pretoria LIS Professor] Archie L. Dick wrote, "In the neutral professional model, librarians are seen as value-neutral, and objectivity is highly valued; this leaves a greater emphasis on the delivery of information over the result, regardless of the morality of the end product."

Across the board, neutrality gives the information professional, libraries, and librarians the ability to take a nonstance on important issues and avoid accountability by abdicating any ethical responsibility. Claiming neutrality endangers us as an institution by resulting in an unconscious adoption of the values of the dominant political model and framework. Simply put, colleagues: We can't be neutral on social and political issues that impact our customers because, to be frank, these social and political issues impact us as well. **AL**



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# OUR Vocation IS Information

EXPLORING THE WAYS  
LIBRARIANSHIP *AND* JOURNALISM  
CAN WORK TOGETHER

BY Marcus Banks

**C**iting your source. Presenting information in a non-biased way, with just the facts. Letting people make up their own mind, not telling them what to think.” When longtime freelance journalist Alison Peters was pondering a career change, she says the appeal of working in a library lay in the ways that she could use skills similar to those she had honed in her 12 years as a reporter.

Although the daily work of librarians and journalists differs, the vocations share many professional values. Brandy Zadrozny, who worked as a librarian for a decade before becoming a reporter and researcher for the Daily Beast and a reporter for NBC News, and Alice Crites, an MLIS-trained research editor whose work has helped earn six Pulitzers for *The Washington Post*, offer high-profile examples of the congruence between the two fields. But many librarians meld aspects of journalistic practice into their work.

Peters, who became an adult services librarian for Contra Costa County (Calif.) Library earlier this year, realized that full-time librarianship would allow her to put journalistic values and practices into everyday use. And she'd still get opportunities to write. Indeed, as a library and information science student at San José (Calif.) State University, Peters profiled librarian journalists for MediaShift ([bit.ly/AL-Peters](http://bit.ly/AL-Peters)). In a similar vein, from her first day as a librarian she has used her writing skills to inform patrons about the many services the library provides.


### RELIABLE SOURCES

Another commonality between librarians and journalists is a shared belief in rigorous research. Librarians in all settings provide guidance about how to identify and create reliable sources of information. Journalists are adept at sifting through government records and other primary materials to tell accurate and compelling stories.

Samantha Slocum, digital and special collections librarian at Rapid City (S.Dak.) Public Library, serves as the library liaison and coordinator for the Black Hills Knowledge Network (BHKN), an online resource launched in 2009 that connects people to news and information in the Black Hills region in western South Dakota. BHKN's original mission, Slocum says, was to provide resources for local leaders to make educated decisions, but that mission has now expanded to include building community and enhancing civic knowledge for residents in the region. The site features a news blog (often written by library staffers), databases of information about elected officials and community resources, local history, community profiles, and "issue hubs."

BHKN's issue hubs aggregate and synthesize information about topics important to the area, such as the history of the 1973 Wounded Knee Occupation ([bit.ly/bhkn-wk](http://bit.ly/bhkn-wk)), which occurred on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The hub documents this critical moment in South Dakota's history by organizing previously scattered information from academic journals, reference books, online databases, and contemporary news accounts. It contains two parts—a readable summary of the occupation, written similar to a news report, and numerous links to more resources, just as librarians have prepared for decades.

Slocum notes that it could take up to two months to prepare an issue hub, depending on the complexity of the topic, the number of sources to consult, and her other work. In her



*Although the daily work of librarians and journalists differs, the vocations share many professional values.*

view, preparing the hubs complements the library's mission of building collections and offering reference services. And in the end, "it actually saves us time," she says, rather than researching resources from scratch whenever another patron asks a similar question.

### KEEPING IT LOCAL

In Weare, New Hampshire, librarian Michael Sullivan is also in the community-building business. Weare is a bedroom community of approximately 9,000 people, located near the larger cities of Concord, Manchester, and Nashua. In 2016 the owners of Weare's only newspaper, a quarterly publication that operated more like a magazine than as a source of breaking news, closed the paper due to lack of ad revenue. At the time Sullivan had just begun his job as director of Weare Public Library. A resident approached Sullivan and asked, "What are you going to do about the paper?"

Sullivan responded by launching *Weare in the World* ([bit.ly/weareitw](http://bit.ly/weareitw)) in 2017 as a "weekly production of the Weare Public Library." The four-page newsletter is available every Wednesday and includes a calendar of events, library news and tips, coverage of town politics and personalities, and the crossword puzzle—the most popular feature, according to Sullivan. There are no ads. The key criterion for inclusion is some connection to Weare—either information about an event occurring within the town or something notable in which a Weare resident participates. "The goal is to build a sense of community," Sullivan says. Each issue costs \$25 to produce and print, and Sullivan delivers them to 10 drop points around town—including restaurants, a bank, and a beauty parlor—himself. Sullivan says *Weare in the World* is for "people who do not use technology but still want to know about their town." That said, a PDF of each issue is available to download from the website.

Now in its second year, the newsletter has already become popular. The library prints 250 copies a week, a number likely to rise as demand continues to climb. (There are also about 50 online readers.) Sullivan serves as editor and assembles content produced by other people, such as the town's police



A sample of Weare Public Library's newsletter, *Weare in the World*.

chief or the events coordinator for the Rotary Club. The library has quickly become a clearinghouse for information about Weare's social and cultural life. However, the new role comes with some trade-offs: Producing the paper on a weekly basis takes 8–15 hours, so Sullivan has had to shift some collection responsibilities to other members of his staff, and he puts on fewer programs at the library than he might have otherwise. But he keeps in mind that “public libraries have a long tradition of community outreach.” From his perspective, *Weare in the World* fits into that tradition perfectly.

### LIMITS OF LIBRARIAN JOURNALISM

Such examples of librarian journalism—Peters's enthusiasm for promoting library services and her chronicling of librarian columnists, Slocum's detailed and synthesized research about issues in her community, and Sullivan's work on *Weare in the World*—have great merit. But none is focused on original reporting. Indeed, one of Sullivan's goals for the newsletter is to hire a journalism student who can do the legwork that probes into the stories behind the submissions to the newsletter.

The reason librarians cannot do much original reporting is obvious: They are working in the library and can't just leave to attend a city council hearing or report from the scene of a natural disaster.

This reality leads Tommy Thomason, director of the Texas Center for Community Journalism at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, to distinguish between what he calls the two levels of journalism. The first is curating and vetting content for accuracy and serving as a center for useful information; most librarians already do this step. The second, says Thomason, is “go out and cover this” reporting, often at a moment's notice. One of the biggest challenges news organizations face right now, in Thomason's view, is that consumers are unable to easily distinguish accurate from inaccurate news content in their social media feeds. Because librarians place such a high value on accuracy, Thomason says he would welcome librarians who also wish to become ground-level

reporters. He notes, though, that this would involve a “total reconceptualization” of the role of librarians.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

Although the likelihood of many librarians becoming full-fledged newshounds is slim, there are some practices that all librarians could learn from journalists. Tom Huang, assistant managing editor for features and community engagement at *The Dallas Morning News*, points out that journalists are skilled at asking open-ended questions as well as being productively persistent if someone is not answering. While this may not be the best approach to a reference interview with a patron, librarians could use these techniques when speaking to skeptical public officials to advocate for the value of the library. Another skill that journalists have, Huang notes, is the ability to dive deep into public records and unearth data that may not be readily apparent. Librarians who are not as adept at this type of research could develop this expertise, and experienced journalists could be useful guides and partners.

“Journalists could learn a lot from librarians too. It's a two-way street,” notes Huang. Huang has worked with librarians extensively over the last few years through the Storytellers without Borders program. This collaboration between the Dallas Public Library (DPL) and *The Dallas Morning News* trains local high school students to be reporters within their neighborhoods and also to conduct effective library research. Journalists provide the reporting training; librarians provide the research tips. Most of these activities occur at DPL.

Through this work, Huang has seen firsthand that librarians are in a position of great trust in their communities. According to a 2017 poll by the Knight Foundation and Gallup (kngg.ht/2uDpjkf), only 33% of Americans have a positive view of the news media. Contrast that with an August 2017 Pew Research



Dallas high school students participate in a Storytellers without Borders session in collaboration with *The Dallas Morning News* at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library branch of Dallas Public Library.

Photo: Tom Huang/ *The Dallas Morning News*



*78% of Americans say that public libraries help them find trustworthy, reliable information.*

Center study (pewrsr.ch/2GnmUeL) that showed that 78% of Americans say that public libraries help them find trustworthy, reliable information.

To raise the trust level for journalists, Huang thinks that journalists and newsrooms could be more open and transparent about how they work. Just as the library is open to everyone, newsrooms could become much more accessible to a newspaper's readers. Meanwhile, Huang appreciates that librarians can serve as trusted brokers to bring the expertise of journalists into the life of the library.

Laura Saunders, associate professor at Simmons College School of Library and Information Science in Boston, also recognizes the potential for collaboration between librarians and journalists. She is one of the conveners of the April 2018 "Know News" symposium at Simmons. At this symposium, journalists, librarians, and technologists developed strategies aimed at increasing public support for valid news-gathering, which includes awareness of how to identify inaccurate and misleading stories. Symposium participants plan to release a white paper later this year with suggested next steps for promoting legitimate news.

Like Sullivan, Saunders observes that librarians aim for "community building at a local level." One model that holds promise for such community building, she says, are the nationwide People's Supper (thepeoplesupper.org) events, which are structured conversations with people from different ideological perspectives, shared over a meal, to encourage respect and understanding. Saunders thinks that libraries would be a natural host for these suppers and that both librarians and journalists could use their expertise to make the conversations a success.

On a nuts-and-bolts level, librarians are experts in digital tagging and organization. Saunders attended a recent Knight Media Forum, where Raney Aronson-Rath, executive producer of PBS's *Frontline* documentaries, talked about how the show worked with a digital archivist to organize its voluminous video files. This information expertise proved a boon to the efficiency of *Frontline*'s journalistic efforts and is an example of how librarians and archivists can support journalistic work behind the scenes.

In most cases, the daily work of librarians and journalists is likely to remain distinct. Even so, the values of librarians and journalists are fully in sync. As Peters observes, "Both librarians and journalists are information professionals, first and foremost." **AL**



**MARCUS BANKS** is a journalist with prior experience as an academic library administrator.



# An Overdue Discussion

## Two takes on the library-fine debate

**W**hether to charge fines for overdue materials is a hot-button topic. The issues are many: Some libraries have halted the practice, citing concerns that fines keep patrons away, while other libraries have kept them in place as vital revenue streams. Fines are also used by some libraries as a method to teach personal responsibility, while other libraries consider that lesson outside the realm of librarianship. We spoke with a librarian on each side of the debate. **AL**

### POINT

**JENNY PAXSON,**  
readers' advisory librarian,  
Webster (N.Y.) Public Library

**Does your library charge fines?** We do charge fines at Webster Public Library.

**How are the collected funds used?** We use the funds—\$71,000 collected from fines annually—as part of our operating budget. Without them it would be difficult to run the library.

**Do fines discourage patrons from using the library?** I believe for some people they do. Many of our patrons come in and are happy to pay their fines as they want to help support the library—they understand that it's part of their responsibility as members. For those who are discouraged, I feel it impacts mostly those with high fines. We forgive fines for people who are experiencing extenuating circumstances—a death in the family, financial hardship, a hospital stay—and work to help them out by eliminating the fines altogether or reducing them by half, depending on the situation and whether we've helped them in the past. I think those who are discouraged are probably those who don't want to come to us and ask for help.





## COUNTERPOINT

**SARAH HOUGHTON,**  
director, San Rafael (Calif.)  
Public Library



**Do fines encourage personal responsibility by making patrons return items on time to avoid a fine? Should that be the library's role?** I think it does and it doesn't. If people think there are consequences for not returning items on time, then they will return them when they are due. Without consequences, some people will hold onto items. For some people it doesn't matter: They will willingly take late fees so they can finish a book or movie. It's not our role to teach responsibility, but I'd like to think we encourage people to share materials among themselves.

**Have you considered eliminating fines?** We have considered eliminating fines for children's materials. We investigated this with our circulation supervisor and discovered that 40% of our fines were from kids' cards. In the end, we decided it would result in too big of a hit to our revenue, but we did decide to eliminate fines for board books. ●



**Does your library charge fines?** San Rafael Public Library charges overdue fines only for adult materials. Children's and teen materials fees were eliminated about two years ago.

**How are collected funds used?** Fines collected on adult materials go back to the City of San Rafael's general fund bottom line.

**Has your library been affected by the loss of revenue?** In approving the elimination of youth fines, San Rafael City Council agreed that the loss of revenue (approximately \$7,000 per year for our city of 60,000 residents) was an acceptable cost to encourage youth reading and library use. The library's budget was not reduced in any way.

**Do fines discourage patrons from using the library?** Fines absolutely discourage people from using the library, especially those in the community who could most benefit from library services. What we see in our community is that people slowly rack up overdue fines over time—hitting the \$10 maximum, after which point the account is locked until the amount owed is brought under \$10—and then simply stop using the library. This happens across age groups, but predominantly in those neighborhoods that are socioeconomically disadvantaged. This results in the people with the least money in our community—the ones who need a library the most—not being able to use the library.

**Do fines encourage personal responsibility by making patrons return items on time? Should that be the library's role?** We have found that people do not keep youth materials out any longer since we've eliminated fines. This has been shown in library after library as they eliminate some or all overdue fines. So, no, I would not say that fines encourage people to return items on time. It is not the library's role to teach responsibility to any age group. That lesson is best left to families and communities to decide on themselves. The library's role is to encourage lifelong learning, exploration, and innovation.

**Do you use any alternate methods to encourage patrons to return materials in a timely manner?** Patrons receive an email three days before an item is due, another email one day after the item was due, and a subsequent follow-up three weeks after the due date that states they need to return the item or pay for a replacement. Reminding people of due dates ahead of time seems the most effective way to encourage timely returns.

**Have you considered eliminating all fines?** San Rafael Public Library would like to continue exploration of eliminating fines on adult materials so that they match children's and teen materials. The trick is convincing city council. ●



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# BRINGING HARASSMENT OUT OF THE HISTORY BOOKS



Addressing the troubling aspects  
of Melvil Dewey's legacy

by Anne Ford

**A**s stories of sexual misconduct continue to dominate the news, some alleged perpetrators bear household names (Kevin Spacey, Garrison Keillor, Harvey Weinstein, James Franco), and some don't (Humane Society CEO Wayne Pacelle, NPR editor Michael Oreskes, Metropolitan Opera conductor James Levine).

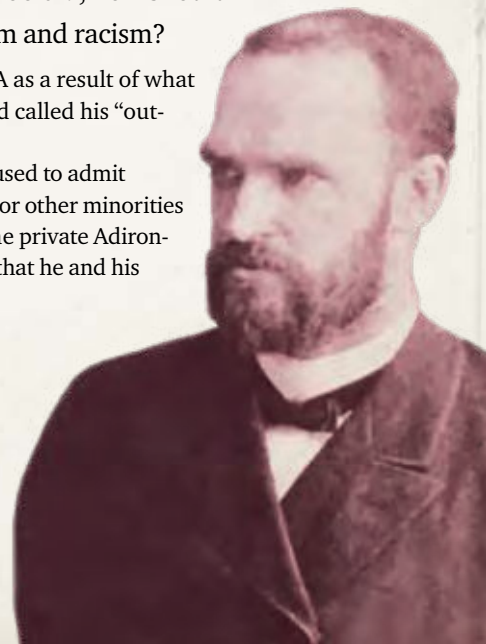
Though his moniker is absent from modern headlines, there's one harasser whose name is known to librarians everywhere: Melvil Dewey. In the #MeToo era, how should the library profession handle Dewey's legacy, tainted as it is by sexism and racism?

