By Brad Martin
ABC News

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Hefner: Fighting for Freedom of Expression and Privacy in a Changing World

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Hefner began by telling of 30 years with the Playboy Foundation working alongside ALA and other groups fighting many battles together and she emphasized that librarians are on the front lines to protect certain core American values. “Together, we did a lot of great work, and we did it over some very interesting times.”

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Meet FitDelicious™ Author Today in Cooking Pavilion

Added to today’s schedule in the Cooking Pavilion will be a presentation by Marcia Schurer, developer of the FitDelicious™ weight loss system, from 9:30 – 10:30 am. With more than 30 years of experience in the food industry, Dr. Schurer put together her food expertise, weight loss experience and taste buds to work to develop a hands-on, weight loss, healthy eating system with universal appeal. Her cookbook, FitDelicious™: Lose the Pounds, Not the Taste, contains hundreds of delicious, healthy recipes, tips, tools, and worksheets designed to make losing weight fun, effortless and successful. The Cooking Pavilion is located at on the exhibits floor at the end of the 4700 aisle.

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Library Building Awards to Recognize Winners

Representatives from eight winning architectural firms will speak about their library projects at the ALA/AIA Library Building Awards program. These awards celebrate the best in current library design and are presented jointly by the ALA and the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and are sponsored by the Buildings and Equipment Section (BES) of the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA).

This program is open to all conference attendees and will be presented today, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, at the Intercontinental Hotel Grand Ballroom. A reception for the winners will follow immediately.

Meet the Authors
Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, Booth 1920
Today
Beth Krommes, illustrator
9:30 – 10:30 am
The House in the Night
James Deem, author
1:00 – 2:00 pm
 Bodies from the Ice
Joyce Sidman, author
3:00 – 4:00 pm
Red Sings from Treetops

Tribute to Dr. E. J. Josey 1924-2009

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) hosted a tribute program honoring its founder, Dr. E. J. Josey, last night. Throughout his long and distinguished career, Dr. Josey championed African American librarianship and the issues of equity and inclusion for librarians of all races and ethnic backgrounds. A Resolution of Respect, issued by the Black Caucus was read by member Andrew Jackson.

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Plans now to attend the SuperTuesday Closing Reception sponsored by the Exhibits Round Table (ERT), your Exhibitors and ALA Tuesday morning.

SuperTuesday is your chance to win BIG! There will be free food and prizes, and be sure to enter the SuperTuesday raffle. Drop your SuperTuesday entry form in the raffle boxes located at the end of the 1300 and 3700 aisles. The raffle boxes are available today and Tuesday. The raffles will be held on SuperTuesday, July 14 at 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, and 1:30 pm at random places on the exhibit floor. You must be present to win.

Fill out your Entry Form (Found in the Action Ad Booklet you received at registration or in the Tuesday edition of Cognotes) and join us for food and a chance to win fun prizes!

Changes and Cancellations

Monday
• ACRL IS Advisory Council II 8:00 – 10:00 am SHER Parlor Cancelled.
• ACRL IS Executive II 10:30 am – 1:30 pm SHER Parlor E Cancelled.
• ALCTS CCS Subject Analysis Comm., 1:30 – 5:30 pm PALM Empire Cancelled.
• ASCLA Accessibility Assembly 8:00-10:00 am moved from MCP 184d to MPS A103d.
• IRRT Africa’s Resources: Funding, Gathering, Digitizing and Providing Access to Cultural Heritage changed to 1:30-3:30 pm only MCP W192C.
• IRRT Africa’s Resources: Funding, Gathering, Digitizing and Providing Access to Cultural Heritage 3:30-5:30 pm MCP W192C Cancelled.
• RUSA President’s Program: From the Book and Beyond: Interdisciplinary Readers’ Advisory changed to 1:00-3:30 pm HYATT.

