

Report to Council and Executive Board

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Just as Spring found the American Library Association adding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic to its operational priorities, along with managing increasing gaps between expenses and revenues exacerbated by the cancellation of Annual Conference and associated income-generating convenings, so does the close of the second quarter find the ALA accepting the responsibility of tangibly moving the field forward in the area of racial equity, social justice, and more specifically respect for Black lives to its ongoing list of concerns. These urgencies have mobilized the entire ALA staff and fostered a level of internal collaboration that bodes well for the organization's exploration of new areas for operational alignment, asset leveraging and revenue-generation. Below are a few highlights of the Association's productivity over the last few months.

ALA Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

As the Corona Virus pandemic has continued, the association worked to provide its members and the larger LIS sector with up to the minute crisis planning and response data and resources. Here is a roundup of just some highlights of association activity since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic:

- **COVID-19 Recovery Initiative:** ALA staff continue to update the [Pandemic Preparedness site](#) with resources related to library policy; professional development and training; federal, state and local government resources; and evidence-informed practices from other fields including industrial hygiene, employment and labor law, and public health. The Pandemic Preparedness page is being transitioned to a COVID-19 Recovery page to support and reflect the needs of members working on reopening their libraries and/or designing new service delivery models. In response to growing interest in how library services will morph and change, the COVID-19 web press kit available at <http://www.ala.org/news/covid-19-press-kit> has helped press members find statements, press releases and examples of how libraries are responding to COVID-19. This has resulted in a number of [stories](#) and [interviews](#) that center the role of libraries in community recovery and resilience.
- **Critical Data Analysis and Research:** As a follow up to PLA's [March 2020 Public Libraries Respond to COVID-19 Survey](#), a new American Library Association (ALA) survey of US libraries, "[Libraries Respond: COVID-19 Survey](#)," documented a shift in services to support students, faculty, and communities during the crisis. While virtually all libraries (99%) report limited access to the physical building, survey respondents shared leaps in the use of digital content, online learning, and virtual programs. More than 3,800 K–12 school, college and university, public, and other libraries from all 50 states responded to the survey May 12–18. Survey responses show that libraries are involved in community crisis response, cautiously planning for reopening facilities, working to meet the educational needs of students and researchers, reporting increased use of digital services, and anticipating future demands. Of respondents involved in community crisis response,

the majority reported new partnerships, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), addressing food insecurity, and sharing accurate community information and resources. Virtually all libraries have expanded virtual and phone services during the crisis, continuing a trend of library activities beyond physical walls. The survey finds that most libraries have limited access to their buildings while they work to establish health and safety protocols for staff, social distancing requirements for patrons, and processes for sanitizing materials. Curbside pickup, delivery, and by-appointment services are the most common next steps as [national research](#) and [state/local guidance](#) evolve. Thirty-seven percent of respondents expect phased reopening in June and July, whereas almost half (47%) are unsure when buildings will begin to reopen to the public. K–12 school, academic, and public libraries are working hard to address the needs of remote learners, teachers, faculty, and researchers. Leading activities include providing curbside pickup of items ranging from laptops to reading materials, virtual reference, and new summer learning activities. [Information on K–12 school library services is available](#) from the American Association of School Librarians.

- **Public Policy and Advocacy Office Helps Drive Federal Funding to Libraries:** Efforts by PPA to ensure that libraries were included in the federal government’s \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act economic stimulus package helped to secure \$50 million in funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support digital inclusion projects and more than \$30 billion in relief for schools and colleges, plus billions more for state and local governments, and nonprofit organizations. To ensure that libraries continue to be included in relief funding PPA asks that advocates remain engaged and sustain the momentum, especially as the next package takes shape. PPA asks that advocates remain engaged and sustain the momentum, especially as the next package takes shape. Visit ala.org/advocacy/contact-congress to sign up as a library advocate.
- **ALA part of steering committee on safe handling of library materials.** In April, IMLS, OCLC, and Battelle, a not-for-profit global research and development organization, came together to help identify and respond to the need for dedicated research to inform safe handling of collections and reopening practices for libraries and museums. Several ALA divisions including AASL, ACRL, and PLA as well as PPA have been tapped to serve on the steering committee for this endeavor. Other federal contributors include the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives and Records Administration. More information on this project now called **Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM)** can be found [here](#).
- **ALA’s COVID-19 Continuing Education seeks to equip the sector for response:** Since March ALA has provided online COVID-19-related education and training to often more than 5,000 registrants weekly. Programs such as United For Libraries’ [Working Together, Planning for Reopening: Policy and Legal Issues for Reopening a Public Library, The Board, the Attorney, and the Librarian](#) and LITA’s “Crash Course in Protecting Library Data While Working From Home” have brought the take up rate for ALA’s digital continuing education offerings to an all-time high. Such demand for ALA’s continuing education offerings is a good indication for future plans to amplify this organizational asset

ALA Connect Live

In times of uncertainty, connection and conversation are more important than ever. This is what inspired the March 2020 launch of “ALA Connect Live” a series of monthly conversations between ALA’s Executive Board, staff, and membership. Initially an idea of President-Elect Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. to connect with members, ALA Connect Live is an opportunity to bring the entire ALA and library community together to discuss trending issues and challenges, and to scale

knowledge and best practices. These town hall-inspired conversations have proved popular almost immediately. Just over 1,000 registrants signed up for the initial April session, that number doubled for the May installment. ALA Connect Live allows participants to engage in open dialogue with ALA leaders and with their fellow library professionals and seems to have found a ready audience even though still in its nascent stage. Recordings of the past two sessions can be found here: April 2020 - [COVID-19 and the Library Community Response](#) and May 2020 - [COVID-19 and the Well-being of Library Workers](#). The June segment will be held during ALA's Virtual Event on Friday, June 26, 2020 at 5:00 pm Eastern / 4:00 pm Central and will feature ALA President-Elect Julius Johnson's inauguration as well as highlight other new member-leaders.

ALA Virtual Event

Since the cancellation of ALA's 2020 Annual Conference, ALA staff led by Conference Services Director Earla Jones and PLA's Barb Macikas, and the Conference Committee joined by Patty Wong, Executive Board liaison have worked together to quickly mount the "[Community through Connection](#)" [Virtual Event](#) scheduled for June 26-28 and featuring such acclaimed authors and personalities as Misty Copeland, Matthey Cordell, Roxane Gay, Sophia Manzano, Natalie Portman, and Sophia Thakur, over 50 programs and engagements and several vendor showcases. To ensure that registration rates are inclusive and responsive to the needs members who may be dealing with changes in their household income, registration rates for the event originally set at a \$175 breakeven point, were subsidized by ALA's vendor partners and reduced to \$60. Library staff facing furloughs, layoffs, or reductions in paid work hours are able to attend the virtual event completely free of charge. ALA Governance meetings (Council, Executive Board, etc.) will convene prior to and just after the virtual program.

ALA Office Move and Staffing Plan through December 31, 2020

As of this writing ALA is in the last stage of its move out of the 40/50 E. Huron headquarters building. By mid-May most of the offices had been packed and IT infrastructure had been installed at 225/205 North Michigan Building despite Illinois' shelter-in-place decree. ALA's IT migration took substantial time due to the size of the iMIS database and new specification required by new building hardware parameters and the move to a new collocation site. Though the new headquarters and IT set-up is physically ready for staff, due to a need to enforce coronavirus safety measures ALA's current remote work status was extended through June 15--two weeks after Chicago's set June 1 "reopening" date. As many summer programs for youth and others in need of supervision and care have been suspended, ALA staff have been given the option to work remotely through Labor Day. When they do return, staff will observe a reduce workforce directive, in which half of the Chicago-based staff will work in alternating teams observing a four-day on, ten-day off schedule through December 31, 2020 to help mitigate COVID-19 contagion.

ALA staffing will also be impacted by a 5-day furlough in August. To mitigate the revenue gap that has been exacerbated by the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Conference among other areas, staff across the entire institution will take a mandatory furlough either the week of August 9 or August 16. Furloughs were decided on to avert substantive layoffs at this time. While dividing the furlough over two weeks will mean that ALA can avoid a complete work stoppage, we will communicate the furlough and the possibility of slower work times to members via our website beginning in late July.

ALA OFFICES

Center for the Future of Libraries

Coronavirus Pandemic Trend Page

In April, a special [Coronavirus Pandemic trend page](#) was added to the Center's [trend collection](#) to bring together the near- and long-term changes that may result from the current situation. The page considers broader environmental changes that may shape the futures of libraries as workplaces, as public spaces, in economic development, in health and wellness, and more. The page has received 5,059 unique page visits in its first two months. The page will continue to be updated with more information.

Presentations and Trainings

Since March 2020, the Center has provided webinars for the Alaska State Library; Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS); and BookExpo Online. As stay at home and social distancing guidelines continue to limit public meetings, the Center's presentation activities have largely shifted to webinars and online presentations.

Communications and Marketing Office (CMO)

March. 1 – May. 31, 2020

Public Awareness Initiatives

National Library Week (NLW)

The theme for this year's National Library Week (April 19-25) was reframed from "Find Your Place at the Library" to "Find the Library at Your Place" to highlight how libraries have continued to serve their communities during COVID-19. The revised tagline celebrates how libraries are open online and providing virtual services and digital content their communities need more than ever.

CMO provided libraries and library advocates with graphics, media tools and other content to reflect the new tagline and encourage the public to join the online festivities. CMO worked with units across ALA to promote the various themed days, including the release of the State of America's Libraries Report, which lists the Top 10 Most Challenged Books List, National Library Workers Day, National Bookmobile Day, Take Action for Libraries Day and School Library Month.

NLW was extremely popular on social media. The hashtag #NationalLibraryWeek was used more than 20,000 times on Twitter during the seven-day period. The top two posts on Twitter received more than 74,000 impressions with a potential reach of nearly 1 million. Major brands and celebrities including Jeopardy!, the Oprah Book Club, Save the Children and Seth Meyers also posted about the week on their Twitter and Instagram accounts. In addition, the ALA National Library Week webpage garnered more than 64,000 page views.

