

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

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Arkansas Library Association
Celebrating 100 Years
1911 - 2011

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2011 ARLA AWARD WINNERS

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Arkansas Libraries

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From the ArLA President:

by Shawn Pierce,
Lonoke/Prairie County Regional Library

What a busy, productive year! As we wind down our 100th Anniversary and look forward to the next season, I want to thank the entire Arkansas Library Association Board and Executive Administrator for a really great year.

Our incoming President for 2012 will be North Arkansas College Library Director, Jim Robb, from Harrison, Arkansas. He has already been planning for the upcoming ArLA Retreat in February and has several fantastic ideas for the rest of the year. Although my stint as the President is over, next year I will serve as the Membership Committee Chair, and the New Members Round Table Chair.

I want to invite any of you who have thought of getting involved in the Association, either by membership, or involvement on the Board, please send in your membership forms and also remember, you are invited to attend the board meetings. We need you and your involvement, and friendships you make through the Association are invaluable. If there is something blocking you from joining, please contact me and let me know. The Arkansas Library

Association is a community for libraries.

I am still marveling at the past conference and the awards luncheon. This year we had two President's Awards, the first to a long time vendor. What a joy to meet vendors Bill and Elizabeth Sanders (S&W Distributors), a husband/wife duo who have been coming to the conferences since the 80s, driving from North Carolina, and Razorback fans to boot! I am sending their letter on to the editor for this edition. The second President's Award went to Barbara Martin, our Executive Director for many years who died this past June and will be missed. I am happy to announce that Lynda Hampel, formerly the Administrative Assistant for ArLA, was appointed at the last board meeting as our new Executive Administrator. Thanks for all your work in such stressful days, Lynda – we look forward to continuing our association with you.

A special thank you to member Nancy Sosnik, who has dropped us a line over the years. We appreciate your input and kudos, sometimes when they were most needed.

Thank you.

Shawn

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

Dear: Shawn and Members of the Arkansas Library Association:

Thank you for honoring us with such a prestigious award. We were thrilled and so surprised that we were almost speechless. Only a very few times in Bill's life has he been so excited that he was unable to express his gratitude completely.

Arkansas would be our choice of a place to live, if we were not North Carolinians born and bred. All the librarians in your state have always made us feel as if we are one of you, and we are so thankful that you have embraced us.

The luncheon was beautiful, your presenters were outstanding. We were just appreciative of being invited to be a part of your Arkansas 2011 Centennial Conference Awards Banquet.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

Bill and Elizabeth Sanders

Bill & Elizabeth

A note from Bill and Elizabeth Sanders, winners of the 2011 President's Award. See page 6 for a full list of this year's ArLA award winners.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Random Thoughts....

by *Laura Speer*
Managing Editor

The Arkansas Library Association celebrated its 100th Anniversary in Little Rock in September. One of the things that always amazes me at conferences is the energy and excitement in the "air". No matter what is going on in your own life and library, going to conference will energize you. There are lots of photos in this issue for those of you who didn't get to attend, but you missed a good time!

Looking forward to the next year, I would like to introduce you to Whitney Ivy. Whitney will be taking over as the Managing Editor of *Arkansas Libraries* in January. Whitney is a Library Media Specialist in the Blevins School District. Whitney was brought to our attention during the ArLA Conference by Ashley Parker (Thank you, Ashley). Whitney has lots of great ideas and we look forward to working with her in her new journal position.

I would also like to take time to thank some other folks. Kay Talley of UCA talked me into taking a position on the ArLA board when I first moved to Arkansas. Being on the ArLA allowed

me to meet lots of people and helped me to settle in more quickly. Britt Murphy and Kathy Buckman approached me two years ago about becoming the managing editor for *Arkansas Libraries*. These two years, although challenging, have been amazing! Brent Nelson, copy editor, and Michael Klossner, index editor, have given many hours to the journal. Ron Russ has provided many of the great photos you see in each issue. Ethan Nobles stepped up to help us with the design and build of the journal. Ethan's willingness to share his knowledge and his sense of humor have been very helpful. Lynda Hampel has been quick to respond to any cry for help, as well. Last, but not least, thank you to everyone who has spent time as a columnist or submitted an article. Your willingness to share your expertise and knowledge is what ArLA is all about. Thank you, guys.

See you all next year at the ArLA Conference in NWA!

Laura

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



Abington Library at Arkansas State University-Beebe. *Photo courtesy of Ron Russ.*

LDD1 at Crystal Bridges

by *Laura Speer*

Fayetteville Public Library

On Friday, Dec. 2, a bunch of library administrators met at the Bentonville Public Library for their quarterly meeting. LDD1, as it is called, is Arkansas State Library District 1. LDD1 encompasses quite a large piece of the state from northwest Arkansas all the way over to Harrison, down to Dardanelle and back to Fort Smith. The administrators get together four times each year to share information about what's going on at each library as well in all libraries throughout the state.

Hadi Dudley, Director of the Bentonville Public Library arranged for LDD1 to visit Crystal Bridges Museum of Modern Art. Crystal Bridges opened in November to much acclaim and everyone

was very excited to have this opportunity. Thank you, Hadi, for arranging this for us!

We initially visited the Library at Crystal Bridges. We met with Catherine Petersen, Director of the Library and Jason Dean, the Cataloger for the library. Catherine and Jason talked with us about the mission of the library, how the collection was developed and organized, and showed us some of the rare items in the library collection. The library is open to the public and is very welcoming. The volunteer corps, as well as the staff, are there to assist you with any questions you may have.

After the tour of the library, Aaron Jones, Interpretation Manager, took us on a short tour of *Celebrating the American Spirit*, the inaugural display of the Museum's collection. Moving from room to room in the collection allows you not only to see the growth of America as a nation, but to see the changes through the eyes of the artists living during each period. The art selected for the collection was carefully placed to allow visitors to more easily observe the changes in subjects as well as art techniques in the art periods.

There is a children's area that is all hands-on. Where you and your littles can experience art through drawing, writing, and playing. If you get tired, you can stop in one of the rest areas where you will find comfortable seating and tables with art books for you to enjoy, as well as iPads to



Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. *Photo by Nicole Pawlaczyk and courtesy of FirstArkansasNews.net*

locate more information about the museum.

Add to the wonderful collection, a celebrated restaurant, a fine gift shop, and more beautiful places to sit and contemplate nature....and you have a great trip planned!

If you would like to go to Crystal Bridges, you might want to go to their website - www.crystalbridges.org.

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

COMMENTARY

Libraries Helped in Hard Times

by Maylon T. Rice

Imagine raising \$200,000 for the local library - 50 cents at a time?

Well, not only can it be done, it has been done - right here in Fayetteville.

And similar acts have been done in Rogers, Bentonville, Bella Vista and neighboring Springdale - year after year - decade after decade.

That's what Friends of the local library do.

And they do it well.

Oct. 16-22 is the National Week set aside to recognize these various Friends of the Fayetteville (or elsewhere) Public Library.

Such groups exist all across the nation and Arkansans can be especially prouder of their Friends than usual this year.

First, and foremost, the Arkansas Library Association marked its Centennial this fall, reaching 100 years of age. This group is posed to travel into the Second Century as a viable, active collection of librarians, friends and those interested in the future of public libraries.

Next, Arkansans can be proud that the head of the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF) is from our state.

Donna McDonald of Russellville heads that tongue twistingly named group, known to librarians simply as ALTAFF, a division of the American Library Foundation.

Ms. McDonald is only the second Arkansan to hold such a high office, preceded years ago by the late Bessie Moore of Little Rock, who history records, was foundational to the growth and existence of Arkansas libraries for decades.

But this week, at most libraries, is a fun week. One filled with recognition for the tireless volunteers and their fund raisers which may move slowly, but like an Alaskan glacier, but they are moving forward despite obstacles in their path like this current economic slump.

At the Fayetteville Public Library for example, the Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library, are the largest single donor to the library's efforts to meet the challenge goal of the federal Endowment for the Humanities Grant.



Rice

To date the friends have pledged, cash in hand, over \$200,000 to this goal. And the bulk of those funds have been raised in the Friends Bookstore a small, but vital attachment to the Fayetteville Public Library where gently used and donated books of all stripes are sold - often 50 cents or \$1 each.

The Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library is not alone in fund raising activities in Northwest Arkansas.

Later this month, the Rogers Public Library, with the sponsorship of its friends and foundation group, will host Lee Child, a New York Times bestselling author, in a fund raising venue and also host public sessions for those who love to read this modern crime/intrigue writer.

And other libraries, big and small, have similar events to raise funds and awareness all during the year.

Such a sampling can be found in a spunky group at the Public Library in Lincoln. Their Friends group hosts a wonderful Christmas holiday cookie sale, a spring plant sale and a delicious and delectable Valentine's Day candy sale each year, to raise funds to assist the operations and collection of the Lincoln Library.