Publication Note
David Paul Nord will present “Ephemeral and Elusive: Journalism History as Reading History” at the Edward G. Holley Lecture from 3:30 – 5:30 pm today in McCormick Place West, Room 176b. Sponsored by the Library History Round Table. (The time in the story on page 12 is incorrect).
Urbanska Sees Libraries as Natural Leaders in a Trend Toward Sustainable Living

By Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr.
The Library of Congress

Wanda Urbanska, host and producer of PBS’s “Simple Living” series, was part of Sunday’s Auditorium Speaker Series. Introduced by Leonard Kniffel, Editor-in-Chief of American Libraries magazine, Urbanska is a noted consultant on sustainable development and green living. She’s a newspaper columnist, and author of or collaborator on seven books, including the anthology *Less Is More* (2009). Kniffel noted that as long ago as in her first book in 1992, Urbanska addressed what is gained, rather than what is lost, by simpler, more rational consumer choices.

With the hint of her hometown of Mt. Airy, North Carolina (TV’s Mayberry) in her voice, she emphasized the opportunities confronting us in a challenging economy. “The indicators are there to say that the age of over-consumption is over.” We face choices in the categories of heat and housing, food and modes of transportation. The post-World War II propensity toward larger houses for often smaller families has reversed since 2007; consumers are more often opting for locally grown produce; and more walking, or greater use of public transportation. Increasingly more Americans recognize that clutter can “stuffocate us.” Urbanska champions this “Europeanization” of consumer usage, which is also indebted to alternative American values as enunciated in visionary books such as Thoreau’s *Walden*, Scott and Ann Nearing’s *Living the Good Life*, and Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*.

Urbanska has already publicized the vanguard roles that many libraries have and can continue to play in the move toward transumerism such as in her article “A Greener Library, A Greener You” in the April issue of *American Libraries*. Libraries, an important “third place” in which people spend much of their time after home and work, have demonstrated to their patrons the values of environmental stewardship, thoughtful consumption, community involvement, and financial responsibility, all aspects of simple living.

Urbanska encouraged libraries to: “reduce, reuse, and recycle paper,” possibly limiting the number of printouts through fees; buy recycled products; turn off power strips when not in use; buy furniture that lasts; and eliminate SUIs or “single use items” such as paper cups, plastic-bottled water, and disposable bags. She also publicized the vanguard roles that many libraries have and can continue to play in the move toward transumerism such as in her article “A Greener Library, A Greener You” in the April issue of *American Libraries*. Libraries, an important “third place” in which people spend much of their time after home and work, have demonstrated to their patrons the values of environmental stewardship, thoughtful consumption, community involvement, and financial responsibility, all aspects of simple living.

Cokie Roberts to Keynote PLA President’s Program

Cokie Roberts will headline the 2009 PLA President’s Program and Awards Presentation from 5:00 – 6:30 pm today at McCormick Place West, W-345.

Roberts is a political commentator for ABC News and a senior advisor to the program. From 1996 to 2002, she and Sam Donaldson co-anchored the weekly ABC interview program, *This Week*. In addition to broadcasting, Roberts, along with her husband, Steven V. Roberts, wrote *From This Day Forward*, an account of their own more than 40-year marriage and other marriages in American history. The book immediately went onto the New York Times bestseller list, following a six-month run on the list by Roberts’s first book on women in American history, *We Are Our Mothers’ Daughters*. Roberts is also the author of the bestselling *Founding Mothers*, the companion volume to *Ladies of Liberty*.

Roberts is presented through the support of HarperCollins and as part of the ALA Auditorium Speaker Series. The presentation of PLA awards and reception with PLA President Carol Sheffer will follow the program.

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Disengaging from Talkative Library Patrons Tactics That Work

By Frederick J. Augustyn, Jr. The Library of Congress

The Reference and User Services Association, Reference Services Section (RUSA RSS) of ALA featured a three-person panel on Saturday, July 11 offering useful tactics for addressing the frequent experience of encountering talkative patrons at the reference desk.

Mark Willis of the Dayton Metro Library acknowledged the need to balance librarians’ propensity to be helpful and friendly with the realities of their jobs. He stated that “some of the things that we tell you are simple, but that does not mean that they are easy.”

