

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

Journal of the Arkansas Library Association

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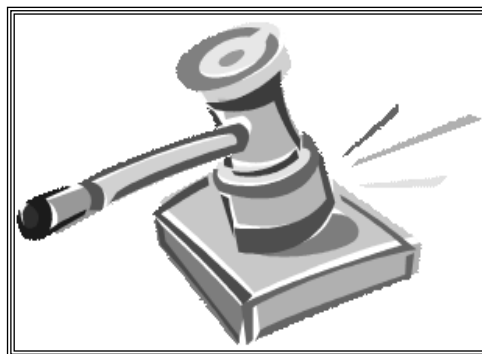
From the ArLA President:

by *Connie Zimmer*
Arkansas Tech University

Greetings! I am the 2010 president of the Arkansas Library Association, Connie Zimmer. It is an honor to represent all Arkansas librarians in the year of 2010.

I am an Associate Professor in the College of Education at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. Each one of us has a story of how we became librarians. Since I entered the first grade when I was five years old, I have wanted to be a librarian. My librarian, Mrs. Ruby Smith, made stories, poems, and music come to life so dramatically, and yet she knew where you could find material on any subject you wanted to research. She was my librarian for twelve years, and I was allowed to work with her during each of my high school years. Not only was she the librarian, she was the perpetual senior sponsor, directed two class plays a year, and was the yearbook sponsor, library club sponsor, senior trip organizer, and so much more. Mrs. Smith was on the public library board of trustees, and Western Kentucky University also asked her to teach classes in library science as an adjunct professor. I aspired to be as admired by my students when I was a school librarian as she was by hers. I don't know if that ever happened, but I do enjoy hearing from past students either by phone, e-mail, or Facebook.

When I was asked to represent the school library division as a candidate for President of ArLA by Jerrie Townsend, I had to explain how I could do that as a university associate professor. I have eighteen years experience as a school librarian in Kentucky, and two years experience in public libraries as everything from page, reference librarian, unofficial archivist, and night supervisor. I currently serve on the Pope County Library System Board of Trustees and have been Church Librarian at Central Presbyterian Church in Russellville for at least sixteen years. My day job is as a library media educator teaching in and coor-



dinating a Master of Education in Instructional Technology that is approved to prepare teachers as school library media specialists. In 2009, Cassandra Barnett appointed me to the AASL/ NCATE Standards Revision Committee of AASL, and I was fortunate to be the only higher education representative on the Department of Education's Library Media Curriculum Framework writing team in 2007. At the university level, I am Chair of the Library, Instructional Materials, and Equipment Committee through the faculty committee structure. As you can possibly tell, I love all libraries. My husband knows that when we travel, we will visit a library of some type.

School library media centers are necessities in every school in existence. A professionally prepared and licensed library media specialist is also a necessity. The library information skills gained in K-12 schools help students as they use public and university libraries. The librarians of Mrs. Smith's day were the search engines of that time. Now with access to the Internet, search engines such as Google and those included in our Traveler Database Project have led some people to say there is no longer any need for libraries. I beg to differ. There is still a digital divide. If you don't believe me, visit a public library and see the people on the public access computers and others waiting their turn. At a school, see the students come before, during, and after school to the libraries to access the books, magazines, and computers because there is no such access at home. When the school closes, some of these same students shift locations to the public library or the nearby university library. Libraries no longer just give access to print materials but to other formats as well.

The uncertainty of today's economy has caused school systems, library boards, and state officials to present conservative budgets that affect all libraries. At the same time, libraries are seeing increased usage by their patrons as they avail themselves of the free services libraries provide as opposed to purchases that diminish their available money for living expenses. As the unemployment numbers increase, library usage also increases with no increase in funding.

With all these troubling issues before us, there are many reasons to look forward to 2010. For one, the year of 2010 will find the Arkansas Library Association hosting a joint conference with the Southeastern Library Association. Conference Chair Dwain Gordon and his committee are working hard to make this conference an exciting and relevant conference for all librarians. Be assured that the theme and programs that support

that theme will provide professional development for librarians in each specialty and the profession overall. As the program is firmed up, more information on the conference will be on our webpage at www.arlib.org and in our next issue of *Arkansas Libraries*.

Join us in Little Rock on September 26-28, 2010 for the joint ArLA/SELA Conference. See you there!

Connie Zimmer, an Associate Professor, is the Coordinator of the Instructional Technology Program at Arkansas Tech University.

Upcoming Events....

ArLA ALPS Spring Conference

May 10-12

Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Petit Jean Mountain

ArLA AASL Summer Conference

July 25-26

Wilbur D. Mills Center, Hendrix College

ALA Annual Conference

June 24-29

Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC.

2010 ArLA/SELA Annual Conference

September 26-28

Peabody Hotel, Little Rock

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Random Thoughts....

by Laura Speer, Managing Editor

Remember the phrase, “you don’t know what someone else’s life is like until you walk a mile in their shoes (or is it mocassins?).” In January Dominique Hallett, previous editor for *Arkansas Libraries*, turned the editorship over to me. I have spent the last six weeks learning my way around in Adobe InDesign. This experience has been exhilarating, engaging and frustrating.

The Publications Committee chaired by Kathie Buckman will spend the next year looking at ways to improve *Arkansas Libraries*. It will soon be available online; there are some new columnists; and it will soon have a new look.

We hope to add lots of photos of people and programs throughout the state. I would like to invite you all to share photos of new and renovated library spaces, programs, and interesting displays. You can email them to me (don’t crop them - send them in highest quality jpeg format, please).



I have always found it much more interesting to read a journal when I can see myself, my library, or issues that affect me in its content. If you have any ideas that you’d like us to consider or if you would like to join in the fun, please contact me, Britt Murphy (murphyb@hendrix.edu), or Kathie Buckman (buckman@hsu.edu).

Laura Speer, an advocate for all types of libraries and librarians, is an academic librarian at UCA.



The Arkansas Library Association front license plate, designed by Kathe Altazan of the Baxter County Library will be sold for \$20. The proceeds will be used to fund ArLA scholarships. The plate will be available for purchase later in 2010.



ALA Midwinter in Boston
Sampling local restaurants was easier thanks to the Dining in the Neighborhood Trolley.

ALA Midwinter in Boston
Nicole Stroud,
Ron Russ & Diane Hughes
at the Network Commons



ALA Midwinter in Boston
There were computers
available to keep in touch with
the folks back home.

ALA Photos provided by Ron Russ.

ALA COUNCILOR'S REPORT

ALA Midwinter Meeting in Boston

by Ronald S. Russ,
Arkansas State University - Beebe



This is my first column since becoming ALA Councilor in October. Before I get to all the conference highlights, I want to introduce some new things that have been done, in order to facilitate communication with our Arkansas constituents. First, a blog has been set up for the ALA Councilor position. You can access the blog at <http://arkchappcouncilor.wordpress.com>. I'll try to post items of interest to our constituents throughout the year as well as do a daily blog from the ALA Conferences. In addition, we're doing live Twitter feeds from ALA Council meetings. If you are using Twitter or one of the related apps, you can follow @rsruss67 (that's me). I'll also write the traditional print columns in *Arkansas Libraries*, so those that don't use web-based media, can still follow ALA happenings. Anyway, enough about communication. Let's go to the highlights.