This past summer, the Friends of the Prairie Grove Library, held a swim night at the local Aqua Park. A good time was had by all.

And this list could go on and on.

Bottom line: This next week, all of us Library Patrons who should be amazed that the access a little free public card can open up such worlds to us in books, DDS, Pods and computer access, need to thank our lucky stars for the institution of the free Public Library.

Plus we certainly need to thank all these Friends of the Public Library. These unheralded individuals care enough, to volunteer at mundane tasks, and strive to achieve lofty goals be it at 50 cents for a well worn paperback, baking a sheet of cookies or raising their hand to suggest some way to raise funds independent of tax dollars. to make sure their local library indeed has the flavor of their community infused in its very soul.

What a great week to join your local library's Friends group. Just ask them at the front desk. They will sign you right up.

Note from Arkansas Libraries Editor: This commentary was published in the NWA Times and www.nwaonline.com during Friends of the Library Week, October 16-22. Rice is a former newspaperman who is a trustee of the Fayetteville Public Library and a member of The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations.

2011 ArLA award winners

by *Jamie Melson*

Central Arkansas Library System

Another Awards year has come and gone, and the committee had some wonderful candidates to choose from. Again, I want to thank the people that served on the committee with me this year: Ron Russ, Diane Hughes, Trish Miller, Kara Propes, Melanie Allen, and the all-seeing, all-knowing, very wise Bob Razer. I would like to point out that there was not a Suzanne Spurrier Academic Librarian Award winner for the second year in a row because the one nominee was not a member of the Association. This is a very important part of the nomination process – please make sure you encourage our fine librarians across the state to join ArLA!

Most of the committee for 2012 has already been formed, and we are working on ideas for next year's celebration. To continue the recognition for the 2011 Award winners, we wanted to write a short summary of each award given.



ArLA president Shawn Pierce and Jana Dixon.

RETTA PATRICK AWARD

Jana Dixon is currently serving as Library Media Specialist at Cutter Morning Star High School in Hot Springs, AR where she serves grades 7-12. She taught at Fountain Lake and Bismarck before starting at Cutter.

She is an active member of ALA, ArLA, AASL, AAIM and TIE (Technology Infused Education). She served as Co-Chair of AASL in 2005 and then followed as Chair in 2006. She has served as President, Vice-President/Conference Chair, Journal Editor and is currently a Board member of AAIM. She served as Chair of the Media Festival for many

years.

Ms. Dixon was very instrumental in the creation of the Arkansas Teen Book Award in 2009 and currently serves on the steering committee for the award. She worked tirelessly to collaborate with librarians from schools and public libraries to get this award established in our state.

She received the AAIM Herb Lawrence Leadership Award in 2011, and in 2006 Cutter Morning Star Library received the AAIM Outstanding Media Program Award.

Ms. Dixon works very hard to stay current in library and technology trends that affect her library. She is more than willing to help other librarians. She conducts workshops at conferences every year for media specialists.

Whenever there is a group of school librarians meeting to plan a state conference or activity, Jana Dixon will be there and be an active participant. She does not merely lend her name to committees; she is there ready and willing to do the work. Rest assured that if she says she will do something, it will be done with enthusiasm and competence.



ArLA president Shawn Pierce and members of the Crawford County Library Board. Library Director Eva White is on the far right.

BESSIE B. MOORE TRUSTEE AWARD

Two Crawford County Library Boards were nominated for this honor due to the fact that two are all Crawford County has ever had. Their nomination read: "They have certainly made a significant contribution to the development of the libraries in Crawford County. The board consists of five members, one from each school district in the county and represents the library that is located in that district. Since Crawford County Library

System came into being in 1999 we have replaced each board member once. I would like to include the members of the first board and also the members that are currently on the board. The members of the first board were: Glenanna O'Mara, Betty Feller, Bonnie Dyer, Dama Smith, and Kathy Hubbs. Our current members include Jeanne Martin, Wanda Meadors, Janet Allen, Cathy Wasko, and Donna Parker.

The Board realized that different facilities were needed to fill the needs of our growing communities. The Board did everything possible to encourage these improvements and to back the staff and the cities in their efforts to provide facilities each community could be proud of. Each of these libraries was paid for by the time they were finished. The process has even started over again. In 2010, the Board bought five acres of land to build a new library in Mountainburg because they have already outgrown their facility.

The Crawford County Library Board has supported and encouraged growth and innovation throughout the years. They have supported the growing technology needs by purchasing new computers and software when funds were available. All the libraries now have time and print management programs to help with managing the computers in their particular branch. The Van Buren Library now has an RFID system for self check out and security purposes. Plans are to expand this system to the other branches as fast as possible.

Without the support of the Crawford County Library Board, all these changes could not have taken place. We only have to mention a need and the board will try to fulfill that need.



Katherine Boone and Harding Library Director Ann Dixon. Boone accepted the Frances P. Neal award on behalf of her father, Henry Terrill.

FRANCES P. NEAL AWARD

Henry Terrill retired at the end of June, 2011, after 32 years of service to Harding University and

the Arkansas library community. During that time he held various positions in the Harding library. He was forward thinking. When it became apparent that the time had come to make a change in our library system, Henry led the way and encouraged all to approach a big job with a good attitude. He believed in using to the maximum what we purchased and was often called upon by others in the state to help them with programs we had already implemented.

Henry served for many years as the ARKLink treasurer and secretary. Through his efforts in filing the correct documents with the U.S. government, ARKLink became a 501(c) organization. At the same time, he served as the treasurer for Christian College Librarians, an organization of university librarians from many states primarily affiliated with the Churches of Christ.

He was well respected in the library community. All of us who worked with him came back from meetings with the "where's Henry?" refrain in our ears. He was a confidant, helper, encourager, leader, and yet always willing to serve where needed and to be a positive part of the whole picture. He used his talents to reach many people across the state and in his own location and absolutely met the criteria of "a career of notable service in librarianship within the state of Arkansas."



ArLA president Shawn Pierce and John Wells.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

John Wells of the Garland County Library in Hot Springs received this honor. His nomination reads that he has been the director of the Garland County Library for 23 years and during that time has transformed the library. One staff member reported that when he applied for the job as director, he approached her at the circulation desk, after touring the building, and inquired where the rest of the

Continues on Page 8...

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library was. His vision and leadership was needed to create “the rest of the library,” and what a job he has done! Over the course of his career, he successfully campaigned for two millage increases and oversaw the construction of a new library building in 1995. His responsible stewardship of library funds enabled the library recently to construct a 4,000 sq. ft. addition to the building without having to use taxpayer funds. He has also given up half his office space to expand the employee staff room. He is not often seen at library conferences and workshops, but instead intensely focuses his energies on making the Garland County Library one of the best libraries in Arkansas. Though he tends to be a library homebody, he stays involved with librarians around the state and can frequently be overheard brainstorming and problem-solving with other librarians on a wide variety of issues.

There are his accomplishments and then there is the man himself. John is a true visionary, who is always trying new and innovative things. He reads about the best library practices around the country and investigates how they might work in the Garland County community. He is a mentor to many, teaching by example how to work hard, strive for excellence, and dream big. He also allows his employees the freedom to fail, insisting that a failed attempt at something new is better than never taking risks. John’s decisions about the library are influenced by both the library’s current and future needs. He is clever, quirky, noisy, nosy, and goofy with a wicked sense of humor. A librarian through and through, he is known as the “go to” guy on a variety of topics whether job-related or personal. He is extremely accessible and chooses to keep his desk in a heavily-trafficked public area, where he can be approached by staff and patrons alike.

John has very few weaknesses as a director, and



ArLA president Shawn Pierce and Cathy Howser.

most are due to his compassion for people, another of the qualities which makes him extraordinary. John Wells is extremely supportive, discreet, and wise.

ANN LIGHTSEY CHILDREN’S LIBRARIAN AWARD

Cathy Howser of the Arkansas State Library received this honor and one of her nominations read, in part, as follows:

Cathy coordinates the Children’s Services at the Arkansas State Library where she oversees an annual conference for public library youth programmers and school library media specialists in the spring. Many people are unaware that Cathy has served as national President of Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). The CSLP is a consortium of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials for children at the lowest cost possible for their public libraries. It is an honor for the state of Arkansas that Cathy was chosen as the President of this organization.

During the 2010 year, Cathy traveled the state installing Early Literacy Stations in Children’s Departments in public libraries in Arkansas. She is highly regarded for her sustained leadership of the Charlie May Simon and Diamond Book Award reading lists and oversight of both committees. Not only does she spend a great deal of time using her knowledge of children’s literature and collection development skills to create the original lists based on selection criteria, she also attends all of the committee meetings which are held on Saturdays during the school year, reads from both of the lists, and provides careful guidance to the committee chairs and the membership of both committees as they make the final selections in the early spring. She works with the Arkansas Department of Education to provide assistance for the annual balloting and tabulation process.

