

## Report to Council and Executive Board

January 13, 2020

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Executive Director

### ALA OFFICES

#### Center for the Future of Libraries

##### 2020 Symposium on the Future of Libraries – ALA Midwinter Meeting

The schedule for the [2020 Symposium on the Future of Libraries](#) features 40 information sessions, discussion groups, and workshops during the ALA Midwinter Meeting. The Symposium features Libraries Transform morning sessions each day, bringing Philadelphia-based innovators into the Midwinter conversation. [Libraries Transform: Civic Innovation](#) (Saturday, 8:45 – 10:00 a.m.) will feature Anuj Gupta, General Manager, Reading Terminal Market, and Ariel Ben-Amos, Founder, StreetBoxPHL. [Libraries Transform: Social Innovation](#) (Sunday, 8:45 – 10:00 a.m.) will feature Mariana Chilton, Professor of Health Management and Policy and Director of the Center for Hunger-Free Communities, Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University, and Joanna Visser Adjoian, Co-Director, Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project (YSRP). [Libraries Transform: Education Innovation](#) (Monday, 8:45 – 10:00 a.m.) will feature Malik Brown, Executive Director, Graduate! Philadelphia, and Dara Ruiz-Whalen, Chief Learning Officer, Executive Director, eCLOSE Institute. Special thanks to the [Center's Advisory Group](#) whose members helped review and develop the final schedule.

##### 2020 News You Can Use – ALA Midwinter Meeting

The Center for the Future of Libraries coordinates the *News You Can Use* series at both the Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference. *News You Can Use* sessions offer the latest updates from experts on policy, research, statistics, technology, and more, based on new surveys, reports, legislation/regulation, and projects. The [schedule for the News You Can Use series](#) features 20 learning sessions, highlighting work from ALA units and member groups as well as updates on projects and initiatives from across the profession.

##### Presentations and Trainings

Since October 2019, the Center has provided seven presentations and workshops for libraries and the public – Glenview (IL) Public Library; Contra Costa County (CA) Library; Mid-Hudson (NY) Library System; Stones River / Buffalo River (TN) Regional Library Systems; Tennessee

State Library Level V Directors Meeting; Detroit Metropolitan Area ASPA; and Algonquin Area (IL) Public Library District.

#### Read for Later Newsletter Hits 4,000 Subscribers

The Center continues to promote new information and indicators through the free e-mail newsletter, [Read for Later](#). *Read for Later* shares the Center's weekly trend scanning to help library professionals think about trends and developments influencing the future of collections, spaces, services, partnerships, and roles in the community. In January, subscription to the newsletter hit 4,000 subscribers. Newsletter activity remains strong and feedback about the newsletter remains positive. The newsletter sees immediate unique open rates around 30% and higher, and longer-term unique open rates around 45%.

#### Library Futures Series

January marks the publication of the fourth title in the *Library Futures Series* from ALA Neal Schuman. The series of short editions bring together library experts and innovators to explore the profession's many futures by focusing on emerging trends. The series' first four books include [Anonymity](#) by Alison Macrina and Talya Cooper (Book 1 – May 2019); [Resilience](#) by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Book 2 – June 2018); [Blockchain](#) by Sandra Hirsh and Susan Alman (Book 3 – November 2019); and [Design Thinking](#) by Rachel Ivy Clarke (Book 4 – January 2020). The Center has appreciated the opportunity to work with the books' authors and with ALA Publishing to help expand the thinking around these emerging trends.

### **Chapter Relations Office (CRO)**

#### ALA and Key Local Government and School Stakeholders

ALA raised the visibility of libraries to hundreds of mayors and city and county administrators through exhibiting in the fall at the National League of Cities (NLC) and ICMA conferences. This is part of ALA's investment in advocacy and is a coordinated effort between the Chapter Relations Office, the Public Policy and Advocacy Office, AASL, and PLA to connect with key stakeholders and build relationships with their associations.

At both the ICMA Conference in Nashville and the NLC Summit in San Antonio, staff were assisted by local ALA member volunteers to highlight their stories of how libraries help communities become stronger. ALA will be sending follow-up messages to attendees reminding how their local library will be essential partners in the 2020 Census and in voter registration. AASL staff and local school librarians will be connecting with curriculum development leaders from across the country in Los Angeles in March.

### **Communications and Marketing Office**

(CMO)

*Public Awareness Activities*

I Love My Librarian Award

In December, ALA announced the 10 winners of the [I Love My Librarian Award](#), who were selected by leaders from the library community from a pool of more than 1,900 nominations, a record-breaking number of submissions in recent years. The winners, who come from outstanding public, school, and academic libraries across the country, are Jesús Alonso-Regalado, Stephanie Dannehl, Cathy Evans, Melissa Glanden, MaryAnne Hansen, Homa Naficy, Maria Papanastassiou, Leah Plocharczyk, Janet Tom, and Tracie Walker-Reed. For the first time ever, winners will be honored at ALA's Midwinter Meeting, with a [ceremony and reception](#) taking place on Saturday, January 25, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Pennsylvania Convention Center; the event will also be streamed live to [ALA's Facebook page](#).

Libraries Transform

Libraries Transform closed out the year with more than 15,000 libraries and library advocates signing up to use the free program. In late January, CMO staff is heading to ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia to present a session on Monday, January 27, at 10:30 a.m.— [Using Libraries Transform for Awareness and Advocacy](#). In the session, attendees will learn how their library can use Libraries Transform for marketing, advocacy, fundraising, outreach and much more.

Libraries Transform Book Pick and Book Club Central

The widely promoted [Libraries Transform Book Pick](#) October pilot, for which *Booklist* editors selected *After the Flood* by Cassandra Montag (William Morrow/HarperCollins), attracted strong participation and enthusiastic responses. Prominent merchandising on thousands of library websites over the course of the 2-week program resulted in 105,000 checkouts, hundreds of thousands of impressions, more than 10,000 Goodreads adds, and an increase in Amazon sales ranking from 40k to under 10k, with a long-tail impact for weeks afterward. ALA staff also participated in a lively book discussion hosted by CMO's Stephanie Hlywak. The ALA units involved are now working with the sponsor, Rakuten OverDrive, on evaluation, analytics, and next steps. The concept of this initiative is to connect readers nationwide by offering unrestricted, free access to the same eBook through public libraries for a designated reading period, creating energy around ebooks and providing libraries with an added opportunity to showcase digital collections and other resources and programs. It's also designed to combat some of the challenges associated with celebrity-driven book clubs and recommendations; the #LTBookPick will be accessible for everyone with no waitlists or holds for patrons and no additional acquisition cost to libraries.

Also, a reminder—after wrapping up the Book Club Central program and website, ALA continues to connect with book club members and to offer resources for the general reader. Related resources are featured on the I Love Libraries website.

(<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/booklovers/bookclub>), where SJP's six book selections for Book Club Central will also be archived.

### National Library Week

CMO launched free [promotional tools](#) featuring the theme for National Library Week, April 19-25 2020—Find Your Place at the Library. The suite of tools includes social media graphics, a sample press release, and PSA scripts. The theme highlights how everyone is welcome at the library and that it's a place where you can explore new passions and discover who you are through the library's free materials, programs, and services.

### *Media Activity*

#### Overview

The following is a snapshot of Communications and Marketing Office (CMO) publicity activities that took place from October 1 – December 31, 2019. During this timeframe more than 6,700 articles mentioning the American Library Association (ALA) were captured by ALA's new monitoring service Cision, resulting in a circulation rate of more than 6 Billion and a publicity value of more than \$10 million. (Please note that circulation rate is calculated using the number of articles/mentions multiplied by the monthly unique visitors for each media outlet's website.) During this reporting period roughly 90.4 percent (6,078 clips) of coverage was positive and focused on ALA initiatives, e.g., EbooksForAll campaign; the announcement of the Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction & Nonfiction shortlist; I Love My Librarian Award announcements and the William C. Morris Award announcements. Approximately 7 percent (469 clips) recovered clips were neutral and consisted of brief ALA mentions, initiative event calendar notices, or mentions within author references. Only 2.7 percent (179 clips) recovered positioned ALA negatively and were fueled by the association's position on intellectual freedom and Drag Queen Story Hour events. Per the News Media Alliance (formally the Newspaper Association of America), there are more than 1,300 daily newspapers and 5,700 weekly newspapers in the United States, so the following placements should be viewed as a snapshot of coverage.

#### I Love My Librarian Award Announcements, December 10, 2019

The winners of the 2019 I Love My Librarian Award were [announced](#) on December 10. CMO worked to secure media placement opportunities with local and international press outlets. Team members developed and distributed a press release announcing all the award winners as well as customized press releases for each of the individual recipients. Media efforts yielded more than 200 articles captured by CMO's monitoring software, Cision, producing a total snapshot circulation rate of nearly \$120 million. CMO secured local and [international](#) coverage with [Chicago Tribune](#), [Daily Herald](#), WBBM AM (Chicago), [Hartford Current](#), [Richmond Times –](#)

[Dispatch](#), [Bozeman Daily Chronicle](#), [Nebraska TV](#), [Barnstable Patriot](#), [Cape Cod Times](#), [Immigration News Wire](#), and [China News](#). Also Trade media like [American Libraries](#), [Publishers Weekly](#), [Information Today](#), and [School Library Journal](#) provided coverage.

