

## Report to Council and Executive Board

June 16, 2016

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Executive Director

### Responding to the Pulse Shootings

ALA is working closely with divisions, offices, round tables, task forces, and members to organize meaningful remembrances, events and activities for Annual, in addition to the comprehensive programs and sessions focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion that were already planned for conference. ALA will be making rainbow ribbons available to attendees to remember the victims of the nightclub shooting. A memorial gathering is planned for Saturday, June 25, 8-8:30 a.m. in the Convention Center Chapin Theater and a special conference Read Out is being held, co-sponsored by GLBTRT and OIF. Dates, times, and locations and other information will be shared via the American Libraries blog, [The Scoop](#). You will find [lists and links to a wide range of related resources](#), including statements from ALA President Sari Feldman, on the conference website.

### Hayden Confirmation update

As [reported in District Dispatch](#), Dr. Carla Hayden's nomination to serve as the next Librarian of Congress was voted upon and endorsed by the Senate Rules Committee on June 9. It is now on the Senate Calendar and could be acted upon by the full Senate at any time at the discretion of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. No opposition to Dr. Hayden's nomination is known or anticipated, so it remains quite probable that the Senate will either favorably vote upon Dr. Hayden's confirmation, or approve her by voice vote pursuant to a request for "unanimous consent," prior to the July 15 recess..

### Federal Appropriations update

The Senate Appropriations Committee delivered good news for libraries by increasing funding for LSTA Grants to States and National Leadership Grants to Libraries, while also providing level funding for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL). The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee approved the bill on June 13, 2016, with no amendments or controversial policy riders. The Grants to States program, which the President's budget proposed cutting by \$950,000, will instead be *increased* in the Senate bill by \$314,000, raising its total funding to \$156.1 million for FY2017. That reflects an increase of over \$1.25 million from the President's request. National Leadership Grants will also receive a \$314,000 increase, bringing its total to \$13.4 million. Overall, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will receive a \$1 million increase to \$231 million for FY2017. Innovative Approaches to Literacy, just authorized in last year's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), will receive level funding in the Senate bill of \$27 million for FY2017. One half of IAL funding is reserved for school library grants with the remaining reserved for non-

profits. The House Appropriations Committee has not yet announced a timetable for moving its Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies FY2017 funding bill.

## ALA OFFICES

### Membership Development

#### Membership Statistics

At the end of May 2016, total ALA membership was 58,919. This is 3,500 greater than May of last year. Five divisions: ALSC, ASCLA, LLAMA, PLA, and United for Libraries had membership growth. Seven round tables: EMIERT, ERT, GAMERT, GLBTRT, RMRT, SRRT, and SUSTRT had increased membership compared to last year. IRRT and MAGIRT membership was identical to last year. The United for Libraries group memberships account for a portion of the growth in membership. Other notable membership items include an increase of 143 personal members, an increase of 252 regular members, an increase of 52 support staff members, and an increase of 10 life members. Small and very small library memberships have re-bounded; there has been growth in the medium and large library categories. The combined total of corporate and champion members has increased slightly.

#### Ongoing Recruitment and Retention Activities

- Annual Conference: More than 75 members have volunteered to serve as Ambassadors at the Orlando Annual Conference. They will assist new (and any) attendees in their conference 'navigation.' The ALA membership pavilion (renamed the "ALA Lounge: *Sponsored by ALA Membership*") was moved to an area near registration and made more user-friendly/welcoming, greatly increasing traffic flow of members and non-members. It is supporting the Libraries Transform campaign and ALA's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- As part of the ongoing "Engage with ALA" initiative, a new member testimonial webpage – '[Members Say it Best](http://ala.org/membership/memconnections)' ([ala.org/membership/memconnections](http://ala.org/membership/memconnections)) - was launched. It uses professional photography and meaningful member quotations and is supported with promotional highlight slides on the ALA website home page and membership page. The Virtual Membership Meeting (under the direction of the Committee on Member Meetings – COMM) had 602 registrants and 284 participants.

### Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)

#### "Passion, Purpose and Play" in Canada

On May 11, OIF Director Jamie LaRue spoke to the Marigold Library System in Strathmore, Alberta for its annual staff development program. The libraries in the multi-library system serve

about 300,000 people, and the system supports the libraries with a union catalog, delivery, and professional development. The topic was "Passion, Purpose, and Play." There were many comments afterward about the dissolution of the Canadian Library Association, and looking to ALA for conferences and global leadership. There was also much discussion about the closure of almost half the libraries in Newfoundland – a forced move to regional services occasioned by a decline in oil revenues.

### Censorship in Nigeria

On May 31, Jamie LaRue met with Michael Dowling and the Mortenson Center visitors for a talk about the OIF. Censorship is alive and well in Nigeria's academic libraries, where politicians recently required the removal of certain political works. There is also great conflict in Afghanistan regarding the collection of religious works.

### Intellectual Freedom and Minors

On May 26, the Office for Intellectual Freedom hosted a webinar in collaboration with the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF), titled [Intellectual Freedom and Minors](#) featuring FTRF legal counsel Theresa Chmara and author Chris Crutcher. Theresa discussed the rights of minors, soft-censorship, and library interpretations that are relevant to serving minors, and Chris shared some amazing stories about the role of books and stories in young lives.

### Georgia Library Media Association Summer Institute

OIF Assistant Director Kristin Pekoll traveled to Atlanta, Georgia on June 6 to talk about Banned Books Week with the librarians attending the Georgia Library Media Association Summer Institute. Her talk focused on why Banned Books Week cannot be the first and last conversation librarians have with their students or their school community about the freedom to read, and how librarians can broaden the understanding of their First Amendment rights and the responsibilities that go with them by connecting personally year-round.

### Intellectual Freedom for All; Safeguard Against Censorship of GLBT Books

On June 15, for GLBT Book Month, OIF hosted a webinar titled, [Intellectual Freedom for All; Safeguard Against Censorship of GLBT Books](#) featuring the knowledge and experience of Gayle Pitman, author of *This Day in June*. She was joined by Peter Coyl, chair of the GLBTRT, who will highlight the content of the GLBTRT's [newest toolkit](#), and a library patron with a diverse family who shared their insights and user experiences on how the library has been a support for the family.

### The Changing Landscape of Library Privacy

OIF Deputy Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone and IFC Privacy Subcommittee chair Michael Robinson jointly presented [The Changing Landscape of Library Privacy](#), a June 15 webinar hosted by [Techsoup](#), an organization that provides technology solutions, digital platforms, and learning experiences to nonprofit organizations. Deborah discussed the legal and ethical foundations for patron privacy, as well as resources that can be used to help libraries preserve privacy when adopting new technology. Michael provided specific examples of how new technologies and platforms can pose a threat to patron privacy, and what libraries can do to minimize those threats in the library setting.

