

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

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INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

UPDATING
YOUR
LIBRARY



Arkansas Library Association

UAMS LIBRARY
GREEN TEAM:
MAKING
RECYCLING WORK!



Arkansas Library Association

ARKANSAS
AND THE
CIVIL WAR

Arkansas Library Association, 2011

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Arkansas Libraries

Published quarterly by the Arkansas Library Association

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Cover photo: A Beautiful Spring Day!, UAMS Library, University of Arkansas Medical School, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Photo provided by Loretta Edwards.

From the ArLA President:

by Shawn Pierce,
Lonoke, Prairie County Regional Library

What an exciting time it is for the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) as we celebrate its 100th anniversary. A hearty congratulations is in order! It is mind-boggling to think of where we have been, how much the state and its libraries have grown and to try to see where the Association is headed. This year promises to be a fun and fast one as we prepare for the 2011 Centennial Conference.

BACKGROUND

The Arkansas Library Association was formed in 1911:

To further the professional development of all library staff members; to foster communication and cooperation among librarians, trustees and friends of libraries; to increase the visibility of libraries among the general public and funding agencies; to serve as an advocate for librarians and libraries.

ArLA has supported Arkansas' academic, public, school, and special libraries. In the past 100 years the Association has had many successes; we established a state library commission, began an association publication, established salary guidelines, supported the continuing education of librarians, and protected intellectual freedom.¹

In 1911, there were eight public libraries in operation in Arkansas serving a population of 1,574,449 people.² Today there are 231 public libraries with 118 degreeed librarians serving a population of 2.9 million people. The eight original libraries include: Garland County Library, Van Buren Public Library, Clark County Library, Conway County Library, Blytheville Public Library and the Eureka Springs Carnegie Library.

LIBRARY BEGINNINGS

1833-34 Garland County Library

A letter from Hiram Abiff Whittington to his brother on September 20, 1833 asking for numerous books to be sent to him, as Mr. Whittington wrote "My object is to keep a Circulation Library here next season," proves Hot Springs had the first circulating library in the state of Arkansas. Several letters between Mr. Whittington and his brother support this claim. The letters have been collected in *Observations of Arkansas: The 1824-1863 Letters of Hiram Abitt Whittington*, published



by the Garland County Historical Society, and is part of the Garland County Library collection. This precedes the date for the founding of the first library in Arkansas found in the *World Book Encyclopedia*. That entry states that the first library was founded by W.E. Woodruff in Little Rock, AR in 1843. Helena also has a claim in for the first library.

1896 Van Buren Public Library

The Women's Literary Club established a shelf of books for the use of the public in a side room of the Crawford County Bank. Books were added to the collection as gifts and through yearly "book receptions" held by the Women's Literary Club. Later, bookcases were placed in Mr. C.K. Ingeborg's General Merchandise Store. Two of the ladies of the Club attended to the library books on two afternoons a week. Later, Mr. Henry Meyer offered the use of a building on South Fifth St. The library remained there for many years.

1897 Clark County Library

The Woman's Library Association formed with 30 members and began collecting book donations for the first library collection. The library was housed in the association president's home.

1897 Conway County Library

The Pathfinder Club, a ladies' club, was founded in Morrilton in 1897. The primary goal of the club was to establish a library for the community, but their first efforts were of collecting books, appointing "librarians" from their membership, moving the collection from member house to member house and only allowing club members to borrow books from the collection. Changes were coming.

1899 Clark County Library

The Women's Library Association was forced to rent space for its book collection, and then the Library building fund was established.

1903 Clark County Library

The first library building in Arkansas was completed December 1903. This building was put on the National Register of Historic places in November 1974. Fundraising efforts continued and the library building loan was fully paid off by 1913. It was Designed by Architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock and built by James Pullen.

1908 Blytheville Public Library

In 1907 The Women's Club held a "Book Shower" and charged a 25 cent monthly fee to "reading members" of this "private library." Two or three years later it was decided to have a free library for the public staff by volunteer women's club members.

1910 Eureka Springs Carnegie Public Library

The Library Board received its funding from the Carnegie Foundation. The library used this date to celebrate its centennial in 2010. In 1914 the Eureka Springs Carnegie Public Library building was completed and opened to the public.

Centennial Conference

Thank you to both the Conference and Centennial Committees for their hard work. The Conference Chair, Holly Mercer, and the Centennial Chair, Karen Russ, started planning this year's conference in a Conference Meeting at last year's conference. This year's theme is Celebrate! or "The Joy of Libraries," which will be held at the Peabody Hotel and Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Please join us September 24-27, 2011

Looking forward to meeting and working with you all,

Shawn

(Endnotes)

- 1 2011 Arkansas Library website: www.arlib.org
- 2 *Arkansas Statistical Abstract* 2008.

**Special thanks to Ruth Hyatt, Manager of Extension Services at the Arkansas State Library for statistics and facts for this column.*

Shawn Pierce, the President of the Arkansas Library Association, is, also, the Director of the Lonoke/Prairie County Regional Library,



Purpose: to celebrate Arkansas libraries and their positive effect on individuals and communities

Guidelines:

- 1) Create an original 1-3 minute video about why you love your Arkansas library.
- 2) Entries should include creator's name, contact information, and library in the video.
- 3) The contest is open to all residents of Arkansas.
- 4) There is no fee for submitting an entry.
- 5) Groups or individuals can submit entries.
- 6) Entries may be live-action, animation, machinima, or a combination of these.
- 7) Minors who are recognizable in the video MUST have the consent of their parent or guardian in order for the video to be eligible for the contest.
- 8) Videos should be submitted to the Arkansas Library Association Centennial YouTube Channel and tagged with the category the video is being entered into.
- 9) Entries accepted May 1 - July 31st
- 9) Contest entries must be uploaded to YouTube by midnight July 31st, 2011.

Categories:

School Libraries

"Why I Love My Arkansas School Library"

College and/or University Library

"Why I Love My Arkansas College and/or University Library"

Public Library

"Why I Love My Arkansas Public Library"

Special Library

"Why I Love My Arkansas Special Library"

Library Employees

"Why I Love Working In An Arkansas Library"

Winners: The winning video from each category will be featured at the 2011 Arkansas Library Association Annual (ARLA) Centennial Conference. The Arkansas Library Association Board will select one winner from each category. The winning videos will be part of the ARLA Centennial Celebration (birthday) lunch on Tuesday, September 27th. Winners will be honored at the lunch and will receive an *awesome* prize.

For more information: Contact Holly Mercer, ccl-hmerc@crosscountylibrary.org

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Random Thoughts....

by *Laura Speer*
Managing Editor

The ArLA Board met for a retreat in Russellville at the Lake Point Conference Center. If you have never been there, Lake Point is owned and operated by Arkansas Tech University. The Hospitality Administration Program runs it as a hands-on learning lab for their students.

Shawn Pierce, ArLA President, explained that the rationale for a retreat is to allow board members to meet outside of their standard environment and get to know each other on a personal level before “getting down to business.” Shawn, Holly Mercer, and our executive team, Barbara Martin and Lynda Hampel, planned activities that allowed us to get to know each other and get is ready to plan for the next year. During the retreat we talked about many things - our grandkids and kids, the future of libraries, food, the centennial celebration, as well as the mission, vision and values of the Arkansas Library Association..

It was an interesting and thoughtful retreat. We all had time to share our ideas and reflect on our own



ArLA Retreat....

Photo above:
Randy Eskridge and
Donna McDonald

To the right:
Melanie Allen,
Kathy Davis, Diane
Hughes, and Lynda
Hampel (peeking
over the chair).

Photos from Laura Speer



positions within the association. For the publications committee, Kathy, Britt, Ron, and I were able to talk about additional ways to get information to all Arla members (much as we are planning for that same thing in our libraries) - i.e. Facebook.

At the end of the retreat we felt ready to move on and move into the future with the Arkansas Library Association.

Laura

*Laura Speer, an advocate for all librarians,
is the Director of Library Services at the
Fayetteville Public Library.*

Upcoming Events....

