

ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

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Arkansas Library Association

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Arkansas Libraries is the official journal of the Arkansas Library Association. It contains articles of current interest, historical significance or literary value, concerning all aspects of librarianship, particularly items pertinent to Arkansas. It also includes official statements of and information provided by the Arkansas Library Association.

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Arkansas Libraries

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FROM THE ArLA PRESIDENT: Into the Future

by *Jud Copeland*

ArLA President

Dear ArLA Members:

I look forward to being President of ArLA in the coming year. In preparing for this important position as Vice-President, I have endeavored to meet and support various activities throughout our Association. As ArLA President in 2015, I am now able to engage in the exciting challenges of working with YOU to move our Association into the future.



Copeland

We have a dynamic Executive Committee, Executive Board and members ready to move us toward that challenging future. Be ready to engage in these Emerging Goals for 2015:

- ALA Emerging Leadership Initiative Branding ArLA (Statewide and Nationally) Membership (Each One, Reach One Initiative)
- Strengthening our Budget
- Supporting ArLA, ALPS, and ArASL Conferences

- ArLA Scholarship Support and Related Funding
- Fostering Interaction with AAIM and ARSL Associations
- Innovative Use of Cyber Meetings, Online Elections in 2015
- Effective Communication throughout ArLA and with other Associations

It is a privilege and an honor to serve YOU as your President and to have the opportunity to work with such a great organization. ArLA is over 100 years young and still a strong and dynamic Association. Again, it is my goal as your 2015 president to fully support the continual growth in ArLA membership, to support the ALA Emerging Leadership initiative and to increase our financial base. In addition, this will be an exciting time to *market* and *brand* the ArLA signature on a state, regional and national basis. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this next chapter in ArLA's history.

Jud

Jud Copeland, the President of the Arkansas Library Association, is Associate Professor for the Department of Leadership Studies, University of Central Arkansas.



The ArLA Board changed over in December. The members of the 2015 Executive Committee include (left to right): Judy Calhoun, President Elect/Vice President; Devona Pendergrass, Past President; Jud Copeland, President; Jessica McGrath, Secretary/Treasurer.

FROM THE EDITOR: Color

by *Britt Anne Murphy*

Library Director, Hendrix College

Iwonder what the world would look like in color? To even ask this question we have to know what color is, and some fictional characters, such as Dorothy in the film *The Wizard of Oz*, and Jonas from Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, have experienced worlds without color and the transformation that arrives when color enters their psyches.

In this issue of *Arkansas Libraries*, our humble state library association is perhaps not undergoing such a formative transformation as Dorothy and Jonas experienced, but it is a transformation none-the-less. Unlike Dorothy and Jonas, we have been spoiled by color in almost every corner of our lives and come to expect everything, including all print publications, to be in color. With Spring 2015 arrives splashes of color, and not just on the cover, but



Murphy

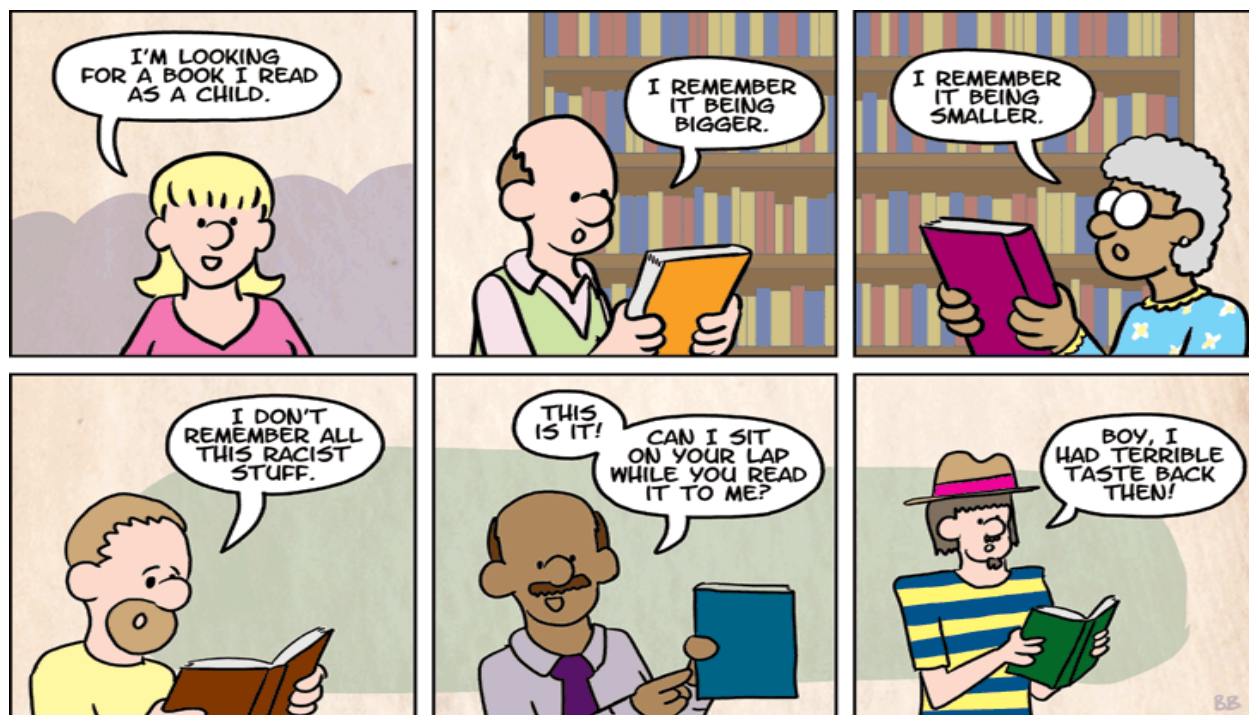
everywhere in-between. It seems appropriate that a spring issue of the journal brings color for the first time, especially since this winter seems so reluctant to give up its grip on Arkansas.

The Spring issue tells tales of winter – ALA Midwinter to be more precise. Our ArLA leaders will update you on what happened in Chicago and the initiatives they've been busy with. We also have a story of how libraries across the state are warming their communities with sweater drives, and how one person working at the public library in the small town of Earle, Arkansas has brought people together from ages two to ninety-two through innovative programming. These tales are heart-warming and heartening – they are representative of a colorful community of Arkansas libraries and the people who work in and frequent them. I hope you, like Jonas, realize the value of color in our community and appreciate the many different types of that expression in this issue of *Arkansas Libraries*.

