

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

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Arkansas Library Association

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THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB

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SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST DEFINED

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CENSORSHIP IN ARKANSAS

Arkansas Library Association, 2017



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Arkansas Libraries

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Cover Photo: Getting ready for spring at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children’s Library & Learning Center in Little Rock. *Photo submitted by Tameka Lee and Lee Ann Blackwell.*

Journal design by Ethan C. Nobles, Ethan@NoblesLawFirm.com.

FROM THE ARLA PRESIDENT: The Most Important Job

by David Eckert

ArLA President

Did you ever stop to think about who has the most important job in the library? Who has that job that really is indispensable? I'm sure several possibilities spring to mind depending upon your point of view.

One might argue that it all starts with acquisitions and technical services. After all, the shelves would be barren and dusty without material. And this is no easy, snap-of-the-fingers sort of endeavor. There is the poring over of catalogs and journals full of reviews, the selection and ordering of editions and volumes, and the careful watching of budgets and shipping discounts. Once these decisions are made and the material finally arrives, the fun doesn't end there, no. Information about these items needs to be put into the library catalog. Phrases like MARC records, tag fields, and location codes fill the air. Then there is the careful placing of stamps, labels, stickers, pockets, barcodes and a barrage of other minute details that frankly makes my head spin. Surely these are all key elements that make these jobs the most important in your library, right?

But wait a minute. That's all well and good, and of course it's extremely important, but what about circulation? If the whole point of a library is to match patrons with the material that they want, and then to repeat this process multiple times with multiple patrons all wanting a wide variety of items, surely that has got to be the key position here. Working together with reference services, or readers advisory this department makes sure that our patrons are leaving with the items that they want. Plus this department is like the command center of the building. If you owe a fine, go to circulation. Lost your card? You can get a new one at the circulation desk. Oh, did you return an empty DVD case? Circulation can help you.

Of course the real secret weapons of the circulation department are the pages who shelve all of the material to their rightful spots. Let's face it, if the material is not in its correct location, who is going to find it, and how long will it stay missing? If our patrons can't find the material they need, and we



Eckert



can't find it for them, doesn't that pretty much negate one of our main reasons for existing?

Now hang on. Not everyone who benefits from library services even check out material. What about the people who attend all of the programs we offer? Arguably our most important crowd can't even drive yet. They can't even fend for themselves in the kitchen, or take a bath by themselves. But by golly if we don't offer story time, there will be heck to pay. And I mean the real stomping of feet and crying. And don't forget about the after school crowd that comes swarming in to play on the computers, or just to hang out and have philosophical discussions on whether Sasquatch in a hot air balloon could take on a redneck armed with a kitten cannon. Hey, these things are important!!

Of course there are also all of the great programs offered to our adult patrons both in and out of the building. Everything from arts and crafts to Zumba, from book discussion groups to growing tomatoes in a container on your back porch, and even bingo and trivia contests are available to our customers throughout the year. Plus visits to the local nursing homes and adult activity centers afford us the opportunity to bring the library to these patrons by delivering books along with quality programming. Surely such a noble cause to spread the reach of the library beyond our walls is worthy of consideration for the most important positions in the library.

These are all great arguments, and they all have their merits for claiming that their job is the most important in the library. But let's face it, where is the real power? Where are the long term decisions made? Where do all of the big problems go? I heard some murmuring out there so I know that you know. That's right, administration. The organization can't run without this department, right? This is the area that takes care of all of those things that no one else wants to deal with such as dress codes, or shrinking budgets. And don't even get me started with all of the meetings. There are meetings with staff, meetings with library boards, meetings with city or county officials, and even meetings to decide when to meet! And don't forget all of those fun HR items such as

interviewing and hiring, discipline and firing, and dealing with ever changing rules on benefits and making sure that the organization is compliant with all of the current labor laws. Plus someone has to pay the bills and make sure we all get paid, right? That right there could trump all of the other excellent choices for most important library job. I know my wife would argue for that one.

Hmmm, such tough choices, it's hard to pick just one. Frankly, everything and everyone seems important. We need material to distribute. We need people to make sure that this is done, and done repeatedly. We need people to conduct programs to all ages because everyone is one of our customers.

And since everyone is a potential customer, we need people to take the library to them so that we can serve everyone. We also need people to work behind the scenes to make sure everything works smoothly and that we have enough resources to support all of these endeavors. I don't think I can pick just one, can you?

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

FROM THE EDITOR: Calmness and Politics

by *Britt Anne Murphy*

Library Director, Hendrix College

2017 has been rather reflective of the weather – each week I'm checking the forecast to see if I should prepare for summer-like humidity, winter skies, spring tornadoes, or crisp fall-like breezes and sunshine. The political forecast has been as tumultuous, and as much as we'd rather not have to pay attention, issues our legislators are confronting, we are confronting as well. For our different library constituencies that has included guns, bathrooms, banned books, budgets, fake news, certification and standards, and even our very existence.

In such a political climate it's easy to panic, circle the wagons, immediately pass judgment, or just give up. I myself am guilty of micro-panic attacks and assuming the worst – I recently made a wrong assumption that a freshman student was using a resource called "Metapedia," when he was quite innocently using a print reference source we had recommended called "Datapedia" (I'll leave you library types to investigate what "Metapedia" is). We librarians, who are supposed to be some of the most service-oriented and well-informed people on the planet, can be prey to fake news and ever-changing political winds as much as anyone else.

Times such as these require calm collectiveness, the ability to listen, and the willingness to make change for the greater good. A good dose of humor



Murphy

also doesn't hurt. As much as a few of the more strident voices in our society would like libraries to go away, *most* people in our communities do not. *Most* people may not understand all the things libraries do and why, but in my experience, *most* of the people in our varied constituencies support the ideals we espouse, and see the value of libraries.

In this issue of *Arkansas Libraries*, we have many voices of reason to calm us all down. Our ArLA President, David Eckert, very reasonably entreats us to not stick labels on our different functions and try to decide what counts the most – all of us who work in libraries regardless of degrees, office windows, or backgrounds, have essential tasks to carry out. Our State Librarian continues this theme by explaining recent actions the ArLA Board has taken to try and unify our community and make us financially strong in that process. We also discover the myriad of tasks school media specialists perform. And we learn how a public library uses a traveling exhibit to reap incredible educational benefits by pulling in diverse constituencies, all with the support of each and every department in the library. Finally, the report on Library Legislative Day reminds us that face-to-face interactions with those who have political power can be the most rewarding and reassuring.

I entreat us all to take a collective breath, visualize what we love most about libraries, and do what we've always done – create spaces for everyone that invite communication and education... and it doesn't hurt to keep that dose of humor at the ready.

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

ALA COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Midwinter 2017

by *Lacy S. Wolfe, Henderson State University*

My visit to Atlanta for the ALA Midwinter Conference coincided with numerous other events, including the Women's March and a Falcons NFL game. The stadium was adjacent to the conference center so there was plenty of activity along with the normal conference



Wolfe

frenzy. The conference opened with **political comedian W. Kamau Bell** (host of *United Shades of America*). In light of Friday's events, Donald Trump's inauguration, Bell had plenty of fodder for his comedy. That evening I had dinner with **Dean Covington**, ArLA's Vice-President, at Alma Cocina.

On Saturday, Council met formally for the first time at the ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information meeting. We heard reports from a number of units as well as the **ALA Presidential Candidates**. The slate of candidates includes Loida Garcia-Febo, Terry Grief, and Scott Walter. Watch for election ballots in the spring.

In the exhibit hall, I ran into **Philippe Van Houtte**, Systems Librarian from Arkansas Tech University and invited him to dinner with me, **Sarah Gowdy**, Arkansas' ALA Emerging Leader and Bentonville Public Library Teen Services Librarian, and **Brittany Tavernaro**, past Arkansas Emerging Leader and Bentonville Public Library Children's Library Clerk. We had dinner at Meehan's, an Irish



pub located downtown.