Dewey—who was, of course, a founder of the American Library Association (ALA) and the inventor of the widely used Dewey Decimal Classification—made numerous inappropriate physical advances toward women, including library colleagues and his own daughter-in-law, over a period of many years. Eventually, Dewey

was ostracized by the ALA as a result of what one librarian of the period called his “outrages against decency.”

In addition, Dewey refused to admit Jews, African Americans, or other minorities to the Lake Placid Club, the private Adirondacks resort in New York that he and his

Melvil  
Dewey





wife owned and operated for many years. Booker T. Washington was disallowed from its dining rooms, Dewey bought up adjoining land for fear it would otherwise be sold to Jews, and promotional literature made it clear that “no Jews or consumptives [were] allowed” on the property. (“Personally, many of my choicest friends are Jews,” Dewey wrote in an evasive response to a membership request from one Albert Harris of New York City.)

Yet 87 years after his death, Dewey remains revered as the “father of modern librarianship,” “a pioneer in library education,” and “a pioneer in the creation of career opportunities for women,” as the Library of Congress website calls him. Indeed, the ALA itself bestows the Melvil Dewey Medal, and *American Libraries*’ own *Dewey Decibel* podcast bears his name (but has dropped his likeness from its logo).

### “Obnoxious personal traits”

Beginning in the 1880s, and continuing at least until 1929, Dewey engaged in what biographer Wayne A. Wiegand characterizes as “unwelcome hugging, unwelcome touching, certainly unwelcome kissing” with female acquaintances. Wiegand is author of *Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey* (ALA Editions, 1996), the definitive biography of Dewey.

“Was there an element of power in his behavior?” Wiegand says. “There was. To my knowledge, he never squeezed a woman who was his equal. It was usually subordinates.”

On a post-conference cruise to Alaska in 1905, the six-foot-tall Dewey made physical advances toward several ALA members. On another occasion, his son and daughter-in-law, Godfrey and Marjorie Dewey, moved out of the family home

Melvil Dewey with the 1888 class of the School of Library Economy at Columbia College, New York City.

## Some ALA Awards to Receive Review

American Library Association (ALA) members may eventually see changes to the names of some of the awards and honors granted by the Association and its divisions. That's because as cultural sensibilities have changed, so too have ideas regarding how to most appropriately exemplify the values those awards and honors are meant to represent.

For example, concerns regarding the depictions of Native Americans and African Americans in the works of Laura Ingalls Wilder have led to the establishment of a task force to review the ALA award that bears her name.



Laura Ingalls Wilder

Administered by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award has since 1954 honored an author or illustrator whose books have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children.

The question of whether to rename the award has been raised by many ALSC members and stakeholders, says ALSC President Nina Lindsay.

"It is widely recognized that Wilder's legacy is complex," Lindsay says. "At the same time that we value and uphold access to her work, we are critically reading and understanding our literary history and cultural history, and that examination has provoked the question: Is this the appropriate way to honor a lifetime achievement for authors or illustrators of children's books today?"

Among the facets of Wilder's books that trouble many present-day readers are its treatment of Native American characters as well as a scene in *Little Town on the Prairie* in which Pa Ingalls participates in a blackface minstrel show.

The task force charged with reviewing the award will bring its recommendations to the ALSC board at the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans this month.

After the decision on the Wilder Award has been made, ALSC will review its entire awards program. It may or may not recommend changes to the John Newbery Medal, Randolph Caldecott Medal, May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Award, Mildred L. Batchelder Award, Theodor Seuss Geisel Award, and Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal. Any recommendations will be brought to the ALSC board at the 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Seattle January 24–29. ●

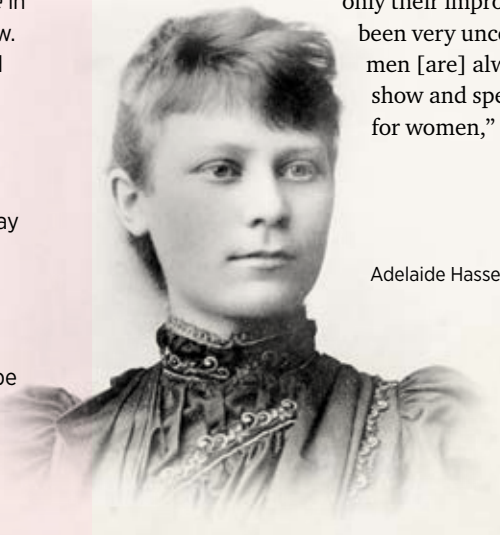
after becoming uncomfortable with Dewey's overly familiar behavior toward the latter.

In still another example, Dewey settled out of court in 1929 for \$2,147 a lawsuit brought by a former stenographer, whom he had kissed and caressed in public the previous summer. (He had earlier sent a thank-you note to an assistant who referred the woman: "I ... wish I had bought her by the pound instead of the piece when the dainty little flapper got off the train.")

Detailed, first-person accounts of Dewey's disturbing behavior are hard to come by, perhaps because in his time, women who spoke openly about sexual harassment were more likely to be disbelieved or punished than they are now. What is common knowledge among historians is an incident in which Dewey invited New York Public Library documents librarian Adelaide Hasse to go for a long drive in the country, after which she made a speedy departure—or, as Dewey later put it in a letter to her, "ran away so suddenly." He continued: "But I am very glad that I know you better. Sometimes I think of you as [Shakespeare's] Cordelia for your voice is hers. Sometimes as Brunhild fair blue eyed Saxon."

"Such references to physical attributes were not normal epistolary style among turn-of-the-century librarians," writes Hasse's biographer, Clare Beck (*The New Woman as Librarian: The Career of Adelaide Hasse*, Scarecrow Press, 2006). Hasse declined to take any action against Dewey, writing to library colleagues: "We are a professional body, the members of which, encountering obnoxious personal traits in fellow members, must content ourselves to employ those defenses which reason, training, and character dictate."

In general, Dewey himself did not deny his actions—only their impropriety. "I have been very unconventional ... as men [are] always who frankly show and speak of their liking for women," he wrote. But, he



Adelaide Hasse

From left:  
Melvil Dewey  
(bottom left)  
on a 1905  
post-  
conference  
cruise to  
Alaska; in 1918  
with his wife  
Annie in  
New York.



insisted, it was not his fault if the targets of his “unconventional” actions took offense: “Pure women would understand my ways.”

That’s not how many of his colleagues saw things. After the Alaska incident, several of them added their voices to a campaign to force him out of active ALA membership. (This just a year after Dewey had been forced to resign as New York State librarian, under pressure from those who objected to the racist and anti-Semitic policies at the Lake Placid Club.)

They succeeded. After 1906, Dewey did not actively participate in ALA matters. “In exchange for a quiet departure, he was spared an ugly and public exposé of one of his major flaws,” Wiegand writes. “He was never again a power player in ALA politics.” He was, however, invited to be the guest of honor at ALA’s 50th anniversary meeting in 1926.

### Time to talk

After Dewey’s death in 1931, the offensive aspects of his legacy took time to surface. The early biographies of him bordered on hagiographic. “The purpose ... of this volume is to indicate that Melvil Dewey was a genius,” wrote Grosvenor Dawe in *Melvil Dewey: Seer, Inspirer, Doer* (J. B. Lyon Co., 1932). That book makes almost no mention of Dewey’s behavior toward women and



minorities, except to say that “[Dewey’s] consciousness of his own strength and freedom from evil purpose led to a serene indifference in his every-day public relations with women.”

Another biography, Fremont Rider’s *Melvil Dewey* (ALA, 1944), calls its subject “a prophet pointing forward to a glorious promised land” and shrugs off the Lake Placid Club’s anti-Semitic policies by stating,

“In exchange for a quiet departure, he was spared an ugly and public exposé of one of his major flaws.”

—WAYNE A. WIEGAND

# Need Sexual Harassment Resources?

A new page on the American Library Association (ALA) website provides a clearinghouse of materials for anyone facing harassment, including sexual harassment, in the workplace ([bit.ly/2HNT0XC](http://bit.ly/2HNT0XC)).

The page, which was published in March, includes ALA's definition of sexual harassment, guidelines for those who feel that they have been subjected to it, links to federal laws, resources for victims

and survivors, a sexual harassment model policy statement for libraries, articles related to sexual harassment in libraries, and a link to ALA's statement of appropriate conduct for conferences.

The page draws on material that has long been available from ALA in other formats, such as pamphlets, and that is now online for the first time. The sexual harassment model policy statement for libraries ([bit.ly/2Hfg6Ao](http://bit.ly/2Hfg6Ao)), however,

is brand new. "ALA has been very careful about advising localities how to proceed when it comes to the law, because all 50 states have different laws," says Lorelle Swader, associate executive director of ALA Offices and Member Relations and the ALA-Allied Professional Association. "Instead, our legal counsel has said: 'Here's what you want to put into a [sexual harassment] policy if you don't have one.' It gives people a starter." •

"Dewey might—and did—point out that as a private club, it had a perfect legal right to do this."

By 1996, when Wiegand's book was published, the world had changed. "Here I am, a child of the 1960s, so I brought a different set of questions to my research and didn't fear bringing what I was finding into print," Wiegand says. "By the time I undertook that research, there wasn't a whole lot of discussion about Dewey's behavior toward women. It reintroduced the discussion to the profession."

Still, more than 20 years after Dewey's misconduct was laid bare in *Irrepressible Reformer*, public acknowledgments of his racism and sexism remain rare. The web page of the Dewey Program at the Library of Congress makes no mention of them ([bit.ly/2suMVGv](http://bit.ly/2suMVGv)). Nor does Dewey's Encyclopedia Britannica entry ([bit.ly/2o0OtDo](http://bit.ly/2o0OtDo)).

"I think that it ought to be common knowledge," says Sherre L. Harrington, director of the Memorial Library at Berry (Ga.) College and coordinator of ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table's Feminist Task Force. "But I don't think it actually is." (She emphasizes that she is speaking to *American Libraries* as a member of the library profession and not as an official representative of the task force.) That said, she adds, "I feel a little complicit in that. I've been active in the Feminist Task Force for a really long time, and we haven't done anything either."

To be clear, no one we spoke with is calling for Dewey to be wiped from the history books. Nor are they suggesting that his accomplishments be disregarded. "Here is an imperfect individual who was crucial to the

structure of our profession," Wiegand says. "You accept the warts with the halos."

Still, "I think there needs to be a more balanced awareness that he had human failings," says Beck, professor emerita at Halle Library, Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. "To have made him such a god-like figure—the great Melvil Dewey—now seems kind of ridiculous. He was revered as this man who brought women into librarianship, but all these women he encouraged and worked with still had to be subordinate to him and were expected to look up to him as the great male leader."

Which brings her to another point: "Dewey, in the bigger picture, is part of a whole pattern of the subordination of women and the power dynamics of a profession in which for most of our history, men got all the executive positions and the better pay," she says. (The AFL-CIO found that in 2014, women working as full-time librarians reported a median annual salary of \$48,589, compared with \$52,528 for men [[bit.ly/2Hq0NrM](http://bit.ly/2Hq0NrM)]. It also found in 2010 that while only 17.2% of librarians were men, they held 40% of library director positions in universities [[bit.ly/2Ku2enX](http://bit.ly/2Ku2enX)].)

"So in a way, I don't think we should just single out Dewey," Beck finishes. "There are many elements of keeping women subordinate." **AL**



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

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# The Librarian's Guide to **HOMELESSNESS**

Advice for managers and leaders  
from the director of a shelter

BY Ryan J. Dowd

It was 3 a.m. A woman struggling to carry her three children—a newborn and twin toddlers in car seats—shuffled along an urban bicycle trail during the first thunderstorm of the season. Her days-old C-section incision was infected. Every flash of lightning must have thrown ghastly shadows. Every thunderclap and gust of wind probably made her feel like even the elements were conspiring against her.

Can you imagine what this would feel like? My imagination is unable to conjure such raw terror.

Somehow, the police found her and her children and drove them to Hesed House in Aurora, Illinois—the second

largest homeless shelter in the state and the largest outside of Chicago.

I am executive director of Hesed House, but I wasn't there. That night—like every other night—there was only one staff person on duty.



He was responsible for 200–250 individuals scattered throughout the 45,000-square-foot building. It is likely that he would never have a five-minute period in his life when he had a greater opportunity to impact another person's life.

He immediately got the woman a warm meal even though the kitchen was closed. He prevented a dozen women on their way to work from taking a shower so she could bathe in peace. He left the building completely unattended while he rummaged through a trailer in the parking lot looking for dry clothes that would fit her. He put her in an empty dorm room in our transitional wing, a direct violation of federal grant guidelines.

Before the sun had risen the next morning, this staff member had broken at least a dozen organizational rules. I have never been more proud.

### **PRACTICAL COMPASSION**

I have spent the entirety of my career learning—and teaching—the art of “practical compassion.” It is the key to changing the world. If we have compassion for the most vulnerable but are too afraid of them to have a conversation with them, our compassion isn't worth much. The revolution is in the relationship. Sometimes, though, the relationship requires a little effort and understanding and a few practical skills.

In the last two decades, I have met tens of thousands of homeless individuals. I have talked to individuals on the day they became homeless and the day they moved into their own apartments. I have laughed with some homeless individuals and cried with others. I have sat with women who had just returned to the shelter after



Ryan J. Dowd  
in the men's  
sleeping room  
of Hesed House.

being raped. I have broken up more fights than I can count and had a knife pulled on me (only once, thankfully). Working with difficult homeless individuals is hard. Managing people who work with difficult homeless individuals is harder. There are two equally challenging problems:

- staff members who are terrified of conflict and avoid all confrontation by not enforcing any rules
- staff members who think they are Rambo, turning every mild conflict into World War III

It is easier to help a timid staff member become assertive than it is to help an aggressive staff member be polite. I am not sure why this is, but hot-headed employees usually cannot rein it in for very long. They can get better for a little while, but eventually emotions take over and they lose their cool. Timid staff, on the other hand, grow only more confident as they get experience.

There are some tactics that can make you more effective.

**The minimalist.** Less is more when it comes to rules. If you have four basic rules, it is easy for everyone (patrons, staff, and management) to learn them and remember them. If you have 106 rules that govern every specific behavior imaginable, patrons will have trouble remembering them and staffers will have trouble enforcing them (which makes you look arbitrary).

At Hessed House we have four rules posted on a big yellow metal sign outside of the shelter entrance:

1. No drugs or alcohol.
2. No weapons.
3. No fighting.
4. If you leave for the night, you may not return until tomorrow.

Every staff member—and most residents—can recite them from memory. There is no ambiguity. Consider what some of your fellow libraries are doing:

- Dallas Public Library's Central Library used to post a lengthy list of rules. When staffers focused instead on only five, they found that compliance went up substantially.
- Helen Plum Library in Lombard, Illinois, got rid of all its rules and replaced them with a single rule: No one is allowed to interfere with someone else's use of the library. As long as a patron isn't bothering anyone else, they can do whatever they want.



This is an excerpt from *The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness: An Empathy-Driven Approach to Solving Problems, Preventing Conflict, and Serving Everyone* by Ryan J. Dowd (ALA Editions, 2018).

**The red and the blue.** There are two types of rules:

- rules that should never be broken under any circumstances (red rules)
- rules that keep things running smoothly but should be broken when common sense dictates (blue rules)

Some people view the red and blue rules concept as ludicrous. To them, a rule is a rule; if it is going to be ignored, it shouldn't be a rule. The problem with this thinking is that it is impossible to develop guidelines and rules for every possible scenario. It is much more effective to make a few hard-and-fast rules and then a bunch of guidelines that work in most, but not all, situations.