## Office for Library Advocacy (OLA)

### State and Local Activity

The Office for Library Advocacy facilitates efforts among ALA offices and divisions to monitor and coordinate responses to library closures, catastrophic library fiscal crisis situations, censorship and intellectual freedom issues, and other crisis situations affecting libraries at the state and local level. Each situation is addressed specifically, and OLA keeps detailed records regarding any action taken or performed, crisis partners and colleagues, and a running status regarding outcomes, results, or otherwise. Activity during the month of May includes:

- California: Bill AB 2880, introduced in the Legislature, proposes to allow local government greater copyright authority. The California Library Association (CLA) was contacted by OLA to inquire whether it would like assistance in the matter. Subsequently, the ALA Washington Office asked for sign-on on a letter. OLA has followed up with ALA councilor Patty Wong. CLA is not seeking assistance at this time.
- California: Changes in budget procedures with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is threatening middle school library positions. OLA is working with a LAUSD representative and has conducted a lengthy strategizing conversation, and an op-ed is in development.
- Illinois: The West Aurora School District has proposed to eliminate 10 district librarians and suggested replacing designated library time for students with STEM instruction in its place. OLA has been in contact with representatives from the Illinois School Media Association, who indicated that they are working with EveryLibrary to launch a campaign to change Illinois school code to mandate school librarians.
- Nevada: School librarian positions are being cut in Las Vegas schools in the Clark County School District. OLA has been in contact with a representative with the Nevada Library Association and is awaiting feedback.
- New Jersey: Belvidere – A librarian emailed OLA for advice and assistance regarding ongoing city rulings that would close her library and direct patrons to the county library instead. OLA turned the matter over to the New Jersey Library Association and is monitoring the situation.
- New Jersey: A former school librarian and current grandparent contacted OLA requesting resources about school library advocacy and ESSA legislation. Megan Cusick spoke with the woman and provided her with information, mailed her collateral advocacy materials, and connected her with the New Jersey School Library Association.
- Oregon: LS&S (formerly LSSI), is being criticized by city officials regarding low wages being paid to staff in the 15 branches they manage in Jackson County. (\$10 per hour appears to be the average salary.) OLA has reached out to the Oregon Library Association. An article regarding this issue was published in a newsletter of In the Public Interest, a research and policy center focused on privatization and responsible contracting in all sectors.

- Vermont: Burlington High School has proposed to eliminate its school librarian as part of funding cuts, prompting concerns that this action could cause the school to lose its accreditation. Megan Cusick is working with the Vermont Library Association and the Vermont Association of School Librarians on this matter.
- Virginia: The Prince William Public Library System has been approached by LS&S, claiming the company could save the system \$3 million per year. The library board has since voted to issue an RFP (request for proposal) to outsource its library services. OLA has contacted the Virginia Library Association and is waiting for a response.
- In addition, advocacy resources were requested by eight library systems in the month of May.

### I Love Libraries

- The I Love Libraries website is ALA's public facing website, addressing library news and issues. Traffic for the previous month includes:
  - 23,278 unique users
  - 40,725 page views
  - 23,278 individual sessions – 80.73% of these are “new sessions.”
 Visit [www.ilovelibraries.org](http://www.ilovelibraries.org) for more information.
- The I Love Libraries e-newsletter continues to be published on a twice-monthly basis, featuring advocacy articles and public interest stories about libraries, library-related issues and current events, culled from a variety of publications and sources with over 5,500 total subscribers. [Register](#) to be placed on the mailing list for this e-newsletter.
- The I Love Libraries Facebook page has one of ALA's strongest social media presences. Activity and traffic for the past 28 days (May 5 – June 2) include:
  - 186,775 people reached
  - 20,591 people engaged with specific posts
  - 907 new page likes were added
  - Average user demographic: Female, age 25-34. (20% of total audience.)

### Other News

- The Topeka and Shawnee Public Library, headed by CEO Gina Millsap, has been named the [2016 Gale/Library Journal Public Library of the Year](#).
- OLA and OIF are planning a pilot training series called “Advocacy Bootcamp,” to launch in fall. Details to come.
- Beginning in July (tentatively) OLA, Chapter Relations, and United for Libraries are partnering for a 5-part webinar series hosted by Libby Post, President of Communication Services. Titled “Library Campaign Training Institute,” the webinars will cover creating a library's base for advocacy support, how to create a campaign plan, message, marketing, and media, connecting with voters, and techniques on how to get out the vote in your community. Times and registration details will be made available as soon as possible.
- OLA and other ALA offices are continuing to meet regularly to discuss state and local issues, to improve communication, and improve service to chapters and members.

## **Office for Research and Statistics (ORS)**

### Annual Conference

The ORS Roundtable and Committee have exciting programs planned for the Annual Conference. LRRT offers two Research Forums: (1) Connecting Research and Practice and (2) New Voices and Studies from the Field. LRRT will also hold a Mentorship Program Discussion Forum. This year's LHRT Research Forum is "History of Reading and Readers in Libraries." The CORS program is titled "Improve Services and Create Value: Using Data to Guide Your Library's Strategic Planning Process." Kathy Rosa will speak in a Conversation Starter titled "Ideas Exchange: Increasing Diversity in the Publishing and Library Workforce."

### Research

The results of the ALA FINRA Personal Finance Survey are being analyzed. The survey, sent to a random sample of public libraries, is stratified by rural, town, suburban and city libraries, as defined by the IMLS PLS locale codes. The survey will provide information about the financial literacy programs and services available in public libraries across the country. The FINRA Educational Foundation funds this survey. The annual Member Satisfaction Survey, authored by Kelsey Henke, is ready for review by the Membership Committee. The survey measures member views about the services, programs and conferences that ALA provides. The final report of the Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is ready for Council. The report includes recommendations based, in part, on the three surveys conducted by ORS during the past year. ORS is working with the Conference Accessibility Task Force Data Sub-Committee to develop a mixed methods research report in support of the Task Force mission.

### Member Engagement Through Presentations and Publications

- ORS engages with members and related organizations through presentations and webinars. Kathy Rosa gave a presentation to an audience of 50 at the 8th International Conference on Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries in London during the last week of May. The presentation included a quantitative analysis of librarian and faculty responses about current digital humanities projects and services followed by a discussion of resources needed to support future digital humanities scholarship. The Committee on Research and Statistics presented a free webinar to the limit of 100 attendees on Monday, May 23. The webinar was titled "Search Results are the New Black: How Students Make Decisions." Deirdre Costello, Principal UX Researcher on EBSCO's User Research team, discussed user expectations on the open web, how students make decisions about library resources, and why we all need to think about search results as one of the most important experiences for our users.
- "Notable Dissertations," an article authored by Rosa, was the top hit in the AL Direct May-June issue with 1,172 hits. In the article, Kathy Rosa discussed how the results of dissertation research can inform library practice. The June issue of the IFLA Journal will include an article titled "American libraries in 2016: Creating their future by connecting, collaborating and building community." The article, co-edited by Kathy Rosa and Tom Storey, OCLC, serves as the customary analysis of library issues and trends in the country hosting the IFLA World Library and Information Congress. The meeting will be in Columbus, Ohio this year, August 13 – 19.

