Arkansas Libraries

Spring/Summer 2016 Volume 73, Number 1/2

Arkansas Library Association

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Advocacy for Public Libraries

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National Library Legislative Day 2016

Arkansas Library Association, 2016

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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 ArLA President:
On the Right Path

by Judy Calhoun

ArLA President

Calhoun

First of all, I want to personally say thank you to all of you who resolved to make a difference for this organization and have renewed your membership and made considerable donations.

Your generous support is helping navigate ArLA back on the path of solvency. It speaks highly about who we are as an organization when we all work together toward a common goal. It also validates my theme for ArLA this year, "Powered by Change." ArLA, like our libraries, must continually change and evolve in order to best serve its members, while at the same time realizing that it takes all of its components working together to effectively move forward. I can't wait to see where it takes us!

Even though I was unable to attend ALA mid-winter conference this year, one of the highpoints I heard about was ALA President Sari Feldman's Libraries Transform initiative. While it seems at times some of these initiatives can feel a little forced, I believe the Libraries Transform campaign is a great public relations opportunity for all libraries. Feldman's campaign makes an effort to shift the conversation from what libraries *have* for patrons to what libraries *do* for patrons. That really does make a big difference in the way we think about what we do for our library communities. I think this effect needs to happen with our association as well.

What does the Arkansas Library Association do for its members? We all know there are many benefits to membership such as continuing education opportunities, advocacy initiatives, access to the *Arkansas Libraries* publication and the ArLA listserv. But perhaps the most significant benefit we do for our members is provide the opportunity for networking, collaborating with other librarians, support staff and institutions across the state and supporting members who are furthering their education. I think Jessie Burchfield's very touching letter entitled, "How the Arkansas Library Association Changed My Life," to the membership is a great example of the impact we can and do make in our members lives without realizing it. On a personal note, I would have been lost without the assistance and encouragement of library directors from around the state of Arkansas when I assumed the position of Regional Director; most of whom I met through the ArLA conference. They became a support team that I rely upon still today.

So I encourage you to stay involved with the organization. I think you will like where it is headed.

Judy Calhoun, the President of the Arkansas Library Association, is Regional Director of Southeast Arkansas Regional Library.

Amber Gregory, Coordinator of E-Rate Services at the Arkansas State Library, (left) and Hadi Dudley, Library Director at Bentonville Public Library, visited the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art Library in December. The Crystal Bridges Library houses reference books, special collections and archives relating to American art and artists, art history, nature and the museum. While the library's collection does not circulate, the general collection, digital materials and other resources are available for all museum guests and researchers to use. Learn more at crystalbridges.org/library. Photograph by Valerie Sallis, Interim Library Director and Archivist/Cataloger at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

From the Editor:
Our First Combined Issue

by Britt Anne Murphy

Library Director, Hendrix College

Murphy

Welcome to *Arkansas Libraries*' first ever combined issue! Some of you, no doubt, were wondering what might become of our humble publication, since our last issue (Winter 2015) related stories of ArLA's dire financial situation.

Upon discussions with *Arkansas Libraries*' editorial board as well as the ArLA board, the editors decided to combine the Spring and Summer issues for 2016 rather than incur the wrath of serials librarians by publishing an online only issue this past spring. This way we can keep serials librarians happy and still get content to our readers in print, as well as save some costs of publishing and editing. If you would like to save the Association some additional money, please indicate on your membership forms whether or not you'd like to continue receiving *Arkansas Libraries* in print...we are completely happy to send our readership the print issues (I confess...this is my preferred format), but others might be just as comfortable with online only.

The Spring/Summer issue is heftier, but the stories it brings are lighter and happier for the most part...celebrations of individuals, such as Francis Kuykendall, institutions, such as the National Park Service, and events, such as National Legislative Day. An important victory for all libraries in Arkansas was the restoration of $1 million of state aid to public libraries this past April for FY2016-2017. The advocacy organization Advocates for Arkansas Public Libraries (AAPL) was instrumental in gaining support and running a successful campaign that highlighted the value of our public libraries. This victory touches not just Arkansas public libraries, but all types of libraries in our state. If state government supports our public libraries, that support is important when they consider needs of our public institutions of higher education, as well as our public schools. The support a state gives to public education can also be meaningful for private institutions, such as Hendrix College...we use public institutions for benchmarking on all kinds of measures and rely on initiatives such as the Traveler suite of databases as much as any other educational outfit.

Hopefully the promising news of this legislative victory serves to remind us how complacency breeds indifference – the simple act of engaging a lobbyist brought needed attention to our value. Librarians tend to be too self-effacing in our efforts to serve our constituents, and can be complacent about advocating for ourselves and our profession. We need organizations such as AAPL and ArLA to highlight our importance not just to each other, but to those we serve in this state. *Arkansas Libraries* can be one messaging tool, but it is the associations that connect advocates with a unified message, and that message to our audiences.

I encourage each of you to be "non-complacent" – don't just be a member of ArLA, be an engaged advocate of ArLA. Advocacy breeds value.

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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Arkansas Library Association Bylaws

The Constitution Committee puts forth the following revisions to the constitution and bylaws of the Arkansas Library Association in one document to be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting. The Bylaws will become effective Jan. 1 of the year following the vote. For more information, see the article in this issue on page 15.

Article I – Name

The name of this Association shall be the Arkansas Library Association.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to promote library service and the profession of librarianship in the State of Arkansas.

Article III – Articles of Organization

Section 1. IRS CLASSIFICATION

The Association shall devote a major part of its activities to further its purpose, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Section 2. ASSETS

Its assets shall be distributed solely for the furtherance of the purpose of the organization.

Section 3. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, its assets shall be distributed for one or more of the exempt purposes specified in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Article IV – Affiliation with Other Organizations

Section 1. American Library Association

The Association shall hold a chapter membership in the American Library Association and shall be represented by a Councilor or Councilors elected to the American Library Association Council in accordance with provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Library Association.

Section 2. Other Organizations

The Association may choose to join other library-related associations as deemed necessary.

Article V – Membership

Section 1. Eligibility

Any person, library, or other organization interested in library science, librarianship, and the purpose of the Association may become a member upon payment of dues or upon being granted an honorary membership. Membership for the Association will run on a 12 month basis from time of payment.

Section 2. Classification of membership

Membership of the Association shall consist of personal members and institutional members. Personal members shall have the right to vote in elections, hold office, serve on committees, attend division and round table meetings, and receive all publications and notices of the Association upon payment of annual dues.

Section 3. Dues

A. Members must pay dues to the Executive Administrator. Expired memberships may be reinstated upon payment of dues.

B. The Association will maintain a list of member categories and associated dues for each member type. Any changes to these categories or dues must be voted on by the entire membership and passed with a simple majority.

C. An additional joint membership option is available for students in partnership with the American Library Association. The membership dues are determined by American Library Association, and the fee is split evenly between the national association and our chapter.

Article VI – Administration and Organization

Section 1. Administration

A. The business of the Association shall be administered by an Executive Board, an Executive Committee, and any committees or representatives as may be required and have been appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board. Members may attend meetings of the Executive Board and any committees either in person or by electronic tele-presence.

B. Authority for policies, expenditures, and administration of the Association shall be vested in the membership unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws.

C. No policy, expenditure, or action of the Association or any of its parts shall be contingent on policy, expenditure or action of any other body.

Section 2. ArLA Manual

A. The Office of the Executive Administrator shall maintain and distribute the ArLA Manual to guide Association employees, officers, committees, division, round tables, task forces, and interest groups in the discharge of their duties.

B. The ArLA Manual and all changes shall be approved by the Executive Board unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws. Changes become effective immediately upon approval by the Board.

Section 3. Officers

A. The officers of the Association shall serve until their successors are duly elected and assume office. The Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the ArLA Manual. All officers must be Association members. Association officers consist of:
   1. President – serves a one-year term.
   2. Vice President/President-Elect – serves a one-year term.
   3. Secretary/Treasurer – serves a two-year term.
   4. ALA Councilor – serves a three-year term; term begins immediately after the election results are announced, as per American Library Association policy.

B. Nomination and election of officers.
   1. One or more eligible candidates who hold personal membership shall be proposed by the Nominating Committee for each elected office. A report of the Nominating Committee shall be submitted to the President no later than sixty days prior to the annual meeting. Consent of all nominees shall be secured prior to nomination.
   2. A majority of the votes cast by personal members shall constitute election. An exact voting schedule and procedure shall be established by the Executive Board in advance of the election.
   3. Should a special election be necessary, the Executive Board shall set an exact voting schedule and procedures.

C. Vacancies and appointments
   1. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President/President-Elect shall serve as President for the remainder of the unexpired term and shall continue in office for the full succeeding term for which he/she was elected.
   2. If the office of the Vice-President/President-Elect becomes vacant, the Executive Board shall hold a special election in which the Association membership votes for a replacement. The winner of this special election shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term as well as President the following year.
   3. If a vacancy occurs in any other elected office, the Executive Board shall have the power to fill the vacancy. An officer selected by the Executive Board shall serve only for the remainder of the unexpired term unless nominated and elected by the membership for the succeeding term.

D. Disciplinary Action
   1. Duties and responsibilities for all Association officers are outlined in both the Bylaws and the ArLA Manual. All officers agree to fulfill these duties in an ethical manner when taking office.
   2. Should any officer act in a way that is illegal, unethical, and/or contrary to the rules or purposes of the Association, the Executive Board may initiate a removal process.

Section 4. Executive Board

A. The Executive Board shall be responsible for all business affairs of the Association and act for the Association in intervals between meetings of the Association.

B. The Executive Board consists of the following voting members:
   1. The elected officers of the Association
   2. The immediate Past-President
   3. The American Library Association Councilor
   4. The Division chairs
   5. The Round Table chairs
   6. The standing committee chairs

C. The Executive Administrator shall be an ex-officio member without a vote.

D. Ad hoc committee chairs may be given voting rights at the discretion of the board.

E. The Executive Board shall fill vacancies in Association offices, approve all committee chair appointments, approve budgets, assist in planning and arranging official meetings, authorize the establishment and the dissolution of divisions and round tables, and accept, create, or establish any other activities, functions, or services within the Association that it deems advisable provided that such action is submitted to the membership for approval at the next annual meeting.

F. The President shall call meetings of the Executive Board as necessary to transact business of the Association. A simple majority of voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Board meetings are open to members of the Association as observers unless an Executive Session is called.

Section 5. Executive committee

The Executive Committee of the Executive Board shall serve as an advisory group to the Executive Board, and, in case of emergency, may act on their behalf. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice-President/President-

Elect, Past-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and the American Library Association Councilor. The Executive Administrator shall serve as an ex-officio member without a vote. The Committee shall meet upon call from the President.

Section 6. Committees of the Association

A. The Executive Board shall form and maintain committees necessary to carry out the business of the Association.
   1. All committee members must be Association members.
   2. The committees shall consist of not less than two members.
   3. The President shall appoint a chair for each committee from the Association membership.
   4. All appointments of committee chairs shall be with the approval of the Executive Board.
   5. The committee chair shall be responsible for appointing members to their committee for a one-year term. No member may be appointed to any one committee for more than three consecutive terms.
   6. In the event of a committee chair vacancy, the President shall appoint a replacement.

B. No Association member may serve on more than three committees unless one of those committees is required by an office held by the member. No Association member may chair more than one committee unless one of those committees is required by an office held by the member.

C. All documentation required by the committee, including annual reports, budget requests, and other official documents are the responsibility of the committee chair.

D. Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the President as needed to perform definite assignments of limited duration. Committees whose work extends beyond the term of the President who appoints them will be subject to reappointment or replacement by the incoming President.

Section 6. Executive Administrator

The Executive Administrator shall be contracted by the Executive Board and shall serve until the contract is terminated by either party following at least thirty days written notice. Duties and salary shall be governed by the Executive Board.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meeting

A. The Association shall hold an annual meeting at a time and place determined by the Executive Board.

B. In time of emergency an annual meeting may be canceled or discontinued for one or more years by vote of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings will be held if 1) the Executive Board chooses to call one, or 2) fifty or more members petition the President to call one. Only business specified in the call for the special meeting may be transacted.

Section 3. Notice of Meetings

The Association shall notify all members at least thirty days before the time of the annual meeting or any special meetings. In case of special meetings, this notice shall specify the business for which it is called.

Section 4. Quorum

Five percent of the total personal membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Association at any general membership meeting. Official membership records in the Association office will be used to determine the number needed for the quorum.

Article VIII – Finance

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

Section 2. Funds

A. Fees or charges levied for any activity or project of the Association shall be subject to approval by the Executive Board.

B. The Executive Board shall set and approve an annual budget based on available funds.

C. All money collected by the Association or any of its parts shall be deposited in an account owned and maintained by the Association.

Section 3. Records

The Executive Administrator and Secretary/Treasurer shall maintain accurate records of all financial affairs of the Association, shall make a written report to the Association members at each annual meeting, and shall make all financial records available for audit upon request of the President.

Section 4. Audit

A. The President shall appoint 3 members of the Executive Board to conduct an annual financial review of the financial records of the preceding year to be conducted by the end of January. As soon as practical after completion, the review results shall be published in the official publications of the Association.

B. The President shall arrange for an audit by a qualified auditor at any time during the fiscal

year that a new Executive Administrator is appointed.

C. The auditing agency shall be identified in the annual financial report.

Section 5. Bonding

The Executive Administrator, President and Secretary/Treasurer shall be bonded annually for an amount to be determined by the Executive Board. The bonding agent shall be identified in the annual financial report.

Section 6. Disbursements

A. The Executive Administrator shall pay all bills in accordance with guidelines established by the Executive Board and included in the annual budget. Payment of bills for items not budgeted must have the approval of the Executive Committee at the earliest opportunity.

B. No expense in excess of budgeted amounts may be incurred on behalf of the Association by any officer or committee without the approval of the Executive Board or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf.

Article IX – Divisions and Round Tables

Section 1. Definitions

Divisions and Round Tables may be organized to represent specific groups or interests within the Association. Divisions are organized around a certain type of library or institution within the library field; some of these Divisions are state chapters of American Library Association Divisions. Round Tables are organized around specific types of professions, functions, or areas of interest within the library field, regardless of the type of institution.

Section 2. Formation

A Division or Round Table may be formed following a petition to the President of 25 or more Association members interested in the same general field of activity. Once this petition has been made, the Executive Board will authorize the creation of a new Division or Round Table. The general membership will vote on establishing the new Division or Round Table at the next annual meeting, at which time members may join the Division or Round Table and vote to appoint a chair. Any personal member of the Association may have membership in more than one Division or Round Table.

Section 3. Purpose

A list of recognized Divisions and Round Tables may be found in the ArLA Manual. All Divisions and Round Tables exist for the purpose of discussion, planning, and cooperative action. All activities of the Divisions and Round Tables shall be related to the policies and work of the Association and shall not be discharged independently of the Association and its Executive Board.

Section 4. Budget

Each Division and Round Table shall prepare an annual income and expense budget for the Executive Board. The Executive Board may appropriate and budget reasonable sums to support the work of a Division or Round Table.

Section 5. Officers

Each Division or Round Table shall elect officers in accordance with their specific rules, subject to review by the Executive Board of the Association. All candidates and elected Division or Round Table officers and committee members must be Association members.

Section 6. Meetings

Divisions and Round Tables shall notify the Executive Board of any meetings, joint sessions, or other programs that are held other than at the time and place of the annual Association meeting.

Section 7. Reporting

All Divisions and Round Tables shall submit minutes of annual meetings and any special meetings to the Association Secretary.

Section 8. Dissolution

Divisions or Round Tables of the Association may be dissolved by a petition submitted by a majority of its members, subject to the approval of the Executive Board. Any money earmarked for that Division or Round Table will revert to the Association's General Fund.

Article X – Parliamentary Authority

The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure by Alice Sturgis, in the latest edition, shall govern the Association in all cases to which it can be applied and in which it is not inconsistent with the Bylaws or special rules of order of the Association.

Article XI – Amendments

The Bylaws may be amended or revised at any membership meeting of the Association; members may cast votes in person or via absentee ballot. Amendments or revisions must be passed by a two-thirds majority. The proposed amendments must be filed by their proponents in writing to the Bylaws Committee 90 days and the Executive Board 60 days prior to the annual meeting. Notice of the proposed amendments shall be given to the membership 30 days prior to the beginning of the annual meeting. All amendments to the Bylaws will be forwarded to the American Library Association.

Advocacy for Arkansas Public Libraries

by Hadi Dudley
Library Director
Bentonville Public Library

Dudley

Last summer, I was appointed Co-Chair of the Arkansas Library Association Legislative Committee, joining forces with Amber Gregory from the State Library, an esteemed colleague and good friend, to lead the work that was necessary to support advocacy for public library funding. Since then, I have been busy working on national and statewide legislative issues as the ArLA Legislative Committee Chair. Members of the 2016 Legislative Committee include Amber Gregory, Donna McDonald, and David Johnson.

I recently returned from Washington, D.C., having attended the 42nd Annual National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on May 2 and 3, 2016. My participation in NLLD was sponsored by the Advocates for Arkansas Public Libraries (AAPL). But prior to traveling to Capitol Hill, advocacy on the state-level was a high priority this spring.

Many journal readers may remember a last-minute cut to state aid to public libraries in 2015, deducting $1 Million from the proposed $5.7M appropriation for FY2016. Since then, our public libraries have been in survival mode to creatively absorb cuts and supplement resources for a minimal impact on services. Refer to the Summer 2015 issue of *Arkansas Libraries* (Volume 72, Issue 2, Page 11) to see the list of libraries affected.

Arkansas public libraries were forced to make tough decisions about operations and public services. Examples include: reduction in library hours, cuts to summer reading program support, cuts to collection budgets, eliminating digital resources, cuts to or delays of technology purchases, delaying capital projects, postponing circulation upgrades, inability to add new programs, decreasing inter-library loan services, eliminating memberships in professional associations and cuts to travel / training budget, charging patrons for services that were previously free, increasing fines and fees, leaving vacant staff positions unfilled, cuts to salaries, and elimination of staff positions.*

Many public libraries used a grassroots postcard campaign. The marketing piece was designed and shared by the Donald W. Reynolds Library serving Baxter County in Mountain Home. Postcards were produced and freely distributed to participating libraries by AAPL during the 2015 ArLA Conference. Legislators heard from hundreds of library patrons through this initiative.

Because the Arkansas General Assembly works on a biennium budget, the same reduced rate of $4.6M was slated for FY2017. More action was required to advocate for restoration of state aid to public libraries to $5.7M. This funding model could not be sustained for another year.

Select AAPL members interviewed and hired lobbyist Tim Summers to work during the 2016 Special Session and Fiscal Session. Mr. Summers' strength is relationships; he knows people and he recognizes the value of doing the right thing while upholding his word. He is an honest communicator and avid library user.

Mr. Summers began work immediately, asking important questions, contacting people via telephone and scheduling meetings in Little Rock. Several options to restore the funding were explored through his conversations with elected officials. Summers states, "Libraries provide a great service and our legislators are very supportive; we just need to keep them informed and connected."

Additionally, ArLA members and public library directors reached out directly to their elected officials. An online communication tool, titled "Engage," provided by the American Library Association (ALA) for use by the Arkansas Library Association, was initiated as a formal and streamlined method for advocates to "take

AAPL
Advocates for Arkansas Public Libraries

ArLA members are encouraged to join AAPL by emailing the group's Treasurer, Leroy Gattin, at leroygattin@sbcglobal.net.

action" with elected officials. The ArLA Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved use of Engage and the core content loaded in the program. Two "Engagements" generated a combined total of 991 emails sent by 409 advocates to elected officials in support of public library funding!

On Friday, April 29, legislative leaders and Governor Asa Hutchinson agreed to restore $1 million for state aid to public libraries through the Revenue Stabilization Act (RSA) "Rainy Day" fund. The money will be included in the FY2016-17 budget and take effect July 1, 2016. This is a temporary measure, but a positive one.

Libraries received public support from Governor Asa Hutchinson and the following elected officials:

Representatives: Camille Bennett (D-14), Dan Douglas (R-91), Michael John Gray (D-47), Lane Jean (R-2) and Speaker of the House, Jeremy Gillam (R-45).

Senators: David Burnett (D-22), Alan Clark (R-13), Uvalde Lindsey (D-4), Larry Teague (D-10) and President of the Senate, Jonathan Dismang (R-28).

Each of these leaders, and others not listed here, deserve our gratitude and respect for supporting libraries. I encourage you to connect with your elected official and thank them for their support.

Additionally, Mr. Summers helped with an Amendment to House Bill 1052 to delete language that referred to state aid as "grants." The change was introduced on May 3 and passed on May 5. This minor correction will hopefully avoid the perception that appropriations for public libraries are discretionary grant funds.

According to AAPL President, Jay Carter, "Our group was pleased with Mr. Summers' understanding of library issues, connections with legislators and actions taken on behalf of Arkansas public libraries this spring."

Indeed, the funding restoration was a huge "win," and we enjoyed success through grassroots advocacy and formal work with AAPL. Positive conversations surrounding Arkansas libraries, and the valuable services we provide to our communities, are a good foundation to build upon. As we move forward, more communication and cooperation will be necessary to formally restore the $5.7M in FY2018 for state aid to public libraries.

In the forthcoming months, public libraries can expect emails, surveys, meetings and additional opportunities to work together from ArLA, AAPL and other stakeholders. Mark your calendars for "Library Day" in Little Rock at the Capitol for February 2017 (date to be determined).

Sari Feldman, 2015-2016 ALA President recently stated, "We are the most powerful when we are unified." I believe this is true of ourselves, our libraries, and our communities.

**Author's note - examples of library cuts to operations and services are anecdotal evidence gathered through informal surveys and feedback from several libraries. The examples are included as a general illustration and do not constitute a formal or comprehensive statement on the full negative impact the $1 million reduction had on all Arkansas public libraries and their communities.*

Hadi Dudley, Library Director at Bentonville Public Library, is the ArLA Legislative Committee Chair.

[L to R] Tim Summers, AAPL Lobbyist; Hadi Dudley, ArLA Legislative Committee Chair; Leroy Gattin, AAPL Treasurer. Photograph by Heather R. Hays.

Library Profile

Lincoln Public Library

***by Sarah Loch**, Young Adult Librarian, Springdale Public Library*

After more than thirty years in a small, two-room storefront location, the Lincoln Public Library now has room to grow along with the town. Located in western Washington County, less than eight miles from the Oklahoma state border, Lincoln opened a new library facility in March 2014. The city demolished three storefront buildings in poor condition, including the building where the library was previously located on the north side of the square, in order to make room for a new library building with approximately 10,000 square feet of space, according to Dianna Payne, the library director.