Following dinner, I attended Council Forum I and the discussion centered around **Keith Michael Fiels' upcoming retirement** and the **job requirement of a MLS degree**. The resolution proposed would change the MLS from required to preferred for the Executive Director candidates. After much fruitful discussion on both sides of the issues, the Forum wrapped up for the evening.

On Sunday, **Council I** met and heard reports from a number of committees. Following Council, a Town Hall on library advocacy and core values was broadcast to participants around the country. The ALA-APA session followed and as usual presented great information on support for librarians and library workers. I would like to bring a couple of items to your attention, the **APA Wellness site**, <http://ala-apa.org/wellness/>, and the **Library Support Staff Certification Program** <http://ala-apa.org/lssc/>.

The Chapter Councilors met following the end of Council and discussed the importance of relationships and communication in our local communities and states. Discussion on better ways for Chapters and ALA to communication was a large part of the discussion.

Council Forum II discussion centered around a **conference restructure**. Due to feedback from ALA members following conference, a conference remodel was proposed to decrease the number of venues that conference attendees would need to travel to and from for sessions. With a decrease in venues, of course, comes a decrease in available room space. A number of Round Tables voiced their concern over the possibility of losing meeting space.

Monday morning **Council II** met and the **Resolution on the Education Requirements for Future ALA Directors** was brought to the floor. After further discussion, the resolution was **defeated** with 75 for and 78 against. This was the closest vote that I've been part of since serving on Council. Since the vote was close, Councilors had to stand and be counted, which varies from the typical hand raising to cast votes. A **Resolution Establishing Family/Caregiver Status** as a Protected Class in ALA Volunteer Works was proposed in response to the stipulations on some committees that attendance at conference is mandatory and was passed. Council II was followed by the Executive Board Candidates' Forum.

On Tuesday, **Council III** wrapped up the work for ALA Midwinter 2017. A number of memorials and a tribute were read and further committee reports were presented.

If you'd like to discuss any of the Resolutions passed or defeated, have questions about the ALA Presidential Candidates, or would like to join me at the Membership Information Meeting in Chicago, please send me an email wolfel@hsu.edu

Mark your calendars for **ALA Annual in Chicago June 22-27, 2017**. Look for an email from

me at the beginning of June to arrange a dinner for Arkansas librarians at conference!

Lacy S. Wolfe is the Information Literacy and Reference Services Librarian at Henderson State University.

What is a School Library Media Specialist?

by *Ashley J. Cooksey*

ArASL Division Chair

At the fall ArLA conference business meeting, ArLA members motioned and approved to be a supportive voice for school library media specialists. We, as an organization, took a stand to support Arkansas schools in providing a certified Library Media Specialist to serve in school libraries. New legislation known as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), authorizes but does not require states to fund and assist schools in providing certified school librarians in their school libraries. Currently, Arkansas school law states that there shall be one certified School Library Media Specialist if the campus has 300 students enrolled and two certified School Library Media Specialists if the campus has 1500 students enrolled. Small schools often split ONE School Library Media Specialist among campuses, and there are no provisions for aides, part time employees, or other help.

After the business meeting and during the conference, I was approached by several public and academic librarians asking what exactly a School Library Media Specialist's job is. I can't answer that with one simple sentence. We circulate materials for students and teach lessons in reading comprehension and library usage/skills. Much like you probably remember from your childhood, we often read aloud to students modeling how to "think while reading", asking questions aloud, making connections between the story and our lives, providing vocabulary enrichment, and modeling how to handle a book properly. We are also the acquisition librarian, circulation librarian, and reference librarian. We are the head of user services, technical services, computer services, and administrative services. In short, we do it all. Many times without an aide or a second librarian.

But, School Library Media Specialists do so much more than read a story and check out books. In a recent crowd sourcing endeavor, the following list of job descriptions was given by Arkansas



School Library Media Specialists who were asked to finish the sentence, "I'm a School Library Media Specialist, and I..."

- teach classes every day, along with research and information skills
- collaborate with teachers and help them find resources to compliment lessons
- promote books and inspire kids to be lifelong readers
- am the mother hen to all teachers and students, helping each one to do the best job possible
- coordinate Parental Involvement activities and events
- provide professional development to the staff, including instruction in new technology
- organize school and community events
- sponsor school clubs and organizations
- provide opportunities for students to experience technology they may not have access to anywhere else
- promote reading through informative and creative displays and programs
- administer various programs, such as Accelerated Reader and Google accounts

- provide collection management and weeding of materials and resources
- assist with school and county spelling bees
- plan reading awards, contests, and programs
- coordinate field trips
- offer makerspace materials and support
- instruct students in coding
- ignite imaginations, create leaders, and design our future
- serve on committees as needed
- clean and dust shelves
- provide a safe place where students can go before school, after lunch, and after school
- introduce students to new authors/illustrators and help them continue to find books they love
- ensure that all students have been entered into various school systems correctly (OPAC, Google, Renaissance 360, etc.)
- troubleshoot all tech issues
- handle all textbook requests, checkout/in, and inventory of textbooks
- work with a community mentor group and high school mentor group
- participate in after school tutoring program
- help build strong social and academic foundation

- for all students
- welcome students, usually by name
- host monthly crafting classes for students
- plan and organize homecoming, order Junior class rings, order diplomas

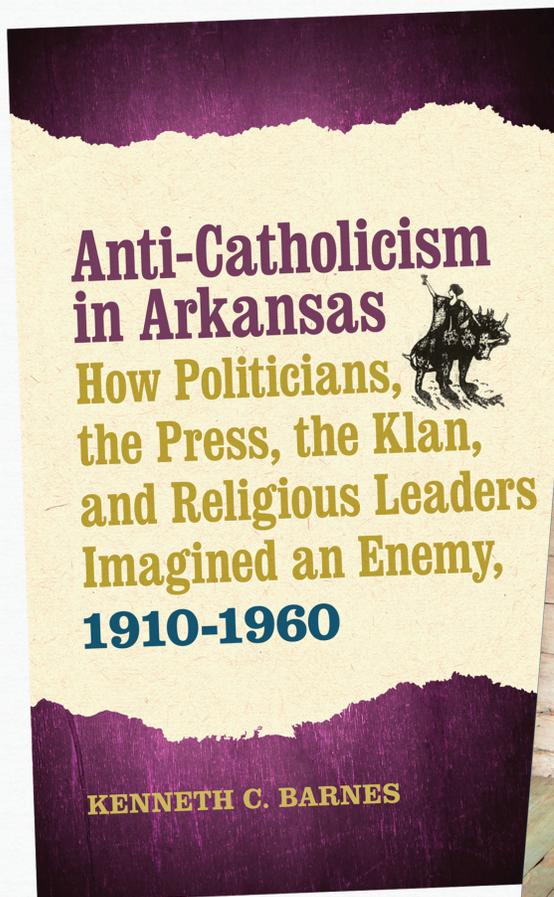
While this list may seem as varied as possible, this is a typical list of duties on the shoulders of School Library Media Specialists across the state. Each and every district, school, and campus is unique, and we are the go-to faculty members for the job. School Library Media Specialists are often on the forefront of new and emerging technology and trends, making our position invaluable to students' education.

I highly encourage all public, academic, and two-year academic librarians to reach out to your local schools. Request a visit to observe a day in the life of a School Library Media Specialist. Many times, we are the first library boys and girls visit, but we are not alone. We are all librarians in one form or another.