Library Card Sign-up Month

DC's Wonder Woman will serve as Honorary Chair of Library Card Sign-up Month 2020. In the coming weeks, Wonder Woman will appear in free social media graphics and library card artwork for libraries to use in promoting the value of a library card. Wonder Woman posters, stickers and bookmarks are currently available for purchase through the ALA Store. Library Card Sign-up Month is observed each September to mark the beginning of the school year in an effort to sign up every child for a library card.

I Love Libraries website

The reinvention of this public-facing website continues as CMO works to develop a comprehensive content strategy to meet the Association's public awareness goals. One highlight to note: before relaunch in February 2020, we averaged 33,000 views on ILL articles per month; now we average about 80,000.

We've also implemented digital best practices, including calls-to-action on 100% of articles, better newsletter metrics, directing 100% of our ILL social traffic to ALA sites, and more, so that we can evaluate and optimize as needed.

In the timeframe of this report, lovelibraries.org has focused on showcasing all the ways libraries continue to serve their communities during the pandemic while maintaining social distancing. Highlights include coverage of libraries expanding Wi-Fi access through [bookmobiles](#) and [parking lots](#), spotlights on [virtual storytimes](#) and other [remote programming](#), and lists of librarian-recommended [books](#) and [other media](#) that families can enjoy at home.

- [Our story about the ALSC Notable Children's Digital Media List](#)—which showcases the expertise of librarians and also provides a valuable resource for families social distancing—received more than 65,00 pageviews.
- Our extensive coverage of [National Library Week](#) (April 19 – 25) netted more than 5,000 pageviews, amplifying ALA's efforts to spread awareness during this important week.
- [Our post about the free PDF from ALA editions featuring coloring pages and writing prompts](#) was viewed more than 1,000 times, and 675 users clicked through to the Editions website.

Other Notable Social Media Statistics

ALA's social media channels were the main promotional avenues for this year's National Library Week pivot (more details above in Libraries Transform Public Awareness section). Close monitoring of social media has led to collaborations with I Love Libraries including one of the top posts on ALA's Facebook page, highlighting a public library's virtual programming. The post had 4,580 engagements (link clicks, shares and comments) and 34,275 impressions. Our impression total for April and May for all ALA channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn) was 5,240,024 with 3,102,863 of them from Twitter. Our highest growth on social media was our Instagram where we currently stand at 55,605 followers.

Media Relations

Overview

The following is a snapshot of Communications and Marketing Office (CMO) publicity activities that took place from March 1 – May 31, 2020. During this timeframe, all media outreach efforts focused on securing publicity that highlighted the invaluable role libraries play in supporting their communities both in person and virtually during the pandemic. More than 6,689 articles mentioning the American Library Association (ALA) were captured by the association's monitoring service Cision, resulting in a circulation rate of more than 4.4 billion and a publicity value of more than \$14.7 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 69.9 percent (4,410 clips) of coverage was positive and focused on libraries response to COVID-19; National Library Week and ALA's efforts to support its membership as communities work to fight racism and bigotry. Approximately 32.5 percent (2,177 clips) recovered clips were neutral and consisted of brief ALA mentions, National Library Week library event calendar notices, or mentions within author obits or announcements (e.g. death of Tomie dePaola). Only 1.5 percent (107 clips) recovered positioned ALA negatively and were fueled by the association's position on Drag Queen Story Hour and lack of action surrounding library furloughs and layoffs.

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.

Libraries Respond to COVID-19

Academic, public and school libraries are on the front lines of the COVID-19 response and are providing library users with the resources needed to care for people whose lives have been disrupted by closures, job loss and illness.

Despite closures, libraries remain at the forefront of digital equity by offering digital content and remote services, accurate information, and the guidance of information experts - librarians. Libraries are responding creatively and proactively to COVID-19. School libraries in have closed along with schools and many provide online classes to students. Public libraries are making virtual resources available and considering other ways they can help during the crisis. Academic libraries are providing online services and access to resources. All libraries are working with their school administrators, governments, boards, and university administrations to determine critical services and closures following local directives.

Libraries response to COVID-19 was the most visible theme found throughout most of the coverage captured by ALA's monitoring service - Cision. More than 2,000 articles and mentions were captured resulting in a publicity value of \$7.3 million and a circulation rate of 1.5 billion.

CMO worked closely with the Public Library Association and the Public Policy and Advocacy Office to develop messaging and tools to promote findings from the Libraries Respond to COVID -19 survey.

CMO created a COVID-19 web press kit and COVID-19 press release tag to help reporters locate association-wide information on how libraries of all types were responding to the pandemic. The web press kit contains a map of library closures, television news clips, press releases, COVID-19 information resources, and a newsfeed.

ALA and PLA leadership participated in multiple interviews with high-level media outlets. Placement highlights include NPR's All Things Considered, People Magazine, Boston Globe, Wired Magazine, CNN en Español, Library Journal, Fast Company, PBS News Hour, State Tech, Toledo Blade, FreeThink, Washington Post, Yahoo News, and Wall Street Journal. CMO continues to work with PLA, PPA other stakeholders as we work to support publicity efforts for the release of an additional survey of libraries in early June.

National Library Week, April 19 – 25, 2020

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and observed in libraries across the country each April. All types of libraries - school, public, academic, and special - participate.

The theme for National Library Week 2020 was "Find the Library at Your Place," and Olympic medalists Maia and Alex Shibutani served as 2020 National Library Week Honorary Chairs. As the impact of the COVID-19 crisis continues to evolve and change the work of libraries and library workers, libraries are proving resourceful and resilient, serving as a rich pipeline for content, delivering access to eBooks, movies, music, video games, virtual storytimes and activities, and so much more.

Just as libraries are pivoting in response to the current situation, the ALA is changed the focus of its annual National Library Week celebration. The theme for National Library Week (NLW) 2020 was originally "Find your place at the library," and selected before the emergence of the global pandemic. To acknowledge our altered landscape, ALA flipped the script a bit on the theme and created "Find the library at your place." The new theme highlighted how libraries are offering virtual services and digital content to their communities.

CMO's media relations team developed several materials to support media outreach efforts. Materials include a web press kit, calendar notice, press releases, talking points, and pitches targeted for external print, television, news wire and radio media targets. CMO also worked with library trade publications like American Libraries and Library Journal to secure National Library Week coverage.

There was a large volume of media articles and mentions for all the various events taking place during National Library week, including the release of the ALA State of America's Libraries Report (SALR) and the Top Ten List of the Most Challenged Books as well as National Library Workers Day, National Bookmobile Day and School Library Month.

The release of the ALA's State of America's Libraries Report generated the most coverage and was picked up by national and international print, radio and television news outlets. The report contains academic, public, and school library usage trends from 2019 and ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom's (OIF) Top Ten List of Most Challenged Books. OIF Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone participated in interviews with the Associated Press (AP), New York Times, NBC.com, CNN.com, Reuters and WCPT Radio in Chicago. The Top 10 List fueled both national and international coverage reaching millions within the U.S., Canada, United Kingdom, Mexico and Central America. Per a Google search, AP coverage alone received more than 12,300 pickups.

During the week Public Library Association President Ramiro Salazar discussed the valuable role libraries play in responding to COVID-19 with PBS NewsHour, American Library Association President Wanda Brown spoke with Forbes Magazine regarding the future of library service and Larra Clark, deputy director, Public Library Association participated in an interview for ABC News Radio regarding National Library Week and how libraries are supporting their communities during the pandemic.

CMO's monitoring service Cision, captured more than 1,600 articles mentioning National Library Week and its daily celebrations (e.g. State of America's Libraries Report, National Library Workers Day, National Bookmobile Day, Take Action for Libraries Day and School Library Month) from April 19 – 25, 2020, resulting in a circulation rate of more than 841 million and a publicity value of more than \$6.8 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.)

Roughly 94% (1,563 clips) of National Library Week coverage was positive and clearly illustrated the theme pivot from “Find your place at the library” to “Find the library at your place.” Many reporters wanted to discuss how libraries of all types were responding to COVID-19 and the ALA’s Top Ten List of Most Challenged Books. While 5% percent of National Library Week placements (97 clips) were neutral and consisted of brief National Library Week calendar mentions. Only one negative clip was recovered during the week and fueled by the ALA’s position on library closures.

Noteworthy statements loaded or vetted by CMO

- American Library Association cancels 2020 Annual Conference due to COVID-19
- American Library Association recommends libraries leave Wi-Fi open during closures
- **COVID-19 federal relief package supports libraries’ role in digital inclusion**
- Library associations underscore importance of IMLS COVID-19 efforts
- On National Library Workers Day, ALA Executive Board reaffirms need to protect safety and well-being of library workers during COVID-19 pandemic
- ALA praises IMLS for rapid release of COVID-19 relief
- ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA members vote overwhelmingly to create new ALA division
- ALA welcomes LinkedIn Learning’s changes to terms of service

Future Publicity Efforts

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

- Second Libraries Respond Survey – June 3, 2020
- Media Mentoring ALSC Initiative, TBD
- ALA Virtual Conference, June 24 – 26, 2020

Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS)

Confronting Xenophobia and Supporting Asian and Asian/Pacific American Communities during COVID-19 webinar

In collaboration with The Asian Pacific American library Association (APALA), ODLOS hosted a free webinar on May 1. This webinar highlighted racism depicted by the media throughout the years and how library workers can combat anti-Asian sentiment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about the webinar and resources here:

<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/confronting-xenophobia-and-supporting-asian-and-asianpacific-american-communities-during-covid-19>. Please note that an archived recording is not available.