Cathy Howser cares for children of this state and for providing quality literature for young readers.



Donna Rusher of Garland County Library and Kim Hillison.. Rusher is a previous Shuff Award winner.

LORRIE SHUFF PARAPROFESSIONAL AWARD

Kim Hillison was hired at the Garland County Library August of 2002 as a library clerk. She had distinctive business skills and the best work ethic we had ever seen. She worked at McDonald's for years and never dreamed there was a need for ordering, scheduling, supervising, staff training, and customer service skills in a library. It was only a short time she was promoted to Acquisitions, setting up templates and electronic ordering. She made it easier to import records and improved cataloging. Kim supervises, trains, and coordinates her department.

At the end of September 2004, a supervisor position became available. Kim's work was outstanding, and she was promoted to Shift Supervisor in addition to Acquisitions. She possesses the ability to work well with people, and implemented and supervises our Books By Mail program. Her customer service skills are outstanding when dealing with our patrons with special needs. She is an "in the trenches" worker; she does any job needed. It's hard to find people who really care about what they do much less love it the way Kim does--and it shows.

Kim is very active in our Friends of the Library. She has donated much of her own time to this group. She picks up truck loads of books, plans events, and has been made a "Lifetime Member" for all her hard work. Kim has asked their organization to help support ALPS. Our FOL has donated money to ALPS for the past several years due to Kim's hard work. Kim was encouraged to become more active in ALPS; she fit in so well, she was nominated for Chair. She has served on the ArLA Executive Board and has been a part of its conferences since 2004. She completed three years of service on the ALPS Executive Council, ending her duties as Past Chair in January 2011 and has just been elected for ALPS Treasurer. She has served on numerous committees, planned conferences, and played a major role in the success of ALPS. During her service with ALPS, she made many contacts by participating in ArLA and attending meetings all around Arkansas. The networking between libraries, ArLA, and ALPS has greatly improved services at Garland County and created many new links between libraries, both academic and public.

Kim Hillison has a strong faith in the goodness of people. She really cares about patrons and co-workers - it is seen every day in her deeds. She is an asset to the Garland County Library and has helped to make it the wonderful institution it is today.

ARKANSIANA AWARDS

For the Juvenile/Young Adult award, Paul Robert Walker won for his book, *Remember Little Rock: The Time, the People, the Stories*. A young adult treatment about the 1957 Little Rock crisis, this book relates the stories of individuals and what they experienced, and is probably the best non-adult book on this subject.



Past ArLA President Connie Zimmer and Nancy Dane.

For the Fiction award, Nancy Dane won for her Civil War in Arkansas trilogy (*Where the Road Begins, A Difference of Opinion, and A Long Way To Go*). Reviews, as well as Mark Christ at the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, comment on the books' accuracy in portraying the Arkansas home front during the war and covering many different aspects of the War, such as unionists, guerilla activity, and split families.



ArLA President Shawn Pierce and Brooks Blevins.

For the Non-fiction award, Brooks Blevins won for *Arkansas/Arkansaw : How Bear Hunters, Hillbillies, and Good Ol' Boys Defined a State*. Blevins explores the origins and evolution of the state's popular images and the reactions of its citizens to those characterizations. This analysis

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is thorough, beginning with the earliest known travelers' observations and continuing to the contemporary "Bubba" personifications of Bill Clinton and Mike Huckabee. The narrative is a scholarly but not too serious examination of the "socioeconomic implications inherent in the Arkansaw image" paired with the "reactions Arkansas people have to the Arkansaw image." Describing his effort to balance these personas, Blevins writes "... I try to label as an Arkansan anyone who would choke on his roast beef if called an Arkansawyer."



ArLA president Shawn Pierce with Bill and Elizabeth Sanders.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

There were two President's awards given this year for extraordinary service to the Arkansas Library Association. Neither of these award winners fits under any other category, so President Shawn Pierce, in conversation with the Awards Committee decided they should be awarded as such.

The first President's Award was presented to Bill and Elizabeth Sanders. Shan Pierce used these words to describe their long and continued support.

"We all know Bill as one of our book vendors and exhibitors at the conference. For many years he has also contributed financially to support our conference. He and Elizabeth, a retired school librarian, still travel the state calling upon his long-time customers. Carolyn Ashcraft first recalls meeting Bill in 1981, so he has been around a while (I have since been told they have been exhibiting with ArLA since the late 1970s). I'm sure the time will come in the near future when they will no longer be making the drive from their home in North Carolina to Arkansas. So, to Bill and Elizabeth, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for such kindness and generosity for so many decades!"

The second award was given posthumously to Barbara Martin, our beloved Executive Administrator who passed away suddenly this summer. Words cannot describe her dedication and loyalty to the Association demonstrated by her in the six years she worked with us.

Her resume was extensive, but it was her heart for serving people that stood out to everyone. The one thing that was pointed out most at her service was how she was a friend to everyone. Lynda Hampel, her assistant and now ArLA's Executive Administrator, accepted the award on behalf of Barbara's husband, Jim Martin and his family, who were unable to attend. Lynda stated that Barbara was a mentor to her, teaching her everything and every step of how to operate a management company such as Barbara owned.

Barbara was a true friend and supporter of the Arkansas Library Association and will be missed.



ArLA Executive Administrator Lynda Hampel accepted the President's Award on behalf of the late Barbara Martin.

All photographs in the preceeding article are compliments of Ron Russ.



Author Neal Gentry in the exhibits at the 2011 ArLA Conference in Little Rock. Photo by Ron Russ.

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"An essential reading of the short life and tragic times of Medgar Evers, the modest, heroic freedom fighter who, perhaps more than any other, helped transform the nation's most fiercely racist state."
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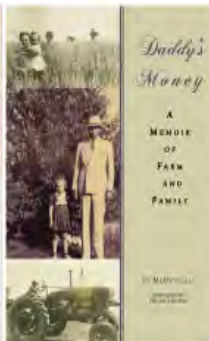
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A Chapter in Arkansas Library History: The Library Association's Fourth Quarter Century, 1987-2011 (*Part 2*)

by **Bob Razer**

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Central Arkansas Library System

Editor's note: Part 1 of this column ran in the Fall 2011 issue of Arkansas Libraries.

Some changes came about in the late 1980s, that would lead to an improbable success story regarding public library funding. Sherry Walker was hired as the Association's executive director. Bobby Roberts was hired as head of the Central Arkansas Library System. Like Walker, Roberts was no novice at politics, having been involved in Bill Clinton's races for governor and having served as a legislative liaison for Governor Clinton several times. The Board of Trustees at CALS reached the conclusion that the library system could not provide the level of library services needed by the community without better funding. They instructed Roberts to undertake the task of amending the Constitution to remove the one mill ceiling.

The story of that successful effort, first of getting an amendment adopted by the legislature as one of the three they are allowed to put on the ballot, and secondly, the story of an improbable victory with state voters, was the topic of my lengthy article about those events published in *Arkansas Libraries* in 1993. I refer readers to that article if they want to re-live those days, or read about them for the first time for those who missed it all. It is a story of librarians and their supporters across the state coming together, planning, and executing a campaign strategy that convinced the state's electorate that public libraries deserved their support and their vote.

The importance of that election victory cannot be overstated. It was the most important library event in Arkansas since the original public library funding amendment had become law in the 1930s. The 1992 election was a life-or-death matter for the state's public libraries as they faced a grim future, if any future at all, if limited to the one mill funding level.

What followed that election victory was what we predicted. Some libraries would be successful in raising their millage, and, as Arkansans saw what public libraries could look like and the services that could be provided with adequate funding, more libraries would receive voter support in later years. But it was not automatic. During the first two years following the adoption of the new funding amendment (which replaced the one mill ceiling with a five mill ceiling for operations in addition to another three mills being available for capital projects), twenty-four library elections were held. Some requested reinstatement of the original one mill. Others asked for increases above the one mill. The results were twelve wins and twelve losses.



The William F. Laman Library in North Little Rock was the first library to win a millage increase above one mill under the new law, followed closely by CALS winning elections in Little Rock, Pulaski County, and Maumelle that resulted in \$18 million being available for new libraries and increased services. CALS has continued an expansion program ever since that first millage race in 1993 and has run and won so many elections, I've lost track. But "political science" has been a very close second to "library science" for quite a while now around my place of employment. The Forrest City Public Library passed a two-mill tax in 1993, the first millage the city library had ever had.

