

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Status Report on the I love libraries web site

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

Information report only

CONTACT:

Keith Michael Fiels and Marci Merola

DATE: June 19, 2007

BACKGROUND:

Ilovelibraries.org was officially launched on June 18, 2007. The new Web site is specifically designed for the general public to learn more about the excitement and vitality of today's libraries, and in the process become active advocates for improving libraries of all types.

The website will include:

- feature stories on the wonderful things happening in today's libraries;
- book reviews;
- ways for viewers to share their story about their library or nominate their favorite librarian for "librarian of the year;"
- links to advocacy software which will allow users to support libraries of all types on a local, state and national level.

The site was developed by Marci Merola of the Public Information Office, working closely with the Chapter Relations Office and ALTA, the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates.

Additional key features of the site will be:

- a pilot program in which ALA is making legislative advocacy software available to 15 Chapters at no cost to the Chapters. The software will be completely integrated with ALA's Washington Office software, Currently, only three states use such software.

- an advocate's newsletter
- the ability to join ALTA as an ALTA Advocate/Friend of Ilovelibraries

Ilovelibraries.org is designed to reach a broader audience than ALA currently reaches. One of the goals in developing the site has been to repurpose as much of our own rich content as possible from the www.ala.org pages, or to "tweak" it slightly so that it's appropriate for a general audience.

Ilovelibraries.org is a work in progress, and we will be working to improve the site on an ongoing basis. Beginning this summer, we will be seeking staff and member input and editorial ideas to help improve these pages and make ilovelibraries.org more attractive to the public and more useful for the library community.

Visit at www.ilovelibraries.org or click on the ilovelibraries button on the upper left-hand of www.ala.org.

Attachments:

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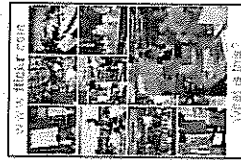
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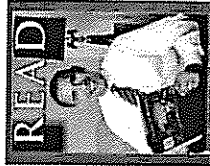
A Message from 2006-2007 ALA President Leslie Burger

On behalf of libraries everywhere, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to ilovelibraries.org, a website especially for you. The American Library Association created this website in order to call attention to the fabulous things happening in libraries around the country.

[Read more about the site](#)

NEWS

Librarians Set to Storm Congress for Library Day on the Hill



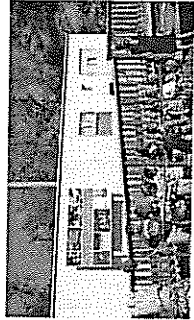
Read's poster with Illinois Senator Barack Obama courtesy of the Skokie (Ill.) Public Library.

On June 26, 2007, busloads of librarians and library supporters from across the country will descend upon Capitol Hill to call attention to the value of today's libraries, as well as the issues the library community is facing.

Threats to funding, library closures and reduced hours are just a few of the battles at hand in public, school, academic and special libraries around the country. [Read more about Library Day on the Hill.](#)

Slowly but Surely

It's been 22 months since Hurricane Katrina, followed by Hurricane Rita two months later, devastated the Gulf Region. After the storms, libraries that were able to reopen did so as quickly as they could. [Read more about Hurricane Katrina's effects on America's libraries.](#)



BOOKLIST REVIEW OF THE DAY:

Fatherhood: Poems about Fathers

Ciuraru, Carmela (editor). June 2007. 256p. Everyman's Library. Hardcover, \$12.50 0307264580, 808-91.



REVIEW. First published June 1, 2007 (*Booklist*). The first verse in this thematic anthology, "Golden slumbers kiss your eyes," gives us pause. Doesn't Paul McCartney honk it out at the end of *Abbey Road*? Indeed he does, but he didn't write it. It is instead by, or at least attributed to, Shakespeare's contemporary and, according to Stanley Wells' *Shakespeare and Co.* (2007), col.,

[Read more on Booklist Online](#)



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Welcome from Leslie Burger



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ALA - American Library Association 2007

WELCOME TO ILOVELIBRARIES.ORG



On behalf of libraries everywhere, I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to lovelibraries.org, a website especially for you. The American Library Association created this website in order to call attention to the fabulous things happening in libraries around the country.

