

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

SUMMER 2017

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FALL ARLA CONFERENCE

NATIONAL LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY 2017

TEACHING LEGAL RESEARCH IN POLAND

Arkansas Library Association, 2017



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Arkansas Libraries is the official journal of the Arkansas Library Association. It contains articles of current interest, historical significance or literary value, concerning all aspects of librarianship, particularly items pertinent to Arkansas. It also includes official statements of and information provided by the Arkansas Library Association.

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Arkansas Libraries

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FROM THE EDITOR: Dependency

by *Britt Anne Murphy*

Library Director, Hendrix College

The summer of 2017 will be one to remember, not because the weather was anything other than the usual misery, or summer reading programs were different, or the budget battles any more strenuous, but because many of us, and our constituents, are newly aware of how reliant we are on each other.



Murphy

This issue of *Arkansas Libraries* relates stories of our financial dependency – the entire library community is hugely dependent on federal funds to supply access to expensive databases for each and every constituency. Our state system of higher education is dependent upon our legislature to supply money that finds its way into library budgets. Our public libraries are dependent upon the state budget for funds that help keep staff employed and the doors open. When these supply lines are threatened, we fight as library workers fight – through information, petitions, emails, phone calls, but also resolutions, humor, and handshakes. Through organizations such as ALA, AAPL, and ArLA, we have found that our voices together are stronger – we are dependent on each other to make the case to the larger world about why libraries matter.

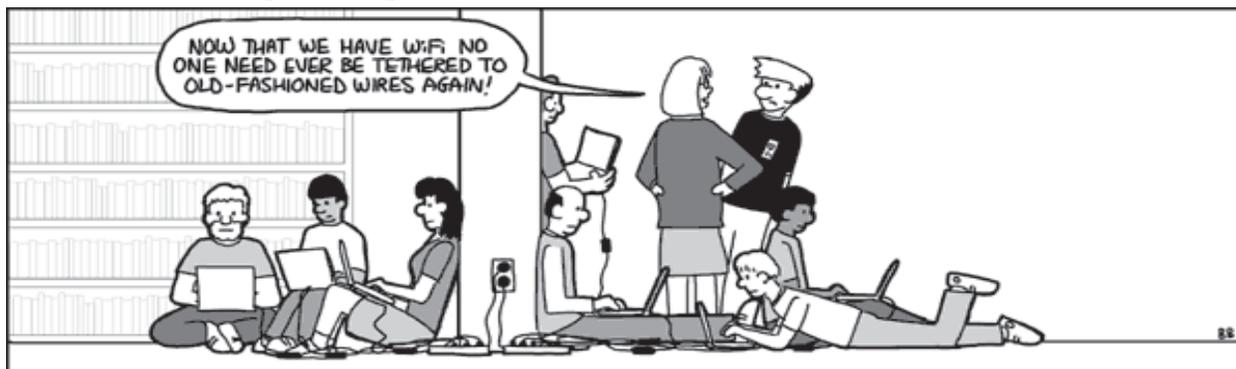
Dependency is often viewed as a weakness – in our society we associate the word with addictions, helplessness, and a lack of conviction. Children

are dependent, as are the poor, and what about all those who are mired in the opioid epidemic? But dependency can also be empowering – it implies relying on those who can be helpful, trusting the goodness and intelligence of each other, and joining together to help not only our colleagues, but those in our communities who rely on our services to make their lives better. We’re part of that “pursuit of happiness” bit – libraries get the job done when it comes to providing the intellectual infrastructure that many need to move from absolute dependency to relative independence. This issue is rife with stories of social dependence: the collaboration between librarians and professors, between Polish students and American law educators, between disability offices and library staff, between young minds eager to “Build a Better World.”

The summer issue of *Arkansas Libraries* also recounts the lives of those we’ve depended on, but who have left our community. We find ourselves missing vendors, parents, and colleagues on whom we’ve relied over the years to provide service, support, and friendship. Some died this past fall and spring, and some are about to retire. In their place are others who will fill their shoes in different ways, and hopefully we will become as connected to them as to their predecessors. As you read through this issue, I hope you will consider connecting with more of your colleagues and library companions – there are many more stories of dependency waiting to be realized in person at the ArLA fall conference in September. I think you might just find how rewarding it is to rely on each other for ideas, support, and comradery!

Britt Anne Murphy, the Managing Editor of Arkansas Libraries, is the Director of the Olin C. Bailey Library at Hendrix College.

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Spice Things Up this Fall at the ArLA Conference

by *Members of the ArLA Conference Committee*

Are you ready to “Spice Things Up at Your Library”? The 2017 Annual ArLA Conference will take place at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas in Rogers, Arkansas, from Sunday, September 24 through Tuesday, September 26, 2017. Read below for highlights, speakers, and events, as well as a little about what’s in nearby Rogers that might deserve a visit. As more information comes out, consult the conference website: arlib.org/conference.

Guest Speakers

This year’s ArLA conference will feature a number of distinguished speakers. **Loida Garcia-Febo**, ALA-President Elect will represent ALA this fall at ArLA. An ALA member for 15 years, Garcia-Febo has served the library profession both domestically and internationally. As ALA President, she plans to focus on several key pillars, including Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Her vision for the Association includes an ALA that will “embed EDI values in our association’s programs and services which in turn will impact the profession at large.” Garcia-Febo believes that by working together, librarians can “bring change to impact public policy, benefit the communities we serve and our profession.”

Brooks Blevins is an author, historian, and the Noel Boyd Professor of Ozarks Studies at Missouri State University in Springfield. A native of the Arkansas Ozarks and graduate of Lyon College, he has authored five books and edited two others. In his ArLA presentation, titled “Finding the Ozarks: The Life Story of an American Region,” Blevins will use novels, magazine stories, and other written sources to trace the invention of the Ozarks as a cultural region.

William Ottens, creator of the popular Tumblr site “Librarian Problems” will kick off your conference experience with a laugh! Ottens will share the joys and frustrations of librarianship through personal and shared experiences. Ottens began the Librarian Problems site in May 2012 after having worked as a Reference Assistant and then a Reference Librarian at the Lawrence Public Library in Lawrence, Kansas. The project began as a way to share typical librarian frustrations, situations, and stereotypes paired with animated reaction GIFs. Having connected with librarians from all over the U.S. and the world through Tumblr and other social media platforms, William can promise you: you’re not alone.

With more than 20 years of professional development, facilitation, and customer service performance throughout her career, **Berlinda Williams-Strong**, training manager, is a people-builder. Her presentation for the upcoming ALA Conference 2017 will be “Change Your Spice, Change Your Life!” Even though much resistance towards change is brought on by fear, the Williams-Strong’s message will include points regarding the importance of change within work cultures, how to overcome the fear of it all, and how to face the future and take action.

Special Events

This year’s conference will feature several social and networking opportunities, so be sure to make space in your conference planner to include them.

Help us honor **ALPS’ 25 anniversary** with a celebratory **Happy Hour** on Sunday, September 24 from 6-7 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Embassy Suites in Rogers. The event will precede the Awards Banquet and will include complimentary beer and wine.

At this year’s **Annual Awards Recognition**, ArLA award recipients will be honored with a banquet in the Grand Ballroom of the Embassy Suites in Rogers on Sunday, September 24 beginning at 7 p.m.

Don’t miss the **Bentonville Public Library Open House**. ArLA conference attendees are invited to “Spice It Up” with Bentonville Public Library as they celebrate a decade on Main Street. Bentonville enjoys a distinctive foodie culture, one that is gaining regional and national attention. To tap into the local culinary flavor, BPL plans to offer interesting cooking demonstrations, yummy food and paired samplings by a variety of chefs. The event will take place at the Bentonville Library on Monday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m. and will include open tours of public and staff spaces. BPL is located at 405 South Main Street, just a few blocks south of Bentonville’s Downtown Square.

Exploring Rogers

Located in scenic Northwest Arkansas, Rogers is situated in a unique area known for its museums, art galleries, shopping, and dining. In between sessions, conference attendees can visit the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (crystalbridges.org/) in nearby Bentonville or get outdoors to enjoy cycling, golfing, Beaver Lake, or a stroll at Hobbs State Park (fohspeai.wildapricot.org/). Slices of Arkansas history can be found at nearby War Eagle Mill

(wareaglemill.com/) and the Civil War Pea Ridge National Military Park (www.nps.gov/peri/index.htm). More links and suggestions can be found at Rogers' visitor information site: visitrogersarkansas.com/. The area also boasts an array of great restaurants. Foodies may want to check out Crepes Paulette, River Grille, or The Social Taco—just to

name a few.

A deluxe breakfast and nightly evening reception will be complimentary for those who book their stays at the conference hotel – the Embassy Suites of Rogers. To make your reservation, contact the hotel at 844-234-9145.



SEPTEMBER 24-26
AT THE EMBASSY SUITES IN ROGERS, AR



Arkansas Library Association

Make Your Case to Attend the 2017 ArLA Annual Conference!

1. Networking

Meet with hundreds of librarians from across the state and across disciplines to share ideas, form connections, and cultivate professional relationships.

2. Inspiration

Return from conference inspired with ideas to enhance services to your patrons. Share these ideas with your coworkers and consider proposing your own breakout session next year!

3. Exhibitor Connections

Learn about new products, services, and technologies from library vendors. Forge lasting vendor connections to stay up-to-date with the newest library resources.

4. Become More Involved in ArLA

Give back to the Arkansas Library Association by becoming involved in our divisions and round tables. Learn about continuing education and leadership opportunities.

5. Great Speakers, Authors, and Presenters!

Attend presentations from fellow librarians on topics ranging from outreach to customer service to children's programming—and more! Hear from notable authors as well as ALA President-Elect Loida Garcia Febo.

ARe You Ready to Read

by **Jared Beavers, M.D.**

Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Arkansas Children's Hospital, UAMS

A new initiative launched on June 1 from our state's Children's Hospital in Little Rock. The project is called "ARe You Ready to Read?" A small workgroup consisting of nursing leadership, physician leadership, hospital administration, and creative services began working last year to launch a project ultimately aimed at improving cognitive and learning outcomes in our babies. As has been demonstrated in the literature in many studies, children who are read to (verbally, aloud) from an early age (infancy) have better cognitive outcomes, better school preparedness, and a much larger vocabulary. Dr. Bryan Burke's "Eureka!" moment shall forever be credited with starting this project: Why don't we provide all newborns with a library card upon birth? Libraries are a free and widely accessible resource, even in the remotest corners of our state, and could be a valuable tool in improving

our babies' and families' lives if they were made aware of such. The project took much collaboration between hospital, local and state-wide library officials, and outside agencies, and has launched successfully.

Every baby born at UAMS starting June 1 will receive a free, universal library card, placed in the admission packet. Upon discharge, the family will be presented with the card (for term babies) or at an appropriate time per NICU stay (for ICN babies) by the nurse or physician. A short blurb about the importance of reading to our children will be part of discharge instructions. Families can then present this card to their local library, documented in their discharge summary, for their permanent library card.

All of our collaborators have been terribly excited to work on something so light-hearted, but meaningful and joyous. We are thrilled to provide our families one more bit of valuable information to help our babies thrive. ARe You Ready to Read?

Please contact me with any comments or questions: jcbeavers@uams.edu.

ArLA Board Hires New Management Company

by **David Eckert**

ArLA President

The ArLA Board has decided to hire a new management company to take care of the administrative side of our organization. Prime Management Services is located in Birmingham, AL and has 20 years of experience managing organizations such as ourselves. Some of their other clients include the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education (SACME) and KOA Owners Association. They have nine full-time employees to handle all of our needs. For more information on their company, I encourage you to go to their website at www.primemanagement.net.