Britt

Britt Anne Murphy, the Managing Editor of Arkansas Libraries, is the Director of the Olin C. Bailey Library at Hendrix College.

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Tweeting a Personal Learning Network

by *Ashley Cooksey, Library Media Specialist*
Batesville School District

As school librarians, we often have a difficult time finding professional development opportunities tailored to our needs. Oftentimes we are sole operator of the school's library media center.

Classroom teachers can build a personal learning network with other professionals in the building. When a problem arises, they can simply run across the hallway and ask someone who is in the same position as they are. School librarians are often the only duck in the pond. So, how do we build a professional learning community that is centered on our needs and concerns to make it a personal learning network?

Social media can provide a great avenue for us to create a personal learning network. There are several chats to follow on Twitter to enhance our professional development opportunities. Each Monday at 7:00 pm Central Time, Twitter becomes



abuzz with two chats: Educational Technology Chat (#edtechchat) and Teacher-Librarian Chat (#tlchat).

To participate in the chats, simply follow the hashtags designated for each chat. I use TweetDeck to follow multiple chats at the same time. Moderators for the chats post questions to the group, and participants answer questions, voice their opinions or concerns, and connect with like-minded professionals. Moderators change each week; however, chats are always conducted in the same format.

Consider participating in some Twitter chats to increase your personal learning network.

Tabletop Gaming at Your Library

by *Dalene Schrier, Technology Specialist*
Bentonville Public Library

In the summer of 2014, actor Wil Wheaton (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *The Big Bang Theory*) started a crowd funding initiative to produce the third season of his hit YouTube show *TableTop*. The overwhelming support for his cause inspired me to develop a program for my library called "TableToppers."

I approached my supervisor with the idea for a tabletop gaming group with little expectation with it going any further than a concept. Much to my surprise, the idea was approved, and I was able to move forward.

The first obstacle was to build a game collection. Due to limited funding, I had to reach out to other sources for help. The first round of requests was sent to well-known publishers of the games I wanted to showcase. My first response came from Rio Grande Games who has published games such as *Puerto Rico* and *Dominion*. Rio Grande was very generous in their support for the program by donating many games. After this great start, I did receive the standard rejections.



These were not unexpected. Because of shows like *TableTop*, the market for tabletop games and requests for donations are increasing. For the next couple of weeks, I received more donations of games for the collection. To date, we have received more than twenty-five games.

The next step was to reach out to the local gaming community. While they were excited that we were forming a regular group, they had little support they could offer. In our area, we have



approximately 10 gaming venues. These are mostly role-play oriented (think Dungeons & Dragons). Getting local support has proved to be complicated but not impossible. At this time, a few local stores have committed to supporting the program with gaming materials.

Once our collection was established, all that was needed were the players. We began an aggressive advertisement campaign: flyers lining the Library, visiting each game store personally, attending the local gaming groups' meetings, distributing flyers

and handouts to other local businesses, and using social media. Now all that was left was to wait.

As with any new program, we learned much from the first few "TableToppers" events. We didn't have many regulars for the first two months. In the third month, a patron reached out who had seen a flyer. He was very interested in the group as he was an avid gamer himself and had a large collection of games at home. He has advertised the event at his work and garnered great interest. In addition to his help, we have started to hold the event weekly instead of bi-weekly.

Thanks to feedback we have received, we have been able to bring in more participants. We created an e-newsletter for the participants. In the e-newsletter we include the dates of the next events, news about the events (i.e. library closings, etc.), and links to videos of our monthly featured games. Our featured games are typically those that have been featured on Wil Wheaton's *TableTop* since the show was inspiration for this program. The game tutorials are entertaining as well as informative and you watch how the game is actually played.

Looking to the future, Bentonville Library will be participating in International Tabletop Day on April 11, 2015. This event will be open for everyone to attend. While we have many games for most age groups, participants are encouraged to bring their favorite games to share with others. We look forward to watching this program grow and hopefully create a new generation of those who love tabletop games. For now, we have the words of Wil Wheaton to live by, "Play more games!"



Librarians, Faculty, and Information Literacy

by *Sonya Lockett*,

Coordinator of Public Services

*John Brown Watson Memorial Library,
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff*

Academic librarians understand that information literacy is a set of skills needed to find, retrieve and use information (as defined by ACRL's standards), and who better to teach this skill to students than the persons who are the custodians of information, librarians.



Lockett

We all have seen this scenario on a daily basis at academic libraries: a student comes into the library with a research assignment. The student comes to the desk confused, and the librarian does her best to reassure the student that she can assist him.

Upon reading the assignment, the librarian is confused as well, at first. The assignment wants students to research a particular topic but without using internet sources. The librarian looks at the student and in her best librarian voice says, "No problem," and proceeds to direct him to the databases. The student quickly stops and tells the librarian, "No, Dr. X said no internet!" The librarian tries to explain to the student that the databases are not really internet sources but rather electronic journals. The student insists he can't use the databases, so our persistent librarian calls Dr. X and explains the dilemma.

The librarian informs Dr. X that the library does not have print journals for the particular topic, but that the library subscribes to numerous databases which will lead his students to the same resources, but in an online format.

My question to my fellow librarians is how do we preempt issue like this one and encourage faculty to not only design assignments that reflect how research is currently conducted, but how to involve us earlier on before confusion on anyone's part begins?

Here are some methods I have tried at UAPB:

- We can introduce the faculty to information literacy, to allow them to see that research



is our expertise. Sometimes this may include us assisting them with their research needs.

- Convince the faculty that we have the ability to teach students the correct way to formulate research questions. We have to show them that we can teach students how to evaluate online and print resources, which will lead students into formulating well-developed papers.
- Assist faculty in understanding the research skills of the students; some instructors may mistake a student's ability to use a computer with his or her ability to do research. On the other hand, I have seen first-hand students who are still not comfortable or proficient with computers, so sometimes our work may include teaching basic computer skills.
- It may be important that we change what is an occasional class tour of the library to a hands-on point-of-need instruction session. This type of session will guide students to the best resources for their projects.
- We can encourage faculty to integrate information literacy into their course syllabi. By providing faculty with lists of available resources and advice on assignment design, perhaps we can convince faculty that the benefits of information literacy will allow for more complex research papers, and their students asking better questions and writing better papers.