Expanding the Library’s “Reach” through a Literacy Partners Program

David Kelsey and Dana Hintz from the St. Charles (IL) Public Library (SCPL) highlighted their Outreach efforts and the steps they took to make it a success during this May 15 webinar. Participants learned how to develop their own Literacy Partners program, tips and tricks to increase the library’s community visibility, and explore how to better serve communities at its point of need. More information and an archived recording can be found here:

<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/expanding-librarys-%E2%80%99Creach-through-literacy-partners-program>

Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)

OIF Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone was interviewed by members of the ALSC Children and Technology committee for an article addressing the laws and regulations governing minors' privacy. The interview, titled "Virtual Programming and Patron Privacy," was published on the ALSC blog on April 28, 2020.

Caldwell-Stone also contributed information about user privacy and access to "Working Together, Planning for Reopening: Policy and Legal Issues for Reopening a Public Library, The Board, the Attorney, and the Librarian," a webinar co-sponsored by United for Libraries, ALA Chapter Relations, and Public Policy & Advocacy Office on May 15, 2020.

To respond to the many questions received during that webinar, Caldwell-Stone worked with attorney Theresa Chmara and the Intellectual Freedom Committee to develop "Guidelines and FAQs For Reopening Libraries During The COVID-19 Pandemic," which addresses best practices in developing policies affecting access and privacy in the library as libraries reopen after lockdown. The guidelines will be available through the ALA website and the OIF blog.

On May 8, IFC the Privacy Subcommittee hosted the webinar "Protecting Privacy in a Pandemic: A Town Hall for Library and Information Workers," featuring IFC Privacy Subcommittee members Erin Berman and William Marden and Michelle Gibeault, co-convenor of the Digital Library Federation's Privacy and Ethics in Technology (PET) working group. The three speakers highlighted best practices for protecting user privacy in regard to video platforms, health data collection, and vendor relations. More than 800 persons registered to attend or receive the recorded webinar, and over 500 persons attended the live event, which included a lively Q&A. A link to the recording of the webinar, as well as privacy resources from the webinar are available as a resource guide published on ALA's Choose Privacy Everyday website.

The ALA Choose Privacy Everyday website also published a number of additional privacy resources for library workers and educators addressing privacy concerns arising from the pandemic, the closure of libraries, and the shift to online and digital services. Posts include "The Privacy Perils of Contact Tracing in Libraries," "Calling Users in a Pandemic: Best Practices to Protect Privacy," "When Libraries Become Medical Screeners: User Health Data and Library Privacy," and "To Zoom or Not to Zoom."

In response to numerous questions and concerns about contact tracing using library users' information, the IFC Privacy Subcommittee developed "Guidelines on Contact Tracing, Health Checks, and Library Users' Privacy," which was approved by the Intellectual Freedom Committee. The guidelines will be available on the ALA website.

In May, OIF Assistant Director Kristin Pekoll moderated two well-received programs for the "Banned Books Uncensored" webinar series organized by OIF Program Officer Ellie Diaz:

- "Banned Books Uncensored: Defending Titles About Health, Sex, and Growing Up," was broadcast on May 7, 2020 and featured frequently challenged authors Cory Silverberg (*Sex is a Funny Word*) and Mariko Tamaki (*This One Summer*) in conversation with Pekoll and Mt. Angel Public Library director Jackie Mills and Crook County Library director Buzzy Nielsen. The panel discussed how to defend access to books that address health, sex, gender identity, and adolescence.
- "Banned Books Uncensored: Defending Titles with LGBTQIA+ Content" was broadcast on May 20, 2020. The program featured Pekoll in conversation with GLAAD President and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis, illustrator Stevie Lewis (*Prince & Knight*), Huntington Beach (CA) library director Stephanie Beverage, Andover (KS) library director Tom Taylor, Shannon Oltmann of the University of Kentucky LIS program, and OIF Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone. The panel discussed how to defend challenges to materials and resources featuring LGBTQIA themes and content.

On May 1, ALA Editions published *Intellectual Freedom Stories from a Shifting Landscape*, edited by Val Nye for the Office for Intellectual Freedom. The book gathers real-world stories of intellectual freedom in action to illuminate the difficulties, triumphs, and occasional setbacks of advocating for free and equal access to information for all people and offers insight to LIS students and current practitioners on how we can advance the profession of librarianship while fighting censorship and other challenges. Nye is director of the Santa Fe Community College library. She also coedited (with Kathy Barco) the book "*True Stories of Censorship Battles in America's Libraries*."

To celebrate the publication of *Intellectual Freedom Stories*, OIF joined with FTRF to present a webinar on May 28 that featured Nye and three of the contributors discussing "The Shifting Landscape of Censorship." The speakers included James Allen Davis, adult services librarian for the Central Branch of the Denver Public Library and president of the Colorado Black Library Association; Rhiannon Sorrell (Diné), instruction and digital services librarian at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona and a member of the executive board of the American Indian Library Association; and Jennifer Stickles, manager of the Salamanca Public Library in rural New York and President of the LGBTQIA Round Table of the New York Library Association.

Public Policy and Advocacy Office Report

PPA Pivots to Virtual National Library Legislative Week

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, PPA made the decision to replace National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) 2020, ALA's annual in-person lobbying and training event, with a [full-week virtual advocacy experience](#). Throughout the week, advocates could tune in for live afternoon sessions, view the recordings and/or complete advocacy actions as possible. The week of advocacy events and resources were free (NLLD has a registration cost, and specialized trainings are available to ALA members only), and the recordings are available on [online](#) through June 30. PPA coordinated closely with the Chapter Relations Office, as well as with United for Libraries, Committee on Legislation, and other member advocacy leaders across the association.

ALA helps #LibrariesEngageVoters

As the nation approaches the November 2020 elections, libraries will play crucial roles in providing information about important political topics as well as changes to voting processes that may occur in some areas in response to COVID-19. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, ALA formed a [partnership with the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission](#) to distribute 6,000 sets of suffrage-themed books to school and public libraries across the country. ALA has also [joined as premier partner of National Voter Registration Day](#) for 2020. More than 800 libraries participated in National Voter Registration Day events in 2019. In the coming months, ALA will provide additional [resources to support libraries' voter engagement efforts](#), and PPA staff will discuss voter engagement resources at the ALA Virtual Event session, "[Library Advocacy & Civic Engagement During & After COVID-19.](#)" on June 24, 2020 (2:30 – 3:30 pm CT).

ALA advocates for federal relief funding for libraries

Under normal circumstances, ALA would be reporting progress on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 #FundLibraries campaign. Now, ALA is both monitoring the annual appropriations cycle and advocating for resources libraries need to emerge from the pandemic and phase in the reopening of their facilities. Congress has completed four relief funding bills (three of them narrow in focus), is working on a fifth, and may consider additional measures in the coming months. ALA has advocated for relief and recovery funding for libraries at every opportunity. In May, the House approved their proposal for a fourth large-scale COVID-19 relief package, the [Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act](#) (HEROES, H.R. 6800). The bill includes more than \$3 trillion in federal aid to respond to COVID-19, including several education- and workforce-related funding provisions. The House bill, which focuses on economic stabilization for state and local governments, includes a nominal \$5 million for IMLS but substantial funding for libraries to deliver broadband services. ALA joined a large coalition letter calling for [increased funding for all non-defense, domestic programs](#). The Senate indicated it will neither pass the relief package at the House levels nor act with any urgency on new legislation. As ALA's advocacy proceeds, it will be vital to share impact stories from CARES funding for libraries to prove to the Senate that funding for libraries is a worthwhile investment in recovery for communities.

ALA pushes for digital equity in federal relief package

Because the novel coronavirus has brought long overdue attention to digital inequity that cuts across rural, urban, tribal, and suburban communities, there is increasing momentum in both the House and Senate for the federal government to address the desperate need for home internet access. To address the near term need for home connectivity, the [Emergency Education Connections Act](#) was incorporated in the HEROES Act. The bill calls for \$2 billion in funding for hotspots, routers, modems, and other connected devices such as laptops. Public and tribal

libraries, K12 schools and tribal schools are eligible for funding. On the Senate side, ALA supported the [introduction](#) of a companion bill calling for \$4 billion. ALA has endorsed both bills and signed onto a coalition letter for the \$4 billion Senate version, along with over 50 education groups, including our longtime partners in the Education and Libraries Networks Coalition. PPA put out an action alert in collaboration with the Public Library Association calling for members to contact their senators and share examples of their digital inclusion work in response to the pandemic. PPA staff and members of ALA's E-rate Task Force continue to work with our coalition partners to ensure this funding is part of the HEROES Act, which has moved on to the Senate.

ALA provides resources to help libraries adapt Census activities in response to COVID-19

The Census Bureau has [adapted its 2020 Census operations in response to COVID-19](#). All in-person census-taking and field activities were paused as a public health precaution, and activities are resuming in certain areas based on local conditions. The largest field operation, door-to-door follow-up with households that haven't responded yet, will begin August 11. As of May 28, [60.3% of households have responded](#) to the 2020 Census. Residents can respond until October 31. Libraries also have adapted their census outreach activities in response to COVID-19. Out of public libraries responding to the [PLA survey](#) released April 9, more than 60% report using social media to promote participation in the 2020 Census, and more than 80% report they left on their public Wi-Fi access when the library building was closed. From social media and virtual events to posters and bookmarks, examples of how libraries are adapting their 2020 Census activities are described in articles from [American Libraries](#) and [Smart Cities Dive](#) (which were written by and quote PPA staff). PPA's Census work has also drawn new financial support to ALA and libraries. Thanks to new partners, in April ALA awarded [21 additional Library Census Equity Fund mini-grants](#) courtesy of the LOR Foundation and [13 additional mini-grants](#) courtesy of Capital One. ALA will continue to provide resources to support libraries' activities in response to COVID-19 and the Census Bureau's changes. PPA staff will discuss the Census at the ALA Virtual Event session, ["Library Advocacy & Civic Engagement During & After COVID-19."](#) on June 24, 2020, 2:30 – 3:30 pm CT.