FINANCE

Despite a rough economic year, ALA finished the year in the black. ALA was \$213,000 in the black for fiscal year 2009 and did not have to dip into the reserve fund. There was a planned shortfall of \$1,000,000, so cuts were made in various areas to accommodate a reduction in revenue. For the 1st quarter of FY 2010, ALA is \$387,000 in the red, but this is due in part to when people renew their memberships. The Endowment Fund achieved market value of \$28,680,000 by the end of 2009 and thereby recovered most of the losses that occurred (since the high point of \$31.22 million in 2007). ALA-APA ended 2009 with a deficit of \$15,244 and has failed to repay any portion of the initial \$250,000 loaned by ALA for startup back in 2003. The Library Support Staff Certification program (beginning this January) should provide an influx of revenue, so we should get a better idea later this year whether or not this will make a significant difference in ALA-APA repaying the loan from ALA (now at \$275,000).

COUNCIL ACTIONS

The ALA Council voted on during the various council meetings:

- Elected J. Linda Williams and Kevin Reynolds to the ALA Executive Board
- Approved 2010 as the Year of Cataloging Research

- Support of the LeRoy Merritt Humanitarian Fund's 40th Anniversary
- Support of Resolution on Digital Information Initiatives at the U.S. Government Printing Office
- Support of Resolution on Transparency and Openness in the Federal Government
- Support of Resolution on Universal Access to Broadband
- Support of Resolution on Rebuilding Libraries and Archives Damaged or Destroyed by the Earthquake in Haiti
- Approved resolution in support of 2010 Spectrum Presidential Initiative

ARKANSAS CHAPTER WELCOME MEETING

We met at the Network Uncommons in the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center on Saturday, January 16. I was joined by ArLA Scholarship Chair, Diane Hughes and Nicole Stroud, Arkansas-based recipient of the 2010 Class of ALA Emerging Leaders. We had a good conversation and I sent tweets to them regarding Council actions. Anyone following me on Twitter could have access to those tweets since they are public. In addition, I ran into Donna McDonald in Boston, and while she couldn't make our meeting, it was nice to talk to her. We'll try something different at ALA Annual this June.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I hope this gives you a little taste of what goes on at the Midwinter Meeting. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to send them to me via email at rsruss@asub.edu, by phone at 501-882-8959, or on my blog at <http://arkchappcouncilor.wordpress.com>.

I am honored to serve as your ALA Councilor and look forward to serving you. Please join us this summer for the ALA Annual Conference, June 24 – June 29 in Washington, DC.

Ross Russ, Assistant Librarian at Abington Library, ASU-Beebe, also serves as the webmaster for the ArLA website, www.arlib.org.

**American Library Association
2010
Youth Media Awards**

John Newbery Medal

When you reach me by Rebecca Stead

Newbery Honor Books

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice
by Phillip Hoose

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate
by Jacqueline Kelly

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon
by Grace Lin

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg
by Rodman Philbrick

Randolph Caldecott Medal

The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney

Caldecott Honor Books

All the World
written by Liz Garton Scanlon
illustrated by Marla Frazee

Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors
written by Joyce Sidman
illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski

Coretta Scott King Book Award

Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal
written by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson and illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book

Mare's War
by tanita s. davis

Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award

My People illustrated by Charles R. Smith Jr, written by Langston Hughes

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book

The Negro Speaks of Rivers illustrated by E. B. Lewis, written by Langston Hughes

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award

The Rock and the River written by Kekla Magoon

Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

Walter Dean Myers is the winner of this first-ever Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. The award pays tribute to the quality and magnitude of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton. Myers' books include: *Amiri & Odette: A Love Story*, *Fallen Angels*, *Monster*, and *Sunrise Over Fallujah*.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

Staffing Issues: Small Budgets, Big Shoes

by Ashley Parker
Malvern-Hot Spring County Library



Libraries all over the country continuously face issues dealing with limited budgets. Arkansas is no exception to this; in fact, Arkansas probably faces more difficulty with funding than most states in our nation. Since many Arkansas libraries exist in small communities with limited funding, it is pretty obvious that the libraries serving the smaller communities often have an even more difficult time than those in larger service areas.

STAFFING

One of the largest budget expenditures is staffing. In a time of budget cuts, in addition to already small budgets, it is often difficult to find dependable and knowledgeable staff willing to work for the small salaries that many libraries are forced to offer. This matter is often made more complex by the fact that the libraries most affected have a smaller staff and are therefore more impacted by a staff opening.

The questions facing library administrators are often:

- How do I advertise the job opening well and spend the least amount of money?
- Is my library able to adjust wages and hours in a way that can potentially increase the marketability of the position?
- Which skills are most important if I have to settle on a less qualified person than I want?
- How long can I leave the position open in order to maximize the number of qualified applicants?

ADVERTISING OPENINGS

I have found that while the newspapers serving the larger cities around me offer the benefit of a larger applicant pool, they are often much more expensive than my local paper, and many of the applicants often change their minds about commuting after discussing the distance of the drive and the wages offered. Therefore, the local paper is often a better way to advertise a position than a regional paper. I have also found that “word of mouth” among local community leaders and the ArLA Jobline are often helpful in getting the interest of qualified applicants.

WORK HOURS AND SALARY

The flexibility for full-time positions at my library is limited in regards to scheduled working hours and wages. The working hours for part-time positions are often much more flexible because existing part-time staff are often willing to adjust their schedules. The wages are not flexible at my library because we usually offer the wages to the outer limit of our budget. We do this to make the position as appealing as possible to a wider audience because the budgeted wage is often not competitive in our local job market.

REQUIRED SKILLS

I have learned that some skills are easier than others to teach and that with my limited staffing I need to err on the side of caution. Basic computer skills, customer service skills, and the ability to pass an ordering test of non-fiction call numbers are non-negotiable when I consider hiring someone, but computer troubleshooting skills or prior library experience are not.

TO FILL OR NOT TO FILL?

Sometimes a position must be left open because administration just does not have any good options, but for the most part, when a position comes open, it is important to fill that position as quickly as possible. I have found that a vacant part-time position can be worked around, but a vacant full-time position often causes several issues that affect daily operation. In order to compensate for a full-time vacancy, existing full-time staff is often needed to work for comp hours, meetings and paperwork are left unattended and backlogged, customer service suffers, and general chaos ensues within a very short time- frame. Chaos can quickly become exponentially more noticeable, to both staff and public, when in addition to the vacancy, someone calls in sick or is otherwise unavailable as scheduled.

FINAL OBSERVATIONS

Staffing in small libraries is often more difficult due to the nature of the institution’s organization and scheduling, as well as limited budgets. It is important to maximize use of local media outlets and word of mouth to



April is School Library Month

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Monday, April 12 | “The State of America’s Libraries” report will be released. |
| Tuesday, April 13 | Celebrate ALA-APA’s National Library Workers Day |
| Wednesday, April 14 | Celebrate the first annual National Bookmobile Day |
| Wednesday, April 14 | ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom will release the “Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2009” list.