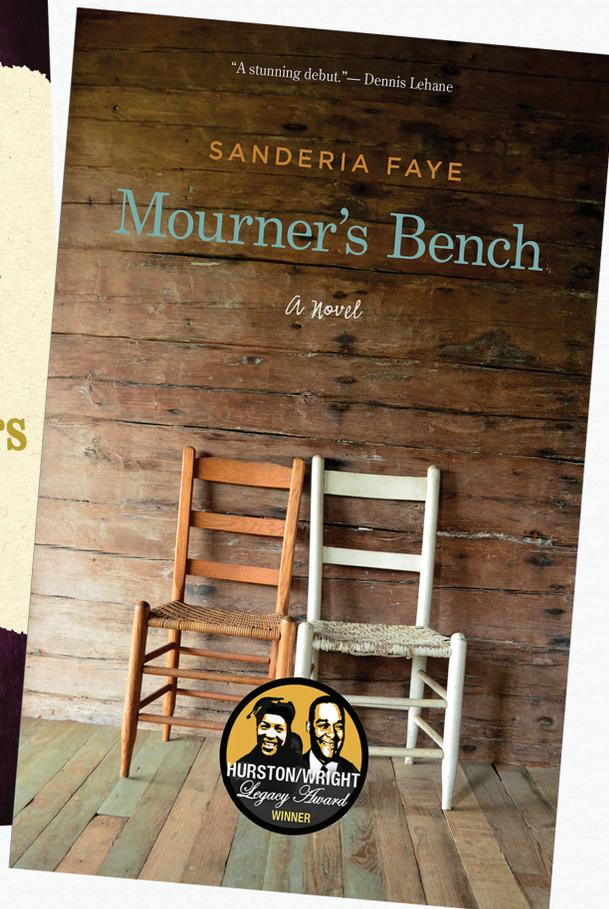
Ashley J. Cooksey is the Library Media Specialist with Batesville School District.



Award Winners



Winner of the 2017
J.G. Ragsdale Book Award
Arkansas Historical Assn.



Winner of the 2016
Hurston/Wright Legacy Award
Debut Fiction



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LIBRARY PROFILE

Springdale Public Library

by Sarah Loch, Young Adult Librarian,
Springdale Public Library

Can't make it to storytime? That's okay! Springdale Public Library now offers Story Time Backpacks that let parents and caregivers bring storytime home with them. However, that's not all; Springdale is implementing a number of initiatives to increase access to library services and materials for community members, especially children and teens.

Springdale currently offers nine story time programs per week for children birth through school age, plus STEAM-centered programs such as LEGO club, Tinkering Tuesdays, and Gaming at the Library. Unfortunately, many parents still said that they couldn't make it for the scheduled program times. Enter Story Time Backpacks.

Each of the 24 backpacks has a different theme: dogs, the ocean, bedtime, shapes, summer, etc. The backpacks each contain a music CD, 3-4 books, a rhyme & activity sheet, materials for a craft, and other items such as a flannel board and/or a puppet to bring the theme to life. They have been incredibly popular since their introduction, with some parents even sharing pictures of their children holding the finished crafts on the library's Facebook page.

"We've received rave reviews from patrons using the Story Time Backpacks--from parents using



them in one-on-one settings to teachers using them in group settings," say Erin Renollet and Taylor Vanlandingham, two of the Children's Librarians who helped bring the project to fruition. "The backpacks are versatile learning resources that bring the fun of story time home."

Since the Story Time Backpacks are so popular with parents of preschool-aged children, staff in the Children's department are preparing to launch STEAM bags for parents to use with their school-aged children. These bags will explore math, science, technology, art, and engineering concepts using nonfiction books, educational toys and equipment such as play money, telescopes, microscopes and much more.

All backpacks check out for two weeks and only one backpack per library card.

Children's services isn't the only place where Springdale is working on expanding access. The number of active teen library cards is almost exactly equal to the number of active children's library cards. However, attendance at teen programs is much lower than at children's programs, thanks to a combination of factors including difficulty with transportation.

In order to increase access for teens, Springdale staff have always worked with the local school district to provide library cards to students. Nevertheless, just having a library card does not do any good if the teens can't actually get to the library. So, in partnership with Lakeside Junior High, Springdale is piloting a program to provide "interlibrary loans" to students at the school. Students whose parents sign a permission slip may place items on hold through the online catalog; the Young Adult Librarian delivers those items and picks up returns to Lakeside once per week.

The program is still in its infancy, but Lakeside teachers are excited about the increased materials access for their students. Social studies teachers are



planning how to help their students locate resources for their History Day projects, since they will have access to the much larger public library collection.

Other school librarians have already expressed interest in developing similar partnerships, so the program will most likely expand to encompass

additional schools in the future.

In addition, Springdale plans to rearrange the library in the coming year in order to expand its Young Adult space and better serve the needs of teen patrons.

“Our children’s department is large, bright, and welcoming,” says Sarah Loch, the Young Adult Librarian. “We want to offer that same welcoming environment to our teen patrons.”

The new library arrangement will roughly triple the amount of square footage devoted to the Young Adult area, as well as providing additional seating for teens and more shelf space for Young Adult materials. Additionally, it is a programming space if needed, especially in the summer, when program space is at a premium.

MAKING THE MOST OF TECHNOLOGY

Office 365: Productivity Increase

by *Philippe Van Houtte, Systems Librarian*
Arkansas Tech University

Tuesday at 10, meeting about some new policy...

Wednesday at 11, meeting to discuss possible hours change for coming Spring Break...

Friday at 2, follow up on Tuesday’s meeting...
Sound familiar?

Office 2016 and Office 365 makes it possible to eliminate those meetings and still create the policy! These tools increase productivity on all fronts by saving everyone’s time allowing multitasking such as working on a project while still answering the phones, replying to emails, and even having an impromptu conversation or visit.

Microsoft offers a complete set of desktop tools for the work place with the complete Office 2016 and the same set of tools, (with just a few less bells and whistles), in Office 365 Web Apps. Both work when you are home or on the go. One can create, view, and even edit documents, spreadsheets, and more whenever and wherever one is. All one needs is Office 365 and an internet connection. Office 365 is not browser specific: I have successfully tested it in Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and both Internet Explorer and Edge.

To begin a full collaboration with Office 365, the institution/library must first subscribe to Microsoft products Office 2016 and Office 365. Today, all computers are usually networked and everyone has his/her own credentials to log on onto the local system. The IT department sets these credentials to allow access to both the local network and the online

applications.

A full user account (as opposed to just an email account) must be created to set the collaboration in Office 365. The need of a real user lays in the fact that folders can only be created under a full user’s account. One person must take ownership of the collaboration project: he/she needs to create a folder under his/her credentials in the OneDrive Web App in Office 365. Thus, an issue of concern was raised right away: if the folder is under one’s name, what happens if one leaves the institution/library? The folder’s owner not being there, the folder might not be accessible because of being protected under the creator’s credentials. “Fear not!”, our IT said. “Yes, the content is still accessible!” Our IT department has assured us that they have access to everyone’s folders and their content in Outlook 365, thus the folder and all its content could simply be moved under a new person’s account. Indeed, we all have our own little NSA... ☺

From there, the collaboration folders can be created. It can include documents and subfolders. The creator shares the folder and all its content with his or her coworkers. Anyone in the network can access it, by receiving an invitation from the creator to be able to access the folder. Others can now create content if they have full editor permissions.

Here is a scenario illustrating the ease of use and the real power of online collaboration through Office 365. Harley, Circulation manager, wants to create a new policy: extend DVD checkout from three days to one week for students. Harley opens Microsoft Office Word and creates the Word document *Checkout-DVD*. A draft is written and saved as *Checkout-DVD-original* on the network

drive and in the Circulation subfolder of the shared folder in the Office 365 OneDrive App. Another copy is saved in the same online location, but with the name *Checkout-DVD-editable*. This procedure allows the department to keep an original version safe in OneDrive while working on the editable one. If anything happens to any of the online files, the file saved on the network drive can be used as backup. An email is then sent to all collaborators inviting them to go check the editable version in Office 365 OneDrive. The cloud document can be accessed securely and edited wherever the team member is located. The document can be edited on one's Office Suite on the computer itself (allowing the use of the full-blown software) or online. For a simple text document, it might even be easier to simply edit online. In this case, Charlotte opened the OneDrive document in Word online. When words are typed, the document automatically saves the changes. If edited in the Office Suite, after editing, one can click the "Save" button and the document is saved with the new changes in the cloud.