Publishers sue the Internet Archive

On June 1, John Wiley & Sons, Hachette Book Group, Penguin Random House and HarperCollins, members of the [American Association of Publishers](#) (AAP), filed [suit](#) against the [Internet Archive](#) (IA) arguing that it is engaging in copyright infringement by making digitized copies of its print books to lend to the public. This case is the latest installment in the eBook saga that extends back to 2004, with more recent activities including ALA engagements with the Macmillan Publishers embargo and the House Judiciary Committee investigation, under the leadership of Rep. David Cicilline. The issues at question are challenging and complex, as we know from a decade and a half of experience. PPA is evaluating this latest development in the larger context and with respect to our strategic direction for digital content and services, informed by the ALA Legislative Agenda developed by the Committee on Legislation. We are drawing on our experts from the library community and inside the Beltway, especially ALA's copyright policy counsel, to develop our path forward.

Libraries Build Business initiative with ALA, Google begins with "Phase 0"

Thirteen libraries were selected to join the [Libraries Build Business](#) (LBB) cohort. The cohort, which will be officially announced in July, represents a selection from 12 states and includes rural and tribal, urban, and suburban communities. In line with the overall project emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion, selected libraries have demonstrated an institutional

commitment to providing programming, resources, and other supports for small businesses and/or entrepreneurs from underrepresented groups and/or low-income communities. Libraries will receive up to \$150,000 to enhance current programming. They will work together over 18 months to develop an evaluation framework, playbook with strategies and successful models, and a peer-learning network to scale and share learnings from the initiative. The LBB project has adjusted to include a “Phase 0” to directly respond to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to the expansion of library programs and services for low-income and/or underrepresented entrepreneurs and small business owners, the LBB initiative will provide insight that informs PPA’s advocacy and policy direction for underrepresented groups.

Public Programs Office
(PPO)

Milwaukee Public Library awarded ALA’s first Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant

PPO has awarded its first Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant to the Milwaukee (Wis.) Public Library for Deaf Storyslam, a free community event in which Deaf individuals of varying backgrounds share personal stories and experiences with the broader community.

The \$2,000 grant, part of ALA’s Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) community engagement initiative, is open to school, public, academic, tribal or special libraries to help them expand upon community engagement efforts. Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members — be they library users, residents, faculty, students or local organizations — to address issues for the betterment of the community.

In May 2019, ALA announced that it had surpassed its original \$50,000 fundraising goal to support the creation of the Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant, raising a total of \$70,000 from 130 individuals. The initiative was made possible by a matching grant from former ALA president and longtime generous supporter Nancy Kranich.

PPO announces STEAM funding and exhibitions for rural libraries serving Latino populations

Public library workers in rural communities are invited to participate in a project that will bring culturally inclusive STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) programming and exhibitions to their patrons, especially often-underreached Latino populations.

The initiative is offered by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute (NCIL/SSI), the American Library Association (ALA), Twin Cities PBS (TPT), Institute for Learning Innovation (ILI), and Education Development Center (EDC), with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Through the [STAR Net STEAM Equity Project](#), 12 public libraries will receive \$15,000 over four years (winter 2020 – summer 2024) to participate in professional development activities, support community partnerships and purchase STEAM learning materials. In partnership with library

staff and their community collaborators, the project will engage families to empower tweens in STEAM culture and learning.

Those interested in applying on behalf of their library are invited to complete a brief, 15-minute Notice of Intent (NOI) about their community demographics and needs by July 20. Submissions will be reviewed by the STEAM Equity project team, and eligible applicants will be invited to submit a full project proposal in August 2020. [Learn more and begin the application process online.](#)

PPO, ALA Editions to publish book on virtual programming

With COVID-19, many libraries have been thrown into uncharted terrain when it came to programming. How can libraries continue to serve their communities with creative, thought-provoking programming while heeding social distancing guidelines? To answer this question, PPO and ALA Editions are teaming up on a book that will explore a wide variety of virtual programs for all age groups that have been hosted by libraries around the country. These will include twists on old favorites like online story times and book clubs, but also out-of-the-box ideas like virtual beer tastings, LEGO show-and-tell sessions, and creating community zines. Topics will include literature and the humanities, STEM, children's programming, games, health and wellness, and more. Program ideas will be solicited from programming librarians via a SurveyMonkey survey in spring/summer 2020. All library types (public, academic, K-12, special) will be invited to share examples of program success stories.

ALA DIVISIONS

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

[School Librarian Community in AASL Town Halls](#)

An AASL town hall series "The Show Must Go On(line)," held March 24th to May 29th, gave school library professionals the opportunity to gather as a community and discuss the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on schools, educators, and learners. The ten AASL Town Halls were hosted by AASL's president Mary Keeling, immediate past president Kathryn Roots Lewis, or president elect Kathy Carroll, were attended by 1,900 participants.

[School Closure Surveys](#)

As schools closed and school librarians worked with learners, classroom teachers, and parents from home, AASL launched three surveys to capture trend data, and it also includes questions regarding expectations for student outcomes and educator reporting, student participation rates, hurdles faced by school librarians, and self-care. The snapshots will be used to develop advocacy materials to support the integral role of school librarians in distance learning.

[Care model for school librarians to support new teachers explored in School Library Research](#)

New research published in the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) peer-reviewed online journal, *School Library Research* (SLR), explores ways school librarians can support new teachers to prevent burnout. SLR promotes and publishes high-quality original research concerning the management, implementation, and evaluation of school libraries. Articles can be accessed for free at www.ala.org/aasl/slr.

Tennessee Association of School Librarians receives AASL Chapter of the Year Award

The Tennessee Association of School Librarians (TASL) is the recipient of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Chapter of the Year Award. The \$1,000 award recognizes the AASL Chapter most active and dynamic in achieving the goals of AASL at the state and local level.

Lucas elected 2021-2022 AASL president

Jennisen Lucas, district librarian for the Park County School District #6 in Cody, Wyoming, has been elected as the 2021-2022 President of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). Lucas will serve as president-elect during 2020-2021 under AASL President Kathy Carroll.

Dr. Kevin Smith receives AASL Distinguished School Administrator Award

Dr. Kevin Smith, Superintendent of Wilton Public Schools in Connecticut, is the recipient of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Distinguished School Administrator Award. Sponsored by ProQuest, the \$2,000 award recognizes and honors a school administrator who has made worthy contributions to the operations of exemplary school libraries and to advancing the role of the school library in the educational program.

Jillian Ehlers receives AASL Collaborative School Library Award

Jillian Ehlers, school librarian at Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School in Forest Hills, New York, is the recipient of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Collaborative School Library Award. Sponsored by Scholastic Book Fairs, the \$2,500 award recognizes school librarian and teacher collaboration during the development and implementation of a curriculum-supporting program using school library resources.

Donna Morris receives AASL Intellectual Freedom Award

Donna Morris, school librarian at Daniel Boone Elementary in Richmond, Kentucky, is one of two recipients of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Intellectual Freedom Award. Established in 1982 and sponsored by ProQuest, the award is given to a school librarian for upholding the principles of intellectual freedom as set forth by AASL and ALA

Martha Hickson receives AASL Intellectual Freedom Award

Martha Hickson, school librarian at North Hunterdon High School in Annandale, New Jersey, is one of two recipients of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Intellectual Freedom Award. Established in 1982 and sponsored by ProQuest, the award is given to a school librarian for upholding the principles of intellectual freedom as set forth by AASL and ALA.

Stefanie Thronson receives AASL Innovative Reading Grant

Stefanie Thronson, district librarian at New Hampton Elementary in New Hampton, Iowa, is the recipient of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Innovative Reading Grant. Sponsored by Capstone, the \$2,500 grant supports the planning and implementation of a unique and innovative program for children that motivates and encourages reading, especially with struggling readers.

'The Power Project' receives AASL Roald Dahl's Miss Honey Social Justice Award

The Power Project from the Chinese American International School in San Francisco, California, is the recipient of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Roald Dahl's Miss Honey Social Justice Award. Sponsored by Penguin Random House, the Roald Dahl Award recognizes collaboration between school librarians and teachers in the instruction of social justice using school library resources.

Cameron Carey receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant

Cameron Carey, school librarian at Baldwin – Woodville High School in Baldwin, Wisconsin, is one of six school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of

AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

[Amy Gammon receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant](#)

Amy Gammon, reading teacher at Greenport Elementary School in Greenport, New York, is one of six school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

[Maryland Association of School Librarians awarded AASL ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant](#)

The Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) is the recipient of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant. Sponsored by ABC-CLIO, the \$1,750 grant is given to an AASL Chapter for planning and implementing leadership programs at the state, regional, or local level.

[Kristina Graves receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant](#)

Kristina Graves, school librarian at Schenectady High School in Schenectady, New York, is one of six school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

[Tatanisha Love receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant](#)

Tatanisha Love, school librarian at Loch Raven Technical Academy in Towson, Maryland, is one of six school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

[Wamecca Rodriguez receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant](#)

Wamecca Rodriguez, school librarian at Yorkville Middle School in Yorkville, Illinois, is one of six school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

[Shawna Ward receives AASL Inspire Special Event Grant](#)

Shawna Ward, school librarian at Lindbergh High School in St. Louis, Missouri, is one of six school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Special Event Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to plan a special event to enhance student learning.

[Denise Gadson receives AASL Inspire Collection Development Grant](#)

Denise Gadson, school librarian at Woodland High School in Dorchester, South Carolina, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Collection Development Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to update their existing collections to enhance student learning.

[Pamela Hubert receives AASL Inspire Collection Development Grant](#)

Pamela Hubert, school librarian at Brooks County High School in Quitman, Georgia, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Collection Development Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to update their existing collections to enhance student learning.

[Samantha Kennedy receives AASL Inspire Collection Development Grant](#)

Samantha Kennedy, school librarian at Dunedin High School in Dunedin, Florida, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Collection Development Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina "Marney" Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to update their existing collections to enhance student learning.

[Ali Lauer receives AASL Inspire Collection Development Grant](#)

Ali Lauer, school librarian at Griffith STEAM Magnet Middle School in Los Angeles, California, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Collection Development Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina "Marney" Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to update their existing collections to enhance student learning.