For example, Hessed House has a rule that residents are not allowed to arrive later than 10 p.m. It is a blue rule. If someone shows up at 10:30 p.m. during a blizzard, I expect staffers to ignore the rule. If they don't, someone could literally die. We have another rule that violence is not permitted. If one resident punches another resident, staffers do not have the authority to send the aggressor off to bed with a firm scolding. This is a red rule. The puncher is expelled.

The problem for managers is that it is obvious to us which rules are red and which are blue. It is not obvious to front-line employees (especially new ones). Make sure staffers know the difference.

**The anti-witch hunt.** In February 1692, two children in Salem, Massachusetts, began to convulse on the ground. They described feeling poked by imaginary pins. Soon, other young people in the village complained of the same thing. The culprits were soon identified: Sarah Good, a mentally disturbed homeless woman, and others accused of witchcraft. On July 19, 1692, Good was executed. Before the panic had subsided, 25 people were dead.

It is no coincidence that the Salem witch trials began with a homeless woman. The most vulnerable among us are often scapegoated during periods of mass hysteria. The same thing happens today to immigrants, minorities, or—as is often the case—homeless individuals.

Guard against panic in your library. It is contagious. After something bad happens in your community (or in the news), people become unreasonably fearful. Suddenly they are terrified of something that has the same statistical likelihood as being eaten by a shark.

Our irrational fears can sound so reasonable in the moment. A registered sex offender just got a library card, so now all children will be kidnapped. A patron was overheard having a conversation with himself, so now Norman Bates is on the loose. A Wiccan group from the local college applied to use a conference room, and now we are afraid that our pets will disappear for ritual sacrifices. A mosque opens in a nearby town, and we all Google the word *jihad*. A coworker is mugged leaving a nearby restaurant, and we devise new ways to exclude homeless patrons.



Here is how you deal with mass hysteria and witch hunts that seize hold of your staff:

- **Confront it directly.** Call a meeting to discuss everyone's concerns. This prevents people from accusing you of "not taking their safety seriously." Make sure that you schedule it at a time when the calm and rational members of your staff can be present. The worst thing you can do is call a meeting and discover that everyone in the room is paranoid. That just exacerbates it.
- **Stay calm.** Demonstrate through your demeanor that you are not afraid. If you get frustrated and angry with your colleagues, it is easier for them to dismiss you.
- **Lead by example.** Find a tangible way to demonstrate that you are not afraid. Work the circulation desk for a while. Make a point of approaching homeless patrons when your colleagues are watching. Hased House had a tuberculosis outbreak, and the staff panicked, accusing me of not taking the danger seriously enough because I was safe in my office. That night I moved into the shelter for a few days, eating, showering, and sleeping alongside residents. My actions showed better than my words that I believed we were doing everything in our power to contain the outbreak.

**The Andy Taylor.** Have you ever watched *The Andy Griffith Show*? The main character is Sheriff Andy Taylor. He is a great officer who doesn't just run around arresting people. He is a true problem solver, always working with people to make the community better.

Your library needs a Sheriff Andy Taylor. Put another way, your library needs a liaison within the police department. It isn't enough to just call 911 when you have an issue. You also want an officer or two who looks out for you.

Dallas Public Library Youth Services Administrator Melissa Dease assists a homeless patron during the annual Winter Backpack Challenge, part of the library's Homeless Engagement and Leadership program.

Your first choice should always be the community-oriented policing (COP) officer assigned to your area. COP officers are trained to build relationships and proactively solve problems through community engagement. Your local COP officer wants to know you. The type of people who are chosen to go into these units are usually very friendly and enjoy working collaboratively.

If your jurisdiction does not have a COP unit, then you'll have to move to Plan B. Call the police commander who is responsible for your area and explicitly ask if there is a good person who can be your contact within the police department.

The commander will know which of his or her officers would be a good fit and will usually assign someone accordingly. Also, the officer will feel more pressure to serve you well if he or she has been assigned by a boss. This is a much better tactic than trying to simply befriend a random officer.

One final tip about getting a police liaison: Unfortunately (for you), the best police officers get promoted quickly. If you find a good officer and he or she gets promoted, ask for an introduction from that person to someone else who can be your main contact. You are more likely to get introduced to an equally good officer.

**The lawyer-repellent spray.** It is important for libraries to protect everyone's access to them. Sometimes when you fail, lawyers and courts intervene. Some examples include:

*Kreimer v. Morristown* (1991): Richard Kreimer, a 42-year-old homeless man, was a problem patron for the Morristown (N.J.) library. He was kicked out repeatedly for staring at patrons, following patrons around, speaking loudly and belligerently, and smelling very bad.

He sued.

The library lost the case at the trial court, with the judge saying, “If we wish to shield our eyes and noses from the homeless, we should revoke their condition, not their library cards.” The appellate court overturned the trial court, ruling in favor of the library—but not before the library’s insurance company had settled for \$80,000.

*Armstrong v. District of Columbia Public Library* (2001): Richard Armstrong tried to enter Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C., one February afternoon. A security guard stopped him, saying that he needed to “clean up” before he could come in. Ultimately, the court held that the library’s policy against “objectionable appearance” was unconstitutional because it was too vague.

It is easier to help a timid staff member become assertive than it is to help an aggressive staff member be polite.

I won’t go in depth into the liability from homeless patrons, but I will share an acronym (FEND) from lawyer-librarian Mary Minow for keeping lawyers away:

- **First Amendment:** Libraries must protect the right of free speech.
- **Equal enforcement:** Policies must be applied consistently.
- **Notice:** All policies should be clearly posted or distributed.
- **Due process:** A well-defined appeals process must be available to patrons who challenge policies.

### PREDICAMENT: A NONHOMELESS PATRON IS COMPLAINING

“This is ridiculous,” a man blurts out as he shuffles toward you. “I pay taxes, and I can’t even use the library. It is completely overrun with the homeless. You need to get them out of here. If you can’t fix this, I’m calling the mayor!” It wasn’t a question, but he stares at you, waiting for an answer anyway. What do you do?

Working at a large shelter for most of my career, I have heard a lot of complaints about homeless individuals from nonhomeless individuals. Sometimes the complaints are

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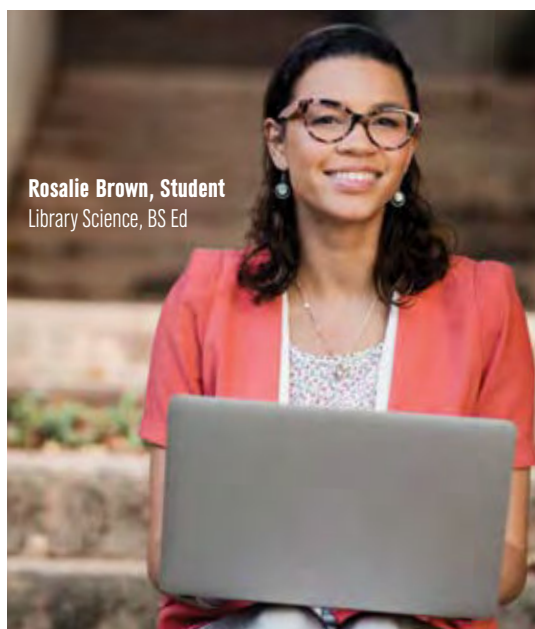
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Rosalie Brown, Student  
Library Science, BS Ed

valid, and sometimes they are utterly ridiculous. I once had a guy at a neighborhood meeting shout at me for 15 minutes that it was unfair that he had to “see those people.” Some individuals feel that they are entitled to never witness the effects of poverty. My advice for dealing with such ornery nonhomeless individuals is as follows:

Listen without agreeing or disagreeing. I quietly listen until they get bored and move on. It is easier than fighting and usually more effective. Most people eventually realize (without being told) that they are being ridiculous. When you challenge them, though, they dig into their position even stronger. It might make you feel good to defend homeless people, but it doesn't actually change the person's mind.

Here are a few phrases that work well:

- “We take the needs of all of our patrons seriously, regardless of their socioeconomic status.”
- “Thank you for your concern. We have the situation under control.”
- “We are keeping an eye on the situation.”

Similarly, many individuals feel that homeless individuals are not entitled to the same level of confidentiality as everyone else. They will ask prying and inappropriate questions about homeless individuals that they would never ask about someone else. My advice:

- Maintain as much confidentiality for homeless patrons as you would for nonhomeless patrons. If a pregnant woman

or elderly patron had a “bladder accident,” you wouldn't share that news with a stranger who asked. Provide the same level of respect and dignity to your homeless patrons in the same situation.

- If a person is prying for details, hint that there is “more to the story” than is obvious (even if there isn't), and stop the conversation.
- My favorite phrase: “It would really not be appropriate for me to talk about other patrons.”

### IN THE END

It is hard to be a manager or leader on a good day. On a bad day—when staffers are freaking out and the community is making threats—leadership seems downright impossible. To steal a line from the poem “If—” by Rudyard Kipling: “If you can keep your head when all about you / Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,” then you just might be able to have a huge impact on the community. This world desperately needs your leadership. Teach your staff empathy. Teach your staff empathy-driven enforcement. Help the community to have a greater appreciation for the most vulnerable members. **AL**

**RYAN J. DOWD** is executive director of Hesus House in Aurora, Illinois. He trains organizations around the globe on how to use empathy-driven enforcement with homeless individuals. He is a licensed attorney and has a master's in public administration.



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## LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH 2018

The Incredibles are back and even superheroes like to read—so go out and get a library card this September! The library is no ordinary place, just as the Parrs are no ordinary family. From borrowing books, movies, and music, to getting homework help, tinkering in a makerspace, or enjoying storytime, there's no end to the amazing items and activities available with a library card.



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# 2018 Annual Conference Preview

EDITED BY Greg Landgraf

**N**ew Orleans—jewel of the Mississippi River known for its colorful Carnival seasons, inimitable food, and confluence of cultures—celebrates its tricentennial in 2018 with a yearlong birthday party. But perhaps no celebration is more anticipated than the return of the American Library Association’s (ALA) Annual Conference and Exhibition to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Taking place June 21–26, Annual will offer a host of professional development opportunities, new ideas to help shape the future of libraries, a full slate of author programs and fascinating speakers, and a variety of special events and activities.

This preview offers a small sample of what to expect. For a complete listing of events, visit [2018.alaannual.org](http://2018.alaannual.org).



Former First  
Lady Michelle  
Obama

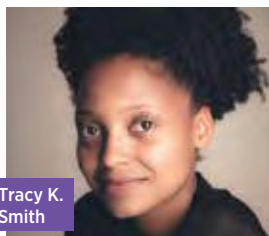


# New Orleans | June 21–26, 2018



## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

ALA welcomes former First Lady **MICHELLE OBAMA** as its **Opening General Session** speaker, **4–5:15 p.m.** on **Friday, June 22**. The lawyer, philanthropist, and author of the forthcoming memoir *Becoming* will reflect on social and political issues and her two terms in the White House in this highly anticipated session. Be sure to arrive early to get a seat and hear a special performance from Grammy-nominated New Orleans musician and Caldecott honoree **TROY “TROMBONE SHORTY” ANDREWS**.



Tracy K. Smith

ALA President Jim Neal will welcome United States Poet Laureate **TRACY K. SMITH** and journalist and filmmaker **JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS** as his **ALA President’s Program** speakers **Sunday, June 24, 3:30–5 p.m.**



Jose Antonio Vargas

Smith is author of the critically acclaimed memoir *Ordinary Light* and four books of poetry, including 2012 Pulitzer Prize winner *Life on Mars*. Vargas, founder of storytelling

nonprofit Define American, will discuss his upcoming memoir *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, which explores what *home* means when the country you live in doesn’t consider you one of its own. The program will include the **ALA Awards Presentation**.

The Association for Library Service to Children’s (ALSC) **Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder Awards Banquet**—a celebration that honors the authors and illustrators of the Newbery, Caldecott, and Wilder medal-winning and honor books—takes place **Sunday, June 24, 6–11 p.m.** Preregistration is required and tickets are \$94. A limited number of tickets will be available onsite until noon Friday, June 22.

The **Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast** will be held **Sunday, June 24, 7–9:30 a.m.** The breakfast commemorates 2018’s Coretta Scott King winners and honor recipients, recognizing the best African-American authors and illustrators of books for children and youth. Tickets are \$65.



Emilio Estevez

**EMILIO ESTEVEZ**, writer, director, and star of *The Public*, will be at Annual for three showings of his film, each followed by a Q&A session moderated by **RYAN J. DOWD**, author of

*The Librarian’s Guide to Homelessness* (see excerpt, p. 54). The movie tells the story of library patrons, many homeless or otherwise marginalized, who refuse to leave the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County at closing time during a cold snap, and how a nonviolent sit-in escalates into a standoff with police. The film and Q&As will be hosted on **Saturday, June 23** from **9 a.m.–noon** and **2:30–5:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, June 24** from **1–4 p.m.**

The **Closing General Session** will be headlined by award-winning actor **VIOLA DAVIS** on **Tuesday, June 26, 10–11:30 a.m.** Davis is author of the upcoming children’s book *Corduroy Takes a Bow*, which is inspired by characters from Don Freeman’s 1968 classic *Corduroy* and Davis’s own experiences on Broadway. The **Inaugural Celebration** immediately follows the Closing General Session at **11:45 a.m.–2 p.m.** and includes food and entertainment. Tickets are \$50.

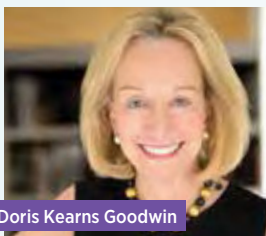


Viola Davis

Photos: David Slijper (Obama); Rachel Eliza Griffiths (Smith); Gerry Salva Cruz (Vargas); David Alexanian (Estevez); Brian Bowen Smith (Davis)

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

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



Doris Kearns Goodwin

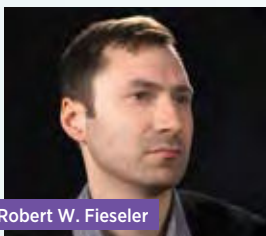
**Saturday, June 23  
8:30–9:30 a.m.**

Historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author

**DORIS KEARNS  
GOODWIN** knew

presidents at an early age, becoming a White House

Fellow at 24 and serving as an assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson. Her upcoming book, *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, draws upon four presidents she has studied closely—Johnson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin D. Roosevelt—to show how they first recognized their own leadership qualities.



Robert W. Fieseler

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

Author **ROBERT  
W. FIESELER'S** book

*Tinderbox: The Untold  
Story of the Up Stairs  
Lounge Fire and the Rise  
of Gay Liberation* tells the

story of the 1973 arson at a New Orleans gay nightclub that devastated its community. Through survivor stories and archives, Fieseler creates a portrait of a closeted, blue-collar gay world in a time when the crime received almost no media coverage.

For an up-to-date speaker list, visit [2018.alaannual.org/featured-speakers](http://2018.alaannual.org/featured-speakers).

## DIVISION PRESIDENTS' PROGRAMS

ALA's division presidents host inspiring thought leaders in their presidents' programs at every Annual Conference. This year's slate includes:

**Saturday, June 23, 9 a.m.–noon**

**JERVETTE R. WARD**, associate professor of English at the University of Alaska Anchorage, will speak on equity, diversity, and inclusion at American Association of School Librarians (AASL) President Steven Yates's program. Ward edited the anthology *Real Sister*:

*Stereotypes, Respectability, and Black Women in Reality TV*, which addresses how reality television reinforces stereotypes but also inspires a positive and nuanced conversation about representation and its effects on the black community. The program will also include the **AASL Awards Ceremony**.

**Saturday, June 23, 9–10 a.m.**

United for Libraries (UFL) President Steve Laird's program "Engaging Elected Officials with Your Library" offers tips from a panel of experts on how to make advocates of local leaders.