The new space has provided a many opportunities to serve the community that they didn't have in the old space, Payne said. The old storefront space was so crowded by the collection that there was no room for library classes; only a few small clubs were able to use the space to meet. Now the clubs still meet at the library, but there is a weekly children's storytime on Wednesdays, and the library also offers GED classes every Tuesday and Wednesday. Attendance at these classes was low initially, Payne said, but the number of people attending has more than doubled since the beginning.

Library staff are also preparing to launch two new programs soon, Payne said. One will be a program where Rosetta Stone software is made available for patrons to learn a new language. They will have space for five patrons who will commit to using the program to learn Spanish for 30 days. The library will also be circulating Samsung ereader devices preloaded with ebooks soon. This is a pilot program, but depending on its success, Payne said that they might eventually divide the ebooks by genre, with a different genre on each tablet.

Programs are not the only way that the library has expanded since moving into the new building. They now have space for dedicated computer stations for children of every age, from preschool-aged children up through high school students. The library also houses a coffee shop where patrons can get "a drink and a snack" and a seating area by the south-facing windows that look out onto the square. "Now we have room that you can come in and stay," Payne said. "You don't just have to get your items and leave."

The Lincoln Public Library was founded in the late 1940s by Violet Holt and was originally housed in one room in the city firehouse. It was moved twice in the 1950s, first to the Cantrell Realty building and then to the old city hall building, where Mrs. Glynne Richie became the full-time librarian and Violet Holt moved to part-time. In 1983, the library moved to a two-room storefront on the north side of the Lincoln square. For nearly eighty years the library has grown with the town it serves, and it will no doubt continue to do so for many years to come.

The University of Arkansas Press

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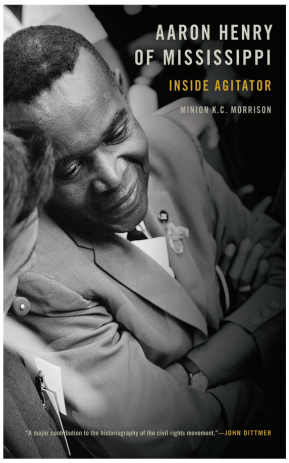

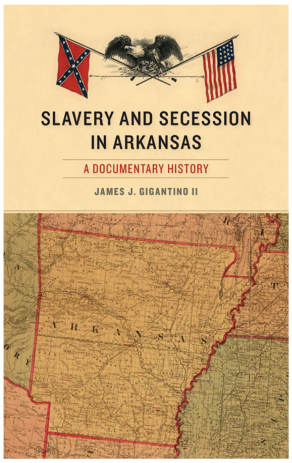

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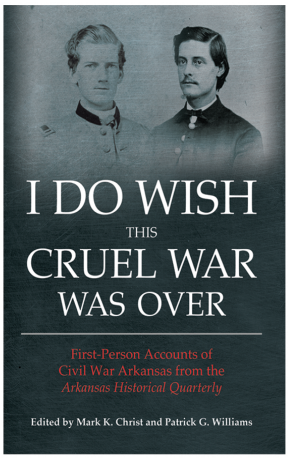

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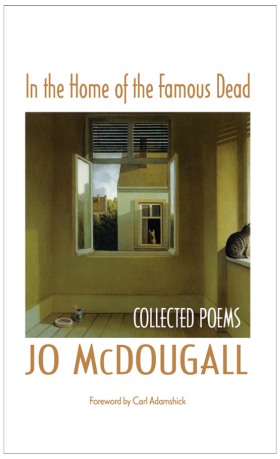

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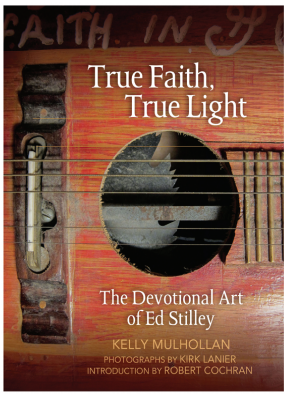

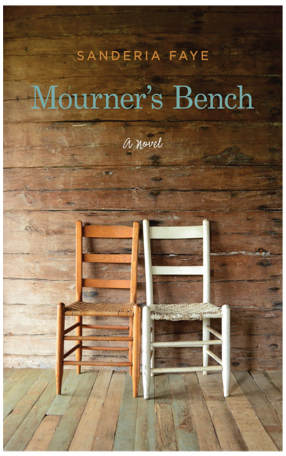

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What's up? Docs.

National Parks: Looking Back and Reaching Forward

by Karen Russ,
Government Documents Librarian, UALR

Russ

Given that over 292.8 million visits were made to national parks and related sites in 2014, (the latest year for which data has been released)[1] almost everyone reading this piece can probably say they have visited one. And maybe several can say they have visited one of more of the most popular places, like the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Lincoln Memorial, or Grand Canyon National Park.

The History

On March 1, 1872, through an act signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, Yellowstone was established as our nation's first national park. Forty-four years later, on August 25, 1916, the National Park Service was created. This time, the "Organic Act," as it was known, was signed by President Woodrow Wilson. The National Park Service (NPS) was created:

"To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."[2]

In the 1930s the nature of lands protected in the program expanded to include military parks and national monuments were added. Then, in the 1960s, national parkways and seashores followed. The addition of sites in Alaska in the 1970s nearly doubled the size of land under management under of the NPS.

Elk in Grand Tetons NP

Today, there are a total of 409 sites including national parks, historical parks or sites, national monuments, battlefields or military parks, preserves, seashores, parkways, lakeshores, and reserves. How many of those can be found in Arkansas? (*Answer at the end of this article.)

These lands range from the smallest, the Thaddeus Koscuiszko National Memorial at 0.02 acres, to the Wrangell-St Elias National Park and Preserve at 13.2 million aces.

American bison in Yellowstone NP

These preserved areas include over 75,000 archeological sites, nearly 27,000 pre-historic and historic sites, and more than 167 million museum items. To explore all these areas and items, one can travel on over 18,000 miles of trails. There are 400 mapped miles of caves in Mammoth Cave National Park alone. Both the highest point in North America, Denali (20,320 feet), and the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere, Badwater Basin (282 feet below sea level), can be visited in US National Parks. (Denali National Park and Death Valley National Park, respectively.) [3]

In addition to providing a secure future for a wide variety of lands and items, the NPS offers homes, and hopefully a long future, for creatures within the parks and preserves. At least 247 species of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals can be found in the over 84 million square miles of lands currently in the program. [4]

The Future

In 2016, as the National Park Service enters into its second century, its original purpose of maintaining and protecting the existing lands will be blended with the desire to expand their mission, locations, and experiences. Brochures, booklets, and other promotional materials are now accessible from the NPS website and searchable in several ways. Virtual museum exhibits (http://www.nps.gov/museum/) allow a dinosaur-crazed child to hunt for fossils in Dinosaur National Monument from his or her laptop, or a philatelist to peruse first day covers from the Everglade State without gloves or protective sleeves. (http://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/ever/index.html).

Government Information @your library™

With as many locations as have been mentioned so far, it might seem a little intimidating to pick a place to visit. Not at all. Start with the Find a Park link (http://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm) where you can choose by the name of the site or the state in which it is located. Remember, less than a day's travel will take you to many in our home state and those surrounding us. While selecting a park or historic site, take a few minutes and read the Plan Your Adventure section carefully. Make note of events and activities in different places. Check for dates when entrance fees are waived – 127 sites regularly charge for admission, including two in Arkansas.

Or, aim for a larger experience and visit Find Your Park (http://findyourpark.com/find). This site is about more than just our national parks. It's about the NPS working with communities through education programs, community assistance projects, and more. It's about state parks, local parks, trails, museums, historic sites, and the many ways that the American public can connect with history and culture, enjoy nature, and make new discoveries.[5]

Gizzly bear in Yellowstone NP

While visiting a park or historic site, consider sharing some time with the Volunteers-In-Parks program (http://www.nps.gov/getinvolved/volunteer.htm). For some, the volunteer work may just be self-satisfying. For others, like youngsters in your family, it could result in a scout badge; or for those in college, possibly an internship. My trip to Yellowstone National Park was to have included working as a volunteer, painting picnic tables that were soon to be spread around the park. Unfortunately, thunderstorms interfered with that, and my view of Old Faithful. But that did not stop me from adding a volunteer experience to the bucket list for my next visit to an NPS location.

After you've had some fun in the parks, return to the Find Your Park website and share your experiences with others. (http://findyourpark.com/share).

This growing site allows park visitors to summarize their visits in the gallery. Materials can be included in any format you feel is appropriate - poems, photos, videos, songs – anything you wish to post that shares your experience. Help others see the wonders of the NPS, and encourage them to visit as well.

Educational Resources

The Teachers section of the NPS homepage bills the National Parks as America's largest classrooms and offers lesson plans as well as numerous other

interesting materials (http://www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm). The site's best offer is the ability to search your topic and narrow it by subject, grade level, and common core division. And the grade level selections run from Pre-K to adult education, including everything in-between.

If you teach fourth grade, (and teaching means home schooling, scouts, religious groups, or after school programs) or if you have a fourth grader in the family, take time and look at the "Every Kid In A Park" program. (https://www.everykidinapark.gov/). This program offers free access to all the national lands and water is available for fourth graders. Look at it even if you don't have a fourth grader around. It's a wonderful program designed to get our children out into the National Parks.

Numerous other features are offered for teachers including distance learning, traveling trunks, field experiences, and classroom materials. Each option addresses the classroom subjects covered and appropriate grade levels. Some programs even offer a classroom visit from a park ranger who will take part in classroom activities with the students.

Mt. Rushmore National Memorial

Conclusion

America's best idea keeps getting better! Round up your family; grab your hiking boots, a camera, and your favorite wildlife guide; get out there to visit a National Park this year! Help the NPS celebrate their 100th birthday and begin their second century.

Trivia Answer:

There are seven sites in Arkansas. The William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace is affiliated with the NPS, but does not have an official NPS unit on site.

Notes:

1) National Park Service. "Visitation – Historic and Top 10 Sites." Last revised 2014. www.nps.gov/aboutus/news/upload/Visitation-historic-and-top-10-sites-2014.pdf
2) Public Law 91-458
3) National Park Service. "National Park Service Overview." Last updated July 13 2015. http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/upload/NPS-Overview-2015-update-11-16-15-2.pdf
4) National Park Service. "National Park Service Overview." Last updated July 13 2015. http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/upload/NPS-Overview-2015-update-11-16-15-2.pdf
5) National Park Foundation "Find Your Park" Last updated 2016. http://findyourpark.com/find

Acknowledgements:

My special thanks to Alexa Viets and Beth Stern of the National Park Service for their time and information on the NPS Centennial.

Logos:

National Park Service and 2016 Centennial Logos courtesy of the National Park Service.

Photographs:

All photos taken by Karen Russ in 2006.

Boiling mud pots in Yellowstone NP

Karen Russ is the Research and Community Engagement Librarian at Ottenheimer Library at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

New Friends Group to Benefit Arkansas History Commission

A new organization has been established to support the work of the Arkansas History Commission. Known as the Friends of the Arkansas History Commission, the new group has the purpose of encouraging and supporting the advancement of Arkansas History by assisting the state's official history agency in fulfilling its mission.

The chairman of the Friends is Lloyd Clark, a resident of Powhatan in Lawrence County and a long-time leader in promoting Arkansas history. Clark has been president of the Lawrence County Historical Society since 1995. He is also a Justice of the Peace representing the Powhatan area where he lives with his wife, Barbara Jones Clark.

Clark said the organization was established at a meeting in Little Rock at which over 40 people attended from all areas of the state. "The impetus for establishing the group," Clark explained, "is the realization that the History Commission faces huge obstacles." He specifically mentioned inadequate funding, a small staff, and a lack of support in the legislature.