These are just a few things that we as academic librarians can do to open the lines of communication and form a cohesive working environment, which in the end will benefit the students we serve.

Book Fair Part of Annual Scottish Ritual

by *Camille Beary, Assistant Director*
The Mabee-Simpson Library, Lyon College

Every year in April Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas hosts the Arkansas Scottish Festival. The library always piggybacks onto the festivities with a huge book fair.

Every inch of the first floor is covered with books for sale. The art students set up a booth on the library porch for their original works, and the great massing of the clans and bands line up by the library to march and to play bagpipes at noon.

This April the annual book sale will be held at

the library beginning on April 10th and will run all day Friday and Saturday. There will be hundreds of used hardcover (\$3) and paperback books (\$2), VHS tapes, DVDs (\$2), and other media. All proceeds benefit the Friends of Mabee-Simpson Library, and go toward addressing needs of the library not covered by the budget, such as furnishings, landscaping for the Japanese garden, and special collections materials.

For more information about the Arkansas Scottish Festival, consult <https://www.lyon.edu/scotfest>.



Family Love Available for Checkout at Earle Public Library

by *Michelle Vargas, Library Specialist*
Bentonville Public Library

When Pearlie Ewing moved from Michigan to Edmondson, Arkansas in 2013, all she expected to get from the local library was a few books to enjoy. She instead discovered an opportunity to serve her community.

Pearlie began volunteering at the Library in Edmondson, despite not having any library training. She had taught at the University of Michigan in Special Education, was trained as a paralegal, and possessed self-taught business savvy she had gained from managing her husband's cleaning business for many years. It wasn't long before the county library system took notice of the difference the retiree was making at the Edmondson Public Library. When the small community of Earle, about 20 miles from Edmondson, needed someone to fill in temporarily as Library Manager, the County system called Pearlie. Ewing visited the Earle Public Library and never left. She has been acting as Library Manager ever since.

When she arrived in Earle, it was clear to her something had to change. "Something was lacking," Pearlie explained. "People got to know

they have a library."

Pearlie got to work at just that - letting the Community of Earle know that they did indeed have a library. Instead of just starting programs that she thought the people would like, she did a poll and found out what they needed. Mrs. Pearlie reached out to the local Headstart, volunteered tutoring at the library, and performed puppet shows for preschoolers and students. She wanted the kids and the parents to know that the library is there to help. "The Library is the beginning of Kindergarten," she stated. "No one can take the ABC's from you."

Mrs. Ewing wanted to get teenagers excited about the library and the community. She started the Pen-Pal Readers program in Earle, borrowing from a program she began in Michigan. Four preteens and four teens are currently in the program. "Striving for Excellence and Making a Difference" is the motto the teens aim to achieve. They read two books each week, read to others, and prepare book reports. According to Pearlie, the literacy-based activities teach young people to "stand up and be bold." Not only that, but the students act as ambassadors for the library, volunteering in the town and at the local nursing



Mrs. Pearlie Ewing's warm smile and kind spirit welcomes the entire community to the Earle Public Library.

home. The teens read to the seniors and help them feel special by giving residents manicures. The students are also expected to keep up their grades, and all the Readers keep a 3.0-4.0 GPA.

This past winter, the Earle Public Library and the Pen-Pal Readers participated in the Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Drive. The library and the Pen-Pal Readers helped collect new and gently used sweaters to distribute to the community. The Pen-Pal Readers have been honored by the community, including by the County Judge, for their volunteer work.

Teens are certainly not the only ones having all the fun in Earle. Senior citizens are offered opportunities to connect on their own. The group recently put the finishing touches on a quilt they created together. While not all the seniors had quilting skills, they taught each other as they worked. The entire quilt is hand-pieced and hand-stitched. Next on their agenda is a cookbook called *The Good Taste of Earle*.

Ewing was excited about creating a space where the seniors would be comfortable gathering, and is especially sensitive to helping them build technology skills. "I want them to be comfortable," Pearlie exclaimed. "The Library is full of history. They are our history. I read about the history of

Crittenden County, but their stories are wonderful, because they lived it!"

Pearlie worked with Earle's Chamber of Commerce to get a Community Grant. The grant went towards various improvements for the town, including creating a new sign for the town and creating a website for the chamber and the library. The web address for Earle Public Library is <http://www.earlechamberofcommerce.org/Library%20Information.htm> and it is the library's first website. The next step for the library is to get into a bigger building, as all the programs are hard to fit in the 600 square foot facility. The community has also come together to support the library. People are giving donations of materials and getting excited about what is going on there.

Mrs. Ewing gave advice if another library would want to start similar programs. "Get involved with the community. Find out what they need and ask them what they want."

Earle Public Library and Pearlie Ewing remind us that a library doesn't need a multi-million dollar budget or even an enormous facility to radically impact a community. All you really need is a good dose of excitement and passion for the project at hand and what Pearlie says is her favorite part of being at the library, "Family Love."

Youth Media Awards

The following books are a representation of some of the titles that won Youth Media Awards at ALA's Midwinter Conference. For a complete list consult ALA's website at <http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/browse/yma?showfilter=no>.

The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend

by Dan Santat

Winner of the Randolph Caldecott Medal

Firebird

illustrated by Christopher Myers

Winner of the Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award

You Are (Not) Small

by Anna Kang

Winner of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

The Crossover

by Kwame Alexander

Winner of the John Newbery Medal

I'll Give You the Sun

by Jandy Nelson

Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award

Viva Frida

illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Winner of the Pura Belpré (Illustrator) Award

Brown Girl Dreaming

by Jacqueline Woodson

Winner of the Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award

The Right Word: Roget and His

Thesaurus

by Jen Bryant

Winner of the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award

I Lived on Butterfly Hill

by Marjorie Agosín

Winner of the Pura Belpré (Author) Award

ALA COUNCILOR'S REPORT

2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting

by Hadi Dudley, Bentonville Public Library

Introduction

As I write this introduction, I am jet-setting my way to the Windy City. The blanket of clouds below appears to be a white, fluffy blanket of snow! Foreshadowing of the pending winter weather, perhaps - flurries are forecasted for the afternoon. I packed my winter coat, gloves, scarves, ear muffs, warm socks, leather boots, and lots of layers: wardrobe staples for this Southern gal in midwinter Chicago!