#### William C. Morris Award Short List Announcement, December 4

The [Young Adult Library Services Association \(YALSA\)](#), selected five books as finalists for the 2020 [William C. Morris Award](#), which honors the year's best book written for young adults by a previously unpublished author. CMO worked to secure media coverage with mainstream and library trade media including [American Libraries](#), [School Library Journal](#), and the [Associated Press](#). Overall CMO secured more than 300 placements resulting in a circulation total of more than 375 million and publicity value of more than \$260,000. YALSA will name the 2020 award winner at the [Youth Media Awards](#) at 8 a.m. (Eastern), on Monday, January 27, 2020 in Philadelphia, during the American Library Association [Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits](#).

#### Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction & Nonfiction Shortlist Announcement

On November 19, ALA [announced](#) the shortlist for the 2020 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction. CMO secured placement with the [Associated Press](#) which was picked up by hundreds of national and [international](#) news websites including the *New York Times*, [CBC](#), [US News and World Report](#), [Publishers Lunch](#), [American Libraries](#), [Publishers Weekly](#), [Library Journal](#), and a host of other trade publications also provided additional coverage. More than 500 news groups picked up our announcement resulting in a circulation rate of more than 770 million and publicity value of more than \$300,000. The ALA will announce 2020 medal winners on Sunday, January 26, 2020, during the RUSA Book & Media Awards (BMA), taking place during the ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits.

#### AASL National Conference, November 14 - 16

The 2019 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) National Conference, held November 14 – 16, at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky, welcomed more than 2,500 registered attendees as well as reporters from [Publishers Weekly](#), [American Libraries](#) and [School Library Journal](#). AASL President Mary Keeling also participated in an interview with Louisville's NPR Affiliate WFPL. Keeling spoke with Morning Edition host & producer Bill Burton for a news segment that aired Thursday, November 14.

#### Libraries Transform Book Pick, October 7

The ALA [announced](#) its first ebook selection of the [Libraries Transform Book Pick](#), a new digital reading program from the American Library Association and Rakuten OverDrive. From October

7-21, 2019, book lovers across the U.S. had free access to an ebook copy of the inventive and riveting saga "[After the Flood](#)" by Kassandra Montag. Readers only needed a library card and the award-winning [Libby app](#) to download and read the ebook. More than 80 news websites posted coverage including [Publishers Weekly](#), [The Idaho State Journal](#), [Readers Entertainment Magazine](#), [Information Today](#). Outreach efforts resulted in achieving a circulation rate of or more than 60 million and a publicity value of more than \$28,000.

#### EBooksForAll Campaign (Ongoing)

ALA EbooksForAll efforts are still making headlines as libraries across the country continue to post op-eds and announce boycotts against Macmillan Publishers. CMO's monitoring vendor Cision captured a snapshot of more than 600 clips within this reporting period. Coverage circulation totals are more than 480 million and translate into more than \$730,000 in publicity value. Headline highlights include – "[Duluth leaders protest publisher's move to limit library access to new e-books](#)," Star Tribune; "[Delta wants libraries to have 'equitable' access to e-books](#)," Delta Optimist; "[Libraries wrestle with e-book demand, publishers](#)" Court and Commercial Record; and "[CCPL BOYCOTTS MACMILLAN PUBLISHING IN RESPONSE TO E-BOOK EMBARGO](#)," *Holy City Sinner*.

#### Future Publicity Efforts

CMO is currently working on publicity efforts to support the following initiatives:

- ALA Midwinter, January 24 – 28, 2020
  - I Love My Librarian Award event
  - BAM Awards, January 26
  - ALA Youth Media Awards, January 27

### **Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS)**

#### **ODLOS at the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Conference**

The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) conference was held in Omaha, Nebraska from October 22-25, 2019. The conference drew over 200 attendees with sessions on bookmobile repairs, outreach connections, and EDI. Amber Hayes, ODLOS Program Officer, presented on the Office for Diversity Literacy and Outreach Services and National Bookmobile Day.

#### **EDI Elements Webinar Series**



ODLOS launched the “EDI Elements” series of three webinars that provide a foundational framework for equity, diversity, and inclusion, with the topics “Cultural Competence,” “Implicit Bias,” and “Microaggressions.” One webinar each month, September through November, was facilitated for Fairfax County Public Library in Fairfax, Virginia.

### **Staff In-Service Workshop at Waukegan Library**

On November 1, Kristin Lahurd and Briana Jarnagin facilitated a workshop on Implicit Bias for the staff in-service day at Waukegan Public Library in Waukegan, Illinois.

### **Presentations at the New York Library Association**

On November 13, Kristin Lahurd, Briana Jarnagin, and Mariel Colbert (CRO) facilitated a full-day preconference at the New York Library Association conference. They led the EDIcon workshop in the morning and built on the workshop concepts in the afternoon through a framework for creating an EDI action plan that participants can implement at their libraries. On November 14, Kristin and Briana co-presented the keynote lunch program on “Uncovering Privilege & Addressing Microaggressions,” hosted by the Empire State Library Network.

**For details on the continuing education offerings from ODLOS:**

<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/diversity/continuinged/workshops>

### **Coretta Scott King Book Awards Book Donation Grant**

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards Donation Grant was created to help build collections and bring books into the lives of children in preschool programs, faith-based reading projects, homeless shelters, charter schools, underfunded libraries, and other community organizations. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee believes children’s lives must be saturated with books and reading opportunities. An enduring message of the Committee’s Public Awareness Campaign is that books and reading can only add value to children’s lives if books are present with opportunities to read. The Book Donation Grant addresses these objectives. Applicants must submit their applications by January 31. More information can be found on the website: <http://www.ala.org/rt/emiert/cskbookawards/bookgrant>.

### **How to Talk about Race Webinar**

On October 29, ODLOS hosted a webinar by two library workers from Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. Amrita Patel and Denise LaForce spoke on how to facilitate constructive conversations surrounding race. The purpose of this webinar was to walk away with applicable tools to utilize in book discussions and community conversations, learn how to establish ground rules for a group discussion, understand an identity wheel and its purpose, and develop strategies for disruptive participants. A recording of this webinar can be found here: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/diversity/odlos-webinar-archives>

### **Reimagining the Public: Library Services to People in Jails and Prisons Webinar**

Dr. Jeanie Austin and Dr. Melissa Villa Nicholas presented a webinar on how to extend library services to incarcerated patrons. This webinar included data on incarcerated populations as well as practical tools library workers could bring back to their library. View the recording here: <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/diversity/odlos-webinar-archives>

### **Spectrum Informational Webinar**

On December 5, ODLOS hosted an informational webinar for current/prospective Spectrum Scholarship Program applicants featuring an overview of the program, application process, and alumni panel. More than 50 individuals signed up to attend, and the recording was made available to all registered individuals and linked on the Spectrum website. View the recording here: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/spectrum/apply>

### **Spectrum Virtual Activities**

On October 30, ODLOS, the Spectrum Advisory Committee (SAC), and the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) Professional Development – Education Subcommittee co-hosted a "[Recruitment, Retention, and Experiences of Art Library Professionals](#)" webinar focusing on people of color in the art librarianship world. On November 21, SAC hosted a [Spectrum Twitter chat on Advice for New Library Folx](#) that drew participation from alumni, current Scholars, and prospective Scholars.

### **2020 Midwinter EDI Sessions**

The Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS) has provided guidance for conference attendees who may be interested in sessions targeting equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). The sessions are grouped by session type with definitions to guide attendees through the selections. Please note that while this information was curated by ODLOS specifically, there may be some flexibility in each session's categorization and/or level of understanding. The link below can help you find relevant sessions based on the type of event you wish to attend. Midwinter attendees will also find information on diversely owned businesses and indigenous peoples of Philadelphia. <https://2020.alamidwinter.org/whats-happening/equity-diversity-and-inclusion>

### **2020-2021 Diversity Research Grant**

The American Library Association (ALA) Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS) seeks proposals for the [Diversity Research Grant program](#). Applications may address any diversity-related topic which addresses critical gaps in the knowledge of diversity, equity and outreach issues within library and information science. Proposals are due by midnight, Pacific time, on April 15, 2020.



**Upcoming Events: National Day of Racial Healing**

The American Library Association (ALA) is joining forces with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's (WKKF) Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) enterprise to engage our member community in racial healing as an opportunity to broaden and deepen our personal and joint commitment to social justice in equity, diversity, and inclusion. The National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH) is an opportunity for people, organizations and communities across the United States to call for racial healing, bring people together in their common humanity and take collective action to create a more just and equitable world. Get involved here:

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/diversity/libraries-respond/dayofhealing>

**Upcoming Events: Midwinter Programming**

*Coretta Scott King Book Awards: General Community Meeting*, Saturday, January 25  
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 117. The Executive Board will present updates, special events, and announcements to the community followed by a meet and greet.

*Libraries in Gaza: Between Despair and Hope*, Saturday, January 25, 1 – 2 p.m.,  
Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 113-C.

*Diversity Research Update*, Saturday, January 25, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 122-B. Join us for an update on projects recently funded through ALA's Diversity Research Grant program. This session will also offer tips and advice for undertaking research on issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion within library and information science as well as resources for applying for funding.

