

**American Library Association**  
**Midwinter 2014 Executive Board Meeting**  
**Report of President, Barbara Stripling**

**Projects and Initiatives**

**Declaration for the Right to Libraries**

State Declaration Coordinators have been planning and implementing a variety of approaches to engaging the public in conversations about the impact of libraries, gathering signatures on the Declaration, and using the Declaration for local and state advocacy. Signatures have been gathered at 26 state conferences and book festivals, at public and school libraries across the country, and at both national and international events, including IFLA in Singapore, the National Book Festival, the School Library Journal Summit, and the national conference of AASL.

Signatories have included librarians and library workers, members of the community, public officials, authors, and community organizations. In the state of Washington, the state librarian, Rand Simmons, has arranged an official signing ceremony with Governor Jay Inslee and Schools Head Randy Dorn, as well as public display and petition-style signing at the state capitol building.

During March, School Library Media Month, a national campaign will be conducted for school libraries to engage members of their school communities in talking about and signing an adaptation of the Declaration, *Declaration for the Right to School Libraries*.

The Finnish Library Association has translated the Declaration into Finnish and will host a press conference and offer information for library professionals, media and members of Parliament at their Library PR Day on 7th of February 2014 in their Parliament building. The Finnish Library Association is working with Finland's Swedish Library Association to also translate the Declaration into Swedish.

Information about the Declaration initiative can be found at [www.ILoveLibraries.org](http://www.ILoveLibraries.org). The Declaration is available for sale from ALA Graphics in several sizes, as are supporting materials. Libraries may also put a link to the online signature form on their library websites.

At Midwinter 2014, a number of signing events are planned, including at the ALA Pavilion, the RUSA Awards Ceremony, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the Library Company.

The signed Declarations will be presented at a ceremony during Legislative Day in May; they can be used as evidence of public support by those who are visiting their legislators. More importantly, libraries across the country will be able to use the Declaration in years to come to start important conversations with their community members about the role of the library in each community – school, academic, public, or special.

## **Summit on the Future of Libraries**

A national invitational summit, *Libraries From Now On: Imagining the Future*, will be held in May 2014 in Washington, DC. It has the following value statements as its foundation:

- Libraries are a reflection of their communities. As societal trends change, so must libraries transform themselves to fulfill their responsibility to provide the services, resources, and learning opportunities that enable community members to thrive in the changed environment.
- Every type of library (public, school, academic, special) is impacted by societal trends, but in different ways.
- Innovative thinking is required for libraries to transform themselves. Innovation is best nurtured through collaboration.
- An opportunity for collaborative and innovative thinking among all types of libraries and organizations will help libraries prepare for dynamic futures.
- A National Summit on the Future of Libraries will enable representatives from all types of libraries and thought leaders from the public to engage in in-depth thinking about library transformation in the context of the future trends of society.

Plans for the summit are taking shape under the able leadership of co-chairs Julie Todaro and Pat Smith and coordination by Nancy Bolt. The 1 ½ day summit will involve 40 invited participants, approximately 20 from the library world and 20 from the connected public world.

The two day summit will explore the following:

- How do we think differently about libraries and library services?
- What are the societal, technological, and educational trends that will influence and shape the communities and society that libraries of all types serve?
- What do these trends mean for libraries of all types in light of our values as educators, librarians, and community members?
- How can we build public will to help achieve a better future based on these values?

The summit will build on the outcomes of previous research studies and institutes that are related to the future of libraries, including:

- The *IFLA Trend Report*, issued in August 2013
- *Trendswatch 2013: Back to the Future*, issued by the AAM Center for the Future of Museums
- The Aspen Institute Dialog on Public Libraries, held in summer 2013
- *The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action*, issued by YALSA in January, 2014
- The Edge Initiative from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- *Environmental Scan 2013*, issued by ACRL

Participants in the Summit will be actively engaged in exploring ideas, developing strategic directions, and envisioning a framework for action. ALA has committed to long-term sustaining of the dialogue begun at the Summit:

- A discussion of trends shaping the future of society will help shape thinking related to ALA's Center for the Future of Libraries.