The idea behind lovelibraries.org is simple: we want to reach out to people who use and love libraries and offer them a chance to get involved in the health and vitality of America's libraries and to share their experiences. From finding award-winning books to library links on YouTube and Flickr, this site is your portal to the library community.

If you already love libraries, you probably know that even in the age of Google, libraries are still relevant -- and vital -- to your community. But do you know the issues libraries in your community are facing? Do you want to become an advocate for strong and well-funded libraries in our communities, schools and colleges and universities? This website gives you an opportunity to learn more about library issues and voice your opinion to members of Congress.

If it's been a while since you've visited your local library, we encourage you to rediscover all they have to offer. Despite increased access to the internet, more content than ever on the Web, and the boon of large bookstores, library usage is up.

I hope you enjoy the articles and features of lovelibraries.org. This site is a work in progress. We encourage you to give us your ideas about how we can improve the site, and make it more relevant and useful. If you want us to take a look at the great things happening at your local library, please let us know by e-mailing lovelibraries@ala.org.

These pages will give you a taste of what's happening at your local library. But more importantly, I hope will compel you to step away from your computer and step into your local library.

Sincerely,

Leslie Burger
2005-2007 President, American Library Association;
Director, Princeton (N.J.) Public Library
<http://lib.princetonlibrary.org>

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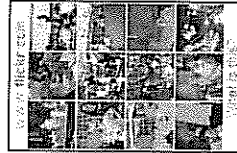
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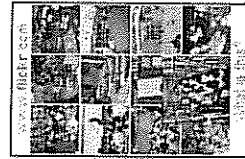
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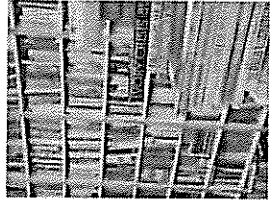
TAKE ACTION

SUPPORT LIBRARY FUNDING

Your library is so many things to you: an oasis, a source of entertainment and information, even a gathering place. It serves your community in countless ways, often with limited resources. If you've ever wondered what you could do to help your library succeed, take a look at the options outlined in our "Take Action" section.

The amount of funding that a library receives directly influences the quality of its services. While the majority of funding for libraries comes from state and local sources, federal funding provides critical assistance, giving libraries across the country the financial support they need to serve their communities.

The majority of federal library program funds are distributed through the Institute of Museum and Library Services to each state. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) is part of the annual Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. Another important source of federal funding for libraries is the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries (ILSL) program, which is administered by the Department of Education, and is the first program specifically aimed at upgrading school libraries since the original school library resources program was established in 1965.



Contact your Member of Congress TODAY and tell them how you use and benefit from the library in your community. Your members of Congress will remember your story - they are relying on you to show them the importance of the library in your community. Most library experiences don't seem dramatic on the surface, but the impact libraries have for real people is significant. Statistics can be impressive, but personal stories bring the library message to life.

To contact Congress, start here. Find Your Official - Search by ZIP code.

Stay informed Action E-List: Get an alert when your involvement can make a

Around the country libraries are using LSTA funding, the only federal program solely devoted to aiding libraries, to help patrons access essential information on a wide range of topics. They provide training on resume development; help on web searches of job banks; workshops on career information; links to essential educational and community services; assistive devices for people with disabilities; family literacy classes; English classes; homework help and mentoring programs; information on religions and other cultures; access to e-government; a forum for enhanced civic engagement, and so much more.