Other officers comprising the leadership of the Friends are: Lynda Suffridge of North Little Rock, vice chairman; Tim Nutt, secretary, and Tom

Dillard, treasurer. Board members include Joan L. Gould, Fayetteville; Blake Perkins, Lynn, Ark.; Rex Nelson, Little Rock; Blake Wintory, Lake Village; Russell P. Baker, Mabelvale, Carl Drexler, Magnolia; Frances Ross, Little Rock; Sondra Gordy, Conway; Marion Butler, Little Rock; Tom DeBlack, Conway; Ken Bridges, El Dorado; and Richard C. Butler, Little Rock.

Membership in the Friends of the History Commission is only $10 per year. A sustaining membership is available for $25, life membership for $200.00, and a one-time corporate membership for $500.

To join the Friends of the Arkansas History Commission send your full name, complete contact information (including phone and email), and a check for your membership dues to:

Friends
P.O. Box 250916
Little Rock, AR 72225

Constitution Changes

by Lauren Drittler

Assistant Director, Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System

Constitution Committee Chair

At the 2016 Constitution Committee online meetings, a decision was made to merge our constitution and bylaws into one document.

We reviewed the Arkansas Library Associations constitution, bylaws, and manual as well as the American Library Association's governing documents. After careful review of each document, a very important issue was brought to our attention.

The Arkansas Library Association is a 501(c)3, which we discovered should be operating with bylaws. Our current bylaws only provide information about classification of membership,

dues, a list of divisions and round tables available, and payment of expenses.

The Constitution Committee has merged the bylaws and constitution create a more clear vision mission of the Arkansas Library Association. You will see the changes to the document on pages 4-7 of this journal. Please note that some items have been condensed or removed to be added to the Arkansas Library Association Manual. The Arkansas Library Association Manual will be the next project for the Constitution Committee.

National Library Legislative Day 2016

by Hadi Dudley
Library Director
Bentonville Public Library

Dudley

In the fall of 2015, Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) President, Judy Calhoun, took a strong leadership role and sought funds outside our association to sponsor legislative advocacy. A formal request to the Advocates for Arkansas Public Libraries (AAPL) provided travel money for the ArLA Legislative Committee Chair (me!) to visit Washington, D.C. to attend the 42nd Annual National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on May 2 and 3, 2016. Thanks to President Calhoun's initiative, and AAPL's partnership, ArLA's representation at NLLD was made possible through supplementing ArLA's budget.

Our contingent of advocates included myself, Carolyn Ashcraft, State Librarian of the Arkansas State Library; Amber Gregory, E-Rate Coordinator at the Arkansas State Library; Donna McDonald, Director of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System; and Leisha Callan, library user, former trustee and strong supporter.

NATIONAL LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY

Briefing Day

The 2016 legislative event began on Monday morning, with the American Library Association (ALA) Briefing Day. The day provided more than 400 library leaders with key messaging covering priority issues.

- Support the confirmation of Dr. Carla Hayden as the 14th Librarian of Congress, a professional librarian committed to modernizing services. If confirmed, Dr. Hayden would become the first woman and the first African American to lead the Library of Congress.
- Support Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) at $186.6 Million for FY2017.
- Support Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) funding for school libraries at $27 Million for FY2017.
- Support ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty "to make available to 4 million U.S. blind and other people with print disabilities access to critical educational and other print materials in accessible digitized formats." The number of Arkansans that could benefit from this treaty

The Arkansas group posed for a "photo op" highlighting library advocacy messages provided by the American Library Association at the Briefing Day Reception. [Left to Right] Hadi Dudley, Leisha Callan, Donna McDonald, Carolyn Ashcraft, Amber Gregory. Photograph by Adam Mason.

totals 98,100.

- Support Library of Congress autonomy in subject heading determinations, allowing cataloging professionals to update and replace outdated classifications with neutral and apolitical terms in a standardized method.

Additional topics included support for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reform, support for real privacy and surveillance law reform and support for *Lifeline*, affordable broadband and strong "net neutrality" protection.

Sari Feldman, 2015-2016 ALA President, addressed the group stating that "libraries of all types are essential! We are the most powerful when we are unified." She notes that libraries transform communities through education, workforce development and engagement. Feldman emphasizes that funding issues are important, but having conversations about particular information policies can also impact libraries' abilities to serve our communities.

Arkansas advocates met with Legislative Assistants and Correspondents on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The group is photographed in Congressman Rick Crawford's office, the last stop on their advocacy journey. [Front, Left to Right] Hadi Dudley, Donna McDonald [Back, Left to Right] Amber Gregory, Carolyn Ashcraft, Leisha Callan. Photograph by Abbigail Burgess.

During the kick-off meeting, ALA announced a partnership with the Harry Potter Alliance to launch "SPARK," an eight-part video series. The videos are developed to "support and guide first-time advocates who are interested in advocating at the federal level for issues that matter to them; it is targeted at viewers aged 13–22." The SPARK series will be hosted on the YouTube page of the Harry Potter Alliance and libraries can link to and share the videos. Check out SPARK Episode One entitled "What is Congress Anyway?" at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R_u455AOAU.

Former Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) was the keynote speaker at NLLD Briefing Day. He stated that ALA's work and activity has really made a difference for libraries when it comes to funding issues and information policies that actively promote "civil liberties and values for civic engagement." Holt said that libraries of all types are "essential to education and lifelong learning." He provided advice for our forthcoming meetings with legislative staff saying "they have eyes on the people that our legislators represent…and that's us." Holt reminded us that we are the experts on library subject matters, and examples of funding and policies are best shared through stories; Holt concluded with "all politics is local."

The Briefing Day schedule concluded with a reception where United for Libraries, a Division of ALA, recognized House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) with the 2016 Public Service Award. Though Speaker Pelosi was unable to attend and

Arkansas librarians dropped by the United States Senate Library between meetings with senatorial staff. [Left to Right] Amber Gregory, Hadi Dudley, Carolyn Ashcraft, Leisha Callan, Donna McDonald. Photograph submitted by Hadi Dudley.

accept the award in-person, her policy advisor, Patricia Ross, came in her stead. Ross read a letter from Pelosi which stated in part, "Libraries are sacred places of knowledge and literacy, memory and creativity; places that have educated, engaged and strengthened the minds and hearts of their visitors; places that offer the whole wisdom of humanity to anyone with a library card."

Capitol Hill Visits

The meetings with federal legislative offices were scheduled through our state coordinator, Carolyn Ashcraft. We tackled the Senate side on Monday afternoon, and lined up meetings with the Representatives all day on Tuesday. Both days on Capitol Hill were long, and rewarding.

In addition to the documents provided by ALA on national priorities, the State Library assembles information about Arkansas libraries in packets that we leave with the legislative offices. These resources guide our meetings, illustrate libraries' successes and exemplify stewardship of federal funds. Refer to two documents prepared by the State Library highlighting LSTA funds and use of Arkansas public libraries at http://tinyurl.com/arklsta2015 for "Arkansas Federal Funds: Statewide Library Projects, 2014-2015" and http://tinyurl.com/arklib2014 for "Arkansas Public Libraries." We were prepared with our packets, steered by our seasoned leader and ready to have meaningful

Between meetings with congressional staff, Hadi Dudley [left] and Amber Gregory stopped by the formal office of the Librarian of Congress in the Thomas Jefferson Building. It is our hope that Dr. Carla Hayden will be confirmed as the next LOC Librarian! Photograph by Beth Davis-Brown.

The Arkansas group's first official meeting was with Senator John Boozman's office. The sculpture Mountains and Clouds by Alexander Calder is featured in the lobby of the Hart Senate building. [Left to Right] Hadi Dudley, Amber Gregory, Leisha Callan, Donna McDonald. Not photographed Carolyn Ashcraft. Photo submitted by Hadi Dudley.

conversations about library services in Arkansas.

While the Senate and House of Representatives were both out-of-session, we enjoyed in-depth discussions with Legislative Assistants and Correspondents. Our group discussed the various ways that Arkansas libraries are community centers for users; the educational and academic support libraries provide students and lifelong learners; libraries as technology access providers that support digital literacy; how libraries promote grassroots economic development through financial workshops, workforce and entrepreneurial support; as well as other Arkansas library stories.

According to Ashcraft, "although we were not able to visit with the members of the Congressional delegation (as they were back home in Arkansas), we were able to meet with staff in each office. These young individuals welcomed us into their offices, listened to our requests for support of the library issues, and asked good questions about library usage."

Our group focused on LSTA funds that support the Arkansas Traveler database program benefiting all library types (academic, public, school, and special libraries), telecommunication issues (E-Rate, connectivity, and broadband) and the transformation of libraries throughout the years.

The legislative staff were interested in discussing broadband access and connectivity speeds, as these services especially impact rural areas in Arkansas. Amber Gregory prepared a handout (http://tinyurl.com/aslerate2015) that focused on telecommunication issues, and her expertise on the subject was evident! As Coordinator of E-Rate Services for the State Library, Gregory advises, supports, and trains public library directors and technology staff on E-Rate applications. In 2015, her hard work paid off with more than $1Million E-Rate dollars committed to Arkansas public libraries. This federal program allows our state and local funding to stretch further, while maintaining and upgrading telecommunication services and technologies.

Donna McDonald and Leisha Callan have been attending NLLD events for several years. Both ladies agree that our meetings are positive and often the group falls into a supportive and natural rhythm as we each chime in to share library stories from back home. Callan talks about how she and her family have benefited from using public libraries. She says, "My father-in-law knows that anytime he needs help with his smart phone or online forms, he can go to the library. He appreciates the staff's technical knowledge and enjoys the friendly assistance."

Stories like Callan's are vitally important to demonstrate the importance of libraries in communities. McDonald states, "This past legislative session in Arkansas has proven we need to advocate every day, not just when there is a problem. We also need to develop strong advocates in our communities who will carry our message further. Our visits to our national legislators is just one way we "put a face" on Arkansas Libraries. As we become more acquainted with legislative staff, it is much easier to reach out to them personally when there are important library issues needing support."

Conclusion

This year was my fifth NLLD event to attend in Washington, D.C. As I reflect on my legislative experiences, there are notable similarities and differences across the years. The leadership of the American Library Association, and activities surrounding Briefing Day, are reliable. Connecting with peers from all over the United States is always enjoyable. Another consistency is the professionalism that our Arkansas group demonstrates through preparation, confidence, and respectfulness benefiting our meetings with legislative offices. Some conversations are comparable across various visits, but other discussions may take a different turn, depending on questions or feedback we get during those meetings. The weather and metro transportation are not always predictable, but back-up plans include jackets, umbrellas, and Uber! The best thing about this year's National Library Legislative Day was working with Carolyn, Amber, Donna and Leisha. It is my privilege to advocate for Arkansas libraries with such a fabulous group of ladies!

Thank You, AAPL!

The AAPL group was formed to support public libraries in Arkansas. The sponsorship of ArLA's Legislative Chair at a national event exceeded its mission. As the ArLA representative, my focus was to advocate for all library types in Arkansas on the federal level. I am grateful for the group's support and hope that ArLA members will consider becoming AAPL members.

Hadi Dudley, Library Director at Bentonville Public Library, is the 2016 ArLA Legislative Committee Chair.

Ask the State Librarian:

ArLA Scholarships

By Carolyn Ashcraft,
Arkansas State Library

Ashcraft

In light of the current status of the finances of the Arkansas Library Association, I asked Scholarship Committee Chair, Debbie Hall, to provide an explanation on what actions are being taken to sustain the scholarships. The following is her report.