Visit the Banned Books Week Web site. |
| Thursday, April 15 | Celebrate YALSA’s Support Teen Literature Day |

For more information and a free webbutton to use on your library website - go to
<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/pio/natlibraryweek/nlw.cfm>

find the most qualified potential personnel in the quickest time frame. Each library administrator should carefully consider flexibility in wages offered and scheduling when possible. In addition, it is also important to let existing staff know that their extra effort during a staff shortage is respected and appreciated.

Ashley Parker is the Director of the Mid-Arkansas Regional / Malvern-Hot Spring County Library System.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Teen Book Award

Rewards Libraries of All Types

*by Rachel Shankles
Lakeside High School*



School libraries don't find an abundance of opportunities to collaborate with other types of libraries, but the new Teen Book Award will offer schools one more way to work with the public library in their area. Randi Eskridge, Children's Services Librarian at the Bob Herzfeld Public Library in Benton, had envisioned a young adult book award in Arkansas for many years, when she heard some other librarians in the state had the same vision. One was the new Center for the Book librarian at the Arkansas State Library, one was a librarian at Jonesboro's Craighead County Library, and one was her friend and coworker at Benton Public.

Last winter Randi decided to get this group together and get the ball rolling towards establishing an Arkansas Young Adult Award. She then discovered that the Arkansas Association for Instructional Media (AAIM) had this same idea. Randi called AAIM President, Lori Bush of Lake Hamilton High School, to seek some input from that organization, which is mostly K-12 school librarians. AAIM sent her to Jana Dixon and me, both high school librarians in the Hot Springs area. The first meeting of this group was in February 2009. The group is very dedicated and has met every month (even over the summer!), getting readers in place and coming up with criteria for books the readers would read.

Some of the committee's first tasks were to establish which genres to include and how many titles of each would make the final reading list. Starting with books having a 2008 copyright date, the newly formed Arkansas YA Award committee enlisted many school teachers, retirees, and librarians from every type of library to read and vote on the list of 20 titles that would be given as a reading list to students the following year.

It has been amazing for me to be a part of the committee since it is made up of such passionate librarians. Randi had so much enthusiasm for the Arkansas YA Award committee that even though she had twins during the past year, she only missed one meeting! David Eckert from Jonesboro's public library had previously

been on another state's YA award committee and was a great help combing over award-winning lists on the American Library Association and other websites for recommended YA titles. He has had to take the time to travel to the Little Rock area for the meetings each month in the midst of a conversion project, renovation project, and training schedule but has not missed a meeting. David's public relations staff came up with the group's logo. Crystal Long of the Arkansas State Library was able to enlist readers from many public library branches and perform much research for the committee. I set up meeting dates and places, contributed information from the school sector, and was able to work with vendors to come up with price lists. Jana was able to set up wikis as communication tools within the committee, with the readers, and with the public. She also went before the ArLA Board to seek input. Jessica McGrath, of Bob Herzfeld Library in Benton, is now the Adult Library Services Director, but continues to have a keen interest in YA services and has helped double check facts, coordinate readers for several genres, and obtain books on the right grade levels.

In October, the readers finished voting on their genres and met at Garland County Library the Saturday before the ArLA Convention began to vote on Wild Card Picks and finalize the list of 20 books for each grade level. The readers performed a very important part of the whole process and will receive certificates of appreciation soon. December saw the lists released to public and school libraries for students to begin reading. Of course, with 2008 publication dates, the students have read many of the titles already. The lists include many genres of fiction - graphic novels, fantasy, mystery/suspense, and realistic, as well as non-fiction titles. Now through Teen Read Week in October the kids will be reading. During Teen Read Week they will vote. They will vote for one title from the list for their grade level. The winners will be announced soon after, and, hopefully, winning authors will be invited to ArLA and AAIM conventions that follow. This will not happen without funding of some type.

As the committee starts working on the 2009 copyright lists for the next set of readers, they will be calling on you for help again, so volunteer as a reader now! The committee will review the process up to this point, and revise and then clarify rules for voting. Just keep in mind that we started from scratch. The committee is also still seeking financial backing but to date has not found a non-profit organization to work with.

Librarians, get teens reading by using this awards reading list as a marketing tool! Public and school librarians, work together to insure that the teens in your town have access to all the titles. How? Public librarians, contact your local schools and let them know if you have the titles. School librarians, call your public library if you cannot purchase the entire list. Let's work together on this and touch some young lives with good reads.

THE WIKI USED FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS:
arkansasteenaward.wikispaces.com

THE READERS' WIKI:
arkansasreaders.wikispaces.com/

EMAIL ADDRESS:
artenbookaward@gmail.com

Contact Randi, Jessica, David, Crystal, Jana or me if you need details, have questions, or would like to make a contribution. Our contact information is on the wiki or send an email!

Rachel Shankles is the Library Media Specialist at Lakeside High School in Hot Springs.



Gift Basket Silent Auction

ArLA/SELA Conference 2010

Proceeds benefit the LEAF Foundation

What is LEAF?

“Education” includes “educating” legislators and/or the general public about issues of importance to the Arkansas Library Association. “Aid” includes assistance to Arkansas libraries hit by disasters, such as tornados, floods, fires. LEAF donated money to the Louisiana and Mississippi Library Associations to assist them in aiding libraries in those states damaged by Katrina.

LEAF monies also assist the Association in areas not budgeted, such as memorial contributions to the American Library Association in memory of employees who were closely allied with chapter activities. A memorial contribution for Judith Krug being the most recent example. Most recently, LEAF made a contribution to the Arkansas Literary Festival to assist with that event since it is so closely related to reading.

LEAF activities are financed through the basket auction at conference each year and through other contributions received during the year from Association members. Please consider providing a basket for the auction....

AROUND ARKANSAS

Here's What Happening.....

by Britt Anne Murphy, Associate Editor



Dr. Kay Bland from the Arkansas Studies Institute passes on news that the Library Media and Information Technologies (LIBM) Program at the University of Central Arkansas moved from the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Department to the Department of Leadership Studies during the winter break. Coordinator of the LIBM Program, Dr. Stephanie Huffman, and faculty members, Dr. Jud Copeland, Dr. Wendy Rickman, and Dr. Shannon Trimble now have new offices on the second floor of Mashburn Hall on the UCA Campus. Kay is an adjunct LIBM faculty member and has access to a shared office space in the department.

According to the Leadership Department Chair, Dr. Terry James, the vision of the department is to prepare competent, ethical leaders for tomorrow's challenges in educational institutions, government agencies, or non-profit organizations. In addition to the LIBM program which is a degree and licensure program, the Leadership Department is home to the School Counseling Program and School Leadership, Management, and Administration Program.



If you're in the central Arkansas area, take note that the 2010 Arkansas Literary Festival in Little Rock will be April 8-11. Even if you live in the remote corners of Arkansas, this year's festival will be well worth a visit. Some of the highlights include: More than 60 bestselling and emerging authors including 15 authors for youth in sessions and panels on a diverse range of topics.