Harley wants to know who adds/changes the text and what the original text that was edited or

deleted was. Office 365 allows each collaborator to choose a color for their contributions. Harley picks green, Charlotte picks orange. When she opens the document, she sees that Harley's name is in green on top of the document. She now knows that any text in green is a change Harley did to the original text. Charlotte types her name in orange at the top of the document. This will signal that anything found in orange in the text is her doing. Since it is important to also know what has been changed and why, Harley added a comment listing the old text and explaining the rationale for the new text. Charlotte understands now where the change is coming from.

The group of collaborators can set a time limit as how long the document will be in editable form. At the end, Harley sends a last email for anyone to add his or her last changes. Then, deal! A new policy is born including every member's input without having spent any meeting time discussing the policy!

Conclusion: get on task and start collaborating, and if you need more information, consult:

- <http://tinyurl.com/zq9nshm>
- <http://tinyurl.com/zgdkjfa>

WHAT'S UP? DOCS.

Annual Reports: Snore? Or Adore!

by *Karen Russ*,

Government Documents Librarian, UALR

Be honest with yourself: Is the annual report of a federal agency something you think would be exciting reading? For most, I am sure the answer is a vehement NO! Take a moment and browse the list below. How many of these items do you expect to find in annual reports?



Russ

- Summaries of activities
- Organization charts
- Lists of employees
- Statistics
- Recommendations
- Concept drawings
- Contract and investigation details
- Patent descriptions and sketches
- Budgets
- Maps
- Agency histories

- Project descriptions
- Summaries of new laws
- Medical reports on astronauts
- Catalogs of museum gifts
- Speeches
- Photographs

How many of you checked off every item on the list? If you did not, you are underestimating the value of an annual report.

Government Information @your library™

“By statute, Congress requires Federal executive departments and independent agencies as well as the President and parts of the Legislative and Judicial Branches to produce and submit to it several thousand reports... Many recurring reports may be incorporated into an agency's annual report to Congress.”¹

An annual list, by agency, of the reports required, along with the statues mandating them is produced by the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The 2017 list² is 326 pages long, but there is no guarantee that is even complete.

Okay, so the government creates millions of pages of reports. You knew that already. You're

just wondering what do to with them. What is their purpose in your library? That answer depends on the nature of the questions you receive.

Do you find yourself trying to help a student write an environmental studies paper on the National Parks? Would it help to see a report addressing threats, like mines or proposed power plants, to landscapes just outside an existing national park? If so, then maybe the report by the National Park Service to the Secretary of the Interior is the place to turn.

Is it a patron interested in geology who wants to know more about the rock and mineral collections at the Museum of Natural History? In that case, why not scour the Annual Reports of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to see what historic item(s) was obtained, when, and from where/whom? The section of the 1886 report addressing additions and gifts was 910 pages long!

Then there are our favorite patrons who want to study their family history. Today's visitor knows their great-great grandfather was a postal employee in Indiana, but no more detail. Try the annual report of the U.S. Postal Service. For decades in the nineteenth century, the postmasters were listed by name and location every year. They might even find a salary or other unique statistic to place in the family history.

Also, my favorite example to date: How does one transport beer to a meeting of a Civil War veterans' group? Maybe by using E. C Bundy's Beer Cooler. He filed a patent for that item in 1870. Not what we would compare to today's Rubbermaid® ice chests, but probably an ancestor. That's one for the report of the Commissions of Patents, specifically 1870.³

Now that we have looked at some of the possibilities out there in federal agency annual reports, how does one obtain them? (And keep in mind these examples are only a few among many.) From my perspective, the obvious answer is to contact a local federal depository library and ask if they have the annual reports for a given agency for the needed time span.

Unfortunately, in Arkansas, there are not many large, historic depositories, but there are alternatives. Three of the major universities (UA Fayetteville, UA Little Rock, and ASU Jonesboro) have commercial access to the U.S. Serial Set. From 1789 to the mid-twentieth century, most of the agency reports are in the Serial Set. The search features for both the Proquest® and Readex® versions of the database will allow very good keyword searching.

One should always explore the website for the

producing agency. The science agencies and NASA offer various means of searching archival reports on their websites or specific agency databases.

Remember small agencies might have been taken over by larger ones, like the Army being merged with the Navy (and others) to create the Department of Defense. Or growing agencies were separated from their founding body, like the Department of Education being pulled out of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. A copy of the *United States Government Manual* is always handy for exploring the historical pushing and pulling of federal departments over the past 200+ years. But if you do not have one, USA.gov is another great place to explore, both for the agency developments, but also for their reports online.

For economic history, the Federal Reserve Archival System for Economic Research (FRASER) is an excellent place to begin. Started by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis in 2004. FRASER's mission is to safeguard and provide easy access to economic history beginning with the history of the Federal Reserve System and adding other materials.⁴

In addition to the government resources, several other online collections offer various agency reports. Hathi Trust and the Internet Archive offer various agencies for different time periods.

While I have been a regular user of annual reports to help researchers in my library, I must give some credit for this column to a government information colleague who presented a wonderful webinar recently. The Government Publishing Office offers nearly a dozen webinars on government resources each month. One of the January 2017 sessions was "Finding Hidden Gems in Agency Annual Reports,"⁵ done by Patricia Kenly at Georgia Tech University. Patricia's session brought out some new ideas and pushed me to write my column on annual reports this time. I appreciate her hard work and willingness to allow me to use some of her links and ideas.

For more information:

- 1) Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C. <http://tinyurl.com/hmlo8wj>
- 2) H. Doc. 115-4 – Reports to be Made to Congress <http://tinyurl.com/z4oa9ht>
- 3) U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. US Patent Full-page Images. <http://tinyurl.com/htzkv7l>
- 4) FRASER <http://tinyurl.com/zu5dccl>
- 5) FDLP Desktop Webinar Archive <http://tinyurl.com/z4l75f9>

AROUND ARKANSAS

by Heather Hays, Associate Editor

Bailey Library at Hendrix College in Conway hired Janice Weddle, formerly of the Arkansas State Library, as their Instruction and Outreach Librarian. Janice has degrees from Truman State University and her MLS from University of Missouri – Columbia.

Congratulations to Roxie Wright, Director of the Bella Vista (AR) Public Library, upon her selection to the PLA Leadership Academy!

Following the review of 130 applications, members of the Public Library Association (PLA) Leadership Development Committee chose 28 exceptional PLA Leadership Fellows to attend the upcoming *PLA Leadership Academy: Navigating Change · Building Community*, March 20-24, 2017, in Portland, Oregon.

The PLA Leadership Academy: Navigating Change · Building Community is a program developed in partnership with the International City and County Management Association (ICMA) and Adam Goodman, director of the Center for Leadership, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

This career-changing program is designed to empower public librarian participants with the knowledge necessary to be innovative and successful leaders of change. Its groundbreaking focus develops the skills needed to work with municipal officials to enhance the position and effectiveness of the library and its activities within the community.

Laura Simon is the new Director of the Pine Bluff-Jefferson County Library, effective Jan. 23. Her email contact is lsimon@pineblufflibrary.org. Laura has a Master's degree in Information Science and Learning Technologies with emphasis in Library Science from the University of Missouri—Columbia (2008). Most recently, she was director of the Artesia Public Library in Artesia, New Mexico. She previously managed libraries from 2009-2013 at St. Luke's College and a public school library in Iowa, where she obtained her teaching certificate. She also managed a public library in South Sioux City, Nebraska, from 2005-2009.

Judy Golden, Director of the Clark County Library in Arkadelphia, is retiring with 40+ years

of service. Her last day on the job is Friday, Jan. 27. Congratulations, Judy!

Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 1 Ashley Parker-Graves is the new director of the Clark County Library. Ashley attended Henderson State University from 2001 to 2005, during which time she earned her Bachelor's Degree in dual majors: English and History. In 2007, Ashley took her first library job as a Circulation Clerk for the Garland County Library, but soon after was hired by the Mid-Arkansas Regional Library (Malvern) as their Library Director, where she served until July 2016. Ashley completed her Masters of Library Science at Texas Woman's University in December of 2007.

Joyce Gibson

February 4, 1947 - December 10, 2016

Joyce Gibson attended Arkansas AM&N College (now UAPB), where she received her degree in Education in 1968. She completed post-graduate work at Henderson State University and the University of Central Arkansas.

She taught Home Economics in the Prescott School District, where she retired in 1999. Upon her retirement, she became the librarian for the Nevada County Library and was extremely proud to be a part of the construction and opening of the new Prescott/Nevada County Library and Educational Facility. She retired from the library in 2010, but remained very active in promoting literacy and history in southwest Arkansas.

Please keep the Gibson family in your thoughts and prayers.

Richard H Kilmer

July 2, 1934 - March 1, 2017

For 40+ years, Mr. Kilmer called upon our libraries and supported the Arkansas Library Association by attending our conference as a vendor (Possum Grape). His son, Paul, will continue his father's work with Possum Grape. Please keep the Kilmer family in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

Censorship in Arkansas

by John Paul Myrick

Chair, ArLA Intellectual Freedom Committee

Arkansas made the national news recently regarding an issue of intellectual freedom, and author Howard Zinn, who died in 2010, has gotten a lot of publicity as well, thanks to Rep. Kim Hendren. Earlier in the legislative session, Rep. Kim Hendren (R, Gravette/Benton County) filed HB 1834, which would ban Zinn's books from public and charter schools in Arkansas.

Zinn was a Ph.D. historian at Boston University and Spelman College, but it was his social activism that provoked the establishment, as he did in 1980 when he purposefully represented American history from the viewpoint of those who have been disparaged by American democracy and capitalism. Zinn's most famous book, *A People's History of the United States*, presents a view of history that focuses on the experiences of marginalized groups forgotten by mainstream history. The book has been roundly acclaimed and criticized by historians for decades.

The ArLA Intellectual Freedom Committee issued the following statement with regard to this issue:

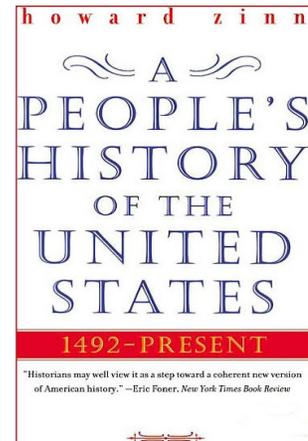
"The Arkansas Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee stands against the passage of House Bill 1834 which would preemptively censor one individual's viewpoints in Arkansas schools. We strongly believe that materials should be chosen for schools based on the specific educational purpose intended by teachers, students and parents, and school administrators.

Censorship in and of itself is an assault on one of the basic premises of our democracy: that an individual has the right to select for themselves

what they will read. Arkansans have the ability to accept the good and reject the bad. House Bill 1834 strips Arkansans of these rights and from the exercising their own best judgement. The Freedom to Read statement, adopted in 1969 clearly states, "It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous." To pass such legislation mandating censorship is contrary to democracy, and would be a dangerous path to take by our elected officials.

Arkansans are not willing to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. As such, we stand in opposition to House Bill 1834."

As always, if you receive *any* reconsideration/censorship requests, the Intellectual Freedom Committee would like to know; and if you need help, by all means, please call on us! If your library has ever received a censorship or reconsideration request specifically with regard to *any* books, including those by Howard Zinn, please contact me at jpmyrick@crosscountylibrary.org.



Rev. John Paul Myrick is the Regional Librarian/ Executive Director of the East Central Arkansas Regional Library in Wynne, Arkansas.

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Youth Media Awards Announced at ALA Midwinter

Kelly Barnhill won the 2017 John Newbery Medal for *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, edited by Elise Howard. Javaka Steptoe won the 2017 Randolph Caldecott Medal for *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*, edited by Deirdre Jones. And John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell won the 2017 Michael L. Printz Award for *March: Book Three*, edited by Leigh Walton. The awards were announced at the American Library Association's midwinter conference in Atlanta.

March: Book Three garnered four prizes in total, including the Robert F. Sibert Award for the most distinguished informational book for children, the Coretta Scott King Author award, and the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults.

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, which honors an author or illustrator whose books have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children, went to author Nikki Grimes.

The Mildred L. Batchelder Award for best work of translation went to *Cry, Heart, But Never Break* by Glenn Ringtved, illustrated by Charolotte Pardi, translated from the Danish by Robert Moulthrop.

The 2017 Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime contribution in writing for young adults was given to Sarah Dessen, and Naomi Shihab Nye was chosen to deliver the 2018 May Hill Arbuthnot Honor Lecture.

The William C. Morris Award for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens was given to *The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner.

The Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for most distinguished beginning reader books went to *We Are*

Growing! by Laurie Keller.

The Stonewall Book Award, given to children's and YA books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender experience, went to *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard: The Hammer of Thor* by Rick Riordan.

The Schneider Family Book Awards, for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience, went to: *Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille* by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Boris Kulikov for best young children's book; *As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds for best middle grade book; and *When We Collided* by Emery Lord for best teen book.

Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop won the Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. The Coretta Scott King Illustrator award went to Javaka Steptoe for *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*. The Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award went to *The Sun Is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon.

Juana Medina won the Pura Belpré Author Award for *Juana & Lucas* and Raúl Gonzalez won the Pura Belpré Illustrator Award for *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth*, written by Cathy Camper.

The Odyssey Award for Excellence in Audiobook Production went to *Anna and the Swallow Man* by Gavriel Savit, narrated by Allan Corduner, and produced by Listening Library.

Finally, the Andrew Carnegie Medal for excellence in children's video went to Ryan Swenar of Dreamscape Media, producer of *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music*.

Calling All Readers!

by Cathy Howser

*Coordinator of Children's & Institutional Programs
Arkansas State Library*

If you are interested in reading for the Arkansas Teen Book Award, please fill out the reader questionnaire at <https://arteenbookaward.wordpress.com/readers/>.

The Steering Committee is currently compiling title lists and assigning readers. You don't want to miss out!

Duties of the Reading Groups (Readers)

Readers shall volunteer their time to read and select the titles that will be added to the voting lists from

which teens will select the Arkansas Teen Book Award winners each year. Readers shall be coordinated by Steering Committee member(s) and participate via an online discussion as they make their selections.

A designated Steering Committee member shall maintain the online discussion group. Readers will be divided into groups, according to genres of books to be read—graphic novel, fiction,



adrenaline, fantasy, etc., with each group moderated by a Steering Committee member or by additional moderators selected by the Steering Committee. Persons outside of the Steering Committee selected as moderators shall have previous histories as Readers for the Arkansas Teen Book Award. Readers are responsible for acquiring their own copies of the titles on the book lists to read.

Book Selection Criteria:

1. Unless the book can stand on its own, it must be the first in a series.

2. Copyright date goes by the hardback edition unless it was originally published as paperback. Must be copyrighted 2016.
3. Allow translations going by the US copyright date.
4. Age division will be determined by reviews through Books in Print and/or Novelist, with input/discussion from steering committee.

For more information regarding the Arkansas Teen Book Award, please visit our blog at <https://arteenbookaward.wordpress.com/>. Questions? Email us at: arteenbookaward@gmail.com.

State Archives Launches Digital Collection of Arkansas Internment Camps

by *Danyelle McNeil*

Arkansas State Archives

In February, the Arkansas State Archives launched an online digital collection of materials related to Japanese American internment camps in Arkansas. The launch coincides with the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the removal of people of Japanese ancestry from the west coast in February 1942 and led to the creation of internment camps across the interior of the country during World War II.