The Arkansas Library Association currently provides two scholarships, the Annual Scholarship (ALA Annual) and the School Library Media Specialist Scholarship (SLMS). Each of these scholarships has an award value of $1,500 and they are given on an annual basis. The funds used to provide the scholarships are from contributions and fund raising efforts.

At the beginning of this year the Scholarship Committee met and reviewed the budget. It was apparent that the funds would not be sufficient to award both scholarships in 2016. The committee recommended that one scholarship be awarded annually, rotating between the two awards – with the ALA Annual scholarship awarded in 2016 and the SLMS scholarship in 2017. This was presented to the ArLA Executive Board at the February meeting and it was approved.

It is important to stress that both scholarships will continue to be awarded in alternate years. This practice will be re-visited periodically and funds evaluated as to when ArLA can return to the practice of awarding both scholarships annually.

It is the goal of the Scholarship Committee to grow the scholarship fund and to eventually have an endowment type investment where the scholarship fund is self-sustaining. For this to occur, the Scholarship Committee will be working hard this year to plan fund raising events and seek additional contributions.

These scholarships are an important part of the Association and continuing them is vital to the professional development of our library community in Arkansas.

If you have ideas to share on how to increase the scholarship fund, or have questions for the Scholarship Committee, feel free to contact Debbie Hall at Debbie@library.arkansas.gov or call 501.682.2836.

Carolyn Ashcraft is the State Librarian for Arkansas.

Libraries Receive AUTIS Grants

At the 2016 Arkansas Users of Telecommunications and Information Systems (AUTIS) conference on Tuesday, April 12, several libraries received grants.

Ashley Parker-Graves of the Malvern/Hot Spring County Library received a grant for $1,100, which she intends to spend on new computers and laptops. Brenda Miner of the Ouachita Mountains Regional Library System was awarded a grant in the amount of $1,000 and also plans to use the funds towards new computers and laptops for her library. Karla Fultz of the Van Buren County Library, a grant recipient in 2015, was also present and reported on the white board that was purchased with the $3,250 her library received.

AUTIS awards grants to non-profit or charitable organizations to assist in the acquisition and implementation of IT resources. The combined grant total varies annually from $5,000 to $10,000 with individual grants averaging $1,500. For more information, including an application form, check out their website at www.autis.org.

Readers' Map of Arkansas Released at Literary Festival

"A Readers' Map of Arkansas" was officially released at a public unveiling at the Oxford American Annex in Little Rock on April 12 during the Arkansas Literary Festival.

At the event organizers described the editorial and design process, and representative authors gave short tribute readings to luminaries in Arkansas letters.

The literary map, which is available both online and in print form, honors authors of diverse genres and eras who have contributed to the rich culture of the Natural State. This edition is a revision of a literary map published in 1994 by the late poet C.D. Wright as part of her Lost Roads Project and features works that have both influenced and been influenced by the state of Arkansas.

A steering committee of area writers, professors, and librarians worked for more than two years to develop the new edition in consultation with H.K. Stewart of H.K. Stewart Creative Services, who executed the graphic design. Project coordinator Hope Coulter, director of the Hendrix-Murphy Foundation Programs in Literature and Language at Hendrix College, was inspired to spearhead a Readers' Map revival after hearing C.D. Wright say on a visit to Arkansas in 2013 that she'd "love for someone to take it up." According to Wright, a literary map serves as "an abbreviated journey through the state's letters" and is "meant to be not exhaustive, but a generous selection." Wright, a Mountain Home native and one of the nation's most eminent poets, remained close to her Arkansas roots despite living away from the state for many years. She died suddenly in January 2016.

The new edition was created with permission of both Wright and the University of Arkansas Press, who produced the 1994 version. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Additional support comes from the Arkansas Library Association, the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, the Central Arkansas Library System Foundation, the Hendrix-Murphy Foundation Programs in Literature and Language, the Porter Fund, Pulaski Technical College, and the University of Central Arkansas.

Readers' Map posters can be purchased for $10 each, with proceeds going to the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) Foundation. A free print copy will be available to any Arkansas school or library upon inquiry at readersmap@hendrix.edu. For further details about the Readers' Map, including the selection process and information about Arkansas authors, consult http://arkansasreadersmap.com/.

ArLA Annual Conference 2016 - Little Rock

Join us November 13-15, 2016 at the Little Rock Marriott for this year's ArLA Annual Conference! This year's conference is steampunk-themed and will feature an exciting array of speakers, authors, and vendors.

Conference will also include a host of sessions focused on this year's conference theme: "Powered by Change." Expect presenters from diverse library backgrounds, including public, academic, school, and special libraries. The ArLA Annual Conference is an invaluable opportunity to learn, network, and to participate in our state's ongoing conversation about the future of libraries.

Don't miss it! Check the ArLA Conference webpage (http://arlib.org/wp/conference/) for more information.

ARLA 2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 13 – 15, 2016

First Cohort of ELMS Program Graduates

A number of Arkansans graduated with master's degrees in information science from the Department of Library and Information Sciences (DLIS) of the University of North Texas (UNT) College of Information last December. The group was honored at a Recognition Ceremony in Little Rock at the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) Ron Robinson Theater.

Dr. Julie Todaro, Dean of Library Services at Austin Community College and President-Elect of the American Library Association was the Recognition Speaker. Twenty-eight of the graduates received $12,000 scholarships awarded by UNT/DLIS from the "Educating Librarians in the Middle South – Diversifying Librarianship for our Digital Future" (ELMS) grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. Fifteen students committed to working in Arkansas public libraries received financial support from the Arkansas State Library Scholarship program to complete their degrees.

The ELMS Cohort Program was a partnership of UNT/DLIS, the UNT University Libraries, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Library in Little Rock. Students in the UNT program earned their master's degrees by attending two weekend class sessions in Little Rock at the UAMS Library and completing the remainder of their classes online.

Making the Most of Technology

Strategic Technology Planning

by Carol Coffey,
Central Arkansas Library System

It's nearly impossible to pick up a journal, read a blog post, or scan social media without seeing another story about the cool programming and services other libraries are providing with new technology.

The desire to remain relevant can drive libraries to offer the latest and greatest technology tools to their patrons, whether they will make use of them or not. The expense (in money and in time) can cause more harm than good if you're not careful. So how do you know that you are choosing the right tools for your patrons?

You're probably not surprised to see the word "planning" here. It's so hard to squeeze time for planning in between all the fires you have to put out on a daily basis. Unfortunately, there is no real way around it—time spent planning is required in order to provide the best services to your patrons. Technology planning cannot be separated from general strategic planning for your library. In fact, if you spend time planning out the strategy for your library's future, you will almost certainly be doing your top-level technology planning at the same time. The two are inextricably linked. Flying by the seat of your pants can be fun, but eventually you will crash and so will your library.

If you work in a public library, you've probably submitted a technology plan to the State Library. That plan, although useful, isn't what I'm talking about here. You need a plan that answers the questions "what are we going to do?" and "why are we going to do it?" Only after that plan is in place should you focus on "how?" Most methods of strategic planning are too complicated for our purposes and create plans that cover up to five years. If you really want to see some plans other libraries have created, Google searches for terms such as "library strategic plan" and "library technology plan" will provide you with a wealth of examples. Those searches will also find links to planning tools from ALA and other sources. Most of the examples you find will be very complicated and detailed. Luckily, you don't have to spend a tremendous amount of time coming up with similar documents. A few basic steps will yield a very workable plan that suits your needs.

The first step in your planning process is to figure out where you are now. What services do you

provide? How are they working? This is the time to talk to your patrons and perform a deep analysis of your usage statistics and of demographic trends in your service area. Think about services you have in place that aren't being used at the same level as they were in the past. Is it time to end them? How much trouble will it cause for the library if you cut out a service that you've offered for years?

The second step is to think about what's out there and decide what services you want to add or enhance. What services do you want to provide? Why do you want to provide them? What are patrons asking for? If you're going to add new services, how prepared is your staff? What training will they need, and how do you make that happen?

The third step is where you get to start dreaming. Now that you know what services you want to provide, what are the best tools for the job? What can you afford, or find grant money for? If your dream involves changes to your network, will e-rate pay for it? Is there a low- to no-cost method or tool that will serve your patrons well? Spend some time looking for comparable libraries that offer a similar service. Give them a call and ask them about it.

The point of all this planning is to ensure that you don't veer off from your mission—serving your patrons in the way they need to be served. We all have stories of cool programs and services that flopped because they weren't what our patrons wanted. Once you've come up with your plan, I suggest showing it to a variety of your patrons, perhaps in a focus group setting. Get their feedback before you go all in on a new service that, it turns out, no one in your patron population wants to use. Once you've done that and tweaked your plan based on all the feedback you've received, and gotten board or administrative approval, you're ready to turn your dreams into reality.

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

ALA Councilor's Report
Midwinter 2016

by Lacy S. Wolfe, *Henderson State University*

Wolfe

I set off for my first American Library Association (ALA) conference in Boston this past January as chapter councilor with the good advice and support of former ALA Councilor, Hadi Dudley.

She advised in her final Councilor's Report, "you will work hard…it's the kind of hard work that is satisfying and rewarding." These words came to mind as I walked to council forum meetings at 8:30 pm, returned to my hotel room at 10:30 pm, and woke in time for an 8:30 am council meeting the next morning. I was blown away by the commitment of my fellow councilors to our profession. During the late night forums, councilors representing states and divisions spoke up passionately about issues such as accessibility, Library of Congress subject headings, and catalog review systems, just to name a few of the issues brought forward.

Council Orientation Session

My first official council business was to attend orientation as a new councilor. I was introduced to a wide range of ALA leadership including ALA President Sari Feldman, Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels, and ALA Treasurer Mario Gonzalez. Feldman spoke passionately about her public awareness campaign, *Libraries Transform*, that focuses less on what our holdings are and more on what we as librarians can do for our patrons.

Feils and Gonzalez provided brief remarks on the ALA strategic plan and ALA budgeting process, respectively. Lorelle Swadler, the ALA-APA (Allied Professional Association) director explained how the ALA-APA specifically focuses on library employees, provides library support staff certification and pay equity initiatives, and promotes National Library Workers Day during National Library Week.

As newbie councilors we were taught the ropes of a councilor's responsibilities. Every detail from housing and registration to voting and the parliamentary procedure were covered. This level of detail was much appreciated since the role and responsibility of councilor can become overwhelming quite quickly.

ALA Council/Executive Board/Membership Information Session

During the information session, the membership at large was provided with reports from the President, Executive Director, Treasurer, Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) Report, Endowment Trustees, and the Nominating Committee. I would encourage you to attend this session if you have the opportunity at an ALA conference as it is a great introduction to the processes and procedures of "big" ALA.

Council Meetings

During Council meetings, I had my first opportunity to vote on resolutions. Of particular

Pictured are (L to R): Susie Kirk, Lacy Wolfe, Amber Wilson, Linda Evans, and David Sesser.

importance to ArLA members was a resolution that was passed supporting the 2015 Advocacy Implementation Plan. The resolution calls for state chapters (and others) to adopt the advocacy plan "in order to move forward the advocacy goals and ensure the success of libraries and the profession across the nation." The plan specifically calls for "all libraries and all states [to] have an advocacy plan." What can we do as Arkansas librarians to advocate for our libraries? Raising awareness through publicity of National Library Week in April and Library Card Sign-up Month are a couple that come to mind. A simple tool for publicizing these initiatives is through social media. Perhaps community engagement through *Libraries Transforming Communities* would make sense for your library.