ArLA ALPS Conference
May 18-20, 2011, Fort Smith, Arkansas

ArLA "I Love Libraries" Video Contest
May 1 - July 31

ALA 2011 Annual Meeting
June 23-29, New Orleans, Louisiana

ArLA AASL Conference
July 24-25, Eureka Springs, Arkansas

ArLA Centennial Conference
September 24-27, Little Rock, Arkansas

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The ALA Emerging Leaders Program

*by Ashley Parker, Mid-Arkansas Regional Library/
Malvern-Hot Spring County Library*



The Emerging Leaders program started six years ago as one of ALA Past President Leslie Burger's initiatives during her presidency. The goal of this program was to introduce librarians new to the profession to the inner workings of the American Library Association and groom them to be its future leaders.

Potential participants must be under the age of 35 or have been a library professional for less than five years. Candidates are required to submit an application, references, and a resume for consideration by the Emerging Leader's subcommittee. This committee reviews applicants and chooses the cohort based on their personal statements, references, and lack of prior service within committees of the American Library Association.

Being part of the Emerging Leaders program requires the commitment to attend both Midwinter and Annual Conferences of the American Library Association. At both conferences a day-long workshop is held for participants focusing on leadership skills and becoming future leaders of ALA. Participants are separated into groups to work on projects for various divisions and roundtables within ALA. These projects are presented as poster sessions during the Annual Conference and often implemented by said divisions and roundtables, as well as by the at-large members of ALA.

In the fall of 2010 I received an exciting email stating that I had been accepted into the American Library Association's Emerging Leaders program for 2011, along with 82 other librarians across the country. Contact with the ALA staff began immediately and correspondence with fellow Emerging Leaders started soon after.

Communication with my cohort happens with a variety of tools including Facebook, email, phone calls, Skype, ALA Connect (an ALA-developed collaborative tool and user interface), and Twitter. These communication tools allow us to share ideas and documents as well as being able to network and become friends, even though we are only given

the opportunity to meet in person twice during our program year.

Recently I was able to meet and collaborate with my fellow Emerging Leaders at the Mid-Winter Conference in San Diego, CA. Being able to network with the Emerging Leaders from around the country was a very rewarding experience, as was the opportunity to network with the leaders of the American Library Association. The experience of being with my fellow cohorts gave me the chance to learn more about a diverse range of libraries and job roles as well as working with people from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

While I have only begun my experience with the Emerging Leaders program, based on my recent experiences I strongly expect that this program will be one of the most rewarding experiences I have had so far in both my education and my career. If asked, I would wholeheartedly recommend that librarians in Arkansas take advantage of the Emerging Leaders program. I think that the skills and contacts made through the participation in this program would be of enormous benefit to both individual librarians as well as the Arkansas library community as a whole.

Ashley

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



Bill Parton, Jim Robb & Michael Strickland
at the ArLA Board Retreat in Russellville.

WHAT'S UP? DOCS.

Maps: What does the Gov't produce and how to find them.

by Karen Russ, Ottenheimer Library

How many of you have memories of relatives sitting in the car with a highway map stretched out across their laps, trying to figure out where they were going? Ok, that dated me a little, didn't it? Most of us turn to our GPS for driving directions these days, not a map. But, someone must still be using paper maps because my library distributes nearly 100 Arkansas highway maps a month!*

Government sites offer maps from areas as small as 7.5 minute topographic maps from the US Geological Survey to NASA's maps of the solar system. And the topics range from battlefield maps showing troop movements across an area, to boundaries of nations around the world, or volcanoes on other planets.

Let's start with the big stuff. The NASA website is full of maps of the universe, the solar system, our planet, and moon. While the site is stocked full of maps and satellite images, I frequently recommend two options.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM SIMULATOR

(<http://maps.jpl.nasa.gov/>) provides more than just maps in our solar system. It also offers star maps of different portions of the universe. Coming closer to home, it is also possible to view images of most planets in our solar system. (Because Pluto has not been visited by any spacecraft to date, the resolution of the images is not as good as the others.) Several of the planetary files also include maps of their larger moons. Unfortunately, unlike many maps, there is little to no description on these images.

THE EARTH OBSERVATORY

(<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/GlobalMaps/>) provides numerous thematic maps of Earth, including surface temperatures, snow cover, rainfall, and vegetation. Each comes with a description of the content as well as links to related maps.

POLITICAL AND GEO-POLITICAL MAPS

One of my favorite sources of political and geo-political maps of nations of the world is the Central Intelligence Agency. As odd as it sounds, the CIA offers a wonderful assortment of color maps of nations around the world. At least one map of each nation can



be found in the online edition of *The World Factbook*. (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>). Also provided are regional maps that will show you where the desired nation is on a continent or the globe.

Coming closer to home, there are numerous ways to look at the land of the United States. Determining how close to home you can get will be decided by the topic you desire.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Are you interested in knowing what natural disasters are prevalent in the area? If so, try the Federal Emergency Management Agency and their map index at <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/map/index.shtm>. From there you can select the option that allows you to determine disaster risks by address. Not all areas of the nation have been finished in this study, but for those that are, the details are great.

If you are researching the damage done by a past disaster, the other three categories will allow you to look into hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, and other weather and natural disasters. The time range varies by whether you need a compilation of information, or a map with a specific year. Hurricanes in the past decade are well covered.

TRAVEL

Travel always brings about the need for maps. Getting from place to place, even with a GPS unit, is easier with a map of the highways. The Federal Highway Administration offers highway maps of each state at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/nhs/>. After selecting

a state, it is possible to focus in on specific urban areas or view the state as a whole. While most of us think of the highway system as being the interstates, it also includes national roads designated before the Eisenhower Interstates were created, often scenic alternatives to a 4-8 lane speedway.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Now that you know how to get there by car, explore other means of travel. If you like rafting or boating, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System sites provide maps of the rivers included in the system. Consult the national and Alaskan files at <http://www.rivers.gov/maps.html>.

NATIONAL PARKS

If drier vacations are more your style, consult the National Parks Service site (<http://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm>) for recommendations of National Parks or Historic Sites. It is searchable by location; name of a park or site; activities available onsite; and topics, such as geysers, endangered species, and mountains, among others.

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS

Did all that travel leave you interested in a specific spot? Now is the time to look at maps that cover some of the smallest area: US Geological Survey topographic maps. In addition to providing the obvious information on the steepness of a hill or valley, comparing various editions of the same map can show how an area developed, as the maps also include roads and buildings. These have also become popular with genealogists trying to find old cemeteries and churches that may not show up on newer maps. While some of the older maps will have to be looked at in libraries, there are some historic maps online, and the newer versions are being produced in electronic format. Start at <http://www.usgs.gov/pubprod/maps.html>.

EVEN MORE?

If these choices do not meet your needs, try searching the US government portal at <http://www.USA.gov>. A keyword search using your topic of interest and the word "map" will bring up results from federal agencies as well as various state and local agencies. I did not even look at maps for agriculture, mineral resources, or railroads. All of this and much more can be found on government maps.

ORDER FOR YOUR LIBRARY.....

If your library would like to distribute the Arkansas highway (tourist) maps for patrons, order them in bulk from http://www.arkansashighways.com/planning_research/mapping_graphics/tourist.aspx.



Government Information
@your library™

Karen Russ is the government documents librarian at Ottenheimer Library at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.



Karen

ALA Midwinter - San Diego

Photos supplied by Ron Russ

GUEST COLUMNIST

The Threat of Privatization

by Daniel Page, Southern Arkansas University

For decades, numerous communities have considered shifting public library services, either in part or in whole, away from the public sector. The current Great Recession is a fiscally challenging period in which the enticement to privatize public libraries may be especially strong. However, some areas of the public sector should not be privatized; libraries are one such industry. As civic managers and library boards address voter frustration and fiscal constraints, their commitment to the time-honored principles of the freedom of information and the freedom of inquiry must not sway to pressures of privatization.

Libraries have long served the public good and democracy by providing for the freedom of information and the freedom of inquiry. Libraries are unique in their mission in that they protect universal access to information and the privacy of individual scholarship. Through their non-profit status, libraries are less restricted by outside pressures (i.e., censorship, book banning, commercialism, etc.). Perhaps the most important reason libraries should not be privatized is that privatization threatens the freedom of information and inquiry that libraries provide. Full commercialization of information threatens democracy, the value of education, and progress.