Admittedly, our first choice was a local Little Rock company, but after much negotiating with them, the best deal that they offered was \$2,950 per month with an automatic raise of 3% at the end of two years. I was uncomfortable committing our organization to this contract, so after a discussion with the Executive Committee, we decided to go with Prime Management. We had been paying Lynda Hampel, our previous Executive Administrator, \$2,000 per month for her services, and this company matched that price. They also only charged us a \$500 transition fee, and their contract

does not include any automatic raises.

After signing this agreement on March 17, we worked hard to get everything transferred over to the new company. For the transfer to take place, we had to close out the bank account, empty the safety deposit box, change our telephone number (which was attached to Lynda's phone), and arrange for the mail to be forwarded to the new offices in Alabama. We also needed to collect over 20 boxes of old records and other miscellaneous things from a storage unit used by Lynda. We all owe Lynn Valetutti (ArLA Secretary/Treasurer) and her husband a big debt of gratitude for the use of their trailer to retrieve the materials. Lynn has also spent an enormous amount of time running around getting all of these things transferred to our new company, having new bank cards signed, mailing boxes off, etc. I'm not sure where we would be if not for her.

Ron Russ has also been hard at work making sure that our website gets up and running with the new links and contact information. Our web address will remain arlib.org/wp/ for the time being, although Ron will be working with Prime Management in the coming months to transfer to a new website service, Wild Apricot. Find more details about that migration in this issue.

To contact the ArLA office, please use the following information:

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Birmingham, AL 35216
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David Eckert, the President of the Arkansas Library Association, is Library Director at Crowley Ridge Regional Library.

Arkansas Library Association Adopts Resolution Supporting IMLS

by Hadi Dudley

Co-Chair, Legislative Committee

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) voted unanimously to adopt “A Resolution Supporting the Institute of Museum and Library Services” during its board meeting on Friday, April 21, 2017.

The resolution is the state library association’s formal response to United States’ President Donald Trump’s FY2018 Budget Blueprint released on March 16, 2017. The proposed budget eliminates the agency budget of the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and approximately 35,000 museums with more than \$210 million appropriated in FY2016.

Since the Budget Blueprint’s release, library supporters have engaged in various advocacy efforts. Members of the American Library Association (ALA), state chapters across the United States and Arkansas Library Association are troubled by the negative impact proposed cuts would have on our communities.

The Arkansas State Library, our state agency that receives and distributes federal funds from IMLS through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), reports that in FY2015 the Grants to States award for Arkansas was \$1,778,761. This was matched by state funding at \$916,331 through a Maintenance of Effort Requirement. If IMLS is eliminated, library projects in Arkansas will be severely curtailed or completely eliminated.

The 2017 Arkansas Library Association President, David Eckert, says, “Funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services enables the Arkansas State Library with the means to offer more than fifty databases free of charge to all libraries throughout the state, as well as special services such as the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. If the proposed elimination of this funding goes through, the impact will be felt in all K-12 schools, institutes of higher education, and public libraries. This cut will be a big blow to the



education and quality of life for all citizens of the State of Arkansas.”

The Resolution, found on the following page, makes the following statements on behalf of its more than 500 members:

- Declares and affirms our right to quality libraries in the United States and Arkansas;
- Stands with the American Library Association to save the Institute of Museum and Library Services;
- Requests reinstatement of federal funds to the Institute for Museum and Library Services and Innovative Approaches to Literacy;
- And, urges Arkansas’ elected officials and library advocates to speak, act and vote in full support of our libraries.

The Arkansas Library Association seeks support from citizens across the Natural State to join our advocacy efforts to save IMLS. If federal funding is eliminated, library services in Arkansas and across the United States will be severely impacted and our communities will pay the price. Take a stand. Contact your federal legislators to request support for the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Locate contact information for elected officials and help ArLA support IMLS at <http://cqrcengage.com/alaar/home>.

Editor’s note: The full text of the resolution follows on pgs. 8-9.

Hadi Dudley is Library Director at Bentonville Public Library and co-chairs the 2017 ArLA Legislative Committee along with David Johnson.



A Resolution Supporting the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Whereas the United States President Donald Trump released a FY2018 Budget Blueprint on March 16, 2017 that eliminates the agency budget of the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS);

Whereas IMLS is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and approximately 35,000 museums with more than \$210 million appropriated in FY2016;

Whereas the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) represents libraries of all types: academic, public, school and special libraries and is "A Community of Libraries;"

Whereas we recognize that libraries change lives, protect our right to know, advance research and scholarship, help us to better understand each other and preserve our nation's cultural heritage;

Whereas libraries are America's most democratic institutions that ensure people have access to information and lifelong learning regardless of age, education, ethnicity, gender, language, income, physical limitations or geographic barriers; and, libraries strengthen communities and help create a more literate and just society;

Whereas every day, in countless communities across our nation and the world, millions of children, students and adults use libraries to learn, grow and achieve their dreams; and, in addition to a vast array of books, computers and other resources, library users benefit from the expert teaching and guidance of librarians and library staff to help expand their minds and open new worlds;

Whereas ArLA partners with and advocates for the Arkansas State Library, the state agency that receives and appropriately distributes federal funds from IMLS through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA);

Whereas in FY2015, the Grants to States award for Arkansas was \$1,778,761 and was matched by state funding at \$916,331 through a Maintenance of Effort Requirement;

Whereas if IMLS is eliminated, library projects in Arkansas will be severely curtailed or completely eliminated;

Whereas decreasing or cutting programs such as the Arkansas Traveler Database project, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, annual Summer Reading Programs and other substantial State Library projects will negatively impact Arkansans of all ages in all regions of the state;

Whereas we support Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program which provides funding to school libraries through the Department of Education; and, Arkansas schools benefit from IAL funding;

Whereas ArLA was established in 1911 and represents over 500 members across Arkansas, and part of its core mission is to increase the visibility of libraries among the general public and funding agencies (and) to serve as an advocate for librarians and libraries;

Whereas ArLA is a Chapter of the American Library Association (ALA) which represents more than 58,000 members in the United States; now, therefore be it,

Resolved that the Arkansas Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. Declares and affirms our right to quality libraries in the United States and Arkansas;
2. Stands with the American Library Association to save the Institute of Museum and Library Services;
3. Requests reinstatement of federal funds to the Institute for Museum and Library Services and Innovative Approaches to Literacy;
4. And, urges Arkansas' elected officials and library advocates to speak, act and vote in full support of our libraries.

*Adopted by the Arkansas Library Association Executive Board of Directors
this 21st day of April 2017 in Little Rock, Arkansas*



And G. Elmer
Arkansas Library Association President, 2017
April 21, 2017

Lynn A. Valetutti
4/21/17

Resources

Declaration for the Right to Libraries; Libraries Transform; American Library Association; Arkansas Library Association; Arkansas State Library; Institute for Museum and Library Services. Prepared by the ArLA Legislative Committee.

National Library Legislative Day 2017

by Hadi Dudley

Co-Chair, ArLA Legislative Committee

May 1 marked the 43rd Annual National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) hosted by the American Library Association (ALA) in Washington D.C. Record numbers of librarians and advocates made the trek to our Nation's Capital! The Arkansas group included myself; Carolyn Ashcraft, State Librarian; Leisha Callan, library user, advocate and former trustee; Amber Gregory, Coordinator of E-Rate Services of the Arkansas State Library and ArLA Legislative Committee (Special Libraries); David Johnson, Executive Director of Fayetteville Public Library and ArLA Legislative Committee (Co-Chair); and Donna McDonald, Director of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System and ArLA Legislative Committee (NLLD).

Briefing Day

With more than 500 attendees, the usual ALA briefing space was not large enough to hold all of the library advocates. A smaller meeting room offered a place for overflow participation via teleconference. Our profession's leadership support was evident with ALA past-presidents Barbara Stripling, Courtney Young, Sari Feldman, and the 2016-2017 ALA President Julie Todaro all in attendance.

Todaro rallied advocates with, "It's not a Republican issue; it's not a Democrat issue; it's not a Libertarian issue. It's a *Library* issue!" She encouraged us in our "fight for libraries" to focus on the bipartisan needs of library users and refer to them as "constituents." Todaro touched on libraries' core values, open and free internet, economic impact, balanced copyright, and the role of libraries in our communities.

The keynote speaker for ALA's Briefing Day was Hina Shamsi, Director of the National Security Project for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Shamsi discussed how free expression and privacy is at the heart of U.S. rights and how libraries guard individuals' freedoms every day. She complimented libraries for providing equal services to vulnerable user groups. Shamsi spoke about library services in non-partisan terms and praised libraries as "pillars of the communities."

For the remainder of Monday morning, ALA staff briefed everyone about priority issues in preparation for our legislative visits:

- Support Public Access to Government Data and

- Taxpayer-Funded Information and Research
- Expedite Modernization of the Copyright Office and Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty
- Support Strong "Net Neutrality" Protections
- Support Real Privacy and Surveillance Law Reform
- Bring High Speed Broadband to Every Library and Support the E-rate Program Unchanged
- Support Full Funding for Critical Federal Library Programs.

The messaging for "Support Full Funding for Critical Federal Library Programs in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill" states:

The American Library Association asks all Members of Congress to:

- 1) **FUND** the *Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)* at **\$186.6 million for FY2018** to keep library services vibrant for students, businesspersons, veterans, and users of all kinds in tens of thousands of communities in every state in the nation.
- 2) **REAUTHORIZE** LSTA's bipartisan enabling statute, the Museum and Library Services Act, promptly upon its introduction in the 115th Congress to underscore the importance of programs administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
- 3) **APPROPRIATE** \$27 million in FY2018, as in FY2017 and FY2016, for the *Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)* program to enable school libraries and non-profits to obtain essential materials, books, and supplies for the nation's neediest children.

-- American Library Association

Certainly, IMLS funding was our collective battle cry, and everyone seemed ready to fight for libraries. The afternoon of Briefing Day featured breakout sessions covering a variety of topics: Advocacy Training, Q & A with ALA Washington Office Staff, Democracy Dies in Darkness, the Political Dance, Speaking Truth to Power, and Libraries Ready to Code.

During the Advocacy Training session, presenters discussed advocacy as a conversation and a relationship that needs to be developed. Interests of elected officials should be aligned with libraries, translating policy into personal stories. The presenters advised advocates to be specific and prepared. They recommended following up and continuing to share library stories after the NLLD visit.

The group concluded with tips for success and

common pitfalls when advocating with elected officials. Tips: identify yourself and patrons as constituents; align a personal story with issues that the legislator cares about; be brief, listen, and follow up. Pitfalls: advocating for only one day and not following up; not listening; and, not understanding the officials' interests or political topics. As a participant in this year's Advocacy Training, and NLLD attendee in prior years, I feel strongly that our Arkansas library visits model the experts' advice, so it was an affirming session.

In Libraries Ready to Code, Arkansas' very-own Amber Gregory was a panelist in the session that highlighted the "great promise of coding in libraries." She shared stories from Arkansas school and public libraries as examples of how "library-based coding programs position libraries as key institutions" to prepare youth for STEM and other careers in computers and technology. We were very proud of Gregory for representing our state on the national level during library advocacy training.