*Rainbow Round Table 101 (Rainbow RT)*, Saturday, January 25, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m., Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 103-B. Do you want to learn more about the Rainbow Round Table (RRT), formerly the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table? If so, this information session is perfect for you! Join RRT veterans, executive board members, and committee members to talk about ways to get more involved with the RRT and LGBTQ+ issues in your library and community.

*Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table 101 (EMIERT)*, Saturday, January 25, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m., Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 113-B. Do you want to promote library services that are radically inclusive for ALL? Join EMIERT's executive board and committee members in a dynamic discussion to talk about innovative ways to get more involved with EMIERT and how to support multicultural library services and outreach in your community.

*Spectrum Scholar Social*, Saturday, January 25, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., Khyber Pass Pub. Join the Spectrum Scholar community for a relaxed social at Khyber Pass Pub (56 S 2nd St, Philadelphia, PA 19106). Guests welcome, pay your own way.

*Introducing the Services for Refugees, Immigrants, and Displaced Persons Committee*

Sunday, January 26, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m., Pennsylvania Convention Center, Room 122-A. The Services for Refugees, Immigrants, and Displaced Persons (SRIDP) Sub-Committee of the ODLOS Advisory Committee supports and promotes ALA, libraries, and communities to ensure that libraries provide the best possible services to support refugees, immigrants, and displaced persons. Join us as we introduce who we are and the work we are doing. Share ideas about how we can improve services for refugees, immigrants, and displaced persons.

*Social and Stonewall Adult Book Award Winners Announcements (Rainbow RT)*, Sunday, January 26, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Everyone is welcome at the Rainbow Round Table's ever popular social! Join us for drinks, food, laughs—and the announcement of our Adult Stonewall Book Award winners! Location: Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 18 S. 7th Street (7th Street between Market and Chestnut), Philadelphia, PA.

*21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration*, Monday, January 27, 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m., Pennsylvania Convention Center, Terrace II Ballroom. The 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration commemorates Dr. King's legacy and recognizes the connection between his life's work and the library world. The event will feature selected passages from the works of Dr. King, a keynote address by Dr. Imani Perry, Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies and faculty associate in the Program in Law and Public Affairs and Gender and Sexuality Studies at Princeton University and author of "Breathe: A Letter to My Sons" (Beacon Press, 2019), and a call-to-action delivered by ALA Immediate Past-President, Loida Garcia-Febo.

## **Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)**

### Activities

- AASL National Conference's Open House: OIF Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone and OIF Program Officer Ellie Diaz attended the AASL National Conference's Open House to share how OIF can support library workers when facing censorship challenges or access issues. At the booth, school librarians shared censorship stories and what additional resources they would like with OIF staff.
- Johnson County Public Library: Caldwell-Stone also presented an in-service training session for the Johnson County Public Library in Indiana on November 1, where she spoke on strategies for tackling ethical dilemmas for the library's staff that included managing difficult patrons, harassment, and balancing conflict between intellectual freedom and social justice.
- Center for Democracy and Technology's Future of Free Speech Online: Caldwell-Stone represented ALA at the Center for Democracy and Technology's Future of Free Speech Online, a day-long symposium in November that discussed the challenges, threats, and

opportunities related to online content moderation at scale for social media and other online venues.

- “*CIPA and Filtering*,”: Caldwell-Stone joined ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Fellow Bob Bocher, former IFC Privacy Subcommittee Chair Michael Robinson, and Past IFC Chair Doug Archer to present an online webinar, “*CIPA and Filtering*,” sponsored by the Missouri State Library. The panelists addressed the E-rate program, the Children’s Internet Protection Act, ALA core values, and various cybersecurity and censorship threats posed by filtering software.
- Illinois Library Association: OIF Assistant Director Kristin Pekoll hosted a poster session at the Illinois Library Association Conference to converse informally about censorship statistics, current trends, and OIF resources and services and participated on a panel on social media and workplace speech.
- New Jersey Association of School Librarians: Pekoll also attended the New Jersey Association of School Librarians, where she spoke about the importance of selection and resource reconsideration policies, defending students’ right to read, and censorship beyond books.

#### “Share Your Censorship Story” Outreach Project

The Office for Intellectual Freedom has initiated a “Share Your Censorship Story” outreach project, comprised of a website and blog post that offered librarians and supporters social media sample posts, graphics, and slides. This project encourages library workers to report 2019 censorship incidents and challenges to library materials or services to OIF. This information helps the office track censorship trends, craft guidelines and best practices, create the Top 10 Most Challenged Books list, and support librarians who face censorship attempts.

#### Letter Expressing Concerns About a Challenge to the Upshur County Public Library

The Office for Intellectual Freedom joined with the West Virginia Library Association and the National Coalition Against Censorship to send a letter expressing their concerns about a challenge demanding that the Upshur County Public Library remove or restrict the children’s picture book *Prince and Knight*. The person challenging the book, a local pastor, claimed that the book by David Haack “is a deliberate attempt to indoctrinate young children, especially boys, into the LGBTQA lifestyle.” The book remains under review by the Upshur County Public Library Board.

#### “First Amendment Audits”

After the Office for Intellectual Freedom received several inquiries, anecdotes, and expressions of concern about “First Amendment Audits” taking place in libraries around the country, OIF Director Caldwell-Stone published an article that provided information about legal precedents and offered guidance on addressing filming in the library. *American Libraries* subsequently published a follow up article that quoted Caldwell-Stone and drew on librarians’ first-hand

experiences with these incidents. (OIF encourages library workers to report any “First Amendment Audits” or similar occurrences to OIF.)

#### OIF Intellectual Freedom Blog Welcomes New Blog Authors

The OIF Intellectual Freedom Blog welcomes new blog authors Shu Wan, Bel Outwater, Samantha Mairson, Jacqui Higgins-Dailey, Sarah Hartman-Caverly, and Holly Eberle to the team of writers contributing to the blog.

#### The Office for Intellectual Freedom at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia

- Intellectual Freedom Roundtable: Representatives from the Intellectual Freedom Roundtable will be in the ALA Lounge at 10 a.m. on Friday and Sunday to answer questions and explain the benefits of joining the round table as part of the “Meet Your ALA” initiative.
- News You Can Use Session: In partnership with the Center for the Future of Libraries, the Office for Intellectual Freedom will be sponsoring a timely News You Can Use session, “Intellectual Freedom and the Law: Social Media, First Amendment Audits, and the Library as a Public Forum” on Saturday, January 25. The program session features Freedom to Read Foundation General Counsel Theresa Chmara discussing case law and legal principles associated with libraries as a public forum, First Amendment Audits and filming in libraries, and moderating public library social media pages.
- Privacy Field Guides: Midwinter attendees will be invited to share their feedback on Privacy Field Guides in the Exhibit Hall at Booth #1825. The Privacy Field Guides are the product of an IMLS funded grant project led by Data & Society Fellow Bonnie Tijerina and IFC Privacy Subcommittee Chair Erin Berman and co-sponsored by the Office for Intellectual Freedom. The project aims to provide library staff and other library community members with real, actionable tools that inform them about the relevant privacy issues and walk them through privacy related situations. Attendees will participate in a conversation about what resources staff need to protect user privacy, and asked to provide ideas for the continued improvement of the prototype field guides.
- Discussion on LGBTQIA+ Visibility, Representation, and Censorship: Sunday, January 26. OIF Assistant Director Kristin Pekoll will host a discussion on LGBTQIA+ visibility, representation, and censorship with authors Eric Bell, Kacen Callender, I.W. Gregorio, Alex London, and Alexandra Villasante on the PopTop Stage in the Exhibit Hall. The session will center on the authors’ personal experiences with soft censorship. The panel will also discuss how best to protect intellectual freedom and provide access to authentic LGBTQIA+ characters and stories.
- Intellectual Freedom Meetings: In addition, the Office for Intellectual Freedom will staff and support intellectual freedom meetings throughout the Midwinter Meeting, including the Freedom to Read Foundation, Committee on Professional Ethics, Intellectual

Freedom Committee and its Privacy Subcommittee, and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table.

## Public Policy and Advocacy Office (PPAO)

### ALA Members Celebrate FY 2020 Appropriations Win

Following a year of intense engagement by ALA members, Congress approved and the president signed a spending bill containing the largest increase in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding in 12 years. All library-related programs had been targeted for elimination in the President's FY 2020 budget request. Congress appropriated \$252 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)—a \$10 million increase—which includes a \$6.2 million increase dedicated to LSTA. Level funding in the current fiscal environment is considered a win; increased funding is a major accomplishment. As advocates continue to demonstrate the impact libraries have on communities, ALA is in a strong position to start the FY2021 budget cycle.

### ALA Endorses Crosby Kemper as IMLS Director Nominee

On November 13, ALA [endorsed the nomination](#) of Crosby Kemper III to be the next director of IMLS. Kemper, a member of both ALA and the Public Library Association, has served as executive director of Kansas City Public Library since 2005. The IMLS Director is an executive appointment of four years, with each leadership term rotating from library to museum professional. Kemper's nomination was approved by members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and at the time of this writing, is awaiting consideration by the full Senate. On January 9, the U.S. Senate confirmed Crosby Kemper III to be the next director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

### ALA Provides Resources to Support Library Preparations for the 2020 Census

ALA secured funding and awarded more than \$100,000 to 59 libraries nationwide to support their Census activities. On November 4, ALA began [inviting applications for \\$2,000 mini-grants](#) from the Library Census Equity Fund. More than 500 libraries of all types submitted applications. A selection committee established by ALA's 2020 Census Library Outreach and Education Task Force chose the 59 libraries that will receive mini-grants to help achieve a complete count in their communities. The [recipients were announced](#) on December 19. As the self-response period for the 2020 Census will begin after March 12, 2020, ALA continues to provide additional resources to help libraries prepare for the upcoming 2020 Census, including webinars, tip sheets, podcasts and more. All resources are available at [ala.org/census](http://ala.org/census). ALA will continue to release additional informational resources for libraries in the first quarter of 2020 and offer educational programs at the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting and 2020 PLA Conference.