Because public and private entities are subject to different regulations, private entities are less obligated to maintain that which is sacred for libraries. For example, “a government entity may only do what the law permits and prescribes; a private entity may do whatever the law does not forbid” (Edgar, 2010). Consequently, publicly supported libraries are more likely to maintain the legal protections that ensure the freedom of information. Similarly, “if the government uses private firms for activities like debt collection or hiring, personal information is introduced to the private sector with little control” (Edgar, 2010). Librarians are passionately committed to the privacy of the individual information seeker (e.g., made evident in their resistance to the Patriot Act). Private firms may not always protect individuals’ privacy as done by public libraries, which undermines the freedom of inquiry. As Oder states, “As public agencies, libraries should be transparent, but this ethic does not necessarily hold for a private company” (Oder 2004,



39). Therefore, libraries are best able to protect the freedom of information and inquiry if they remain in public control.

Similarly, Schuman defends libraries against common misperceptions of privatization. For example, private firms argue that they can operate libraries cheaper. However, Schuman states:

There is very little hard data to back up this assumption. No doubt private companies can do some jobs cheaper and provide some services more efficiently. On the other hand, we should have learned something from defense and other government contract overruns. The private sector is not always cheaper, except sometimes at the start, when companies lowball their bids to clinch their first contracts (Schuman 1998, 51).

If private firms argue for a takeover of public libraries based on arguments for financial savings, government decision makers and librarians should carefully research whether such savings can actually be realized and maintained. Secondly, Schuman challenges the idea that the privatization of libraries will create greater accountability. She states:

[This idea] is absolutely false. The private sector and the public sector are subject to vastly different types of accountability and law. These differences become particularly alarming when not only services like maintenance and garbage removal are privatized but when that trend includes more complex people-centered services involving the public’s constitutional and statutory rights (Schuman 1998, 51).

With fewer regulations, private institutions would be less accountable to the communities they serve

and could be tempted to sacrifice the freedom of information and inquiry for increased profit (e.g., current debate on net neutrality). Schuman also challenges the idea that the successful privatizing of certain library processes validates the total privatization of libraries. She states, “We must draw a line between the simple purchase of products and the privatization of intangible core activities like service, selection, policy setting, and management. Do we really want our libraries held hostage to the whimsy of the marketplace?” (Schuman 1998, 52). For example, as libraries have incorporated technological advances into their services, they have outsourced periodicals management to private companies. While companies that provide powerful online serials services have expedited the research process for library users, they have also taken control of information selection typically performed by librarians. In doing so, it is very expensive to maintain contracts with these companies and almost impossible to maintain the library’s ability to fully customize local holdings choices.

Those who ultimately make the decision to either privatize or not privatize have an obligation to the public good to consider concerns other than profitability. Admittedly, this is not an easy task given the fiscal challenges some communities face; still, it behooves leaders to recognize the differences between effectiveness and efficiency and to consider the dangers of compromising effectiveness. Thought should also be given to the possible risks of censorship if certain information sources are not profitable. For example, at any time, a community may have a majority of consumers who protest certain library items. Such efforts might force privately held libraries to remove “objectionable” materials from their collections, thus reducing the effectiveness and quality of information provided to society. Issues like this

illustrate how increasing efficiency at the expense of effectiveness may not always be best for the public good.

As libraries continue their commitment to the freedom of information and inquiry, it is possible for them to reduce costs through coproduction, intra-entrepreneurialism, and similar efforts. It may also be possible for some library services (e.g., human resources, facilities maintenance, etc.) to be taken over by public or other non-profit agencies in an effort to reduce operational expenses. However, the full privatization of libraries is too great a threat to be considered as a viable option to free and progressive societies.

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Daniel Page is the Library Director at Southern Arkansas University, Magale Library, in Magnolia, Arkansas.

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ASK THE STATE LIBRARIAN

Arkansas and the Civil War

*by Caroline Ashcraft, State Librarian
Arkansas State Librarian*

No doubt many librarians are aware that our nation will be commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War over the next five years. Libraries across Arkansas will have opportunities to explore the role their local communities played in the conflict, as well as educate patrons about how Arkansas fit into the broader picture of the Civil War. I asked Mark Christ, the Community Outreach Director from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, to describe the work that the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission (ACWSC) will be doing over the next five years. As State Librarian, I serve on this important committee, and I encourage libraries to begin exploring how they might include Civil War topics in their programming.



Carolyn

ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

by Guest Columnist Mark Christ,
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

One hundred and fifty years after it began the American Civil War remains probably the most significant event in the history of the United States. Its impact is still felt in politics, customs, and business. In Arkansas, it was an ugly, personal, and decidedly uncivil affair that touched everyone's lives.

Arkansas had battles with grand armies and billowing banners, but far more common were guerrilla forces, destruction, and death. For some, the war's end brought a new-found freedom. For all, it brought an uncertain future and a legacy that continues to touch our lives today. The Civil War was not a war fought somewhere else, it was a war fought right here in Arkansas—in every county and community.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in 2011-2015, the Arkansas General Assembly created the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. The Commission's mission is to support a statewide observance of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War that is educational, comprehensive, and inclusive; that tells the story of the Civil War in Arkansas without making judgments about the actions and motivations of the people who took part in the war, and that stresses the relevance to Arkansans today by promoting local observances and acknowledging the

impact the Civil War had on modern Arkansas. The commission shall achieve this goal by:

- Sanctioning events around the state (re-enactments, symposia, etc.) that are appropriate observances of the Sesquicentennial.
- Promoting historic sites around the state that are connected to the Civil War through educational efforts (brochures, websites, etc.).
- Promoting publications and archival collections connected to the Civil War in Arkansas and advocating donations of materials to appropriate repositories.
- Promoting local observances that tell the local story.
- Supporting efforts to teach and research Arkansas Civil War history in the state's schools and universities.
- Supporting efforts to preserve and interpret the state's Civil War sites and documentary heritage and artifacts.
- Ensuring that the commemoration of the Civil War in Arkansas is inclusive of all Arkansans.

In addition, the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has developed the following interpretive themes for each year of the observance of the 150th anniversary of the war to provide guidance to local governments, historical societies, museums, and other organizations as they begin planning local events.

2011: “WHY COMMEMORATE THE CIVIL WAR?”
As we enter the 150th anniversary of a war that changed the social, economic, and political nature of Arkansas forever, it is vitally important to reflect on the reasons for war and its impacts. It is even more important to explore the relevance of the events of 1861-1865 to us as a people a century and a half after the close of hostilities.

2012: “A DIVIDED ARKANSAS”
War came to Arkansas in 1862 as Union armies invaded the northwest portion of the state and Confederate leaders authorized formation of bands of guerrilla fighters to oppose them. Families were split as members chose allegiance to the Union or the Confederacy while other Arkansans simply tried to stay out of it. It became apparent that every community in the state would be affected by the war.

2013: “BIG WAR, LITTLE WAR”
Thousands of Arkansas soldiers were shipped to fight battles east of the Mississippi River, while thousands of Union soldiers occupied Arkansas. This theme focuses on the anguish of those serving far from home and the hardship faced by those who stayed behind, as well as the choices faced by the state’s African-American population as they decided whether to remain with their owners or escape to Union lines.

2014: “UNDER TWO GOVERNMENTS”
The people of Arkansas faced unparalleled hardship during 1864 as food and other supplies dwindled, and much of Arkansas existed in a lawless state. Roving bands of armed men killed and stole with impunity as both Union and Confederate governors sought to conduct the business of the state.
2015: “EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION”
As the war wound down, the Confederate armies surrendered, and soldiers returned to a blighted landscape and Union rule. Slavery officially ended in the state as Arkansas ratified the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on April 14, 1865.

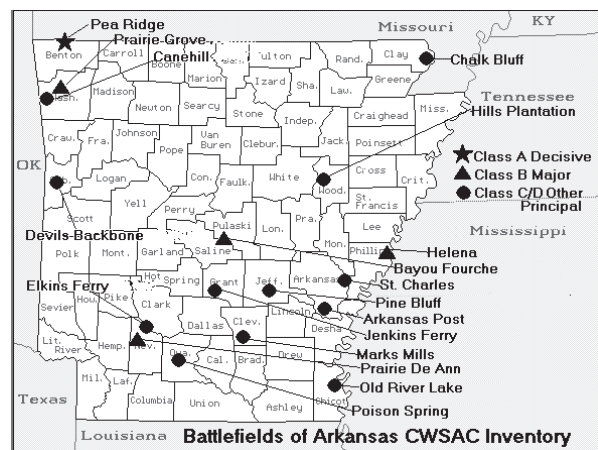
To learn more about the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and planned activities in the state, please visit the Commission’s website at www.arkansascivilwar150.com.