Dudley

Prior to the meeting, the council listserv became alive with discussion and debate. As I review the information, I realize I will need to listen, keep an open mind, and learn. Contemplating ALA Council issues, I did not realize that Winter Storm Linus, the 5th heaviest recorded snow storm in Chicago, was in the near future too.

About the Meeting

The 2015 American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter (MW) Meeting was held from January 30 – February 3. A returning concept, the theme for MW is “The Conversation Starts Here...” and 7,171 registrants joined 3,466 exhibitors for a grand total of 10,637 attendees.

Featured speakers included Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Mick Ebeling, Jason Segel, and LeVar Burton, with Dr. Cornel West as the special guest for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration. The 2015 Youth Media Awards were announced on Monday morning. A complete list of winners and the *American Libraries* recap of MW highlights can be found online.

As the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) Chapter Councilor, I attended nine different meetings, sessions, and forums. Additionally, I participated in meetings for the Committee on Literacy and the Planning and Budget Assembly.

ALA Membership Meetings

During the ALA Council/Executive Board/ Membership Information Session on Saturday, we heard reports from ALA President Courtney Young, ALA President-Elect Sari Feldman, and



ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels. ALA President Young discussed the Career Development Facilitator session, commenting on the importance of the preconference learning for this group of leaders. ALA President-Elect Feldman mentioned that she is working on her presidential initiative, as well as her involvement with ALA leadership’s continued conversations with eBook publishers.

ALA Director Fiels highlighted the current strategic planning project, diversity issues, and the school library campaign. The ALA Washington Office is seeing movement on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). ALA will require “all hands on deck” to push for school libraries and guarantee that our children will have the opportunities they need to be successful students.

The ALA Treasurer and Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) provided their reports. BARC reported on its analysis of the fiscal impact of allowing programs at Midwinter meetings and determined that the ALA MW model should remain the same. The expected costs for designing MW programs similar to Annual Conference would likely not recoup anticipated expenditures. The Endowment Trustees report offered details about ALA investments, citing a \$40 million milestone in these assets.

The Nominating Committee reported that ALA election polls will be open March 24 – May 1, with election results posting the following week. At the conclusion of the membership session, the ALA Presidential Candidates Forum was held. Four candidates offered prepared remarks and responded to questions from membership. The candidates for 2016-2017 ALA President are James LaRue, Joseph

Janes, Julie Todaro, and JP Porcaro. Watch for more details on ALA's 2015 elections.

During the MW meeting, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) distributed information about a "School Library Programs Improve Student Learning" advocacy initiative and "Beyond Words: the Dollar General School Library Relief Fund" for grant opportunities. Council heard a report from the Freedom to Read Foundation and learned about the new "I Love Libraries" interface featuring advocacy content targeted at library stakeholders. The ALA Legacy Society sponsored coffee and pastries for Council to promote donation opportunities. Additional information about all of these projects can be found on ALA's website.



The Ferris Wheel at the Navy Pier is an iconic landmark in Chicago. Photograph by Amber Gregory.

ALA Council I

During the ALA Council I session, 75 minutes were dedicated to group work on the ALA Strategic Plan. Discussion guides were distributed that outlined three priority areas for the next 3-5 years: advocacy, information policy, and professional and leadership development. Three visioning questions were asked: What would success look like? How might we get there? How might you (or your affiliate group) help us get there? *Note - for more information about ALA Strategic Planning, refer to the winter issue of Arkansas Libraries (pages 10-12).*

During Council I, the candidates for election to the ALA Executive Board were presented. The Committee on Committees nominated six candidates, and Councilors made two nominations from the floor. Eight candidates provided a great selection to fill three board member positions. ALA Director Fiels reported on the Executive Board actions since Annual Conference and the implementation of the 2014 ALA Annual Conference Council actions. After the conclusion of Council I, the ALA-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) Council briefly convened to address organizational business.

ALA Council II

At the Council II meeting, the "Revised Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies" were approved. The new document updates the 2008 standards, clarifying certain concepts for LIS programs and eliminating redundancy. Council also discussed and approved potential adoption of *Robert's Rules of Order* as the parliamentary procedure governing meetings. To replace *Sturgis* requires a change to the Association's bylaws, therefore adoption of *Robert's* will be presented to ALA membership for a vote this spring.

ALA Council III

Memorials, tributes, and testimonials signaled the beginning of Council III. The three newly

Recommended ALA Links

- AASL Beyond Words: ala.org/aasl/disasterrelief
- AASL School Library Programs Improve Student Learning: alastore.ala.org/aasl
- ALA Legacy Society: ala.org/planned-giving
- ALA Midwinter Recap: americanlibrariesmagazine.org/alamw15
- District Dispatch: districtdispatch.org
- Freedom to Read Foundation: ftrf.org
- I Love Libraries: ilovelibraries.org
- United for Libraries: ala.org/united
- Youth Media Awards: ala.org/yma

elected ALA Executive Board members were congratulated. Councilors heard committee reports from various groups, including the Committee on Legislation (COL). COL stated that the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) is scheduled for reauthorization in the fall. Meanwhile, Immediate Past President Barbara Stripling shared her concern that more immediate work must be done to support ESEA. The ALA Washington Office (WO) will communicate via the District Dispatch about this important legislation in the coming weeks.

Council passed two resolutions: Resolution Denouncing Recent Assaults on the Freedom of Expression as Exemplified in the Attack on *Charlie Hebdo* and Resolution Urging Library Directors to Encourage and Support United for Libraries Memberships for Each of Their Trustees. One resolution failed Council approval: Resolution on the Destruction of Libraries and Schools in Gaza in 2014. Each resolution presented during Council III prompted good debate and some passionate discussions.

Council Forums

Winter Storm Linus blew into Chicago just in time for Super Bowl Sunday, so Council Forum I was sparsely attended. Council Forum II was well attended and served as a preview of the passionate debate that would occur during Council III on the

Gaza Resolution. The Chapter Councilor Forum was also well attended and offered an opportunity to discuss issues unique to state leaders. Because we share a similar role in our respective state associations, it is a good chance to network with professional peers. Many of the Chapter Councilors are familiar faces to me now, and I value the positive support network offered by the Chapter Councilor Forum.