### FCC Releases Anticipated Category 2 Order for E-rate

In December the FCC [released](#) the long-awaited Category 2 Order which determines the rules for how libraries and schools will apply for funding for WiFi and associated costs starting in 2021 and into the foreseeable future. PPA submitted numerous comments throughout the proceeding, and the Order includes several ALA recommendations, available in a [summary](#) of the Order to assist applicants with navigating the rule changes. The E-rate Task Force will be discussing additional outreach and education opportunities during its Midwinter business meeting. ALA recommended Amber Gregory, Manager of E-rate Services for the Arkansas State Library and Chair of ALA's E-rate Task Force, to replace ALA member leader Bob Bocher as the library representative on the Board of Directors of Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the agency that administers the E-rate program and other Universal Service Fund programs for the FCC. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai formally appointed Ms. Gregory in December.

#### #eBooksForAll Campaign Continues Fierce Push for Library Lending Rights

The ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office continues to lead and coordinate policy and strategic advocacy communications related to Macmillan Publishers' embargo of library eBooks, as well as broader issues related to access to digital content in libraries of all kinds. The last three months have included a number of activities, some of which include direct negotiations with publishers; a report to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law; hand [delivery](#) of more than 230,000 signatures opposing the company's embargo to Macmillan CEO John Sargent; and a campaign update webinar with ALA President Wanda Brown and PLA President Ramiro Salazar, provided in partnership with PLA.

#### ALA Policy Corps Advisory Group Established; Third Cohort Recruited

Members of the first and second cohort were assembled for their first formal training together, October 22, with a focus on copyright policy and eBook advocacy. The ALA Committee on Legislation Chair approved the creation of an ongoing ALA Policy Corps Advisory Group to replace the previous [member working group](#), which includes representation from academic, K-12 school, and public library communities, as well as Friends and foundations. The review and selection process to determine the members of the third cohort is underway, with the group to begin meeting and working in the spring. All three cohorts will be able to meet virtually at least quarterly, in addition to individual and team projects and trainings.

#### ALA Launches Voter Engagement Guide

As part of its focus on nonpartisan voter engagement in the upcoming year, PPA has scheduled programs at Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference, worked with other ALA units on partnerships with national organizations, and published a [voter engagement guide](#).

#### ALA Launches Registration for National Library Legislative Day 2020

On December 18, 2019, [ALA launched registration](#) for the 45th annual National Library Legislative Day (NLLD). The event will be held on May 4-5, 2020, at the Georgetown



Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Improvements to the event include: a new venue providing allotted breakout spaces for state delegation meetings and a more affordable room rate; an improved [registration platform](#) to enhance the registration experience both internally and externally; and closer consultation with state coordinators throughout the congressional scheduling process, which will help to streamline meeting-related planning and coordination.

## **Public Programs Office (PPO)**

### ALA Invites Library Workers to Apply for New Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant

PPO is now accepting applications for a new annual grant to support innovative and meaningful community engagement efforts in libraries. The [Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant](#) will provide \$2,000 for a school, public, academic, tribal or special library to expand its community engagement efforts. Libraries are invited to apply by designing and outlining activities for a library-led community engagement project. Project activities to be covered by the grant may include developing community engagement programs and services; partnering with a community agency that builds the capacity of the community to address an important concern/issue; or creating a program or event that connects the library to a community-identified aspiration or concern. Applications will be accepted until February 3, 2020. View the full award guidelines and apply online at [www.ala.org/LTCEG](http://www.ala.org/LTCEG). The award was made possible by a matching grant from former ALA president Nancy Kranich.

### PPO Offers Free Facilitation Skills Training for Small and Rural Library Workers

With funding from IMLS, PPO has launched a new community engagement initiative. [Libraries Transforming Communities: Facilitation Skills for Small and Rural Libraries](#) will help library workers from small and rural communities develop facilitation skills to engage with their communities. Participants will complete a five-part online course, participate in virtual coaching sessions, and attend an in-person workshop at the 2020 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago — free of charge and with travel funding provided — specially designed to address the community engagement needs of small and rural libraries. Twenty-five library workers will be selected. [Learn more and apply online](#). Applications are due by January 20, 2020.

### PPO and ALA Editions Publish “Rainy Day Ready: Financial Literacy Programs and Tools”

Drawing from the expertise of business librarians and ALA’s Public Programs Office, [“Rainy Day Ready: Financial Literacy Programs and Tools,”](#) published by ALA Editions, is a ready-to-use guide for offering financial literacy initiatives at your library. Co-edited by Melanie Welch and Patrick Hogan, the book shares resources for free outreach materials and training; approaches to Money Smart Week from institutions such as public libraries, a tribal library, and community colleges; tips for developing partnerships with members of the local business community; and more. “Rainy Day Ready” is now available online in the [ALA Store](#).

## ALA DIVISIONS

### **American Association of School Librarians (AASL)**

#### AASL Membership Adopts New Bylaws for the Association

Through a special election, AASL membership voted to adopt new bylaws for the association. The adoption allows the association to move forward with structural changes to its leadership. The AASL Bylaws can be viewed on the AASL website at [www.ala.org/aasl/bylaws](http://www.ala.org/aasl/bylaws).

#### AASL National School Library Standards Guide National Conference Learning

The 2019 AASL National Conference has come to a close, with more than 2,500 registered attendees empowered with educational resources to strengthen, diversify, and transform teaching and learning in schools across the country. The event brought together school librarians, administrators, authors and exhibitors at the only national conference dedicated solely to the needs of school librarians. AASL's *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries* influenced all conference programming.

#### School Librarian Preparation Standards Approved by CAEP

At its August 2019 meeting, the Specialized Professional Associations Standards committee of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) approved the "ALA/AASL/CAEP School Librarian Preparation Standards" prepared and presented by AASL. [bit.ly/35KNudB](http://bit.ly/35KNudB)

#### AASL Standards Now Crosswalked to Next Generation Science Standards & Google's CS First Curriculum

As part of its continued commitment to provide school library professionals the materials and resources needed to implement its *National School Library Standards*, AASL has released crosswalks aligning the AASL Standards to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the Code with Google's CS First Curriculum. The crosswalks and accompanying documents are downloadable and printable PDFs are available on the AASL Standards Portal at [standards.aasl.org](http://standards.aasl.org)

#### AASL Publishes OER Toolkit

AASL has released a new toolkit to help position school librarians in efforts to create and curate open educational resources (OER) that will extend their role as leaders within their schools. The OER Toolkit is freely available for download at [www.ala.org/aasl/toolkits](http://www.ala.org/aasl/toolkits).

#### New School Library Research Explores the Definition of a High-Quality School Librarian

New research published in AASL's peer-reviewed online journal, *School Library Research* (SLR), examines the question, "how do we define a high-quality school librarian?" "The Preparation and Certification of School Librarians: Using Causal Educational Research about Teacher Characteristics to Probe Facets of Effectiveness" was written by Sue Kimmel, Marcia Mardis, Shana Pribesh, Laura Pasquini, Barbara Schultz-Jones, Faye Jones, Lois Wine, and Lenese Colson and can be accessed for free at [www.ala.org/aasl/slr](http://www.ala.org/aasl/slr).

#### Nick Weingardt and Jamie Becker Selected as 2020 AASL Emerging Leaders

Nick Weingardt and Jamie Becker have been selected participants, sponsored by AASL, in the ALA 2020 Emerging Leaders program. The Emerging Leaders program enables newer library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity. Weingardt and Becker will join 48 of their peers as the program kicks off at the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

#### Delving into AASL's Shared Foundation of Collaborate

Published by AASL and ALA Editions, Mary Catherine Coleman's book "Collaborate" examines effective implementation of the Shared Foundation from the *National School Library Standards*. In this book, readers discover strategies for establishing deeper connections to school curriculum and mission, activating collaborative opportunities, facilitating learning networks, modeling respect while working in diverse groups, and moving beyond support and resources to instructional partners. [bit.ly/AASLcollaborate](http://bit.ly/AASLcollaborate)

#### A Deep Dive into AASL's Shared Foundation of Inquire

Published by AASL and ALA Editions, Lori E. Donovan's book "Inquire" explores how inquiry process models and questioning protocols can be used and modified to develop curious and reflective lifelong learners and problem solvers while simultaneously fostering a school-wide inquiry culture. [bit.ly/AASLinquire](http://bit.ly/AASLinquire)

#### AASL's Guide to Content-Area Collaborations for Secondary Grades

Using the AASL Standards Framework for Learners, "Content-Area Collaborations for Secondary Grades," published by AASL and ALA Editions, demonstrates ways to use the Shared Foundations and Domains in your instructional design while collaboratively planning personalized learning experiences with content-area educators. [bit.ly/AASLcontent](http://bit.ly/AASLcontent)

## **Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)**

### ACRL 2021 Call for Participation Now Available

ACRL invites proposal submissions for the ACRL 2021 Conference, “Ascending into an Open Future,” to be held April 14-17, 2021, in Seattle, Washington. Today’s higher education environment calls for innovative ways to support student, faculty, and institution success. Through the efforts of talented library workers, today’s academic and research libraries are providing more open and inclusive collections and services. ACRL 2021 offers a variety of options for participation and features nine session formats to suit a wide range of presentation and learning styles to share your research and creative endeavors with your colleagues. Contributed paper, panel session, preconference, and workshop proposals are due May 8, 2020. Lightning talk, digital poster session, roundtable discussion, TechConnect, and virtual conference webcast proposals are due October 9, 2020. Complete details are on the [ACRL 2021 website](#).