The national library community took notice of the Arkansas successes with stories on our election victories. Bobby Roberts was named *Library Journal's* "Librarian of the Year" not only for leading the successful amendment campaign, but also for winning voter approval for CALS' expansion proposal. *Library Journal's* editor John Berry was so impressed that he editorialized that perhaps new librarians should be required to spend time in Little Rock to learn the reality of library management and how to sway voters for library support.

The Association's activity regarding battles (funding or otherwise) on behalf of school or academic libraries is not as clear cut as the activity for

public libraries, since public libraries were affected by direct legislation as well as state aid funding for public libraries. School libraries/media centers and academic libraries are answerable to their districts or administrations, and while the state library association has been able to assist in some cases, often we are voiceless in offering direct help on funding. The Association has been an active voice, however, whenever certification issues have arisen or funding cuts have threatened school librarians.

One would think that state aid to public libraries would be right behind motherhood and ahead of apple pie with governors, particularly after the successes of the 1990s. Such was not the case. The Association's relationship with Governor Huckabee reached an all-time low when he attempted to zero out state aid to public libraries from the state budget. The Association assisted public librarians, public library trustees, and library supporters in marshalling support in the legislature to overturn that budget recommendation. We were successful if a 50% cut can be called a success.

Libraries had enough friends in the state legislature to save half the state aid. One of those legislative friends was Mike Beebe, and when he decided to run for governor, restoration of the state aid for public libraries to its former level was a part of his campaign platform. Restoration of those monies to the level prior to Huckabee's cut was included in new Governor Beebe's first budget (Governor Beebe received the Association's President's Award in appreciation), and he has increased that library support with each budget he has presented. Some governors are better than others for libraries. I'll leave it at that.

The library community faced another serious funding challenge in 1998 when an anti-tax group seemingly collected enough petition signatures to place a Constitutional amendment on the ballot to repeal all property taxes. Not only would the proposed amendment have shut the door on public libraries, but schools, police forces, fire departments, business development efforts, and a host of other entities and activities would have been adversely impacted to an unbelievable extent.

Once again, it was Sherry Walker and Bobby Roberts who led the library defense, but in this case they were joined by most politicians (including Governor Huckabee), business leaders, and newspapers in sounding the alarm. Under the banner of APPLS (Arkansans for the Protection of Police,

Libraries, Education, and Services), a public awareness campaign explaining the dire consequences of abolishing the property tax was undertaken. A legal challenge was filed with the Supreme Court concerning the legality of the petition signatures. The Supreme Court challenge was successful as error after error was uncovered related to the names on the petitions. Additionally, it was shown that the proper procedures for collecting signatures had not been followed. The proposed amendment was removed from the ballot. I could point out that the leader of this anti-tax movement was disbarred several years later and currently resides in a federal penitentiary for income tax evasion, but I guess that would be vindictive.

The Association provided leadership for another odd campaign in 1998. The *Arkansas Libraries* article headline about it reads: "Librarian Led Campaign Saves UA Press." I confess I wrote that article too, and will refer readers to it for the details. This little fracas lasted only sixteen days, but it was quite a firestorm drawing attention from newspapers (some days multiple stories in a single paper on the issue) and evening television news reports.

It seems that then Chancellor John White of the Fayetteville campus of the University of Arkansas decided the state did not really need a university press, so he planned to close it as a cost-cutting measure. Within two days of that announcement, opposition was already forming. Resolutions were passed by the Association's Executive Board and by local library boards arguing that the UA Press served a vital state need. Other groups followed that lead. Outraged librarians and historians took a variety of actions. Teachers joined the protest, as did editorialists and other Arkansans who greatly resented White's attitude and general cluelessness about the importance of the University of Arkansas Press to the publication of books dealing with Arkansas' history. White's announcement came at a time when efforts to strengthen the teaching of Arkansas history in the schools had been under way for some time.

Librarians and the Association took the lead to "Save the Press" as the buttons read, by gearing up the library political organization and providing guidance to other groups on the need to generate public pressure through letters to White, UA President Sugg, and all members of the UA Board

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of Trustees to reverse the decision. On Day 16, the day before a lawsuit was to be filed by writers who had contracts with the Press for future Press publications, Chancellor White announced that he had changed his mind and the Press would not close. I think the former chancellor walks with a limp to this very day as a result of the UA Press War. The UA Board President's sole comment was that he and his colleagues had received a lot of mail about the matter.

The Association did not totally ignore their internal activities even in the midst of all the campaigns (political and otherwise) in the 1990s and 2000s. Change was seen both in the organizational structure and in the beginning of new activities. Name changes came to the Government Documents Roundtable ("microforms" was dropped); the Junior College/Community College Roundtable became the Two-Year Colleges Roundtable; an As-

sociation web page came into being (bringing with it a webmaster); and a library listserv was created for instant communication and exchange among the state's librarians.

The most significant organizational change was the establishment, rapid growth, and participation of a group to host library paraprofessionals in the Association. Established as a roundtable in 1991, the group held their first statewide conference in 1993, and presented their first Paraprofessional of the Year award in 1995. In 1999, the group achieved division status. Historically, either the school librarians or the public librarians had been the largest division. The paraprofessionals soon took that honor.

Management of the Association passed from Sherry Walker, who had been executive director for the years 1988 to 1995, to Jennifer Coleman and her association management group. Jennifer's company served the Association from 1996 to 2004



Exterior view of Buhler Library at Hendrix College in Conway through trees in 1932. *Photo submitted by Hendrix College.*



The Dallas County Library in Fordyce. *Photo by Maylon T. Rice.*

when she retired. A new association management group headed by Barbara Martin was hired and continues to manage the Association's office and support activities.

When the move from the Coleman firm to the Martin firm was made, the Association also made the decision to downsize the amount of records held in the management office. A past informal selection of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library System to house Association records was formalized with the Butler Center being selected by the Executive Board as the archival home for Association records. At one time in the 1980s, my office had served as the archival home for Association records since the original Association office had been down the hall from my own.

In 1999, a new activity was undertaken by the Association, one that eventually led to the creation of the Library Education & Aid Fund, or LEAF. Originally seen as a mechanism for raising money for political lobbying purposes, LEAF became more than that and now represents a "good works" fund that not only includes money for politi-

cal lobbying on behalf of libraries ("education" of public officials about library issues), but also provides "aid" to Arkansas libraries hit by disasters such as fire or tornadoes. LEAF sent money to the Louisiana and Mississippi Library Associations to assist them in library rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina. The fund has donated to memorial funds of the American Library Association in memory of persons who had strong ties to the state chapters. LEAF provides an annual donation to the Arkansas Literary Festival on behalf of the Arkansas Library Association to help finance that celebration of reading and writing. In this centennial year of the Association, LEAF has assisted in paying for activities related to that celebration. The revenue generator for all of these activities has been a basket auction held at the annual conference. Initially seen as a onetime event, the popularity of the basket auction and recognition of its entertainment value as well as its success as a money raiser for "good works" resulted in its becoming an annual event.

A study of any period of the Association's his-

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tory would include the deaths of persons important to that story, but it seems these last twenty-five years saw the passing of more than just a few of those persons. Elizabeth Malone had been honored at the 75th anniversary conference in 1986 as the person who had been a member of the Association the longest (since 1940) as well as being the oldest former officer. Elizabeth had been library director at the Craighead County Public Library in Jonesboro and was president of the Association in 1944. At her death in 1994, it was reported she was still a member of the Arkansas Library Association and always read *Arkansas Libraries* to keep up with what was happening in the state's libraries.

The most recent death, of course, has been that of the Association's executive director, Barbara Martin. In the Association's one hundred year history, it appears her death is the only one involving someone who was currently part of the management of the Association either as a paid staff member or Executive Board member.

Two prominent trustee supporters left us. Fred Darragh and Nell Henry were active for decades on the local, state, and national levels. Nell served repeatedly as the trustee member on the Association's Executive Board in addition to being a trustee for the White County Library and serving terms on the State Library Board. Fred was a CALS trustee and also served on the State Library Board. He was honored by the American Library Association with their Trustee Citation in 2003. Fred was the true meaning of "library patron"— he gave us money, both for his local library and as grants to county libraries during the state's Sesquicentennial year.

Bessie Moore was more a "library advocate" than a trustee, but she gave seven decades to lobbying local, state, and federal officials on behalf of libraries. In 1990, the American Library Association established an award in her name to be presented to a library for outstanding library service to the elderly. The Arkansas Library Association donated \$1,000 to provide the first award in honor of Miss Bessie's work for libraries in Arkansas. A major event to raise funds for the amendment campaign to raise the one mill funding ceiling had been a 90th birthday party for Moore. That event provided a good combination of her interests: libraries, raising money, and politics. The Association's trustee award is named in memory of Bessie Moore.