Also of interest was the "Resolution Concerning Accessibility of ALA Conferences and Meetings for People with Disabilities." This resolution was passed in order to create a task force to determine what steps ALA needs to take in order to make conference accessible to all attendees. At past conferences accessible vans, poor signage, and off-site social events without elevator access have prevented attendees from fully participating in the conference. The task force will collect information from conference attendees with disabilities and determine best practices for future conference planning.

Further Information:

- Libraries Transform Initiative: http://www.ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/
- 2015 Advocacy Implementation Plan: http://www.ala.org/groups/advocacy-implementation-plan
- National Library Week (and National Library Workers Day): http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek
- Library Card Sign-up Month: http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card (2015 tools)
- Libraries Transforming Communities: http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/libraries-transforming-communities
- Libraries Matter: Impact Research: http://www.ala.org/research/librariesmatter/

Arkansas Librarians in Boston

A number of Arkansas librarians traveled to Boston to present at and attend Midwinter meetings. On Friday evening, Lyon College Library Director, Dean Covington joined HSU librarians at Row 34 for a massive platter of oysters, clam chowder, and an array of fresh fish. Representing Henderson State University, Susie Kirk participated on a panel, "How do you YouTube?" and Linda Evans presented on technical services in a lightening talk. Following Susie's panel, UCA librarian Amber Wilson joined the HSU librarians for lunch [picture below].

With one conference as councilor under my belt, I am eager to attend the annual conference in Orlando this summer. I would encourage anyone who attends to visit a council meeting to watch the process in person. If you'd like to chat about how you might become more involved in ALA, please feel free to contact me. From my time as Emerging Leader to serving on ALA committees to my new service as Councilor, I've found the service to the ALA to be rewarding and I think you will too!

Lacy S. Wolfe is the Electronic Resources and Web Services Librarian at Henderson State University.

Pictured are (L to R): Amber Wilson, Lacy Wolfe, Susie Kirk, Linda Evans, and David Sesser.

Arkansas Libraries Go ALL-In!

by Janice Weddle, *Arkansas Documents Librarian, Arkansas State Library*
and
Amber Gregory, *Coordinator of E-Rate Services, Arkansas State Library*

The inaugural Arkansas Library Leadership Institute (ALL-In), held November 4-6, 2015, brought nationally renowned library leadership expert Maureen Sullivan to picturesque DeGray Lake Resort State Park for three days of reflective learning.

The thirty-four participants constituted a diverse group of librarians in various stages of their professional careers, and represented all types of libraries and geographic regions of the state. The resort facilities provided an idyllic setting for the group to focus on the subject of library leadership. Sponsored by the Arkansas State Library, ALL-In will be offered every three years to a new cohort of Arkansas librarians.

American Library Association (ALA) Past-President Maureen Sullivan led the 2015 institute. With more than twenty-five years of experience in the library field as a consultant, Ms. Sullivan has designed and offered workshops and institutes on topics such as leadership development, managing stress, career planning, building teams, embracing failure, and improving individual and organizational performance. Her programs are based on her experiences as the human resources administrator for major academic libraries and her extensive leadership experience in national organizations such as ALA and the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), to name just two. Some subjects

at the institute were led jointly by Ms. Sullivan and Carolyn Ashcraft, Arkansas State Librarian, who lent an Arkansas perspective to the leadership topics under discussion.

Topics discussed during ALL-In included communication, risk taking, the importance of commitment and how to develop it in the workplace, how a group becomes a thriving team, and building community engagement.

The institute included opportunities for both full group participation and small group work, with some activities involving strictly personal reflection. This combination allowed participants to analyze themselves and their situations in a remarkably honest way to develop concrete strategies for growth in their leadership abilities based on that analysis. Likewise, the scenarios discussed as a group ran the gamut from real-life situations in our own libraries to how those events impact libraries throughout the state and the nation.

Participants left ALL-In with ideas of how to develop and implement their personal leadership action plan. They also left with suggested resources and strategies to continue their personal development and tools to maintain their connection to the community of practice created during ALL-In. Members of the first cohort left ALL-In with momentum to become a leader in their library, in ArLA and other professional associations, and in their personal lives.

Lacy Wolfe, librarian at Henderson State University reflected, "Being able to learn from someone like Maureen Sullivan who is so well regarded in the field was a real privilege. I also appreciated the opportunity to learn with library colleagues from public and school libraries since we're so often separated by library type. I look forward to further leadership possibilities with the ALL-In program."

Plans are underway for the 2015 ALL-In cohort to connect virtually for continuing leadership discussions and in person at the upcoming 2016 and 2017 ArLA conferences. The next Arkansas Library Leadership Institute is tentatively planned for 2018. All Arkansas library employees, both professional and paraprofessional, are encouraged to go ALL-In and take the next step towards leading Arkansas' libraries.

Sources:

"Arkansas Library Leadership Institute." *Arkansas State Library*. Last modified May 14, 2015. http://libguides.library.arkansas.gov/all-in

2015 ALL-In Cohort

- Amber Gregory, Arkansas State Library
- Anna Bates, Arkansas County library
- Arlisa Harris, Forrest City Public Library
- Brandy Horne, Monticello Branch Library
- Brittany Fleming, R.E. Baker Elementary
- Carie O'Banion, Old High Middle School
- Corinne Williams, Garland County Library
- Courtney B. Fitzgerald, Bentonville Public Library
- Crystal Edwards, Main Library, Central Arkansas Library System
- Gwyneth Jelinek, Fayetteville Public Library
- Janice Weddle, Arkansas State Library
- Janine D. Jamison, Fort Smith Public Library
- Jessica McGrath, Natchitoches Parish Library, LA
- Jessica Riedmueller, Conway County Library
- Judy Calhoun, Southeast Arkansas Regional Library
- Julie Witt-Syler, Saline County Library
- Kelly Klober, S.C. Tucker Elementary
- Kevin Barron, Mississippi County Library
- Kim Crow Sheaner, Baxter County Library
- Denise Hester, Osceola Public Library
- Lacy Wolfe, Henderson State University
- Laquita Dedmon, Texarkana Public Library
- Latina Sheard, Sue Cowan Williams, Central Arkansas Library System
- Lisa Fuller, Harding University
- Lisa Pickett, Public Library of Camden and Ouachita County
- Lynnette Ward, Carlisle Public Library
- Mark Raymond, Fort Smith Public Library
- Mindy Hodges, Arkansas State Library
- Morgan L. Chance, Columbia County Library
- Sandi Ward, Thompson Library, Central Arkansas Library System
- Sarah Gowdy, Bentonville Public Library
- Simone Kirk, Star City Branch Library
- Tammie Evans, Cabot Public Library
- Terri Dykes, Main Library, Central Arkansas Library System

A Texas Treasure for Children's Lit Lovers

by Sue Ann Pekel
Children's Librarian
Bentonville Public Library

The National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) is a place for celebrating art in picture books. A unique non-profit organization, the Center curates exhibitions of the best illustrations in the world of children's literature. Located deep in the heart of Big Country Texas, the NCCIL is at home in Abilene, a city rich in the history of cowboys, cattle, oil, and railroads. Today's Abilene is also known as "The Storybook Capitol of Texas," but NCCIL's influence stretches far beyond the borders of this neighboring state.

On a vacation from my position as Children's Librarian at Bentonville Public Library, I discovered NCCIL and immediately recognized it as an incredible resource. *Defining Moments: An Exhibition of Works* by Bryan Collier was on display. The original artwork helped me to step into the stories. Since that first visit, I have experienced six other exhibits. I have met illustrators Ed Young and Wendell Minor and attended a lecture with Leonard Marcus, an expert in the field of children's literature. NCCIL's website also offers art projects that I featured at Bentonville Public Library's Messy Masterpieces summer art programs. These intimate moments with the art have allowed me to share with children a deeper relationship with these special books.

Debbie Lillick, Executive Director, poses with Sujata Shahane, Education and Programming Director of the NCCIL, at the Glorious Flights Exhibition.

NCCIL Exhibits

The exhibits are the heart of NCCIL. NCCIL opened in its current location in 2000, and has organized over 50 exhibitions to date. Most exhibits feature the body of a single artist, but multiple artists were featured in several exhibitions such as *Golden Legacy*, *Bam! It's a Picture Book*, the *Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Golden Kite Awards Retrospective*, and the upcoming 2018 *Coretta Scott King Awards Retrospective*. NCCIL displays these exhibits within their own spacious gallery then sends the original illustrations to museums, galleries, universities, and public libraries throughout the country. The list of past exhibitors is impressive, diverse, and filled with picture book authors and illustrators who are well-loved by children of all ages.

The work of best-selling children's book illustrator and author, David Shannon, was featured in the exhibit, *David (Shannon) Goes to the Museum* in the summer of 2015. Shannon's autobiographical picture book *No, David!* won a Caldecott Honor and Shannon's first published work, *How Georgie Radbourn Saved Baseball* made the 1994 *New York Times* Best Illustrated Children's Book List. Over 9,000 people visited NCCIL to see Shannon's richly colored, original artwork. Ninety of those guests traveled from outside Texas to experience the exhibit and eighteen international visitors came from eleven different countries.

Drawing Stories: The Picture Book Art of Marla Frazee is an NCCIL exhibit that is nationally recognized and also has an Arkansas connection. Besides being awarded Caldecott Honors for *All the World* and *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*, winning the *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Award for Excellence in Children's Literature, writing and illustrating six picture books and illustrating many other treasured children's titles, Frazee also teaches at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. One of her students was Arkansas's own beloved children's book illustrator, Ard Hoyt. When asked how Frazee has influenced his art, Hoyt responded, "Marla is not only a gifted illustrator and early mentor, but also a very memorable teacher. Her children's book illustration classes were challenging and intriguing, and she approached pictorial storytelling with heart and inspired me to do the same." *Drawing Stories* is now a touring exhibition. Its closest venue to Arkansas is the Josyln Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska from June 1, 2016, through September 18, 2016.

NCCIL and Public Libraries

Debbie Lillick, Executive Director of NCCIL, reports that forty percent of the venues for the NCCIL's touring exhibitions are libraries. Public libraries understand the value of providing access to the original art as well as having easy availability to titles related to the exhibit. Public library patrons are also an engaged and interested audience for the exhibits. Lillick acknowledges that there are challenges to public libraries hosting touring exhibits such as providing security, environmental controls, and cost. With experience, though, NCCIL has been able to advise libraries on overcoming these obstacles. In the case of cost, Lillick reports that many libraries work closely with Friends groups and private donors to bring these art experiences to their communities. Partnerships are another avenue to bring public libraries and NCCIL exhibits together.

In 2008, Bentonville Public Library collaborated with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art when the Museum brought the NCCIL exhibit, *Wendell Minor: In the American Tradition* to Bentonville, Arkansas. The museum, not yet in their permanent home, displayed the artwork at Crystal Bridges at the Massey in downtown Bentonville. The collaboration was an educators' workshop, ABC: Art + Books = Curriculum, held at both the Massey and the library. The workshop offered a keynote presentation by Wendell Minor, an exhibit tour, gallery activities, tableaux vivant, interactive children's library research, and a literacy project. The day was a success, with one hundred percent of workshop participants responding positively on an evaluation summary.

Partnerships with public libraries have been a long standing custom at NCCIL. Brown encouraged collaborative projects that included providing research for NCCIL exhibitions, exhibit opening programs held at the Abilene Public Library, and storytime readings sometimes with the book authors and illustrators. Lillick felt that Brown's enthusiasm and passion helped solidify a relationship that continues today.