- More than 10 special events including performances of the Arkansas Arts Center's production of *Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp* and Wildwood's *Art to Go*.
- Literacy on the Lawn at the Arkansas Governor's mansion, a poetry slam, storytellers, a puppet show and more.
- Author trips to schools.
- A professional development workshop for teachers about parental involvement in the classroom led by author and publisher Dr. Peggy Sissel Phelan.

And, remember, the events are all free. For more information, including a list of authors and events, check out their website: <http://www.arkansasliteraryfestival.org/>. If you would like more information about the professional development workshop please contact Dr. Kay Bland at 501 918-5713 or kbland@cals.org. For other information about the Festival please contact Brad Mooy from the Central Arkansas Library System at bmooy@cals.org.



Our Webmaster, Ron Russ, announces that the ArLA Information Technology Roundtable has a Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=282626123052&ref=nf>. It's only appropriate that this bunch have a Twitter page as well at http://twitter.com/ArLA_IT_RT.



For one year only, Library Advocacy Day will replace National Library Legislative Day (NLLD). On June 29, 2010, library advocates from around the nation, including Carolyn Ashcraft, our State Librarian, and Donna McDonald, Chair of the ArLA Legislative Committee, will meet at Upper Senate Park on the U.S. Capitol grounds. The event will feature guest speakers, photo ops, and a chance to cheer on libraries. After the rally, participants will meet with their elected officials and their staffs.



You might want to put on your best smile in April, especially if your library is participating in National Library Snapshot Day. Library Snapshot Day provides a way for libraries of all types to show what happens in

a single day in their libraries, thereby creating awareness and appreciation for what libraries contribute to their communities.

The concept originated in New Jersey as a joint effort between the New Jersey Library Association and the New Jersey State Library. Soon after, many states began emulating the effort. If you decide to host a Library Snapshot Day, let ALA know. Contact Marci Merola (mmerola@ala.org), Director of the Office for Library Advocacy and check out ALA's website, where you can find examples from other states as well as a Library Snapshot Day Primer: <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/statelocalefforts/snapshot-day/index.cfm>.



If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a program at the joint ArLA/SELA conference this fall, please be sure and submit a proposal by March 31st to Dwain Gordon, conference chair. The form can be found on ArLA's website: <http://arlib.org/forms/ARLA2010Conferenc%20ProgramProposalForm.doc>.

Speaking of conference, the ArLA Executive Board at their February retreat discussed several exciting developments for fall conference, including having poster sessions in the exhibit hall, instating a student registration rate, and sending out electronic evaluations.



The ALPS spring conference will be May 10-12 on Petit Jean Mountain at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute. The theme is "Team ALPS," and Nancy Bolt, Colorado State Librarian for 18 years, will deliver the keynote, "Putting the Talent in the Right Place: How to Build a Successful Team." Register via ALPS' website by April 30: <http://www.library.uams.edu/alps/Events.htm>.



There's a slight twist in the license plate fundraiser for scholarships. The Winter 2009 issue of *Arkansas Libraries* reported that Kathe Altazan from the Baxter County Library had won the license plate design contest. It has since been discovered that Arkansas' Office of Motor Vehicle isn't taking new plate designs. We didn't let this stop us, though – Kathe was kind enough to redesign her winning image to fit a front license plate...look for it in *Arkansas Libraries*. It will be on sale for \$20 soon.

Laura Adele (Lolly) Shaver, long-time public librarian in Cross and Woodruff counties, died at her home in Wynne on January 15, 2010. Lolly was a leader among Arkansas librarians and received two awards from ArLA - Distinguished Service in 2002 and the Frances P. Neal Award in 2006. Carolyn Ashcraft, State Librarian, states, "Lolly was a 'steel magnolia'. She possessed a kind spirit and generous nature. She had courage and strength to face the challenges life presented. She had faith to sustain her. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to know and work with Lolly."

You might notice that *Arkansas Libraries* looks a tad different this issue. Our new editor, Laura Speer, will be putting her mark on the journal, so expect a few changes over the next year. One new feature will be an online version of the journal that anyone can access from the ArLA website. More details will follow in the next issue, and, as ever, we welcome your input.

A reminder to Arkansas librarians: please submit news items to me for the next *Arkansas Libraries* issue! Births, deaths, new hires, retirements, funding, new buildings, and news that affects Arkansas libraries would be perfect fits for this column. Just jot me an email at murphyb@hendrix.edu, and you'll most likely see it published in our journal.

Britt Anne Murphy is a public services librarian at Hendrix College.



Did you know?

The Boston Public Library is the only public library that is also a Presidential Library?

borrowed from www.librarian.net
(putting the rarin back in librarian since 1999)

Weeded:

How One Course Became De-Selected

by Dr. Wendy A. Rickman
University of Central Arkansas

Weeding: a slang term in the library profession. It is a task that is viewed as necessary, yet one that will make many school library media specialists cringe at the very thought of it. The reaction raises fears and/or memories of other attempts to weed, based on sound collection management philosophy resulting in questions from custodial staff, parents, and administrators. According to Kao (2001, 3), weeding is “a term that means removing materials from the collection that are out of date, inaccurate, in poor physical shape or rarely circulated... Also known as de-selection or collection appraisal.”¹

Why does a positive, reasonable act still result in an unintentional physical reaction? Weeding is a tool in the professional arsenal of librarians and library media specialists used to keep collections new, fresh, and appropriate. Out-of-date items do not support the mission of the library media center or the educational institution. So... could this act of professional cleaning be applied to courses in a graduate-level library media program? Would the reaction be the same? This is the story of one course and its outcome.

The Library Media and Information Technologies (LIBM) program at the University of Central Arkansas is one of three graduate programs in the state of Arkansas. It is the largest of the three programs and has the longest affiliation with the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) accreditation in the state. Recently, the program found itself in a position of reviewing the curriculum, which is not an unknown act for any educational institution. Programs constantly re-evaluate themselves. In this particular instance, the LIBM program was looking for redundancies in the curriculum, ways of tightening the curriculum to be more efficient, and opportunities of positioning itself to evolve to an ALA-Masters degree program. The result was the weeding of Technical Services, a three-hour course that had been a mainstay of the program for four decades.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Library media programs offer courses covering a wide range of subjects and practices. This approach is similar to a library media center's collection; the sum of a collection is its numerous titles. Likewise, the sum of a program is its numerous courses. Courses addressing collection development to cataloging, curriculum integration to administration, are offered and required. Technical Services, has historically been a traditional mainstay of most library media programs.