Other Association awards are also named in

memory of those who worked in libraries, many of whom passed away this last quarter century. LaNell Compton edited *Arkansas Libraries* for twenty-five years during the time it was produced for the Association by the Arkansas Library Commission. The award for best article in the journal was named in her honor when that award was established. The awards for academic librarian of the year and paraprofessional of the year were renamed in memory of Suzanne Spurrier, who had been library director at Harding, and Lorrie Shuff, a University of Central Arkansas employee who had provided leadership for the group in its early years. A new award was established to honor an outstanding children's librarian, and it was named in memory of Ann Lightsey, children's librarian for over thirty years at the Pine Bluff-Jefferson County Library.

Frances Neal was one of the major figures in Arkansas' library history. For over four decades she worked for better Arkansas libraries, first as head of the Arkansas Library Commission, and in her retirement years she remained an inspiring voice for the profession. Frances Neal represented the very best of Arkansas librarianship. Her belief that what was good for one library was good for all libraries has been a characteristic of the Association and its activities. To quote myself from an article about Neal following her death: "Increasing library visibility, library public relations, lobbying elected officials for library support, and supporting the professionalism of librarianship are not new ideas in Arkansas. They were all a part of Frances Neal's message. We will be following in her footsteps for years to come before we reach any new ground." History has shown that I was right in those words. It is no surprise that the Association's lifetime achievement award is named for Frances Neal.

I concluded the 1986 article about the Association's first seventy-five years by suggesting that members send a contribution in honor of the Association to our scholarship fund since it might be one of those scholarship winners who would be planning our 100th anniversary. That turned out to be the case since Jessie Cranford is a member of the Centennial Committee.

I'll repeat that scholarship donation suggestion again as an end to this article with the added note that the 1989 scholarship recipient was Carolyn Ashcraft, now the state librarian. The Association's scholarships to library school have always been important ever since that first one in 1964. Reading a



The Bearden Public Library. *Photo by Maylon T. Rice.*

list of past winners shows a list of people who have not only been librarians in the state but have been active members of the Association doing much of the work needed by a volunteer organization. Distance education programs are enabling people to attend library school now without leaving the state, making financial assistance for graduate school even more important as more and more Arkansans attend library school.

So, send a donation to the scholarship fund. What's good for one future Arkansas librarian is good for us all. Not only might a future scholarship winner be planning the 125th anniversary celebration of the Arkansas Library Association, that future scholarship winner might be the state librarian!

Come 2036, I suspect someone will say that an article for *Arkansas Libraries* should be written about the Association's history from 2012 to 2036. I don't know who will write that article. It may be one of those young faces I've seen in the pages of the journal these last couple of years, or maybe it will be one of those young people I've seen at the last

few conferences. Are those people really old enough to be librarians? Or it might be someone who is a high school student now, but an Arkansas librarian in future years.

That article won't be written by me, I know that. Even if I have not been called to "The Big Library in the Sky," I will be way too old to write a journal article. But if I'm still around, I do know this: like Elizabeth Malone, I will still be a member of the Arkansas Library Association and I will still be reading *Arkansas Libraries* to keep up with the state's librarians and to follow what's happening in Arkansas libraries around the state. If our first hundred years are any indication, an article about the Association's next twenty-five will provide good reading.

Bob Razer is the Archie F. House Fellow for Arkansas Bibliography with the The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System.

Arkansas Library Association 2011 Centennial Celebration: Come Celebrate the “Joy of Libraries” with Us

Overview of the 2011 ArLA Conference

by **Kathy Davis**

University of Arkansas at Monticello

The Centennial celebration conference of the Arkansas Library Association was held on September 24th-27th at the Peabody Hotel and the Little Rock Convention Center. There were 258 in attendance.

One of the highlights of the conference was the Centennial Dinner which took place on Saturday, September 24, at Cajun’s Wharf. It was attended by over 100 people, including several past presidents who came from out of state, as well as American Library Association President Molly Raphael.

The keynote speaker was Barbara Stripling, currently the Director of Library Services of the New York City School Library System and soon to be a full-time faculty member at Syracuse University. Barbara was an Arkansas Librarian for years and was on the planning committee for the celebration when ArLA turned 75.

Her humorous historical review of the Library Association’s 100 years was a wonderful way to begin the celebratory conference. The dinner was funded entirely through money brought in from calendar sales and donations from sponsors. Many thanks for an exciting conference go to Conference Chair, Holly Mercer, and the members of the Centennial Planning Committee, listed below:

- **Karen Russ**, Chair, *UALR*
- **Bob Razer**, *CALS*
- **Jamie Melson**, *CALS*
- **Ann Ayres**, *Bentonville School District*
- **Jessie Burchfield**, *UALR Law Library*
- **Carol Coffey**, *CALS*
- **Linda Creibaum**, *Acquisitions Librarian*
- **Johnice Dominick**, *Green Forest Public Library*
- **Anna Edwards**, *North Arkansas College*
- **Deborah Hall**, *Arkansas State Library*
- **Trish Miller**, *Remington College*
- **Jamie Townsend**, *Phillips Community College*
UA
- **Heidi Vix**, formerly *Henderson State University*

Another highlight of the conference was the

opening program on Sunday September 25th by “Unshelved” authors Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum. It was wonderfully funny to take on how library staff can survive the public, and Bill and Gene had many conference goers with tears running down their cheeks from so much hilarity!

The energy continued in the appreciation for the award winners this year, as well as the special birthday lunch that closed out the conference.

Basket Auction

According to CALS Librarian Bob Razer, “We had the same number of baskets this year as last (54), thanks particularly to ‘The Basket Queen’ Karen Russ, who with assistance of some unknown amount from [husband] Ron, brought 9-count ‘em 9-baskets. Baskets sold for \$1,612, plus I received \$225 in donations this year, for a grand total of \$1,837.

“I think we did fairly well given the economic times, which I think is a tribute to our membership who see the value of what LEAF does and who make and buy baskets each year. The LEAFmeister is grateful to all those who play.”

LEAF monies go toward special projects that could not be supported through regular ArLA funds. Bob Razer also stated that \$113 worth of bookmarks sold at conference and a little over \$200 worth since conference. The bookmark money also goes to LEAF.

Conference Committee

Special thanks to Conference Chair Holly Mercer and her Committee: Karen Russ, Bob Razer, Jamie Melson, Ann Ayres, Jessie Burchfield, Carol Coffey, Linda Creibaum, Anna Edwards, Deborah Hall, Trish Miller, Jerrie Townsend, Heidi Vix, and Johnice Dominick. And of course a special, special thanks to our Interim Executive Assistant Lynda Hampel for her hard work and the late Barbara Martin for her dedication to ArLA.

License Plates

The Scholarship Committee sold three *Arkansas Love Your Library READ* license plates at the

conference and received donations of \$150.00 for a total of \$210.00. Diane Hughes, Scholarship Committee Chair, would like to remind everyone that they “continue to accept donations throughout the year, especially in memory of or in honor of someone special in our lives. The scholarship donation form is on the ArLA website and we are taking orders for license plates and will mail them to those who order them. The order form is also on the website.”

Exhibitors

And last, but not least, a word about our vendors.

We would like to thank our 53 vendors who exhibited with us this year: American Library Association, Amigos Library Services, AR Association of School Librarians, AR Library Paraprofessional Division, Arkansas Correctional Industry, Arkansas Department of Information Systems (DIS), Arkansas Literacy Council, Arkansas State Library, ArLA Scholarship Committee, Author-Ann Myers, Author-Neal W. Gentry, Averus Corporation, AWE, Baker & Taylor, Bound to Stay Bound Books, Britannica Digital Learning, Brodart Co., Butler Center Books, BWI, Cover One, Davidson Titles, Inc., EBSCO, FSU School of Library Information Studies, Gale Cengage Learning, Gareth Stevens, Gumdrop Books Inc., Hawkins Educational Services, Infogroup, Infovision Software Inc., Innovative Interfaces, Learning Express LLC, LSU School of Library Information Science, Magazine Subscription Service Agency, Perma-Bound, Possum Grape RHK Inc., ProQuest, Quality Books Inc., Rainbow Book Company, Recorded Books, Records Imaging Systems Inc., S&W Dist. Inc. Rosen Pub.-Marshall Cavendish, Secretary of State, Sharpe Reference, TLC-The Library Corporation, UAMS Library, University of Tennessee School of Information Sciences, UNT College of Information, USDA Rural Development-Community Facility Program, We All Hear Voices LLC, White Turtle Books LLC, World Bok Inc., Young Adult Author Series- Harding University, and Zytron Imaging/ST Imaging.

THANK YOU for your support of our conference.

Kathy Davis is the Access Services and Reference Librarian at the University of Arkansas-Monticello.