- The Summit outcomes will provide the foundation for ALA’s next strategic planning process, scheduled to begin in 2014.
- A continuing national dialogue through face-to-face and virtual conversations will leverage transformational thinking about libraries and their value to communities.

Invitations to speakers and participants will be issued by early February.

**Webinars**

The innovation strand of *Libraries Change Lives* involves developing plans to enable libraries across the country to highlight their library’s innovative practices and the opportunities that they offer to community members to pursue their own innovative ideas (for example, through makerspaces). We have tentatively planned a series of webinars to feature many of the outstanding models in all types of libraries. Here are our plans to this point:

<b>Month and Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>January 13: Making Series</b>	Winter Making Series: Making = Strategic Partnerships
<b>February 13: Making Series</b>	Innovation and Community Engagement: Hosting TEDx Events in your Library
<b>March: Making Series</b>	Winter Making Series: International Making Movement
<b>March: Library Partnerships</b>	Strategic partnerships between libraries
<b>April:</b>	Literacy Innovations: Digital, financial, school and college readiness, family and adult
<b>May:</b>	STEM/STEAM Learning in Libraries
<b>Early June</b>	Community Engagement

**Continuing ALA Initiatives: Libraries Transforming Communities**

The final strand of *Libraries Change Lives*, community engagement, is designed to sustain and amplify ALA’s community engagement focus from the last several years. ALA has received a grant of \$1.5 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to fund a two-year project, *Libraries Transforming Communities*. Libraries are one of the most trusted public institutions and are, therefore, in an excellent position to lead their communities toward a shared vision and a foundation for growth and innovation. Because of grant parameters set by the Gates Foundation, this project is directed toward public libraries; however, the new tools, resources, and support mechanisms developed through this grant will benefit all types of libraries.

With the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, libraries and librarians will be better able to engage deeply with their constituents and support community aspirations. The Libraries Transforming Communities project will enable librarians to turn outward to their communities and engage with community members in new ways; strengthen librarians’ skills in leadership, community empowerment,

and convening; and build ALA's capacity to support libraries of all types through this transformational process.

The two-year project includes professional development and coaching of participating librarians, ALA staff, and member leaders to expand the role of libraries in their communities. Training will be offered in person, through conference-based and distance-learning opportunities, and through free digital resources.

### **Continuing ALA Initiatives: Digital Content**

The Digital Content and Libraries Working Group is continuing its strategic e-book work under the guidance of ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy and the leadership of co-chairs Robert Wolven and Sari Feldman. As President, I will continue to work closely with DCWG as the group extends its strategic thinking to include additional areas of emphasis: pricing, accessibility, privacy, licensing contracts of e-books; investigating opportunities for libraries to facilitate access to and production of e-publications in many forms, including locally produced content; and preservation of digital content.

ALA leadership will continue to meet with representatives of all aspects of the digital content realm, including Big 5 and independent publishers, intermediaries, authors and author representatives, and other entities as appropriate. We have found that a combination of the efforts of DCWG and ALA leadership is very effective in opening the doors to communication, clarifying the roles and priorities of libraries, and producing tools and strategies for libraries to use in their acquisition, access management, and preservation of digital content.

### **School Libraries**

ALA is developing a multi-faceted school library advocacy campaign to address the national crisis in school libraries. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness about the value of school libraries and school librarians that will lead to ongoing, sustained support among national and state policy makers, school districts, administrators, teachers, parents, and students. My column in the January/February issue of *American Libraries* featured some of the messaging that librarians of all types can use to communicate the value of school libraries to their communities.

A School Library Action Plan is being circulated for comment at this Midwinter meeting, with priorities and a timeline for action determined by the end of the conference. The plan includes community outreach, crisis-proofing tips and resources, an American Libraries digital supplement, messaging, national partnerships, online tools, op-eds, a School Library Media Month Declaration signing initiative, vendor and publisher partnerships, and use of the [www.ILoveLibraries.org](http://www.ILoveLibraries.org) portal.