The collection, “You Fought Prejudice and Won: Japanese American Internment Camps in Arkansas,” contains over 750 documents and images from the State Archives, relating to the Rohwer and Jerome Relocation Centers in the Arkansas Delta. The camps housed approximately 16,000 Japanese and Japanese-American citizens between 1942 and

1945. Materials in the online collection include photographs, letters, official documents, newspaper articles, personal narratives and artwork from internees and camp officials.

These materials were digitized as the second phase of a larger collaborative project, funded in part by a grant from the National Park Service. The collaborative project, “Rohwer Reconstructed,” directed by the Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, will feature materials from multiple Arkansas archival repositories, as well as 2D maps and a 3D reconstruction of the camp. Phase one of the Rohwer Reconstructed project is slated for completion in March 2017, with phase two materials to be added over the course of the following year. The entire project is slated for completion in September 2018.

Dr. Lisa Speer, state historian and director of the Arkansas State Archives, says of the digital project, “This project to create greater public awareness of the plight of Japanese Americans and Japanese-born immigrants in the U.S. during the second World War is critical to helping us understand the experience of those who suddenly find themselves under suspicion by the country they have chosen to call home.” “Hopefully, this digital collection has lessons we can learn from the past and apply to our future,” Speer noted.

“You Fought Prejudice and Won: Japanese American Internment Camps in Arkansas,” is the 20th online collection created by the Arkansas State Archives since the launch of its digital collections website, the Arkansas Digital Ark-ives in 2014. This collection joins others on the site relating to World War I, the Arkansas Territory, and the Civil War. All online collections can be easily accessed through the Ark-ives’ website at <http://ahc.digital-ar.org/>.



Arkansas internment camp children wave American flags. Used with permission from the Arkansas State Archives.

ASK THE STATE LIBRARIAN: Fake News?

*By Carolyn Ashcraft,
Arkansas State Library*

There has been a lot of discussion lately about “fake news.” Helping patrons tell the difference between truth and fiction has been the job of librarians and information professionals for thousands of years!

Providing access to accurate information is the best way to counter fake news and false information. The American Library Association has information on “fake news” on their website (www.ala.org), including webinars, news articles, links to posters and bookmarks, etc.

Recently I was contacted by a colleague with a concern about some news she had heard relating to the Arkansas Library Association. She had been told the ArLA executive board had decided to dissolve ALPS, the paraprofessional division of the Association. Was this true?

After reaching out to the current ArLA President and Past-President for input, I was able to dispel the false information that was circulating around this topic. At the last meeting of the ArLA board (Feb. 25th) there was an overview of the financial status of the organization and discussion of ways in which ArLA could reduce costs and generate income in 2017. Conference is the largest expense for the organization and its divisions. After hearing the pros and cons from those in attendance, it was determined there would not be a separate ALPS conference in 2017 (usually held in May). There was never any discussion of dissolving the ALPS division.

ArLA President, David Eckert, wrote a letter to the ALPS membership and clearly defined the discussion and action taken at the meeting. I asked David to allow me to include his letter to ALPS within this column so all members of the Arkansas Library Association can read it for themselves. Here it is:

*Dear ALPS Membership,
The ArLA Executive Board met on Friday,
February 25, 2017 to hold its bi-monthly meeting.
Among other things discussed was the idea of
offering only two conferences this year to the ArLA*



Ashcraft

members instead of the customary three separate conferences. After a lengthy discussion by the board members, as well as some concerned visitors, the board decided to only have the ArASL conference, which will be held in July, and a general conference for all types of libraries and library employees in September. We are trying to generate more involvement and energy throughout the membership by uniting everyone together instead of fracturing all of us into different parts.

Early on in the discussions it was decided that trying to fold the ArASL conference into the big main conference would be impossible for a few reasons. That conference has to be held in the summertime so that those librarians can benefit from receiving credit for in-service days they can use later during the school year. Unfortunately, having the conference in the summer puts it right in the middle of summer reading programs held at most of the public libraries thus eliminating them from attending. The general consensus was that we would be unable to find a solution at this time to resolve this dilemma.

The discussion then moved to the possibility of folding the ALPS conference into the general ArLA conference. All aspects both for and against this move were brought up and discussed. I don't think anyone would tell you that either solution was one hundred percent perfect or didn't have some negative aspects. But overall, it was decided that the reasons for being together outweighed the reasons for staying apart.

First was the concern for staffing since some libraries are very small thus not allowing or enabling all of the staff who would want to attend one conference to be able to go. Suggestions that were offered to solve this problem included asking the library board for permission to close the library to allow for staff development time. Another solution was to rotate staff to go every other year. A third option was to have the conference mostly over a Saturday and Sunday to eliminate the problems of staffing during the week. A fourth option was to have substitutes run the library for those one or two days.

A second concern was the cost of attendance since the ArLA conference typically costs more than the ALPS conference, and many library employees have to incur some or all of this cost. Again, various suggestions were offered including asking the local friends group for assistance, or having ArLA start a scholarship fund to assist members with this cost. Frankly, with stagnant or shrinking budgets, it's a problem for even those institutions that pay for the employees to attend conferences. We also

looked at the differences with what you got for the added cost, and it seems to be considerable. The 2016 ALPS conference had 6 time slots from which to choose from 18 breakout sessions. The 2017 ArLA conference plans to have 8 sessions from which to choose from 56 breakout sessions. The 2017 ArLA conference will also be offering some preconference options including one specifically for paraprofessionals.

Another offering put forth by the conference committee is to have a happy hour/reception to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of ALPS. The committee also plans to organize the breakout sessions into tracks for all of the different library types and jobs, including a paraprofessional track. We also think that having an ALPS representative or two serve on the conference program committee will ensure that ArLA was providing pertinent and relevant sessions for paraprofessionals. We are also planning on employing a “one payment” system which will allow everyone to pay for the hotel and the conference at the same time.

Financially, we firmly believe with the current state of affairs of the organization, having one conference will save us a lot of money. We would only have to pay for one hotel, one A/V equipment fee, and one set of speaker fees if we all went in together. We realize the ALPS division has always made money on its conference, but the currently proposed ALPS conference budget projects making zero dollars, and we can make a significantly larger amount working together.

We understand that this decision may be met with some negative feelings, but please trust that the decision was made with best intentions for the entire association. The Arkansas library community cannot afford to be fractured into small groups. We need to stay together. Times are tough, and they may be getting tougher. Every library employee is important, and we need everyone to keep the doors open to serve our patrons. Please think about all of the reasons listed above as you consider whether you will join us in September at the annual ArLA conference. The sum is greater than the whole, and I hope that you choose to be part of that whole.

Sincerely,

David A. Eckert, 2017 ArLA President

As State Librarian I strive to be an advocate for libraries and for library staff. A part of my role is to communicate the amazing everyday work of the members of the Arkansas Library Association.

In his letter, David references a quote attributed to Aristotle which is sometimes stated as “the whole is more than the sum of its parts.” What does it mean? When people work together, the net result can be greater than the individual contributions of its members.

Ultimately, my main wish is that ArLA members would share their knowledge, their skills and their experience to foster equity, diversity, and inclusion in our profession. I look forward to the many exciting things that we are doing to make libraries, librarianship, and our Association truly better for all.

Bringing the Universe to Earth

Bentonville Public Library Welcomes the Public to Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey

by Michelle Vargas and Hadi Dudley

Laughter and excitement roars from the library’s community room as kids and families pour in. Curious bystanders peek in to see the event underway. Across the room, families are enjoying the *Explore Space* exhibits. Volunteers and staff man the room, helping kids toss meteors, learn how to use a telescope, create galaxy art, and ask their burning questions about space: “Where do black holes go?” “How many stars are there?” “Are there space cats?”