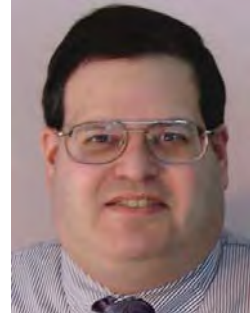
WEBMASTER'S CORNER

All Good Things...

by Ron Russ, ASU-Beebe

Well, this is my last Webmaster's Corner. Yes, it has finally come to this, loyal readers.

Actually, I've been contemplating it for a while, but haven't pulled the trigger on it. Now, the circle is complete.



After almost fifteen years of being the ArLA Webmaster, I will not be returning to this position next year. When I thought about it, I felt that it was time for new ideas and new blood, and with a possible website redesign coming up next year, it was too much work for me to do. I've been involved in three or four redesigns, and it takes a lot of effort.

Luckily, Jon Goodell, Web Services Librarian at UAMS, has graciously volunteered to become our next ArLA Webmaster and will coordinate a web committee, so that this project and others like it, won't fall on just one or two people. I'll work with Jon to ensure that there will be a smooth transition from one webmaster to another.

I think next year will be exciting, and it is fitting that new people lead us (in relation to the website) into the next 100 years of the Arkansas Library Association.

I just wanted to thank all of those people that have been involved with the website over the years, including Joni Stine, April Sheppard, Heidi Vix, Lisa Li, Jon Goodell, and of course the original ArLA web goddess, Amanda Moore. She got me involved with this project in 1997 (yes, I still remember the first meeting at Jason's Deli), and it was her vision that made all of this possible.

Also, special thanks to my wife Karen, for putting up with me as I toiled away on this for so many years. It was a fun and, at times, a bumpy ride, but I think I'm better off for it. Whither, Webmaster's Corner...

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

Library Conferences and Learning

by Carol Coffey, Central Arkansas Library System

As I write this, the Arkansas Library Association's 2011 Annual Conference has only recently concluded, and I'm still experiencing a bit of that post-conference glow. You know what I'm talking about, the feeling of having new energy and new ideas, which are going to help you do exciting new things in your library.

We all need that break from time to time.

Conferences give us practical tips and new ideas, yes, but they also help us remember why we do what we do, and give us the tools and language to help others understand why libraries are still necessary.

Another important function of conferences is to help our staff, many of whom did not necessarily plan a career in libraries, make the connection between the often repetitive tasks they perform every day and the broader picture of why libraries are important. While most national conferences are out of budgetary reach for all but a few staff members, we are fortunate to have several conference opportunities each year in Arkansas. Besides ArLA's Annual Conference, the Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals (ALPS) division of ArLA holds a spring conference as well as their one-day InfoBits conference in the fall. The Information Technology Round Table sponsors the Collaboration unConference in the summer, while the Arkansas Association of School Librarians also sponsors a summer conference each year.

More and more often there are also free and low-cost online conferences and learning opportunities for anyone with an internet connection and a phone line. Many of these conferences revolve around specific topics or are directed at those having specific jobs in a library. As an added bonus, the sessions are usually recorded and posted online for attendees who wish to refer back to them as well as for those who were unable to attend during the live presentations. I would like to tell you about an online conference specifically intended for those of us who have training responsibilities in our library.

I have written before about WebJunction and the high-quality training materials and seminars they provide on their website. Most of these materials are available for anyone to use at no cost. In August 2011, WebJunction partnered with the American Library Association's Learning Round Table to present a free, two-day web conference called Trends in Library Training and Learning: Developing Staff Skills for the 21st Century. Over two days, librarians and training specialists presented eight keynote addresses

and programs on topics as varied as how to survive and thrive in a time of information overload, getting administration buy-in for training, and moving beyond 23 things to continual self-paced learning. Here are a few quick summaries of some of the sessions I found most interesting and useful.

Jay Turner, Director of Continuing Education at the Georgia Public Library Service, kicked off the conference with an interesting discussion of the brain and memory. In "Born to Forget: How to Survive and Thrive in the Age of Information Overload," Turner presented some of the latest information and research into how we learn, and shared some tips and solutions for ensuring that employee training actually sticks with staff who are overloaded with information.

In "Tech Training Skills for 21st Century Library Staff," Crystal Schimpf, Kieran Hixon, and Nancy Trimm reminded us that every technology question posed by a member of the public is an opportunity for learning by library staff. They discussed the tech competencies developed at the Colorado State Library for tech trainers and gave advice that everyone can use to develop and implement competency training for their own staff.

Jane Healy and Julie Erickson showed us how to create self-paced learning projects for our staff in "Beyond 23 Things: Enhanced Self-Paced Training." Healy and Erickson developed The South Dakota State Library Challenge: Electronic Resources Edition to help library staff across the state participate in no-cost training at their convenience. You can see the third edition of the challenge, which introduced one subscription electronic resource per week, at <http://sdlibrarychallenge.blogspot.com/>.

Buffy Hamilton is a high school librarian from Georgia who blogs as The Unquiet Librarian (<http://theunquietlibrarian.wordpress.com>). In "Cultivating the Library as a Site of Participatory Culture and Learning," Hamilton shared methods for developing and sustaining the conversation between the library and its patrons, helping patrons develop literacy across multiple media, and for making the library a community of learning. I found Hamilton's discussion of some of the online tools she uses in her library to be one of the most useful, practical takeaways from the whole conference.

These are only four of the sessions presented during the conference. To learn more about the conference and to view the full archives, slides, and chat logs for these and the other sessions visit <http://tinyurl.com/72nf9m2>.

Carol Coffey is the Staff and Technology Trainer for Central Arkansas Library System.

WHAT'S UP? DOCS.

Foreign Relations of the United States – 150 Years of Diplomatic History

by Karen Russ, UALR

The *Foreign Relations of the United States*, often known as *FRUS*, celebrated its 150th birthday on December 3rd. Produced by the State Department's Office of the Historian, and started during Abraham Lincoln's administration, the series now includes more than 500 volumes, including two earlier versions of the title. It captures the process used by the highest level of federal government when making decisions on foreign policy, national security, and issues of global concern. Documents include files from the Office of the President, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Council, and numerous other agencies and private papers of individuals involved in drafting U.S. foreign policy.



Prior to the decision in 1861, foreign policy documents of the federal government were released sporadically when requested by Congress, addressing specific events. During the 19th century, the volumes were printed and released within a year or two of the information being created. However, the increasing role of the United States in international politics in the 20th century resulted in a longer period before information was released. During the Second World War, FDR and Winston Churchill vetoed the release of volumes that would have explained the activities and communications behind the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. At the current time, materials from the Nixon and Ford eras are just now being published. (For additional information on the controversial process of producing the *FRUS* volumes, consult the official blog of the Department of State at http://blogs.state.gov/index.php/site/entry/frus_story_of_diplomacy.)

I am bringing this series to light now, not just to honor its sesquicentennial, but to offer another source to those librarians struggling with the increasing requirements of primary sources for history, political science, and social studies courses. While there are numerous periodical databases that will provide secondary sources on historical events, it is not always as easy to find original documents on international events. And while it will only cover the latter half of United States history, it is an excellent resource when appropriate.

In *FRUS*, one can find telegrams, inter-office memos, drafts of treaties, letters, and any other means

of communication used in a given year. While some are three sentences long, others are fifty pages or more. If a person was involved in foreign relations, their documentation might be included, possibly even from their private files. (And no, the individual does not have to be dead to have materials included – a common misconception with some students I have helped.)

The earlier volumes are grouped by the nation, then the topic, and then the date of origin for each document. In the mid- to late 20th century, the volumes were converted to chronological order. While that makes it more difficult to locate items by subject, it does allow the reader to see the multiplicity of issues facing any administration at a given time.

Thankfully, the later years also include a keyword index at the back of every volume. Those volumes also provide a list of persons and their titles, as well as a list of abbreviations and terms at the front. Keeping an atlas close by from the era being researched is highly recommended, as national boundaries and names have changed regularly around the globe.

For those with research interests from 1945 to the mid-1970s, full-text access is available from the Department of State:

<http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments>.

Searches can be limited by the president in office, type of document, nation of interest, and other focused categories. It is possible to browse individual volumes after selecting a year and subject, or a presidential administration. This access will grow as more volumes are released for the eras of Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan. For those interested in earlier years, contact a local academic or law school library and inquire about a possible hard copy collection or commercial database subscription. And as always, I recommend you locate the federal depository library in your area and see if they can assist you: <http://www.fdlp.gov/administration/fldl>. The set here at UALR begins with assorted volumes in the 1910s and is still actively being collected. I was curious to see the change in usage when online access to all of the set appeared a few years back. The only thing that changed was the number of people pleading with me **not** to convert the set to online format only. Both the students and faculty prefer the hard copy to the online edition. I'm not sure why. The information and format are identical because the online versions are .pdf files from the original volumes. Maybe the files are too large to read online without developing eye strain, in addition to the stress headache already throbbing as one thinks about the tensions between nations, and what might have happened.