Nicholas St. North, *one of William Joyce's Guardians of Childhood, welcomes guests to the National Center for Children's Literature.*

Exhibits Design and Engagement

In every venue, NCCIL exhibits bring the viewer into a close relationship with the art and the artist. Sujata Shahane, Education and Programming Director of NCCIL shares, "Each exhibit becomes the artist." This occurs through an exhibit design process that begins with the creation of a recommending committee. Fifteen to twenty invitations to serve on the committee are sent to NCCIL board members, Abilene librarians, university educators, and art teachers. The committee makes artist recommendations and accepts recommendations from the NCCIL staff. Criteria for artist evaluation include quality of work. Many artists and illustrators chosen have been recipients of Caldecott Awards and Honors, *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Awards for Excellence in Children's Literature, or one of the prestigious awards granted by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Committee members also review the artist's entire body of work to insure that the illustrator has published a sufficient number of books to support an exhibit and that the artist's work appeals to all ages. Another important factor is the artist's schedule. The exhibits have a normal life span of three years, but the artist and the availability of the artwork can determine the time frame. Once an artist is chosen,

Leonard Marcus, children's book historian, author, critic, and curator of the Glorious Flights Exhibition *visits with an attendee of the Gallery Talk.*

NCCIL encourages the artist to be actively engaged in all phases of exhibit design to insure that the exhibit is true to the artist.

Exhibit engagement is also a goal for students and school field trips. NCCIL provides docent-led tours, educator's guides, and copies of the artist's books, which are used to make classroom connections and correlate state standards to exhibit experiences. Art activities are created with an awareness of the development process and sometimes different exhibits are targeted to different grade levels. While goals and outcomes are adhered to during the art activity development, Lillick emphasizes that her goal is for the student artists to experience the 'fun.' NCCIL offers annual summer art camps for students as well as free fun art activities every Saturday afternoon. Many of the art activities designed for the exhibits can be accessed through the NCCIL website. Listed under 'Children's Art Activities,' the projects are organized by artist and feature collage, watercolor, tempera paints, and many other techniques that relate directly to book illustrations featured in the exhibits. During the summer of 2015, Bentonville Public Library used the Ashley Bryan, Ann Jonas, David Macaulay, and Brian Selznick art activities with great success in BPL's Messy Masterpiece programs. We read the suggested title and then created the project in the style of the illustrator. The instructions on all projects were easy to follow.

Engagement at NCCIL can also include opportunities to meet visiting artists during exhibition opening events. David Shannon's exhibit at the NCCIL featured an Artist Talk and gallery signing which was also a part of the Fourth Annual Children's Art & Literacy Festival (CALF) in Abilene. The Third Annual CALF featured William Joyce, an award-winning author/illustrator, filmmaker, and story pioneer who was instrumental in the creation of NCCIL. In 1993, a book-loving elementary school teacher invited then Mayor, Dr. Gary McCaleb, to read *Santa Calls* by William Joyce to her class. Surprised that the book was set in Abilene, the Mayor invited Joyce to Abilene. The rest of the story is detailed in NCCIL history, "When the two men met, they forged an immediate friendship and imagined a place that would honor the best artwork of children's literature."

NCCIL honors artwork by providing personal connections with the artist, and opportunities to engage with experts in the field of children's literature. In November 2015, leading children's book historian, author, critic, and curator of the exhibit *Glorious Flights: the Illustration of Alice and Martin Provensen*, Leonard Marcus presented a Gallery Talk. Marcus led attendees on a journey through the exhibition that presented personal glimpses into the Provensens' rare collaborative style. Both illustrators began their career as animators in the early film industry in Hollywood, but moved to New York to work as illustrators for Little Golden Books. It was the Provensens' book, *The Charge of the Light Brigade* that was Marcus's first picture book as a child. Marcus shared, "I couldn't let my parents walk away from that book." This talented couple eventually left Golden Books and began to write and illustrate their own stories, many of which were set on their own Maple Hill Farm. Marcus explained that their Caldecott

National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature

http://nccil.org

Current Touring Exhibitions

Alice and Martin Provensen

David (Shannon) goes to the Museum

*Drawing Stories: The Picture Book Art of Marla Frazee**

My Friend Eric Rohmann

William Joyce: Guardian Of Childhood

Journey Of Memory: Allen Say

*BAM! It's a Picturebook: The Art Behind Graphic Novels**

Raul Colón: Tall Tales and Huge Hearts

*The Fantastic World Of Dan Yaccarino**

Bravo! Chris Raschka

The Wizards of Pop: Sabuda & Reinhart

Golden Legacy: Original Art from 65 years of Golden Books

A David Small World

The Many Faces of David Diaz

*Glorious Flights: The Illustration Art of Alice and Martin Provensen**

** Exhibits attended by Sue Ann Pekel*

Award Medal title, *The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Bleriout, July 25, 1909* allowed the Provensens to "pursue personal passions." Martin Provensen took flying lessons, and librarians will appreciate that Alice Provensen loved to do "lots of research creating a sense of the period." By presenting the Leonard Marcus Gallery Talk, NCCIL provided an occasion to once again step inside the stories.

Tucked in the Storybook Capital of Texas, NCCIL is a treasure chest. You, too, can discover the gems inside. Take a drive, check out the website, follow them on Facebook, or bring an exhibit to your community. The jewels inside have enriched my knowledge of the picture books that I love and love to share. Let the National Center of Children's Illustrated Literature share its riches with you.

Sue Ann Pekel works as the Children's Librarian at Bentonville Public Library. She received ArLA's Ann Lightsey Children's Librarian Award in 2012. Special thanks to Debbie Lillick, Executive Director of the NCCIL and Sujata Shahane, Education and Programming Director of the NCCIL.

ArLA Website Data Breach

***by Ron Russ**, ArLA Webmaster*
Electronic & Public Services Librarian
Arkansas State University – Beebe

In May we were informed by the FBI that data on the ArLA website had been compromised. Upon learning this, the Web Services Committee worked towards fixing the security holes in question. It was a bit later in June that we found out our membership directory was stolen by a pro-ISIL group and posted through one of their apps. The FBI stated that no one has been physically harmed in these types of data dumps, and that pro-ISIL groups do this in order to scare people.

Types of data in the compromised directory include names, addresses, phone numbers, emails, and the like. We don't keep any financial data, birthdates, or social security numbers in our directory database. While the damage is done, we are working towards a more secure web presence, and will be re-directing our former website to our new website. There is no need to use a new URL – arlib.org will take you to the current ArLA website. The directory will be temporarily unavailable until we find a secure set-up to include contact information for our members.

We are deeply sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have any questions or would like to know exactly what information of yours was compromised, please feel free to contact me at webmaster@arlib.org. A special thanks goes out to Tracy Farmer, Systems Librarian at Arkansas State University, for his programming assistance in fixing the known vulnerabilities.

Bentonville Celebrates Reading, Writing & Creativity! *[Front, L to R] Karen Akins, Janet Wong, Ard Hoyt [Back, L to R] Michael Spradlin, Obert Skye, Henry Cole, Roland Smith, Marie Smith, Mary Casanova, Cheryl Harness, Kasmira Sheth.* Photograph by Lance Macmaster. ***See article on next page.***

Bentonville Celebrates Reading, Writing & Creativity

by Hadi Dudley
Library Director
Bentonville Public Library

Bentonville's Second Annual Youth Literature Festival (BYLF) was hosted on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at Bentonville Public Library. BYLF featured eleven authors and illustrators of popular juvenile books. Special presentations, workshops, book sales, and signings inspired participants of all ages; festival offerings were attended by nearly 3,000 people.

Bentonville's Fourth Annual Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) was hosted on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at Bentonville Public Library. FCBD featured an illustrator workshop, craft activities, summer reading club kick-off, tabletop gaming, door prizes, and free comic books for all ages. In addition to library offerings, this year BPL partnered with the Bentonville Film Festival (BFF) for three special events that celebrated women and diverse voices in media. BPL's FCBD event was attended by approximately 800 people.

Both library celebrations were recognized by Children's Book Week as "Official Events." BYLF is presented by Bentonville Public Library and the Bentonville Library Foundation; FCBD 2016 was presented by Bentonville Public Library, in partnership with the Friends of the Bentonville Library, the Bentonville Film Festival and Diamond Comic Distributors. Both events are supported by volunteers, grants, private donations, sponsorships, and in-kind contributions.

Bentonville's Third Annual Youth Lit Fest is scheduled for April 29, 2017; Bentonville Public Library's Fifth Annual Free Comic Book Day is scheduled for May 6, 2017.

[L to R] Bentonville Public Library Director, Hadi Dudley; Author Roland Smith; State Librarian, Carolyn Ashcraft. Photograph by Lance Macmaster.

Ready, Jet, Go! *presented by AETN, PBS Kids and Wind Dancer Films is an animated show that teaches children astronomy and Earth science concepts. Library patrons at Bentonville Public Library enjoyed episode screenings and science presentations celebrating Free Comic Book Day, in partnership with the Bentonville Film Festival. Attendees also had a chance to have their photo taken with "Jet Propulsion," a character from Ready, Jet, Go! The AETN/PBS Kids event at BPL was attended by 122 people. [L to R] Amy Mainzer, American astronomer and science consultant; Jamie Walters, AETN Marketing Production Coordinator; "Jet Propulsion;" Dete Meserve, President of Wind Dancer Films and Executive Producer; Sue Ann Pekel, Bentonville Public Library Children's Librarian.* Photograph by Heather R. Hays.

Around Arkansas

by Heather Hays, Associate Editor

On Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 pm, a memorial reception was held for Peggy Morrison at the Bailey Library at Hendrix College. It included food, many fond words, and a display of the items purchased with the generous donations to the Peggy Morrison Memorial Fund. Thank you to all who attended.

After eight years as Director of the Saline County Library, Erin Waller accepted a job offer to be the new Director of the Daviess County Library in Owensboro, Kentucky. Her last day in Benton was February 19. The staff and board hosted a reception in her honor on February 18 from 1-3 p.m.

Effective April 11, the Independence County Library is an independent county library, as it has officially withdrawn from the White River Regional Library System. A new director was hired and her contact information is as follows:

Contact information: Vanessa Adams, Director, Independence County Library, 368 East Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501. Phone: 870-793-8814

The White River Regional Library System headquarters has relocated from Batesville to Mountain View. Their service area covers Cleburne, Fulton, Izard, Sharp and Stone Counties.

Contact information: Debra Sutterfield, Regional Director, White River Regional Library System, P. O. Box 1107, Mountain View, AR 72560. Phone: 870-269-4682

Have you heard of the Readers' Map of Arkansas? The poster and website were unveiled at the Arkansas Literary Festival earlier this month. If you are unfamiliar with this Readers' Map project see http://arkansasreadersmap.com/

Please note that libraries or schools of any type can request a free copy of the map by emailing readersmap@hendrix.edu.

Special thanks to Arkansas Education Television Network (AETN) for donating resources to encourage summer learning fun at Bentonville Public Library. "Anytime Is Learning Time" with AETN / PBS Kids bookmarks, activity books and engaging worksheets. Materials are provided to educational organizations through PBS Kids' "Ready to Learn" grant to help children build strong reading skills.

College of the Ouachitas in Malvern, Arkansas, is seeking a talented, visionary Director of Learning Resources. This is a high visibility leadership position working directly with a team of successful-minded educational leaders in a fast-paced environment.

Minimum qualifications for this position include a master's degree in library or information science from an American Library Association (ALA) accredited institution. A minimum of three years of higher education library experience preferred. For more information contact Pat Simms, Vice President of Instruction, 501-332-0245 or pats@coto.edu

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Christina Thompson Shutt, newly promoted to Associate Librarian for Special Collections and Instruction at Hendrix College, is resigning her position at Bailey Library to take a new opportunity as Director for the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, a museum of the Department of Arkansas Heritage in Little Rock.