### Value of Academic Libraries Travel Scholarships Awarded

ACRL is pleased to announce recipients of its fourth round of Value of Academic Libraries Travel Scholarships in 2019-20. These scholarships of up to \$2,000 each support librarians presenting on their work demonstrating the impact of academic libraries in the broader landscape of higher education. The program was expanded for this round of applications so that proposed presentations could be related to any of ACRL’s four strategic goal areas or the Core Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, as articulated in the ACRL Plan for Excellence. The selection committee chose four proposals in this competitive round of applications. They are Elizabeth Cheney (California State University-Northridge), Erin Durham (University of Maryland Baltimore County), Samantha Kennedy (Rowan University), and Pamela Mann (St. Mary’s College of Maryland). Complete details on projects are available on [ACRL Insider](#).

### 2019 Scholarly Communications Research Grant Recipients Announced

ACRL announced the recipients of its latest Scholarly Communications Research Grants in December 2019. These grants of up to \$5,000 each support new research that will contribute to more inclusive systems of scholarly communications in areas suggested by the 2019 report *Open and Equitable Scholarly Communications: Creating a More Inclusive Future* (available for download or purchase). The selection committee from ACRL’s Research and Scholarly Environment Committee chose seven proposals from a highly competitive round of applications. ACRL is happy to support this new research and looks forward to working with these researchers as their projects develop. Complete details on recipients and projects are available on [ACRL Insider](#).

### 2020 ACRL Scholarly Communication RoadShow Hosts Announced

The ACRL Research and Scholarly Environment Committee has selected five sites to host the “Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement” RoadShow workshop at a

subsidized rate in 2020. Recognizing that scholarly communication issues are central to the work of all academic librarians and all types of institutions, ACRL is underwriting the bulk of the costs of bringing this proven content to sites across the country. The institutions selected to host the 2020 RoadShows are California State University-Sacramento (Sacramento, CA), Central Washington University (Ellensburg, WA), St Cloud State University (St Cloud, MN), the University of Iowa (Iowa City, IA), and the University of Memphis (Memphis, TN). Host sites are partnering with other institutions and organizations in their area to extend the reach to as diverse an audience as possible. Library staff, including liaison librarians, catalogers, access services and senior management from two-year, liberal arts, master's, comprehensive, and doctoral institutions will attend the workshops. More information is on [ACRL Insider](#).

#### ACRL Sponsors 2020 ALA Emerging Leaders

ACRL and its sections are sponsoring nine members to participate in the 2020 class of ALA Emerging Leaders. The program is designed to enable library staff and information workers to participate in project planning work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers. Since 2008, ACRL has supported 63 Emerging Leaders and helped defray the cost of attending the ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference. A list of sponsored 2020 Emerging Leaders is available on [ACRL Insider](#).

#### The 360 Librarian: A Framework for Integrating Mindfulness, Emotional Intelligence, and Critical Reflection in the Workplace

ACRL has released [\*The 360 Librarian: A Framework for Integrating Mindfulness, Emotional Intelligence, and Critical Reflection in the Workplace\*](#) by Tammi M. Owens and Carol A. Daul-Elhindi, outlining a five-step framework that can help you apply calm awareness, contemplativeness, and engaged communication to your work. Whether you are just beginning your career or are a seasoned professional, navigating the academic library workplace comes with inherent challenges. You have to understand the official and unofficial mission of the library and the organization of which it is a part, maneuver within the political landscape, mesh with colleagues' personalities and roles, and learn how to do your job well.

#### Supporting Today's Students in the Library

ACRL published [\*Supporting Today's Students in the Library: Strategies for Retaining and Graduating International, Transfer, First-Generation, and Re-Entry Students\*](#), edited by Ngoc-Yen Tran and Silke Higgins in December 2019. This detailed book collects current strategies from all types of academic libraries for retaining and graduating nontraditional students and provides a variety of ideas for new services, spaces, and outreach opportunities. The book explores methods for overcoming language barriers, discusses best practices, and presents case studies that support the changing student population. Additionally, *Supporting Today's Students in the Library* provides a variety of ideas for new services, spaces, and outreach opportunities that support nontraditional students on campus and beyond.

#### The Sustainable Library's Cookbook

[\*The Sustainable Library's Cookbook\*](#), edited by Raymond Pun and Gary L. Shaffer, is among the new titles ACRL released in late 2019. The volume presents a collection of engaging activities for academic libraries interested in implementing sustainability practices. *The Sustainable Library's Cookbook* provides lesson plans, activities, and exercises in three different areas. Many of these recipes include learning outcomes and goals from ACRL's Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, disciplinary focuses, and the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. This cookbook provides librarians with a series of best and effective practices, case studies, and approaches to support sustainability efforts in the library and collaboratively across campus.

#### Building Teaching and Learning Communities: Creating Shared Meaning and Purpose

In late October 2019, ACRL released [\*Building Teaching and Learning Communities: Creating Shared Meaning and Purpose\*](#), edited by Craig Gibson and Sharon Mader. This unique collection asks each of the authors to address this question: What do we as educators need to learn (or unlearn) and experience so we can create teaching and learning communities across disciplines and learning levels based on shared meaning and purpose? The book goes beyond the library profession for inspiration and insights from leading experts in higher education pedagogy and educational development across North America to open a window on the wider world of teaching and learning.

#### Copyright Conversations: Rights Literacy in a Digital World

Finally, ACRL published [\*Copyright Conversations: Rights Literacy in a Digital World\*](#), edited by Sara R. Benson, in early October 2019. The expert copyright librarians in this collection address complex legal issues at the intersection of copyright and information literacy. In four sections—Copyright Librarians' Role and Advocacy, Education, Research and Policy, and International Issues—*Copyright Conversations* provides detailed explanations of the issues and considerations and offers prescriptive tips and advice for teaching and applying the information.

#### Choice Announces 2019 Outstanding Academic Titles

Each December, Choice publishes its Outstanding Academic Titles (OAT) list. This prestigious list reflects the best in scholarly titles reviewed by Choice during the previous calendar year and brings with it the extraordinary recognition of the academic community. This year's complete list features 521 books and digital resources from 132 publishers. As initiated with the 2018 awards, Choice editors will continue to present a popular weekly series of "sneak peeks" into the 2019 OAT list, providing an overview of the year's best academic nonfiction in selected subject areas. While the eagerly awaited Outstanding Academic Titles list in its entirety is only available to Choice magazine and Choice Reviews subscribers, these mini-lists will now be available to non-subscribers as well. Visit the [Choice website](#) each week for a new, themed carve-out of the 2019 OATs—featuring themes such as top 10 titles, subject-specific titles, or timely collections.

#### ACRL Presents – "Open for Students and Educators: Open Educational Resources Level the



### Playing Field”

ACRL held a free ACRL Presents webcast, “Open for Students and Educators: Open Educational Resources Level the Playing Field,” on Tuesday, October 22, as part of Open Access Week. Open educational resources (OER) are not usually a hard sell for students. But what about educators? How do they benefit from having access to resources that are licensed openly? And how can we, as librarians, guide faculty in adopting and adapting OER? This free webcast covered essential OER questions and topics. A recording is available on the ACRL website.

### ACRL Presents – “An Introduction to Academic Librarianship”

ACRL held a free ACRL Presents webcast, “An Introduction to Academic Librarianship,” sponsored by the ACRL Membership Committee, on Wednesday, October 30. This webcast provided an overview of academic librarianship, so you can determine whether its nature appeals to you. A recording is available on the ACRL website.

### ACRL e-Learning

ACRL's e-Learning program offered one live webcast and one online course during this report period. 51 individuals and 8 groups participated in e-learning focusing on signature pedagogies and fair use and academic libraries. Upcoming topics for the ACRL e-Learning program include sustainability and libraries, copyright and course reserves, and information literacy. Full details and registration information are available on the [ACRL website](#).

## **Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS)**

### Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures, a Proposed New Division of ALA

Members and staff of ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA, under the leadership of the Core Steering Committee, have continued extensive planning for a possible new division to replace the current three divisions. At the 2020 Midwinter Meeting, the three division Boards are expected to approve placing on the spring ballot the recommendation that their respective memberships vote to discontinue ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA in order to form a new division, Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures. If approved by all three memberships, COO and Council will be asked at Annual to support the new division and to discontinue the current three divisions.

### Staffing

Tom Ferren joined ALCTS as the new Program Officer for Continuing Education in October. He previously held the position of ALA's Senior Registration Coordinator from 2007-11. His knowledge of ALA, meeting planning skills, and passion for providing excellent customer service make him a valuable addition to ALCTS.