[Brittany Tignor receives AASL Inspire Collection Development Grant](#)

Brittany Tignor, school librarian at Snow Hill High School in Show Hill, Maryland, is one of five school librarians from across the country receiving a 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Inspire Collection Development Grant. Made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina "Marney" Welmers, the grant program provides funds for public middle or high school libraries to update their existing collections to enhance student learning.

[Association of Indiana School Library Educators receives AASL Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards](#)

The Association of Indiana School Library Educators (AISLE) has been named one of four recipients of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards.

[Vermont School Library Association receives AASL Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards](#)

The Vermont School Library Association (VSLA) has been named one of four recipients of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards.

[Missouri Association of School Librarians receives AASL Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards](#)

The Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) has been named one of four recipients of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards.

[Wyoming Library Association School Library Interest Group receives AASL Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards](#)

The Wyoming Library Association School Library Interest Group (WLA-SLIG) has been named one of four recipients of the 2020 American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards.

[AASL Partners with StoryCorps to Launch StoryCorps Connect and Bring Individuals Together](#)

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is partnering with StoryCorps to launch [StoryCorps Connect](#). The new free platform allows Americans to conduct and record StoryCorps interviews remotely. AASL encourages school librarians to utilize the technology to support learners in connecting with others amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and, in the process, to contribute to the creation of a unique first-person historical record of this unprecedented crisis.

[Three manuscripts awarded AASL Research Grants](#)

Three manuscripts authored by five researchers have been awarded 2020 American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Research Grants by the Educators of School Librarians Section (ESLS) of AASL. Sponsored by ABC-CLIO, the grants recognize excellence in manuscripts addressing a persistent and recurring challenge in the field of school librarianship. Each grant consists of a \$350 award and the opportunity to present the paper at the 2021 AASL National Conference.

[AASL holds virtual membership meeting June 2](#)

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) will hold its annual virtual membership meeting on Tuesday, June 2, at 6:00 p.m. Central. To RSVP, visit www.ala.org/aasl/vmm20. The membership meeting requires no official vote of AASL membership, so all school library professionals are invited to attend.

Association of College and Research Libraries
(ACRL)

ACRL Supports ALA, BCALA, and APALA Statements Condemning Violence and Racism

ACRL supports ALA in condemning violence and racism towards Black people and all people of color. ACRL endorses the statement of the Black Caucus of The American Library Association (BCALA), which condemns the death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers within the Minneapolis Police Department. ACRL endorses the statement of The Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, which denounces the rise in racism and xenophobia against Asians and Asian/Pacific Americans in wake of the outbreak of COVID-19. With BCALA, the association [calls on ACRL members](#) to reflect and take action against systemic injustices and inequitable policing practices.

2020 ACRL Election Results

Julie Garrison, Dean of University Libraries at Western Michigan University, has been elected ACRL Vice-President/President-Elect. She will become president-elect in July 2020 and assume the presidency in July 2021 for a one-year term. Jessica Brangiel, Electronic Resources Management Librarian at Swarthmore College, and Toni Anaya, Interim Coordinator of User Experience and Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, have been elected to the ACRL Board of Directors as Director-at-Large.

Kara Malenfant Named Interim ACRL Executive Director

Kara Malenfant has been named interim executive director of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) following the retirement of Mary Ellen K. Davis on April 24, 2020. In her prior positions at ACRL, Malenfant coordinated government relations advocacy, scholarly communication activities, and ACRL's Value of Academic Libraries initiative, and provided consulting services on organizational change. A search for a permanent executive director is expected to begin soon.

Pandemic Resources for Academic Libraries LibGuide

ACRL continues to update its [Pandemic Resources for Academic Libraries LibGuide](#), including resources for distance education and engagement, free webcasts and publications, best practices, information on self-care, working from home, collection maintenance, and preparing to reopen, along with up-to-date information from public health to officials and collections of ALA and community-sourced resources to assist in navigating a pandemic.

ACRL Presents Series - Academic Librarianship in the Wake of the Coronavirus

ACRL held five additional offerings in its series of free ACRL Presents webcasts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tips for Suddenly Switching to Online Reference and Access Services was held on March 27, Evaluating Online Library Learning took place April 1, Quickly Implementing Accessibility Tools was the focus of an April 3 webcast, on April 7 Managing Remote Workers was the topic, and Advocating for Library Workers During Uncertain Times took place on May 13. Recordings of all webcasts are freely available on the [ACRL website](#).

ACRL Together Wherever Virtual Event

ACRL held [ACRL Together Wherever](#), a week of virtual programming and networking opportunities for the academic and research library community, from June 8-12, 2020. Presented free with a suggested donation to the ACRL Advancement Fund as a prequel to ALA Virtual, ACRL Together Wherever featured 14 high-quality programs, including the ACRL President's Program, "Shifting the Center: Transforming Academic Libraries through Generous Accountability."

ACRL 2021 Keynote Speakers Announced

ACRL has announced its celebrated lineup of keynote speakers for the [ACRL 2021 Conference](#), "Ascending Into an Open Future," to be held April 14- 17, 2021, in Seattle. Be challenged and inspired by ACRL's thought-provoking speakers, who also double as authors, researchers, educators, journalists, and data nerds. The keynote speakers are author Tressie McMillan Cottom (Opening Keynote, April 14, 2021) and journalist Mona Chalabi (Closing Keynote, April 17, 2021).

ACRL Sets 2020 Legislative Agenda

Each year, the ACRL Government Relations Committee, in consultation with the ACRL Board of Directors and staff, formulates an [ACRL Legislative Agenda](#). Drafted with input from key ACRL committees, ACRL leaders, and the ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office, the ACRL Legislative Agenda is prioritized and focuses on issues at the national level affecting the welfare of academic and research libraries. The 2020 ACRL Legislative Agenda focuses on four issues that the U.S. Congress has recently taken, or will most likely take, action on in the year ahead: Federal Funding for Libraries, Net Neutrality, Affordable College Textbook Act, and Consumer Data Privacy. The agenda also includes a watch list of policy issues of great concern to academic librarians but where there is no pending legislation. Issues on the watch list are: Public Access to Federally Funded Research, Federal Depository Library Program Modernization Act, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals/Immigration Issues.

Project Outcome for Academic Libraries: A Year in the Field

Project Outcome for Academic Libraries, a free online toolkit designed to help academic libraries assess and communicate the impact of essential library programs and services, publication of a

report on its development and first year of use in the field in early June. The [annual report](#) outlines the work of ACRL and its members to develop and promote the toolkit. It brings together aggregate data to show how academic libraries have applied Project Outcome data to make improvements and engage in advocacy.

ACRL, ARL, ODLOS, and PLA Announce Joint Cultural Competencies Task Force

ACRL, the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), the American Library Association's Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS), and the Public Library Association (PLA) announce the formation of the Building Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity Framework Task Force. The [task force](#) is charged to create a framework for cultural proficiencies in racial equity that can be used in public and academic libraries. The task force will circulate drafts of the framework for public comment and revise as appropriate before submitting a final document to the associations. The timeline will include requests for comments in spring 2021, with the final document expected in summer 2021.

New ACRL Framework for Access Services Librarianship

The ACRL Board of Directors approved a new [Framework for Access Services Librarianship \(PDF\)](#) at its spring virtual meeting. Consisting of four sections, the framework defines access services, suggests competencies for access services librarians and managers, examines marketing and outreach of access services, and suggests opportunities for professional engagement for access services librarians.

Games and Gamification in Academic Libraries

ACRL published [Games and Gamification in Academic Libraries](#), edited by Stephanie Crowe and Eva Sclipa, which explores the ways in which today's array of games and gaming techniques can be used in academic library instruction, programming, and outreach initiatives.

Library Partnerships in International Liberal Arts Education

ACRL announces the publication of [Library Partnerships in International Liberal Arts Education: Building Relationships Across Cultural and Institutional Lines](#), edited by Jeff Hiroshi Gima and Kara Malenfant. This unique publication explores effective practices, collaborations, and ideas for the future being developed by librarians, library staff, and faculty at international, American-modeled institutions.

Publications in Librarianship Monograph Series Announces Open Peer Review for Envisioning the Framework

ACRL's Publications in Librarianship (PIL) series—a peer-reviewed collection of books that examine emerging theories and research—is launching its [second open peer review](#), for *Envisioning the Framework: A Graphic Guide to Information Literacy*, edited by Jannette L. Finch. The manuscript is open for comment through Monday, July 13, 2020.

Jennifer K. Sheehan Named RBM Reviews Editor

Jennifer K. Sheehan of the Grolier Club has been appointed to the post of Reviews Editor of [RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage](#), ACRL's journal covering issues

pertaining to special collections libraries and cultural heritage institutions. Sheehan will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2020.

Keeping Up With... Universal Design for Learning

The latest edition of Keeping Up With..., ACRL's online current awareness publication featuring concise briefs on trends in academic librarianship and higher education, is now available. This April issue featured a discussion of [Universal Design for Learning](#) by Robin Brown, Zach Welhouse, and Amy Wolfe.

CHOICE to Launch Patron Driven Podcast

This June, CHOICE is launching a brand-new podcast called [Patron Driven](#). The series features a multi-episode narrative format that combines interviews and storytelling to spotlight the breakthrough programs, hard-won advocacy, community connections—and the personalities behind them—that are being achieved in academic libraries. The first series of *Patron Driven* is called “The Heart of the Campus” and it tells the story of the destruction and subsequent rebuilding of the Lonestar College-Kingwood campus library in Kingwood, Texas during and after Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

THE BOOKSELLERS Online Film Screening and Discussion

To celebrate the rare books community, ACRL held an online discussion of the documentary film THE BOOKSELLERS on Tuesday, May 5. THE BOOKSELLERS is a lively, behind-the-scenes documentary film looking at the New York rare book world and the fascinating people who inhabit it. Proceeds from pre-discussion online viewing of the film supported the ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) Scholarship Fund.