ILSL funding is designed to improve student literacy skills and academic achievement by providing schools with up-to-date library materials and to ensure that school library media centers are staffed by well-trained and professionally certified school media specialists. Numerous studies show there is a clear link between the quality of library media programs in schools staffed by an experienced school library media specialist and student academic achievement. School library media centers can contribute to improved student achievement by providing

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I Love Libraries was created in the belief that libraries have a unique power to transform their communities. The health and vitality of those libraries, whether public, school, academic or special, depend on committed advocates like you. Please consider a tax-deductible donation today.

Please complete the secure online form below. You will receive an acknowledgment of your donation at the e-mail address you provided below. I Love Libraries is a national advocacy project on behalf of America's libraries and is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA). ALA is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization, and all contributions to ALA are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

I want to become a Friend of I Love Libraries with a \$25/year donation.

\$25

I want to make a one-time donation in the following amount:

\$25

\$50

\$75

\$100

.. or ..

Your donation will be used for library advocacy efforts at the national, state and local levels.

Other Giving Options

[LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund](#)


The LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund was established in 1970 as a special trust in memory of Dr. LeRoy C. Merritt. It is devoted to the support, maintenance, medical care, and welfare of librarians who, in the Trustees' opinion, are:

Denied employment rights or discriminated against on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, color, creed, age, disability, or place of national origin;

Denied advancement higher because of defiance of intellectual freedom; that is, threatened with loss of employment or diminished benefits

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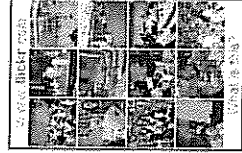
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ALA BOOK AND MEDIA AWARDS

Want to know what the experts consider the best books? Visit the links below for ideas on great books for kids, teens, and adults. You can find out about the awards themselves, or see a list of the most recently lauded books and read their reviews.

[Children's Book Awards](#) | [Young Adult Book Awards](#) | [Adult Book Awards](#)

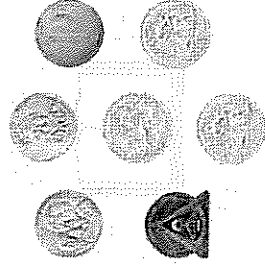
CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS

Batchelder Award

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See all winning titles | [Batchelder Award Web Site](#)

This award, established in 1956 in honor of Mildred L. Batchelder, is a citation awarded to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding of those books originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country, and subsequently translated into English and published in the United States.



Belpré Medal

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See all winning titles | [Belpré Medal Web Site](#)

The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

Caldecott Medal

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See all winning titles | [Caldecott Medal Web Site](#)

The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

Carnegie Medal

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See all winning titles | [Carnegie Medal Web Site](#)

The Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Children's Video, supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, was awarded for the first time in 1991 to honor outstanding video productions for children released during the previous year.

Book Review Page

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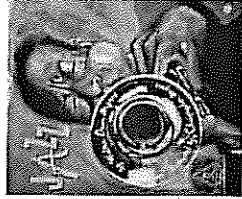


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Jazz

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Coretta Scott King Book Awards Winner

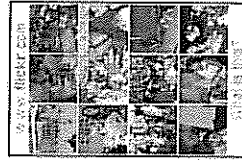


There have been numerous picture books about jazz and jazz history over the last decade, and by and large, the illustrators have fared better than the writers at capturing the spirit of the music in a way that relates to the young. Those attempting to describe the music in verse have encountered particularly rough sledding. Many forced either to rely on wild abstraction (Raschka) or to craft poems so complex they exclude all but the most sophisticated young readers (Wynton Marsalis in his recent *Jazz A-Z*). Now, finally, the father-son Myers team has put together an absolutely airtight melding of words and pictures that is perfectly accessible to a younger audience. The poems parallel significant stages in the development of jazz, but the historical connection is only tangential; the draw of the poems, as with the music, is rhythm, and Myers captures the rolling cadences of early New Orleans jazz ("Well, good-bye to old Bob Johnson / We'll haul his body slow / There's a white horse a-striding / A sad steator riding / Six drums add back and grumble / As a trumpet blares something rude"). And, best of all, Christopher Myers' pictures make those rhythms visual, the curving lines of his figures seeming to move off the page, swinging to the beat. Middle-graders will feel the sound of the words and pictures working together, and younger kids will hear and see that connection when adults share the book with them. - Bill Ott

Intrigued by the review of this award-winning book?