### The Exchange

This spring, ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA will present an interactive, three-day virtual forum designed to bring together experiences, ideas, and expertise. The Exchange will cover diverse areas of librarianship through presentations, panels, and activities designed to be both thought-provoking and highly relevant to current and future career paths. Topics will include the latest research, trends, and developments in collections, leadership, technology, innovation, sustainability, and collaborations. There will also be poster presentations and two keynote speakers. The Exchange Working Group and subcommittees, led by Kristin Martin, ALCTS Past-President, and made up of members from all three divisions, is organizing the forum.

### **Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)**

#### ALSC's Bookapalooza Applications Are Now Open!

ALSC is now accepting applications for the [Bookapalooza program](#). Each year the ALSC office receives almost 3,000 newly published books, videos, audiobooks and recordings from children's trade publishers for award and notable consideration. At the end of the year, after the awards have been given out, ALSC selects three libraries to receive a Bookapalooza collection of these materials (estimated to be worth \$10,000 each) to be used in a way that creatively enhances their library service to children and families. Applications are due February 1, 2020.

#### ALSC Professional Awards

[The Penguin Random House Young Readers Group Award](#) has been awarded to Amalia Butler of Maplewood Memorial Library (New Jersey), Carla Davis of Multnomah County Library (Oregon), and Jennifer Minehardt of New York Public Library. Announcements are forthcoming for the winners of the [Maureen Hayes Author/Illustrator Award](#), the [Baker & Taylor Summer Reading Grant](#), [the ALSC/Candlewick Press "Light the Way!" Grant](#), and the [ALSC Distinguished Service Award](#).

#### Championing Children's Services Toolkit

ALSC's Public Awareness Committee created the [Championing Children's Services Toolkit](#), which encompasses a variety of easy to use advocacy resources to empower Children's staff to engage their communities in building healthy successful futures for children. The suite of materials includes: a toolkit formatted as a series of "Because Statements"; a video describing the value of quality children's librarians, featuring children's author Meg Medina; a shareable infographic of Because Statements; a customizable PowerPoint Template for libraries to present to stakeholders; printable postcards for advocacy use; and an example infographic of how library programming aligns with Early Learning and Development Standards.

#### ALSC Research Agenda

In January 2020 ALSC will release the *Association for Library Service to Children National Research Agenda for Library Service to Children (Ages 0-14)* which outlines a prioritized list of six strategic research areas and potential research questions to be examined in each area. The research agenda draws attention to relevant topics in the field where research is limited and provides a catalyst for research that will inform youth librarianship and support advocacy for the field of library services to youth.

*ALSC White Paper – Engage, Cultivate, Provide, and Assess: An Outreach Model for Serving All Children and Families*

In January 2020, ALSC will release a white paper titled, *Engage, Cultivate, Provide, and Assess: An Outreach Model for Serving All Children and Families*. The white paper outlines a research-based model of outreach development for libraries to connect services with children and families, particularly those in underserved communities. The model was based on research that examined how libraries are going outside of their walls and into the community to reach and serve children and families in underserved communities who are not currently using the library.

ALSC Bill Morris Seminar

ALSC is hosting its biennial invitational [Bill Morris Seminar: Book Evaluation Training](#) prior to the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia. The seminar brings ALSC members with limited evaluation experience together with those who have served on ALSC's media evaluation committees in an environment to train and mentor in the group process and in children's media evaluation techniques. Participants learn book evaluation skills as well as how to conduct and participate in effective group discussions. The seminar results in new and emerging leaders for future ALSC evaluation committees.

ALSC National Institute

The [2020 ALSC National Institute](#), will take place October 1-3, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. Registration opened the first week of October for the 2020 Institute, *Dive In: Engage, Amplify, Activate*. General program selections have been finalized. The 2020 Institute, once again, will include two off-site networking receptions, the locations of which are being finalized.

Winter Online Education Courses

ALSC is pleased to announce its winter course offering: [Full STREAM Ahead: How to take Science, Technology, Engineering and Math \(STEM\) to the Next Level with Maker Kits](#). The course began January 6 and runs for six weeks.

Upcoming ALSC Webinars

ALSC will be hosting an upcoming live webinar titled, *Basic Storytime Development*, on February 6. This webinar will be led by Sarah Wethern from the Douglas County Library in Alexandria, Minnesota.

### Continuing Education Proposals

The ALSC Education Committee is always considering new courses and webinars to add to ALSC's growing online education offerings. Members interested in teaching need to fill out an [online application](#) and provide a copy of their resume, teaching references, and a course syllabus (not needed for webinars). The Education Committee will be selecting proposals on a rolling basis to allow for courses to be added multiple times throughout the year.

### Charlemae Rollins President's Program

The 2020 Charlemae Rollins President's Program will be: *Telling Our Authentic Story: Connecting, Sharing and Bridging Divides Through Children's Literature*. The program will ask what is it about authentic stories, drawn from experience, culture, fears, and joys that draws us in and touches our hearts? The ALSC President, members and guests in the 2020 ALSC Charlemae Rollins President's program will explore the ways stories help young people preserve and learn from the past. Through storytelling, we share our traditions, folkways, language, hopes and fears for the future. The program includes a moderated discussion with three noted children's authors/illustrators who will explore how stories help children prepare, celebrate and connect with our diverse world.

## **Association of Specialized, Government, and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA)**

Since October, ASGCLA continued work for the Deaf Culture Forum and the Working Group on eBooks and Digital Content Pricing for Libraries. The division also developed activities to increase funding for the division and to support ASGCLA member groups.

### Deaf Culture Forum

A tentative agenda and prospective speakers were identified. After many emails and referrals, a roster of twenty-one speakers is in place. The forty-five registrants (speakers and other participants) represent the library community serving the deaf and individuals and organizations from the deaf community. With former ALA President, Molly Raphael as moderator, the Deaf Culture Forum is being held at Midwinter on Friday January 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Joint Working Group on eBooks and Digital Content Pricing in Libraries

The first meeting of the Working Group was held via Zoom on February 12 with twenty-nine attendees. The group discussed options for topics to most effectively focus on the group's charge while avoiding being a forum for discussions of boycott. The Working Group will meet at Midwinter on Sunday January 26 from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

### Fundraising

- An ASGCLA fundraising trip to Scotland and Northern England is planned for spring 2020. The trip will include locations connected to significant authors (<https://www.asgcladirect.org/travel/>). This year, more promotion has been initiated, including a press release, INFORMZ mailings, and paid advertisements in the December 10 issue of *American Libraries Online* and the January/February issue of *American Libraries*. Social media messages are planned January – March. It is early yet, but, hopefully, the wide range of promotion will encourage reservations.
- ASGCLA, for the first time, is developing an organized approach for seeking sponsorships for events and projects. Based on a RUSA Sponsorship Package document, we presented the concept of ASGCLA sponsorships to the Board of Directors at the December meeting. A revised Sponsorship Package will be reviewed by the Board at Midwinter.

### Select Activities to Improve Member Engagement:

- In response to the request for preconference proposals for Annual Conference 2020, two half day preconferences are scheduled for Chicago.
- When questions about prison libraries, disabilities, accessibility, and homelessness were forwarded to ASGCLA, staff called on the expertise of members from various Interest Groups to provide resources and responses.
- The renaming approved in the 2018 bylaws revision was completed in time for the 2020 election ballot. ASGCLA Designated Directors for Special Populations was changed to Designated Directors for Underserved Populations,
- The Federal Libraries Interest Group and Armed Forces Libraries Interest Group are proposing the merger into one Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Interest Group, similar to the structure in the former FAFLRT.
- The Membership Committee drafted a 2020 Membership Survey for approval by the Board of Directors at Midwinter

## **Library and Information Technology Association (LITA)**

### Kelsey Flynn Named a 2020 LITA Emerging Leader

[Kelsey Flynn](#) works in the Adult Services departments at two public libraries in the southwest suburbs of Chicago: the White Oak Library District and the Joliet Library. She is also attending

San Jose State University online for her Masters in Library & Information Science. Flynn shared that, "A couple of years ago I became interested in library technology that can help patrons with visual disabilities. My hope is that one day, every library will be able to provide accommodations to people with print disabilities, specifically in the form of screen readers."

#### Paige Walker Named a 2020 LITA Emerging Leader

[Paige Walker](#) works as the Digital Collections & Preservation Librarian at Boston College, where she is chair of the Born-Digital Archives Working Group and co-chair of the Privacy Working Group. "I am drawn to working in library technology not only because I like to get my hands dirty with the diverse technical obstacles we face in preserving digital content, but also because I enjoy thinking critically about ethical dilemmas generated by our use of technologies. I am particularly drawn to network and information security as they pertain to digital preservation, as well as our obligation as library workers to protect the privacy of our community."

#### Inventing a Sustainable Division

LITA had a project focused on "Inventing a Sustainable Division" accepted by a team of Emerging Leaders which will build on ALA's recent resolution on sustainability and brainstorm practical and groundbreaking ways for a division to live out this organizational value. The team will research the implications of different activities and choices for the division, and benchmark against the practices of other associations inside and outside the library world. They will present the results of their research and make recommendations for new and changed practices. In addition to Kelsey Flynn and Paige Walker, team members include Kristen Cooper, Tonya Ferrell, Laura Mendez, and Tonya Ryals.