## **Public Awareness Office (PAO)**

### Libraries Transform Campaign

More than 3,000 libraries and supporters have registered for ALA's Libraries Transform campaign. As the popularity of the campaign continues to grow, ALA leadership continues to participate in interviews that highlight the transformation of library service. Coverage highlights include [Orlando Sentinel](#), [Christian Science Monitor](#), and the [Boulder Daily Camera](#).

### Libraries Transform Pop-up Café Event at Millennium Park

PAO, in coordination with Little Jacket, hosted a pop-up café event at Chicago's Millennium Park during the Book Expo of America on May 12 and 13. Almost 600 cups of free hot and iced coffee were served to park visitors and passersby who also learned about the Libraries Transform campaign. The two-day event was well received on social media with 114,817 impressions on the ALA and I Love Libraries Facebook pages and 87,763 impressions on Twitter.

### Libraries Transform Monthly Analytics Report: May 2016

As of June 2016, more than 3,000 libraries and supporters have signed on to the Libraries Transform campaign. More than 140 libraries are from outside the United States.

- Libraries Transform Website  
Pageviews: 17,765 (45,769 in April, 44,168 in March)  
Unique pageviews: 13,386 (33,834 in April, 32,980 in March)  
Average time on page is 1:26  
Tool downloads: 850  
Traffic from Facebook: 324  
Traffic from Twitter: 92
- Twitter  
#LibrariesTransform was used 2,522 times on Twitter (14,039 in April, 2,654 in March)  
Impressions on ALA and ILL Twitter accounts 528,951 (742,139 in April)  
Retweets on ALA and ILL accounts 1,065, including one from Arianna Huffington. (2,456 in April)
- Facebook  
Post reach on ALA and ILL Facebook: 340,900 (3,156,872 in April, 322,386 in March)  
Comments on ALA and ILL Facebook: 355 (4,150 in April, 399 in March)  
Likes on ALA and ILL Facebook: 7624 ( 91,192 in April, 14,309 in March)  
Shares on ALA and ILL Facebook: 2318 (17,795 in April, 3,456 in March)
- Video views  
Entrepreneurship video posted for Small Business Week (4,843 views on Facebook)  
Education video as donation post for National Readathon Day: (40 views on Facebook)

The entire series of videos posted to the PLA YouTube channel (845 views total on YouTube)

- [May 25 Facebook post](#)  
Employers look for great communicators, not gr8 communicators. [#LibrariesTransform](#)
- [May 12 Twitter post to promote the Libraries Transform Pop-up Café for BEA](#)
- [May 17 Facebook post with donation button for National Readathon Day](#)
- [Small Business Week post 1](#)
- [Entrepreneurship video](#)
- Arianna Huffington retweet

### May Media Relations Activity

The following is a snapshot of Public Awareness Office (PAO) publicity activities that took place from May 1-31. During this timeframe more than 1,400 articles mentioning the American Library Association (ALA) were captured by ALA's monitoring service Meltwater News, resulting in a circulation rate of more than 3.9 billion. (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.)

- [ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition \(June 23 – 28\)](#)  
PAO is in the process of securing coverage of the ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition. PAO has developed a media [press kit](#), media materials and local and onsite press lists. More than 50 mainstream and trade press members have registered for media credentials. PAO has distributed materials to more than 200 library trade and Orlando media targets to secure placements. Team members also have assisted BCALA with coverage of its Reading is Grand initiative within the event's onsite daily *Cognotes*. Thus far, coverage of the ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition was achieved with [American Libraries](#), [Publishers Weekly](#) and [Library Journal](#).
- [GLBT Book Month – June](#)  
June is GLBT Book Month™, a nationwide celebration of the authors and writings that reflect the lives and experiences of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. In a year when Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) communities are facing divisive “religious freedom” and “bathroom privacy” legislation, GLBT Book Month was an opportunity for the library community to work against legislating discrimination by fostering acceptance through the power of books. Originally established in the early 1990s by The Publishing Triangle as National Lesbian and Gay Book Month, June 2016 marks the second commemoration of GLBT Book Month™ held under ALA's auspices.
- PAO created several [member publicity tools](#) for members and distributed an event [press release](#) to mainstream and library trade media. Coverage highlights included [PassPort Blogs](#), [LGBT Weekly](#), [Associations Now](#), [Unshelved](#), and [Good Reads](#).

- OIF Featured on CBS Saturday Morning – May 14  
PAO worked closely with the ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) and the CBS News Network to secure and coordinate an [interview](#) regarding censorship and the Top Ten List of Most Challenged Books. The interview was taped on April 20 at the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Public Library and featured OIF Director James LaRue. *CBS Saturday Morning* has more than [3 million viewers](#) per week.
- Library Card Sign-up Month Webinar  
On behalf of the Public Awareness Committee, PAO hosted a [webinar](#) on May 25 to promote September’s Library Card Sign-up Month and returning honorary spokesperson Snoopy. Hosted by PAO Director Jeff Julian and Campaign Coordinator Megan McFarlane, the webinar featured helpful tips and tools for promoting library card sign-ups, as well as useful examples of successful promotional tactics employed by libraries in 2015.
- National Readathon Day 2016  
PAO and the Development Office collaborated with Penguin Random House on the National Readathon Day for 2016, which took place on May 21, and benefited ALSC’s Every Child Ready to Read initiative and the Libraries Transform campaign. One of the most exciting and long-term developments of this effort is ALA’s being designated as one of the first non-profits to use Facebook’s “donate” button. This feature allows Facebook users to donate to ALA directly from our Facebook page or from any of our Facebook posts that we designate. This will be a useful tool to leverage for future Development campaigns. From an awareness standpoint, Readathon Day was a success, with traditional media coverage highlights including [Digital Book World](#), [Galley Cat](#), [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), and the [Chicago Tribune](#), as well as social media coverage:
  - Facebook (ALA only): 237,119 post reach; 255 comments; 3,777 likes; and 1,645 shares
  - Twitter (ALA only): 126,820 impressions; 319 retweets, including one from Arianna Huffington
- Donations  
In terms of donations, PAO is pleased to report that \$2,472 was raised from 75 donors. Donations garnered through social media tend to be smaller in amount. In addition, Facebook confirmed that the donate button could be used a week before Readathon, which impacted the number of donations through that channel.