Technical services according to Kao (2001, 3) “includes all the activities related to preparing and making ma-

terials accessible to library users.”² These are the services that normally are not noticed or seen by patrons of school library media centers or public libraries. Tasks involved include acquisitions, cataloging, bookkeeping, repairs, binding, and yes – weeding the collection. Key to the effectiveness of technical services has been the increased reliance on the automation of many of these tasks through improved technologies and software. Again, Kao (2001, 16) states, “the goal of automation in technical services is to increase productivity, to eliminate duplicated effort in organizing materials, to increase efficiency of operation, and, eventually, to enhance library services.”³

WEEDING

A main component to maintaining a fresh collection and program is to de-select, or weed, existing titles or courses and select additional appropriate resources to add to the collection. Baumbach and Miller (2006, 4) give the following view:

As you weed, you will get to know the collection better and you will be better able to get the right “stuff” into the right hands at the right time... You may find “holes” in the collection... You may find items that have been assigned the wrong classification number or that may be better used if shelved under a different topic... The “good stuff” will be more apparent to your users... students will find what they need

¹Kao, *Introduction to Technical Services for Library Technicians*, 3.

²Ibid.

³Ibid, 16.

*to do their assignments and answer their questions honestly and accurately...Why should you weed? Because your students deserve the best collection you can offer them. Less is more.*⁴

Is this not what occurs during a curriculum re-mapping? Do we not, as Baumbach and Miller (2006, 4) stated, “get to know the collection better”⁵ to find what is missing and what fits into another course? Like keeping library collections vibrant, we too, weed for the benefit of keeping the collection of courses fresh for the students.

THE LIBM PROGRAM AT UCA

Technical services originally started out as a two-hour course in the Library Media and Information Technologies program. Eventually, the course evolved to a three-hour course at the behest of the faculty and the recognition of the evolution of technical services in the profession of librarians. The program remained intact for almost four decades.

During the fourth decade, several events occurred to change the thinking of the faculty and the role of technical services. After almost thirty years of curriculum re-alignment, and increasing student numbers, the faculty found themselves in a position to once more revisit the curriculum map and to consider an evolution to the ALA-Master’s degree program. Making these changes required a serious examination of the curriculum, but the benefits would result in an incredibly healthy and marketable program that would fill the need in the state for both school library media specialists and children’s librarians.

Several observations were made from this process:

- Of the 52 Graduate School Library Media programs in the United States that have been or are presently AASL accredited, only 10 cite a traditional Technical Services course in their course rotation (American Association of School Librarians, 2009).⁶ Thirty-one of the programs have parceled out the information to other courses in their core curricula.
- Specific to the LIBM program at UCA, many of the main themes in the Technical Services course were covered in other courses.
- Recognizing this redundancy, the faculty decided that the assignments belonging to Technical Services should be distributed among other courses in the program.

- The existing 39-semester credit hour program with an additional 6-semester credit hours required for PK-12 state licensure could be adjusted to a 36-semester credit hour degree program with PK-12 state licensure possible for every library media candidate.

As stated by Kao (2001, 101), when discussing trends in technical services, “an overlapping of activities between departments”⁷ tends to exist. We discovered overlapping activities within courses in the LIBM program. The course’s message was already emphasized in Collection Development, Cataloging, and the Administration courses. Once the decision was finalized to remove the unnecessary course, students enrolled in the old program of study were informed the course would be phased out of the program.

CONCLUSION

Three semesters later, the students enrolled under the old program of study reached the end of their track. As the course is taught for its last semester we faculty who know the history of the program, realize it is both sad and exciting to see the change. Sadness comes in the sense of seeing the course like a bedrock that is no longer needed, so it is broken up to build a new structure. Yet excitement approaches like seeing the first motorized vehicles while horse and buggies were still on the street. The students have taken the change in stride. For some students, it has meant adjusting their course sequence. For other students, it has been shrugged at and noted like a summer leaf changing to a fall fatality.

Have we made the right decision? We will be able to tell only with the passage of time. The move to ALA accreditation has not occurred at this time; however, we are positioned to initiate the process. From our current observations, the trend of phasing-out technical services as a formal course has already been established. The information and assignments still exist in the program but as parts of other courses. I think the faculty has acted appropriately. If the program practices what we teach, then yes, we have weeded accordingly. Yet, as we know, good librarians keep in touch with their collections through constant inventory and evaluation. If the need is justified, a title in the collection can be resurrected and placed back into a collection through its subsequently

⁴Baumbach and Miller, *Less is More: A Practical Guide to Weeding School Library Collections*, 4.

⁵Ibid.

⁶American Association of School Librarians, “AASL – Recognized Programs Historical List,” <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aasleducation/schoollibrarymed/AASLHistorical.cfm> [accessed September 15, 2009].

⁷Kao, *Introduction to Technical Services for Library Technicians*, 101.

updated editions and requests. The same process can be applied to courses in any curriculum.

Technical services as a practice still exists. It has only evolved as so many things do in this profession. As we all must do.

REFERENCES

American Association of School Librarians. 2009. AASL – Recognized programs historical list. American Association of School Librarians. <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aasleducation/schoollibrarymed/AASLHistorical.cfm> [accessed September 15, 2009].

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Kao, Mary L. 2001. *Introduction to Technical Services for Library Technicians*. New York, NY: The Haworth Information Press.



Dr. Wendy Rickman is a visiting Assistant Professor for the LIBM program in the College of Education at UCA.

Bookmark this one!!!



or *write* it in your notebook....

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FACES OF ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

New Librarians....

by Laura Speer

University of Central Arkansas

This month you are again meeting new librarians who work in just about every type of library. It's interesting to discover that each one was drawn to this profession because of their love of people and a desire to be of service.



KATHY DAVIS

UofA - Monticello
Fred J. Taylor Library

Access Services & Reference Librarian: I am responsible for coordinating Circulation with my Circulation Manager, Annette Vincent. Together we strive to provide excellent customer service to everyone that enters our library doors. I also staff the reference desk 20 hours a week.

Other duties: University Committees - Faculty Equity and Grievance. Library Committees - Information Literacy and Internet Use Policy. Professional Memberships - ArLA (2009 RISD Chair), ALA, BCALA, ARKLink, ACRL, and RUSA.

Reason I Became a Librarian: To help individuals understand the importance of reading & learning. I want to show as many people as I can that a love of reading can open numerous possibilities. As a librarian, I get to encourage people to expand their knowledge by teaching them the value of reading, evaluating and using information. I love coming to work every day.

Library School: University of North Texas-Denton-
May 2009 Graduate

What brought you to Arkansas: Born and raised in Monticello, AR.

Outside Interests: I am an avid reader of almost anything. I am a member of the Preservation of African

American Cemeteries. I am the mother of four children: Calvin-24, Erica-23, LaKita-19 and Candice-18. I also have two handsome grandsons: Marquis-4 and Jayden-1.

Where I see myself in 10 years: Doing exactly what I am doing now, whether it is at my current library or another. I believe being a librarian is not only a profession but a calling and I intend on being a librarian until I retire.

SARAH SPIEGEL

University of Arkansas, Mullins Library

Reference Librarian, Business Subject Librarian: I work shifts at the reference desk and on the 24/7 chat service as needed and serve as the library contact for the Walton College of Business faculty, staff, and students. I meet with students to help them with research strategies and course assignments, and I teach instruction and library skills throughout the semester.

Other duties as assigned: I serve on the Web Services committee for the Library and am in charge of the Libraries' main twitter feed. I'd like to get involved with the student government and work with students to improve their library experiences and close the gap between students' expectations and needs and ours (the librarians and administrators).