#### Information Technology and Libraries

The [December 2019 issue](#) of *Information Technology and Libraries* (ITAL) is now available. Editor Ken Varnum describes the international impact of an open access library technology journal in his [Letter from the Editor](#). The regular features include Emily Morton-Owens' President's Message, "[Joining Together](#)," in which she highlights LITA as a welcoming organization and the hope that this characteristic will continue under Core, the proposed new division that combines LITA, ALCTS, and LLAMA. This issue's "Editorial Board Thoughts" column, by Breanne Kirsch, is "[Virtual Reality: The Next Big Thing for Libraries to Consider](#)." Continuing the emphasis on the rise of virtual reality as an important tool in libraries, the December "Public Libraries Leading the Way" column by Chris Markman, M Ryan Hess, Dan Lou, and Anh Nguyen of the Palo Alto City Library, is about that library's experience with virtual reality in "[VR Hackfest](#)."

#### New LITA Blog Editor

LITA is proud to announce that [Jessica Gilbert Redman is the new editor of the LITA Blog](#). Gilbert Redman is the Online Resources & Services Librarian at the University of North Dakota's School of Medicine and Health Sciences Library. She completed a post-graduate



certificate in user experience and always seeks to ensure that end users can easily find the information they need to complete their research. Watch for calls from her in the next few weeks for regular and guest contributors for the [LITA Blog](#).

### New LITA eLearning Coordinator

LITA is excited to announce that [Kira Litvin is our new LITA eLearning Coordinator](#). Litvin has been the Continuing Education Coordinator at the Colorado School for Public Health for the past six months where she provides distance/online learning library services and instruction and works regularly with other librarians, instructional designers, faculty, and educators to collaborate on instructional delivery projects. Going forward, she will handle all of LITA's scheduling, preparation for, and running of webinars and online courses. LITA is grateful to have her help, which will allow for an increase in the number of elearning sessions offered and the ability to provide a more consistent experience for both presenters and participants. LITA's [call for proposals](#) for the year has just opened, so [submit your proposal](#) today!

## **Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA)**

### Update on Possible New Division (Core)

The members and staff of the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS), the Library Information Technology Association (LITA), and the Library Leadership & Management Association (LLAMA), under the leadership of the [Core Steering Committee](#), have continued extensive planning for a possible new division to replace the current three divisions. At the 2020 Midwinter Meeting, the three division Boards are expected to approve placing on the spring ballot the recommendation that their respective memberships vote to discontinue ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA in order to form a new division, Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures. If approved by all three memberships, COO and Council will be asked at Annual to support the new division and to discontinue the current three divisions.

### Upcoming LLAMA Webinars

- **January 22 -- Message Dissemination During a Crisis: Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library Shooting**
- **March 4 -- Exploring the Use of Succession Planning to Inform Recruitment and Onboarding**
- **March 11 -- New Supervisors: Resolving Past Conflicts**
- **March 18 -- New Supervisors: Teambuilding for the Future**
- **March 25 -- How to Give Effective Feedback**
- **April 1 -- Front Page and Above the Fold: Libraries Facing PR Challenges**
- **April 8 -- Burnout Prevention and Mitigation: The Role of Values, Communication, and Job Crafting**

## Public Library Association (PLA)

### PLA Hosts Third Breakfast for Councilors at ALA Midwinter Meeting

The PLA Board of Directors and most PLA committees have opted not to convene at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia this January. PLA will host a by-invitation-only [Breakfast for ALA Councilors who work in public libraries and/or are PLA members](#). The breakfast will take place 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.; Monday, January 27; in Room Liberty C of the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel. [Click here to see the PLA lineup of activities at Midwinter](#).

### Candidates Announced for 2020 Public Library Association Board Election

The PLA [Nominating Committee](#) has unveiled the slate of candidates for the Association's [2020 Election](#). This year seven nominees will stand for four positions on the [PLA Board of Directors](#): 2021-2022 president, ALA division councilor and two directors-at-large. The candidate elected in each race will serve a three-year term from July 2020 through June 2023. The candidate elected to the office of president will serve one year as president-elect (2020-2021), one year as president (2021-2022) and one year as immediate past-president (2022–2023). Because there are two available seats for directors-at-large, voting PLA members will select two of the four available candidates. [Click here to view the candidates](#).

### Keynote Speakers for PLA 2020 Conference General Sessions

PLA has secured an inspiring and entertaining slate of speakers for the [PLA 2020 Conference](#), taking place February 25-29, 2020, in Nashville, TN. Stacey Abrams, an author, serial entrepreneur, nonprofit CEO, and political leader, will be the featured speaker for the Opening Session on Wednesday, February 26. "Big Ideas," PLA's version of "TED Talks," kicks off each day with speakers sure to challenge and inspire. The Big Ideas Series begins on Thursday, February 27, with Dr. Bettina Love, an award-winning author and associate professor of educational theory and practice at the University of Georgia. Haben Girma, an advocate for people with disabilities and the first Deafblind person to graduate from Harvard Law School, will be the Big Ideas speaker for Friday, February 28. The Big Ideas Series wraps up Saturday, February 29, with award-winning journalist, entrepreneur, and television host Soledad O'Brien. Samantha Bee, a Canadian American comedian, writer, producer, and actress, will perform at the Closing Session on Saturday, February 29. [Learn more](#).

### 15 Awarded 75th-Anniversary Scholarships to Attend PLA 2020 Conference

To celebrate PLA's 75th Anniversary and encourage equity, diversity and inclusion in library leadership, PLA sponsored scholarships for 15 members to attend the [PLA 2020 Conference](#), February 25-29, in Nashville, TN. Separate categories of scholarships were offered for library school students, early-career librarians, and library support staff. Numerous PLA members applied, and recipients were selected by a jury of PLA member-leaders and staff. Each

scholarship recipient will receive a complimentary early-bird registration and a \$500 travel stipend to attend the conference. Scholarships are provided through donations from generous PLA members and supporters. [Click here to see the winners.](#)

## **Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)**

### Book & Media Awards

RUSA will be hosting its annual Book & Media Awards on Sunday, January 26, at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Unveiled at the Book & Media Awards will be the year's best fiction, nonfiction, poetry, audiobook narration and reference materials. The awards that will be featured at the ceremony include; Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction, Notable Books List, Reading List, Listen List: Outstanding Audiobook Narration, Sophie Brody Medal, Dartmouth Medal, and Outstanding Reference Sources

### RUSA Business Research Competencies

The RUSA Board recently approved the RUSA Business Research Competencies. The Business Research Competencies are the result of roughly seven years of work by the RUSA BRASS Business Research Competencies Task Force. The document outlines targeted skills and learning outcomes, provides a standard vocabulary for 10 common business research areas, and may be used in the following ways: outreach to our communities, planning course materials, lessons and learning outcomes, providing input to instructional programs, and assessing knowledge workers' learning. Future groups are welcome to update and revise the Business Research Competencies. Additionally, other groups are welcome to use and adapt the Business Research Competencies for their local context while giving credit to the document.

### Upcoming Educational Offerings

Upcoming contracted educational offerings include

#### 3 courses:

- 1/13/20 "Reference Interview 101",
- 2/3/20 "Successful Outreach and Marketing for any Library" and
- 4/13/20 "Addressing Challenging and Disruptive Patron Behaviors"

#### 4 webinars:

- 3/4/20 "Data in Libraries: Data Basics and The Reference Interview",
- 3/18/20 "Data in Libraries: Open Data",
- 3/25/20 "Data in Libraries: Data Processing and Visualization" and
- 4/15/20 "Data in Libraries: Understanding and Working with APIs".

## **Young Adult Library Services Association**

## (YALSA)

### Program Proposals Sought for YALSA's 2020 Symposium

YALSA is currently seeking [program proposals](#) for its [2020 Young Adult Services Symposium](#). The theme of the [symposium](#) is "Biggest Little Spaces: How Libraries Serve the Expanding Worlds of Teens." It will be held November 6-8, 2020, in Reno, NV. Registration will open in April. Attendees can also apply for a travel stipend to attend the symposium by June 15. Learn more and submit by February 15.

### YALSA 2020 Selected Booklists

The [final selections](#) of YALSA's four selected booklists have been announced.

- [Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults](#)
- [Best Fiction for Young Adults](#)
- [Great Graphic Novels for Teens](#)
- [Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers](#)

[View](#) each list, along with their top ten titles, on the YALSA [website](#). Blog posts about each title can be found on YALSA's blog, [The Hub](#).

### YALSA 2020 Book Awards

Winners of YALSA's [book awards](#) will be announced at the Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia during the Youth Media Awards (YMA) on January 27. Finalists for the [Morris](#) and [Nonfiction](#) Awards were announced in December. A [program](#) honoring the finalists and winners of the Morris and Nonfiction Awards will take place after the YMA's at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown hotel from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Tickets: \$25.

### YALSA 20 in 2020 Campaign

Friends of YALSA will begin its 20 in 2020 Campaign. The campaign is to engage all YALSA members and encourage them to contribute to Friends of YALSA to raise long term funds for [scholarships, grants and stipends](#).

### YALSA Committee of Volunteer Opportunities

YALSA has opened the volunteer form for its strategic committees, advisory boards, and taskforces. Members who are interested in leadership opportunities and passionate about teen services and helping YALSA move YALSA and the field forward are invited to apply by February 1. Learn more about each group [here](#).