HOW CAN THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY PARTICIPATE?
Libraries are encouraged to plan events and displays which will incorporate the yearly themes of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. For instance, the Arkansas Center for the Book (CFB) at the Arkansas State Library has plans to develop bookmarks highlighting books targeted for various ages (kids, teens, and adults) with a Civil War background. These bookmarks will be available for statewide distribution. The CFB will also choose a book for one of its If All Arkansas Read the Same Book selections.

Need a speaker to discuss a battle or skirmish that took place in your area? Want a re-enactor to come to the library in full military dress? Need reproductions of photographs or documents from that era? Want to know what events are being planned near your city/county? Need educational materials for kids? Loads of information is available at the click of a mouse. Check out the website at www.arkansascivilwar150.com.

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ARKANSAS STATE LIBRARY
900 W. CAPITOL, SUITE 100
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201
501-682-2053
www.library.arkansas.gov



Source: <http://americancivilwar.com/statepic/arkansas.html>

ALA COUNCILOR'S REPORT

ALA Midwinter, San Diego

by Ron Russ, ASU-Beebe



I attended the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, CA from January 7 – January 12, 2011. Despite the poor economy, total attendance was 10,110 as opposed to 11,095 for Midwinter in Boston last year. While I did not attend any programs, there were some to be seen. Ted Danson, actor and environmentalist, was the main speaker at the President's program, Nancy Pearl and Newbery Medal Winner Neil Gaiman discussed *The Graveyard Book*, and of course, the Youth Media Awards were given out. A full list of the Youth Media Awards can be found at <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/news/topstories/yma2011.cfm>. Most of the time that I spend at conference is involved with ALA Council-related activities or other meetings that involve ALA Chapters. So, while some may think the life a Councilor is glamorous, it really isn't. While there is a lot of stimulating debates on resolutions, it is probably not for everyone. Here is a summary of some of the resolutions and reports.

COUNCIL I

There was a report by the Membership Meetings committee that looked at the future of the membership meeting. For many years, it seemed like it was nearly impossible to get a quorum at the membership meetings at ALA Annual. So, they are looking to have a virtual membership meeting as a pilot project. I think that if this is well publicized, it could work.

As far as resolutions go there was a long and contentious discussion on the addition of domestic partner benefits to job listings in ALA publications. The wording originally said "requires a statement by potential employers that domestic partner benefits are being offered by this institution" or "domestic partner benefits are not being offered by this institution" in a job ad. It also "encouraged other providers to do the same." It was later amended to say "encouraged that potential employers provide a statement rather than requires." While I have nothing against domestic partner benefits, I thought this resolution was too micromanaging for my taste, so I voted against it. This was one of those situations where I can applaud

the concept behind a resolution, but I wasn't happy with the wording. Maybe if this was discussed in the council forums, I would have thought otherwise. But, since that was not the case, my vote was what it was. Council did pass that resolution regardless of my vote. There was a resolution on a "Do Not Patronize" list and this was in regards to labor actions at ALA hotels. This list comes from labor organizations and hotels that appear on this list are undergoing some sort of labor action (what this can be wasn't very clear). Since it was not looked at by the ALA legal counsel, it was postponed to another council session. We felt that it was important that we do not pass something that might be interpreted as supporting a boycott, which might be interpreted as a violation of anti-trust laws, so we felt it was prudent to postpone.

After Council I, the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association has its council meeting and there was good news, for a change. ALA-APA finished nearly \$50,000 in the black for 2010 and will pay back some of the loan that ALA lent them for startup costs. My feeling is that this might have something to do with the certification programs that they offer for library support staff and for public library administrators. Regardless, it is a step in the right direction after some years finishing in the red.

COUNCIL II

Report from ALA Treasurer, Jim Neal, was encouraging. The results of our audit for fiscal year 2009-10 (which ends on August 31, 2010) showed that there were no material weaknesses and issue an unqualified opinion, which is the best possible rating. From FY09 to FY10, our net assets improved by \$3.1 million to \$29.7 million. Long-term investments improved by \$1.8 million to \$28.8 million due to market performance. Total ALA revenues declined by \$1.7 million to \$52.5 million due to a reduction in subscriptions, a lower number of grants and awards secured and declining interest rates. In addition, expenses declined by \$3.3 million to \$50.2 million.

The “Do Not Patronize” list resolution gets postponed to Council III since after the legal counsel looked at the resolution, it was clear that the wording needed to be adjusted. Two WikiLeaks resolutions get postponed to Council III as well. Honorary membership was granted to Yohannes Gebregeorgis, librarian, author, and founder of Ethiopia Reads, a nonprofit organization that is establishing children’s libraries in Ethiopia and publishing bilingual and trilingual children’s books. Programmatic priorities approved by council are diversity; equitable access to information and library services; education and lifelong learning; intellectual freedom; advocacy for libraries and the profession; literacy; organizational excellence; and transforming libraries.

COUNCIL FORUMS

Many of the resolutions are debated in informal meetings called Council Forums. This is why, you may notice that some resolutions get postponed from one council meeting or another, if not withdrawn entirely depending on the whether or not the supporters of the resolution think it will pass or not. We have two Council Forums and one Chapter Councilor’s forum (where we discuss items related to chapters). Anyway, while I won’t go into the details of this, as I’m probably boring you already, I hope it clarifies a few things.

COUNCIL III

The tribute and memorial resolutions are read and voted upon early in the meeting. The resolution honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Arkansas Library Association was passed and met with applause. Council approved a resolution supporting the declassification of federal documents and commended President Obama for the creation of the National Declassification Agency. While this was influenced by some of the activities regarding WikiLeaks, it did not mention tacit support of that organization. Another resolution that passed was in support of and reintroduction by congress of the DREAM act. If passed, this would give benefits for children of illegal immigrants brought to this country before age 16, are under 30 years of age, and have lived here for a minimum of five years, and wish to attend college or join the military. Other resolutions that passed included recognition for Bob Tapella, the 25th Public Printer, Susan Hildreth, the new Institute of Museum and Library Services Director, and Sen. Jack Reed for recognizing libraries as essential community organizations during disasters. The “Do Not Patronize” list resolution was rewritten and did not pass. The amended resolution did not make any reference to the

“Do Not Patronize” list. Some felt that people can look up information on the topic without ALA having to do so for them. The two WikiLeaks resolutions were tabled indefinitely. There were a number of problems with these resolutions. One of them asked us to support WikiLeaks which many of us felt by doing so, we would be supporting illegal activity, and we were really not comfortable with that. I also know that some felt that the “data dumps” that they do were not a public service and might hurt people. After numerous discussions in the council forums, the two resolutions failed.

Surprisingly, we got out early from Council III, although many were stranded by snow storms on the east coast. I met up with some of these people at a dinner at Seersucker’s. It was a fun dinner, and I hope that people were able to forget their sorrows, for a little while. They told me that many of their colleagues were not sympathetic that they were stuck in San Diego. All in all, it was a good and productive meeting and I look forward (despite the heat and humidity), to ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA.

Ron

Ron Russ is an Assistant Librarian at Arkansas State University - Beebe, the webmaster for the ArLA website, and the ALA Councilor.



**Scene from San Diego
ALA Midwinter in San Diego, CA.**

Photo courtesy of Ron Russ.

GUEST COLUMN

UAMS Library Green Team: Making Recycling Work!

by Heather Smith, UAMS

The UAMS Library has realized the importance of recycling for years. In order to help recycle, we put out a couple of bins here and there to collect plastic bottles and aluminum cans. We would then recycle them in a number of ways including dragging the bottles and cans home to put by our curbs, which was inefficient to say the least. We also had collection bins on each floor for paper that would be collected by a commercial company for shredding. After a few years with these paper bins in place, we learned that since UAMS is a health sciences institution and many documents are confidential, all the paper in these bins was shredded and a paper trail was kept to ensure proper disposal, a costly practice. For most of what the library was putting in these bins, shredding was unnecessary. When we learned about the paper bins, the UAMS Library Management Team took a closer look at recycling in the library as a whole and decided to get pretty serious about recycling. I volunteered to head up the effort and got the ball rolling. I worked closely with the relatively new UAMS Sustainability officer to find out what is being collected on campus and where, asked for volunteers to form our Library Recycle Team, found bins that would work for us, and helped put plan into place.