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

### Congressman John Lewis to Present at ALA 2016; Program Honors 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NEH

Congressman John Lewis — renowned civil rights leader and co-author of the acclaimed graphic novel series *March* — and his *March* co-creators will make a special appearance at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference celebrating the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Often called “one of the most courageous persons the civil rights movement ever produced,” Lewis has dedicated his life to protecting human rights and securing civil liberties. Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell will discuss the legacy of the civil rights movement, the power of

visual literature to educate and inspire today's youth, and the crucial role of libraries in our democracy. A book signing will follow, and a limited number of free, limited-edition comic books – the *March Trilogy Sampler* and replica copies of the 1957 comic book *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story* – will be distributed. The program will be held on Saturday, June 25, at 9:30 a.m. (followed by book signing at 10:30 a.m.), in the Hyatt Regency Orlando, Room Regency Ballroom S. The program will be introduced by NEH Chairman William D. Adams.

#### STEM in Public Libraries Member Initiative Group to Hold First Meeting in Orlando

A group of science-loving library professionals will meet in Orlando for the first-ever meeting of a new ALA Member Initiative Group: STEM in Public Libraries. The STEM in Public Libraries group is open to all ALA members interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programming in public libraries. If you are interested in networking, grant opportunities, and meeting like-minded library professionals (in person and online) to connect and share ideas, this is the place for you. The meeting will include round table discussions, and participants will have the chance to try a variety of hands-on STEM activities for all ages. The meeting will be held on Saturday, June 25, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Hyatt Regency Orlando, Room Bayhill 22.

#### 75 Libraries to Receive Great Stories Club Programming Grants for At-Risk Youth

[Seventy-five libraries](#) have been selected to receive training and support to host book club programs with at-risk youth as part of the Great Stories Club (GSC) program. Created in 2006, GSC strives to introduce young adults to accessible and thought-provoking literature selected by humanities scholars to resonate with reluctant readers struggling with complex issues like incarceration, violence and poverty. The 2016 theme is “The Art of Change: Creation, Growth and Transformation,” and the students will read “The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie; “Buck: A Memoir” by M.K. Asante and “The Complete Persepolis” by Marjane Satrapi.

#### Announcing New PPO Grants and Sponsorships

The Public Programs Office has received several new grants and sponsorships in recent weeks:

- The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded PPO \$20,000 for the Great Stories Club, a reading and discussion program for at-risk youth. The funding will provide participating youth with access to inspiring authors by supporting an author “tour” (in-person and virtual) to libraries participating in the program. Great Stories Club grantees represent a variety of library types, but all are working within or in partnership with organizations that serve at-risk youth, such as juvenile detention centers or alternative schools.
- The Ford Foundation has awarded PPO a \$50,000 grant for the Great Stories Club. ALA will use the grant funds to provide travel, lodging and meals to support an in-person workshop for 50 GSC grantees in Chicago for an upcoming round of grants in January 2017. The training will offer in-depth exploration of three young adult texts included in the GSC reading list, best practices for engaging youth, and strategies for developing and sustaining relationships with community stakeholders to best support teen participants.

- PPO has entered into a \$25,000 agreement with American Express in support of its Small Business Saturday program. Held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Small Business Saturday encourages holiday shoppers to patronize businesses that are small and local. American Express offers a Neighborhood Champions toolkit to help local individuals and organizations plan Small Business Saturday events. Under the terms of the agreement, PPO will promote the availability of these free resources to libraries through a webinar, social media posts and emails.

## ALA DIVISIONS

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

#### AASL Holds ESSA Listening Session with U.S. Department of Education

On Friday, June 3, AASL leaders met virtually with Dr. Monique Chism, deputy assistant secretary from the U.S. Department of Education (USED), Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. This one-hour [“listening session”](#) was devoted to the relationship between school librarians and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The USED will take this information into account as it provides guidance on Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichments Grants.

#### Veterans Memorial Elementary School Named National School Library Program of the Year

Veterans Memorial Elementary School, located in Naples, Florida, is the AASL 2016 National School Library Program of the Year (NSLPY) Award recipient. Sponsored by Follett, the NSLPY Award annually recognizes a school library program that meets the needs of the changing school and library environment and is fully integrated into the school's curriculum. The recipient receives an obelisk – the symbol of school library excellence – and \$10,000 toward its school library program.

#### AASL Announces 2016 Award Recipients

AASL has announced the recipients of its 2016 awards. AASL awards and grants recognize excellence and showcase best practices in the school library field in categories that include collaboration, leadership and innovation. Recipients of this prestigious program are celebrated for their outstanding talent and dedication to the profession. Check out the [list of recipients](#).

#### AASL Introduces Inspire Grants

AASL announced two new grants made possible by the generosity of AASL member Marina “Marney” Welmers. The additions to the organization’s prestigious awards program provide funds for public middle or high school libraries to update their existing collections or plan a special event in order to enhance student learning.

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

### *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* Becomes Open Access

ACRL's special collections and cultural heritage-focused journal *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* became an open access publication beginning with its Spring 2016 30th anniversary issue. This change in access policy lifts the online version of the publication's current year embargo on new content and makes the complete contents of the journal from 2000 to the present, along with complete contents of its predecessor *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*, freely available through the publication website. The ACRL Board of Directors approved the new policy at its Spring Executive Session in April 2016. In its resolution, the Board cited the association's support for open scholarship and access to scholarly work as the driving force behind the change. The move also aligns *RBM's* access policies with ACRL's general research journal *College & Research Libraries*, which became an open access journal in 2011. *RBM* will continue to publish in print for subscribers. More information is available on [ACRL Insider](#).

### ACRL 2017 Registration Now Open

Registration materials are now available for the ACRL 2017 conference to be held March 22-25, 2017, in Baltimore. Get a jump on conference registration to meet fiscal year deadlines or because you're too excited to wait! Register by the early-bird deadline and save \$70 or more. ACRL 2017 features more than 500 conference programs selected and presented by leaders in the profession. Connect with colleagues from all over the country and globe and get access to content all year long. Complete details are available on the [conference website](#).

### ACRL Collaborates with Springshare for LibGuides Access

ACRL is pleased to announce that Springshare is providing complimentary access to LibGuides and LibAnswers to ACRL membership units. Both tools will be used to create unit-related resources to advance the work of ACRL, and will be available for use by division-level committees, sections, interest groups, discussion groups, and task forces. Used by thousands of libraries worldwide, LibGuides is a content management system designed to curate knowledge and share information by creating online guides for a multitude of subjects and purposes. LibAnswers is an end-to-end online reference platform that addresses point-of-need service and knowledge bases. LibGuides and LibAnswers will allow ACRL units to collaborate more efficiently and effectively to complete association-related work. More details are available on [ACRL Insider](#).