ACRL e-Learning

ACRL's e-Learning program offered three live webcasts and one online course during this report period. 98 individuals and 11 groups participated in e-learning focusing on gamification in information literacy, leadership, engaging with the ACRL Framework, and critical thinking. Upcoming topics for the ACRL e-Learning program include signature pedagogies, project outcome, and hidden architectures in information literacy. Full details and registration information are available on the [ACRL website](#).

Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures

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

Soon to be Core leaders have been working within their own divisions to examine group charges and to look for areas that might be combined or streamlined. They now have created 11 working groups to begin the formal transition to Core:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ofjZ8zxN9cVT9LzOlcg9xSfBt1H_KauC7hUw9pyC-Vs/edit?usp=sharing

The groups cover all main content areas and association operations. They will manage the initial steps in the process to transition our three different structures into a unified structure under Core, launching September 1.

Exchange: An ALCTS/LITA/LLAMA Collaboration

In May 2020, the three divisions worked together to deliver the Exchange. There were a total of 249 registrants, both groups and individuals. Hosting the Exchange across the three divisions provided an opportunity for the three divisions to work together and a launching point for the professional development activities of Core.

Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)

2019-2020 has brought more changes than any of us had thought possible. Our successes include an updated committee structure, ensuring a more streamlined, functional, and well-aligned organization. The Board updated and approved a 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, which will guide the Board in its vital work over the next three years. The plan, a living document, will be assessed, curated, and updated as needed by the Board.

There have been huge challenges this past year as well. In early 2020, the COVID-19 virus developed into a global pandemic. In March, many states across the country issued stay-at-home mandates in line with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to practice social distancing to stem the spread of the virus. Libraries around the country closed their doors, causing immediate and major changes in work conditions and practices of library staff. While many were furloughed due to shortfalls in funding, many other workers were authorized to work from home, where they shifted to providing services, such as reference and reader's advisory, and programming, such as storytimes, virtually. The sustained efforts, put forth during this challenging time by those who serve children and youth, are a testament to their flexibility, creativity, passion, and commitment to public service.

Through it all, ALSC has supported its members and those they serve with updated resources, forward-thinking programs, and a commitment to reach and serve all children, no matter where they are. While staff also faced challenges in pivoting from work in the office to working from home, they accomplished their work in an exemplary way, supporting our members in their important work. None of this would have been possible without an engaged Board, painstakingly conscientious staff, and committed members. Without the synergy created by the work of these three groups, we could accomplish truly little of importance. Working together, we are able to create accessible, welcoming spaces and extend the walls of the library to serve children where they are. Every child deserves the absolute best service, and ALSC and its members strive to provide that every day.

COVID-19 and ALSC

The pandemic and nationwide stay-at-home orders also have affected ALSC and ALA's work in numerous ways. Most notably, the 2020 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition, scheduled for June 25-30 in Chicago, was cancelled. 2020 marks the first time ALA has not held an Annual Conference since 1945 when World War II was nearing its end. Conference events along with many other 2020 happenings have been postponed, re-imagined, or cancelled, and priorities have shifted with the changing needs of membership and communities. Specific effects of the pandemic on ALSC's work are addressed in the reporting below.

ALSC Strategic Plan 2017-2020

In February 2017, ALSC adopted a three-year strategic plan for 2017-2020. The three main areas of the strategic plan, the objectives that were designed to achieve strategic plan goals, and highlights of work achieved related to each goal area include:

Diversity and Inclusion. ALSC will become more diverse and inclusive, acting to promote these values in all aspects of library service to children. The ALSC Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion within ALSC Implementation task force (EDI TF) remained actively engaged as mentors creating a welcoming environment for the pilot group of six ALSC Equity Fellows selected in November 2018. Since that time all six fellows were appointed to ALSC committees and in June 2019 the board approved the EDI TF request to extend the fellowship for the pilot group to allow for a second year of conference attendance. Four of the six fellows opted to continue on for a second year and maintained their engagement in ALSC while producing a culminating project on a visual explanation of the ALSC committee appointments process. The EDI TF representatives and invited members presented at the New Chair Orientation for awards committees at the 2020 Midwinter Meeting with discussion on incorporating EDI work into their committee work, a continuation of the effort that began with the 2019 Midwinter Meeting.

The EDI TF's ongoing goal is to see EDI embedded in the work of all ALSC committees and members working in their library communities. In the Fall of 2019, ALSC joined several ALA divisions to provide free Bystander Intervention training presented by Hollaback! to nearly 80 ALSC member leaders including board members, Priority Group Consultants and committee chairs. An additional train-the-trainer opportunity was coordinated for six ALSC members who will be collaborating to create a training opportunity to be provided to hundreds of members over the next two years.

Advocacy. ALSC will champion the value of library service to children and the resources necessary to deliver on our vision. The Research and Agenda task force finalized the ALSC National Research Agenda for Library Service to Children (Ages 0-14). The research agenda was published in January 2020 and includes six priority research areas, research questions, and a bibliography of research done in each priority area.

The Public Awareness committee finalized and promoted the Championing Children's Services toolkit, which includes a variety of easy to use advocacy resources and a public service

announcement video featuring Newbery Medalist Meg Medina. The toolkit has been promoted through ALSC social media and featured in the ALSC Giving Tuesday campaign. The Public Awareness and Advocacy & Legislation committees and two advocacy experts collaborated on a series of three webinars that introduced the Championing Children's Services toolkit and broadly discussed advocacy and how one might use the toolkit.

The Early and Family Literacy committee was established after the 2019 Annual Conference to identify, synthesize, and disseminate current research findings relevant to early and family literacy issues and other advocacy resources. The committee has been working to reach ALSC members and other individuals and agencies serving young children to determine information needs, open communication, initiate collaborations, and discuss future training options. The committee has contributed to the ALSC Blog with posts that have solidified understanding of the definition of family literacy as it relates to early literacy, inclusivity, and libraries.

Learning & Development. ALSC will actively develop new generations of leaders. ALSC committees continue to utilize the ALSC blog, webinars and courses to contribute to members' knowledge-base in areas such as early literacy, fiscal responsibility within their libraries, and intellectual freedom and information literacy in children's programs and services. The fall of 2019 the Education committee began a critical review of ALSC's core competencies as part of 5-year review cycle. The committee reviewed results of a survey sent to ALSC membership to request feedback that will inform the updates and reported preliminary survey results analysis to the ALSC board at the 2020 Midwinter Meeting. Committee members are incorporating revisions for the updated competencies to be completed by the end of fiscal year 2020.

ALSC members, staff, and leadership have actively engaged in thoughtful consideration of how their work can impact specific goals set forth and inspired by the strategic plan. ALSC committees share their activities through quarterly reports that specifically gather information on progress toward each of the strategic plan areas. These reports and the work of staff and leadership continue to reveal steady progress in each strategic plan area.

August 31, 2020 will end the three-year 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. The Fall 2019 ALSC Executive Committee meeting initiated the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan work and was followed by the full ALSC Board's participation in developing a strategic plan by the start of the 2021 fiscal year beginning September 1, 2020. Preparations included an extensive review of resources that informed and supported the current strategic plan. Some examples of these resources include an environmental scan, quarterly Strategic Plan Implementation Progress Reports, ALSC surveys including the 2016 Diversity Within Children's Librarianship and 2019 Needs Assessment survey results, background information on current ALSC projects and resources from ALA such as the ALA's Strategic Directions and updates, and the State of America's libraries report. The Board continues the work of developing the strategic plan to ensure its relativity to a post-pandemic environment.

Membership

Statistics & Involvement

Since June 2019, ALSC has experienced an approximate 8% decline in overall membership. Many factors have impacted ALSC membership, most prominent being the current economic climate and the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the ALSC 2019 Membership Needs Assessment Report, we know approximately 70% of ALSC members pay their own dues; considering this, it will continue to be difficult for members to financially commit to ALSC.

Emerging Leaders

In November 2019, ALSC named Jessica Agudelo as its representative in the 2020 Emerging Leaders program. Jessica Agudelo is the Supervising Librarian for the Bronx Library Center's children's department where she facilitates community partnerships and coordinates the development of early literacy, bilingual, and technology-based programming. Working for the New York Public Library since 2012, Agudelo, has vast experience in outreach services, partnerships, and children's and bilingual program development. Agudelo has served on the New York Public Library's Best Books for Kids committee and assisted with creating its Spanish counterpart, "Mejores libros para pequeños". Additionally, in 2014, she was awarded a Spectrum Scholarship from the ALA and will serve as chair of the 2021 Pura Belpré Award selection committee. She is currently working on a celebratory and awareness 40th anniversary project proposed by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 ALA Annual Conference, this project will now be presented at the 2021 ALA Annual Conference.

Mentoring Program

Applications for the Fall 2019 Mentoring Program closed in September. The Mentoring Working Group was able to facilitate 28 matches. Monthly communication is sent to the matches participating.

Engagement and Advocacy

Throughout the year, ALSC leaders and members take advantage of opportunities to spread the word about the work of ALSC and its membership and to learn from and make connections with other organizations, libraries, and professionals who work on behalf of children.

ALSC hosts regular online discussion sessions called **Community Forums**, during which participants can chat live with the ALSC President, members of the Board of Directors, fellow ALSC members, and presenters. Members who cannot participate live may submit questions in advance via email or Twitter. Transcripts of the chats are shared afterwards. This year's forums have included:

- February 2020 – ALSC Committee Alignment and Transition to more Virtual Work
- May 2020 – Impact of COVID-19 and the Library: Present and Future

In addition to Community Forums, ALSC recognized the need for youth serving library workers to stay connected and network during this time of uncertainty. In April 2020, ALSC launched its first **We Are ALSC Chat**. Led by ALSC committees, these informal chats (held on Zoom or

Twitter) are open to members and non-members and are designed to be online networking chats for resource sharing and discussion around timely topics in children's services.