**Saturday, June 23, 10:30 a.m.–noon**

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) President Cheryl A. Middleton's program "Beyond Resilience: Crafting a Caring Organization" will follow up an ACRL 2017 Conference program that challenged academic librarians to think critically about "resilience" and how it is used to shift responsibility for success and survival to individuals while silencing conversations about structural inequalities. Panelists will include **CHRIS BOURG** (director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries), **KAREN G. SCHNEIDER** (dean, Sonoma State University Library), **DERRICK JEFFERSON** (communication librarian, American University), **FOBAZI M. ETTARH** (student success librarian, California State University, Dominguez Hills), and moderator **EAMON TEWELL** (reference and instruction librarian, Long Island University, Brooklyn).

**Saturday, June 23, 10:30 a.m.–noon**

In Library Leadership and Management Association President Pixey Mosley's program "Addressing Conflict through Difficult and Uncomfortable Dialogues," **NANCY T. WATSON**, president of the Center for Change and Conflict Resolution, will provide insights into how to better understand and manage conflict and passive-aggressive behaviors in our libraries, professional associations, and personal lives.

## Curating the Crescent City

ALA's Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services has put together a resource guide on the indigenous history of New Orleans and Louisiana ([ala.org/aboutala/offices/nola-tribes](http://ala.org/aboutala/offices/nola-tribes)), as well as a mapped list of diversely-owned businesses close to the convention center ([bit.ly/2r1rkCb](http://bit.ly/2r1rkCb)). •



### Saturday, June 23, 1–2 p.m.

Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies President Jeannette P. Smithee presents “Using Innovative, Music-Based Outreach Programs to Reach Vulnerable Populations of All Ages.” The program will feature health and aging research nurse and choral performer **JAN MAIER**, who will lead a demonstration on the effects of music on brains and bodies, and a panel of professionals involved in community music outreach.



Carla Hayden

### Saturday, June 23 4–5:30 p.m.

Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) President Chris LeBeau’s program will feature Librarian of Congress **CARLA**

**HAYDEN** in conversation with former ALA President **COURTNEY YOUNG** about forging roles for library services in meeting the needs of today’s diverse populations. LeBeau will also present the **RUSA Achievement Awards**.

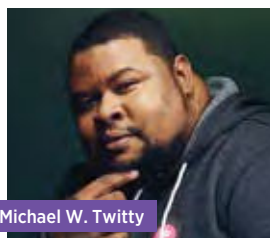


Kendra Albert

### Sunday, June 24 3–4 p.m.

Data informs human and algorithmic decision making and funding, but what can be inferred when there is no or limited data? In Library and Information

Technology Association (LITA) President Andromeda Yelton’s program “The Silences of (Big) Data,” lawyer and legal scholar **KENDRA ALBERT** will reflect on the reasons for data silence and what that means for data collection in libraries.



Michael W. Twitty

### Monday, June 25 10:30 a.m.–noon

**MICHAEL W. TWITTY**, author of *The Cooking Gene*, will discuss his journey to uncover the history of Southern food in his family at Association

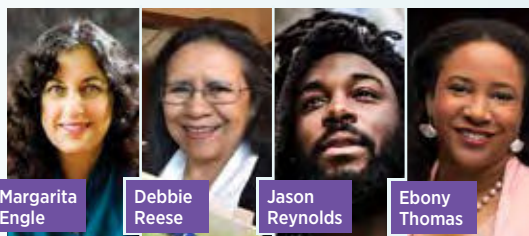
for Library Collections and Technical Services President Mary Beth Thomson’s program, “Dining from a Haunted Plate.” Twitty’s presentation will focus on his research at libraries, archives, and plantations and his efforts to trace his family roots through food from West and Central Africa to the Old South.

### Monday, June 25, 10:30 a.m.–noon

Teens—particularly those who are marginalized because of racism, sexism, or other forms of oppression—are experts on the issues facing their communities. Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) President Sandra Hughes-Hassell’s program “Supporting Youth Activism in Your Library” will highlight innovative, teen-centered programs that put social justice in the foreground and emphasize teen advocacy and community engagement.

### Monday, June 25 1–2:30 p.m.

ALSC President Nina Lindsay’s program, “Considering All Children: A New Ideal in



Margarita Engle

Debbie Reese

Jason Reynolds

Ebony Thomas

Evaluating and Engaging around Books for Youth,” will feature a panel of educators, activists, and book creators who will confront biases and consider what it would look like to truly consider all children in evaluating, recommending, and awarding books. The panel will be moderated by **EDITH CAMPBELL**, assistant education librarian at Indiana State University’s Cunningham Memorial Library, and will include National Young People’s Poet Laureate **MARGARITA ENGLE; DEBBIE REESE**, editor of *American Indians in Children’s Literature* and Native representation advocate; award-winning author and 2018 National School Library Month spokesperson **JASON REYNOLDS**; and **EBONY THOMAS**, assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education.

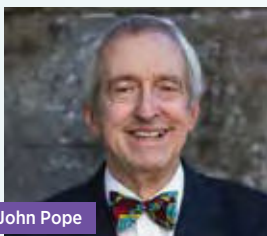
For a complete list of the many chair programs sponsored by offices and round tables, visit [2018.alaannual.org](http://2018.alaannual.org).

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

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

### Friday, June 22, 8–10 p.m.

Come see the 2018 Printz Award winner **NINA LACOUR** and honor book authors **DEBORAH HEILIGMAN, JASON REYNOLDS, LAINI TAYLOR**, and **ANGIE THOMAS** speak about their writing at the **Michael L. Printz Program and Reception**, cosponsored by YALSA and *Booklist*. Tickets are \$34.



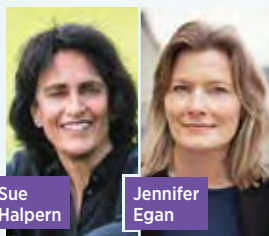
John Pope

**Saturday, June 23, 7:30–9 a.m.**  
**JOHN POPE**, a member of the *The New Orleans Times-Picayune* reporting team that won two Pulitzer Prizes for coverage of Hurricane

Katrina and its aftermath, will speak at the **Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) Awards Recognition and Fundraising Breakfast**. A book signing will follow the breakfast, and Pope’s book *Getting Off at Elysian Fields: Obituaries from the The New Orleans Times-Picayune* will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for IFRT members.

**Saturday, June 23, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.**  
YALSA’s **Margaret A. Edwards Brunch** will feature poet and children’s author **ANGELA JOHNSON**, winner of the 2018 Edwards Award, which recognizes a significant and lasting contribution to writing for teens. Tickets are \$39.

**Saturday, June 23, 4–5 p.m.**  
UFL’s **First Author, First Book** will feature a panel of first-time authors, including **BRYAN CAMP, MALCOLM HANSEN, MESHIA MAREN**, and **NOVUYO ROSA TSHUMA**, speaking about their books and writing experiences. Book signings will follow the program.

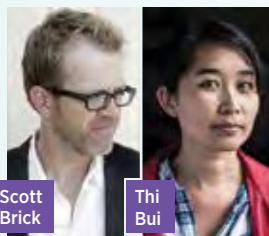


Sue Halpern

Jennifer Egan

**Saturday, June 23 8–10 p.m.**  
Author and journalist **SUE HALPERN** will be the featured speaker at the **Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction**

**Ceremony**, cosponsored by RUSA and *Booklist*. The event will be followed by a dessert and cash bar reception where attendees can mingle with **JENNIFER EGAN**, winner of the 2018 Carnegie Fiction Medal for *Manhattan Beach*. Tickets are \$40, \$30 for RUSA members.



Scott Brick

Thi Bui

**Sunday, June 24 8–10 a.m.**  
**RUSA’s Literary Tastes: Celebrating the Best Reading of the Year** will feature several authors of works that won RUSA book awards or were

included on its best-of lists for adults. Panelists will include illustrator **THI BUI** (*The Best We Could Do*) and prolific audiobook narrator **SCOTT BRICK**. Light refreshments are included and book signings will follow the panel. Registration is required. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for RUSA members.

**Sunday, June 24, 9–10 a.m.**  
YALSA’s **YA Author Coffee Klatch** is a speed dating-style event featuring authors who have appeared on one of YALSA’s selected book lists or received one of its literary awards. Attendees will sit at a table, and every few minutes new authors will arrive to talk about their upcoming books. Tickets are \$25.

**Sunday, June 24, 1–3 p.m.**  
ALSC and Reforma will host the **Pura Belpré Award Celebración**, honoring the winners and honorees of the Belpré Medal with acceptance speeches from the winners, musical performances, and a book signing.

**Sunday, June 24, 5:30–7:30 p.m.**  
Comedian and UFL spokesperson **PAULA POUNDSTONE** will headline **The Laugh’s on Us**. The wine and cheese event will feature humor authors **CHRIS ERSKINE, HARRISON SCOTT KEY**, and **TOM PAPA**, and a book signing will follow. Tickets are \$60, \$55 for UFL members, and \$65 onsite if available.

## JobLIST Placement Center

ALA’s JobLIST Placement and Career Development Center is open **Saturday, June 23**, and **Sunday, June 24, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.**, with an orientation **Saturday at 8:30 a.m.** Conference registration is not required to use the Placement Center’s services or attend its workshops.

Employers will be on hand at the free **Open House and Job Fair on Sunday, June 24, 10:30 a.m.–noon**. Career counseling with a professional coach is available in free, confidential sessions most hours when the Placement Center is open. Preregistration is suggested.

For a complete list of workshops and services offered—including interview prep, résumé review, salary negotiations, and information on identifying workplace harassment, visit [ala.org/educationcareers/employment/placement/workshops](http://ala.org/educationcareers/employment/placement/workshops). •

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Follow #alaac18 and [instagram.com/americanlibraryassociation](http://instagram.com/americanlibraryassociation)

## Accessibility

ALA works to make sure the conference experience is pleasant and accessible for all. For information on mobility assistance, interpreter services, and other accommodations, visit [2018.alaannual.org/general-information/accessibility](http://2018.alaannual.org/general-information/accessibility).

## ALA Store Hours

- Friday, June 22, 12:30–5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 23, and Sunday, June 24, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Monday, June 25, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

### Monday, June 25, 8–10:30 a.m.

The **ALSC Awards Ceremony** will present the **Batchelder, Geisel, and Sibert Awards**. A continental breakfast with authors and illustrators will precede the 8:30 a.m. awards presentation.

### Monday, June 25, 2–4 p.m.

Enjoy beverages and light snacks at UFL's **Gala Author Toast**. Bestselling authors **LOU BERNEY, LEIF ENGER, SUSAN ORLEAN, TAYLOR JENKINS REID,**

and **LISA UNGER** will discuss their forthcoming books and signings will follow. UFL will also recognize the winners of the Baker & Taylor Awards during this event. Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$55 for UFL members, and \$65 onsite if available.

## HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

This is a small selection of the hundreds of programs that will be taking place at Annual. See the full list on the conference scheduler (2018.alaannual.org/scheduler) or find programs related to specific interests (2018.alaannual.org/whats-happening/program-interests) like critical librarianship, early career development, and services to refugees and immigrants.

### Friday, June 22

ALA's Public Programs Office (PPO) and Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services (ODLOS) will present "Beyond the Racial Stalemate." Using a racial healing approach, facilitators will provide leaders with a tool used by organizations to help uproot the flawed belief in a racial hierarchy. Participants will engage in a process that invites storytelling, vulnerability, and deep listening. Four 90-minute sessions will be held at **8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.** Sessions will be identical, so register for only one. Tickets are \$20.

### Friday, June 22, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

"Assessment in Action: Demonstrating and Communicating Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success," a preconference based on ACRL's Assessment in Action curriculum, will teach attendees to identify institutional priorities and campus partners, design an assessment project grounded in action research, and prepare a plan for communicating project results. Tickets are \$225 for ACRL members, \$255 for ALA members, \$315 for nonmembers.

### Friday, June 22, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

**AvramCamp**, cosponsored by LITA and the Public Library Association, offers female-identifying technology professionals the opportunity to network and examine barriers to success in an AdaCamp-inspired unconference. Topics covered will include imposter syndrome, salary negotiation, and creating and maintaining inclusion. Tickets are \$25.

### Friday, June 22, noon–4 p.m.

Librarians need training to effectively champion information literacy in today's environment of fake news.



# Exhibits at the Conference

With more than 900 exhibiting organizations, multiple pavilions, and exciting stages, the exhibit floor is integral to your learning, professional development, and networking at Annual Conference.

The opening ceremony and ribbon cutting immediately follow the Opening General Session on **Friday, June 22 at 5:30 p.m.** and feature a brief welcome by ALA leadership and local dignitaries. The reception includes food, drink, and entertainment.

Individual publishers will host author and illustrator events throughout the conference, including programs at the **Book Buzz Theater, What's Cooking @ ALA, PopTop Stage,** and the **Graphic Novel/Gaming Stage.** Specialty Pavilions will again showcase areas such as DVD and video, gaming and graphic novels, government information, library schools and instruction, mobile apps, small presses and products, university presses, zines, and more. ●

## EXHIBIT HOURS

Friday, June 22,  
5:30–7 p.m.  
Saturday, June 23,  
9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Sunday, June 24,  
9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Monday, June 25,  
9 a.m.–2 p.m.

“It Takes a Village: Promoting Information Literacy Through Librarian-Led Grassroots Initiatives,” a pre-conference sponsored by RUSA, will show librarians how they can work together to spread information literacy and metaliteracy to their communities. Tickets are \$129 for RUSA members, \$149 for ALA members, \$199 for nonmembers.

### Saturday, June 23, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

“Follow the Money: Making the Most of Federal Funding for Your Library,” a program from ALA’s Washington Office, will provide information about the millions in grant money awarded to libraries of all types annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and other federal agencies. Attendees will learn about the scope and sources of available funding and how they can find and apply for grants.

### Saturday, June 23, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

To effectively serve teens, librarians have to understand their unique needs. YALSA’s “Learning to Listen: Supporting Youth Mental Health at Your Library” will share strategies and programming ideas to help librarians administer to adolescents.

### Saturday, June 23, 1–2 p.m.

ALSC’s “Let’s Talk about Race with Kids” will provide concrete ideas for library professionals presenting programs and activities that support parents, caregivers, and educators in talking with young people about race. Hear from a panel of library and community practitioners who have presented such programs.

### Saturday, June 23, 2–3:30 p.m.

PPO will host “Community Engagement Table Talks,” a session of facilitated small groups in which participants will discuss community engagement tools and models, challenges faced in engaging communities, strategies that have worked and that haven’t, and available resources. The program is part of Libraries Transforming Communities: Models for Change ([ala.org/ltc](http://ala.org/ltc)).

### Saturday, June 23, 4–5 p.m.

Fake news may be inaccurate, dishonest, and even malicious, but is it illegal? In “Fake News or Free Speech: Is There a Right to Be Misinformed?” a panel from IFRT moderated by OIF Director **JAMES LARUE**, experts from library, legal, and literacy backgrounds will discuss whether fake news—or suppression of fake



news—can undermine our democratic way of life and how librarians can respond.

#### Sunday, June 24, 9–10 a.m.

In ALSC’s “To Tech or Not to Tech: The Debate and the Research around Technology, Young Children, and the Library,” attendees will receive tips and resources about technology use for children and their caregivers.

#### Sunday, June 24

The **PR Xchange** offers an opportunity to sample promotional materials from libraries across North America (11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.). Directly following the program, the **PR Xchange Awards Presentation** will recognize the best library public relations and marketing from the past year (1–2 p.m.).

#### Sunday, June 24, 1–2 p.m.

“American Dream Literacy Initiative: 10 Years Serving Adult English-Language Learners,” sponsored by ODLOS, will share findings and recommendations from a multiyear evaluation study and highlight individual success stories from some of the 187 libraries that were awarded grants to support adult literacy services.