- 1 Read more reviews like this one on [BooklistOnline.com](#).
- 2 Visit your local library to find this book.
- 3 Buy this book at [BetterWorld.com](#) and support libraries and literacy - over 500 local libraries sell books through Better World Books, plus a portion of every sale directly supports literacy development in the US, and around the world.
- 4 Learn more about the [Notable Children's Books](#), awarded by ALSC, learn more about the [Coretta Scott King Book Awards](#), awarded by ALA Ethnic Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table.

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LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

NEW YORK TIMES LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS 2006

The Librarian Awards of the *New York Times* is a six-year-old program that recognizes great accomplishments by library professionals. Winners are awarded for their outstanding public service and positive impact on their communities.

Would you like to tell us about a librarian you know who is outstanding in some way? Complete the form on this page to share information about your favorite public or academic librarian!



MARIA BUHL

Librarian, Guilderland Public Library

Guilderland, NY

Maria was nominated by Robert Ganz, who wrote: Guilderland Public Library is a very special place in our community. And what makes it such a special place is the kind of librarian who is unflinchingly devoted to improving people's experiences there. A librarian like Maria Buhl. Maria became the first librarian at Guilderland to receive certification as a Health Services Librarian, and Guilderland's Consumer Health Information program was honored as a 2006 Program of the Year by the Upper Hudson Library System. Maria has played a vital role in that program, and has personally assisted patrons struggling to understand health issues. She has also been indispensable to Guilderland's literacy program for speakers of English as a second language -- which was also justly honored. Her honors are well-earned and ongoing, and we are please to add one more honor today.

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ABOUT AMERICAS LIBRARIES

America's 17,000 libraries fall into four basic types (with a few added variations): Public, School, Academic and Special. There are also Armed Forces libraries, Government libraries and multi-use or Joint-Use libraries, which combine library types in one service area or structure.

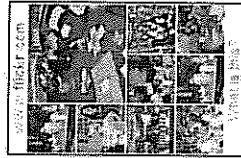
Click on the following links to learn more about the different library categories:

- [Public Libraries](#)
- [School Libraries](#)
- [Academic and Research Libraries](#)
- [Special Libraries](#)
- [Joint-Use Libraries](#)
- [The Library of Congress](#)
- [The American Library Association](#)

Click on the following links to learn more about the history of libraries and how they are organized:

- [History of Libraries](#)
- [How Libraries are Organized](#)

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Public Libraries

Public libraries serve communities of all sizes and types. Wherever you live, there's likely to be a local public library nearby. As the name implies, public libraries serve the general public, "from cradle to grave," as more than one public librarian has been heard to say, referring to the library's departments that focus on areas of service, such as children, teens and adults. At the core of public library service is the belief in free access to information—that no one should be denied information because he or she cannot afford the cost of a book, a periodical, a Web site or access to information in any of its various formats. Libraries are great democratic institutions that serve people of every age, income level, location, ethnicity or physical ability, and provide the full range of information resources that serve live, learn, govern, and work. Because libraries bring free access to all, they also bring opportunity to all.

Today there are more than 16,000 public libraries in the United States. They are usually funded by public funds, administered at the state, county and local levels. Cities often provide their own public libraries. In some states, county libraries serve the populations of unincorporated areas of the county, not covered by city library service. In some instances, when a city is not able to provide library service, it may contract with the county to serve its residents. State libraries often serve as repositories for public information but also serve their state legislatures as a research arm of state government. In the 50 states, there probably aren't 50 unique ways of administering library service, but there certainly are many different organizing principles at work.