### **Media Activity**

I participated in interviews with reporters from several print publications on various topics, including the changing role of libraries, reluctant readers, digital lending in public libraries, Little Free Libraries, and the closing of school libraries.

Media placements facilitated by the Public Information Office included a wide variety of topics, including the Declaration for the Right to Libraries, unusual items checked out of the library, how to turn your child into a reader, the importance of libraries even in a digital era, the reinvention of libraries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the NSA and government surveillance, library-led community engagement, the expanding role of U.S. libraries, community building and makerspaces, e-book lending, children and e-readers, trends in

LIS education, inspiring the reluctant reader, the Google Book decision, the transformative power of libraries, and more.

### Travel and Presentations

I have made the following presentations since October 2013.

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY/TOPIC
10/31/12	COSLA Conference – Savannah, GA	Presentation on Declaration
10/31-11/2/13	U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy – Washington, DC	Panel presentation
11/4-5/13	Southern Westchester BOCES – Scarsdale, NY	Two-day workshop – Use of primary sources and technology
11/8/13	University of Rhode Island – Providence, RI	Representation of ALA
11/12-17/13	AASL National Conference – Hartford, CT	Conference participation – Remarks
11/20-22/13	Michigan Association for Media in Education conference – “School Librarians @ the Core” - Kalamazoo, MI	Keynote; Concurrent session
12/4-12/9/13	Library Association of Republic of China – Taiwan	Keynote – ALA and Professional Development for Librarians; Keynote – School Librarianship in the Digital Era Round Table Discussion – School Librarians Presentation – LIS Education in the United States
12/17/13	I Love My Librarian Award Ceremony – New York City	Welcome speech; presentation of awards
1/24-1/28/14	ALA Midwinter – Philadelphia	

### Future Travel and Presentations

I continue to try to be strategic on accepting invitations so that ALA can be represented in areas where they have not had someone from ALA recently. I will try to maintain a degree of flexibility in my schedule so that I can respond quickly to emerging needs and issues.

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY/TOPIC
2/27-3/2/14	Alaska Library Association - Anchorage	Conference Endnote Speech
3/12-3/13/14	Public Library Association Conference – Indianapolis, IN	Welcome and Greetings from ALA
3/14/14	Southern Westchester BOCES – Scarsdale, NY	Workshop on Primary Sources and Technology

3/15/14	St. John's Conference – Long Island, NY	Keynote
3/31-4/2/14	Oklahoma Library Association Conference – Tulsa, OK	ALA Forum Session; Legislative Luncheon Speech
4/9-4/10/14	Texas Library Association Conference – San Antonio, TX	Workshop
4/11-4/13/14	ALA Executive Board Spring Meeting – Chicago, IL	Presiding
4/14-4/15/14	Declaration Signing – Ann Arbor, MI	Speech
4/24-27/14	NYLA SLS Conference – Syracuse, NY	Welcome and Facilitation
4/29-4/30/14	11 <sup>th</sup> Congress of Latvian Librarians – Latvia	Speech and Declaration Signing
5/2-5/3/14	National Summit - <i>Libraries From Now On: Imagining the Future</i>	Welcome; Facilitation
5/5-5/6/14	National Legislative Day – Washington, DC	
5/14-5/16/14	AMBAC Conference – Monterrey, Mexico	Speech
5/28-5/31/14	Canadian Library Association – Victoria, BC, Canada	Keynote, Greetings from ALA
6/26-7/1/14	ALA Annual – Las Vegas	
8/16-8/22/14	IFLA – Lyons, France	
8/25-8/30/14	IASL – Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia	
10/24-10/26/14	ALA Executive Board – Fall Meeting – Chicago, IL	
11/6-11/9/14	NYLA Annual Conference – Saratoga Springs	Pre-Conference