Why did you become a librarian? I knew library work is what I wanted to do. In high school I worked as a page in the Fayetteville Public Library and fell in love with the work and environment. Additionally, literacy is an issue that is close to my heart, and I knew that I didn't want to teach but still wanted to work in a related field.

Where did you go to Library school? University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

What brought you to Arkansas? A Fayetteville native, I moved back after undergraduate school to get married and get a job in a library. I started at Mullins in the Serials Department, working my way through to Circulation and now to the Reference Department.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Still working in a library somewhere, hopefully with tenure.

Did you know?

According to many surveys, 80-85 percent of librarians will retire in the next 15 years!



WILLOW FITZGIBBON

Fayetteville Public Library

Reference Librarian: I provide front-line reference services in person, by phone, via email, and text to patrons. I am also the assistant librarian in the Fayetteville Public Library's Nonprofit Resource Center, a Foundation Center Cooperating Collection. Through this role, I develop and manage the Nonprofit Resource Center materials collection, schedule Nonprofit Resource Center programming, and provide in-depth classroom and one-on-one instruction on use of Foundation Center grant-searching databases and library materials. I am also responsible for collection development for assigned subject areas.

What other library and university committees/interests are you involved in? My favorite projects have been:

- Local Poet Podcast: I created a local poet podcast which involved recording, editing, and publishing Fayetteville poets reading original poems for our library's website.
- Mountain Street Stage: I helped coordinate summer concerts at the library featuring local musicians.
- Job Aid: Because the anxiety of seeking employment is still somewhat fresh on my mind, providing programming and resources for job seekers has been a meaningful element of work. Arranging a resume review service and creating a local employment resources pathfinder have both been successful projects.

Why did you become a librarian? In the fourth grade, I co-managed a private eye firm with a childhood friend. We solved many important mysteries such as finding missing earrings and discovering the identity of a love note author. As I grew up, my propensity for solving mysteries morphed into an interest in history. After my first history graduate seminar, I recognized that what I loved most about historical research was the thrill of the chase. I was fortunate enough to reemphasize this

realization through paraprofessional employment in libraries that eventually lead to my current position. Working as a reference librarian has given me the opportunity to continue to solve mysteries in a learning environment that never threatens to lose my interest.

Where did you go to Library school? Florida State University

What brought you to Arkansas? Born and raised here.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Continuing to learn and employ creative and dynamic methods to meet and analyze future information needs, yet still reading books made out of paper and cloth.

MICHELE THOMAS

Library: UALR Law Library

Cataloger/Reference Librarian

Why did you become a librarian? I became a law librarian for several reasons -

I loved law school so much that I wanted to work in one my entire career; I enjoy research; sharing knowledge and enhancing access to it is very important to me.

Where did you go to Library school? University of Pittsburgh

What brought you to Arkansas? My new job in the UALR Law Library.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? In ten years, I intend to be working in a law school library in a position with increased responsibility.



SHERRY TINERELLA

Arkansas Tech Ozark Campus

Librarian (one person library).

Other duties as assigned: All library duties. Other involvement: National Technical Honor Society.

Why did you become a librarian? I loved being a chil-

dren's librarian back in Sandwich, Illinois previous to moving to Arkansas and completing my MLIS.

Where did you go to Library school? University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

What brought you to Arkansas? Library jobs. My husband is also a librarian and was hired at the Ross Pendergraft Library at Arkansas Tech in Russellville.

Outside interests or personal information you would like to share: Interested in Web/Library 2.0, quilting, and playing the fiddle.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? I see myself here at the Ozark Campus running a thriving information center with a state-of-the-art, extremely user-friendly website. Our library will be moving into a new space shared by a café, bookstore, and an open commons, and I see this as an ideal place for our "digital branch."

HOLLY MERCER

East Central Arkansas Regional Library System

Director of the East Central Arkansas Regional Library System which consists of the Cross County Library: two branches - Cherry Valley and Hickory Ridge, and the Woodruff County Library: one branch - McCrory.

Other duties as assigned: All library duties

Why did you become a librarian? Having worked both with and in libraries, I have come to realize they are cornerstones of their communities. Working in a library is an opportunity to make a difference in lives, no matter the library user's age, gender, culture, or education level. These are the primary reasons I am thrilled to be a librarian.

Where did you go to Library School? Drexel University

What brought you to Arkansas? This job. The location of the library, being a rural community with several larger towns close by, is perfect. The weather is much more temperate than Michigan, which lifts my spirit. I have several relatives who have lived in Arkansas in the past who have spoken fondly of their experience. I now understand their love of this state.

Other outside interests or personal info: I have been married for eleven years to my wonderful husband, Eric, who has shown me limitless support. I have two children, Annalise, seven, and Enoch, five. Complet-

ing the family of six is my brother-in-law, Eli, who is seventeen, and my mother-in-law, Nanette.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? A future career goal is to be employed as a Professor in a library science program.



HOPE DONOVAN RIDER

Library: Arkansas State Library

Reference Librarian: I answer questions from state employees and the public.

Other duties as assigned : I provide instruction on patent and trademark searching for the public and for librarians at other libraries in the area.

Why did you become a librarian? To be honest? Because I like books! :) I know we aren't supposed to say that. I also like organizing information and providing that information to the public. It is worth noting, however, that my original career path was to be an archivist, rather than a librarian, and I would go back to being an archivist in a minute, if an appropriate job opened up.

Where did you go to Library school? University of Texas at Austin.

What brought you to Arkansas? My husband's new position as professor at UCA.

Outside interests or personal information you would like to share: Hiking, reading, photography, cooking.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Hopefully, as an archivist.

As you read the biographies did you find yourself thinking about why you became a librarian? Many of us were drawn to libraries because we loved reading, research ("the hunt"), or just plain helping patrons find what they are looking for. Whether we work in public service, cataloging, instructional service, or a combination of all three, we are making information more accessible. What a satisfying feeling that is!

Laura Speer

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Storage Options For Electronic Media

by Myron Flugstad, ASU

with Guest Editor, Tracy Farmer, ASU

When we first began receiving books with CD's and other media in them, we made the decision to leave both the books and the accompanying media in our closed shelf area where they would be more secure than out on the open stacks. We did this to be sure that the books and media were never separated and that the media items would not be tampered with. Making this shelving distinction between books with media and books without media never did seem to be a good solution as it discouraged browsing and as we received more and more of these types of materials our closed shelving area began to fill up. So recently we decided to review this decision and find a better solution to handling books with media included.

Sherry Eskridge, the Head of Access Services here at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro, conducted a survey to find out how other libraries handled electronic media like CD's and DVD's that came with books. She sent the survey to 24 academic libraries that were mostly in our peer group and received 17 responses. There was no consensus in the replies. Eight libraries reported housing the books and media separately with the book going into the general collection and the CD into closed stacks, seven reported putting these materials in the general collection, and two did some combination or hybrid of these two methods by putting some items in the general collection and others depending on circumstances in closed stack areas.