### Upcoming YALSA Activities & Events

- **February 13: Engaging Teens in the 2020 Census webinar;**  
[www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar)
- **March 12: Cultivating Voice Through Youth Leadership Programs webinar;**  
[www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar)
- **April 9: Teen Hackathon: Creativity, Collaboration, and Competition webinar;**  
[www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/onlinelearning/webinar)
- **April: 2020 Symposium Registration Opens**
- **April 23: 2020 Teens' Top Ten Nominees Announcement**
- June 15: Symposium Travel Stipend Deadline; [www.ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium/stipend](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/yasymposium/stipend)

## ALA PUBLISHING

### ALA Editions

#### New Books from ALA Editions and ALA Neal-Schuman

New professional development books published include:  
(the following are all ALA Editions)

- [\*Creative Commons for Educators and Librarians\*](#), the first-ever print complement to the CC Certificate program;
- [\*Rainy Day Ready: Financial Literacy Programs and Tools\*](#), edited by Melanie Welch and Patrick Hogan for ALA Public Programs Office, a ready-to-use guide for offering financial literacy initiatives;
- [\*The Library Workplace Idea Book: Proactive Steps for Positive Change\*](#), edited by Heather L. Seibert, Amanda Vinogradov, and Amanda H. McLellan; which draws on contributions from librarians and library workers at a variety of institutions across the country;
- [\*Inspired Thinking: Big Ideas to Enrich Yourself and Your Community\*](#), by Dorothy Stoltz with Morgan Miller, Lisa Picker, Joseph Thompson, and Carrie Willson; which aims is to cultivate inspired thinking in library workers as well as the communities they serve;
- [\*53 Ready-to-Use Kawaii Craft Projects\*](#), edited by Ellyssa Kroski; which gathers creative and crafty librarians to share their most popular Kawaii programs;
- [\*Teaching Banned Books: 32 Guides for Children and Teens, Second Edition\*](#), by Pat R. Scales; which shows that there is a way to teach these books while respecting all views;
- [\*Content-Area Collaborations for Secondary Grades\*](#), by Liz Deskins, the newest volume in the AASL Standards-Based Learning Series;
- [\*Inquire\*](#), by Lori E. Donovan, published in partnership with AASL;
- [\*60 Ready-to-Use Coding Projects\*](#), edited by Ellyssa Kroski;
- [\*Competency-Based Career Planning for Reference and User Services Professionals\*](#), by Jo Bell Whitlatch and Beth S. Woodard;
- [\*Collaborate\*](#), by Mary Catherine Coleman; part of the Shared Foundations series published in collaboration with AASL;

- [Law Librarianship in the Age of AI](#), edited by Ellyssa Kroski; a groundbreaking survey of current practices and future trends;
- [Techniques for Electronic Resource Management: TERMS and the Transition to Open](#), by Jill Emery, Graham Stone, and Peter McCracken; a go-to ERM reference; and
- [50+ Programs for Tweens, Teens, Adults, and Families: 12 Months of Ideas](#), by Amy J. Alessio, Katie LaMantia, and Emily Vinci; a book of ideas easily adaptable for a variety of participants;

(the following are all ALA Neal-Schuman)

- [Neal-Schuman Library Technology Companion: A Basic Guide for Library Staff, Sixth Edition](#), by John J. Burke; a convenient learning resource for students and working professionals alike;
- [Management Basics for Information Professionals, Fourth Edition](#), by G. Edward Evans and Stacey Greenwell; an updated, comprehensive examination of the myriad basic skills effective library managers must exercise throughout their careers;
- [Design Thinking \(Library Futures Series\)](#), by Rachel Ivy Clarke; which encourages readers to recognize how design thinking can empower libraries; and
- [Blockchain \(Library Futures Series\)](#), edited by Sandra Hirsh and Susan Alman; which examines its possible consequences for academic, public, school, and special libraries;

(the following are all Facet Publishing, UK).

- [Information at Work: Information Management in the Workplace](#), edited by Katriina Byström, Jannica Heinström, and Ian Ruthven; a comprehensive account of information in the modern workplace;
- [Putting Library Assessment Data to Work](#), edited by Selena Killick and Frankie Wilson; which shows how to make effective use of existing sources of information for assessment activities with the aim of improving academic library services;
- [Participatory Archives: Theory and Practice](#), edited by Edward Benoit, III and Alexandra Eveleigh; which features a selection of international case studies; and
- [Do Archives Have Value?](#), edited by Michael Moss and David Thomas; exploring value in a range of different cultural and organizational contexts with case studies from a range of countries.

### Targeted Direct Mail Pieces

In October 2019, two targeted direct mail pieces were sent promoting new and noteworthy titles. *Programming Resources for Your Public Library* reached more than 34,000 public librarians, and *New & Noteworthy Resources for School Librarians*, in collaboration with AASL, reached more than 16,000 school librarians.

### The ALA Store at the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting

The ALA Store at the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia will offer a range of new books from ALA Editions | ALA Neal-Schuman and Facet Publishing, UK.

For a full listing of titles including books, online workshops, and eCourses, visit the ALA Store. [www.alastore.ala.org](http://www.alastore.ala.org)



## **ALA Graphics**

### ALA Graphics Spring 2020 Catalog

The ALA Graphics spring 2020 catalog arrived in mailboxes in early January and features Olympic figure skaters Maia and Alex Shibutani, a.k.a. the ShibSibs, on a new celebrity READ® poster. Maia and Alex Shibutani are Auditorium Speakers at the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Philadelphia. Two-time Caldecott Medalist and author Sophie Blackall created a new poster and bookmark inspired by her 2019 Caldecott Medal-winning picture book, *Hello Lighthouse*.

### New Posters and Bookmarks for Black History Month and Women's History Month

The new catalog also debuts new posters and bookmarks for Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March. With input from the Executive Board of the Black Caucus of ALA (BCALA), ALA Graphics was honored to work with Coretta Scott King Medal-winner Ekua Holmes who illustrated the Celebrate Black History Poster and Bookmark. Graphics gathered feedback from the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL), ACRL's Women & Gender Studies Section (WGSS), and SRRT's Feminist Task Force to select Laura Freeman as the illustrator of the Women's History Poster and Bookmark.

### New Gift Shop

In November, ALA Graphics launched an ancillary gift shop at [bit.ly/GraphicsGiftShop](https://shop.spreadshirt.com/ALAGraphics-Gift-Shop) <<https://shop.spreadshirt.com/ALAGraphics-Gift-Shop>>. The new gift shop allows Graphics to offer a wider range of gift items without inventory risk. Graphics is also marketing items in the Gift Shop on behalf of ALA-affiliated partners including the Graphics Novels and Comics Round Table and ALA-APA, and expects to add new products frequently.

## ***American Libraries***

### January/February 2020 Issue

*American Libraries* magazine's January/February issue is the special Midwinter issue, featuring the [2020 Midwinter Preview](#) of can't-miss speakers, awards, and events, and a roundup of the best places to eat and drink in our [Philadelphia dining guide](#). Other stories in this issue: the [2019 year in review](#) of the stories that affected libraries; a look at how states performed on [library referenda](#) last year; how staffers are [preparing for possible US Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity](#) at their libraries; and the [digitization and archiving of personal history items](#), with special care given to marginalized communities that have been overlooked or dismissed. Also covered in this issue are [so-called First Amendment audits](#) at libraries, [Longest Table meals](#) bringing communities together, and an interview with bestselling YA [author Rainbow Rowell](#).

## American Libraries Online and Social Media

Top stories since October 11:

- [OverDrive's New Owners: What It Means](#)
- [Meet the I Love My Librarian Award Winners](#)
- [ALA Announces Sale of Headquarters Buildings](#)

[Americanlibraries.org](#) had 40 original stories since October 11, including coverage of the [ABOS](#) and [AASL](#) conferences and [YALSA](#) Symposium; ALA's [#ebooksforall](#) campaign; E-Rate updates; IMLS funding; and four sponsored posts. The [Washington Post Book Club newsletter](#) linked to our online-only piece about [OverDrive](#) and cited *American Libraries* by name.

Site traffic numbers for October, November, and December were the highest ever for those months. AL passed 80,000 followers on Twitter on December 7, and has slightly under 16,000 Facebook followers.

## AL Direct

Top three *AL Direct* news items:

1. [Holiday gift guide for librarians and book lovers](#) (1,554)
2. [50 fictional librarians, ranked](#) (1,543)
3. [54+ terrible library puns](#) (1,508)

Number of links published in Latest Library Links between October 2 and December 31: 579

## Dewey Decibel Podcast

The *American Libraries Dewey Decibel* podcast released three episodes at the end of 2019. In October, the [Halloween episode](#) looked at unsolved library mysteries, featuring an interview with a librarian who helped identify the victims of the Bear Brook cold-case murders. In November, the podcast looked at [library advocacy at the local level](#). In December, the podcast featured interviews with Hoda Kotb, George Takei, Mo Rocca, and other speakers from the 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting and Annual Conference.

On January 6, Book Riot featured *Dewey Decibel* as one of its "[13 Must-Hear Librarian Podcasts](#)." "If you listen to no other librarian podcasts, listen to this one!" writes Book Riot's Anna Gooding-Call.