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

LIBRARY PROFILE

The Smallest Library in Arkansas

by David Sesser, Henderson State University

Libraries come in all shapes and sizes. Arkansas has its share of unique structures housing libraries, ranging from converted stores to Carnegie Library buildings.

One of the most distinctive libraries in the state is in Norman. Known as “the smallest library in Arkansas,”¹ it serves the small town located in Montgomery County on the Caddo River.

Located in a city park near the center of the town, the library is a single story structure constructed of brick. The institution has a long history of serving the community and in turn receiving much of its support from the local citizens who call Norman home.

Norman was founded in 1907 and incorporated in 1910. Called Womble until 1925, the town served as a railroad stop and a lumber-mill center. As more and more of the timber surrounding the community was harvested, the economy and population declined. But the residents who remained behind continued to make improvements to their community, and a group of women formed a local Garden Club in 1936.

One of their first projects was to replace the barbed wire fence that surrounded the local park with a native stone wall. By 1939 and with the help of the Works Progress Administration, the wall was constructed. Other improvements followed, including planting trees and other plants to represent every part of the county and every state in the Union.

The Garden Club’s crowning achievement occurred in 1940 when the library in the center of the park was established. The building originally served as the town’s water pumping station. It moved water from the Caddo River to the water tower on the other side of town. Measuring 170 square feet, it was rarely entered by anyone, including city workers.

The city council was approached by Mrs. Marie

¹ It is to the best of this author’s knowledge that the Norman library is the smallest freestanding library in the state. If any readers know of smaller libraries, please contact me at sesserd@hsu.edu.



Sesser

Pinkerton, president and founder of the Garden Club, about acquiring the use of the building for the establishment of a town library.

The city council agreed, and the Garden Club raised funds to furnish the building. Mission oak furniture was used to house the more than 500 books the group gathered. Two librarians were hired, and the library opened to the public. It remained open intermittently over the next half century. During this time it also served as both a temporary office and jail.

In the 1990s, a group was organized to restore the structure to its original glory, and eventually it was reopened to the public on a limited basis. In 1993, the park and the library were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Throughout the 1990s, the library was open five days a week and served the community as the only point of internet access in the surrounding area. Grant money was received to repair the stone wall around the park and to replace the roof of the library building.

In 2006, the roof of the library was replaced but leaked almost immediately. The library was closed and efforts are underway to raise more money to complete the restoration. Currently the library is closed but may be viewed in the city park. The nearest towns with library services are Mt. Ida and Glenwood.

The library in Norman has an important place in the lives of its patrons, as evidenced by the ongoing work to reopen the building. It also has the distinction of being the smallest library in Arkansas.



David Sesser is the Special Collections Curator/E-Resources Coordinator for Huie Library at Henderson State University.

ARKANSAS BOOKS & AUTHORS

by Bob Razer, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Vivienne Schiffer. *Camp Nine.*

The World War II Japanese internment camp at Rohwer in southeast Arkansas has been much in the news of late thanks to Rosalie Gould's donation of the art done by the people imprisoned in the camp during those years to the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. Gould, a neighbor of the camp, saved an important piece of American and Arkansas history by preserving that art when she inherited it from a friend, the camp's art teacher. The Butler Center's recent exhibit of some of that art attracted thousands of visitors. The Butler Center, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and Arkansas State University all received federal grants related to the efforts underway to preserve materials and sites, and to tell the Rohwer story to today's Arkansans.

Vivienne Schiffer knows the Rohwer story well, for she is Gould's daughter. *Camp Nine* is a fictional treatment of that episode in our history. This is a novel grounded in fact, however, and her book would be excellent supplemental reading for a history course. Even in a novel based on fact, most of the narrative is going to be fiction, but underlying the fictional events in *Camp Nine* is an accurate presentation of the time and the event. Truth telling sometimes is best done in a novel. Schiffer is an excellent fiction writer, perhaps reflecting her screenplay writing experience more than her legal background as a lawyer in Texas. This book is a case of "write what you know" and readers – particularly Arkansans – are the grateful recipients of her work.

In many ways *Camp Nine* can be viewed as a coming of age novel. The novel's story is told from the viewpoint of a girl just reaching her teen years, living as a neighbor to the camp. Schiffer draws readers into the story gradually as the young girl slowly realizes what is going on around her; her sheltered existence is fractured by a war that reaches even an isolated corner of Arkansas. The people in these pages are portrayed as individuals, each having emotions carefully presented in multiple nuances. There are no stock characters here. The Japanese, as well as the Arkansans living in the area around the camp, are portrayed in a variety of lights, much as would be the reality of such a situation in real life. People's reactions come in a wide variety of flavors.

Camp Nine would be a memorable book solely on its merits as a well-written novel. The fact that it addresses an important piece of Arkansas history, dealing with events ignored far too long in the Ar-

kansas narrative, makes this book even more important for Arkansas libraries. We are fortunate that a writer of Schiffer's talent wrote it, and in some ways she lived this story. Living in the shadow of the Rohwer camp and being her mother's daughter no doubt gave her a special appreciation for the people and the historical event that underlie this book. That knowledge is shared in the pages of *Camp Nine*, a book not to be missed.

Mary L. Kwas. *A Pictorial History of Arkansas's Old State House.*

The Old State House is probably the most recognized building in Arkansas. It held that distinction even before Bill Clinton gave it national attention on his two presidential election nights. So it is surprising that a history of that building has not been told in book form before. It was worth the wait though, as Mary Kwas' book is a unique combination of a coffee table book highly illustrated with memorable photographs and drawings, while also being a work that provides new historical information to readers, information not widely available in other sources, if at all.

The book is neatly organized into four sections. The first explains incidents during the territorial years that led up to the construction of the building. The second section describes a number of events, including an account of the building of the structure that welcomed the first meeting of the new state's legislature even before the building was completed. This section tells the story of the capitol's long existence as the center of state government. In time, the building was not large enough to meet all those needs, and was expanded. As those familiar with the Old State House's story know, a new capitol building was eventually built early in the 20th century and the Old State House then became home through the years for other agencies, including the medical school, before it assumed its present role as one of the premier museums in the state. Bringing the building's colorful history up to date concludes this section of the book.

The book's last two sections really set this work apart. One of those sections provides biographical sketches of individuals important to the Old State House's story. Likely this may be the only readily available source of information about some of these 19th century individuals, some of whom, I confess, I'd never heard of before. This section is a valuable addition to the historical record.

The concluding section of the book provides photographs of some of the museum's artifacts along

Continues on Page 26...

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with postcards, paintings, and drawings of the building through the years, as well as some photographs never before published that show the building's place in Arkansas history. The photographs of the legislature meeting in the building at the turn of the 20th century stand out, as do the images that show the building in some of its grimmer days when the state's first state capitol seemed to be a neglected afterthought to Arkansans.

This book provides readers with more information about this historic building than most anyone would know, even if they thought they knew the building's story. The Old State House holds a special place in Arkansas history, and this book should hold a special place in Arkansas history book collections both in libraries and in homes.

Charles F. Robinson. *Forsaking All Others: A True Story of Interracial Sex and Revenge in the 1880s South.*

On very rare occasions, a book is written about an event you otherwise would never have heard about in Arkansas history. Such is the case with Robinson's book, which tells the story of a prominent white south Arkansas politician who dared cross racial lines to marry a black woman in 1883 and the consequences of that action.

There are very few written records concerning the Memphis marriage of Desha County's popular sheriff Isaac Bankston to Missouri Bradford, a black woman also of Desha County with whom he'd fathered a child and had enjoyed a long-term relationship. Robinson mines newspaper accounts and court records to piece together a lost piece of history. Court records exist because it was illegal for whites to marry blacks, and it was equally against the law for anyone to issue a marriage license or perform the marriage ceremony if the marriage involved different races. That a court case ensued provided some legal records to this episode of forgotten history.

Further complicating the story, Bankston was already married, a marriage that had produced two children, before wedding Bradford. Bankston was able to achieve the marriage in Memphis where he was not known due to his dark coloring, leading both the county clerk issuing the marriage license and the black clergyman performing the ceremony to believe Bankston was black.

Robinson places this event in the historical context of the times and within the legal constraints of the times. Other mixed marriages also occurred during this period. Why the Bankston-Bradford marriage had attracted attention, the novel defense

Bankston offered, and the tragic consequences that resulted from the publicity make for an interesting little book at only 113 pages. It is well worth reading for a look into the racial times of the late 19th century.