Among the verbal feints that Willis offered were “I need to get back to work” and “I promised another patron that I would get back to him.” There are also non-verbal methods that one can combine with the verbal replies, such as turning one’s back, walking to the bathroom, or dialing your home telephone number and engaging in a conversation.

He also proposed pro-active signals arranged with colleagues. You can always ask the talkers to lower their voices. He admitted that “mentally ill people sometimes burn out their own social support systems and they look for others to talk to.”

But it is the staff’s responsibility to assist the larger community of library users when the bothersome patron disturbs others. One can advise loquacious users to limit their questions to library related issues. He suggested informing them of the many tasks facing library staff, such as responding to emailed or written requests even when the employees are not verbally engaged. You can also refer talkative inquirers to others as appropriate, but only after informing them to ask specific, close-ended questions.

A second panelist, Dr. Justina Osa of Virginia State University, specifies posting the library’s rules about assistance. Osa noted that the “talkative” patron can also appear in different guises: on the phone, in person, and online. She dubbed them the “chatterazzi” and recognized their often contradictory characteristics as friendly, well-meaning, frustrated, stressed, lonely, and physically non-threatening (although sometimes a threat to one’s sanity). The challenge is always how to be polite but firm in limiting the colloquy. While libraries need patrons, assignment on the reference desk is a “duty post—not a socialization post.” Among her suggested tactics were: paraphrasing the query as soon as possible to narrow its focus; using closed-ended questions to control the conversation; and seizing the initiative. She also advised the astute use of body language, such as to indicate tiredness or business—sometimes deciding then is an appropriate time to tidy up your desk.

Increasing physical distance between you and the patron also may help.

Deborah Van Petten, of Valdosta State University, addressed empowering of her student workers to set boundaries. Library administrators can always tell students that they need to check with their supervisors about a project. Chatty patrons at academic libraries can often be non-traditional students who seek guidance when regular advisers are not available. Van Petten screened a humorous video to apprise her students of the problems presented by a talkative patron. Those who wish further information about this topic can click on http://connect.ala.org/node/78067.

A copy of The House in the Night, the winner of the 2009 Caldecott Medal, is autographed by author Susan Marie Swanson, left, and illustrator Beth Krommes, right, for librarian Elizabeth Rosania, King County Library System, Bellevue, Wash. Another signing will take place today at 9:30 am in Houghton Mifflin’s Booth 1920.
Networking — Not As Intimidating As It May Sound

By Kathryn Shields
UNC-Greensboro

On Saturday, July 11, the ALA Office of Human Resource Development and Recruitment sponsored “Networking for Career Success,” a workshop aimed at changing the perception many of us have that “networking” is a scary activity. The workshop was led by the Office’s chair, Vicki Burger, Northwestern University.

“Networking isn’t something that necessarily comes real naturally to our librarian population,” she stated. Burger stressed that we all already have a personal network of family, friends, neighbors and others upon whom we can draw. We should not limit ourselves to only thinking about our professional contacts within our respective fields. If you are a school librarian, not everyone in your network should be a school librarian.

“You just don’t know who knows who,” Burger said. Realizing this can make a difference in how you experience a conference such as ALA, where “sometimes we go to sessions and we don’t think about all the connections that all the people around us have.” A network becomes especially valuable in this economy, where it can be the difference between getting and not getting a job. “Something related to networking is 90 percent of getting jobs in this environment,” Burger shared.

One of the reasons many of us are resistant to networking is that we feel it is somehow “using” another person for our own gain. Networking, however, “allows you to give as well as get information.” We are building a web of alliances that are can help us, but we are also making ourselves available to help others. As librarians, “you have access and an interest in making connections and gathering information — so there are a lot of possibilities for using your strength to offset your weakness,” Burger said.