The **ALSC Roadshow**, which provides funding and/or materials, offers ALSC members the opportunity to represent the association at conferences and other relevant events around the country. In 2019-20, thus far, ALSC has supported member representatives at events:

- National Summer Learning Association Conference (NSLA) in Atlanta, Georgia – October 2019
- American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Conference in Louisville, Kentucky – November 2019
- Public Library Association Conference in Nashville, Tennessee – February 2020

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

- **Financial initiatives:**
 - **ASGCLA Fundraising trip** - The planned to Scotland and Northern Ireland in May was postponed in March until September 2020. In May the trip was cancelled completely.
- **ASGCLA Transitions 2020 :**
 - This spring has been a complete reversal of direction for ASGCLA. By April, the ASGCLA Board realized that because the contract for interim executive director would not be extended past September, the reality of falling memberships, and ASGCLA's financial situation, it was clear that our Division could not support itself into the future.
 - Two ASGCLA Board meetings in April were devoted to sharing this information, discussing, and preparing the planning the future for all of our ASGCLA members. It was clear that the option of merging the whole division into another division was not a practical option. ASGCLA's five areas have unique areas of expertise and needs for professional growth, and networking.
 - With the support and guidance of ALA Executive Director Tracie Hall, we held many meetings to identify divisions or units of ALA that can incorporate the ASGCLA groups with similar interests and expertise.
 - An **ASGCLA Transitions 2020** page, <https://www.asgcladirect.org/2020/05/asgcla-transitions-2020/>, with information for ASGCLA members was announced in the May ASGCLA e-Newsletter.
 - At an ASGCLA Membership meeting on May 21, a proposed chart of possible divisions or units of ALA was presented and discussed. Member feedback at this meeting guided us on our direction, and we proceeded to follow up with many divisions and units to revise the plan. .
 - The ASGCLA Board is meeting on June 11th, to vote on our official petition to Committee on Organization (COO) to disband ASGCLA. We expect COO forward the request to Council at the Annual Conference virtual meetings.

- The ASGCLA Board hopes the future we have tried to secure for our members serves them well

Public Library Association (PLA)

COVID-19 Webinars

PLA took quick action in March 2020 to plan a free webinar series, [Public Libraries Respond to COVID-19](#), which included six webinars that took place between March 26 and April 23, 2020. The webinars covered topics of immediate need to the field, such as addressing the digital divide, managing anxiety, and responding to community needs through innovative solutions and services. More than 9,000 public library professionals registered for the series. As indicated by post-webinar evaluations, the webinars helped library professionals connect with their peers and feel less alone, while also giving them ideas for new services, such as mobile printing, lending hotspots, and increasing job search assistance for recently unemployed patrons, and suggested strategies for reopening safely. The recordings from PLA's webinar series, [Public Libraries Respond to COVID-19](#), are freely available to the public.

COVID-19 Survey

The [Public Libraries Respond to COVID-19 Survey](#) was fielded in March 2020, shared widely through library organizations like the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, the Urban Libraries Council and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries. Research staff from the Colorado State Library's Library Research Service and IMLS assisted PLA. Survey responses represented 28% of U.S. public libraries. At least one public library in every state responded to the survey, and 43 states had 10% or more of their libraries represented. Survey findings showed that as public libraries closed their buildings to the public, staff continued to serve their communities in innovative ways. Most respondents (98%) reported their buildings were closed to the public but, in many cases, staff continued to expand access to digital resources, launch virtual programs and coordinate services with local government agencies. The survey found that libraries are rapidly adapting services. A substantial majority of respondents report they extended online renewal policies (76%), expanded online services like e-books and streaming media (74%) and added virtual programming (61%). In open-ended responses, library staff described a range of new activities ranging from reallocating print collection budgets to digital materials, reaching out by phone to those digitally disconnected, and more. Additionally, libraries are preparing for even greater need to support unemployed workers and small businesses. In May 2020, PLA fielded a second survey to collect more information about public libraries' responses to COVID-19 and plans to reopen, and PLA will use the information to support and advance libraries as the crisis continues.

PLA and Microsoft Public WiFi Access Micro Grant Program

In late 2019, PLA's [DigitalLead: Rural Libraries Creating New Possibilities](#) partnership with [Microsoft Philanthropies](#) provided 41 libraries serving rural communities with 158 hotspot devices, to initiate lending programs, and 156 computers, to conduct digital literacy training sessions. Many hit the ground running with their new equipment, using their new laptops to take digital literacy training to food pantries, or using them to help community members in remote areas complete the U.S. Census. However, their new initiatives were put on hold when libraries closed due to COVID-19. In response to the crisis, PLA and Microsoft quickly created a new opportunity, the [PLA and Microsoft Public WiFi Access Micro Grant Program](#), to provide WiFi access points to rural libraries to extend their signals into public spaces outside the library. By June 1, 2020, over 200 libraries had completed the application, and PLA was in the process of

providing the first 72 library systems with devices to at nearly 100 branch and community locations. PLA and Microsoft are also providing libraries with tools for online digital literacy and skill development, such as [DigitalLearn.org](https://www.digitallearn.org/) and [Microsoft Learn](https://www.microsoft.com/learn/).

Health Insurance Promotion

PLA completed its second year of the initiative [Promoting Health Communities: Libraries Connecting You to Coverage](#), sponsored by the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) and [Community Catalyst](#). To date, the project has provided over 160 grants to libraries to promote enrollment in the [Affordable Care Act](#) (ACA). For the 2020 enrollment period, public libraries hosted more than 240 informational events, and there were more than 1,400 downloads of communications assets and materials that PLA posted online for public libraries to use. In the spring of 2020, PLA confirmed a third year of funding to promote ACA enrollment for 2021 along with expanded funding to help libraries promote enrollment in Medicaid. As part of PLA's health literacy work, PLA also promoted the Libraries Transform [Health Literacy Toolkit](#), created a new health literacy poster for display in libraries, and maintains the [Healthy Community Tools for Public Libraries](#) web site.

2020 Election

In April, PLA members elected [Melanie Huggins](#), Executive Director of the Richland Library (Columbia, SC) to the office of 2021-2022 PLA president. Huggins will serve a three-year term beginning this June and including one year each as president-elect (2020-2021), president (2021-2022), and immediate past president (2022-2023). Also elected to the PLA Board, as directors-at-large, were [Brandy A. McNeil](#), Associate Director, Tech Education at The New York (NY) Public Library and [Dara Hanke Schmidt](#), Library Director at Cedar Rapids (IA) Public Library. Each will serve a three-year term beginning in June 2020. [Stephanie Chase](#), Director of the Hillsboro (OR) Public Library was re-elected as the ALA Division Councilor on the PLA Board and will serve a three-year term beginning in June 2020.

Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)

Definition of Reference

The Reference and User Services Association is examining the current definition of reference, how it compares to the current practice of reference, and what would be needed for a reaffirmation or redefinition of reference. Question raised and addressed in this examination have included, the extent to which our current definition is relevant to your library, what role might the definition of reference play in how we talk about reference, and how might the definition contribute to RUSA's aim to "advance the evolution of the profession and better serve users in a continuously changing information society". The Reference Service Section (RSS) of RUSA will lead a division wide task force charged with bringing forth a recommendation to the Board regarding the definition of reference.

Data in Library on-line education series

RUSA sponsored a very successful Data in Libraries webinar series as part of our on-line education offerings. This series exceeded revenue and registration expectations and will allow

RUSA to surpass its on-line education revenue budget goals for the year. Facilitators of the series were: Bobray Bordelon, Jennifer Boettcher, Ryan Womack and Jeremy Darrington. Overall, RUSA's on-line education in 2019-20 was very strong both in registration and revenue, and quality of programs. RUSA is looking for ways to expand upon this year's success and continue with strong on-line educational programming in the upcoming year.

Upcoming Educational Offerings

Upcoming contracted educational offerings include

1 course:

- 7/13/20 *"Libraries and Aging 101: Educate, Engage and Empower Mature Adults,*

and 3 webinars:

- 6/4/20 *"Marketing Discovery & Accessing Usability: ETS Discovery Webinar Series Part II",*
- 6/11/20 *"Exploring Discovery in Instruction Settings: ETS Discovery Webinar Series Part III" and*
- 7/22/20 *"Tipping the Scales: Technology & Social Justice".*

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)

2020 YALSA YA Services Symposium to be Virtual

In response to the current public health climate, YALSA's Board of Directors have decided that its in-person symposium scheduled to take place November 6 – 8, 2020 in Reno will shift to a virtual event. More information about programs and registration will be announced in the coming weeks.

2020 Book and Media Awards Ceremonies

YALSA is working with REFORMA, ALSC, ODLOS and Booklist to develop a virtual event to celebrate the Printz and Odyssey Awards scheduled throughout the day on **Sunday, June 28**. The Edwards winner will be celebrated as part of the Symposium and the Alex Awards were celebrated on **June 11**. More details will be shared as soon as they are finalized.

TeenTober Celebration Poster & Bookmark

Last October, YALSA's new month-long teen celebration, [TeenTober](#) took place with a "soft" launch. This year, an official launch is planned with the release of new resources and a poster and bookmark set, which is set to be released in August. TeenTober was created to reimagine Teen Read Week and Teen Tech Week into a bigger advocacy campaign that emphasizes the importance of year-round teen services and all types of literacies. [Learn](#) more and [sign up](#) for updates.

2020 Teens' Top Ten Nominees Announced

The 2020 [Teens' Top Ten](#) nominees were announced in late April. [View](#) the list of the 25 nominees, along with annotations, on the [Teens' Top Ten](#) web page. Libraries are encouraged to promote the list to the teen patrons to encourage reading during the summer. Voting for the "top ten" starts **August 15**.

YALSA Member Discussion Sessions

In late April, YALSA held its first member discussion session, [Returning to the New Normal – Teen Services Programming](#). Over 300 individuals attended, and a lot of great conversations

took place. A second member discussion session, [Summer Programming & Returning to Libraries](#), took place in late May.