Mr. Robert Dean Covington has been appointed the next director of Torreyson Library at the University of Central Arkansas, effective July 1, 2016.

Dean Covington comes to UCA from Lyon College in Batesville, AR, where he has been director of the library since 1988; prior to his years at Lyon, he held academic library positions at Texas Woman's University, the University of North Texas, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dean earned a BA in History and an MS in Library Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and an MBA degree at the University of North Texas.

Dean is well acquainted and well connected with Arkansas academic libraries, having been actively involved with ARKLink, a consortium of college and university libraries throughout the state. He has served as president of the organization and as a member of the executive board.

A Retirement Reception was held for Dana Thornton, Assistant Director of the Columbia County Library, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm on Friday, April 8, 2016. We honor Dana's fifteen years of service at Columbia County Library and wish her well!

Jeannie West has been named acting director of the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Library System until a replacement director is hired.

Nate Coulter will succeed Dr. Bobby Roberts at the Central Arkansas Library System. Roberts announced his retirement in February, 2015, but

plans to work through March 4, 2016, during a transition period.

The Ouachita Mountains Regional Library has announced the resignation of Emily McCoy effective Dec. 31, 2015. OMRL has an MOU with Rich Mountain Community College to share their librarian, Brenda Miner, effective Jan. 1, 2016. Miner is completing her Master's degree at the University of Oklahoma (Norman), with a May 2016 graduation date. Miner was a recipient of a scholarship from the Arkansas Library Association in Oct. 2015.

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@bentonvillear.com, and you'll most likely see it published in our journal.

Heather Hays is the Senior Librarian at Bentonville Public Library.

Reflections from a Retired Library Worker

by Jamie Melson

I know of nothing outside the library world except for a brief stint in two restaurants and Kmart as a mere child. I have been with CALS for 37 years this summer. I began this journey in July 1979 at the "Jacksonville Public Library" now called the Esther DeWitt Nixon Library. Oh, the many changes I've seen in these 37 years! When I began, I was the only full time staff member at the branch. Mrs. Nixon and Mrs. Ercil Berry (both related to Dr. Roberts by marriage, I might add) were already "retired" and drawing their Social Security and, therefore, only working part time. We were only open one night a week, Thursday, until 7 pm, and on Saturday from 9-12. I had no choice but to work every Saturday back then. Them was the dark ages! ;-) I worked my way up the ladder, so to speak. I started out as a Clerk I and was an LA I by the time I left. I was given a promotion and moved from there in 1993 to the Amy Sanders Library in Sherwood where I eventually became the Assistant Branch Manager, an LA III.

In 1995, I moved from Sherwood all the way to downtown Little Rock as a cataloger. Heaven help me! I had always been afraid of driving in and out of Little Rock and, the funny story I like to tell on myself is the fact that whenever I would have a meeting at the Main Library when it was located at 7th & Louisiana, I would park in the Excelsior parking deck and walk the 6 or 7 blocks down to the library and back. My husband worked at the Excelsior, and I knew how to get in and out of town that way, so no problem! I did eventually "grow up." And as they say, the rest is history.

I was a part of the original barcoding team in 1996 so I could learn that from the ground up. Then we moved into the Fones Building in the River Market District in 1997. The only change since then has, of course, been all electronic. When I started out in 1979, everyone signed the little cards that were in the books. Then we moved up to the Gaylord cards with the metal plates on them. Then we went with the electronic cards. I have one of each for posterity's sake in my collection. Another funny story is when a CALS staff member wrote a computer program to "handle" the overdues back in the late 80s, early 90s. We were assigned that task at each branch (such as the holds, bindery, and AV tasks are now) and had to type in each book and corresponding patron number (from the Gaylord cards), and then it would print it out on a form feed sheet. We had no true central database at that time. Each branch had to send a disc (a giant floppy disc) in each week with that week's patron registrations and library card numbers on it. One person at Main would then "load" each disc and then we could access everyone's library card number thereafter.

It's really rather funny how when computers started being talked about "back then," it seemed like such a pipe dream. The words that Dr. Roberts spoke, when he was hired, seemed so distant and unattainable and now look where we are! Everything is at our fingertips at the press of a button, more or less. It's incredible. I never even thought I would own a "pocket size" computer some day and now I do in the form of a phone!

On the "professional" side of things, I've been a member of the American Library Association for over 20 years and a member of the Arkansas Library Association for over 30 years. I served two years (1999-2000) as chair of the ArLA Paraprofessional Round Table/Division (ALPS). I helped spearhead the efforts to make the Paraprofessional Round Table

become a Division during my second term as chair. I served as secretary for the Paraprofessional Round Table and as an area representative for Pulaski County. I was chosen as the Paraprofessional of the Year for 2001. I chaired and served on the ArLA Awards and Scholarship committees several times, the Membership Committee for one year and the Constitution Committee for two years, chairing it for one year. I served as the Association's Secretary/ Treasurer for eight years (a total of four terms at two different times).

On the "personal" side of my life…I've volunteered as secretary of my church for over 30 years and am still serving in that capacity. I've also worked as a Sunday school teacher. I served with the State Family Program of the Arkansas National Guard as the 189th Airlift Wing representative and as the State Council's secretary. I was a certified instructor with the State Program. Prior to this position, I was secretary for two years then chair for one year with the 189th Airlift Wing Family Program of the Arkansas Air National Guard located on LRAFB. While there, I served as the Training Team Leader for the Wing Family Program. I have been a part of the National Family Program since being selected as a volunteer delegate for the state of Arkansas in 1994 and five more times after that all the way up to 2010.

I was married for almost 30 years to a wonderful co-hort in crime, Ron. We were members of the 189th Airlift Wing Arkansas Air National Guard for 25 years and retired from that wonderful adventure in 2009. I used to race cars with the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) on occasion and I'm a big NASCAR Sprint Cup race fan (Mark Martin, forever and always!). I was also one of the founding members of the Central Arkansas "PT" Cruiser Club where I was treasurer and club president.

I recently adopted a dog from the Jacksonville Animal Shelter, and we are getting used to each other. At 18 months old, I've joked about whether "this old dog" could put up with such a "young pup". But I love her and I think we'll make it together.

I've had a very full life up to this point and have been given the opportunity to forge a new path. I'm very thankful and grateful for the many friends I've made around the state. I ask that you keep me in your thoughts and prayers and I will do the same for you. Until we meet again…….(picture me riding off into the sunset here!).

Arkansas Books & Authors Bibliography

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*Arkansas author

Inclusion does not indicate recommendation.

One Elective Class Leads to a Lifetime of Library Service

by Jay Strickland

Library Director

UACCB

For Francis Kuykendall, a life of librarianship all started with an elective class. Kuykendall, the director of the South Arkansas Community College Library, retires May 31 after 46 years in the field. She was a senior at Southern State College in Magnolia (now Southern Arkansas University) in the early 1970s when she needed an elective in order to graduate.

"I looked down the list in the list in the schedule…thinking, 'Which class will have the least homework?' Kuykendall said. I saw Library Reference Material. I thought, 'How much homework can you have in a reference class?'."

She enjoyed the class so much, she decided to get her certification. The certification led to a part-time job as a page at the Barton Public Library in El Dorado, for which she was paid 50 cents an hour.

"I got 50 cents an hour because I had a college degree," Kuykendall said. "The other pages got 25 cents an hour."

Kuykendall soon moved up to full time at the library, but left to become first through 12th-grade librarian at the Parkers Chapel School District near El Dorado. She worked there until 1989, when she became librarian at El Dorado High School. After nine years in the district, she enrolled in Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, and earned her Master of Library Science.

Kuykendall actually first applied for her current position as library director at South Arkansas in 1975.

"I applied for the job of library director not even thinking I needed a master's degree," she said. "I had been at the school library. I was a librarian. I knew all this. Obviously, I didn't get the job."

It turned out the job would keep coming up, which is one of the main reasons she left public

school and went to TWU.

"About every five or six years, this South Ark job would come open, the director's job. So I figured in about five years somebody will leave and this job will come open so I can get the job that I wanted in 1975. And you know something, it did."

It was not a straight shot, though. Kuykendall was hired on as the associate library director since the person holding that job moved up to the director's position. After about two years, she became interim director and spent 18 months as interim before being hired as director.

"All things come to she who waiteth and who works like the devil while she waiteth" Kuykendall said.

After 14 years at South Arkansas on top of her public library and school library experience, Kuykendall is ready to retire. She has seen a lot of changes in the profession since she started. When she was a new librarian, microfiche was the up-and-coming technology and the catalog was still the *card* catalog. To find an article, patrons would have to consult the bound volumes of the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature.*

"You didn't make a copy of an article, you wrote down everything. We didn't have copiers, not in south Arkansas."

Dealing with information literacy has been one of the major challenges for Kuykendall as a librarian. Students know they need information, they just don't know where to go to get it. It has also been a challenge to sell the idea to faculty that it's more than just learning to write a research paper.

"It is being media savvy," she said. "It's financial literacy. It's privacy literacy. It's all those things."

Students are often overwhelmed by the research process.

"They're like a deer in the headlights. I'm going, 'First, let's breathe and we'll take it one step at a time.' By the time we have our one-on-one research seminar, they know what information is out there, how to access it, and then make it their own. I think that's the most frustrating thing because there are so many formats of information that the students just become overwhelmed."

One of her greatest joys, though, is seeing that eureka moment when they finally get it and find the resources they need.

Kuykendall has learned much from not only other librarians, but from students as well. She recalls the time at El Dorado High School when they library got the SIRS Issues Researcher on CD ROM to put on its first computer.

"The first computer I bought for the library was at El Dorado," she said. "It was 70 MEG. More storage than you ever would need. And it cost $6,000. I paid for that out of fine money, literally a dime a day."

When they put SIRS on the computer, one of Kuykendall's students asked if she would be upset if they knew how to work the program and she did not.

"I said, 'No, only if you know and don't tell me.' That's my philosophy. If you know, tell me and we'll both know.

The first text she ever sent was three years ago as part of a libguide program for the South Arkansas library. When she tells the students this, they all laugh, but she reminds them that the library's resources have always been there, even if they could not find out through text.

"I had it for you. Just because I couldn't text didn't mean I couldn't get the resource for you. That's been my philosophy. Just because I wasn't the greatest at something, did not mean that I would not work to get it if it helped students."

Not all experiences with technology have turned out favorably. When the El Dorado library was finally automated, Kuykendall inputted 30,000 MARC records by hand. One morning she came in and the records had all disappeared. With the

businessman who sold her the computer, her principal, and the assistant superintendent gathered around, she called her husband and told him all the records were wiped out.

"He said, 'What do you want me to do about it?'. I said, 'Share the moment.'"

"I had spent three years of weekends and summers inputting MARC records. And it was gone. But they retrieved it. After that, the district bought me one of those big block backup units."

Kuykendall has made many contributions to librarianship in Arkansas. She organized *Libraries 2000*, Gov. Bill Clinton's pre-White House conference on information services in the 1990s. She was also president of the Arkansas Audiovisual Association and was exhibit chair for the Arkansas Library Association Annual Conference.

Although she has seen great leaps in technology in libraries over her career, Kuykendall doesn't see the books as losing their place.

"I don't believe books will ever become obsolete, not in my lifetime," she said.

Arkansas Libraries 2015 Index

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Compiled by Joanna Ewing.
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