The most commonly cited reason for housing separately was to prevent the loss or misplacing of the media item. The main reason for putting these types of materials together in the general collection was that it was easier for patrons to go to just one location for both book and CD. Most libraries housing the items together had pop up messages in the circulation module noting that a CD had to go with the book. Most of the libraries doing this charged for both the book and CD if the book was returned without the CD. In no instance were there reports of unusually large numbers of CD's showing up as missing just because they had been shelved in the stacks with the books.

Because of our limited closed shelving space and that loss of media materials and security did not appear to



be major issues with any of the responding libraries, we decided to begin integrating the books with media into our general collection.

Just to make sure that we would not lose many of the media discs we decided to make copies of the originals and put the copies in permanent storage in our Media Department in accordance with the provisions of the Digital Millenium Copyright Act of 1998 Section 404. The copies are kept in a secured area and are not available for anyone to use unless the copy goes missing. The following is the process we use to make our copies.

Retrospectively, each item on closed-shelf with a CD/DVD is taken to our Media Department where copies of the CD/DVD are made. The staff uses Nero Ultimate 7 CD burning software to perform a disc-to-disc copy. This process can take anywhere from 5 to 60 minutes per disc, depending on the amount of data on the disc. Another reason for the length of time involved is the machine used to make the copies only has one CD/DVD drive installed. Therefore, the disc must be copied to the computer's internal hard drive before it can be burnt to the CD/DVD.

Nero does a good job making copies of the CD/DVDs for the most part. However, we have found some discs that could not be copied with Nero. When this happens, those discs are sent to the Systems Librarian for copying using various open source tools. The only discs we have discovered so far that we cannot copy to this date are actual video DVDs. This is because video DVDs use dual-layer DVD discs. A dual-layer disc is a DVD with two layers of data on it instead of just one. Dual-layer DVD discs hold approximately 9.4 gigabytes of data while single-layer DVD discs hold approximately 4.7 gigabytes of data. The primary reason we have not been able to make copies of this type of disc is because we do not have a dual-layer DVD burning capability in our library.

After the disc is copied it must be labeled. Here again we explored several possibilities. We looked at some-

thing as simple as writing the name of the book and call number on the disc with a Sharpie to something as complicated as purchasing a dedicated CD/DVD printer. We chose not to use the Sharpie method because we felt it would be too unprofessional in appearance. We chose not to go with the dedicated CD/DVD printer because of the high cost. Instead, we opted to use CD/DVDs with white printable labels already on the disc. To print the labels we purchased a Hewlett-Packard Photosmart D7500 series home printer that has the ability to print directly on CD/DVDs with white labels. Microsoft Publisher was used to design the label. Microsoft has several free templates available for download for Microsoft Publisher. We found one that closely met our needs and modified it slightly.

After the copy is made it is placed in the book and the original is stored so that it is available in case a replacement copy is ever needed. The book is then taken to the Cataloging Department where the location is changed from closed-shelf to general collection. A new spine label is also created for the item. Once all cataloging procedures have been finished the item is returned to Stack Maintenance for re-shelving.

When new books are received that have CD/DVDs accompanying them the item is taken to our Media Department so a copy of the CD/DVD can be created. After the copy is created the item is then taken to our Cataloging Department for processing. The item is then sent to Stack Maintenance for shelving.

We are still in the early stages of this process, but so far it looks like this is a better solution than what we were doing previously and that it will make library materials more readily available to our users. The number of books with media included likely will only increase in the future.

*Myron Flugstad is Assistant Director
for Technical Services at Arkansas State
University in Jonesboro.
Tracy Farmer is the Systems Librarian at
Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.*

Note from the Managing Editor:
Publication of this article does not imply endorsement by the editors of *Arkansas Libraries* or the Arkansas Library Association. Any library considering a project of this type may want to refer to USC 17 Section 108(c) or seek advice of legal counsel.

Diane Blair Papers Open to Researchers

The papers of the late Diane Blair will be opened to researchers on Tuesday, March 9, at the University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The collection comprises 113.5 linear feet and includes biographical materials, correspondence, newspaper clippings, research materials, notes, primary and secondary source documents, manuscripts, memorabilia, photographs, VHS recorded programs, audio interviews, and electronic data and databases. The materials are divided into five series: personal and family materials, professional materials, Bill and Hillary Clinton materials, general political materials, and photographs and audio materials.

Diane Blair was born Oct. 25, 1938, in Washington, D.C., and received a Bachelor of Arts in government from Cornell University in 1959. Blair earned her Master of Arts in political science at the University of Arkansas in 1967 and became a part-time lecturer for the university the following year. Arkansas Gov. Dale Bumpers appointed her chair of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in 1971, and on Feb. 14, 1975, Blair debated the Equal Rights Amendment in the Arkansas General Assembly against nationally known conservative Phyllis Schlafly. In 1976, Gov. David Pryor appointed her to chair a Commission on Public Employee Rights.

She was named University of Arkansas Outstanding Faculty Member by students in 1976 and 1978 and was promoted to assistant professor in 1979. She received the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences Master Teacher Award in 1982. Blair published two books. She authored or co-authored 12 essays appearing in books, 21 professional journal articles, and many book reviews.

After Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham moved to Fayetteville in 1974, Blair became their close friend and active promoter. Gov. Clinton appointed Blair to the Commission for the Arkansas Educational Television Network in 1980, a position she held until 1993. Blair served as senior researcher in the 1992 Clinton presidential campaign and as senior adviser in the 1996 re-election campaign. During the 1992 Clinton presidential campaign, Blair gathered audio interviews of staff members involved in the campaign. Sixty-five of the interviews, for which the Libraries have obtained ownership, are included in the Blair Papers. As president, Clinton appointed her twice, in 1993 and 1997, to the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, on which she served as chair from 1996-2000. In 2003, the board named its new boardroom in her honor. She died on June 26, 2000.

Molly Boyd, University Libraries

ARKANSAS BOOKS & AUTHORS

Hot off the Press...

by Bob Razer

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Aab, Stacy Parker. *Government Girl: Young and Female in the White House*.
New York: Ecco, 2010. 9780061672224 \$14.00 304 p.

Anderson, Karen. *Little Rock: Race and Resistance at Central High*.
Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009. 9780691092935 \$35.00 336 p.

Beyond Central, Toward Acceptance: A Collection of Oral Histories from Students of Little Rock Central High. Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2010. 9781935106210 \$19.95 242 p.

Bradburd, Rus. *Forty Minutes of Hell: The Extraordinary Life of Nolan Richardson*.
New York: Amistad, 2010. 9780061690465 \$25.00 336 p.

*Brewer, Jim. *Arkansas Football: Yesterday and Today*.
Lincolnwood, IL: Publications International, 2009. 9781412775168 \$24.95 144 p.

*Christ, Mark, ed. *The Die Is Cast: Arkansas Goes to War, 1861*.
Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2010. 9781935106159 \$19.95 156 p.

DeCurtis, Anthony. *Blues and Chaos: The Music Writing of Robert Palmer*.
New York: Scribner, 2009. 9781416599746 \$30.00 480 p.