Planning and Budget Assembly

Elected by ALA Council peers to serve on the Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA), I had a second opportunity to participate in another strategic planning session in Chicago. Prior to forming breakout discussion groups, ALA President-Elect Sari Feldman outlined her vision for ALA. During her presidency, Feldman's focus will be center on the idea of "One ALA" – an entire association working on something meaningful to all of us. She referred to the internal work by the Digital Content Working Group regarding information policy. Feldman stated that change management in librarianship is vital for success. According to Feldman, change is constant and fast-paced, and we must adapt. She briefly discussed an external campaign to library supporters so that stakeholders will better understand the work we do. This advocacy is vitally important and may be focused



Four library friends met up for a meal and visit one evening in Chicago. Left to right: Donna McDonald, Hadi Dudley, Rebecka Embry and Amber Gregory.

on certain audiences. I look forward to hearing more from ALA President-Elect Sari Feldman as she works toward her 2015-2016 leadership term.

Arkansans in Chicago

Various professional affiliations were represented by Arkansas attendees in Chicago, such as AASL, chapter leadership, eRate, Library Support Staff Interest Round Table (LSSIRT), United for Libraries, and Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). During the ALA Midwinter meeting, Ben Bizzle was featured in the ALA Masters Series. ArLA President Jud Copeland attended Council I while Rebecka Embry, 2015-2016 Emerging Leader, observed Council III.

A group of seven Arkansans braved the cold midwinter conditions to gather for a visit and dinner. We enjoyed good conversation and delicious Chicago-style pizza at Gino's East at the South Loop. As we departed the restaurant the first snowfall began, signaling the beginning of Winter Storm Linus. In attendance were Jud Copeland, Hadi Dudley, Rebecka Embry, Amber Gregory, Donna McDonald, Kareen Turner, and Fallon Zschiegner-Bleich.

Conclusion

I'm on my way home now, recording a few thoughts while they are fresh in my mind. However, library issues take a back seat to winter weather. I am experiencing travel delays - the view outside my small window seat involves an airport employee de-icing the aircraft before we leave Chicago. As we taxi the runway, the plane tails a convoy of snow plows. The first snow storm recorded 19.3 inches, and the second snow shower that is falling brings another few inches. After an overnight layover in Atlanta, I finally touch down in Arkansas, and bask in the sunny spring-like conditions.

The 2015 American Library Association Midwinter Meeting was business as usual, despite Winter Storm Linus sweeping through Chicago. ALA membership can look ahead to spring elections, a new strategic plan and important legislative advocacy. Stay tuned to the Arkansas Library Association listserv as more details about these issues unfold.

Hadi Dudley, Library Director at Bentonville Public Library, is the Arkansas ALA Councilor.



Chicago-style pizza was the must-eat menu item at Gino's East in the South Loop as seven Arkansans gathered for dinner. Left to right: Amber Gregory, Donna McDonald, Kareen Turner, Hadi Dudley, Jud Copeland, Rebecka Embry and Fallon Zschiegner-Bleich.

Boldly Go! Where No Library Has Gone Before...

ALA 2015 Midwinter Chicago Update from the ArLA President

by Jud Copeland

*Associate Professor of Leadership Studies
University of Central Arkansas*

The 2015 American Library Association Midwinter Conference in Chicago was awesome!

As your ArLA President, I made every effort to let colleagues and friends know about our Chapter. I also received some interesting ideas that we can review during our retreat in Little Rock. During the Chapters Leaders Forum on Friday and Saturday, we discussed and exchanged ideas on a variety of topics ranging from budget issues to legislative action for our libraries. The chapter leaders interacted well on both an individual and group basis. To network more effectively, I developed an e-mail list of the chapter



Copeland



leaders and discussed the value of joining each other's Associations, as most first year membership rates are reasonable. We have such interesting ideas to share and should follow up with one another on them in 2015. I am already receiving comments from the chapter leaders and will share them with you soon.

Some noteworthy questions during the Forum included: "How to engage new ALA members in a way that they won't be overwhelmed and yet feel a part of things?" "What is a good process or some tips on making new members feel welcomed?" These are questions we may well address during our ArLA Retreat in February for new ArLA members.

Hadi Dudley, ArLA's ALA Councilor, and I met during the ALA Council I Session. I think everyone there knows Hadi and all the work she does for us.



ArLA President Jud Copeland and ALA Councilor Hadi Dudley.



ALA Chapter Leaders Forum

Hadi is very involved in the Council Sessions, and she keeps our Association up-to-date on emerging issues. Devona Pendergrass, ArLA's Past President, and I stayed in contact throughout the Conference. Devona is another of our ArLA members who has a reputation at ALA Conferences for getting things done; she is very active with policy making committees.

I also spoke with Courtney Young, ALA President, and Sari Feldman, President Elect 2016. I invited Courtney to ArLA's Conference in October, and she has the date on her calendar. Sari Feldman told me that she is very supportive of Library Media Specialists, and one of her goals in 2016 is to provide support for them. I made sure to let her know our interest in this area of support and will follow up on her goals for 2016.

The presentation by LeVar Burton focused on his new (and first) illustrated children's book, which he read us aloud during the session. At the book signing, I spoke with LeVar, and he is excited about being with us at our ArLA Conference in October. LeVar stated that his passion for reading was instilled in him as a child by his mother. From that point on, his reading interest further developed through his collaboration with Alex Haley in the *Roots* television mini-series. LeVar also indicated he was influenced by Gene Roddenberry in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Another notable friend of LeVar's

was Fred Rogers. LeVar said his goal is to extend Fred Rogers' work with children. Of course, *Reading Rainbow* is an integral part of LeVar's commitment to Mr. Rogers' work. LeVar felt it was time for him to write a children's book. This experience was new to him as he worked with children's illustrators and wrote the text in rhyme. The theme of *The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm* clearly indicates that there is a place for everyone... a place where we all belong together.

Several of our ArLA Members attended the ALA Midwinter Conference. It was very good to meet them and chat about all the happenings and events at the Conference. Hadi and Devona were very busy in meetings and sessions that will impact us. I always remember that we are all in this together.

Think about attending the ALA Conference in San Francisco June 25-30, 2015. The theme is "Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves." This is right on track with ArLA plans for the future... **To Boldly Go! Where No Library Has Gone Before...**

Jud Copeland, the President of the Arkansas Library Association, is Associate Professor for the Department of Leadership Studies, University of Central Arkansas.



Jud Copeland and LeVar Burton at a book signing.