#### Sunday, June 24, 1–2 p.m.

**PHIL MOREHART**, associate editor of *American Libraries* and host of the *Dewey Decibel* podcast, will moderate a panel of librarian podcasters in “So You Want to Podcast...”. This session will cover why or why not to start a podcast, how to make an administrative case for one, necessary equipment, and choosing episode topics.

#### Sunday, June 24, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

The Washington Office’s “Leap into Science: Cultivating a National Network for Informal Science and Literacy” explores the Leap into Science program that integrates open-ended science activities with children’s books. Attendees will experience the hands-on activities taken to libraries, museums, and after-school spaces and be able to offer advice and feedback for program designers.

#### Monday, June 25, 1–2 p.m.

STEM programs for teens don’t need to be scary, expensive, or time consuming. YALSA’s “Beyond the Bots: Teen STEM Programs on the Cheap” will demonstrate how to create, plan, and execute engaging and educational STEM programs using affordable materials you may already have.

#### Monday, June 25, 6–8 p.m.

Open to all conference attendees, the **International Librarians Reception** welcomes librarians from more than 70 countries with an evening of culture, ideas, and regional cuisine. Preregistration is required. Tickets are \$40.

In addition to highlighted programs, be sure to check out informal and peer-to-peer learning opportunities such as the five-minute **Ignite Sessions**, 45-minute **Conversation Starters**, more than 200 loosely organized **Discussion Groups**, the **Networking Uncommons**, and more. [AL](#)

For an up-to-date list of dates and times, see the Annual Conference Scheduler at [2018.alaannual.org/scheduler](http://2018.alaannual.org/scheduler).

## Business and Financial Meetings

#### Friday, June 22

- ALA Executive Board Meeting I, 8:30 a.m.–noon
- ALA Finance and Audit/Budget Analysis and Review Committee Joint Meeting, noon–3 p.m.

#### Saturday, June 23

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

#### Sunday, June 24

- ALA Council I, 8:30–11 a.m.
- ALA Planning and Budget Assembly, 1–2 p.m.

#### Monday, June 25

- ALA Council II, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
- ALA Executive Board II, 1–4:30 p.m.
- ALA-APA Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30–5 p.m.

#### Tuesday, June 26

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

# Big Easy

## Dining, New Orleans-style BY Diana K. Schwam

Let's be real: New Orleans' reputation for good times, really good music, and really, really good food wasn't exactly a deterrent when it came to booking your trip to the 2018 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition. But where to start? Go for traditional Creole cuisine or opt for a modern take? Where best to splurge on an extravagant dinner or grab a healthy lunch near the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center?

As author of numerous travel guides, including *Frommer's Easy Guide to New Orleans*, I'm here to help. My customized dining guide lists a spectrum of selections, focusing on those in proximity to the convention center and some choice spots a short distance away. There's something for everyone, so dive in with forks ablaze and *laissez les bons temps rouler*.



Shrimp and grits at Surrey's



# Eats

## CONVENTION CENTER-CENTRIC

### Auction House Market

801 Magazine St.

504-372-4321

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

This stunning new food hall is ideal for solos, groups, the multipalated, and the indecisive. Ten vendor options—ranging from Indian to oysters to empanadas to avocado toast—surround a sleek marble bar. Sushi, sandwiches, and coffee are also available; all are enjoyed by a lively mix of locals, conventioners, and moms with strollers. Do check out the bathroom décor.

**B, L, D daily \$-\$\$\$**

### Cochon

930 Tchoupitoulas St.

504-588-2123

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

At this much-lauded, amped-up Cajun swine shrine (Cajun being the rustic, country cousin to New Orleans' more citified Creole cooking), we're particularly fond of the starters: the cracklins; boudin balls (crunchy outside, savory and porky inside); and the

creamy, burnished mac and cheese (\$7). Wood-fired oysters bathed in chili garlic butter (\$14) have a briny bite; chicken livers with pepper jelly (\$8) are astoundingly good. **L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

### Cochon Butcher

930 Tchoupitoulas St.

504-588-7675

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

As the name attests, they butcher and cure onsite, turning house-smoked meaty goodness into small plates and world-rocking sandwiches. The boudin sausage (\$6) is the best east of Lafayette; the



Cochon muffuletta at Cochon Butcher

muffuletta (\$14) may surpass Central Grocery's; pork belly with cucumber and mint (\$10) is wondrous. Get the vinegary Brussels sprouts (\$6), dreamy mac and cheese (\$6), and swoon-worthy caramel doberge cake (\$5/slice), or rue your bad decision. Casual, high-top tables open to the street via garage-style doors. Bonus points for the Star Wars table. **L daily, D (M-Sat) \$\$**

### Company Burger

611 O'Keefe Ave.

504-309-9422

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

Sometimes you just need a good burger. Here's where you can get one. Try its namesake (\$8.75) and a good beer to go with it. **L, D daily \$-\$\$**

### Compère Lapin

535 Tchoupitoulas St.

(in Old No. 77 Hotel)

504-599-2119

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

*Top Chef* alumna and Saint Lucia native Nina Compton blends Caribbean, French, Italian, and Creole influences into winning dishes that are just exotic enough: a deeply flavored, wonderfully textured curried goat with sweet potato gnocchi (\$28); perfectly jerked and crisped local drum with lush caramelized sunchokes (\$29); conch croquettes with pickled pineapple tartar sauce (\$6). At the commodious bar, munch on pig's ears with smoked aioli (\$5) while sipping shimmery, beautifully balanced drinks.

## Price Guide

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

\$ under \$10

\$\$ \$11-\$20

\$\$\$ \$21-\$30

\$\$\$\$ \$31 and up

# Veggie and Vegan

(but not exclusively)

## Carmo

527 Julia St.  
504-875-4132  
cafecarmo.com  
Caribbean, South American, and African flavors and ingredients influence the tasty, eclectic menu. Nonveggie options, too.  
**B, L, D daily \$-\$**

## Cleo's

940 Canal St.  
504-522-4504  
facebook.com/CleosNOLA  
Surprisingly good Mediterranean food amid the schlocky Canal Street shops, open 24 hours.  
**B, L, D daily \$\$**

## Daily Beet

1000 Girod St.  
504-605-4413  
thedailybeetnola.com  
Fresh salads, grain-based bowls, and cold-pressed juices made to order or grab-and-go. **B, L, D daily \$**

## Green Goddess

307 Exchange Pl.  
504-301-3347  
greengoddessrestaurant.com  
Imaginative, offbeat Spanish, Indian, Hawaiian,

and Middle Eastern-inspired cuisine served at raffish alleyway tables.  
**L, D (W-Sun) \$\$**

## Magasin Kitchen

611 O'Keefe Ave.  
504-571-5677  
The cuisine of New Orleans' huge Vietnamese population offers delicate, refreshing flavors and good vegetarian options. **L, D (M-Sat) \$ ●**

Açaí bowl and avocado toast at Daily Beet

cocktails and chocolate hazelnut budino (\$10). **L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

## Drago's

2 Poydras St.  
(in Hilton Riverside)  
504-584-3911  
dragosrestaurant.com  
Thirteen reasons to go: a dozen charbroiled, buttery, garlicky, Parmesan-y oysters that Drago's originated and perfected (\$20). The 13th reason is the convention center-adjacent location. (It's in the lobby of the nearby Hilton Hotel.) Bargain-priced Maine lobster (\$22) is also worthwhile. The sprawling, low-key dining room can fill up, and they don't take reservations, so a wait is possible. **L, D daily \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

## Emeril's New Orleans

800 Tchoupitoulas St.  
504-528-9393  
emerilsrestaurants.com/emerils-new-orleans  
He heads an empire and pioneered New Orleans' modern restaurant scene, but Emeril Lagasse's flagship restaurant has never flagged. It's still high-quality (and high-priced), interesting, exciting cuisine with dishes that build meaningfully on tradition. Massive grilled pork chops (\$34), glazed with tamarind and tomatillo molé sauces, are perfectly done. Meyer lemon crème elevates brandied lobster bucatini (\$38). Order chocolate soufflé (\$10) with your entrée, but get banana cream pie (\$8) too. The wine list is intelligent and broad; service is professional, helpful, and unstuffy. Noise is well managed in the buoyant room; open-kitchen bar seating is



Stellar lighting helps update the lively room's weathered warehouse-y bones. **B (Sat, Sun), L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

## Domenica

123 Baronne St.  
(in Roosevelt Hotel)  
504-648-6020  
domenicarestaurant.com  
Bittersweet-chocolate walls, soaring ceilings, great art,

small bar, large crowd: They set the scene for perfectly bubble-edged Neapolitan pizzas, arguably the best salami in the city, and wow-factor veggies like the whole roasted cauliflower (\$18). We rarely make it to the secondi after loading up on antipasti, primi, and pizza—especially during half-price happy hour. Don't miss their notable



perfect for single diners. The three-course lunch (\$35) is a great deal. **L (M-F), D daily \$\$\$\$**

### Maypop

611 O’Keefe Ave.

504-518-6345

maypoprestaurant.com

Our hands-down favorite spot for Asian-Italian-Indian-Southern cuisine (sometimes even all at once). The inventive, flavor-packed cooking surprises rather than stuns, satisfying both the serious foodie and the food-shy (especially at the more affordable lunch). Don’t skip the standard-sounding Bibb lettuce salad (\$10). You’ll do well with the fried hot chicken vindaloo (\$16) or hand-pulled pasta (\$19). **L, D daily \$\$-\$\$\$**

### Meril

424 Girod St.

504-526-3745

emerilrestaurants.com/meril

Emeril Lagasse’s newest restaurant is casual, spacious, bustling, and reasonably priced. The focus is on internationally inspired small plates and creative cocktails. Hybrid tamales are made with boudin sausage and topped with roasted tomatillo sauce (\$8); crispy turkey necks (\$8) get spiked with local fave Crystal hot sauce. A good variety of salads, sides, and flatbreads makes this a crowd pleaser. **L, D daily \$-\$\$.**

### Mother’s

401 Poydras St.

504-523-9656

mothersrestaurant.net

Legendary Mother’s gets a “touristy” rap, but hey, Paris is touristy, too. Its worth is in proportion to line length: If there

are more than four parties ahead of you, go elsewhere. The combo platter (\$20) makes a decent introduction to Creole cuisine. Best bet is any po’ boy with Mother’s signature baked ham, like the top-selling Ferdi (\$13.50). Guffaw at the bread pudding (\$6) with its retro inclusion of canned fruit cocktail, but it’s freakishly good. Follow the line rules: no table-saving. **B, L, D daily \$\$**

### Pêche

800 Magazine St.

504-522-1744

pecherestaurant.com

There’s nary a dud on the menu of wood-fired seafood at this uber-popular mega-award winner. The raucous room works best for plate-sharing parties, not dates or deep convos. Start with beer-battered fish sticks (\$12); hearty crawfish and jalapeño capellini (\$14); and catfish with pickled greens and chili broth (\$10). The whole grilled fish (market price)—perhaps buttery, fire-crust redfish with salsa verde—is fab. The raw bar is equally fine and fun. Terrific craft beers and Euro-centric wines. Reserve well in advance. **L, D daily \$-\$\$\$**

### Willa Jean

611 O’Keefe Ave.

504-509-7334

willajeans.com

In this casual atmosphere, Southern-accented food is done exceedingly well and with flair. Awesome breads or pastries (good gluten-free options, too), Intelligentsia coffee, and biscuits with sausage gravy rock (\$9) breakfast. For lunch, try the fried chicken on a house-made Hawaiian roll with serrano slaw (\$13), barbeque shrimp toast (\$17), or the roasted beet, pistachio, and citrus salad (\$12). Lunch gets slammed—reservations are wise. Dinner is less interesting. **B, L, D daily \$-\$\$**

## FRENCH QUARTER

### Acme Oyster House

724 Iberville St.

504-522-5973

acmeoyster.com

It’s the oldest oyster bar in the French Quarter, and it serves big, meaty Gulf oysters. It’s busy but worth the wait. (It’s speedy once inside, but if you’re famished, hit Felix’s across the street.) The bivalves are tastiest when you’re

standing at the bar, talking tourist trash with the shucker. Or get stellar garlicky char-broiled oysters (\$20/dozen), serviceable po’ boys (\$10–\$17), and Creole standbys (jambalaya, gumbo, red beans) at the campy checked-clothed tables. **L, D daily \$-\$\$**

### Antoine’s

713 St. Louis St.

504-581-4422

antoines.com

Owned by the same family and serving generations of locals since 1840, Antoine’s is anything but modern. But the definitive New Orleans dining experience is worth it (especially at \$20.18 for the three-course weekday lunch). Go for conviviality, classics, drama, a \$.25 cocktail, and oysters Rockefeller (\$15), which were invented here. Add buttery, crab-topped trout Pontchartrain and puffy soufflé potatoes (\$40). Finishing with frivolous, flaming baked Alaska (\$19) and touring the memorabilia-packed rooms and astounding wine alley are musts. Note: There is a dress code. **Brunch (Sun), L, D (M-Sat) \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$**



Asian fusion cuisine at Maypop



Crème brûlée at  
Commander's Palace

### Central Grocery

923 Decatur St.

504-523-1620

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

The iconic muffuletta sandwich (\$20) consists of Italian cold cuts and cheeses piled high on round seeded bread, topped with olive salad. Those last two ingredients differentiate it from the standard Italian hero. Central Grocery, the originator, has a few tables, but it's mostly take out. Lines move fast. **B, L daily \$-\$\$\$**

### Galatoire's

209 Bourbon St.

504-525-2021

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

New Orleans' consummate old-line Creole French restaurant is a fine-dining classic beloved by generations of regulars (upon whom tuxedoed waiters lavish jovial obsequiousness). Tennessee Williams, Stella, and Blanche all supped here. Line up early for a table in the main dining room, which oozes tradition and civilized frivolity; it's a tad more somber upstairs, where reservations are accepted. No one comes for spectacular gastronomy, though Galatoire's knows seafood and grills a mean steak. Go with crabmeat *maison* (\$14) or fried eggplant (\$7), and whatever fish the waiter suggests, *à la meunière*, add crabmeat. Skip the heavy sauces and meh desserts; do enjoy a port. Note: There is a dress code. **L, D (Tue-Sun) \$\$\$**

### GW Fins

808 Bienville St.

504-581-3467

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

This impeccable, modern seafood shrine is one of the city's best restaurants, period.

### Brennan's

417 Royal St.

504-525-9711

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

The glorious pink exterior, elegant garden-party dining room, charming courtyard (with turtle pond), and attentive service scream old New Orleans, but there's nothing tired on the plate. Noted chef

Slade Rushing twists Creole classics into updated, polished awesomeness.

Breakfast here is an automatic celebration, but any meal works—the two-course breakfast/lunch menu (\$29-\$31) is a steal. Start with a frothy

Ramos fizz, get Gulf fish amandine (\$31) or rabbit rushing (\$28) and side of barbeque lobster (\$19). Bananas Foster (\$10), born here in 1951, is a fun, flaming tableside finale.

**B, L, D daily \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

### Café Amelie

912 Royal St.

504-412-8965

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

Expect café standards with something for everyone in a

picture-pretty brick courtyard. Salmon cakes (\$10), goat cheese and beet salad (\$11), cochon de lait pork sandwich (\$15), and blackened catfish (\$16) stand out. The relaxing spot calls for a lemonade or mint julep and slice of doberge cake (\$10). Offshoot Petite Amelie next door (900 Royal St.) has tasty takeaway meals, soups, salads, cheeses, and pastries via counter service. **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L, D (W-Sun) \$\$**

### Café du Monde

800 Decatur St. or

500 Port of New Orleans Pl.

504-525-4544

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

Since 1862, landmark Café du Monde on the edge of Jackson Square has been offering atmosphere, people-watching, café au lait, and beignets—tantalizing French doughnuts, fryer-fresh and heaped with powdered sugar. Sacrifice atmosphere for convenience and speed (the original often has lines) at a location in the Outlet Collection at Riverwalk. **B, L, D daily \$**

Finding these  
restaurants is easy  
with our interactive  
online map!