The *Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey* exhibition welcomed its first explorers of all ages January 21 to learn about the fascinating world of space science and astronomy. The interactive experience at Bentonville Public Library (BPL)

explored topics such as the search for habitable worlds beyond our solar system, asteroids and comets, Mars exploration, and the impact of solar storms on Earth.

Over 7,700 patrons participated in *Explore Space* activities at BPL. Each Saturday, the library’s community room was packed with families learning about space. Throughout the week, the exhibition became a popular field trip destination with local schools. “It was my favorite field trip ever!” Jillian Birge, 1st grade teacher from Central Park Elementary, said. “The kids loved visiting the library! Space was the talk of the ride home!”

Eleven special programs for various ages were designed for visitors to explore the Kennedy Space Center, search for life in space, discover how we put a man on the moon, and more. Regular programming

received the star treatment too – story times, kids’ crafts, creative writing, and teen events were space themed. Even *Originals in the Ozarks*, our local artist display, featured Jeff Barchak, whose abstract paintings are reminiscent of the cosmos.

Sue Ann Pekel, Children’s Librarian, spearheaded the grant application that ultimately selected Bentonville Public Library as one of fourteen sites nationwide to host *Explore Space*. The exhibition was developed by the Space Science Institute’s National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) in partnership with the American Library’s Association’s Public Programs Office, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and the Afterschool Alliance. This project was made possible through support from the National Science Foundation.

Book displays, a reading challenge, an educators’ workshop, and lesson plans were specifically designed for the exhibition to establish a strong focus on reading, education, and curriculum support. Displays featuring non-fiction and fiction books for all ages were placed throughout the library to complement the exhibit. Additionally, the children’s department promoted literacy with a reading challenge where kids completed ten space-related reading adventures to win a free book.

BPL launched its public program with an educators’ workshop; “Integrating *Explore Space* into the Classroom” provided attendees with two hours of professional development credit from the Arkansas Department of Education. Classroom resources for teachers and students were added to BPL’s Student Portal, including grade-specific lesson plans about space science and astronomy that were custom-created by the library’s youth services team.

Local space experts Dr. Katherine Auld and Larry Haug volunteered their expertise to help with



State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft (middle), visited the Explore Space exhibit at Bentonville Public Library on February 26, 2017.



special presentations. Dr. Auld is an Astronomer, Solar System Ambassador with NASA/JPL and Adjunct Faculty Member in the Science Department of Northwest Arkansas Community College; Larry Haug is a retired NASA contractor who lives locally. Both presenters were eager to share their specialized experience and passion for exploring space with our community.

Sugar Creek Astronomical Society offered their time and taught visitors about telescopes. They also donated an Orion StarBlast 4.5” telescope for patrons to take home and explore the sky for themselves. BPL is the first Northwest Arkansas library to participate in the STAR (Sharing Telescopes and Astronomy Resources) program.

BPL also collaborated with our local community to bring even more experiences for patrons to enjoy. Partner organizations included: the Museum of Native American History, the Scott Family Amazeum, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville Public Schools (BPS), BPS English as a Second Language Center, the Kennedy Space Center, Friends of the Bentonville Library, and the Bentonville Library Foundation.

“I am proud that *Explore Space* has been well-received by the Bentonville community,” said Hadi Dudley, BPL Director. “Each step has been a learning process. From preparing the grant application to identifying key partners for program development to creating marketing and promotional materials the BPL team has worked hard to shape a successful project.”

One can only speculate as to what will be the lasting impact of *Explore Space* exhibition on the exploring visitors. Will they leave here to become astronomers, astronauts, or scientists? Will they go on to create a more powerful telescope, discover an unknown galaxy, or build a greater space station? Only time will tell. But for now, we feel the tangible sense of wonder patrons leave with. When they go home, we hope they look up at the night sky and feel a little more at home in the universe.

Michelle Vargas is Reference Library Specialist and Meeting Room Manager at Bentonville Public Library. Hadi Dudley is Director of the Bentonville Public Library.

Arkansas Library Legislative Day 2017

by Courtney Fitzgerald

ArLA Legislative Committee Member

On February 8, 2017, the rotunda of the Arkansas Capital became a hive of positivity and excitement as libraries from around the

state participated in Library Legislation Day, an event organized by Arkansas Advocated for Public Libraries (AAPL). Today, AAPL focuses on educating the public, state leaders, and legislators on the value and importance of public libraries in Arkansas and consists of members spanning all forms of library services including friends groups, library board members, library staff, retired librarians, and public library directors.

Library Legislation Day attracted many libraries from around the state including Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers, and Clark County Public Libraries; Crawford, Saline, Baxter, Lonoke County Library Systems; and various regional systems

including Northeast Arkansas, Arkansas River Valley and Southeast Arkansas. Positive and bipartisan interactions with our state legislators were plentiful, providing attendees with opportunities to discuss current legislation and the collateral impact libraries across the state may feel resulting from specific bills currently under consideration.

It was also an opportunity to educate anyone within the Capital Building, from support staff to the janitorial crews, about the incredible impact libraries have on all members of our communities and the importance of promoting inclusivity and education. It was refreshing to engage in collaborative

Attendees included:

- Arkansas County Library
- Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System
- Baxter County Library
- Bentonville Public Library
- Central Arkansas Library System
- Clark County Public Library
- Conway County Library
- Craighead County/Jonesboro Library
- Crawford County Library System
- Faulkner County Library
- Fayetteville Public Library
- Lonoke County Library System
- Mid-Arkansas Regional Library System
- Northeast Arkansas Regional Library
- Ouachita Mountains Regional Library System
- Rogers Public Library
- Saline County Library
- Southeast Arkansas Regional Library
- White County Library System
- William. F. Laman Library (North Little Rock)



Rep. Jim Dotson with Bentonville Public Library director and staff.



Rep. Mike Holcomb with SEARLS director Judy Calhoun and staff.

conversations with legislators generating and exchanging ideas for the benefit of everyone in our state.

Our State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft, shared, “Congratulations to the libraries and library supporters who were at the State Capitol ... to visit with members of the General Assembly and share messages about the services and programs provided in libraries across our state. From my perspective there were over 80 librarians, staff, and supporters in attendance. Several members of the House and Senate came by to visit (probably more than 25). We were honored to have Miss Arkansas, Savannah Skidmore, stop by while she was in the Capitol.” Ashcraft also expressed her gratitude to AAPL and

lobbyist Tim Summers for organizing the event. Ashcraft notes, “advocacy is a daily event, and the work is never done.”

I believe our Library Day at the Capitol was a success. It was an opportunity to connect, communicate and collaborate, together as a united voice. Libraries are encouraged to continue individual advocacy, every day, on the local level. We can make a positive impact, together and individually.

Courtney Fitzgerald is a Senior Librarian at Bentonville Public Library and serves on ArLA's Legislative Committee.



David Johnson, Nate Coulter, Senator Larry Teague and Graham Catlett.

ArLA Wants YOU!

by Rebecka Virden

ArLA Conference Chair

Save the date for the 2017 ArLA Annual Conference to take place September 24th through 26th, 2017 at the Embassy Suites in Rogers, Arkansas! We are still looking for presenters to conduct breakout sessions. Any member of the Arkansas Library Association can submit a proposal, and we encourage as diverse a



slate of sessions as possible representing all types of libraries and library workers. If interested, submit your breakout session proposal form at: <https://goo.gl/forms/6RBCzn6e6hwQaNPm2>.

Legislative Briefs

by Hadi Dudley

Co-Chair

ArLA Legislative Committee

This year's legislative session has been fast and furious, on both state and federal levels. In the Natural State, proposed bills, legislative actions, communication, advocacy, and work is happening to support Arkansas libraries. In addition to February's Library Day at the Arkansas Capitol, grassroots efforts and hired lobbyists have combined forces to promote library interests.

Arkansas General Assembly: 91st General Assembly

House Bill 1111: an act to make an appropriation for personal services and operating expenses for the department of education – Arkansas State Library for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. *Action:* Transmitted to the Governor's Office for consideration on February 16, 2017.