Burger shared some important “tools of the trade” for networking. First, you need personal or professional business cards. If you are a student, a recent graduate, or in between jobs, you can look into sites such as zizzle.com, vistaprint.com, or even office supply stores that help you design and print business cards. Just remember, “the card is something to use after you have a reason for contacting them again.” Second, you need to be prepared to talk about yourself, so you should prepare a 60 to 90-second introduction that covers your interests, etc. “The interview is something to use after you have a reason for contacting them again.” As librarians, “you have access and an interest in making connections and gathering information — so there are a lot of possibilities for using your strength to offset your weakness,” Burger said.

Burger stressed the value of an “informational interview.” Use the network to find someone working in the field or in a role that you are interested in and meet with them, either in person or over the phone. “Like a job interview, but not stressful,” it gives you an opportunity to explore specific jobs and clarify your career goals, discover unadvertised job opportunities, expand your professional network, build confidence for job interviews, and access more up-to-date career info. Don’t use it to ask about job openings! Have a set of questions prepared to ask, and only leave a resume if they request it. You may also be able to help them and connect them with someone else. “Remember, the whole idea is to have this go to the next person, then the next person, so you’re connecting your web of resources,” concluded Burger.

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Monday | ABC-CLIO Booth 3918

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Today’s Theater Presentations

9:30 a.m. – Multicultural Experience: The American Mosaic
10:30 a.m. – Pop Culture Universe
11:30 a.m. – Understanding Our World Online: American History and Daily Life America
12:30 p.m. – Understanding Our World Online: World and State Geography
1:30 p.m. – ABC-CLIO eBook Collection
2:30 p.m. – Understanding Our World Online: American Government
3:30 p.m. – National Security: US at War and Praeger Security International Online
4:30 p.m. – Understanding Our World Online: Issues in the 21st Century

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Be sure to check out all the NEW Fall titles from the imprints of ABC-CLIO!
Keynote speaker Christie Hefner embraces Herb Krug, spouse of Judith Krug, backstage prior to Friday’s Opening General Session. Krug accepted a Honorary Membership, ALA’s highest honor, for his wife.

After noting the digital revolution’s effect on information delivery and access, and other changes, Hefner emphasized that despite all this, certain American values remain as important as ever — issues involving intellectual freedom and privacy, for example.

“You have the opportunity — indeed the challenge — to preserve that necessary commitment to pluralism and to freedom of expression...I thank you for being fearless on behalf of the nation,” she said.

Partnerships that Work: Collaboration Between Academic and Public Libraries

by Stacy L. Voeller
Minnesota State University Moorhead

On Sunday morning July 12, the College Libraries Section and Community and Junior College Libraries Section of ACRL, and the Public Library Association (PLA) co-sponsored the program “Our Town Common Ground: Academic Libraries’ Collaboration with Public Libraries.” Four different collaboration projects were presented by the panel including a variety of ways in which these two entities are joining forces to better serve all of their patrons.

Judy Neale, Ph.D., Cameron University Library in Lawton, Oklahoma, discussed her library’s collaboration with the prime of his life. Despite the need of a community while fulfilling the need of a community, students are co-enrolled in day one general education classes with a service-learning component. We provide a service that meets the need of a community while fulfilling academic objectives of the course.

Joel “Elvis” Rudnick leads the Steel City Kings, University of Pittsburgh, onto the floor to compete in the DEMCO 5th Annual Book Cart Championship. The Kings took third place in the event, receiving a bronze book cart.

The Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus begins the Opening General Session Saturday.

Lopez

» from page 1

Lopez visited regularly with Ayers and wrote a series of columns about the talented musician, who was struck down with mental illness in the prime of his life. Despite the many difficulties and demands of helping Ayers battle schizophrenia, a remarkable bond of friendship developed between the two.

Lopez joined the staff of The Los Angeles Times in May 2001 after four years at Time Inc., where he wrote for Time, Sports Illustrated, Life and Entertainment Weekly. His work has won several national awards for column writing and magazine reporting.
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ALA Membership Meetings: Libraries in Hard Times

We urge every ALA member to attend and to participate in this year’s ALA Membership Meeting. Join us for Libraries in Hard Times, an open forum highlighting the role of libraries during a recession. Take advantage of the opportunity to talk to ALA leaders and to vote on resolutions. The 2009 Membership Meeting will be held from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm today at McCormick Place Convention Center, Room W375A.