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



Ultra-fresh fish is served in stylish preparations like the signature “scalibut,” thin-sliced scallop “scales” atop grilled halibut on lobster risotto (\$38). Order the pretzel-crusting salty-malty ice cream pie (\$9), even if you only have room for a bite. The wine list thoughtfully complements the cuisine; the tiered dining room is conversation-conducive. *D daily \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$*

### Irene’s Cuisine

529 Bienville St.  
504-529-8811

Consider Irene’s if you’re invariably enticed by the scent of simmering garlic. This friendly French Quarter institution serves delectable house-made pastas and sauces and delicious, unfussy French Provincial and Creole-Italian dishes. There’s duck St. Philip with raspberry-pancetta demi-glace (\$25) and shrimp and crab pappardelle (\$26), plus seemingly simple chicken rosemary (\$20)—marinated, par-cooked, remarinated, and roasted—that is nearly perfect. Plan for a wait, even with reservations. *D (daily) \$\$\$*

### K-Paul’s Louisiana Kitchen

416 Chartres St.  
504-596-2530  
kpauls.com

Paul “K-Paul” Prudhomme started the Cajun cooking craze in the 1980s and introduced “blackened” to our culinary vocabulary. His sauce-and-spice empire still thrives, and the restaurant remains a standard-bearer for American regional food. The menu changes daily, but budget diners know the

classic blackened drum is about \$25 less at lunch than at dinner, albeit served in a po’ boy and on a paper plate.

*L (Th-Sat), D (M-Sat) \$\$-\$\$\$\$*

### Restaurant R’evolution

777 Bienville St. (in the Royal Sonesta Hotel)  
504-553-2277

revolutionnola.com

This extravagant spot, helmed by food-world icons John Folse and Rick Tramonto, keys the cuisine to New Orleans’ globe-hopping cultural influences. Lead with Death by Gumbo (\$18)—a rich concoction with roasted quail, andouille sausage, oysters, and filé rice—and gently crisped crab beignets (\$16). Lustrous duck-liver mousse (\$11) and rugged country pâté terrines are the best bang for your buck. Shrimp and grits (\$28) receive a chili-and-ginger Asian kick; the voluminous veal chop (\$65) bursts with flavor. A jewelry box of tiny cookies makes a darling lagniappe, but get beignets with coffee anyway. *Brunch (Sun), L (F), D daily \$\$-\$\$\$*

### Sylvain

625 Chartres St.  
504-265-8123  
sylvainnola.com

The tradition-bound French Quarter is surprisingly devoid of coolness, save for a few spots like gastropub Sylvain, with its side-alley entrance, resident ghost, Civil-War-meets-Soho vibe, and literary heritage. Fortunately, it’s delicious, friendly, and unexpectedly unpretentious. Try the absurdly tender beef cheeks (\$26), the signature “Chick-Syl-Vain” buttermilk

fried-chicken sandwich (\$14), or brightly delightful shaved-apple and Brussels sprout salad (\$11). Since the menu doesn’t skew light, share the chocolate pot de crème (\$9). Tables in the discreet back alley are less boisterous. *Brunch (F-Sun), D daily \$\$-\$\$\$\$*

### UPTOWN AND GARDEN DISTRICT

#### Brigtsen’s

723 Dante St.  
504-861-7610  
brigtsens.com

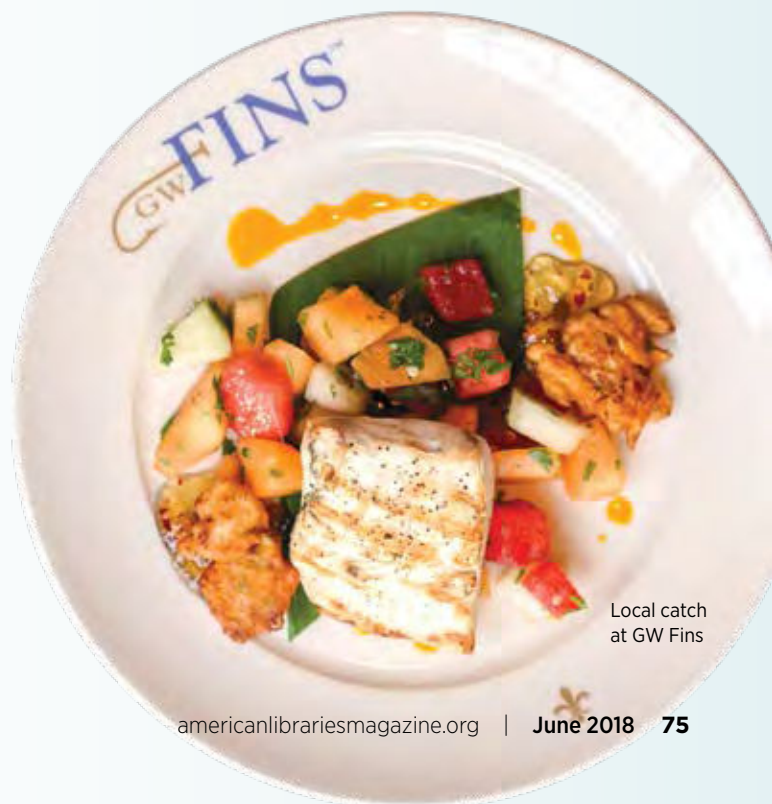
Frank Brigtsen was one of the first to convert a beautiful 19th-century house into an upscale neighborhood restaurant. You’ll find forward-looking but homey Cajun-rooted dishes and amiable intimacy. Chef Brigtsen’s panéed sesame-crusting rabbit in tangy Creole mustard sauce (\$28) and crispy, moist roast duck (\$34) are beloved; the grand “Shell Beach Diet” seafood platter (\$36) is

an impressive extravagance. Copiously crusted pecan pie (\$8) is also justifiably revered. The wine list is limited but satisfying. *D (Tue-Sat) \$\$\$*

#### Commander’s Palace

1403 Washington Ave.  
504-899-8221  
commanderspalace.com

The grande dame of New Orleans restaurants, Commander’s Palace provides arguably the ultimate dining experience—here or anywhere. There’s no resting on long-held laurels here. They’ve instead established a foothold at the top of the culinary game and mastered the art of pairing fine dining with frivolity, so it’s formal, not stodgy. The à la carte menu mixes their classics—spicy-sweet shrimp and tasso Henican (\$11.50) and consistently perfect pecan-crusting Gulf fish (\$39)—with innovative seasonal newbies. The elaborate chef’s tasting menu (\$85) is most imaginative; multicourse lunch



Local catch at GW Fins



Casa Borrega

## Inclusive Eats

The American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee ALA student chapter have compiled a selection of minority-, women-, and LGBTQ-owned restaurants in New Orleans, all within a roughly three-mile radius of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (ENMCC). Selections include:

**Casa Borrega**  
1719 Oretha Castle  
Haley Blvd.  
504-427-0654  
casaborrega.com  
*Brunch (Sun),  
L, D (Tue-Sat)*

**El Gato Negro**  
800 S. Peters St.  
504-309-8864  
elgatonegronola.com  
*L, D daily*

**Maïs Arepas**  
1200 Carondelet St.  
504-523-6247  
facebook.com/  
maisarepas  
*L (Tue-Sat), D (Tue-Sun)*

For a complete list of restaurants, other related businesses, and a map noting the distance of each from ENMCC, visit [sites.google.com/view/ala-nola-diverse-businesses](https://sites.google.com/view/ala-nola-diverse-businesses). •

**The Munch Factory**  
1901 Sophie Wright Pl.  
504-324-5372  
themunchfactory.net  
*Brunch (Sun),  
L, D (Tue-Sat)*

**Pressed**  
919 St. Charles Ave.  
504-900-5466  
pressednola.com  
*B, L (M-F)*

deals are most affordable. Dress code. *Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (M-F), D daily \$\$\$\$*

**Coquette**  
2800 Magazine St.  
504-265-0421  
coquettenola.com  
Tin-ceilinged and chandeliered, this chic bistro offers ingredient perfectionism and chefs who are wells of culinary creativity, surprising even jaded foodies with unique creations like scallion ash tagliatelle with lamb merguez, shrimp, and harissa (\$13) and tempura butternut squash over farro in a mild onion broth (\$20). If possible, spring for the five-course blind tasting (\$70) at this perennial favorite in the upper echelon of New Orleans' restaurants. *Brunch (Sat, Sun), D daily \$\$-\$\$\$*

**Domilise's Po' Boys and Bar**  
5240 Annunciation St.  
504-899-9126  
domilisespoboys.com  
At this century-old, cluttered, lowdown po' boy shop tucked away in Uptown, your hands-down order is the wet-dry, battered-and-fried-to-order shrimp, piled onto puffy po' boy loaves (\$12-\$15) by friendly fry-counter ladies.

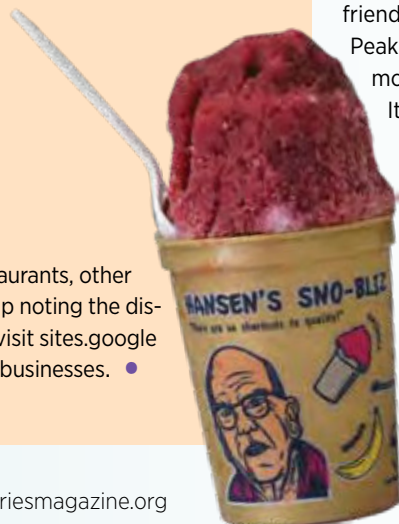
Peak lunchtime lines can move slowly. Take a number. It closes at 6:30 p.m., so get there early. *L, D (M-Sat) \$-\$\$*

**Hansen's Sno-Bliz**  
4801 Tchoupitoulas St.  
504-891-9788  
snobliz.com  
Lucky you: You're visiting during sno-ball season—refreshing

local delights made with custom machines (invented here three generations ago) that shave the ice to a fine fluff. A revered cultural icon, Hansen's offers homemade syrups ranging from standard fare to herbal exotica. The long lines snaking through the neighborhood are a social scene. *L (Tue-Sun) \$*

**High Hat Café**  
4500 Freret St.  
highhatcafe.com  
504-754-1336  
This casual neighborhood diner on bustling Freret Street is a no-fail, go-to spot for quality, unfussy, upgraded Southern comfort food, starting with graceful oyster fennel soup (\$8). Fork-tender, slow-roast pork (\$12.50) with sublime braised greens and addictive mac and cheese compete with flat-top catfish (\$13) accompanied by tangy slaw and house-made tartar sauce. Oven-fresh pie or the insane Grillswith, a grilled donut à la mode (\$6), round out the meal. *L, D daily \$-\$\$*

**Pascal's Manale**  
1838 Napoleon Ave.  
504-895-4877  
pascalsmanale.com  
The fabulous neon signs and welcoming conviviality at this century-old neighborhood joint are cherished; the celebrity-level oyster shuckers more so. Hang with them before being seated. Then strap on a bib and get the colossal, buttery, peel-and-eat barbecued shrimp (\$27) for which Manale's is famed (they have nothing to do with barbeque as you've known it), and some spaghetti and





meatballs (\$18). Neighboring tables often converse here—a welcome intrusion. **L (M-F), D (M-Sat) \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

## Surrey's

1418 Magazine St.  
504-524-3828  
surreysnola.com

This straightforward, unfancy, really good breakfast and lunch cafe offers house-made everything and a fresh-juice bar. Try the outstanding corned-beef andouille hash (\$12) or the no-fuss avocado and house-smoked turkey sandwich (\$10). The felonious sugar- and rum-drenched French toast stuffed with Bananas Foster (\$10.50) and creamy crab melt (\$14) are divine. **B, L daily \$-\$\$**

## FURTHER AFIELD

### Angelo Brocato Ice Cream & Confectionery

214 N. Carrollton Ave.  
(Mid-City)  
504-486-0078

angelobrocatoicecream.com  
This wonderfully throwback, family-owned ice cream parlor has spent more than 100 years serving delicious traditional gelato, fresh-fruit Italian ices, perfect cannoli, and other pastries. Here's to 100 more. **L, D (Tue-Sun) \$**

### Café Degas

3127 Esplanade Ave.  
(Mid-City)  
504-945-5635  
cafedegas.com

Every neighborhood should have a charming, casual French bistro that serves a perfect salade niçoise (\$16.50) and has a tree growing in the middle of the indoor/outdoor



Golden fried oyster and shrimp po' boy at Parkway Bakery and Tavern

dining room. It's also popular for traditional franco-faves like escargot (\$8), hanger steak (\$22), delicate roast quail (\$15), and hearty onion soup (\$8.50). **Brunch (Sat, Sun), L (W-F), D (W-Sun) \$\$**

### Café Reconcile

1631 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.  
(Central City)  
504-568-1157  
cafereconcile.org

Do good while eating well. This culinary training ground serves sturdy meals like grilled or fried catfish (\$10), jerk chicken (\$9), and po' boy sandwiches (\$8-\$11), while preparing young men and women for careers in food service. There is no lack of quality in these tasty local specialties, and the attractive café is located in a newly burgeoning area. **L (M-F) \$-\$\$**

### Camellia Grill

626 S. Carrollton Ave.  
(Riverbend)  
504-309-2679

If you have the time, take the streetcar to white-columned, circa-1946 Camellia Grill for

luncheonette-style counter service with white linens, Southern hospitality, and witty banter dished out by white-jacketed servers. Get a classic grill-top burger (\$4) or fluffy omelette (\$8) and a slice of chocolate pecan pie heated on the grill (\$4), and served à la mode. Good prices, true character. **B, L, D daily \$**

### Parkway Bakery and Tavern

538 Hagan Ave.  
(Mid-City)  
504-482-3047  
parkwaypoorboys.com

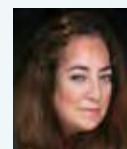
One of the city's stalwart and best po' boy shops began in 1911 as a corner bakery, was shuttered for years, and nearly floated away during Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to extensive travel media love—and a visit from the Obamas—people literally come by the busload now (go off-peak if possible). The tender fried shrimp (\$12) and ultra-juicy roast beef (\$11) sandwiches are worth it. Round out with killer homemade potato salad (\$4) and

old-school banana pudding (\$4). Walk it off along historic Bayou St. John nearby. **L, D (W-M) \$**

### Willie Mae's Scotch House

2401 St. Ann St.  
(Faubourg Tremé)  
504-822-9503  
williemaesnola.com

This once humble shack in the historic Tremé neighborhood exploded in 2005, when octogenarian Willie Mae and her secret recipes were honored with the James Beard Award for being "America's Classic Restaurant for the Southern Region." Soon after, Mae's home and restaurant were under water. Today, her business thrives. Go before opening or mid-afternoon and order the chicken (\$15) and creamy butterbeans (\$7.50). It closes at 5 p.m., so get there early. **L (M-Sat) \$\$\$-\$\$\$ AL**



**DIANA K. SCHWAM** is author of *Frommer's Easy Guide to New Orleans*.

# Beyond Fake News

Determining what sources to trust

While social media and search companies are changing their policies and algorithms, fake news continues to proliferate on the web. Librarians who work with students know that the inability to identify fake news speaks to a larger problem: the inability to evaluate sources of any kind to determine what information to trust.