Through the Sustainability Officer, I found that UAMS currently has three recycling collection centers around campus with the hopes of adding centers as the UAMS program grows. At each collection center, there are bins for white paper (copy and printer paper), mixed paper (colored paper, magazines, envelopes, catalogs), #1 plastics (water, soda, juice bottles), #2 plastics (milk, laboratory, laundry detergent bottles), aluminum cans, and cardboard. These distinctions helped us plan for recycling in the library.

The planning for recycling started with the Library



Recycling at UAMS Library

Management Team who asked their staff members if they would be interested in serving on the newly formed Library Recycle Team with the idea that there would be at least one representative for each of the four floors. Currently our representatives are Sheila Thomas and Jan Hart, first floor, Joe Lamb and Daphne Hyatt, second floor, Heather Smith, third floor, and Joanna Delavan, fifth floor. As members of the recycle team, we made our plan and decided that we are each responsible for monitoring the fill rate on the bins and helping with the disposal of the recyclables at the nearest recycling collection center.

As a team, we decided we needed to make recycling as easy as possible for everyone involved or it just wasn't going to work. We felt that the recycle bins needed to be readily accessible and uniform throughout the library so what can be recycled on the first floor can also be recycled on the fifth floor. With this in mind, we planned "complete sets" which are made of a silver bin for aluminum cans, a blue bin for plastic bottles, a blue bin for other plastics, a green bin for white paper and a green bin for mixed paper. A "complete set" can be found on the second, third and fifth floors by the stairs or the fifth floor exit. One the first floor we needed a slightly modified plan. We decided to place bins for aluminum cans, plastic bottles and other plastics in our vending machine room/canteen with bins for white paper and mixed paper beside the two copy machines near our circulation desk. Then we placed a "complete set" in our 24-hour area. We also placed small, green tabletop bins near each public printer for white paper and mixed paper. We have found that some bins are more heavily used than others, but they are all being used.

During our initial meeting, much of the discussion was on the fill-rate and the disposal of the recyclables. We were especially worried about the paper since it weighs so much. I talked with the Sustainability Officer to see if he had any ideas and he was a tremendous help.

Since we purchased our own bins, he agreed to haul away our white and mixed paper recyclables, which is a tremendous help. Now we had to figure out what to do with the others. After monitoring the bins for about a month, we noticed the plastic bottle bins fill up the fastest, especially in the 24-hour area and the canteen. We decided to take the plastic bottles over to the collection center every two weeks and the rest at the end of each month. We also asked the Sustainability Office to come get our recycled white and mixed paper at the end of each month.

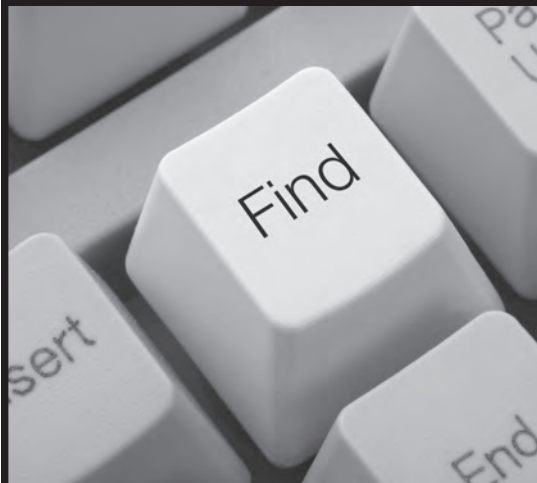
The current plan we have in place is still in its infancy, but the response from our patrons and staff has been positive. Feel free to contact me if you have questions about our recycle program here at the UAMS Library.

Heather

Heather Smith is the Head of the Learning Resource Center and the Teaching Resource Center at UAMS Library in Little Rock.

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WEBMASTER'S CORNER

ArLA's on Facebook!

by Ron S. Russ, ASU-Beebe

I spent a lot of time providing tweets at ALA Midwinter, and it made me think, maybe I should write about ArLA's new Facebook page. While it isn't exactly the website, I do manage it. Shawn Pierce, ArLA President, asked me if we had a Facebook page, and I told her no. She then suggested that it would be a good idea to have one. At first, I'm thinking, more work. But, on second thought, I've had other Facebook pages in the past, and it really isn't that much work. So, I said to myself, why not? So, that, in a nutshell, is how the page was born. First of all, you can access the page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Arkansas-Library-Association/173814195982953>. Anyone can post to the page, and I hope people will use it to communicate. I've linked to other Facebook pages of interest, such as other Arkansas library Facebook pages, and I've placed outside links to items of interest, such as the Winter 2010 issue of *Arkansas Libraries*, the Arkansas ALA Councilor's Blog, and other ArLA units on Facebook, among other things. We have 91 people so far that say they like it, which isn't bad for a new page. I hope that in the future people will have some ideas as to how to make the page more useful.

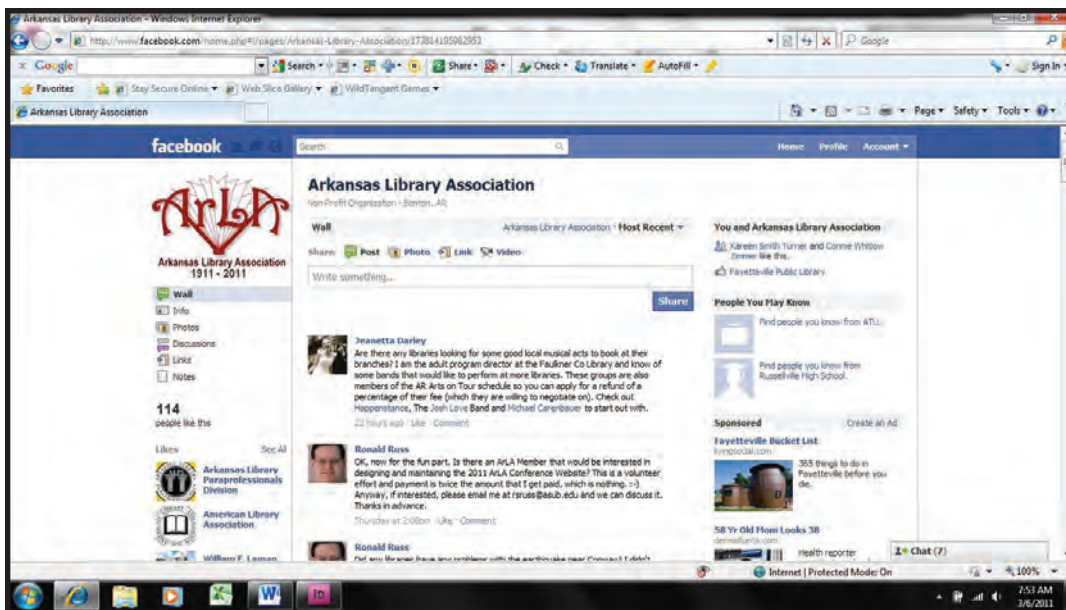


On another front, Heidi Vix and I will be working to have a new entry page to the ArLA website for the Centennial year. Hopefully, by the time that you read this, it will have been completed and in effect. In addition to that, there should be additional information about ArLA's history and the people who have built the organization to what it is today. Stay tuned.

As usual, you can always send materials for our website to rsruss@asub.edu. Whether it is updates to a page, a job ad, or something new, we are more than happy to help. Take care and here's looking forward to spring.

Ron

Ron Russ, Assistant Librarian at Arkansas State University - Beebe, is the ArLA webmaster and the Arkansas ALA Councilor.



What a great way to keep up with your friends and colleagues...join today!

It's Time To Nominate!

by Jamie Melson, Central Arkansas Library System

It's that time of year again! Time to start thinking about all the wonderful people you work with or have known through the years who deserve to be recognized. We all know or have known people in our careers about whom we think, "Gee, they deserve to be recognized for the work they've done." Well, now it's time for you to get to work and do just that. All of us always think that someone else will do it. Don't take that chance. I've known too many times when I thought someone else was writing the nomination for a particular person and then found out too late that they didn't. Believe me when I say that it would thrill the Awards Committee to receive lots of nominations for a particular award. It would also thrill the Committee to receive more than one nomination in each category this year. Make us work for you! That's what we're here for.