Visits to Capitol Hill

Our group's first visit was with Representative Steve Womack (R-3rd District). Rep. Womack's advice for us was to be excellent stewards of funding; "keep doing your jobs;" and, be patient with the budget process. He gave us an overview of the political climate and budget procedures. Additionally, he shared his "traditionalist" view about libraries where people can gain education. He said, through "books and research, libraries help people improve themselves."

Next, we visited with the Legislative Director for Representative Rick Crawford (R-1st District). We met with Abbi Burgess last year, who handles education and telecommunication issues. But this year, she was in Jonesboro, so we connected via FaceTime. It was our first tech-savvy legislative visit. Burgess inquired how libraries can support STEM, workforce training, and soft skill development for constituents. She also asked about broadband and rural connectivity.

As our Arkansas group arrived to the office of Representative French Hill (R-2nd District), the C-Span coverage was currently on Representative Hill. He was presenting on the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act. At that point, we knew our group would be visiting with a staff member. Due to a shortage of meeting space, our group participated in a stand-up hallway meeting.

The legislative staffer mentioned that Representative Hill is a "huge library supporter" and realizes that libraries "do a lot of good in the state

and throughout the United States." Additionally, Rep. Hill supported an increase for LSTA funding in the FY2017 Omnibus Budget. We concluded by discussing the importance of libraries as a resource for STEM, lifelong learning, education and a provider of telecommunications.

During the evening reception, the United for Libraries division of ALA presented this year's public service award to Senator Jack Reed (D-R.I.). Sen. Reed was honored for his steadfast support to libraries. According to an ALA press release, "Sen. Reed authored key sections of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and seeks to fix the No Child Left Behind education law that was signed into law nearly 14 years ago" (ALA News, 5/9/17).

On Tuesday, May 2, our group met in Senator Tom Cotton's office. We began with a legislative staffer, and midway through the meeting, Sen. Cotton joined our conversation. He had a positive perspective about rural public libraries by challenging anyone to sit in an Arkansas rural library for a few hours to see how many people use the facilities and technology.

Sen. Cotton discussed the importance of connectivity and how libraries support users who have some technology, but may not be able to afford the whole system: computer, printer, and WiFi service. He gave examples of the disparity of socio-economics and broadband access in Arkansas, compared with the rest of the country.

The Arkansas group has a personal connection with the office of Representative Bruce Westerman (R-4th District). Donna McDonald's niece, Darby Kuykendall, is Rep. Westerman's scheduler. We enjoyed a conversation with the congressman about the importance of place, shared experiences, history, and the impact these things can have on a community. Representative Westerman expressed his appreciation for Library of Congress (LOC) initiatives, recognizing that libraries are more than just books. Rep. Westerman also asked good questions about resources provided by the Arkansas Traveler Database Project.

Our group's last visit was with Senator John Boozman. Acknowledging that we are in a changing world, Boozman stated, "We appreciate your hard work." He advised that despite financial concerns, it's not time to panic about library funding. He said, "We will work hard to help (libraries)."

Sen. Boozman complimented Dr. Carla Hayden's work at the Library of Congress stating that he often sends constituents to the LOC when they visit D.C.

He concluded with advice to keep his office informed of concerns and library issues.

NLLD Reflections

This year was Amber Gregory's fourth NLLD trip, and her expertise on E-rate and Broadband is an asset to our group's advocacy efforts. She says, "It is our hope that we can achieve faster service at affordable costs for all Arkansas libraries, especially those in rural areas. A robust broadband connection would better serve library patrons who are using libraries for access to government resources, job applications, homework help, and other online services. Disparities in connection speed and broadband pricing are seen throughout the state; we hope legislators can help us change such telecom inequalities."

First-time attendee, David Johnson says, "It's encouraging to see that many passionate librarians from all across the country gather to make a strong case for the value of libraries to federal legislators. It is inspirational to participate in a state delegation actively making the case to Arkansas officials who were amazingly receptive to our visit." He remarks, "Emails, phone calls, and connecting with legislators is great, but face time is incredibly important. I encourage librarians to take opportunities and always be prepared to make your case with one or two simple facts or personal stories that establish the value of your library in the community."

Johnson intends to advocate at future NLLD events and will be prepared to speak about library services that are specific to legislators' interests. He says, "If our message can be more personalized to the issues they care about, our advocacy efforts will be more effective." Johnson learned more about the government budgeting process and bureaucracy involved with federal funding. He remarks, "The congressmen took time to educate us, which allayed our fears about cuts to IMLS."

Longtime attendee, Leisha Callan says, "Congressmen were receptive and encouraging. There were more personal connections, and our elected officials seemed genuinely pleased with the work and role of libraries." Donna McDonald advises, "Libraries have a responsibility to share issues with legislators, and to promote non-partisan civic engagement with the general public."

State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft, reflects on the 2017 NLLD experience by saying, "Several of our congressmen were interested in programs and services that Arkansas libraries are providing." While each elected official focused on slightly different issues, many of them conveyed "decisions would be

hard, but that the U.S. President's 'skinny budget' is not the final budget that the House or Senate will put forward." Ashcraft concludes, "Please encourage your patrons, friends, students and family to continue contacting our congressmen to support libraries. Advocacy needs to happen 365 days a year."

I am compelled to highlight Johnson's observations of Washington, D.C. and our legislative experience. He says, "There is a certain grandeur about the U.S. Capitol, federal grounds, and government buildings. However, our nation's capital is not an ivory tower; it is a place to touch and feel. It is a place where you can observe laws being made and see government in-action. It is a place for people from all walks of life and it is open to all people."

Conclusion

While we were in D.C., Congress passed the FY2017 "omnibus" bill which included \$231 million for IMLS, resulting in a \$1 million increase over the previous year (ALA News, 5/2/2017). This was a positive step in the right direction!

On May 23, the Trump Administration's 2018 budget proposal reflects elimination of IMLS. ALA President Julie Todaro issued the following statement:

The Administration's budget is using the wrong math when it comes to libraries.

To those who say that the nation cannot afford federal library funding, the American Library Association, American businesses, and millions of Americans say emphatically we cannot afford to be without it.

America's more than 120,000 public, school, academic, and special libraries are visited more than 1.4 billion times a year by hundreds of millions of Americans in every corner of the nation. In 2013, 94 percent of Americans said that having a public library improves the quality of life in a community and the same percentage of parents said that libraries are important for their children. (ALA News, 5/23/2017)

Congressional support for libraries in the FY2018 budget is key to saving IMLS. To-date, Arkansas advocates have sent 1,440 messages to our U.S. legislators asking them to support federally funded library projects in Arkansas. Through a series of six messages, we collectively requested support for America's Libraries, the Arkansas Traveler Project, E-Rate and Technology Projects, Quality Libraries by Saving IMLS, Books for the Blind and Summer Reading Programs, and Full Funding for Critical Federal Library Programs.

We share the hope that our appeals will be

fruitful – not for our libraries, but for the services that are vitally important to our communities – in Arkansas, and across the United States.

Author's note: at the time of submission, the details included in this article were current.

Hadi Dudley is Library Director at Bentonville Public Library and co-chairs the 2017 ArLA Legislative Committee.



The Arkansas group outside the Library of Congress. Photo by Mary Soucie, ND State Librarian.
L to R: Front - David Johnson, Hadi Dudley, Carolyn Ashcraft, Leisha Callan; Back - Donna McDonald, Amber Gregory



Arkansas group pictured with Representative Steve Womack. Photo by Hannah Shea.



Arkansas group pictured with Senator Tom Cotton. Photo courtesy of Senator Cotton's office.



Arkansas group pictured with Representative Bruce Westerman. Photo by Kasey Lovett.



Arkansas group pictured with Senator John Boozman. Photo courtesy of Senator Boozman's office.



ArLA Migrates Website

by Ron Russ

Chair, Web Services Committee

ArLA asks for its members' patience as we migrate our website from our current WordPress server to Wild Apricot. Since we were hacked last year, we've been looking for a secure way to provide members with individual access to their accounts through the website.

We were dissatisfied with the WordPress plugins, and leery of the security of the website in general. Keeping the ArLA website secure has been an uphill battle, requiring regular virus and malware scans. Recently, I removed 16 possible viruses - luckily, there was no private user information on the site. We decided at the last board meeting to subscribe to the Wild Apricot service which will provide a more secure environment than we can currently provide. Information about Wild Apricot can be found at www.wildapricot.com/security-policy-overview. Many other state library associations (about two-thirds) use Wild Apricot or



similar products for their websites.

When finished, some of the new features should include online event registration and payments, an online member directory, and mobile app. If you want to look at some other websites that use Wild Apricot, consult the Maine Library Association: mainelibraries.org/ and the South Central Chapter of the Medical Library Association: www.scmla.org/. We are grateful for your patience as we make these necessary changes!

Ronald S. Russ is the Electronic and Public Services Librarian at Abington Library, Arkansas State University-Beebe. Contact him at webmaster@arlib.org.

AROUND ARKANSAS

by Heather Hays, Associate Editor

Arkansas State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft, recently participated in the National Library Week Celebration at the J.B. Watson Memorial Library System at the U of A at Pine Bluff. The theme for the celebration was "Libraries Transform." The keynote speaker was Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., who leads the Knowledge Services Section in the Foreign Affairs Defense and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress, where he supervises librarians who provide public policy research assistance exclusively to Members of Congress, congressional committees and staff. Mr. Jefferson also serves on the executive board of the American Library Association.

We are sad to report the loss of one of our library vendors, Bill Sanders. He has called upon libraries in Arkansas for more than 40 years and exhibited at the ArLA conference until recently. Bill co-founded S&W Distributors, Inc. in 1964 and served as chief executive officer for over 40 years. Read a remembrance of Bill, and vendors Dick Kilmer and Doyle Haynie in this issue.

The Sevier County Library System would like to introduce Amy Worley Zuniga as their Children's Librarian. She began working at the Sevier County Library System De Queen Branch in March 2017. Amy has worked with children and children's programs for more than 20 years.

Former ASL staff member, Mary Ann Littlefield, passed away on Friday, March 10. Mary Ann first came to the State Library in October 1979, as a Librarian in Document Services. She left in May 1984 to complete her MLS. She returned to the State Library in September 1985 as Coordinator of Grants and oversaw LSCA/LSTA funding, and retired Dec. 31, 2000.

Daniel Clayton Fetherolf, 69, of Conway passed away on March 3. Dan very generously donated \$10,000 to the Arkansas Library Association. \$5,000 of it for scholarship in memory of his wife Shirley.

Sally Hawkes is retiring from her position as State Library Manager of Network Services as of June 30, 2017 with 32 ½ years of service.

Sally said: "*There have been many enriching and unique experiences working for the agency at this*

location and at One Capitol Mall. I can truly say in some instances I was learning the job as the tools and devices were being invented.” The majority of her work during her years with the State Library has been on the Traveler Database Project and the ASL web site. Read about her career in this issue.

Congratulations to Barbara Stripling for receiving the 2017 Lippincott Award. This annual award is sponsored by Joseph W. Lippincott, III and presented by the American Library Association for distinguished service to the profession of librarianship as demonstrated by outstanding participation in professional library association, notable published professional writing, or other significant activities on behalf of the profession.

Barb has history in Arkansas: she worked at Fayetteville Public Schools and Greenland Public Schools, earned degrees at University of Arkansas and was a strong leader in the Arkansas Library Association.

Madeline, the cat at Ashdown Community Library who roamed the library during the day and stayed with librarian Maureen Nations after hours, will have to leave because some patrons are allergic to its hair.

Little River County Judge Mike Cranford compared it to disallowing smoking and said visitors,

especially those with allergies, expect a “cat-free” setting.