Membership Meetings are an important way that you can affect what ALA does! Make a difference and let your voice be heard!

Libraries in Hard Times
Discover new ideas to stretch your budget; learn advocacy techniques from experts; and find out how ALA is helping us help ourselves. Adapt to new fiscal new realities, learn how to help your library and libraries nationwide, and promote library funding through national and local advocacy.

Our panelists include Ken Wiggin (Chair, ALA Committee on Legislation), Carol Brey-Casiano (Council Committee on Library Advocacy and former ALA President), and Clare Zales (Pennsylvania State Librarian and Deputy Secretary of Education, Commissioner of Libraries, for Pennsylvania), and ALA Washington Office consultants Chris A. McLean (Saturday) and John Windhausen (Monday). Each of the panelists will give a short (5-minute) introduction to the issues and then open the floor to questions and answers.

Membership Resolutions
In the second half of each meeting we will discuss member resolutions. Any member can introduce a resolution at a Membership Meeting. If you send it to Michael Golrick [michael.golrick@gmail.com] at least twenty-four hours before the meeting, ALA will make copies of the resolution for distribution to folks at the meeting. Resolutions passed by the membership go to Council. If Council approves, the resolution becomes policy.

Talk to the Leaders
Toward the end of the meeting, we almost always have time for you to “talk to the leaders” with ALA President Jim Rettig, President-Elect Camila Alire, and Executive Director Keith Michael Fields.

Membership Meetings are an important way to affect what ALA does! Make a difference and let your voice be heard!

ALSC Poetry Blast This Evening
Whether you’re a poet (and you didn’t even know it!) or just someone who enjoys a good poem, join the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) from 5:30 to 7:30 pm today for the 6th Annual ALSC Poetry Blast, being held at the Chicago Hilton, Continental C.

This unique program celebrates the wonder and excitement of contemporary North American poetry for children. More than ten poets, some new and some well-established, will read from their works, as well as share information about current and forthcoming books of poetry. This event is designed to be a ‘drop-in’ reading at the close of a long conference. Delegates will find the time spent in these readings both enlightening and energizing. We hope to see you there!
AASL Honors Outstanding School Library Media Programs

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has announced the winners of the 2009 National School Library Media Program of the Year (NSLMPY) award. Livonia Central School District, Robert E. Clow Elementary School and Blue Valley North High School will be honored with this prestigious award at the AASL Awards Luncheon during the ALA 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago.

The AASL Awards Luncheon will be held from noon to 2:00 pm today in room 185 of McCormick Place West. The fee to attend is $50. The special guest speaker for the luncheon will be Barbara Kerley, award-winning author of several books, including Greetings from Planet Earth and What to do about Alice. For more information about this event and more AASL programs in Chicago, visit http://www.ala.org/aasl/annual.

District honors for 2009 go to Livonia Central School District in Livonia, N.Y. The district is composed of four schools — two elementary, one middle and one secondary — situated on a 180-acre campus. With one full-time school library media specialist and one full-time certified teaching assistant at each of the buildings, the library media program creates a physical and a digital hub for learning. In her application, Jody Duggan-Lay said, “The Livonia Central School is a community of learners where all — including faculty and staff — will develop multiple literacies, including informational, technical, digital, visual and textual.”

Livonia Central’s library media department employs a comprehensive program that focuses on teaching students the skills they need to be successful in each grade and beyond. From pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, students and teachers and the surrounding community are provided a welcome atmosphere to use the library’s resources. The department hosts community events such as book fairs, community youth groups, parent presentations and faculty and committee meetings. After hours workshops provide faculty with the opportunity to learn new technologies and participate in collaborative curriculum development. In his letter of support, Scott Bishoping, superintendent of schools, said, “The Library Media Department’s focus on student and teacher needs along with skill development creates a culture of trust and support... Their results have made them a key component of the Livonia District that would be difficult to lose or replace.”