The awards open for nomination this year are:

Arkansiana Award

given to the author(s) of a book or other work which represents a significant contribution to Arkansas heritage and culture.

Distinguished Service Award

recognizes distinguished service in librarianship, e.g., continuing service to the Arkansas Library Association, outstanding achievement in some area of librarianship, active participation in library affairs, notable published professional writing, etc.

Frances P. Neal Award

given to recognize a career of notable service in librarianship within the state of Arkansas.

Bessie B. Moore Trustee Award

given to an individual trustee or board of trustees that has made a significant contribution to the development of a library at the local, regional or state level.

Retta Patrick Award

recognizes an individual member of the Arkansas library profession who has made an outstanding state or national contribution to school librarianship and school library development.

Arkansas Intellectual Freedom Award

given to a person or group for notable contributions that have furthered the cause of intellectual freedom on behalf of a library in the state of Arkansas.

*"One hand cannot clap
on its own, it needs
the other
hand to
make a
clap."
anon.*



Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award

recognizes distinguished paraprofessional library service in Arkansas libraries.

Suzanne Spurrier Academic Librarian Award

recognizes an outstanding academic librarian within the state of Arkansas.

Ann Lightsey Children's Award

awarded to a children's librarian who is currently working or has been retired less than a year.

This is just a brief description of each award. Visit <http://arlib.org/Guidelines&CriteriaAwards.pdf> for the specific guidelines and criteria for each award. And the nomination form is a Word document link located at <http://arlib.org/organization/awards.php#intfree>. Please take a few moments and read over these awards and start thinking about a deserving person.

Deadline to submit nominations is August 1, 2011.

All nominations must be sent by mail or email to:

Jamie Melson
CALs/Tech. Services
100 Rock St.
Little Rock, AR 72201
jamiem@cals.lib.ar.us

Thank you for your consideration and nominations!

Jamie

Jamie Melson is a member of the Technical Services staff at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Updating Your Library

by Rachel Shankles, Lakeside High School

My library has had many visitors recently including the Arkansas Department of Education Standards visit, librarians, and administrators from many schools around the state. All of them loved the relaxed reading areas and many, many displays, and the incorporation of new technologies. I guess you can tell your administrators what you want to do to update your library, but show-and-tell can make a definite impact.

TAKE YOUR BOSS OR LITERACY TEAM TO VISIT AN ACTIVE, UPDATED SCHOOL LIBRARY within a two-hour driving distance of your school; try to find one that is your grade level. There are many around the state with excellent programs, new YA fiction sections, new facilities, relaxed reading areas, and lots of technology. I would be glad to make suggestions if you give me a call.

Many schools received stimulus money that was spent in libraries. Some libraries received Arkansas Technology Grants. Others are receiving windfall money that came down from the federal government recently to help keep teachers who might have been in jeopardy of losing jobs due to the downturn in the economy. Those schools that don't need it for teachers' salaries are allowed to use it for any updating that needs to be done. This is over \$100 per student, so that is a large amount that could fund many projects. Make sure you express your interest in updating your facility and collection to your administrators all the way up to the superintendent so that monies available might be directed your way.

Most libraries have to update piecemeal---one project at a time---unless they get to build a new library. I was given funding over a three-year improvement plan to move towards a modern, inviting facility that got kids into the library and reading. After researching what students wanted, I devised a plan and then weeded almost 100% of my fiction collection and started over on a small scale. The empty shelves were then turned into displays. I have BECOME PROFICIENT IN



DESIGNING COLOR POSTERS using Photovisi, Word, and Glogster, and I've learned how to make poster-sized printouts on my local color printer. These colorful posters decorate all the walls and displays and are changed every month. A recovered love seat and old office chairs became the "Coca Cola" reading area. A set of booths from Demco became a hangout spot for teachers on break as well as students reading the newspaper at lunch. Huge towers and monitors were replaced by laptops. A large flat screen TV is the only TV left in the building and serves as the media output for demonstrations and lessons.

One project was accomplished each year, and fiction became the focus for collection development. Now I move around the sections each summer so that it never looks exactly the same. I add something new and

dramatic each year if possible and try to keep up with the latest technology. Keeping current takes research and networking, and so I attend all kinds of workshops.

WHAT WILL YOU DO to change your library for next fall? Can you brainstorm with your literacy team or English Department to get some ideas for stirring up interest in the library? The kids want all kinds of books from easy to adult, books with colorful covers, or paperbacks displayed in bookstore-style, with no yellowed pages or plain covers. They want a variety of reading materials including newspapers, magazines, paperbacks, and hardbacks. And they want comfortable places to sit and read. The boss wants me to get students into the library and reading to make sure the test scores don't go down when AR (Accelerated Reader) is discontinued. I want to have programs that bring them out in droves to see that there are new books, new displays every month, colorful things to look at, and a variety of things to do or to read, as well as comfy seating.



(Photos provided by Rachel Shankles)

My programs begin before Open House and end with student tech classes in the summer. Raising activity money to help fund prizes for contests and extra décor for themed decorating has become second nature the last

few years. For example, I sold hot chocolate during that cold snap in December.

WEED, WEED, WEED!!!

Get started on a small project to help with a facelift for your library. Weed, weed, weed! Make a new start, a new day, a new way! Visit some libraries and get some ideas. Subscribe to the AAIM listserv to get in on many conversations about how to update and use technology in your library. Get involved in the future of your library. Attend AASL in Eureka Springs this summer to network and ask questions and the ArLA fall conference in Little Rock this September.

NEED HELP?

Contact Cathy Toney, AASL Chair, who is LMS at Sallie Cone Elementary, in Conway (501-450-4835 or toneyc@conwayschools.net). Or email or call me for more information on this subject (Rachel_Shankles@Lakesidesd.org or 501-262-1530).

Rachel



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

THE FACE OF ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

Meet Kim and Elizabeth

by Joni Stine, *Bella Vista Library*



Kim Schneider
Manager of the first “Star Library” in Arkansas

Remember recently reading in *Library Journal* about our first “star library” in Arkansas? For the last few years, the *LJ* Index of Public Library Service, *Library Journal*’s national rating of public libraries, has rated almost 7,500 public libraries, identifying around 250 “star” libraries. Kim Schneider, Library Manager at Gravette Public Library in Gravette, Arkansas is new to the world of libraries, and wasn’t sure what to think when she received the news. “Then I realized this was a really big deal!” Schneider recalls, noting it is the “best thing to ever happen to Gravette, Arkansas.”

Schneider was born in Illinois and raised in Iowa, but moved to northwest Arkansas in 1977. A graduate of Bartlesville Wesleyan College in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, she moved back to Arkansas to work for Walmart, married and divorced, and had two children. After building her first home in Gravette, she and her former Habitat for Humanity mentor began dating and recently married. Schneider and her new husband “tied the knot at his boss’ house on a stormy day – 30 people came to cheer us on,” she recalls.

Her path to becoming head of the library in Gravette was unique in that a friend from church asked Schneider to apply for the position. Schneider remembers that she didn’t feel qualified for the job “and with a lot of prayer I was chosen and felt shocked that I got it.”

Those who have spent any time at all with Schneider aren’t surprised in the least; she is vibrant, personable, bright, and isn’t afraid to ask questions. She attends

regional meetings and reaches out to other librarians for advice and support.

Schneider finds it difficult to choose a favorite facet of her new position.

“I want to say all of it,” she said. “I love kids and adults of all ages.”

Dealing with politics and finding adequate funding Schneider lists as her greatest challenges. As for her short-term goals, she would like to hold a job fair for the community, continue to improve new interlibrary loan procedures, plan teen programs, replace new hardware and software, and build a break room for her staff.

“Long term is hard for me right now,” according to Schneider, “because I deal with the immediate. It all depends on what this town wants and the economy, too. I just want to provide a positive difference for my community.”

“Knowing how Kim stepped into a library management role, without library experience,” notes Hadi Dudley, Library Director, Bentonville Public Library, “I admire Kim’s fortitude, determination and positivity. She has great enthusiasm and is willing to learn and grow in her new position. I trust that many join me in offering a warm welcome to Kim in Arkansas libraries.”