TRAINING: TIPS, TOPICS AND TECHNIQUES

“Retreat” Yourself to the Big Picture:

An Alternate Approach to Library Staff Development

by *Joanna Ewing*,

University of Central Arkansas, Torreyson Library

How often do you stop to think about how your day-to-day job duties contribute to your library’s overall mission?

It can sometimes be easy to develop a kind of “tunnel vision” in the midst of cataloging books, leading storytimes, teaching classes, ordering materials, setting up displays, and doing the myriad of other activities involved in our profession. However, it is important to remember that even our most seemingly mundane tasks do have an impact on users as well as other areas of the library.

Regardless of your library’s size, it can also be easy to lose track of which individuals or departments take care of certain issues that may arise, particularly if staff members balance a variety of job duties. In an effort to reorient ourselves and each other about each department’s mission and responsibilities, the staff of the University of Central Arkansas’ Torreyson Library held a half-day professional “retreat” in-service program last fall. This article will briefly describe how this program was organized and implemented and will provide some tips for those interested in trying something similar in their libraries.

Schedule a time. In order to ensure maximum staff participation, schedule your in-service activity during a time when you can close all (or at least a majority) of your library. Here at Torreyson Library, we scheduled our half-day retreat the week before fall classes started in August since typically we do not have many patrons using the library during that period. We posted signs on our front doors and outside the building indicating that we would not be opening until noon that day, and we made sure to have everything back in order and ready to serve patrons by that time. Pick a time that will work for your staff and will cause the least disruption to your normal services.

Plan an agenda. Since this retreat was aimed at helping the library’s different departments understand how we all work together toward unified goals, each department was given an opportunity to present information about what they do. While the size of our staff made it impossible to allow for everyone to have a speaking part, typically the head and at least one other member represented each department.



Be flexible. For our retreat, each department was given complete freedom as to the content and format of their presentations. The presentation styles varied on the personality styles of the presenters, and varied from handouts and PowerPoints to a humorous “skit” demonstrating how our technical services department brings damaged materials “back to life.” While some departments shared statistics reflecting their productivity and efficiency, others provided a more general overview of their activities. This flexible format allowed each department to present in a manner that was most comfortable for them, a factor which is extremely important to keep in mind when planning an activity like this. It is also important to remember that since public speaking comfort levels and presentation styles may vary, some individuals may need longer time slots than others. It is usually a good idea to build in some short break periods in case anyone runs over on their time.

Provide food. As the old saying goes, “the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.” However, I have found this to be true for just about everyone in any setting. Providing snacks and/or a light lunch is a good way to boost participation and energy level, particularly if you are planning a longer program. At our program, we signed up for items for a potluck continental breakfast, and the library administration arranged for a university-catered box lunch. Whether it’s simple snacks, a catered meal, or a potluck, food is a good idea for any type of professional development activity.

A library “retreat” may be just what your staff needs to help them remember their role in your library’s mission. All you need is some time, creativity, and staff willingness to share information (hopefully while having some fun!) to put together a training session that can have a lasting positive impact.

Joanna Ewing is Cataloger at the University of Central Arkansas’ Torreyson Library.

WHAT'S UP? DOCS. Family Health Histories: Do You Know Yours?

by *Karen Russ*

Government Documents Librarian at UALR

Over the years, I have aimed this column at government information that would assist you in helping your patrons.

This time, I want you to take time and consider the information in relation to yourself. As I write this in January, I am undergoing six weeks of radiation and two weeks of continuous infusion chemotherapy for early stage two colon cancer. By the time you read this, I will be heading for surgery to have the tumor and a small piece of my large intestine removed.

I chose to share this with you because I am not old enough to have a colonoscopy as part of my regular medical tests. Luckily, I was aware of the symptoms of colon cancer and called the right doctors. Unfortunately, too many people do not recognize the symptoms of a disease in time to get early assistance. Often they might think of it as a symptom for a specific disease, but ignore it because they are not old enough, or it is not something they think runs in their family history. Unfortunately, due to a desire for medical secrecy in one branch of my family, I did not know there was a history of colon cancer or I would have been on alert even earlier.

Start now and find out what runs in the different lines of your family and your spouse's family. (Make sure you are ready to help your children in the future.) The U.S. Surgeon General has declared Thanksgiving to be National Family History Day. Take advantage of that large family gathering, or another one, and ask questions. Before you start, visit the guide on how to ask the questions at <http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/start/startenglish.pdf> Take a moment and visit the related website to find a medical family tree to fill in: My Family Health Portrait - <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov/FHH/html/index.html>

Don't stop with the "big ones" like cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. Investigate tendencies for often overlooked problems like high blood pressure



Russ

or hemophilia. Even arthritis and other joint problems are valid concerns. And don't overlook mental illnesses. Depression can run in families too.

Once you know what might be a potential illness in your future, find out how to identify it and where to turn for help. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has a nice page about Genomics and Health (<http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/resources/diseases/index.htm>) addressing disease, genetics, and family histories. And it is updated on a regular basis to be sure you are getting the latest in research on the various illnesses and conditions.

If a condition in your family does not yet have a factsheet, scroll up to the top of the page and choose the correct letter from the alphabet, starting with the

broad category, like *cancer* or *autism*. From there explore the alphabetic list of web pages within the CDC site and find other pages with information.

Look for the common symptoms. Check for the age at which the disease normally appears in people, keeping in mind that it may group by sex. After that, compare those numbers to your family's history. Do you need to start looking out for things 5-10 years sooner than most?

If you want more information on an illness, or maybe a contact point at the state level, try searching it in USA.gov (<http://www.usa.gov>) and see what state and county departments might have useful web pages or clinics.

Don't panic if you find that you do have a tendency for a particular condition. Just make note of the symptoms, the family members who have had it, the age of onset, and schedule an appointment with your doctor. Let them know what you discovered and follow their recommendations for tests or further consultations with specialists.

And more important than anything: Share what you find out! Don't follow my family and not tell anyone that multiple people had symptoms of an illness, or hide the cause of death when it could be found in the next generation. If you love your family, share the knowledge and let everyone spend many more healthy happy years together!

Karen Russ is the Government Documents Librarian at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Ottenheimer Library.

WEBMASTER'S CORNER

Managing Electronic Resource Management Implementation

by *Daniel Fitzroy, Henderson State University*

As we are all well aware, the collection of digital material and electronic resources at libraries has exploded over recent years. While this tremendous shift has undoubtedly benefited our patrons, it has created a new challenge for libraries: keeping track of and managing these electronic materials. This challenge has naturally led into a new and growing area of librarianship commonly referred to as Electronic Resource Management (ERM).