Robert E. Clow Elementary School (Clow), located in Naperville, Ill., is a K-5 school with 494 students. Clow’s library media center is truly the hub of the school. Throughout the day students can be seen sprawling with magazines in the open areas of the center, gathering for the monthly update on new opportunities available in the center or taking advantage of the technologies available to them. Flexible scheduling enables students to access the library media center and take part in many extracurricular activities, such as book club, storytelling and the Webugrapher program, which allows first-through fifth-graders to photo-document learning and teaching at Crow. Programming in the library media center also includes collaborative planning and teaching, technology initiatives, monthly updates called “What’s Up in the LMC” and strong book and resource collections.

In her application, Library Media Center Director Beverly Frett, stated, “In the library media center, students grow socially and emotionally as they learn to think about the world around them, reflect on their place in it and relate their actions to their community both locally and globally.” Frett hopes that in the long term Clow will continue to be a leader in the use of technology in the district. She would like to see Clow “push the evolution of technology use at the elementary level.”

The additional single school award goes to Blue Valley North (BVN) High School in Overland Park, Kansas. BVN, a Blue Ribbon Award school, is home to 1,495 students. In his statement of support, Dr. Carter L. Burns, Jr., principal, said, “The library media specialists are leaders in the school, teaching staff development courses, serving on district committees, collaborating with teachers to design, implement and evaluate lessons and going above and beyond to increase student achievement.”

According to Abby Neiburger and Terri Sneathen, the BVN’s library media specialists, the library media center is the “school’s largest classroom.” The two full-time library media specialists offer students an academic atmosphere where they can access a wide variety of resources for research, read, study and use one of the many technologies available to them. Constantly changing, the library media center’s Web site offers access to research databases, the school newspaper and the opportunity to contact a librarian through the “Ask a Librarian” feature. Long-range goals of BVN include furthering the implementation of 21st-century applications and promoting reading for information and pleasure.

“To all school library media specialists who think their programs top those mentioned above, I encourage you to apply for one of the 2010 NSLMPY award,” said AASL President Ann M. Martin. “Not only do you do your school or district a disservice, but the entire school library media community by not showcasing your work and offering others an example of what their school or district should strive to be.”

Established in 1963, the NSLMPY Award honors school library media programs practicing their commitment to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information, as well as exemplifying implementation of information power. The award recognizes exemplary school library media programs that are fully integrated into the school’s curriculum. Each winning program receives an obelisk — the symbol of school library excellence — and a $10,000 prize donated by Follett Library Resources. Learn more about each of these school library media programs at http://www.ala.org/aasl/awards.

Free Scholarly Communication 101 Materials Online

ACRL is extending the reach of the popular “Scholarly Communication 101: Starting with the Basics” workshop by adding related materials to its Scholarly Communication Toolkit. The materials — including short videos, presentations, templates and handouts — were developed for the half-day workshop offered at the ACRL 14th National Conference in Seattle and traveling to five locations around the country this summer. Now librarians can make use of these tools to enhance their own knowledge or adapt them to offer related workshops on their own campuses. The Scholarly Communication Toolkit is available online at http://www.acrl.ala.org/scholcomm/.

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New ACRL Publications Available In Chicago

The Association of College & Research Libraries has released four new publications in time for this year’s ALA Annual Conference. The titles are Influencing without Authority: Informing Innovation: Tracking Student Interest in Emerging Library Technologies at Ohio University, Library Rx: Measuring and Treating Library Anxiety, and Teaching Literary Research. All new titles, and others from the ACRL publications backlist, are available for purchase in Chicago at the ALA Bookstore, through the ALA Online Store (http://www.alastore.ala.org) and by telephone order at (866) 746-7252 in the U.S. or (770) 442-8633 for international customers.