Elizabeth Burden
Access Services Librarian
Boreham Library, UA-Fort Smith

Driving down from Indiana for her first interview at an Arkansas library, Elizabeth Burden was “truly stunned and surprised by the natural beauty of this state. To top it all off, the warmth and kindness of everyone I met while in Fort Smith while interviewing made me feel so at ease – so immediately at home.”

Burden received her MLS from Indiana University, after working full-time and taking “every opportunity to travel” while she completed her BA in Literature. Although she did work for three years in public libraries, and believes that public libraries are “critical

to the strength of our communities,” most of her 20 years in libraries have been spent in an academic setting – and that is where she feels most comfortable.

“It’s hard for me to remember a time when I wasn’t working in libraries!” observes Burden. “My first position was at an academic library in the circulation, reserves, and interlibrary loan department while I was finishing up my undergrad degree. That position made quite an impression on me and was what made me decide to go into librarianship. To this day, I still love working in access services related areas the most.”

Burden joins the Boreham Library staff at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith at an especially exciting time. Groundbreaking for a major expansion and renovation will take place this spring. The “opportunities for service improvements and for providing new technologies to our growing student population is part of what makes librarianship fun and meaningful for me,” notes Burden. “I’m proud to be participating in it.”

Wilma Cunningham, Director of Library Services, calls Burden “a wonderful addition to our library staff.”

“Elizabeth has initiated several new procedures for her area,” notes Cunningham. “She has developed new training materials and procedures for student assistants and she is now submitting long overdue charges to the business office for collection which is more effective than collection from the library. Elizabeth is working with the business office on procedures for students to use their campus ID cards for payment of library fines and for color copies which they cannot do presently.”

According to Cunningham, Burden and Steven Shelton, new Web Services Librarian at the Boreham

Library, “initiated the ‘Late Night at the Library,’ or ‘LOL,’ the week before final exams last semester. The rest of the staff pitched in and helped cover the additional hours and work, and the initiative was a big success.”

When asked about the most enjoyable part of her job, Burden doesn’t hesitate.

“Without a doubt, it’s the people I enjoy the most about my position as Access Services Librarian. I work with some wonderful people at the Boreham Library and I couldn’t ask for a better, kinder, or more supportive director,” Burden says. “I also get to manage our student assistants at the library – about 18 students year-round – each of whom has different backgrounds, interests, strengths, and weaknesses. Although certainly challenging at times, it is also extremely rewarding to work closely with our students and to get to know them at this point in their lives.”

Of course, Arkansas has been good to Burden in other ways as well.

“One of the best and most unexpected things that happened to me when I moved to Arkansas,” concludes Burden, “is that I met my now-husband the very first day I arrived. Randy and his son lived in the downstairs apartment of my building. The rest, as they say, is history.”

Joni

Joni Stine is the Director of the Bella Vista Library.



Jackson County/W.A. Billingsley Memorial Library
Photo provided by Darby Wallace

ARKANSAS BOOKS & AUTHORS

Poetry, Football & War....

by Bob Razer, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

C.D. Wright. *One With Others*

Rarely can one describe a book of poetry as a history book. Even rarer would such a book deal with Arkansas history. To have that Arkansas history/poetry book be one of the five nominees for this year's poetry award for both the National Book Awards and the National Book Critics Circle Awards is beyond even the wildest possibility. Yet C. D. Wright's *One With Others* accomplished all that.

A book of poetry is the correct description for this work as opposed to a book of poems. For this book is only one poem. One poem that is one hundred fifty pages long. Yet Wright's saga, centered around one woman's life and a civil rights event in eastern Arkansas, is so mesmerizing that I read this book in one sitting. The thought of stopping and picking the story up later was not an option. The spell would have been broken.

Though her narrative is poetry, Wright weaves history, interviews with black Arkansans, newspaper reports, and her own experiences with a woman from her past into a tapestry of the past and the present told through flashbacks and commentary by the participants. The civil rights event at the book's center is the boycott of the Forrest City schools by black students over the firing of a black teacher for criticizing the white leaders of the school district and the town. This boycott later featured one of the more colorful people in Arkansas' civil rights history, a Memphis man, Sweet Willie Wine, who led the 1969 "Walk Against Fear" from Forrest City to Little Rock.

Wright does a good job capturing the "times." Life for black people in eastern Arkansas is chillingly captured by Wright's interviews turned into poetry. Those of us old enough to remember the events as they happened can understand and remember Sweet Willie Wine's effect on eastern Arkansas. He was front page news in Little Rock too with comments like: "If white people can ride down their highways with guns, I can walk down the highway unarmed." That was considered revolutionary talk back then. The woman in Wright's story was the only white participant in the march. For

her troubles, she was forced out of town and even out of the state.

Wright is recognized as one of the country's finest poets. An Arkansas native, she was part of the Fayetteville literary circle in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Long a professor at Brown, she has won numerous honors including a MacArthur "genius" award. But *One With Others* is her masterpiece.

The narrative needs to be taken as a whole to fully appreciate it. To quote excerpts does not do the work justice. There are many stories told within these pages, but here is a taste to whet your appetite for as powerful a book as you are likely ever to read, one that needs to be in every Arkansas library.

Showers in the a.m.

The threat they say is moving from the east.

The sheriff's club says Not now. Not
nokindofhow. Not never. The children's
minds say Never waver. Air
fanned by a flock of hands in the old
funeral home where the meetings
were called [because Mrs. Oliver
owned it free and clear], and
that selfsame air, sanctified
and doomed, rent with racism, and
it percolates up from the soil itself,
which in these parts is richer than Elvis,
and up on the Ridge is called loess
[pronounced "luss"], off-color, windblown stuff.
This is where Hemingway penned some
of *A Farewell to Arms*, on the Ridge
[when he was married to Pauline]. Where
the mayor of Memphis moved after
his ill-starred term. After they slew
the dreamer and began to slay
the dream. Once an undulant kingdom
of Elberta and Early Wheeler peaches.
Hot air chopping
through clods of earth with
each stroke of the tenant
boy's hoe [Dyess Colony] back
when the boy hadn't an iota
of becoming the Man in Black.
Al Green hailed from here;
Sonny Liston, 12th of 13 kids,
[some say 24th of 25]
born 17 miles west,
in Sand Slough. Head hardened
on hickory sticks. [And Scott Bond,
born a slave, became a millionaire.

Bought a drove of farms
around Big Tree. Planted potatoes.
When the price came back up,
planted cotton. Bought gravel. Felled
his own timber. A buy-and-sell individual.
When you look close at his picture, you
can't tell if he was white
or black. You can just tell he was a trim
cross-eyed fellow.] And the Silver Fox,
he started out in Colt.
Mostly up-and-down kind of men.
[Except Mr. Bond, he went in one
direction when it came around
to making money.]

Jay Jennings. *Carry the Rock: Race, Football, and the Soul of an American City.*

If, by chance, you chose to skip *Carry the Rock* because you thought it was just another book about football, reconsider that decision. Jay Jennings' finely written book is as much sociology, local history, and public policy as sports. Though the story hangs on a year spent as a behind-the-scenes observer of the Little Rock Central football team and coaches in 2007, the 50th anniversary year of the school's integration, Jennings' story goes far beyond the football field.

The team that year was full of potential but could never come together and fell short of what might have been achieved. Many would say that is Little Rock's story too: full of potential, but continually divided along racial and neighborhood lines and falling short of what might be.

Jennings reviews pivotal events in the city's history that led to the present municipal environment. School integration is just one of them and certainly not the most recent. Rarely does a book jacket so accurately hit the mark as does *Carry the Rock's* when it says, "What Friday Night Lights did for small town Texas, *Carry the Rock* does for the urban South and for any place where sports, race, and community intersect." If you want a different take on public policy and a look at how decisions made can have long term effects never imagined, then this "football" book may be what you are looking for.

Daniel E. Sutherland. *A Savage Conflict: The Decisive Role of Guerrillas in the American Civil War.*

I confess to having judged a book by its cover in the case of *A Savage Conflict* and its subtitle. I wrongly assumed "another book about guerrilla warfare in the Civil War." I have reviewed more than one book on that subject in the past, so I passed on reviewing this one. Big mistake on my part as Daniel Sutherland, University of Arkansas professor, won the first book prize given by the Society of Civil War Historians for his "groundbreaking" work. The "prize" was \$25,000, making it one of the richest book prizes given. "Groundbreaking" and "\$25,000 prize" are two things said about a book that will pain any book reviewer who passed on the work, thinking "just another" anything.