### Revised Standards for Distance Learning Library Services

The ACRL Board of Directors approved a revision of the association's Distance Learning Library Services this spring. Developed by the ACRL Distance Learning Section Standards Committee, the revised standards provide an update to the 2008 revision of this seminal ACRL document. The full text of the revised standards is available on the [ACRL website](#).

### Daniel Mack Named Publications in Librarianship Editor

Daniel C. Mack, Associate Dean for Collection Strategies and Services at the University of Maryland Libraries, has been named editor of ACRL's Publications in Librarianship (PIL)

monograph series. Mack previously served as editor and contributing author for previous PIL titles *Interdisciplinarity and Academic Libraries* and *Assessing Liaison Librarians: Documenting Impact for Positive Change*, and served as editor for *RUSA Update* and Brill's *New Pauly: Encyclopaedia of the Ancient World*. He has also authored numerous journal articles, books chapters and presentations. As editor, Mack also serves as chair of the PIL Editorial Board. Recognized for offering some of the best thinking and scholarship in the profession, the PIL series showcases research on a diverse range of contemporary topics in the field.

### Choice Reviews Launches

Choice has announced the launch of a new service called Choice Reviews, a completely redesigned Choice Reviews Online built to respond directly to the many suggestions received from subscribers. This version has been engineered to work the way that librarians do, with an intuitive user interface, improved search and discovery features, and data management tools that will save time and simplify decision-making. Choice Reviews is designed to be used by librarians, faculty, and patrons—as a source of bibliographic information and critical reviews of works being considered for research projects and/or classroom assignments. Visit [www.choice360.org](http://www.choice360.org) for more on Choice Reviews, to sign up for a free trial, and for information on the other products and services Choice has to offer.

### ACRL Preconferences @ 2016 ALA Annual Conference

ACRL is offering three preconferences in conjunction with the 2016 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando on Friday, June 24, 2016. The preconferences are:

- Building a Curriculum on the Intersections of Scholarly Communications and Information Literacy;
- Crossing the Threshold with Threshold Concepts: Redesigning a Library Instruction Lesson Plan, and
- Teaching Data Information Literacy: A Hands-on Introduction.

Complete details, including descriptions, learning outcomes, and registration materials, are on the [ACRL website](#).

### Call for Presenters - ACRL Research Data Management (RDM) Workshop

ACRL is accepting applications from prospective new presenters for the workshop “Building your Research Data Management Toolkit: Integrating RDM into Your Liaison Work.” The day-long workshop will be led by two expert presenters at locations across the country. This new in-person workshop will provide professional development support to librarians who wish to know more about data management. It is intended to assist liaisons and other librarians in identifying existing skills and mindsets that transfer to research data management services, and to then create a learning plan for the RDM specific knowledge needed to serve their subject disciplines and users. Applications are due July 8, 2016, and complete details are available on [ACRL Insider](#).

## e-Learning Update

ACRL's e-Learning program offered four live webcasts during this report period. Seventy-seven individuals and 38 groups participated in the e-Learning events focusing on the intersections of information literacy and scholarly communications, accessibility, and learning analytics. Upcoming online seminars and webcast topics include research guides and designing curriculum for information literacy courses. Full details and registration information are available on the [ACRL website](#).

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

### ALCTS Awards Honor Member Achievement

ALCTS will honor many of its members and non-members for their individual and collective achievements at the ALCTS Awards Ceremony on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in the Rosen Centre Hotel, Grand Ballroom A. Janet Swan Hill, retired associate director for technical services at the University of Colorado, Boulder, will be presented the ALCTS Ross Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in ALCTS and the profession.

### ALCTS Presents Dr. Michael R. Nelson at the 2016 President's Program

Dr. Michael R. Nelson is the featured speaker at the ALCTS President's Program at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando. His topic will be "The Future of the Internet and the 'Cloud of Things'" Monday, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m., OCCC W304 A-D. As new tools and business models emerge over the next decade, cloud technology combined with broadband wireless, sensors, Big Data and machine learning will transform how we interact with information and will fundamentally change the way we interact with the world and each other. Please join ALCTS for this intriguing President's Program that will examine principles (open standards, the free flow of information, transparency and empowering users) which will allow these impending technology changes to benefit people around the globe.

### Two Sessions at the Annual Conference on Diverse and Inclusive Metadata.

The ALCTS Metadata Interest Group is sponsoring two sessions on Diverse and Inclusive Metadata: "Developing Cultural Competencies in Descriptive Practices," Session 1 – Saturday, June 25, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., OCCC S320 E-F and Session 2 – Sunday, June 26, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m., OCCC W102A. Digital items can be misrepresented when the people cataloging them don't have a background in the cultural contexts from which they originate. How are metadata creators developing methods to encourage the creation of metadata that represents diverse points of view? How does using sources of authority control such as LCSH contribute to misrepresentation of cultural heritage materials? This program provides a discussion venue for ideas to promote cultural competencies and inclusivity in the metadata process.

### ALCTS Interest Groups Meet at Annual Conference

ALCTS has more than 40 Interest Groups, allowing attendees to find important and timely presentations and discussions at Annual. Ranging from diversity in metadata to electronic collection management to digital preservation, an ALCTS Interest Group has something for

every conference attendee. Search the conference scheduler for ALCTS and your topic of choice to find an Interest Group meeting.

### Section Forums Offer Valuable Information for Attendees

Once again, the ALCTS Sections will offer outstanding forums for ALA conference attendees. Noted highlights from Preservation, Cataloging and Metadata Management, and Continuing Resources include:

- CaMMS Forum: Sunday, June 26, 1:00-2:00 p.m., OCCC S330 A-B. Increasing Agility in Technical Services: Using the Agile Method for Project Management.
- Preservation Forum: Sunday, June 26, 4:30-5:30 p.m., OCCC W109A. Review of the Preservation in Action (PiA) service project with the Orange County History Center to rehouse a collection of films
- Continuing Resources Acquisitions Forum: Sunday, June 26, 3:00-4:00 p.m., OCCC W101B. Library Workflow Exchange: Sharing the “How” of What We Do.

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

### 2016 ALSC Virtual Institute

Registration for the [2016 ALSC Virtual Institute](#) is now open. The Virtual Institute is one of the only virtual conferences devoted solely to children's librarianship, literature and technology. This event will take place online on September 15-16, 2016. Programming that was originally scheduled to be held at [the canceled 2016 ALSC National Institute](#), will now be offered via the Virtual Institute. ALSC has dedicated itself to finding a great way to deliver the content originally proposed for the Charlotte Institute. The Virtual Institute is not only a great opportunity for affordable in-house staff trainings; it's also available without the hassle of additional travel fees. Paper registrations must be submitted by August 26, 2016. Online registration will continue up to the day of the event.