Nations told the *Journal* that Madeline, who enjoyed napping near the checkout desk or in windowsills after joining the library in mid-2016, will continue to live with her.

Crystal Long, Systems Librarian at Central Baptist College’s Story Library, is resigning as President of ARKLink and passing the virtual and physical gavel to Gwen Dobbs. Crystal has accepted a position in Watson Library at Northwestern State University at Natchitoches, Louisiana.

The ARKLink Board of Directors was advised of the resignation and held a special election to secure a Vice-President/President-Elect to serve this year as Gwen fulfills her presidential duties. Tina Murdock, Assistant Director of UCA’s Torreyson Library, was recently elected to fill the V-P role.

Crystal, you will be missed!

A reminder to Arkansas librarians: please submit news items to me for the next *Arkansas Libraries* issue! Births, deaths, new hires, retirements, funding, new buildings, and news that affects Arkansas libraries would be perfect fits for this column. Just jot me an email at hhays@bentonville.com, and you’ll most likely see it published in our journal.

A-Tisket, A-Tasket ... the Task is to Sell More Baskets!

by Ashley Burris

Lawrence County Library Director,
Chair, LEAF Committee

Basket time is coming – for those of you who have no idea what I’m talking about (or think I’m a basket case), the annual Basket Auction at conference is ArLA’s fundraiser for the Library Education and Aid Fund (LEAF) and the Scholarship Committee. Any individual or institution can bring baskets of all shapes and sizes as donations. Usually the auction opens on Sunday and ends Monday with a dramatic nail-biting finish in the exhibit hall.

LEAF funds have been used to help out libraries quickly when confronted with emergencies. In the past this has included assisting libraries after storms and tornados caused extensive water damage in library facilities. Funds have also helped libraries

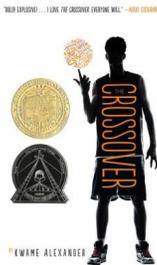
advocate against efforts to decrease millages, support literacy efforts, such as the Readers’ Map of Arkansas, and assist Arkansas Library Association members in their pursuit of an advanced degree in librarianship.

Thoughts of book-themed baskets have been thrown around, but any/all are appreciated! Hmm... September conference would be a good time for some fall gift baskets/decorating themed baskets – how about a LEAFy basket? Or how about tying in with the conference’s “Spice Things Up” theme? Hope to see many clever and colorful baskets at conference...but don’t forget to do your bit at conference and let the bidding wars begin! If you have questions or haven’t yet let me know you’re bringing a basket to donate, contact me at (870) 886-3222 or akburris@hotmail.com. I’ll be sending out more instructions to basket-donators and bidders as we get closer to conference.

2017 Charlie May Simon and Arkansas Diamond Book Award Winners

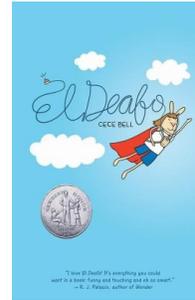
The Arkansas Department of Education, the Arkansas State Library, and the Arkansas Reading Association are pleased to announce the results of the voting for the 2017 Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award and the 2017 Arkansas Diamond Primary Book Award. Almost 56,000 ballots have been cast and the results have been tabulated. The choice of the voting students is as follows:

Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award

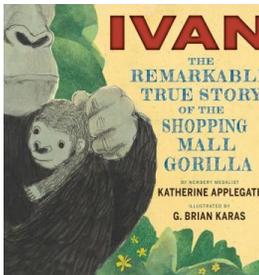


The Crossover by Kwame Alexander, published by Houghton Mifflin/ Harcourt, is the winner of the 2017 Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award.

El Deafo by Cece Bell, published by Abrams/ Amulet, is the Honor Book for the 2017 Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award.

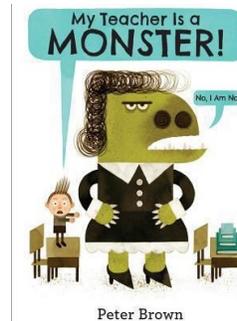


Arkansas Diamond Primary Book Award



Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla written by Katherine Applegate and illustrated by G. Brian Karas, published by Houghton Mifflin/Clarion, is the winner of the 2017 Arkansas Diamond Primary Book Award.

My Teacher Is A Monster! (No, I Am Not.), written and illustrated by Peter Brown, published by Little Brown, is the Honor Book for the 2017 Arkansas Diamond Primary Book Award.



Both awards are under the sponsorship of the Arkansas Department of Education, the Arkansas State Library, and the Arkansas Reading Association, with support from other cooperating organizations.

Contact: Cathy Howser, Phone - 501-682-2860, Email - cathy@library.arkansas.gov

An Awarding Conference

by *Dwain Gordon*

Chair, ArLA Awards Committee

We all know and work with very talented members of the Arkansas library community. The awards ceremony at our fall conference is the perfect way to recognize colleagues for their hard work and positive contributions to the library profession in our state.

Join us at the Awards Banquet this conference - 7 pm on Sunday, September 24 in the Grand Ballroom of the Rogers Embassy Suites for an opportunity to toast your colleagues!

The following awards will be presented at conference:

Arkansiana Award was first awarded in 1979 and is given to the author(s) of a book or other work which represents a significant contribution to Arkansas heritage and culture. Three categories were established to receive nominations biennially for the Award.

Frances P. Neal Award is given to recognize a career of notable service in librarianship within the state of Arkansas. This award is presented to someone who has recently retired.

Distinguished Service Award is to recognize distinguished service in librarianship, e.g., continuing service to the Arkansas Library Association, outstanding achievement in some area of librarianship, active participation in library affairs, notable published professional writing, etc.

Bessie B. Moore Trustee Award is granted to an individual trustee or board of trustees who/which has made a significant contribution to the development of a library at the local, regional or state level.

Retta Patrick Award recognizes an individual member of the Arkansas library profession who has made an outstanding state or national contribution to

school librarianship and school library development.

Arkansas/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award is given to a person(s) or group(s) for notable contributions that have furthered the cause of intellectual freedom on behalf of a library in the state of Arkansas.

Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award recognizes distinguished paraprofessional library service in Arkansas libraries.

Suzanne Spurrier Academic Librarian Award recognizes an outstanding academic librarian within the state of Arkansas.

Ann Lightsey Children's Librarian Award is named in honor of Ann Lightsey, and is awarded to a children's librarian who dedicates her life to children and reading.

NEW this year:

Rising Star Award is to recognize a library worker who has worked in libraries less than five years. Nominees must be members of ArLA and have provided exceptional service for their library communities. A bonus of this award is a free year of membership in ArLA.

By the time you read this, the deadline to submit nominations for the ArLA Annual Awards will already be past, but if you have an extenuating circumstance, please feel free to submit late nominations to me at dwain@library.arkansas.gov. All things regarding ArLA awards, including past winners and a nomination form, can be found on the ArLA website at arlib.org/membership/awards.

Dwain Gordon is Deputy Director at the Arkansas State Library and can be reached at dwain@library.arkansas.gov.



Roscoe the Library Dog in the stacks at South Arkansas Community College. Photo submitted by Philip C. Shackelford, Library Director of South Arkansas Community College.



In Memorium: Beverly Russ 1933-2017

by Ron Russ

Chair, Web Services Committee

You might not have known her and that wouldn't be surprising. Beverly Russ was only in Arkansas a few times. Yet, she was an Arkansas Library Association member and an avid reader of *Arkansas Libraries*. She wanted to follow the writings (and exploits) of her son, Ronald and daughter-in-law, Karen. Unfortunately, she passed from our world on April 29, 2017 after a short illness.

Beverly was 83 years old, actually almost 84. While she didn't live here, what she imparted to me is still a part of who I am 20 years later. See, Beverly was a librarian too. Retired since 1998, she spent many years showing children the joy of reading through story times and performances. She worked primarily with children in the New York and Brooklyn Public Library systems on and off for five decades (she took time off to raise her children). Toward the end of her career, she worked with adult programming as well. Beverly embodied many of

the core values of librarianship, including, but not limited to, access to information, diversity, education and lifelong learning, as well as the public good. She hated injustice and was always for the underdog.

Beverly taught me how to have the heart of a librarian. It wasn't something articulated in words, per se. It was something I just picked up by watching and observing. I still wish I could explain it. There is some sense that you get in the back your mind, or maybe your heart, when you are doing this right. I first noticed this when she was working with children. I was already working as a librarian when I started to pay attention to it. I was working in the same region in the Brooklyn Public Library system as Beverly, and sometimes I'd get a chance to go over to her branch and watch her work. She always went the extra mile for her patrons. It wasn't just pointing to where a book was, it was working with the patron and taking them there. I've tried my best to aspire to that level of service and commitment. I don't think I'll ever reach what she was able to do naturally, but I'll always remember how it was done. You did good, mom. May you rest in peace.

Karen Russ Awarded the Ark-AHEAD Teresa Haven Distinguished Professional Award

Karen Russ, Research and Community Engagement Librarian at UALR's Ottenheimer Library, was recently recognized by Ark-AHEAD for her work with students with disabilities. The Association on Higher Education and Disability (Ark-AHEAD) is an organization for professionals working with people with disabilities in postsecondary education settings in Arkansas and is affiliated with AHEAD (the national Association on Higher Education and Disability).

As a government information specialist, Karen has been dedicated to people with disabilities. Over the past 20 year she has stood up for the need for assistive technology and services in the library, such as working on a grant proposal for adaptive furniture for the library classroom. She has also stood up for accessibility when software products and databases were up for renewal and were not fully accessible. In that time, Karen has also served as the library's liaison to the Disability Resource Center, providing both groups with a person willing to reach out between the two departments and work out

cooperative means of assisting patrons.

Karen has been a member of Ark-AHEAD since 2002, serving as secretary from 2013-14, and has given numerous presentations at Ark-AHEAD conferences. For as many years as Ark-AHEAD has had a listserv, Karen has regularly provided lists of disability related books and summaries, helping other institutions in the state add to their library or disability office collections and assist people with research.

The Ark-AHEAD Teresa Haven Distinguished Professional Award is given to an Ark-AHEAD member or board member who has been a member of Ark-AHEAD for more than five years, has presented at past conferences and has experience working with students with disabilities in higher education for more than three years.



Two Scholarships Available for Library Studies

by Ashley Burris

Scholarships Committee Chair

The Scholarships Committee will be accepting applications between July 1 and September 1 for two \$1,500 scholarships to be awarded at annual conference in Rogers, September 24-26. Both awards share a **September 1, 2017** deadline.

The Arkansas Library Association Annual Scholarship will be awarded to an applicant who is pursuing a degree from an American Library Association accredited institution. The Shirley Fetherolf School Library Media Specialist Scholarship is for graduate studies in school library media. This scholarship is made possible through the generosity of Dan Fetherolf in memory of his wife, Shirley Fetherolf. Sadly, Mr. Fetherolf, 69, of Conway passed away on March 3, 2017. The Arkansas Library Association School Library Media Specialist (SLMS) Scholarship will be awarded to

an applicant who is pursuing a degree from The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education accredited institution.

Application forms, criteria, and submission instructions are available on the Arkansas Library Association website: arlib.org/Scholarships-Page.

For more information you can also contact the Chair of the Scholarships Committee:

Ashley Burris, Lawrence County Library
Director

115 West Walnut

Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Phone (870) 886-3222 Fax (870) 886-9520

akburris@hotmail.com

The ArLA Scholarship program is a nonprofit public charity operating under Section 501 (c)(3) and in compliance with Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Legislative Briefs

by Hadi Dudley

ArLA Legislative Committee

An outline of Arkansas legislation was reported in the Spring 2017 issue of *Arkansas Libraries*. Since then, the state government's FY2018 budget was released.