After reading Sutherland's work, I see why it was so highly regarded. We are used to books about Civil War guerrilla warfare that deal with northern Arkansas primarily, and with some attention to the Missouri Ozarks or perhaps activity in southern Arkansas. Sutherland, however, carries that warfare study much further, dealing not only with activity in every Confederate state but in the border states too.

Guerrilla bands, partisans, rangers, or whatever they were called are covered as never before. Individuals I had never heard of – even the Arkansas names – are discussed in depth regarding their armed activities. Sutherland shows that the guerrilla warfare by both sides was extensive, giving a greater understanding of why the "neighbor against neighbor" fighting was so intense and bloodthirsty during the war, even carrying over to the Reconstruction years in some cases. Revenge was a motivating factor.

Sutherland provides strong evidence to support his belief that the guerrilla activity during the war years has been seriously underestimated when discussing what determined the war's outcome. The constant presence of these "irregular" troops, coming from Confederate elements, groups favoring the Union, and more than occasionally from a band who were simply outlaws looking to rob and plunder both sides, over time had a debilitating effect on the southern people, sapping their support for the war.

With the sesquicentennial observance of the Civil War beginning this year, the ever-popular books about that war will see even greater library circulation. Sutherland's work proves that there is something new to write about that conflict.

Bob

ARKANSAS BOOKS & AUTHORS

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*Arkansas author

Inclusion does not indicate recommendation.

Bob Razer is the Archie House Fellow at the Butler Institute for Arkansas Studies at Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock.

AROUND ARKANSAS

Here's What's Happenin'....

by Britt Anne Murphy, Associate Editor



Good news and bad news: George Fowler, Systems Guru at University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and the man who introduced the Collaboration UnConference to Arkansas, has taken a position as Associate University Librarian for Information Resources and Technology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Good for George, but bad news for Arkansas – we will miss George's enthusiasm, expertise, and leadership!

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Mary Ryan, the Director of the UAMS Library, has been appointed by Kathleen Sebelius, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to serve a four year term on the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Board of Regents. The NLM Board of Regents meets three times per year to advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the HHS Secretary, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and the Director of NLM on matters related to the Library. Congratulations to Mary for being selected to serve on such an important board! Just Communities of Arkansas (JCA) celebrated their 2011 Humanitarian Award Honorees at the 48th Annual Humanitarian Dinner in Little Rock this March. Included as an Honoree was Bobby Roberts, Director of the Central Arkansas Library System. The National Humanitarian Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

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The Garland County Library in Hot Springs is dogged about getting children to read. In 2010 the library initiated "Paws to Read," a program that gives children an opportunity to work on their reading skills without embarrassment or fear of criticism. Children visit the library once a week for a six-week period and read to one of the dogs in a private room for 30 minutes. The program was launched by the nonprofit organization, Hot Springs Pet Therapy, and with help from the Hot Springs National Park Kennel Club.

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Condolences go to the family of Martha Harrison Sims, a long-time children's librarian at the Tri-lakes Regional Library in Hot Springs. Martha died February 10, 2011 in North Richland Hills, Texas. Her obituary asks that you read a book to a child today.

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What's that saying about interesting times? Well, we live in them...and hopefully we can figure out how to hold our own before boring times come back. The ALA Government Specialist informed us in February that a library-fund-slashing amendment for our government's 2011 budget was defeated in the House. Unfortunately, we still have to survive the Senate and then try to keep monies in place for 2012's budget. This means even those most reticent to

sully themselves in the political realm need to contact their members of Congress and explain the importance of libraries in today's economic environment. Especially our new congressional members from Arkansas may need to hear many strong voices from their constituents, so please pick up that phone and become an activist for a truly worthy cause! Or join our State Librarian's delegation and attend ALA's National Library Legislative Day in DC on May 9-10, 2011. Contact Carolyn Ashcraft (carolyn@library.arkansas.gov) if you're interested.

As noted in this issue, the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War will be observed from 2011 to 2015. As a part of the commemoration, the Arkansas History Commission now has on its website "150 Years Ago Today: Arkansas in the Civil War," which will feature one document for every day of the war years (January 1, 1861 through December 31, 1865). The History Commission's collections are excellent resources for researchers seeking first-hand accounts and original documents pertaining to the war and its impact on Arkansas. Find the website at www.ark-ives.com.

Two more bits of news in the archives arena. First, the Old State House in Little Rock has received a \$26,000 IMLS (U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services) grant to preserve three Civil War era battle flags. In addition to private donations, the grant will enable the flags to be conserved in time for the Old State House's second exhibit commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

Second, a new branch of the Arkansas History Commission has opened on the grounds of Powhatan Historic State Park in northeast Arkansas. Called the NorthEast Arkansas Regional Archives (NEARA), the

almost 4,000-square-foot facility includes a vault, an archival processing room, a public research room, and a time capsule. The core of NEARA's holdings includes Lawrence County government records, which are among Arkansas' earliest documentary resources. For additional information, visit the NEARA's website at: www.northeastarchives.org.

Peggy Chadwick from Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge reports that Marilyn Goodwin, Director of Library Services, retired in May 2010. Goodwin worked at Felix Goodson Library for more than four decades, the last fifteen years as director. Taking the reins is Pamela Meridith, a Williams Baptist alum who completed her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2010.

Ashley Parker, Director of the Malvern-Hot Spring County Library, announced that her library was awarded an \$8,000 grant from the Praxair Foundation's Library Links Grant Program. These funds are earmarked for the replacement of outdated computer equipment. By the time you read this, the new equipment will probably already be in use!

Ruth Hyatt from the Arkansas State Library encourages Arkansas libraries to take part in "The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut," an eight-state earthquake drill set for 10:15 am on April 28, 2011. The recent seismic activity (the 4.7 earthquake on February 27 rattled shelves and sent signs swinging at my library on the Hendrix campus in Conway!) might motivate many libraries to sign up. Check out the website at <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/index.html>; click on the state of Arkansas to see what's planned in our state.

Van Buren has a new public library, which is also headquarters to the Crawford County Library System. The gorgeous facility contains 19,000 square feet of space, including four study rooms, a computer room with 24 computers, a genealogy room, teen area, the Frances Yeager children's room, and a lovely screened-in porch.

The dedication was a culmination of over five years of planning and work. The citizens of Van Buren twice supported an election effort to raise the funds for the library, including a half-cent sales tax. After a fire in September 2008, construction was delayed by legal issues, but finally finished for a February 2011 dedication.

The Arkansas Library Association is getting up there in years – 100 years to be exact. To recognize our 100th birthday, Heidi Vix, Systems Librarian at Henderson State University, has created an Arkansas Library Association Centennial Page at <http://www.arlib.org/centennial/>, although if you visit the homepage you will automatically be directed to the Centennial page. Naturally, we will be

celebrating throughout 2011, and especially at the ArLA fall conference, which will be September 24-27 in Little Rock.

Congratulations to Darby Wallace, Director of the Jackson County Library in Newport, on the successful completion of her Masters of Library and Information Science at the University of Southern Mississippi.

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

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



ArLa 2011 Board Retreat

Ron Russ, Connie Zimmer, Michael Strickland, Kevin Barron, and Shawn Pierce.

2010-2011 ALA Tribute #1
2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting

Resolution Recognizing
the Arkansas Library Association's
100th Anniversary

Whereas, The Arkansas Library Association (ArLA), a state chapter of the American Library Association, celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2011;

Whereas, Since 1911, ArLA's mission has been:

- To further the professional development of all library staff members;
- To foster communication and cooperation among librarians, trustees and friends of libraries;
- To increase the visibility of libraries among the general public and funding agencies;
- To serve as an advocate for librarians and libraries;

Whereas, ArLA provides funding for several scholarships for students going into the profession of librarianship;

Whereas, ArLA gives professional development opportunities for all library workers in the state;

Whereas, ArLA embraces diversity as a fundamental value and is reflected in its commitment to recruiting minorities and people with disabilities to the profession and to the promotion and development of library collections and services for all people; and

Whereas, ArLA supports the values of intellectual freedom, in providing assistance to Arkansas libraries in need; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the American Library Association congratulates and commends the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) for 100 years of excellence in promoting library service and the library profession in the state of Arkansas.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels

ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

In San Diego, California

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