Since this is a growing area of librarianship, it is not surprising that there is now a growing list of ERM tools available, and these tools range anywhere from homegrown spreadsheets to large stand-alone products. The following list represents some of the products currently available:

- *360 Resource Manager* by ProQuest
- *CORAL* (open source)
- *ERM* by Innovative
- *ERM Essentials* by EBSCO

While these products differ widely in their design and use, all ERM tools attempt to at least store the same basic information for all electronic resources, including license agreements, vendor contact information, access details, administrative credentials and tasks, order information, billing information, and subscription dates. Additionally, some tools also try to create workflows and a renewal process to aid in the ongoing management of electronic resources at a library.

The right product for your institution depends on the needs of your library, but it is important to note that simply getting an ERM tool is not a final solution. There have been many cases where a library purchases an ERM and the product simply gets forgotten and collects electronic dust. An ERM tool is only as good as the data that resides in it, which requires constant updating from library staff members. And the best way to ensure that library staff members use and update an ERM product is to ensure that there is a collective staff buy-in for the product.

The best time to create this staff buy-in is during the implementation of the ERM product itself. Recently at Henderson State University's Huie Library, we successfully implemented an ERM product that continues to function today mainly as a

result of the collective staff buy-in that developed. The four-phase process that we followed is described below.

Phase I: Core ERM Team Leaders

The first phase of implementing an ERM will be to choose a core team of leaders who will help guide a larger team through the ERM implementation process. These leaders will take the time to learn about the chosen product, begin customizing the ERM product to the institution's needs, and learn exactly how to use and navigate the system. The team leaders will become the local experts of the ERM tool and will be able to support the library's staff during and after the implementation. This support system will help staff become comfortable with the product, which will make it easier to use.

Phase II: Individual Staff Meetings and Input

A successfully implemented ERM will benefit many areas of a library, including acquisitions, interlibrary loan, and electronic resources, so it is important that all areas be brought into the implementation process. In Phase II, the core team of leaders should approach staff in all areas that will be affected by and will eventually be using the ERM tool to begin introducing the product to them and to ask for feedback and ideas on how to make the ERM product as useful as possible. This period of introduction and opportunity to provide ideas is extremely useful in creating buy-in of a new product and workflow. The core team should then regroup and incorporate as many of these ideas as possible into a finalized proposed workflow and ERM tool customization.

Phase III: ERM Implementation Team

During Phase III of this process, an actual ERM Implementation Team composed of staff from all areas of the library will be created and charged with the initial populating of the ERM with the required data. Individual staff members will be assigned the specific tasks and data fields that they will be responsible for during implementation and once the ERM tool goes live. The core team leaders will fully describe the ERM tool and proposed workflow to the Implementation Team. Each week, the team will be assigned specific electronic resources and the team members will populate their respective fields. At the next meeting, everyone comes together and works through any problems that may have arisen. This phase provides staff members with plenty of opportunity to work with and become comfortable with the ERM tool. In addition, by coming together with staff from other areas of the library, staff will quickly see how other areas may depend on the

information they enter and will begin to understand the importance of their work with the ERM tool. This understanding is critical in developing the collective buy-in needed to make the implementation of the ERM tool a success.

Phase IV: Live ERM and Updating

The last phase is simply to declare the ERM tool live and to ensure that it gets updated by the staff in the various parts of your library. If a certain amount of staff buy-in was created during the preceding phases, this phase should be successful and relatively simple. It may take up to a year to get through all the phases in this process, but if the staff buy into the ERM tool and workflow and successfully use it after implementation, the time is worth spending.

Electronic Resource Management is becoming an

increasingly important requirement in all libraries, and many institutions are deciding to invest in an ERM tool. It is vital to remember that simply purchasing an ERM tool is not the solution in and of itself. The tool itself needs to be populated with a large amount of data that will need to be continuously updated in order to be useful and effective. The best way to ensure that this happens is to develop staff buy-in for both the ERM product and workflow.

Daniel Fitzroy, Assistant Librarian at Huie Library at Henderson State University, is the ArLA Webmaster.

Louisiana State University Offers Online ALA-MLIS

by Suzanne M. Stauffer,

*Associate Professor, Russell B. Long Professor,
School of Library and Information Science,
Louisiana State University*

The School of Library and Information Science, Louisiana State University announces a 100% online ALA-accredited MLIS with specializations in Academic Librarianship, Adult Services in Public Libraries, Archival Studies, Cultural Heritage Resource Management, Digital Content Management, Health Sciences and STEM Librarianship, Knowledge Management, Records and Information Management, School Librarianship, and Youth Services Librarianship.

As a member of the Academic Common Market, LSU SLIS offers in-state tuition rates to any online student in an Academic Common Market state that does not offer an MLIS degree, which includes Arkansas, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia.

New students are admitted for Fall and Spring semesters. Applicants with a 3.0 undergraduate GPA are not required to submit GRE scores unless they seek financial aid and/or scholarships; applicants with a 2.75-2.99 undergraduate GPA must submit GRE scores of 300 or higher and a writing score of 3.5 or higher. Other standardized exam scores will be accepted.

For more information see <http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/slis/>.



Spring at the UAMS Education Building in Little Rock.

Libraries Partner with AETN to Help Keep Neighbors Warm

The Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN), Arkansas State Library, and 15 libraries across the state collected more than 2,700 sweaters and clothing items for local charities and the Arkansas Salvation Army through the Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Drive. The drive was held in November 2014, and sweaters were distributed to those in need the following December and January.

"We have been overwhelmed by the neighborly spirit and generosity of the communities and individuals across the state who participated in this project," AETN Executive Director Allen Weatherly said. "Arkansans have certainly paid PBS icon Fred Rogers a fitting tribute by demonstrating the wonderful, timeless values 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood' exemplified. Perhaps most importantly, donors' kindness and caring response will help more than 2,700 of our friends and neighbors across the state stay warm."

To help set the tone for a "comfortable" visit with his young viewers, Rogers put on a sweater and changed into sneakers as a way to help children settle in for "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." All of Rogers' original sweaters were knitted by his mother, Nancy McFeely Rogers. Each year, she knitted a dozen sweaters and gave them to family and close friends at Christmas. Over the course of more than 40 years, "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," PBS' longest-running children's series, earned four Daytime Emmys. As a testament to his legacy, Rogers received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997 and was recognized in 2002 with a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for his contributions to children's development and education using broadcast television.