On March 29, the Revenue Stabilization Law Allocations (RSA) were announced and reflected \$4.7 million for State Aid to Public Libraries in category "A" with \$1 million in category "B." This means that our anticipated \$5.7 million budget for State Aid to Public Libraries was not fully restored. Category "B" items are only funded if state revenue is collected to cover those budgets.

On May 3, 2017, Arkansas' final budget was cut by \$43 million. This translates to a 33% cut in RSA category "B" allocation. According to the Department of Finance Director, Larry Walther, the "Official Forecast for the FY2018 of Gross General Revenue collections will be \$6,756.9 million and the Net Available will be \$5,454.2 million, which is an amount sufficient to fund 100% of allocation 'A' and 67.26% of allocation 'B' in the Revenue Stabilization



Dudley

Law."

According to the State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft, "For State Aid to Public Libraries, \$4,641,919 is in 'A' and \$1,000,000 in 'B.' FY2018 forecast for 100% of 'A' + 67.26% of 'B' equals 5,314,519. That is a reduction of \$327,400 in State Aid in 'B.' The reduced budget for 'B' will only be funded if there is sufficient revenue."

Every year, the state is required to fund a "maintenance of effort" to receive federal funds; this year, the standard is met again.

The State Library's agency budget is funded with \$3,514,711 in "A" and \$0 in "B." This is a reduction from FY2017 of \$76,662.

For state and federal legislation, it is evident that Arkansas libraries still have advocacy work to do. Regardless of library type – academic, public, school, or special – tell your communities' stories to legislators, stakeholders and patrons. As we speak with others about funding and other key issues, we do *not* request support for *our libraries*, we request support for the *communities we serve*.

Hadi Dudley is Library Director at Bentonville Public Library and co-chairs the 2017 ArLA Legislative Committee along with David Johnson.

Faculty/Librarian Collaborations: A Model for Student Success

by *Kathy Anderson*

Associate Librarian, Acquisitions & Student Success

and *Kay Walter*

Professor of English

University of Arkansas at Monticello

As an academic librarian, I often hear tales of the struggles to have more access to students and to work more with the faculty on student assignments. Instead of a story about failures and missed opportunities, I would like to describe a successful collaboration.

Dr. Kay Walter, Professor of English, and I have been working together for several years. Recently, we were discussing how well we work together, and I told her that most librarians don't get the opportunity to have access to the students as in our situation. That is why we decided to share our success story so that others may take advantage of any opportunities to do the same at their institutions. Collaborations like ours take a lot of time and effort, but if you are willing to do the hard work, the benefits are well worth it.

Kay and I meet before she brings her students to the library. This way we can discuss her requirements for the assignment. I make sure we have resources available for the students, and we establish a united front when I present to her class. I often read the book or article, if one is assigned, to familiarize myself with the material.

By establishing a good working relationship with Kay, I know what kinds of resources she will and will not accept. I am able to focus on helping the

students increase critical thinking and information literacy skills because I already understand what the assignment is all about. If I could stress two ingredients to our success, they would be preparation and respect. We both understand the need for being prepared before addressing the students and have respect for each other and our professions. I know this type of collaboration will not work for everyone, but it will for many, given the chance. Modeling our successful collaboration to the students enables them to see how effective teamwork creates a successful environment in the workplace.

What follows is the perspective of Kay – what works best for her when collaborating with librarians, and what she wants her students to get out of the sessions.

Kathy Anderson, Associate Librarian of Acquisitions and Student Success, is a wonderful colleague. I know I can count on her to work alongside me to make my classes a success. She never says “no” to me no matter what experimental ideas I dream up for my students. She will schedule days for my class to meet in the library and orient them to available resources for their work. She introduces them to other library personnel who can meet specific needs they may have. She gives the library a human face for my students and is always excited to hear about their victories.

When I have freshmen researching topics for initial academic writing, she encourages them to make use of information she knows I will reward. She helps them think in ways that yield productive searches for information. She warns them against superficial thought because she knows overlooking deeper ideas is an error in my class. My



Dr. Kay Walter and Kathy Anderson (standing at back L to R) work together to help students fulfill their information needs and succeed academically.

upperclassmen research specific literary topics, and Kathy helps them find scholarly and authoritative resources. She helps them find and contact experts in the fields of their topics. She reduces the anxiety they feel about presenting their findings in a public forum as they prepare for conference presentations at professional meetings.

When I developed a travel seminar to take students to Great Britain to study British literature, Kathy agreed to Skype with my students along the way. Together we developed a list of questions for her to ask my students relating to the schedule of experiences they would have on their journey. The Skype sessions allowed them to clarify what they were learning and share it with an audience in familiar terms. These conversations reinforce the idea that our travels are a learning experience and not merely a vacation. They make my students responsible for retaining their mastery of new material in a way they can articulate. They are always excited to show off their new knowledge, and Kathy is always willing to listen. She gathers available library staff and poses the questions we prepared. I am never disappointed by the results of working with Kathy.

The foundation of our successful collaboration is an attitude of trust. I know I can depend on Kathy to listen, to encourage, and to share. I grow very attached to my students, and I could not encourage

their interaction with a colleague unless I felt I could trust the colleague to have their best interest at heart. Kathy has proven time and again that she is devoted to the success of the students at my university. Because she and I are *alumnae* of the university we serve, we can see the students as future fellow-*alumni*. We work together to help them grow into the people we want representing our education.

What we do takes hard work. We frequently give up our lunch hours and preparation time or lay aside tasks at hand to meet together and share concerns we have about individual students or groups. We brainstorm solutions and plans for their implementation. We share challenges we see students facing and envision together ways to help students navigate the path to their academic success. We both feel personally connected to the success of students at the institution which, as our *alma mater*, has meant so much to us, so we never hesitate to bring new ideas to one another. My work is easier because of Kathy. She is more than a colleague and a fellow *alumna* to me. She is a tireless collaborator.

The benefits of our working relationship is not unique to our university. Librarians across the state could find rich rewards from working with teachers who would facilitate direct access to students. Such a relationship takes time and effort to nurture, but the benefits—to the librarian, to the teacher, and to the students—are many. The rewards richly repay the labor invested.



Kathy Anderson (standing near screen in purple) talks with the students of Dr. Kay Walter (standing at the door) about making use of the library's resources for their classwork.

AAPL Advocacy

by Jay Carter

Library Director, Conway County Library

2017. Surely a year that has been fraught with political torment and strife against libraries. For most of the previous legislative session, AAPL, along with our lobbyist Tim Summers, fought against two aggressive house bills that would have either done away with or greatly reduced the special election laws. However, thanks to people like Tim, Hadi Dudley, David Johnson, Nate Coulter, and Graham Catlett (the lobbyist for CALS) we were able to dodge a bullet at the last minute. The vote was close; you need to be prepared for these issues to pop up again in some form during the next session.

As of this writing, we are waiting to see the outcomes of two issues that would have a huge impact on libraries. One is the state legislature's Revenue Stabilization Act, which, because of the State's balanced budget amendment would force a balanced budget. You will recall that this produced a \$1 million state aid cut two years ago. The other issue is how the President's budget will finally affect funding to IMLS and the Arts. Right now, thousands of people like you have contacted their federal legislators urging them not to cut this funding, and the situation appears to be brighter. Nevertheless, we are not out of the woods yet, so I urge you to contact your legislators to ask them not to cut funding.

I am old enough to remember the turbulent political times of the sixties, and history seems to be repeating itself yet again. These are tough and

challenging times for libraries. I know you have heard this line before, but folks, this is serious. We have a state legislature who is content to pass so-called shell bills and fill in details later. One such bill this past session simply stated, "The right to be left alone." Who knows how that would have turned out? It is for this reason that I am urging you to renew your membership in AAPL, or if you are not already a member, to please join. I have stated from the start of my presidency that AAPL and all Arkansas libraries need a permanent lobbyist, now more than ever. Folks, the simple fact is that we only have funding for our lobbyist for the remainder of this year. Let me emphasize this: WE ONLY HAVE FUNDING FOR OUR LOBBYIST FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. Tim has done a brilliant job, and with his contacts and political experience, we need to retain his services. He has worked well with Graham Catlett, the lobbyist for CALS, but Arkansas libraries need a lobbyist that will focus on the needs and issues of all libraries in the state. I know it is late in the year, but we all need to ask ourselves if we wish to be represented and supported in the legislature on a permanent basis. This year's Library Legislative Day was the most successful one we have had in years, and I thought we had the momentum to make this an ongoing thing. Since then, AAPL membership and support has waned. Therefore, it is up to you. Will you join us in our efforts to further library advocacy in Arkansas? I hope your answer is yes.

What is AAPL?

The *Advocates for Arkansas Public Libraries (AAPL)* began 30 years ago as a networking and discussion group of public library directors. In 2002, the group amended its bylaws to allow anyone who would like to work on public library advocacy issues in Arkansas.

As of 2015, AAPL has members from all over Arkansas, including library Friends groups, library board members, library staff, retired librarians, and, of course, public library directors!

The purpose of the group is to educate the public, state leaders and legislators of the value and importance of public libraries in Arkansas.

AAPL Membership

Anyone who works, uses, or loves public libraries is eligible for membership. As an individual member, you will be a voting member of AAPL and will receive updates about issues that impact public libraries in Arkansas. AAPL strives to have regular meetings at public libraries around the state.

JOIN TODAY!

2015-2016 Officers

President.....Jay Carter, Director
Conway Co. Library

Vice President....Ashley Burris, Director
Lawrence Co. Library

Treasurer.....Leroy Gattin, Retired
Library Director



Information and
Membership
Application

DATE: _____



Name: _____

I prefer to be contacted about AAPL information, meetings, and events via (please select one):

Email _____

Phone _____

Annual Institutional Dues

Population of the area your library serves _____ X 0.005 per capita =

\$ _____

Library Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Annual Individual Dues

Name: _____

\$20.00

Library Name (system and branch): _____

I do not work in a library (please tell us your current work status or employer and why you are interested in libraries on the back of this form)

Home Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Send this form and a check to AAPL for the total amount to (an invoice will be provided upon payment):

Leroy M. Gattin, Treasurer, 2702 SW Joshua Ave., Bentonville, AR 72712

TOTAL

\$ _____

MAKING THE MOST OF TECHNOLOGY Taking Control of Your Projects and To-do Lists

by Carol Coffey

Central Arkansas Library System

As an administrator, I find that one of the more challenging parts of my job is staying on top of all the projects for which I'm responsible while still completing my day-to-day tasks. I've tried a number of different tools and apps over the past few years but so far, I haven't found that magical unicorn of a perfect calendar/to-do list/project manager. For the last couple of years, I tried working with a paper planner/calendar to manage to-do lists while continuing to use Outlook as my primary calendar so my schedule was always available to me on my phone and tablet. In the end, that combination didn't work for me because it was too much work to keep the tools synchronized. After I missed a couple of appointments that didn't get entered in both calendars, I realized I needed to try something different.

I'm still using Outlook as my calendar because that's what we use at work, but Outlook does not provide a robust to-do list or project management tool. Since a single tool that effectively manages calendaring, project management, and to-do lists AND works the way my brain works doesn't seem to exist (Hmm...perhaps I should get busy and develop one), I'm trying out some apps in concert with Outlook to see how things go. I tend to be impatient so the trick for me is going to be giving each tool enough time to succeed or fail.