Education Advisory Committee

YALSA seeks 5 -7 individuals to fill newly created [Educational Advisory Committee](#) positions for a one-year term starting July 2020. Members assist with identifying and providing feedback on Continuing Education topics to YALSA's Executive Director and the newly created position of Program Officer for Continuing Education and Development. The EAC role is to assist with providing appropriate and timely topics for continuing education offerings; identifying qualified individuals to facilitate continuing education sessions.

Upcoming YALSA Events

June 28: 2020 Book and Media Awards Ceremonies

July 9: [Identifying the Best Fit Audiobooks for Your Teens Webinar; 2PM EST](#)

August 15: [2020 Teens' Top Ten Voting Begins](#)

October: [Teen Tober](#)

November 6-8: [YALSA's Virtual Symposium](#)

ALA PUBLISHING

ALA Editions

The ALA Editions book [Law Librarianship in the Age of AI](#), edited by Ellyssa Kroski, was awarded the 2020 Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL).

Two free PDFs were made available to show support to library workers: [Library as Safe Haven: Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery](#), a nuts-and-bolts manual filled with useful risk assessment tools and guidance on ensuring service continuity, and "[Stay Well, Stay Inspired](#)," which offers an assortment of coloring pages, writing prompts, and uplifting quotes.

New Books from ALA Editions and ALA Neal-Schuman

New professional development books published include

- The second edition of [Collection Management for Youth: Equity, Inclusion, and Learning](#), by Sandra Hughes-Hassell, which shows collection managers how to be learner-centered, confidently acting as information guides, change agents, and leaders (ALA Editions);
- [STEAM Activities in 30 Minutes for Elementary Learners](#), by Deborah Rinio, the newest volume in the AASL Standards-Based Learning Series, which includes 14 scaffolded STEAM activities (ALA Editions);
- [Libraries and the Substance Abuse Crisis: Supporting Your Community](#), by Cindy Grove, a primer offering to-the-point guidance on welcoming people with substance use

- disorders and their loved ones through policy, materials, outreach, collaboration, programs, and services (ALA Editions);
- [*Intellectual Freedom Stories from a Shifting Landscape*](#), edited by Valerie Nye for Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF), which gathers real-world stories of intellectual freedom in action to illuminate the difficulties, triumphs, and occasional setbacks of advocating for free and equal access to information for all people (ALA Editions);
 - [*Young Activists and the Public Library: Facilitating Democracy*](#), by Virginia A. Walter, in which the ALSC past president demonstrates how libraries can foster greater civic literacy and civic engagement in young patrons (ALA Editions);
 - [*A Practical Guide to Privacy in Libraries*](#), by Paul Pedley, which considers how privacy issues can arise in a library context and what library and information professionals can do to protect the privacy of their users (Facet Publishing, UK);
 - [*52 Ready-to-Use Gaming Programs for Libraries*](#), edited by Ellyssa Kroski, presenting creative programming ideas from public, school, and academic libraries nationwide (ALA Editions);
 - [*Pairing STEAM with Stories: 46 Hands-On Activities for Children*](#), by Elizabeth M. McChesney and Brett Nicholas, showcasing library-tested activities that meld cutting-edge STEAM education principles with some of the best books available for youth today (ALA Editions);
 - The 2020 edition of ALSC's [*The Newbery and Caldecott Awards: A Guide to the Medal and Honor Books*](#), highlighting the books deemed most distinguished in American children's literature and illustration since the inception of the renowned prizes (ALA Editions);
 - [*All Ages Welcome: Recruiting and Retaining Younger Generations for Library Boards, Friends Groups, and Foundations*](#), by Lina Bertinelli, Madeline Jarvis, Kathy Kosinski, and Tess Wilson, published in collaboration with United for Libraries, which empowers libraries to grow and strengthen their recruitment, retention, and training of Trustees, Friends, and Foundation members (ALA Editions); and
 - [*25 Projects for Eco Explorers*](#), by Christine M. Kirker, presenting ready-to-use projects on environmental topics that can be integrated into K-5 educational lesson plans and library programming for children aged 4-10.

For a full listing of titles including books, online workshops, and eCourses, visit the ALA Store.

www.alastore.ala.org

ALA Graphics

The ALA Graphics summer 2020 catalog arrived in early April and introduced many new products for summer and fall events. Working in partnership with the Communications and Marketing Office, new Library Card Sign-up Month materials feature Honorary Chair, Wonder Woman, with the slogan "Lasso a Library Card....and Find Your Super Power!" on a [poster](#), [bookmark](#), and [sticker](#).

The summer catalog also debuted the Office of Intellectual Freedom's (OIF) 2020 Banned Books Week theme "Censorship is a Dead End. Find Your Freedom to Read." on a new [poster](#),

[bookmark](#), updated [field report](#), and [digital downloads](#). Additional evergreen materials supporting intellectual freedom include fun [silicone bracelets](#) and an [informational poster](#) featuring facts about censored books and authors. The Most Challenged Books of 2019 were unveiled on a new [bookmark](#).

Caldecott Medal-winning illustrator and author Dan Santat created a [poster](#) and [bookmark](#) to celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month in May. Raúl the Third illustrated a new [poster](#) and [bookmark](#) featuring characters from his 2019 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor book *¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market*.

A host of new designs were added to ALA Graphics' ancillary [gift shop](#) on Spreadshirt, including OIF's Banned Books Week and intellectual freedom themes and popular National Library Week designs.

In response to COVID-19, ALA Graphics designed and promoted a [free, downloadable READ® poster](#) template that has been downloaded more than 6,600 times.

American Libraries

May 2020 issue

The cover story for *American Libraries* magazine's May 2020 issue was "[We'll Always Have the American Library in Paris.](#)" celebrating the 100th anniversary of continental Europe's largest English-language lending library, founded as a continuation of ALA's Library War Service. Other features in this issue include Marshall Breeding's annual [Library Systems Report](#), an in-depth look at the current state of the library technology industry, and ALA's [2020 Class of Emerging Leaders](#). Additional highlights include articles on how libraries are [meeting legal needs](#) in their communities; [law librarians](#) providing legal resources for public librarians in an effort to bridge the justice gap; the advent of [Silent Book Clubs](#) in libraries; and an interview with [author Julia Alvarez](#).

June 2020 issue

The cover story for the June 2020 issue is "[Coping in a Time of COVID-19.](#)" a feature excerpted from an *American Libraries Live* webinar that includes librarians and health professionals discussing pandemic experiences and best practices. Other COVID-19 information in this issue includes stories on [sanitizing collections](#), [moving programs online](#), and libraries using [3D printers](#) to create personal protective equipment. Additional highlights include "[The Rainbow's Arc.](#)" an oral history celebrating 50 years of the Rainbow Round Table; library thinkers on [future trends](#); an update on the use of [Narcans in libraries](#); and an interview with political leader [Stacey Abrams](#).

American Libraries Online and Social Media

We published 40 online stories since March 26, including our six [Sustainability in Libraries](#) columns, produced with Sustain RT to mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Top stories:

1. [How to Sanitize Collections in a Pandemic](#) (our most-read story ever)
2. [Reopening: Not "When?" But "How?"](#)
3. [Digital Escape Rooms and Other Online Programming](#)

We've reached 100,000 hits on our website for four of the past five months, nearly hitting 200,000 in April, thanks to the combination of [COVID-19 Scoop posts](#) and the [State of America's Libraries report](#).

We passed 85,000 Twitter followers in April.

AL Direct

Top three *AL Direct* news items since March 26:

1. [What a post-COVID-19 world could bring for libraries](#) (1,878)
2. [How to sanitize collections in a pandemic](#) (1,583)
3. [Safe handling and reopening practices](#) (1,526)

Number of links published in Latest Library Links between March 26 and June 2: 448

Dewey Decibel Podcast

The *American Libraries Dewey Decibel* podcast released three episodes in April and May. The April episode featured librarians discussing [COVID-19 response](#), including an interview with Felton Thomas Jr., CEO of Cleveland Public Library, who discussed the library's use of 3D printers to make personal protective equipment for emergency workers, and Evan Knight, preservation specialist at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, who shared how to sanitize and clean collections to prevent spread of the virus. The episode has become one of the podcast's most successful episodes, with more than 3,000 listens in less than two months.

A bonus episode in April, released to coincide with the five-year anniversary of the death of Freddie Grey, featured [an interview with Wes Moore](#), taped at the 2020 ALA Midwinter Meeting. Moore discussed his new book, *Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City*, which chronicles Grey's death and its effect on the city of Baltimore.

The May episode of *Dewey Decibel* explored [privacy concerns](#) that have arisen because of COVID-19. Library consultant and member of the ALA Privacy Subcommittee Becky Yoose talked about Zoombombing and how to prevent it; and Peter McCracken, electronic resources librarian at Cornell University, talked about a privacy-services program instituted by Cornell to protect patron data and how the pandemic is affecting those services.

American Libraries Senior Editor George Eberhart, a recipient of the ALA Staff Achievement Award for his unflagging dedication to AL Direct, retires on June 8th. AL Direct, ALA's first association-wide e-newsletter, has been a vital tool since 2006 for keeping members and others connected with news and updates and was recognized with a national award soon after its launch. George was also the author of five editions of the popular ALA Editions *Whole Library Handbook* series. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

Booklist Publications

Due to the pandemic, library closures and the urgent needs for online resources during a time of crisis, *Booklist* and *Book Links* opened subscription products to non-subscribers in March. As a result, audience engagement has increased dramatically. In April and May, on average, 1,900 librarians registered for *Booklist's* webinars, more than 100,000 visited our websites, and more than 13,000 read digital editions of *Booklist* and *Book Links*. For the first time, the pageviews of

2019-2020 ALA CD#23.1
2020 ALA Virtual Governance Meeting

Booklist digital editions exceeded website pageviews. Access will remain freely open to non-subscribers until at least the end of August. Communication plans are in the works to convert non-and-lapsed-subscribers to paying subscribers so that all of those using this important content will continue to enjoy the benefits of full access to *Booklist*.