Note: Known as Act 236, restoration of \$5.7 Million for State Aid to Public Libraries is included in the appropriation request.

House Bill 1834: an act to prohibit a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school from including in its curriculum or course materials for a program of study books or any other material authored by or concerning Howard Zinn. *Action:* Referred to Committee on Education – House on March 2, 2017; amended and reported as correctly engrossed on March 22, 2017.

Note: Opposition to this bill was communicated to members of the House Committee on Education by the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) Legislative Committee, in partnership with ArLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee and ArLA's Executive Committee on March 15, 2017. More advocacy efforts are forthcoming.

Senate Bill 346: an act concerning gender identity and bathroom privileges. *Action:* Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary on February 14, 2017.

Senate Bill 774: an act concerning public buildings; to create the Arkansas physical privacy and safety act. *Action:* Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary on March 6, 2017.

House Bill 1151: an act to require that registered voters be notified by mail of the dates for certain special elections. *Action:* Referred to Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs – House on January 11, 2017.

House Bill 1249: an act concerning the

possession of a concealed handgun in a public university, public college, or community college building; concerning other privileges associated with an enhanced license to carry a concealed handgun. *Action:* Passed by Arkansas Legislature on March 15, 2017; enrolled and transmitted to the Governor's Office on March 16, 2017. Signed by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson on March 22, 2017; the law becomes effective on September 1, 2017.

House Bill 1621: an act to change the date of the annual school election. *Action:* Amended and Referred to Committee on Education – Senate on March 20, 2017.

House Bill 2162: an act to promote voter turnout; to amend the law to limit the dates on which certain special elections can be held; to amend the law that resulted from initiated Act 1 of 1942. *Action:* Referred to Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs – House on March 7, 2017.

Many of referred bills remain on committee agendas until the filing legislator “runs” the bill. Often, bills are postponed or amended, then re-referred to committee review. It is a day-by-day and week-by-week process until the Arkansas Senate and Arkansas House adjourn the legislative session. Current information about legislation can be tracked at www.arkleg.state.ar.us.

There are several proposed bills concerning special elections this year. Library advocates and lobbyists have shared the following concerns with specific committee members:

- Members of the library community oppose bills limiting special elections that require mail notices to all registered voters because it would be cost-prohibitive. In addition to standard campaign costs, this requirement may add up to \$1 for each registered voter in the area.
- Members of the library community oppose bills limiting special elections to general elections. When library issues are included on general election ballots, it is difficult for our important stories to be heard because it competes with other political messages.
- Special elections are positive opportunities for libraries to create dialogue about programs/ services that benefit our communities.
- For any bill that limits special elections, members of the library community request inclusion of emergency clause that would allow organizations to move forward in the case of disaster recovery, as necessary.

Federal Advocacy

U.S. Presidential Priorities

On March 16, 2017, the President of the United States released a “Budget Blueprint” for FY2018. Programs proposed for elimination or massive reductions include the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

According to the Arkansas State Library’s FY2015 annual report (fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2016), the IMLS Grants to States program is the “largest source of federal funding support for library services in the U.S.” Statewide projects benefiting all Arkansans were funded with \$1,778,761 in federal funds and the state’s match of \$916,331.

Federal regulations and guidelines are followed, along with guidance from IMLS, to ensure appropriate expenditures of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. Arkansas programs funded by LSTA include the Traveler Statewide Database project, annual Summer Reading Program, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and many other State Library programs, services and initiatives.

The U.S. President’s Budget Blueprint also proposes to eliminate or “zero out” organizations such as National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Community Development Block Grants, and other programs that assist our communities’ low to moderate socio-economic demographics, homeless populations, rural areas, and after-school programs.

In response to President Trump’s proposal to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services in his FY2018 budget, American Library Association (ALA) President Julie Todaro issued a statement, reading in part:

The President’s proposal to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in his FY2018 budget just released, and with it effectively all federal funding for libraries of all kinds, is counterproductive and short-sighted. The American Library Association will mobilize its members, Congressional library champions and the millions upon millions of people we serve in every zip code to keep those ill-advised proposed cuts from becoming a Congressional reality. Libraries leverage the tiny amount of federal funds they receive through their states into an incredible range of services for virtually all Americans everywhere to produce what could well be the highest economic and social “ROI” in the entire federal budget. (ALA News,

3/16/2017, www.ala.org)

More advocacy efforts are forthcoming. The Arkansas Library Association is communicating with ALA to identify our best options to support and promote libraries on the federal level. Members should watch for more details on the ArLA listserv, and everyone is highly encouraged to participate in our shared advocacy efforts. ALA’s Legislative Action Center is located at www.cqrcengage.com/ala.

National Library Legislative Day

The American Library Association announced this year’s NLLD event is scheduled for May 1-2, 2017. The registration fee is \$50.00. More details are available at www.ala.org/nlld. Arkansas meetings will be coordinated by the State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft.

Recognizing Arkansas Partners

Special thanks to David Johnson, Nate Coulter, Carolyn Ashcraft, ArLA’s Executive Committee, ArLA’s Legislative Committee, ArLA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee, the Advocates for Arkansas Public Library group, Tim Summers, and Graham Catlett for all of your engagement, advocacy, and work on legislative issues.

Editor’s note: at the time of publication, the information outlined in this article was current.

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



Happy spring! Flowers in front of Torreyson Library at University of Central Arkansas.

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Compiled by Joanna Ewing

Library Faculty & Cataloguer

Torryson Library, University of Central Arkansas

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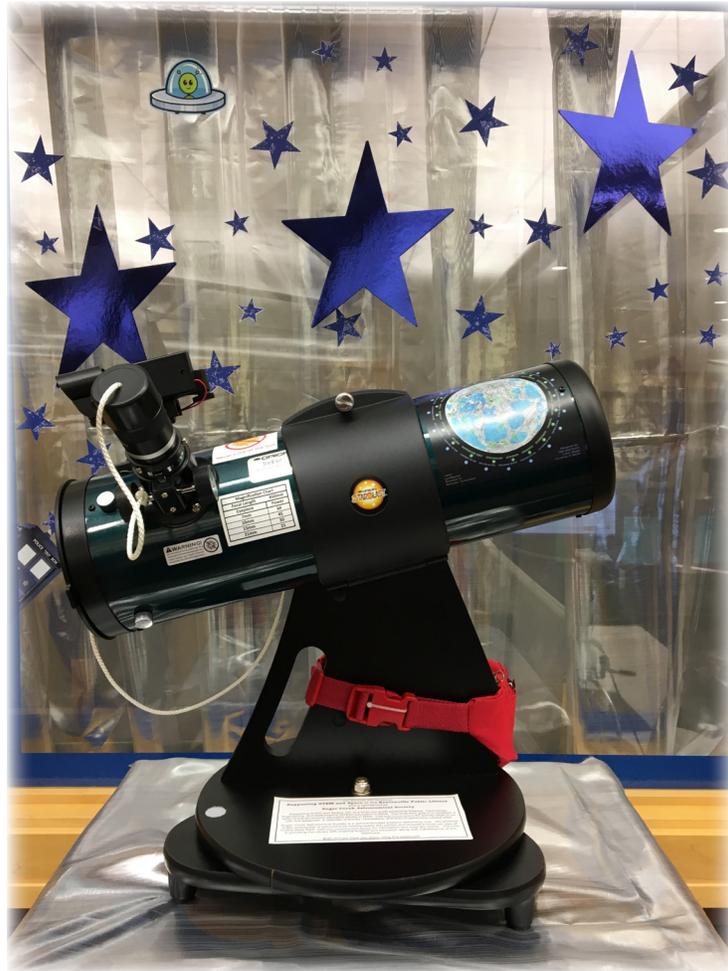
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Read about exploring space at the Bentonville Public Library on page 17 in this issue.

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