All of these tools have a few things in common. First, they each offer web versions as well as apps for various devices, such as iPhone, iPad, and Android. Second, each has a free version as well as a premium version that is generally available for some sort of monthly or annual subscription fee. Let's take a look at three of the apps that are out there, starting with the app I'm currently using.

Nirvana (www.nirvanahq.com) Nirvana is built on the principles of David Allen's *Getting Things Done*® although it is not affiliated with The David Allen Company. If you're not familiar with the *Getting Things Done* (GTD) methodology, the idea is that you will be most successful if you're able to capture everything that is floating around in your brain and record it somewhere so you can begin to organize it and act on it. Nirvana calls that place the Inbox. Once your to-dos, ideas, thoughts, etc., are in the Inbox, you can schedule them, tag them,

set deadlines, or set them aside until later. Nirvana also offers the option of converting a to-do item to a project if it will take multiple steps to complete or to a reference list for those bits of information that are not actionable at the moment. Nirvana has added a Focus feature to the GTD method, which allows you to decide what task you will focus on by setting a due date or scheduling a day to work on it. If you choose to do so, you can set up Nirvana to email your Focus list to you on specific days. Nirvana's free version limits the number of projects and reference lists you can have active at any given time.

Todoist (www.todoist.com) According to their website, Todoist's free version allows you to set up a larger number of projects than Nirvana's free version does. It also uses sub-tasks and sub-projects when multiple steps are needed to complete a task or project. Unlike in Nirvana, you can set task priorities manually, but Todoist's free version doesn't allow for tagging or labeling tasks and projects. Todoist does allow collaboration on projects and tasks, which isn't supported well by Nirvana. Todoist's premium version for individuals offers a much larger number of projects and project templates, as well as the ability to label items, get reminders and location-based notifications, add tasks via email, and track your productivity. There is a team-based business version that costs the same per user as the individual premium subscription, but which allows for centralized billing and priority support.

Trello (www.trello.com) Trello is designed specifically for project management and works well for groups. In Trello, each project is assigned to a board that is made up of lists. For example, you might have a list of ideas for the project, a to-do list, a list of tasks currently in progress, and a list of completed tasks. Each item on a list is called a card, and each card can have a checklist of steps, labels, due dates, file attachments, and comments. You can move cards from list to list as needed. Unlike Todoist and Nirvana, Trello's free account allows you to use an unlimited number of boards, and you can have an unlimited number of people assigned to work on each board. Trello offers Power-Ups, which integrate Trello boards with other applications such as Salesforce, Slack, Google Drive, or a number of other tools. The free version allows one Power-Up per board, but the premium version, called Trello Gold, allows up to three, as well as larger attachments and more background choices. Trello also offers a business version with many more features.

Obviously this is a tiny subset of the productivity

apps that are available. Here are some others:

- **Any.do** (any.do)
- **Remember the Milk** (www.rememberthemilk.com)
- **TeuxDeux** (teuxdeux.com)

Maybe one of these apps will work for you, or maybe there is another one out there waiting for you to discover it. If the idea of experimenting with digital productivity tools appeals to you, I suggest

Googling the phrase “to do apps” for a list of apps as well as links to articles about productivity apps. I’m sure you’ll find the right tool.

Carol Coffey is the Head of Library Resources and Digital Services for Central Arkansas Library System.

Jerrie Townsend: A Reflection

by Jerrie Townsend

*Library Director, Stuttgart Campus
Phillips Community College of the University of
Arkansas*

Editor’s Note: Jerrie Townsend will be retiring in the summer of 2017 after 19 years of service at Phillips Community College. She served the Association once as President, and twice as Past President. What follows is a reflection of her career.



Townsend

Librarianship is my second career, and Arkansas was my first home. My first career began in Tulsa, Oklahoma where I worked in a corporate environment for an international company. At one time, they were considering the establishment of a corporate library. I enrolled in the Information Studies program at the University of Oklahoma. By the time I completed my degree in 1986, the plans for the corporate library had been scrapped. But I had my Master’s degree in Library and Information Studies, which had been financed by my employer.

All of my previous experience had been as a volunteer in our local public library. After we received space from the city for a library, I helped catalog and process the donations to the Broken Arrow Genealogical Society. What fun to set up a library from scratch! Little did I know how helpful that experience would be.

After returning to Arkansas, I was hired as the Assistant Librarian for Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas. I was responsible for the two campus libraries in Arkansas County. The first time I saw the space in DeWitt, it was empty except for the furniture and shelving. The Stuttgart library was one of the last rooms to be completed in our new building. As construction continued down the long hallway, the debris was just pushed forward.

You guessed it – it landed in the library! The first time I walked in there it was just a pile of junk! However, I can’t tell you how rewarding it has been to see both of those libraries grow. Some mornings before the rush of the day settles in, I like to just stand there and remember how we started.

Soon after, I was promoted to Library Director for the College. That meant assuming responsibility for a third campus. Helena is the site of our original and largest location. I have enjoyed the support of my administration, and it has been my pleasure to work with professionals committed to the betterment of our students as we assist them in achieving their goals. The staff members on each of my three campuses are terrific.

It was an honor to serve ArLA as president in 2009. Our association has a wealth of opportunities for service and mentoring. Having started a little later in my librarian career, I felt I had some catching up to do. ArLA members were supportive and helpful. Now as a “senior member,” it has been great fun to work with our new and upcoming professionals. They have so much to offer and will take librarianship into the future. Our profession is in good hands.

I have been with the college now for 19 years, and I am looking forward to retirement. I am heavily involved as regent for the Arkansas State Society Daughters of the American Revolution and will complete my term next summer. As an avid genealogist, I want to visit those places where my ancestors lived and try to fill in some of those blank spots in their histories. I have a trip already planned for September to Kentucky and Virginia.

I have had the opportunity to collaborate with two of my friends on their research projects. It was rewarding and exciting to see their ideas actually published.

And, who knows – I might just grab a book, put my feet up, and do what no librarian has time to do: read all day!

Thanks to all of you and best wishes.

A Brief Overview of 30+ Years

by *Sally Hawkes*

*Manager of Network Services,
Arkansas State Library*

Editor's Note: Sally Hawkes will be retiring in summer 2017 after more than 32 years of service at the Arkansas State Library. ASL's Digital Services Librarian, Lynn Valetutti, will be filling in on "all things Traveler" following Sally's retirement.



Hawkes

Prior to coming to Arkansas I worked as a school librarian in rural Virginia, then in a reference position north of Philadelphia. After four years as a paraprofessional, I went to the University of South Florida to get my MLS. I moved on to the Chicago suburbs to work as a children's librarian at one library and adult services librarian at another. After being involved in two retro-conversions in Chicago, I began looking for jobs that would allow me to work in library automation.

I arrived in Little Rock in January of 1985 to be a Program Advisor for Library Development in the Extension Services division at ASL. The first six months focused on getting to know the state and doing an inventory at Pope County Library in Russellville. At that point in time I was still learning how to pronounce the county names. At the same time I was compiling *Recommended Reference Titles for Small Public Libraries in Arkansas*. There were three PCs at ASL; one was in Library Development.

A new position was funded at the beginning of 1986; I became the Coordinator of Network Services (changed to Manager later). This is where I started working with libraries in the fast-developing field of library automation, as well as helping libraries get access to something called the Internet. I was teaching librarians about equipment and materials as they were being invented. This led to the following projects/grants through 1997:

- Grants for plain paper fax machines for public and academic libraries.
- Internet email for ASL staff through ARKnet.
- Arkansas Union Catalog changing from Microfiche to OCLC First Search for all OCLC/Amigos members.
- Began AL@N (Selective Users Groups, ILL) for public and academic libraries.



- Worked with 15 public libraries on grants for Internet access.
- Co-authored grant application to Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for equipment to provide Internet access to 197 public libraries.
- Worked with IBM on pilot project for ASL's first web page along with four other state agencies.

During those years I also worked with various state agency groups: ASCII (Arkansas State Computer Information Interface), Record Retention group, AUTIS (Arkansas Users of Technology and Information Systems), and the state's Emergency Disaster group after 9/11. I also collaborated with the Department of Information Systems to apply for E-rate grants.

Two major events happened in 1997. Arkansas was selected to be in the first group of states to receive funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which would assist public libraries with Internet access. At the same time, federal funding changed from LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) to LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act). This meant that federal funding went from two Titles for public libraries and one Title for multi-type libraries to all the funding covering multi-type libraries.

FirstSearch databases would expand to include K-12 school libraries. My "clients" went from approximately 300 libraries to more than 900. The number and type of databases were expanded as well, and so Traveler was created! I got to combine my reference training with technology knowledge to provide databases statewide. I had to learn the databases to help with training and explored new developments in telecommunications. My focus has been Traveler and the ASL website since 2012. I've called myself an interpreter at times, translating geek into library speak, and vice versa. It's definitely kept my job interesting and challenging, and I will miss working with the diverse set of libraries and the myriad of issues that came up over my three decades in Arkansas.

TRAINING: TIPS, TOPICS AND TECHNIQUES

LOTS to Learn: Working Toward Standardized Reference Training

by *Chrissy Karafit and Joanna Ewing*
University of Central Arkansas

Quality reference service is one of the most crucial features of any library. The faculty at the University of Central Arkansas' Torreyson Library had discussed the library's reference training process, including some concerns that not everyone who provides reference services has received equitable training on the numerous databases and research tools available at our library. Everyone who works the reference desk has been trained by different people who may focus on different databases and tools. Some members of the reference team had not received any training on a few newly acquired databases, and additional training was needed for the discovery service due to interface changes and new insights.

In an effort to address these issues, UCA Collection Development Librarian Renee LeBeau-Ford volunteered to offer weekly training sessions for the library technicians who work the reference desk. Since Renee selects, tests, and purchases all of the databases and research tools for the UCA Library, she is very familiar with the unique capabilities and limitations of each tool.

Renee began her training, nicknamed LOTS or Library Orientation and Training Sessions, by examining the philosophy behind reference services. One approach to the reference interview involves identifying the "Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How." Determining "who" the patron is can help to determine the level of information needed. The information need of an undergraduate student working on a paper for an introductory writing class is different from that of a graduate student or faculty member doing intensive research into the same subject. Some sources may be too general or too advanced, but we must elicit feedback from the patron to determine if the level is appropriate. "What" and "why" refer to the question or subject and the reason information is needed. If a reference question can be characterized as trivia, such as how many stitches are on a baseball, you may want to ask the patron whether it is acceptable to use a Google search. This may be the most efficient way to answer many general interest questions. However, a question that stems from a research assignment may include very specific qualifications for sources, such as peer-reviewed articles, case studies, or clinical trials.

Asking "when" the information is needed can help determine if time is available for extensive searching or interlibrary loan requests, or if the research assignment is due tomorrow. "When" might also refer to whether the patron needs current or historical information sources. One point that Renee stresses is, "Do not waste the patron's time." If you don't understand the patron's question, ask questions to find out more about their topic. This conversation sometimes clarifies the patron's information need by revealing how it relates to other subjects. However, if you don't know how to help them find relevant information on a topic, don't be afraid to ask a colleague for help.