### Great Websites for Kids

ALSC recently added 13 sites to Great Websites for Kids, the online resource containing hundreds of links to exceptional websites for children. Sites are reviewed and chosen for inclusion by ALSC's Great Websites for Kids Committee.

ALMA Kids - <http://kids.alma.cl/>

Art for Kids - <http://artforkidshub.com/>

CERNland - <http://www.cernland.net/index.html?l=es>

Get the Math - <http://www.thirteen.org/get-the-math/>

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History - <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/>

Knowledge Kids - <http://www.knowledgekids.ca/games>

Matemáticas Visuales - <http://www.fundacioncse.org/educa/matematicas/>

Math TV - <http://www.mathtv.com/>

Mineralogy4Kids – <http://Mineralogy4Kids.org>

NYPL Digital Collections - <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>  
SmartHistory - <http://smarthistory.org>  
TEDEd Lessons Worth Sharing - <http://ed.ted.com>  
We All Live in the Forbidden City - <http://www.walfc.org/about-us/>

### Nine Winners in ALSC Blog Top Ten Contest

In May 2016, ALSC held a contest to find out which members have the best lists. Members submitted lists on ideas, programming, and literature. Over 250 blog readers voted in the [Top Ten List contest](#). Nine members won prizes including individual tickets to the Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder Banquet.

### ALSC Recognizes Friends of ALSC Donors

To help recognize the generosity of [Friends of ALSC donors](#), ALSC held a giveaway for tickets to the Newbery-Caldecott-Wilder Banquet. Eight donor names were selected randomly to receive tickets. The recipients will be attending the banquet on Sunday, June 27 in Orlando.

### ALSC Holds Spring Mentoring Forum

On June 1 ALSC held the spring 2016 [ALSC Mentoring Forum: Get the Match You Deserve](#). This forum included a discussion on how to interact and grow in mentoring partnerships. The forum also included live audio from former mentor Allison Murphy, and former mentee Jessica Ralli.

### Apply for a 2017 Bechtel Fellowship

The Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship provides a \$4,000 grant to a qualified children's librarian to spend a total of four weeks or more reading and studying at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, Gainesville. [The ALSC Special committee is currently accepting online applications for the 2017 Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship Collections and Bechtel Fellowship](#). Applications and supporting materials are due by November 1, 2016.

### Nominations are Open for the 2017 ALSC Distinguished Service Award

This award honors an individual member of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) who has made significant contributions to, and an impact on, library service to children and/or ALSC. The recipient receives \$2,000 and an engraved pin at the ALSC Membership Meeting during the ALA Annual Conference. [The Distinguished Service Award Committee is accepting nominations until due December 1, 2016](#).

### ALSC Professional Awards Applications Soon to Open

Beginning in August, [ALSC will open applications and nominations for the 2017 professional awards and grants](#). Each year ALSC gives away over \$100,000 in awards, grants, and scholarships to its members. Applications and nominations will open for the ALSC/Baker & Taylor Summer Reading Program Grant, the Light the Way Grant, the Maureen Hayes Author/Illustrator Award, and the Bookapalooza Grant.

## Summer Online Courses

Summer courses begin July 11. ALSC will be offering three courses this summer: *Engaging Readers and Writers with Interactive Fiction, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs Made Easy*, and *The Newbery Medal: Past, Present and Future*. The STEM course is being offered for CEU credit. Course descriptions and registration are available on the [ALSC website](#).

## Upcoming ALSC Webinars

This summer, ALSC will offer two webinars: *Collection Development: Children's and Young Adult Books about Native Americans*, presented by Debbie Reese on Tuesday, July 19, and *So You Want to Get Published*, presented by Betsy Diamant-Cohen, Julie Dietzel-Glair and Kathy MacMillan on Thursday, August 4. [Registration](#) for both webinars is free for both members and non-members to attend and is now open.

## Continuing Education Proposals

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

## 2016 Annual Conference Activities

- The ALSC [Charlemae Rollins President's Program](#), "Libraries The Space to Be," will take place on Monday, June 27, and will feature Marty Sklar, former president of Walt Disney Imagineering, the man behind the creative development of EPCOT, and design supervisor for Tokyo Disneyland and Disneyland Paris, among many other magical spaces. Following his inspiration attendees will hear from the Center for Childhood Creativity; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP; Richland Library; and Clemson University on how child development, architecture, and stories all work together to create spaces that are vital to children and the communities that support them. The program will also feature an interactive show-and-tell of inspiring libraries from across the globe. All in attendance are invited to share their own spaces of which they're proud by tweeting pictures using #ALSCprez.
- [20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pura Belpré Award Celebración](#), will take place on Sunday, June 26, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Please join our family of winning authors and illustrators in an unforgettable event, una fiesta maravillosa, where the 2016 Medal winners and honorees will be honored. Enjoy a keynote by author and storyteller Carmen Agra Deedy, a silent auction of original art by Belpré Award illustrators, and a book signing by the winning authors and illustrators.
- The ALSC Awards Presentation will take place on Monday, June 27, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. The Batchelder, Carnegie, Geisel, and Sibert Awards will be presented, and the ALSC membership meeting will follow from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

- The 2017 Odyssey Awards Ceremony honoring Listening Library’s “The War That Saved My Life,” and Scholastic Audio’s “ECHO,” will take place Monday, June 27, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Stay afterward to enjoy a cocktail reception, sponsored by the Audio Publisher’s Association.
- Local Arrangements Orlando Travel Information: ALSC’s Local Arrangements committee has put together valuable information for attendees of the 2016 Annual Conference, including tips for local travel and transportation, restaurant recommendations, and must-see sights. More information is available on [ALSC’s website](#).

## **Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)**

### ASCLA Past-President in the News: Active Shooter Training

ASCLA Past-President Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer (Director of New Mexico State Library) speaks in the *Dewey Decibels*, episode 2 podcast, which took place on May 23, about library security and making your space safer! [Listen to the podcast](#) (at about 38.23) as Kathleen explains about some of the active shooter training programs she made available to her staff at the New Mexico and New Jersey state libraries. She talks about the programs’ usefulness for frontline staff and the model that was used at Scott County (KY) Public Library.

### Active Shooter Policies in Libraries Program

In light of the Orlando tragedy, don’t miss this very timely ASCLA program – be able to complete an environmental scan to identify potential risk areas at your library, as well as write an active shooter policy/procedure for your library. Most libraries have policies dealing with problem or unruly patrons. Find out how to protect your patrons and staff from a darker problem, someone intent on inflicting actual physical harm. The NDSL active shooter procedure will be presented as a model as well as tips for writing your policy. Speaker: BreAnne Meier, North Dakota State Library (NDSL); Date: Saturday, June 25, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.; Location: Orange County Convention Center, W101B. [Schedule it](#).