A 2016 study of the web evaluation skills of middle school, high school, and college students by Stanford University's History Education Group found that young people are quite likely to be duped by misleading or false information ([bit.ly/alfake1](http://bit.ly/alfake1)). Even Stanford's own students, when evaluating articles from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the conservative fringe group American College of Pediatricians, didn't bother to investigate the organizations themselves and simply focused on a close reading of the source ([bit.ly/alfake2](http://bit.ly/alfake2)).

Historically, librarians have used checklists like the CRAAP Test ([bit.ly/alfake3](http://bit.ly/alfake3)) and RAD CAB ([radcab.com](http://radcab.com)) to help students evaluate sources, but some have questioned their utility ([bit.ly/alfake4](http://bit.ly/alfake4)). These checklists often contain so many elements that few people would apply the criteria to every (or even any) website they visit. The Stanford researchers also argue that checklists are not based on the real-world source evaluation activities of librarians and other web fact-checkers.

Michael Caulfield, director of blended and networked learning at Washington State University Vancouver, believes people should learn to read laterally, the way fact-checkers do. Reading laterally means looking into the publisher of the source information to gauge its reliability.



This requires going beyond the About page of the source to see what others—such as Wikipedia, media bias checkers, and other websites—say about that site, publication, or organization. I have my students evaluate three articles about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy. One of the most polished was written by a lawyer who had worked for US Citizenship and Immigration Services and had the most citations but was published by an organization the Southern Poverty Law Center characterized as a hate group. If students relied just on the page in front of them, they might think it was the most credible of the three.

Caulfield also recommends looking for stories from respected sources that corroborate the information, trying to follow the information back to the original source, and circling back to restart the evaluation process if you end up down a rabbit hole. He has written a terrific open textbook, *Web Literacy for Student Fact Checkers* ([webliteracy.pressbooks.com](http://webliteracy.pressbooks.com)), as well as

The majority of sources lie in the gray area between unimpeachability and fake news.

many blog posts ([hapgood.us](http://hapgood.us)) aimed at helping educators and librarians develop student fact-checking skills.

Another concern is that, in a world in which every source has some bias and nothing is perfect, making decisions about what to trust has become more difficult. In one blog post ([bit.ly/alfake5](http://bit.ly/alfake5)), Caulfield explains that true media literacy is about being able to “spend” your trust, and he shows how refusing to believe any media outlets is as dangerous as being too impressionable. He quotes philosopher Hannah Arendt's *Origins of Totalitarianism* about how propaganda easily takes hold when people can't discern between slightly problematic and deeply compromised sources: “In an ever-changing, incomprehensible world, the masses had reached the point where they would, at the same time, believe everything and nothing, think that everything was possible and that nothing was true.”

The solution is not just helping people develop simple, common-sense web evaluation habits. It's also helping them determine what they are going to trust, since the vast majority of sources lie in the gray area between unimpeachability and fake news. Being able to make sound decisions about information sources is both a skill and a habit of mind, one that requires practice to develop. Libraries can play a vital role in building better communities by supporting our patrons in becoming savvy information consumers. **AL**

**MEREDITH FARKAS** is a faculty librarian at Portland (Oreg.) Community College and a lecturer at San José (Calif.) State University School of Information. She blogs at Information Wants to Be Free. Email: [librarysuccess@gmail.com](mailto:librarysuccess@gmail.com)





# Organizational Barriers

Changing the teen services framework to get outside of the library

You need to get out of the library to build relationships and find out what teen interests are.” Workshop participants frequently hear me say that, and the response to my statement is almost always agreement. Yet I find, over and over, that public library staffers prioritize getting teens into the building over getting themselves out.

I’ve thought a lot about this disconnect and realized that, at least in part, library staffers continue to stay inside because of systemic barriers. What are some of these barriers?

**Job descriptions.** Think about how your work is defined. Do your responsibilities include regularly going outside of the building to build relationships with teens and community partners? If not, your organization’s expectations of what you need to do to be successful in your role are lacking. How can administrators and colleagues support outreach if leaving the library isn’t a recognized core component of your duties? Looking to the Young Adult Library Services Association’s (YALSA) sample job description ([bit.ly/2GS0EtL](http://bit.ly/2GS0EtL)) can help expand the scope of the teen services librarian.

**Schedules.** Examine the amount of time—and times of day—you are required to spend at a service desk, such as reference or circulation. Does staffing the library end up marginalizing relationships with teens and community partners? Maybe you do have time “off desk,” but is that time usually when teens are in school?

While reaching teens in school can be valuable, it doesn’t really let you spend



time with them when they are engaged in interest-based activities. For example, if you can leave the library during after-school hours, you might go to a Boys and Girls Club meeting and help with a STEM activity. This effort can be a good opportunity to have conversations with teens, learn who they are, and foster connections.

**Mission, vision, and strategic plan.** If you dig into these documents, it’s likely you’ll notice that the emphasis is on linking teens with learning opportunities and library resources. Often, the assumption is that this happens within the library’s four walls, and there is little—if any—mention of achieving this work out in the community. As a result, expectations are too narrowly focused.

Examine the amount of time you spend at a service desk. Does staffing the library end up marginalizing relationships with teens and community partners?

A first step in overcoming these barriers is to determine what impact you and your stakeholders want teen services to have. You might write or rewrite a statement specifying goals and objectives to clarify your mandate. Consulting resources such as YALSA’s staff competencies ([bit.ly/2zUdqrV](http://bit.ly/2zUdqrV)) and core values ([bit.ly/1SZZmv2](http://bit.ly/1SZZmv2)) can simplify this task. An overall mission might be: “To support all teens in our community in developing the skills they need to succeed in life.”

If that’s the vision, think about how you will achieve it. If you are going to support all teens in the community, then you need to know the needs and interests of a wide variety of adolescents—not just those who already come into the library or are aware of its resources. Talk directly with teens and community members to find out where teens spend time outside of school hours. Then work with adults who staff and administer these spaces to implement activities and events at which you can build rapport.

After you assess your job descriptions, schedules, and organizational documents, write up a set of talking points that highlight why it’s important to leave the library in order to fulfill your mission. Use those ideas with administrators and colleagues to bring about change. If you see that the only way you are going to make a difference in more teen lives is by changing how your work is framed, isn’t it time to get started? **AL**

**LINDA W. BRAUN** is a Seattle-based consultant and a past president of ALA’s Young Adult Library Services Association.

# How Do We Respond to #MeToo?

Libraries should consult collection policies in the face of the movement

Reports of sexual misconduct by authors of critically acclaimed, well-liked literature continue to abound and be publicized. This reckoning is good for our industry and our profession, and hopefully it is empowering for survivors.

Yet these revelations and incidents lead to troublesome, difficult questions: What should we do about the books these authors have written? Do we remove them from circulation or pledge to no longer purchase them? Do we keep them on the shelves as if nothing has changed? Do we owe something to our patrons, our colleagues, and ourselves?

I want to state, emphatically, that I support survivors and their allies. I abhor the perpetrators and the damage their actions have caused. But I believe the first place to start is with our foundational principles.

One of the core values of the American Library Association (ALA) is intellectual freedom: “We ... resist all efforts to censor library resources.” In ALA’s Library Bill of Rights, a precept states: “Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.” And turning to the Freedom to Read Statement: “It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.” Taken together, these points indicate that we should not remove the books of authors who have committed sexual misconduct or harassment.

Many libraries contain items that individual librarians (and patrons, of course) take issue with. Nearly all librarians have selected and put on shelves content with



which they disagree—and sometimes that disagreement is very strong. It’s a slippery slope to say that authors accused of sexual misconduct do not belong on our shelves. What about authors who have committed other crimes? What about those whose political or religious views are harmful to marginalized groups? The lines become impossible to draw.

Librarians should not be in the business of drawing lines regarding what to exclude from their libraries. Instead, we should commit to evaluating a work on its merits. This leads to the collection development policy, which every library should have. Do the materials in question meet the criteria of your policy?

Let’s consider *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. It’s beloved by many and has received

several awards. On the other hand, it’s more than a decade old. Is it still circulating? Is it still relevant and meaningful to your patrons? Are there other books that portray growing up as an American Indian, in poverty, in less-than-ideal home conditions, or as a marginalized youth? Are there less well-known authors you could amplify? Different libraries may have different answers to these questions.

This quandary might also lead to thoughtful programming. Maybe patrons would like to discuss the implications of the #MeToo movement and how it has caused complications and ripples of pain that affect each of us in different ways. Maybe this dialogue could be the spark for a writing group in your library, to create stories to replace the tarnished ones.

It’s important to make one decision professionally and another personally. You may see that removing these books from the library is problematic but decide you will no longer read or support these authors in your personal life. The trouble arises when someone tries to institute individually held preferences over all library patrons.

After all, isn’t this thinking at the root of most library challenges? A patron finds a book objectionable and wants to stop everyone else from having access to it. Libraries often respond that individuals can make their own choices but cannot compel others to abide by those choices. To respond otherwise would counter the very heart of our profession. <sup>AL</sup>

**SHANNON M. OLTMANN** is assistant professor in the library science program at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Her writing has appeared in numerous library and information science journals.

Librarians should not be in the business of drawing lines regarding what to exclude from their libraries.

# Information Access for All

How libraries break down barriers

As I was gathering books for this column, I saw a title that needed reshelving: *The Information-Poor in America*, by Thomas Childers (Scarecrow, 1975). Yes, it was written a whole library career ago, but it shows how libraries continue to be the public institution able to address the information needs of everyone. These selections offer current practices and tools for librarians seeking to eliminate barriers to information access.



Let's start with *Revised Standards and Guidelines of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 2017*, from the

Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Developed by the Library of Congress and ASCLA, these supersede the



2011 standards. Key changes involve moving from guidelines to standard statements on staffing levels and physical space requirements; adjustments that help administrators meet service-driven levels of staffing; and the addition of tools to help defend budget needs. A glossary and appendices with a listing of relevant federal laws and ALA policies is included. ASCLA, 2017. 44 P. \$45. PBK. 978-0-8389-8974-6.

*The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness: An Empathy-Driven Approach to Solving Problems, Preventing Conflict, and Serving Everyone*, by Ryan J. Dowd, begins by dispelling myths about homelessness (see excerpt on p. 54). Dowd, who has worked in homeless shelters since his teen years,



analyzes what empathy is and why it is an effective place to anchor service to homeless persons. He then reviews concepts of empathy-driven services that get people to follow rules without resorting to punishment. Following a discussion of tools to implement empathy-driven services and behaviors to avoid, Dowd discusses how staff can develop these skills. He also presents situations that library staffers may face and empathy-driven enforcement methods that they can employ. ALA Editions, 2018. 264 P. \$57. PBK. 978-0-8389-1626-1.

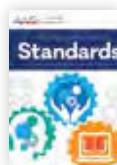
Understanding options for health care is a challenge; being able to do so is the core of health literacy. *Promoting Individual and Community Health at the Library*, by Mary Grace Flaherty, details the shift from the authoritative-provider model of the early part of the 20th century to our current patient-provider partnership and consumer health information model. It examines the



## THE BESTSELLERS LIST

### TOP 3 IN PRINT

**1 | National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries** by American Association of School Librarians



The revised *Standards* enables school librarians to influence, lead, and develop plans that meet today's educational landscape.

**2 | Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management, 4th edition**

by Peggy Johnson



Johnson's book offers complete coverage of aspects of collection development and management, including suggestions for further reading and narrative case studies that explore the issues.

**3 | The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness: An Empathy-Driven Approach to Solving Problems, Preventing Conflict, and Serving Everyone** by Ryan J. Dowd



This one-of-a-kind guide empowers library staff to treat homeless individuals with dignity (see excerpt, p. 54).



increase in provider and insurance options and the delivery of health information in libraries, particularly public libraries. Flaherty reviews standards of service for providing reliable, authoritative, and trustworthy resources and offers options for health information programming. She addresses the importance of working with government agencies, social services providers, shelters, and senior centers to expand health information delivery. ALA Editions, 2018. 144 P. \$50. PBK. 978-0-8389-1627-8.

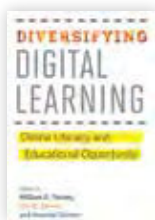


Before addressing the information-access deficit, let's look at a philosophical analysis of why we need to—and how the impetus to do so has become embedded in our professional psyche. *The Politics of Theory and the Practice of Critical Librarianship*, edited by Karen P. Nicholson and Maura Seale, is a set of 14 essays on critical librarianship that bridges the gap between practice and theory, challenging librarians to support progressive, socially just service. These are not easy essays, but they can help practitioners understand how the status quo may exclude library users in areas from instructional services

to shelving systems. Library Juice Press, 2018. 276 P. \$35. PBK. 978-1-63400-030-7.



The *LITA Guide to No- or Low-Cost Technology Tools for Libraries*, by Breanne A. Kirsch, is a practical review of tech tools for instruction, collaboration, outreach, and marketing. Its relevance to this discussion is the “how.” These tools will enable even small libraries to offer some key services to patrons. Better yet, the criteria for selection includes adherence to privacy and accessibility issues. Rowman and Littlefield, 2018. 120 P. \$35. PBK. 978-1-5381-0311-1. (Also available as an ebook.)



*Diversifying Digital Learning: Online Literacy and Educational Opportunity*, edited by William G. Tierney, Zoë B. Corwin, and Amanda Ochsner, expands how we think about digital equity across diverse educational and socioeconomic contexts. The public library may offer the only online access for some members of a community, including schoolchildren, at a time when there is increased reliance on online instruction, digital homework submission, and machine-based testing. This book examines inequities in computer-science

education, including career choices available as a result. Several more positive chapters investigate how online technologies better support the marginalized. On the whole, there is an effort to not look at the gap but at opportunities that help overcome barriers. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018. 232 P. \$44.95. 978-1-4214-2435-4.



Textbooks can be a huge part of students' budgets, and libraries have helped ease that burden for years by offering reserve rooms and other methods to access these books.

*Affordable Course Materials: Electronic Textbooks and Open Educational Resources*, edited by Chris Diaz, is a collection of nine case studies from university libraries that offer models for providing access to digital collections for students, particularly in the face of mounting budgetary pressures on campus and public awareness of the cost of a college degree. The authors explore options offered through licensing, digital rights management-free materials, and ebooks, along with increased faculty engagement. ALA Editions, 2017. 160 P. \$65. PBK. 978-0-8389-1580-6. **AL**

**KAREN MULLER** was librarian and knowledge management specialist for the ALA Library until her retirement in December 2017.

## The Top-Selling Books from ALA Publishing (Since April 1, 2018)

### TOP 3 IN EBOOKS

**1 | Intellectual Freedom Manual, 9th edition** by Trina Magi and Martin Garnar, editors



An invaluable compendium of guiding principles and policies as well as an indispensable resource for maintaining free and equal access to information for all.

**2 | The Black Belt Librarian: Real-World Safety and Security** by Warren Graham



Sharing expertise gleaned from more than 20 years as a library security manager, Graham demonstrates how libraries can maintain openness and public access by creating an unobtrusive yet effective security plan.