Once you have identified who, what, when, why, and how much information is needed, then you can determine "where" to search, such as specific databases, the catalog, the archives, etc. Renee provided an orientation to the recently acquired EBSCO Discovery Service, which the UCA Library refers to as OneSearch. She explained that not every patron should be directed to start their search through the discovery tool. The discovery service is best suited for users that are new to the subject area, and who are looking for any information on the topic. Users who need to search within a specific database or journal are better served by going directly to the desired resource. Discovery tools conduct a wide search and may retrieve millions of results, many of which may be irrelevant for the advanced researcher. These services also do not include specific search limiters, such as type of methodology or targeted age groups for psychology, which could be useful for those conducting in-depth research in a particular subject area. Additionally, it is noteworthy that not all of the UCA Library's databases are aggregated into the EBSCO Discovery Service. Resources that include tutorials or generate data sets are not easily incorporated into many discovery tools.

Another session focused on the varying access options for online journals. Online journals may be accessed through a database or package subscription, in which case journal content may not be owned, and the most recent content is sometimes embargoed. Online journals may be accessed through an individual subscription, which usually includes access to the most current content, but may or may not include access to older journal content. Some publishers sell or offer subscription access to backfiles of journal content separately from current journal content. Some journals are completely open access, while others include an occasional open access issue or selected open access

articles. Some database providers only allow limited simultaneous users. All of this variation in access can be bewildering to library staff, not to mention patrons. If reference workers understand the different access options, they can help patrons understand the reasons for access barriers, identify alternative access options, and manage frustration with the research process.

Renee has also introduced some new trends in the library field, such as patron-driven acquisition, and has invited discussion on the philosophical debate about ownership versus access to information. Presenting these issues encourages library technicians to take a broader view of library services beyond the boundaries of a specific job. This may help staff to feel more invested in the greater mission of librarianship. In some sessions, Renee goes around the room to let everyone tackle a different reference question. She welcomes all participants to offer ideas and approaches to tough questions to avoid putting anyone on the spot. Role-playing can prepare staff to manage challenging patron behaviors, while also interjecting some humor and fun into the training session.

Some challenges have emerged through this

training endeavor. Some staff may feel that they know everything about providing reference services when in fact there may be gaps in their knowledge. It can be difficult to persuade people to attend training if they think they know the material. In reality, no one knows everything about providing research help, because reference training is an ongoing process. There is always more to learn: new database features, new resources, and new search techniques. Renee recommends making periodic reference training mandatory, although it is important to consider scheduling if potential trainees work different shifts or days of the week.

Plans for reference training are ongoing, with no projected end-date at this time. For future training sessions, Renee intends to invite guest speakers to talk about specific areas of interest, such as citation analysis and management and how cataloging impacts discoverability. Participating library technicians have shared their appreciation for this training opportunity. Periodic mandatory training sessions can be a great way to ensure that the reference service providers at your library are equally trained and knowledgeable about resources and services.

Commemorating the ‘Great War’ in Arkansas

by Mark Christ

Designee, Department of Arkansas Heritage

Governor Asa Hutchinson created the Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee to help guide Arkansas’s remembrance of the Great War. Among the Committee’s mandates are to facilitate World War I-related activities throughout the state and to encourage civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations across the state to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of World War I.

As one of its top projects, the Committee is advocating the planting of WWI Memorial Trees around the state. There was a world-wide movement beginning in 1919 to plant trees as living memorials to the millions who lost their lives. A small grove of holly trees on the Henderson State University campus in Arkadelphia survives today as a reminder of that effort. The Arkansas World War I Centennial Commemoration Committee hopes to see a WWI Memorial Tree planted in each of Arkansas’s counties before the centennial observance ends

in 2018, and invites libraries across the state to participate in this project.

The Arkansas State Archives has a traveling exhibit on Arkansas during the war that is available for distribution statewide, and the Committee encourages sites around the state to display it during the 100th anniversary of WWI. *The Great War: Arkansas in World War I* showcases images from the Arkansas State Archives’ holdings, including original documents, photographs, posters, maps, and historical objects that tell the story of Arkansas’s role during World War I, at home and on the battlefields. The 12 panels cover the chronology of the war as well as various facets of the conflict: training troops in Arkansas, actions overseas, the Home Front, providing for the war, healthcare, and Arkansas heroes. While it is booked most of 2017, some dates in 2018 remain available. Contact Julienne Crawford at 501.682.6900 or julienne.crawford@arkansas.gov to arrange a date to host the traveling exhibit.

To learn more, visit www.wwiarkansas.com/, where you can find lesson plans, an in-depth timeline, death records, and other valuable resources. Together, we can again honor the thousands of Arkansans who fought and died in the Great War.

ASK THE STATE LIBRARIAN: Crossing the Bar

By *Carolyn Ashcraft*,
Arkansas State Library

With almost 40 years spent in Arkansas libraries, I have been privileged to work with many wonderful individuals (librarians, library staff, board members, library vendors or salespeople, etc.). During that time I have also said good-bye to numerous folks when they retired, left for other jobs, or passed away.

Unfortunately, 2017 has brought sadness in the loss of several of the vendors who consistently supported Arkansas libraries and the Arkansas Library Association.

Doyle Kenneth Haynie of North Little Rock passed away on February 10, 2017, at the age of 76. In 1969 he started American Micrographics, which became known as Records Imaging Systems, now owned by his sons Keith and Kevin. The company provides document management solutions equipment and software. Many libraries own microfilm readers or book scanners that were purchased from Records Imaging Systems.

Richard H. Kilmer of Hot Springs passed away on March 1, 2017, at the age of 82. Dick, as he was known by all, was the founder of Possum Grape RHK. Through his work, he traveled from library to



Ashcraft

library with his containers of book jackets and books to share with library staff. Dick was the salesman with whom you enjoyed visiting, as he always made you feel at ease. Possum Grape will continue to be well represented by his wife, Natalie, and son, Paul.

William Eugene Sanders, Sr., of Greensboro, North Carolina, passed away on March 6, 2017, at the age of 83. Bill co-founded S & W Distributors, Inc. in 1964, and served as CEO. As a wholesale book dealer, Bill also traveled across the country and called upon Arkansas libraries, often accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth. In recognition of their contributions and support, Bill and Elizabeth received the President's Award at the 2011 Arkansas Library Association Conference.

The loss of Dick and Bill within a few days of each other was a shock, but not a total surprise as both had been having health issues. Although they were competitors in business, they were true friends as well as colleagues and spent many happy times together at various library conferences and in Hot Springs during the Oaklawn racing season.

Each of these men were outstanding in their local communities and in their professions. They were outgoing, friendly, and up-beat. They were respectful of others, as evidenced by the fact that they always called to make an appointment rather than just dropping by unannounced. They will be missed by their family, their friends, and the librarians upon whom they called.

"Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark! And may there be no sadness of farewell, when I embark; For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place the flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar." -- Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Black River Technical College Library Floods

by *Anne Simpson*

Library Director, Black River Technical College

Black River Technical College (BRTC), a two-year college with 3,000 students enrolled was the only library reporting substantial damage from flooding this past spring. At the beginning of May, northeast Arkansas and other areas in the mid-South experienced significant rainfall, resulting in flooding as far north as St. Louis. Pocahontas, the location of BRTC's main campus, is situated on the Black River which runs from southeast Missouri and through the town of Pocahontas. East Pocahontas is located in the Delta while west Pocahontas is

located in the Ozark foothills. While a levee protects much of the farmland along the Black River up to Pocahontas, the river waters reached levels beyond record, thus overflowing the levee and flooding the farmland around the college and some of BRTC's buildings.

Pictured is the BRTC campus: the library building is on the right. The library shares a site with an academic building that houses the English instructors and is joined by a breezeway. The academic building "took the bullet" for the library and was under about a foot of water. The library got about 4-5 inches.

All hands were on deck to move books up on

the shelves, safely away from the water. However, any time there's that much water around, books take on moisture. Krystal Hendon, library tech at BRTC, worked tirelessly to see that the library was packed away properly. Each book was boxed up and sent away until the library could be dried out and redone.

The last time Black River Technical College (BRTC) was under water was 2011, and the damage was similar to then. While donations are helpful to dry out and repair the damage from this flood, real money needs to be appropriated to harness the Black River!



International Opportunity for a Law Librarian: *Teaching Legal Research in Poland*

by *Jeff B. Woodmansee, J.D., M.L.S.*

Program Description

The School of U.S. Law is a relatively new International Course of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Silesia in Poland. It was organized in cooperation with the Law Faculties of three different universities based in the United States – Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, UALR Bowen School of Law, and University of Toledo College of Law. Each course is comprised of ten sessions, which take place on one weekend each month. Every weekend session is led by professors specializing in particular areas of U.S. law, delegated by the law faculty of one of the partner universities. The classes are conducted solely in English.



Woodmansee

The class I taught, *Specialized Legal Research in U.S. Criminal Law*, was designed to equip students with the knowledge and practical skills necessary for effective legal research, with a specific focus at the legal research materials and strategies used in the practice of criminal law for students interested in becoming criminal prosecutors or defense attorneys. The course reviewed the basic concepts of research and foundational primary sources of federal criminal law, including the Constitution, statutes, case opinions, and specialized materials relevant for criminal law research. The class also emphasized research methods in a variety of online formats, including modern database searching via *Westlaw*, *Lexis Advance*, *Bloomberg Law*, *Fastcase*, *Google Scholar*; and *Justia*, as well as relevant federal government websites and online sources for factual investigation.

School of U.S. Law as an International Collaboration

The collaborative effort on the part of the participating faculty from Bowen and colleagues

from the other law schools, partnered with the amazing team of faculty and staff from the University of Silesia, has made for a truly meaningful cultural exchange and enriching legal education program for those students who enrolled in the inaugural year of the program. Without a doubt, this course became much more than a study of U.S. Criminal Law research and comparative legal systems; this program brought together a diverse background of American educators along with law students and active legal practitioners from all over Poland (and other parts of Europe) to make for a truly enriching exchange of ideas, culture, and new methods of teaching and relating to others. Everyone – myself included – learned so much from this experience.

The Teaching Experience

The first group of students comprised of a wide range of ages, personal and professional backgrounds, and previous international experiences. Collectively, these students quickly exceeded my expectations and any uncertainty I had about communicating content and making connections; most were quite fluent English-speakers who arrived eager to learn, were very thoughtful and engaging, and came in with a surprisingly keen awareness of American popular culture and the basics of our criminal law system – at least the way it is portrayed in the media and Hollywood.

The students were interested in the substance of the class, but were equally curious about the U.S. legal education system and legal processes. As a result, each day's sessions of structured content presentations and related class activities worked well in this format, with perhaps some of the most meaningful moments arising from the several “unplanned” free-flowing class discussions that gave students an open forum and provided me with many opportunities to assess their interests and skills and adapt our approach as we moved through session material. For example, having both a practicing judge and an experienced criminal defense attorney among attendees led to several “mock trial” activities; informal discussions about student use of *Westlaw* for class led to comparisons of the major databases primarily used in Poland and Europe and a student-led demonstration of their two major platforms. Students also knew a lot about the O.J. Simpson murder case because of two recent American television series, which led to a lot of questions and

discussion about our system

Polish Life

Silesia's hosts made me feel incredibly welcome from the moment I was met at the airport. The law school's supporting faculty and staff, particularly my international liaison Tomasz Chabryzk, went above and beyond in every aspect of my visit, from airport and hotel fees and logistics, collegial and technical support on-site throughout class sessions, and in showing such great concern for my personal needs, comfort, and particular interests while visiting.