### ASCLA Achievement Awards

The awards program recognizes outstanding achievement within the library profession by librarians and libraries for significant current or past achievements, including publications, program development and leadership in the profession. The program will be held from 5:45 – 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 25 at the ALA Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Orlando, Room Plaza BR D. This event is co-sponsored by the [Chief Officers of State Library Agencies \(COSLA\)](#) and the [Federal and Armed Forces Librarians Round Table \(FAFLRT\)](#) and will include hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. All conference attendees are welcome!

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

### 2016 ALA Annual Top Technology Trends

Top Technology Trends is sure to be a lively discussion about changes and advances in technology that these experts see having an impact on the library world and will include suggestions for what libraries might do to take advantage of these trends. Join LITA on Sunday, June 26, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Room W109B of the Convention Center. This session will be followed by the President's Program with Dr. Safiya Noble, who will present on the topic "Toward an Ethic of Social Justice in Information" in the same room. The panelists for LITA's popular 2016 ALA Annual Top Technology Trends have been announced:

- Maurice Coleman, Session Moderator, Technical Trainer, Harford County Public Library, [@baldgeekinmd](#)
- Blake Carver, Systems Administrator, LYRASIS, [@blakesterz](#)
- Lauren Comito, Job and Business Academy Manager, Queens Library, [@librariancraft](#)
- Laura Costello, Head of Research & Emerging Technologies, Stony Brook University, [@lacreeds](#)
- Carolyn Coulter, Director, PrairieCat Library Consortium, Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), [@ccoulter](#)
- Nick Grove, Digital Services Librarian, Meridian Library District – unBound, [@nickgrove15](#)

### A New Strategic Plan

The LITA Board is currently working on a new strategic plan that will be implemented this fall. Areas of focus for the next two years will be:

1. Member Engagement
2. Organizational Stability and Sustainability
3. Education and Development
4. Advocacy and Information Policy

### LITA / Library Hi-Tech Award for Outstanding Communication in Library and Information Technology

LITA is pleased to announce that Dan Cohen from the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) won this year's [LITA / Library Hi-Tech Award for Outstanding Communication in Library and Information Technology](#). Emerald Group Publishing and LITA sponsor the award that recognizes outstanding individuals or institutions for their long-term contributions in the area of Library and Information Science technology and its application. The Award Committee selected Dan for his massive contributions to the profession through his work with the DPLA, Zotero, publishing, online exhibitions/collections, and his contributions through his writings. His work with the [DPLA](#) in particular stood out to the group. The award includes a \$1,000 stipend.

### Three Scholarships Awarded

LITA has awarded three scholarships to new LIS students at an ALA-accredited MLS program. All three scholarships encourage the entry of qualified persons into the library and automation field who plan to follow a career in that field.

- Giao Luong Baker will receive a \$3,000 stipend for the 2016 [LITA / LSSI Minority Scholarship](#). The Scholarship jury “immediately recognized Giao as being exceptionally accomplished in her career and has already and demonstrated great promise. She has actively participated in professional activities outside of her primary responsibilities in both the USC library and professional associations. One of her colleagues said, ‘I have never seen her be anything other than enthusiastic and helpful when dealing with me or with others. Her genuine excitement in her job is infectious and brings out the best in every interaction.’”
- Richard Johnson will receive a \$3,000 stipend for the 2016 [LITA / Christian \(Chris\) Larew Memorial Scholarship in Library and Information Technology](#). The Scholarship jury noted that “Richard has demonstrated a clear commitment to library information technology and a strong desire to continue to learn and grow. His experience, vision, and leadership will undoubtedly be an asset to the profession.”
- Renee Romero will receive a \$2,500 stipend for the 2016 [LITA / OCLC Minority Scholarship](#). The Scholarship jury “was very impressed with Renee’s accomplishments in her service and leadership work at UCLA. She has demonstrated progressive growth and development in her career. One of her colleagues said, ‘Renee is a top contributor to a team of library professionals at UCLA, who are expanding the impact of the library in higher education.’”

### The Latest LITA Guide

The latest LITA Guide, “[Library Service Design A LITA Guide to Holistic Assessment, Insight, and Improvement](#)” by Joe J. Marquez and Annie Downey, is now available. The guide features a series of examples that the service design team can use to learn how to work with library staff and patrons to find out what current user experience is like and how to refine services to better meet user expectations. It is geared towards libraries of all types and sizes and will provide tools that any library can use so that a project will be meaningful, useful, and sustainable. While several books have been written on how to implement service design, this book will be the first to explain how to practice service design in libraries.

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

### LLAMA News

- LLAMA announced the winners of the 2016 [ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Awards](#). These awards, co-sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), honor international excellence in library interior design.
- [LLAMA announced the winners of the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Awards for 2016](#). The judges selected eight winners of this year’s contest. Each winning library will receive a \$10,000 award from EBSCO and the HW Wilson Foundation, the sponsors of this prestigious annual award. Winners will be celebrated June 26 at an open reception during the American Library Association’s 2016 annual conference in Orlando.

- LLAMA announced that the [American Institute of Architects](#) (AIA) and the [American Library Association](#) (ALA) selected seven projects to receive the 2016 [AIA/ALA Library Building Awards](#). This [awards program](#) was developed to encourage and recognize excellence in the architectural design of libraries, reflecting the evolving role of the library as a community space.

## **Public Library Association (PLA)**

### PLA Member Welcome Breakfast to Feature Diana Nyad at ALA Annual

PLA will host an exclusive PLA members-only breakfast featuring Diana Nyad on Saturday, June 25, at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference in Orlando. The [PLA Member Welcome Breakfast](#) will include recognition of the 13 individuals and libraries that received PLA awards this year. These award winners demonstrate the best in public library service, innovation and outreach. In addition to the awards presentation, PLA will welcome Deborah Jacobs, director of the Global Libraries initiative at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The event will also feature a special appearance by Nyad. [Read the complete release...](#)

### PLA to Offer Seventeen Programs and One Preconference at ALA Annual

With one preconference and seventeen programs, PLA is offering an array of programming dedicated to public library staff attending the 2016 ALA Annual Conference. Concurrent program topics include early literacy, digital literacy, community engagement, and more. PLA's preconference, "Project Outcome Enrollment Workshop: Simple Tools to Measure Our True Impact on the People We Serve" will introduce attendees to Project Outcome and help them deploy outcome measures in their libraries, collect and use resulting data, and leverage the project support network to ensure successful adoption. [Learn more...](#)

### PLA Hosts Webinar to Help Libraries Embrace Racial Equity and Social Justice

Library professionals joined PLA on June 8 to learn how they can engage in meaningful social justice and racial equity work in their libraries. The webinar, "Engaged and Inclusive: Libraries Embracing Racial Equity and Social Justice" was presented by Sarah Lawton, Madison (WI) Public Library, Amita Lonial, Skokie (IL) Public Library, and Amy Sonnie, Oakland (CA) Public Library. The presenters shared their experiences working to center social justice and racial equity in their day-to-day work as well as provided concrete resources and ideas to help attendees feel empowered to step into these conversations and deepen community engagement. A recording of the webinar will be available [on-demand](#).