Program Shows How Research Can Reinvent Library Services

In developing library services, librarians place the user at the center of planning. Today, three experienced researchers will show how qualitative methods provide effective means to learn what libraries should do to help people meet their information needs.

“Pay Attention to Your Users: Conducting Qualitative Research to Reinvent Library Services” will take place from 1:30 am to noon in McCormick Place West Room 176 B/C. Denise Agosto from Drexel University, Sandra Hughes-Hassell from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Lynn Westbrook will present. The program will include discussions and examples of software used in qualitative research and ways practical management decisions are informed by qualitative research.

This program is the second in a series created by the ALA Committee on Research and Statistics to present practical applications of qualitative research. CORS is the advisory committee to the ALA Office for Research and Statistics, www.ala.org/or, and facilitates research and related activities in all units of ALA, especially activities related to library statistics.

Archived L4L Webinars Available for Purchase

The popular L4L webinars, hosted by the American Association for School Librarians (AASL), are now available for purchase in archived format. The webinars, offered in April during School Library Media Month, are part of Learning4Life (L4L), AASL’s national initiative to implement “Standards for the 21st-Century Learner” and “Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs.” The archives will be available on the AASL Web site at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/lhrt/divs/aasl/conferencesandevents/l4lwebinars/l4lwebinararchive.cfm.

Each interactive webinar takes the participants through the learning standards and discusses practical applications in their school library media center and school community. Active participation allows for different points of view to be discussed within the group.

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Grant Recipient Claremont Academy Hosts Improving Literacy Session Today

A child’s success in school begins with learning to read and write. On Monday, July 13, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM, ALA’s Committee on Literacy and Chicago Public Schools are sponsoring an off-site program at Claremont Academy on Chicago’s southside. Claremont Academy is one of 12 Chicago public schools to receive an Improving Literacy through School Libraries grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

During the session, ALA members will learn more about the federal grant program, Chicago Public Schools, Claremont Academy, and the Englewood community. The session begins with the participants observing students, school library media specialists, and literacy teachers in action.

Irene Howath and Almita Reed, the grant’s team leader and program officer, from the U.S. Department of Education will provide information about the program and its impact on the Chicago Public Schools. Rebecca Stinson, Claremont Academy principal, and representatives from Chicago Public Schools will discuss the changes they’ve made, the challenges they’ve faced, and the successes they’ve achieved. School library media specialists, literacy teachers, parents, and community members share their experiences in school and beyond.

Claremont Academy is located at 2300 West 64th Street. Limited bus transportation is available from McCormick Place departing at 1:30 pm and returning at 5:30 pm. and must be reserved. Contact Dale Lipschultz, OLOS Literacy Officer dlipschultz@ala.org with questions or to reserve space.

WrestleMania Reading Challenge Registration Ends July 31

Want $2,000 for your library? Enter the 2009-2010 WrestleMania Reading Challenge! The WrestleMania Reading Challenge is sponsored by YALSA and World Wrestling Entertainment with support from Mattel. The program encourages teens and tweens to read one item a week for ten weeks beyond Teen Read Week.

Fifteen finalists will win $2,000 for their library and a trip to Phoenix to see WrestleMania 26. The grades 7–8 and 9-12 regional winners will also get the chance to compete to be the WrestleMania Reading Challenge National Champion and win ringside tickets. Details are available at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/wrmc/wrmc.cfm. Official rules and a toolkit will be posted later this summer.

Registration for the WrestleMania Reading Challenge ends July 31. To register, sign up for Teen Read Week at www.ala.org/teenread, then choose “yes” to the WrestleMania Reading Challenge question. The reading challenge will begin at the end of Teen Read Week, October 18-24, 2009. Participants must read 10 items in their free time by January 2009. Check www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/wrmc/wrmc2009.cfm for contest details, registration, program suggestions and more.

All libraries that register by July 31 will receive free promotional display posters featuring WWE Superstars and Divas, as well as smaller posters to distribute as prizes to participating teens and tweens.

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