Desmond Walls Allen. *Family History Detective: A Step-By-Step Guide to Investigating Your Family Tree.*

In all the years I have been writing book reviews for this column, I have never reviewed a genealogy book until now. Part of my day job duties are in the area of collection development for the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies where I deal with buying books and periodical subscriptions to support the research purposes of that entity. The Butler Center is a manuscripts repository having a fairly large book collection that deals with Arkansas and southern history. In addition, the Butler Center also has one of the state's best genealogy collections. I buy materials for that collection as well, and I have bought several "beginner" books over the years aimed at people considering undertaking family research. None of those books were as good as Desmond Walls Allen's *Family History Detective*.

This latest book of Allen's is the second edition of an earlier title, *First Steps in Genealogy* published in 1998. This update includes coverage of how the Internet has changed genealogical research, and Allen lists a number of web sites useful to genealogists.

The book is structured well for someone who knows little or nothing about genealogical research. Such persons are frequently intimidated by what seems to be an impossible task, too large to seriously contemplate undertaking. To overcome that fear, clear guidance written in an easily understood manner is needed. That is just what Allen provides. Instead of "chapters" the book has "steps" to follow, an easily followed process that takes the reader from the first step that asks "Who are you? Who were your parents?" to more sophisticated research techniques described later in the book. Beginners will not get lost in a jungle of details if they follow Allen's road map. She starts the hesitant out simply, providing them confidence before leading them to more complicated tasks.

Allen stresses the importance of organization, with examples of how to keep records, proper citation of sources, keeping a record of sources consulted for each question, and even tips on how to write dates and names and why it is important to do it that way. The occasional "case history" of a research problem is helpful, as are the illustrations Allen provides throughout the book. Through them,

readers get a real scenario showing the type of problem likely to be encountered as they search for their ancestors. They can see what a certain written form used to record information actually looks like, an example of what a page of a courthouse record will look like, and the facts such a page provides.

The concept of “detective” is carried out subtly, with each “step” summarized at step’s end by a listing/summarizing of “key clues” talked about in the step’s discussion. I even liked the silhouette of Sherlock Holmes used to introduce each step.

I suppose I should mention that Allen is a relation, a second cousin or some such. Desmond knows the exact relationship, naturally. But as anyone familiar with genealogy work in Arkansas knows, she has been “Ms. Arkansas Genealogy” for a couple of decades, so I’m not playing favorites here. The information about the author provided with this book mentions that Desmond has written, edited, or compiled 237 books, all of them dealing with genealogy, I’m fairly sure. She has been a speaker at who knows how many workshops and conferences, both in Arkansas and nationally. Her business, Arkansas Research, is the publisher to go to for the essential (and some specialized) publications helpful to Arkansas genealogy work.

My favorite discussion in the book (besides the admonition to always treat the librarians who are helping you in your research nicely, and the hint to join your local library’s friends group so you know the dates of the book sales) was her encouragement to learn the history of the time in which your ancestors lived. Otherwise, all you have is a bunch of names and dates. Knowing the history of a time period, how people worked, what their home life was like, the day-to-day activities of both adults and children make those ancestors real people, not just a name on a form. Buying books to help people learn

that sort of information has been high on my “buy” list for the Butler Center. Allen tells readers “genealogy and history are intertwined,” a belief I stress in our collection. Why, it’s almost like the author of this book and I am related, though one of us went down the genealogy trail while the other took the history path.

Genealogy research continues to grow in popularity, so it’s doubtful a public library can have too many introductory or “how to” books, and Family History Detective fairly screams to be added to the ready reference collection too, so that the next time the “How do I begin?” question is asked, the library desk worker can simply pull this book off the shelf and hand it to the questioner.

This book has a place in the school and academic library too. Students interested in genealogy, or doing that ever popular “your ancestors” assignment, learn a lot about how genealogy research is done if they read this book. Even the college researcher might find help. Allen’s discussion of the types of records found in a county courthouse and the information that can be gained from those records, along with the information from the various censuses, may well explain how history book authors found out all that personal information about individuals or were able to construct a profile of a community based on the characteristics of its population and their legal and business dealings. History students are grateful for such “clues.”

The book concludes with some helpful appendices, including a bibliography. Some of the titles included there I recognized, but I will be checking the Butler Center’s holdings about the others. Collection development librarians are also grateful for “clues,” or in this case book recommendations, for possible purchase.

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Arkansas Books & Authors

- ***Alison, Charles and *Ellen Compton.** *Fayetteville.* Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2011. 9780738587707 \$22.00 128 p.
- ***Allen, Desmond Walls.** *Family History Detective: A Step-By-Step Guide to Investigating Your Family Tree.* Cincinnati: Family Tree Books, 2011. 9781440316876 \$17.00 143 p.
- Cash, John Carter. *House of Cash.* Insight Editions, 2011. 9781608870288 \$39.95 160 p.
- Chan, Anita, ed.** *Walmart in China.* Ilr Press, 2011. 9780801450204 \$65.00 cloth; 9780801477317 \$24.95 paper 294 p.
- ***Clinton, Bill.** *Back to Work.* New York: Knopf, 2011. 9780307959751 \$22.95 208 p.
- Crosman, Christopher B. and Emily D. Shapiro.** *Celebrating the American Spirit: Masterworks from Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.* Hudson Hill Press, 2011. 9781555953713 \$60.00 356 p.
- ***Duval, Leland.** *Dearest Letty: The World War II Letters of Sgt. Leland Duval.* Ernie Dumas, ed. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2011. 9781557289766 \$29.95 259 p.
- Gellman, Erik and Jered Roll.** *The Gospel of the Working Class: Labor's Southern Prophets in New Deal America.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2011. 9780252036309 \$75.00 cloth; 9780252078408 \$25.00 paper 248 p.
- ***Ernst, Tim.** *Arkansas Portfolio III.* Cloudland Publishing, 2011. Distributed by the University of Arkansas Press. 9781882906741 \$34.95 144 p.
- ***Grisham, John.** *The Litigators.* New York: Knopf, 2011. 9780385535137 \$28.95 384 p.
- ***Heady, Mary and *Mark Spencer.** *Monticello.* Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2011. 9780738587899 \$22.00 128 p.
- ***Jacobs, John Horner.** *Southern Gods.* Nightshade Books, 2011. 9781597802857 \$15.00 300 p.
- ***Jones, William.** *Classics Illustrated: A Cultural History.* 2nd ed. McFarland, 2011. 9780786438402 \$55.00 409 p.
- ***Laymon, Sherry.** *Fearless: John L. McClellan, United States Senator.* Tate Publishing, 2011. 9781613464861 \$35.00 425 p.
- ***McLarey, Myra.** *The Last Will and Testament of Rosetta Sugars Tramble.* Ink Brush Press, 2011. 9780982751442 \$16.95 210 p.
- Margolick, David.** *Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011. 9780300141931 \$26.00 320 p.
- Mee, Bob.** *Liston and Ali: The Ugly Bear and the Boy Who Would Be King.* Skyhorse, 2011. 9781616083694 \$24.95 336 p.
- ***Moran, Michael.** *Jesse Crosse: A Novel.* Little Rock: Parkhurst Brothers, 2011. 9781935166443 \$10.00 192 p.
- ***Pattison, Darcy.** *Prairie Storms.* Sylvan Dell, 2011. 9781607181293 \$16.95 32 p.
- ***Schiffer, Vivienne.** *Camp Nine.* Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2011. 9781557289728 \$29.95 151 p.
- ***Robinson, Charles F.** *Forsaking All Others: A True Story of Interracial Sex and Revenge in the 1880s South.* Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2010. 9781572337244 \$30.95 166 p.
- ***Spencer, Lori and *Don Simons.** *The Diana Fritillary: Arkansas's State Butterfly.* Fayetteville: Ozark Society Foundation, 2011. Distributed by the University of Arkansas Press. 9780912456263 \$8.95 24 p.
- ***Stewart, Trenton Lee.** *The Mysterious Benedict Society: Mr. Benedict's Book of Perplexing Puzzles, Elusive Enigmas, and Curious Conundrums.* Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 2011. 9780316181938 \$13.00 176 p.
- Stone, Hicks.** *Edward Durell Stone: A Son's Untold Story of a Legendary Architect.* New York: Rizolli, 2011. 9780847835683 \$65.00 304 p.
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- ***Woodrell, Daniel.** *The Outlaw Album.* Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 2011. 9780316057561 \$25.00 176 p.

*Indicates Arkansas author

Inclusion does not indicate recommendation.



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- * **Public Library Association Bi-annual Conference**
March 13-17, Philadelphia, PA
- * **Arkansas Paraprofessionals (ALPS)**
May 16-18, Little Rock
- * **American Library Association Annual Conference**
June 21-26, 2012, Anaheim, CA
- * **Arkansas Association of School Librarians (AASL)**
July 30 & 31, Eureka Springs
- * **Arkansas Library Association (ArLA)**
October 14-16, Springdale

**Check out the Arkansas State Library's Events page
For additional events: <http://www.library.arkansas.gov>**