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

### RUSA Name Change/Branding

RUSA members represent a wide variety of interests and professional activities, including readers' advisory, interlibrary loan, genealogy, user experience and all kinds of library public services. Many of us once identified as reference librarians, but recognize that our membership

is changing in addition to our professional roles. We find ourselves wondering how best to brand ourselves and the services we provide. Participation in this conversation by members is encouraged; come and share your views on:

- Saturday 8:30 – 10 a.m. at the Hilton-Bayhill 30 room, and
- Join us at the Network Uncommons on Saturday 10:30 – 11 a.m. (next to the ALA Membership Pavillon)

Your [feedback](#) is encouraged.

### Town Hall

RUSA held a virtual town hall on June 15, 2016 to give all RUSA members (and prospective members) a chance to ask questions about the organization and give input on current and future directions. RUSA President Anne Houston and RUSA Vice-President Alesia McManus were present at the Town Hall to answer questions.

## **United for Libraries: the Association for Library Trustees & Advocates (UNITED)**

### Corporate Sponsor Task Force

United for Libraries staff are working with a special corporate sponsor task force to increase revenue brought in by these special donors. The task force is headed by President Ed McBride. Under his leadership, United is working to both expand and recoup corporate sponsors. Efforts have included a complete revamping of corporate benefits and the development of a new [corporate brochure](#).

### “The Laugh’s On Us!”

Join Dave Barry, Paula Poundstone and More in Orlando! Paula Poundstone will headline this event which will also feature Dave Barry, Phoebe Robinson, Nora McInerney Purmort, and Tara Clancy. Wine and cheese will be served, and a book signing will follow. Purchase tickets early to this event, which is always a sell-out. [“The Laugh’s On Us!”](#)

## **Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)**

### Top Ten Summer Programs!

In April YALSA ran a contest to identify the best [summer learning programs](#), and the results are in! And don’t forget about the [free summer learning resources](#) and forums available online.

### Funding & CE Opportunity for Rural, Small & Tribal Library Staff

Now through August 1, small rural and tribal library staff can [apply](#) to be a part of a cohort of learners and do-ers who will create college and career readiness (CCR) services for the middle

schoolers in their community. Successful applicants will receive a wide variety of support, including access to mentors, a stipend to purchase CCR materials, and funds to travel to Atlanta, GA, January 19 - 20, 2017 for orientation, as well as to another conference of their choice. Cohort members will work online throughout 2017 to develop, implement and evaluate a CCR service with a partner in their community.

### Submit a YA-Focused Program Proposal

Have a great idea you want to share? Now through August 1, YALSA is accepting program proposals for the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 23 – 27. Learn more and [submit your program proposal](#). Never been to this conference before? YALSA has a [travel stipend](#) you can apply for.

### 2016 YA Services Symposium Registration Open

Registration is open for the [YA Services Symposium](#) this November 4 – 6 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The overall theme is “empowering teens to increase your library’s impact. Registration opened April 4. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to come to this event.

### Upcoming YALSA Activities & Events

- July 1 – October 1, [Committee Volunteer form](#) open for selection committees that start work 2/1/17
- July 11 – August 8, e-course, “[Beyond Booklists: Serving Today’s Diverse Teens](#),”
- July 21, [webinar](#) on outreach to teens who aren’t regular library users,
- August 1, deadline to [apply](#) to participate in the small, rural and tribal library project to create college & career readiness resources
- August 1, deadline to [submit a program proposal](#) for the 2017 ALA Annual Conference
- August 1 – September 4, [District Days](#)
- August 15, Teens’ [Top Ten voting](#) opens
- August. 18, webinar on promoting [teen mental health](#)
- October 9 – 15, [Teen Read Week](#)™
- November 1, 2017 [Teen Tech Week](#)™ site goes live

For more events and information, visit YALSA’S [wiki](#) or [Google Calendar](#)

## **ALA PUBLISHING**

### **ALA Editions**

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

Some of the new professional development books published include [Supercharged Storytimes: An Early Literacy Planning and Assessment Guide](#), by Kathleen Campana, J. Elizabeth Mills, and Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting, and [The Heart of Librarianship: Attentive, Positive, and Purposeful Change](#), by Michael Stephens (ALA Editions); and [Forging the Future of Special Collections](#), edited by Arnold Hirshon, Robert H. Jackson, and Melissa Hubbard, and [Dynamic Research Support for Academic Libraries](#), edited by Starr Hoffman (ALA Neal-Schuman). For a full listing of titles including books, online workshops, and eCourses, visit the ALA Store.

## Meet the Author Events Planned for the ALA Store at the 2016 Annual Conference

Several Meet the Author events are planned for the ALA Store at the 2016 ALA Annual Conference & Exhibits. Additionally, ALA Editions is sponsoring a program led by ALA authors Kathleen Campana, J. Elizabeth Mills, and Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting: "[Supercharged Storytimes!](#)" [www.alastore.ala.org](http://www.alastore.ala.org)

## **American Libraries**

News from *American Libraries*:

- *American Libraries* magazine revealed a new design with the June issue. The cover story was on ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition.
- *American Libraries* Facebook page reached 10,000 likes in early June, and expects to have 50,000 @AmLib Twitter followers by the start of Annual in Orlando.
- The top three links in AL Direct in May were:  
The Cursed Child conundrum (2,026)  
<http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2016/05/cursed-child-conundrum/>
- How to make a librarian happy (1,909)  
<http://zestnow.com/how-to-keep-a-librarian-happy/>
- Weeding without worry (1,819)  
<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2016/05/02/library-weeding-without-worry/>

## **Digital Reference**

### New Release of RDA Toolkit

A new release of RDA Toolkit was published on April 12, 2016. The release included the annual update to RDA instructions from the RDA Steering Committee, revisions to the RDA translations and MARC/RDA bibliographic mappings in English and French, and the debut of policy statements from the National Library of Finland. A "Master Profile" feature was added to allow account administrators to set RDA Toolkit display preferences for all their staff. A full description of this feature is available [here](#). For more details on the April release and the many other changes, please visit the RDA [development blog](#).

### RDA Essentials Is Now Available

[RDA Essentials](#), co-published with ALA, CILIP and CLA, which is a concise guide to RDA cataloging, is now available. [www.rdatoolkit.org](http://www.rdatoolkit.org)