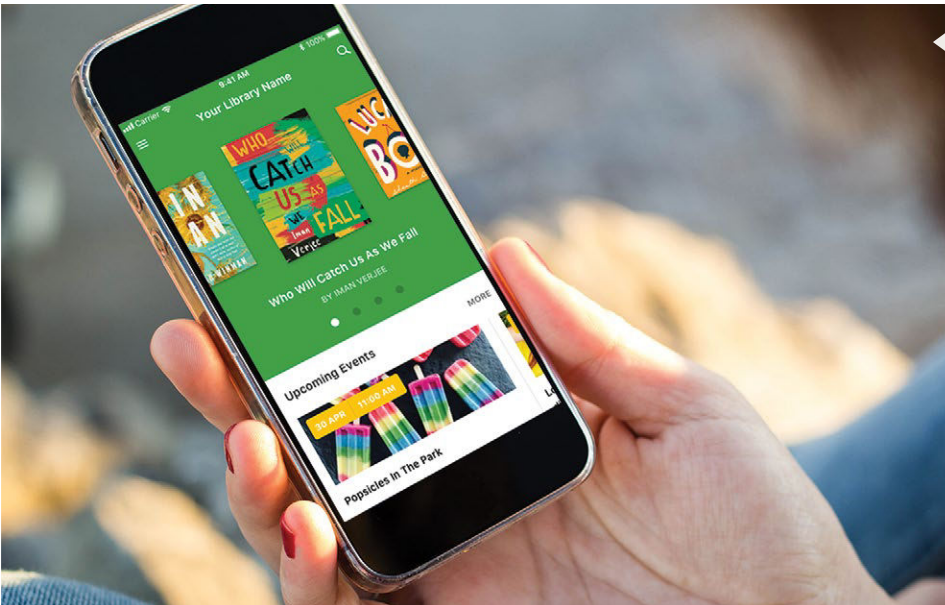
**3 | The Librarian's Book of Lists** by George M. Eberhart



The mixture of serious topics, tongue-in-cheek items, and outright silliness provides something to please everyone familiar with libraries, making a fun read and a wonderful gift.

# SOLUTIONS

*Products and services*



Demco's DiscoverMobile app offers seamless access to digital materials.

settings, the app can be helpful in outreach to minority communities and in promoting inclusive access to your library.

Through partnerships with many of the most common digital content services, including OverDrive and Recorded Books, users can search for ebooks, audiobooks, and videos within the app and be seamlessly transferred to the relevant partner app to download materials.

The app also syncs information from Demco's calendar management and room reservation software. Patrons can register to be automatically notified about events on their library's calendar they might be interested in, and can search for, preview, and reserve available meeting and study rooms.

Analytics tools enable assessment of app usage and downloads, daily and monthly queries, and unique users. The app also reports which features patrons use most, whether it's the library catalog, events page, or social media streams.

Pricing is based on population served. For more information, visit [bit.ly/SolutionsDiscMobile](http://bit.ly/SolutionsDiscMobile).

## **BLUEcloud Mobile** by SirsiDynix

SirsiDynix began work on its BLUEcloud platform several years ago to move its ILS and other software onto a central, cloud-based

## Reaching Patrons on the Go

Connecting library patrons with digital resources

Many factors can keep a potential library patron from making it to a library location—work schedules, transportation, ability to travel. Digital offerings have helped libraries reach more people, but making sure they are aware of and easily able to access those resources remains a hurdle. Here are just a few ways to connect patrons to your resources, wherever they are.

### **DiscoverMobile by Demco**

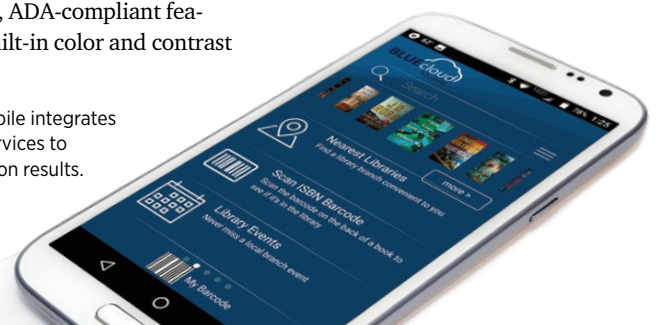
The recently launched DiscoverMobile app connects communities to everything their libraries have to offer. The app is available to all types of libraries and is designed to run on both Android and iOS devices.

The app is hosted and maintained by Demco—libraries manage

only their own content and branding. Libraries can add book recommendation lists, social media feeds, and promotions for their events. Compatible with major integrated library systems (ILS), the app allows users to search the catalog, place holds, and pay fines.

Families can store multiple library cards under one account in the app, manage holds and fines for each account, and use the app as a library card to check out materials. GPS features help users find information on and directions to the closest library branches. With multilingual functionality, ADA-compliant features, and built-in color and contrast

BLUEcloud Mobile integrates geolocation services to customize patron results.



## CASE STUDY

Instant Digital Access  
in Sacramento**How do you use OverDrive's Instant Digital Card?**

Sacramento Public Library uses the Instant Digital Card as an outreach tool at major events throughout the region. It's one of the most efficient ways to engage with people and sign them up for a library card. We use bookmarks and quarter-sheet handouts that guide patrons through the steps, from downloading the app

to checking out a book. We often prefer to walk the patron through the process in person to ensure their success, but at times patrons at outreach events are in a hurry.

**USER:** Matt Hill,  
e-resources supervisor,  
Sacramento (Calif.)  
Public Library



**PRODUCT:** OverDrive  
Instant Digital Card

**DETAILS:** OverDrive's Instant Digital Card service allows patrons to sign up for access to library digital resources remotely using just their mobile phone numbers.

**How does the Instant Digital Card serve your library's needs?** Signing future cardholders up for a full-access library card while at a busy outreach event can prove to be difficult. It's often too time-consuming for the visitor and requires more hardware than we can set up in the space provided.

The Instant Digital Card has given us the ability to wow new patrons. They download the app, put in their phone

number, and check out a book they've been waiting to read. In less than five minutes they're on their way and thinking about what other great things might be at the library.

**What are the main benefits?** It gives patrons a no-risk look into the many services that the library has to offer. New patrons often ask, "What else can I do at the library if I get a full-access card?" We've had roughly 1,200 people sign up for instant digital cards in the first four months of the program, and about 100 later signed up for full access cards.

**What would you like to see improved or added to the service?**

I think the service is a great asset to public libraries, and OverDrive has done a great job of listening to libraries about what they need or want in it. The company recently added an option to request an email address when new patrons sign up, which makes it easier for us to reach out to them. ●

platform. BLUEcloud Mobile, launched in January, builds on that platform to allow libraries to offer a mobile app that is fully integrated with its ILS and other BLUEcloud software.

Libraries can customize the app to match their branding and promote services, materials, and events by adding content through a web-based content management system, with the option of embedding social media streams in the app.

The app takes advantage of mobile device features to offer specialized services. Geolocation services point patrons to nearby library branches in the system and allow them to filter search results to display only materials available at the nearest branch. Patrons can also use their phone cameras to scan book barcodes to see whether they're available at the library and to scan and store their library card information. Push notifications, enabled by the library and controlled by the patron, send alerts about overdue books, hold arrivals, and events straight to the user's phone. Mobile beacon integration will be launched later in 2018, allowing libraries to set location-specific push notifications to provide information on events or library materials both within the library and in other partner locations.

Analytics reports for the app, including element-level usage, are available through the BLUEcloud Analytics platform.

Libraries are billed annually for the service, and pricing is based on library type and size. While the app is currently available only to libraries using one of SirsiDynix's two ILS platforms, the company is developing a version that will be compatible with other systems.

For more information and for a price quote visit [bit.ly/SolutionsBCM](http://bit.ly/SolutionsBCM). AL



OverDrive's Instant Digital Card grants immediate access to digital resources.

# PEOPLE

## Announcements

### ON THE MOVE

Baraboo (Wis.) Public Library appointed **Jessica Bergin** as head librarian April 23.

**Katherine Brown** was appointed collections analyst at the University of Colorado Denver's Auraria Library on March 30.

**Kelly Cochran** was appointed youth services manager at Delaware County (Ohio) District Library in April.

**John P. Culshaw** was named Jack B. King University Librarian Chair at University of Iowa Libraries in Iowa City in April.

Montrose (Colo.) Regional Library District appointed **Sara Davis** as youth services librarian in April.

**Kacee Eddinger** joined Montrose (Colo.) Regional Library District as youth services librarian in April.

February 26 **Philip Gaddis** became interlibrary loan and acquisitions coordinator at the University of Colorado Denver's Auraria Library.

**Lorelle Gianelli** was named serials and stacks coordinator at the University of Colorado Denver's Auraria Library February 5.

In February Celina (Tex.) Public Library appointed **Lauren Graves** as youth services librarian.

Brown Memorial Library in Lewisburg, Ohio, appointed **Mary Ellen Lakes** as director in March.

**John J. McNaughton** was appointed director of Grand Rapids (Mich.) Public Library in April.

April 16 **Erik T. Mitchell** became Audrey Geisel University Librarian at the University of California San Diego.



### Kudos

**Mary Edwards**, assistant university librarian at the University of Florida's Health Science Center Libraries in Gainesville, received the Medical Library Association's Lucretia W. McClure Excellence in Education Award.

**Alice Robinson**, school librarian for the West Babylon (N.Y.) Union Free School District, was selected as 2018 Western Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services School Librarian of the Year and received the 2018 Follett Conference Scholarship to attend the 2018 New York Library Association Section of School Librarians Conference. ●

**John Pelletier** became head of circulation and outreach at Clark County (Ohio) Public Library in April.

Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., appointed **Greg Prickman** as Eric Weimann Librarian and director of collections in April.



**Tim Rogers** joined Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library as director in January.

In April **Rachel Saunders** joined University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library as first-year instruction and social sciences librarian in research, outreach, and instruction.

April 9 **Robin Westphal** became state librarian of Missouri.

**Stefani Wiest** became circulation services specialist at the University of Colorado Denver's Auraria Library January 29.

Columbus (Ohio) Metropolitan Library appointed **Joe Yersavich** as manager of the Dublin branch March 12.

### PROMOTIONS

Akron-Summit County (Ohio) Public Library promoted **Pamela Hickson-Stevenson** to director, effective April 2.



In March, **Kaitlyn May** was promoted to access services librarian at Hood College's Beneficial-Hodson Library in Frederick, Maryland.

Ferguson Library in Stamford, Connecticut, promoted **Elizabeth McKay** to supervisor of the Youth Services Department April 1.

Library of Congress promoted **Laurie A. Neider** to executive director of the Federal Library and Information Network in March.



### RETIREMENTS

**Sally Angell**, outreach librarian at Clear Creek County (Idaho) Library District, retired in April.

**Jurate Burns** retired after 19 years as director of Destin (Fla.) Library in May.

In March, **Christine Dobson** retired as director of Irving (Tex.) Public Library.

**Nancy Ehas** retired as director of Wilmington (Ohio) Public Library in March.

**David Jennings** retired as director of Akron-Summit County (Ohio) Public Library in March.

**Bev Kiser**, team leader at Adams County (Ohio) Public Library's Peebles Library, retired March 31.

**Bonnie MacEwan**, dean of libraries at Auburn (Ala.) University Libraries, retired in April after 13 years.





**Charlie Matthews** retired February 28 as director of George H. and Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson, New Hampshire.

**Connie Pottle** retired as youth services manager at Delaware County (Ohio) District Library April 6.

**Caroline Ward** retired as supervisor of the Youth Services Department at Ferguson Library in Stamford, Connecticut, in April.

#### AT ALA

**Yumeka Brown** joined the Office for Intellectual Freedom as program officer March 5.

**Kit Curl** joined ALA Editions/Neal-Schuman as operations manager on April 17.

**Willie Glispie**, development coordinator and Governance Office senior administrative assistant, left ALA April 5.

**Sarah Grant**, marketing associate for *Booklist*, left ALA April 17.

**Jeff Julian**, director of the Public Awareness Office, left ALA April 6.


Conference Manager **Amy McGuigan** left ALA March 22.

Public Programming Office Junior Developer and Data Applications Officer **Chris Miklius** left ALA March 30.

**Ninah Moore** joined the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies and the Reference and User Services Association as training and events coordinator in March.

Development Associate **Marie Pospichal** left ALA March 27.

*Booklist* promoted **Briana Shemroske** to marketing associate April 9.

**Lorelle Swader** was promoted to associate executive director, ALA Offices and Member Relations and ALA-Allied Professional Association March 26. 

## In Memory

**Herbert Biblo**, 93, executive director of the Long Island (N.Y.) Library Resources Council (LILRC) for 35 years until retiring last year, died in March. Biblo was American Library Association (ALA) Treasurer from 1980–1984 and had been active in ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table since the 1970s. Biblo led the creation of legislative breakfasts in Nassau County and Suffolk County, and the LILRC Annual Conference on Libraries and the Future. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Library Trustees Association of New York State in 2010 and the Nassau and Suffolk County Library Associations' LDA Award for Excellence in Library Achievement in 2000.

**Bernard Margolis**, 69, New York State librarian and assistant commissioner for libraries since 2009, died April 14. Remembered as an advocate for state and federal support for library programs and services, he had previously served as president of Boston Public Library from 1997–2008, director and CEO of Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado Springs, Colorado, from 1988–1997, and director of Monroe County (Mich.) Library System from 1976–1988. Margolis had been an ALA councilor and a delegate to the White House Conference on Libraries, and he held leadership positions in the Association of Research Libraries. He also contributed to several books and articles, and served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Library Administration* and *Bottom Line: The Magazine of Library Financial Management*.

**Elizabeth B. Miller**, 71, a faculty member at the University of South Carolina School of Library and Information Science for 18 years, died January 31. Miller was the author of several editions of *The Internet Resource Directory for K–12 Teachers and Librarians* and served as a member of the Association of Library Service to Children's Carnegie Award Committee and Notable Children's Videos Committee for many years. She received the South Carolina Association of School Librarians' Distinguished Service Award in 2012.

**Marjorie Murfin**, 87, reference librarian and professor at Ohio State University in Columbus until her 2002 retirement, died February 26.

**Doris Ann Norris**, 77, director of Kaubsich Memorial Public Library in Fostoria, Ohio, until her 2002 retirement, died March 8.

**Gail L. Rosenberg**, 81, inaugural director of Infolink Regional Library Cooperative, the first multitype regional cooperative in New Jersey, from 1985–1998, died August 12. She had previously served as director of Metuchen Public Library and as extension services librarian at Hunterdon County (N.J.) Library.

**Deborah Whiteman**, 66, former head of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, died April 1. She previously worked as rare book cataloger and special collections librarian at UCLA from 2004–2009 and spent two years as a private librarian to Loren and Frances Rothschild, collectors of the works of W. Somerset Maugham. ●



## Conservator of Carnival

Every Carnival season brings with it some type of party ephemera—admit cards, beads, crowns, doubloons, duke badges—and New Orleans Public Library is there to catalog it.

“The invitations are definitely one of the highlights,” notes Christina Bryant, department head of the library’s Louisiana Division/City Archives and Special Collections. “They are each a miniature work of art and sometimes engineering,” she says of the elaborately paneled and intricately drawn creations.

Other standouts in the Carnival collection, dating back to the 1860s, include costume and float designs done in watercolor, ink, and pencil; favors such as beaded purses, cosmetic compacts, mirrors, pins, and vases; and dance cards from different krewes (social clubs that select themes and throw parades or balls). Bryant describes the latter as tiny booklets with attached pencils that were used to reserve a rug-cutting.

“Each of these items is just one piece of the larger Carnival experience,” says

Bryant. Having the City Archives located in the same place also offers a civic view of festivities, through budgets, council records, mayoral papers, and ordinances.

Viewings are often requested by the public, researchers, and krewe members interested in seeing their groups’ historic handiwork. “Our location in the main library helps to make the archives feel more accessible,” she says.

“Carnival is an integral part of New Orleans,” says Bryant, who admits that even the department mascot—a bust of Napoleon—dresses up.

“I believe that the preservation of these items, which would normally be considered disposable after their season was over, is a reminder of this.” **AL**

**THE BOOKEND** showcases librarians, their work, and their work spaces. For consideration, please send press material to [americanlibraries@ala.org](mailto:americanlibraries@ala.org).



Clockwise from top: Christina Bryant holds an invitation from the Mistick Krewe of Comus (1900); a costume design from the Léda Hincks Plauché Collection; a dance card issued by the Twelfth Night Revelers (1899).





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