One of the highlights of the experience was being taken out for dinner and drinks by Tomasz, Anna Lichosik, and other colleagues after the first day of teaching, including a trip to the top floor of the SkyBar overlooking the city. Tomasz also arranged a wonderful downtown walking tour on my final night that I will never forget . . . while I wish I could have planned to visit Krakow or Warsaw while in the country, Katowice was a beautiful city with an interesting blend of old and new architecture. More than buildings, the long conversations about our respective cultural perceptions and personal paths to the legal profession were so enlightening. I can honestly say that I have never been treated so well and was so grateful to have such a thoughtful “right hand man” assisting me at every turn, particularly on my first trip to Europe with so much going on over those couple of days. The friendships formed during my stay with both colleagues and students will last a lifetime.

Associate Professor Jeff B. Woodmansee was one of four Bowen faculty members who participated in the inaugural edition of the School of U.S. Law program in conjunction with the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, teaching Specialized Legal Research in U.S. Criminal Law in April 2016. Prof. Woodmansee has been with the library staff at UALR Bowen School of Law since 2005.



The Polish cohort.

LIBRARY PROFILE

Building a Better World in Pope County

*Angela Black, Technical Services Librarian,
Ross Pendergraft Library*

The Pope County Library System is building a better world from the heart of Arkansas. This year, the Russellville branch's summer reading program, "Build a Better World," is pairing books with hands-on learning aimed at teaching children how science and technology can solve big problems both in their community and on their planet.

The program kicked off June 3 with an exciting day of fun crafts and activities focused on STEM. Approximately 300 kids of all ages spent a Saturday morning building rockets, creating structures out of recycled materials, learning with live frogs and tadpoles, and generally having a build-a-palooza with blocks, Legos, Tinker Toys, and Brain Flakes. Nearly every part of the library was overtaken by coloring, building, tinkering, crafting, smiling kids.



*Melanie Goad, Children's Librarian at the
Russellville branch of the Pope County Library
System.*

"We had 9 stations. We incorporated such things as rolled-up newspaper, cardboard tubes, cardboard squares," said Melanie Goad, Children's Librarian at the Russellville branch of the Pope County Library System. "We felt this combined two different ways of 'building a better world'—the kids were able to literally build, as well as learn about fun ways to recycle."

The series runs from June 1–July 8, and includes programs exploring topics in STEM such as water pollution, bee pollination, and community gardens. Part of a larger, national initiative, the Build a Better World Summer Reading program at Pope County Library System goes far beyond reading lists to incorporate creative activities to bring their stories to life.

One example of this includes the Community Garden Story Time, held in the evening to give parents an opportunity to participate in the summer reading program with their children. "We had our first one last night," says Mrs. Goad. "We read books about fairies and then built a fairy garden. The children decorated rocks with paint and glitter, and we used them to make a path from our fairy house. We also made beaded sun catchers. Next week, we will be reading variations of *The Jack and The*





Beanstalk and children will be able to plant their own bean seeds.”

In addition to planting the seeds of learning in smaller children, the Russellville branch also reaches out to teens to join a reading program that is truly their own. Teenagers are able to submit their own requests for reading material and read at their own pace. However, they can earn points for prizes by reading up to three books a week and for attending the library’s “adulting” programs. These classes provide practical, real-world lessons and skills on subjects like interviewing, car safety and maintenance, and even dorm cooking.

For the budding scientists in the community, the branch offers a “Mad Scientist Club” where kids can conduct experiments, explore the science of bubbles, and find out what makes vinegar and baking soda hiss. The program started in March, and consistently sees over 40 registered children each month.

Since the Pope County Library System serves more than the Russellville area, their Bookmobile takes the summer reading show on the road to such rural communities like Pottsville & London, and even as far away as Tilly, Arkansas—a community 45 miles north of Russellville, tucked away in the Ozark Mountains, 1,946 feet above sea level. As for former Bookmobile driver, Ms. Goad has driven through fog, thunderstorms, and up some of the most winding, mountain roads in Arkansas. “We think it is important to visit the smaller communities to open up programming to parents who might have difficulty getting to the branches.”

The Bookmobile—with more than 24,000 miles on the odometer—also brings programming to the local venues like Lake Dardanelle State Park and

the Russellville City Park, where activities such as “Yoga in the Park” can stretch beyond the four walls of the library.

The Children’s Librarian is particularly excited about the new partnerships with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Lake Dardanelle State Park, and the 4-H club. Some of the events on the calendar this year include lectures on the AGFC’s Bat program, 4-H presentations on bee pollination, and the “Tweet me a Story” story-time about birds in the open pavilion at Lake Dardanelle State Park. She added, “These kind of partnerships demonstrate to the children how we can pull together as a community to build a better world.”

The better world seems well on its way in Russellville, thanks to the Pope County Library System and their children’s librarian, Melanie Goad. You can check out all events this summer by following them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/popecountylibrarysystem/ or visiting online at www.popecountylibrary.org.



Arkansas Books & Authors

Compiled by Bob Razer

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

***The Ozarks: An American Survival of Primitive Society.* Vance Randolph. Edited by Robert Cochran.**

Though this is only the second volume in the new University of Arkansas Press series *Chronicles of the Ozarks*, joining Waymon Hogue's *Back Yonder*, it will likely be one of the best entries. Series editor Brooks Blevins is well-schooled in what are the important early works in Ozarks study and his first selections have returned two important books to print.

Hogue's memoir of growing up in the Ozarks in the late 1800s, while maybe stretching the truth a bit at times to make a good story, is often mentioned in a discussion of early Arkansas bibliography but has been rarely read by today's Arkies due to the 1932 book being hard to come by. That obstacle has now been overcome thanks to this new series.

Vance Randolph, of course, is the granddaddy of Ozark studies and *The Ozarks*, first published in 1931, is probably less well known today than Randolph's collections of folktales, folksongs, folklore, and his monographs on Ozark speech and superstitions. *The Ozarks* was his first venture into trying to explain the way of life lived by the residents of these Arkansas and Missouri mountains to "furriners" as the hill folk termed anyone not living in the Ozarks. The book proved to be popular nationally and provided Randolph the encouragement needed to continue the study of his neighbors and to expand on topics raised in this book.

Readers familiar with Randolph's publications will see chapters in *The Ozarks* that often led to multivolume works on the same topic later such as his discussion of folksongs, folktales, and folklore in general; the later works became monumentally important. Randolph's *Down in the Holler: A Gallery of Ozark Folk Speech* is one of the ten most important books in the land of Arkansiana in my opinion and "the Ozarks dialect" chapter in *The Ozarks* is of interest even if you are familiar with *Down in the Holler*. Other chapters deal with a broader presentation of Ozark society and the lives of people living there.

Randolph was a collector of material from others but his own wit is present in these pages though subtly. "Many mountain women believe that to eat

chicken hearts raw will make any girl beautiful. I know one poor girl who has eaten them for years, but without any benefit, as far as I can see." That bit of dietary advice was far less harmful than the belief that to cure oneself of a venereal disease, you needed to pass it on to someone else.

Mention should also be made of the book's introductions written by series editor Blevins and the volume's editor, Robert Cochran. Cochran is the author of the first rate biography of Randolph, *Vance Randolph: An Ozark Life*. Blevins has written several books about the mountain culture as well as another of my top ten books of Arkansiana, *Arkansas/Arkansaw*, a study of the Arkansas image and how it came to be. Both men's essays are informative and serve as an introduction to Randolph for those unfamiliar with him. *The Ozarks* would serve nicely as an introductory volume to Randolph's life work and is highly recommended.

***Between Them: Remembering My Parents.* Richard Ford.**

Most Arkansians have at least a passing interest in highly decorated author Richard Ford's fiction because of his Arkansas connections. He spent most summers from toddlerhood through high school living in the Marion Hotel because his grandmother's second husband was the hotel manager for many years and grandparents provided a summer retreat for only child Ford. For an observant child, daily life in an urban hotel would provide some insight into people's behavior for a future novelist. Ford wrote in a recent *New Yorker* essay about one of his summer jobs in Little Rock supervising teenagers in a Neighborhood Youth Corps program, terming it "not a job I wanted – just one I could get." There is no joy in clearing brush during an Arkansas summer, then or now.

Ford's parents were native Arkansians, father from Atkins and mother from rural Benton County and they lived in Hot Springs and Little Rock before relocating to Jackson, Mississippi in anticipation of Richard's birth. Jackson was a more central location than Little Rock in his father's territory as a traveling salesman, thus allowing an easier return home on Friday nights. Prior to baby's arrival, his mother traveled with her husband for years enjoying life in neighboring cities, particularly New Orleans, a town Richard would live in at one point himself. Richard's birth came late in life for his parents and was a surprise to them after years of a childless marriage.

This memoir is in two parts: the first is about

Ford's father and the second is about his mother. It was a strange childhood for the future writer though he points out that he didn't know it was unusual because it was all he knew. Father was a weekend visitor, arriving Friday night and leaving Monday morning. Ford was naturally closer to his mother as a result and following his father's death when Ford was sixteen his relationship with his mother became even more of a partnership in living rather than one of parent and child. Though they never lived together after Ford left for college, they remained close. His

mother retired back to Little Rock and visits between the two were frequent, whether in Little Rock or in whatever college town where the local university employed Ford as a teacher.

Ford is an excellent writer. I've described his books in the past as "nothing happens but the reader doesn't care because the writing is so good." In *Between Them* things do happen. The writing is still good. Readers learn even more about Ford's Arkansas relatives and his most unusual childhood and adolescence.

Arkansas Books & Authors Bibliography

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***Arkansas author**

Inclusion does not indicate recommendation.



Jil'Lana Heard: Nominee for 2018 ArLA Officer Election

by Dean Covington

Chair, ArLA Nominating Committee

This September at conference, the ArLA membership will elect its Vice-President to serve a three-year term as Vice-President, President, and Past President. The candidate for this upcoming cycle, Jil'Lana Heard, has been nominated from the pool of Arkansas school librarians, in accordance with the informal practice of rotating the presidency between academic/special, public, and school librarians.



Heard

Jil'Lana Heard received her MLIS in December of 2002 from the College of Communication & Information at Florida State University. Since graduating, Heard has worked at the Lake Hamilton School District, most recently as Library Media Specialist at the Junior High. She will be the Lake Hamilton High School library media specialist beginning this fall. Heard has published articles about engaging teens in recreational reading through book clubs.

Heard has been active in the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media (AAIM), serving as President in 2011-2012. She received the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award in 2009,

given to the AAIM member who has demonstrated leadership in promoting media programs and practices which has resulted in an improvement in media usage in instruction.

One of Heard's greatest achievements was to be chosen to take part in the Arkansas Declaration of Learning program, an interagency initiative founded in 2013 supported by the Arkansas Department of Education, the Butler Center, the Clinton Foundation, and Crystal Bridges, among others, to lead classroom lessons and civic engagement projects using historic art and objects to illustrate national and state-based stories. Through this program, librarians and teachers demonstrate how civic engagement was valuable to the country during its formative years, as well as the continued importance of civic engagement today. Heard collaborated with 8th grade Lake Hamilton history teacher Seth Reeves to co-teach four units in U.S. history using artworks and engaging activities to expose students to diverse perspectives and viewpoints.

Heard also comments that she is the proud mother of two, and she loves to travel, scrapbook, and, of course, read!

Dean Covington serves as Vice-President of the Arkansas Library Association and is Director of Torreyson Library at the University of Central Arkansas.



Northwest Arkansas Community College students utilizing newly renovated space during finals.

**Arkansas Library Association
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Bill Sanders (right) of S&W Distributors is but one vendor ArLA has lost this year (please see related article on page 29).