The Fred Rogers Company was founded by Rogers in 1971 as the non-profit producer of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" for PBS. In the years that followed, it not only created hundreds of episodes, but it also extended Rogers' values and approach to other efforts in promoting children's social, emotional and behavioral health and supporting parents, caregivers, teachers and other professionals in their work with children. The Fred Rogers Company continues to build on his legacy through a wide variety of media and by engaging new generations of children and families with his timeless wisdom. Additional information is available at FredRogers.org.

Participating libraries included: Bainum Library and Learning Center (Glenwood), Cabot Public Library, Carlisle Public Library, Charleston Public Library, Cross County Public Library (Wynne), Delight Branch Library, De Witt Public Library, Dumas Public Library, Earle Public Library, Elkins Public Library, Green Forest Public Library, Madison County Public Library (Huntsville), Sevier County Public Library (De Queen), Van Buren Public Library and West Poinsett Memorial Library (Weiner).

Community members donated new or gently worn sweaters at participating libraries, the Arkansas State Library headquarters in Little Rock and AETN headquarters in Conway. Sweaters collected in this drive were distributed by various local charities and the Arkansas Salvation Army.

The Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) is Arkansas's statewide public television network that enhances lives by providing lifelong learning opportunities for people from all walks of life. AETN delivers local, award-winning productions and classic, trusted PBS programs aimed at sharing Arkansas and the world with viewers. AETN depends on the generosity of Arkansans and the State of Arkansas to continue offering quality programming. For more information, visit aetn.org, or follow the AETN blog at aetn.org/engage. AETN is broadcast on KETS (Little Rock), KEMV (Mountain View), KETG (Arkadelphia), KAFT (Fayetteville), KTEJ (Jonesboro), and KETZ (El Dorado).

Article and photograph courtesy of AETN.



Delight Partner Group 1: Virginia "Ginny" Evans, Delight Branch Library; Joan Kenady, Hot Springs Salvation Army; Ruth Hyatt, Arkansas State Library; Katie Culpepper, AETN; "Marge" Marjorie Melichar, Bainum Library and Learning Center.

AROUND ARKANSAS

by Heather Hays, Associate Editor

Please remember our friend and colleague Larry Larson; his mother (Mrs. Myrtle Elizabeth Larson of Gillham) passed away on Saturday, Dec. 13. She was 100 years old and lived a full life. You can find her obituary and sign the online guestbook at www.chandlerfuneral.com.

Congratulations to Jessie Burchfield---As of Jan. 1, she will be the Associate Dean for Information and Technology Services & Law Library Director at UALR Bowen Law Library.

Congrats to Kathleen Atalzan in her winning logo design for the Reference and Instruction Services Division of ArLA. The logo design is now included in the official branding of the RIS Division of the Arkansas Library Association. The award was announced at the December 12, 2014 ArLA Board Meeting in North Little Rock. Atalzan

is the Scheduling Coordinator/Graphic Designer at Donald W. Reynolds Library serving Baxter County, Arkansas.

Congratulations to Brittany Chavez, Young Adult Librarian at the Garland County Library on the arrival of Charleigh Presley in January 2015!

Nancy Hartney, a reference librarian at the Fayetteville Public Library, recently won two awards from the Ozarks Writers League. Her book, *Washed in the Water: Tales from the South*, won Best Book of the Year/Fiction and the President's Award.

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 hhays@bentonvillear.com, and you'll most likely see it published in our journal.



Spring at the Van Buren Public Library.

Arkansas Books & Authors Bibliography (Fall 2014)

Compiled by Bob Razer

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

- *Bethune, Ed. *Gay Panic in the Ozarks*. North Charleston, S.C.: CreateSpace, 2014. 9781497512535 \$14.95 352 p.
- *Clinton, Hillary Rodham. *Hard Choices*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014. 9781476751443 \$40.00 320 p.
- The Crossroads of Memory: Carroll Cloar and the American South*. (Exhibition catalog) Little Rock: Arkansas Arts Center, 2014. 9781884240393 \$49.95 cloth; 9781884240409 \$29.95 188 p.
- *Day, John Kyle. *The Southern Manifesto: Massive Resistance and the Fight to Preserve Segregation*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2014. 9781628460315 \$54.00 240 p.
- *Echols, Damien and Lorri Davis. *Yours for Eternity: A Love Story on Death Row*. New York: Blue Rider Press, 2014. 9780399166198 \$27.95 448 p.

- *Hubbell, Webb. *When Men Betray*. New York: Beaufort Books, 2014. 9780825307294 \$24.95 330 p.
- Klein, Edward. *Blood Feud: the Clintons vs. the Obamas*. New York: Regnery, 2014. 9781621573135 \$28.00 320 p.
- *Leveritt, Mara and *Jason Baldwin. *Dark Spell: Surviving the Sentence*. Little Rock: Bird Call Press, 2014. 9781499175752 \$20.00 312 p.
- *Paulson, Susan. *Wilmot*. Goettingen, Germany: Steidl, 2013. 9783869305745 \$65.00 248 p.
- *Ward, Allan. *Civil Rights Brothers: The Journey of Albert Porter and Allan Ward*. Little Rock: H.K. Stewart Creative Services, 2014. 9780974863672 \$16.95 144 p.
- *Witsell, Charles and *Gordon Wittenburg. *Architects of Little Rock, 1833-1950*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2014. 9781557286628 \$34.95 180 p.
- *Arkansas author
The bibliography to accompany Arkansas Books & Authors was inadvertently left out of the Fall 2014 issue. The editors re-print it here with apologies to Bob and the readership.

Arkansas Libraries 2014 Index

Arkansas Libraries.

Volume 71, 2014 Index.

Compiled by Joanna Ewing.

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- Calhoun, Judy. Meet Southeast Arkansas Regional Library. 1:20-21.
- Celebrating the American Dream @ Bentonville Public Library, by Sue Ann Pekel. 1:22-24.
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- Chandler, Yvonne. ELMS Project: educating librarians in the Middle South – diversifying librarianship for our digital future, by Yvonne Chandler. 1:10-12.
- Changes, by Britt Anne Murphy. 3:3.
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