*Ewart, Tom. *The University of Arkansas: Etched in Stone*.
Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2010. 9780981822907 \$22.95 120 p.

*Foley, Larry and *Dale Carpenter. *Sacred Spaces: The Architecture of Fay Jones*.
Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2010.
9781557289384 \$19.95, 60 minute DVD

Gormley, Ken. *The Death of American Virtue: Clinton vs. Starr*.
New York: Crown, 2010. 9780307409447 \$35.00 704 p.

Gutgold, Nichola. *Almost Madame President: Why Hillary Clinton "Won" in 2008*.
Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009.
139780739133712 \$60.00 cloth; 139780739133729 \$26.95 paper 166 p.

*Hamilton, Laurell. *Divine Misdemeanors*.
New York: Ballentine, 2009. 9780345495969 \$26.00 352 p.

*Harris, Charlaime. *Grave Secret*.
New York: Berkley, 2009. 9780425230152 \$24.95 320 p.

Heilemann, John and Mark Halperin. *Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin*.
New York: Harper, 2010. 9780061733635 \$28.00 464 p.

ARKANSAS BOOKS & AUTHORS *(continued)*

- *Hess, Joan. *The Merry Wives of Maggody*.
New York: St. Martin's Press, 2010. 978031236361 \$25.00 352 p.
- *House, Don. *Not a Good Sign*.
Fayetteville: Phoenix International, 2010. 9780982429501 \$29.95 128 p.
- *Huckabee, Mike. *A Simple Christmas*.
New York: Sentinel, 2009. 9781595230621 \$19.95 160 p.
- *Kennedy, Thomas C. *A History of Southland College: The Society of Friends and Black Education in Arkansas*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2009. 9781557289162 \$39.95 424 p.
- Lawrence, Regina and Melody Rose. *Hillary Clinton's Race for the White House: Gender Politics and the Media*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009.
9781588266705 \$65.00 cloth; 9781588266958 \$26.50 270 p.
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- *Arkansas author
Inclusion does not indicate recommendation.

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WEBMASTER'S CORNER

Website Statistics

*by Ron Russ, Arkansas State University - Beebe,
serves as the webmaster for the ArLA website, www.arlib.org.*



One topic that has come to my mind recently is statistics. I remember not taking the statistics course in graduate school because I thought I would fall asleep in it. But, I didn't realize how much my job would revolve around statistics. Love or hate them, they are here to stay. More specifically, let's talk about website statistics. There are many programs that collect statistics, and the one that we use for the ArLA Website is Webalizer. These programs analyze the raw access logs and try to make sense of who accessed a website and how many times they accessed it. Here is an example of what raw access logs look like:

```
61.135.220.151 - - [03/Dec/2009:04:53:07 -0500] "GET /robots.txt HTTP/1.1" 200 67 "-" "Nokia3650/1.0 SymbianOS/6.1 Series60/1.2 Profile/MIDP-1.0 Configuration/CLDC-1.0/ (compatible; YodaoBot-Mobile/1.0; http://www.yodao.com/help/webmaster/spider/; )" 61.135.220.151 - - [03/Dec/2009:04:53:07 -0500] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 302 292 "-" "Nokia3650/1.0 SymbianOS/6.1 Series60/1.2 Profile/MIDP-1.0"
```

These go on for pages and pages, so you can see how difficult it would be to extract this information manually. By looking at this, though, you can get a sense of who accessed your site, what date was accessed, what files were accessed, what operating system was used, etc. Programs such as Webalizer go through these logs and extract the information in a very readable way, so you get a snapshot of who is using your website and how much traffic you have. Here is a Webalizer snapshot:

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Dec 2009	1499	1034	697	243	1732	514047	4376	12562	18624	26989
Nov 2009	1527	1052	690	266	2704	1134736	7999	20729	31562	45823
Oct 2009	2581	1847	913	300	3243	1622948	9313	28307	57282	80040
Sep 2009	1974	1364	817	267	3146	1455793	8018	24524	40947	59237
Aug 2009	1959	1308	784	259	3248	1708783	8031	24327	40578	60741
Jul 2009	1758	1170	782	251	2814	866309	7802	24243	36272	54522
Jun 2009	1571	1084	762	248	2540	502877	7444	22879	32532	47130
May 2009	1376	971	648	224	2652	487112	6958	20115	30125	42657
Apr 2009	1464	1005	668	215	2627	533639	6455	20041	30156	43946

As you can see, it's far more readable. Each month can be clicked on to get more detailed information about that month including who has visited the website. I'll spare you a snapshot of that, but you get the idea.

Now I should mention a few words on definitions. (They are specific to the Webalizer product and can be found at http://www.mrunix.net/webalizer/webalizer_help.html. Other programs may have slightly different definitions, but the concepts are similar). People used to put the number of hits on their websites. That could be very misleading or inaccurate. Hits only represent the number of request made to a server in a given time period. This included robot programs that search engines like Google send out. There may automated programs visiting your website as well, so I would suggest not using hits as a measure of usage. Other categories give a better indication of usage. Files represent the total number of hits that resulted in something being sent back to the user. Pages are those web pages that would be considered the page being requested by the user, such as the ArLA Jobline. Visits occur when a remote site makes a request for your page on your server for the first time. Some database statistical products may call this a session. Sites are just the unique IP addresses that made a request to your server. I really don't use that too much, unless I'm curious at looking at the details of who is requesting data from us. I probably use the pages, visits, and files to get a sense of activity. I don't really think there is one overall category that I look to explain everything. Anyway, I hope this gives you a little taste of how we analyze data when it comes to our website.

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**Effective Summer 2010 - New Web site address
www.library.arkansas.gov**

Arkansas Libraries

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**Arkansas Library Association
Board Leadership Retreat
Lakepoint Conference Center, Russellville
February 19-20, 2010**

The members of the Arkansas Library Association board - new and returning - met in Russellville at the Lakepoint Conference Center, Arkansas Tech University, to plan the activities of the association for the next year. Long meetings, also time to talk and get to know each other - particularly while watching the Olympics!



Kaye Talley and Amber Wilson

George Townsend, Britt Anne
Murphy, and Ron Russ.





Kara Propes, Virginia Perschbacher, Karen Russ, Frances Hager, Sarah Ernst, Donna McDonald, and Lynda Hampel.

Connie Zimmer, Shawn Pierce, Jamie Melson, Barbara Martin, Bill Parton, Heidi Vix and Kathie Buckman.



Barbie James and Diane Hughes.



Virginia Perschbacher, Karen Russ and Frances Hager.

Bill Parton, Heidi Vix and Kathie Buckman.



Dinner was a Cajun buffet -- yummy!

**ARKANSAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
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\$12,000 - 14,999	\$30	\$62,000 - 69,999	\$100
\$15,000 - 17,999	\$35	\$70,000 - up	\$110
\$18,000 - 20,999	\$40		
\$21,000 - 23,999	\$45		
\$24,000 - 26,999	\$50		
\$27,000 - 29,999	\$55		
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\$34,000 - 37,999	\$65		
\$38,000 - 45,999	\$70		

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