

# ARKANSAS LIBRARIES

SUMMER 2018

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MAKE IT HAPPEN  
Arkansas Libraries Transform

SEPTEMBER 22-25  
2018  
Embassy Suites, Rogers, AR



IN THIS ISSUE...  
FALL CONFERENCE  
•  
EXHIBITING AT ARLA  
•  
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# Arkansas Library Association, 2018



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# Arkansas Libraries

Published by the Arkansas Library Association

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**Cover:** 2018 ArLA Conference Program. *Designed by Amy McGohan from Harding University in Searcy, Ark.*

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## FROM THE ARLA PRESIDENT: Make it Happen!

*Dean Covington*

*2018 ArLA President*

**O**ppportunity is knocking! Demosthenes said, “Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises.” Our upcoming ArLA conference is going to offer many opportunities to grow professionally. It is also an opportunity for all of us to give back to our profession. You can learn

about many of these opportunities in the pages of this issue of *Arkansas Libraries*. In addition to enjoying informative sessions and interesting speakers, there will be opportunities to learn from each other through networking and socializing with fellow attendees and visiting with vendors.

We will also have the opportunity to review the new ArLA 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. Eleven dedicated ArLA members have spent several months developing this plan and are looking forward to sharing the results. Their work will help the ArLA leadership identify new directions for our association. I had the opportunity to join them in one of their brainstorming sessions, and it was a learning experience for me. It is a talented group of individuals representing various types of libraries. Their work is bound to make ArLA a stronger and more successful association.

The ArLA conference theme is *Make It Happen: Arkansas Libraries Transform*. Lindsey Simon, ALA’s Public Awareness Campaign Coordinator, will join us in Rogers to spread the word about ALA’s new advocacy campaign and how state associations can get involved. In 2016, the New Mexico Library Association adopted the Libraries Transform campaign as a theme for their conference. The New Mexico conference focused on a review



*Covington*



of an assessment of libraries across the state. I hope the ArLA membership will work together as New Mexico did and seize the opportunity to use our new strategic plan to transform the Association and enhance its valuable role in Arkansas.

Don’t miss the opportunity to hear Dr. Robert Cochran of the University of Arkansas, our luncheon speaker on Monday. We should expect an entertaining presentation. Dr. Cochran is a widely published author of books and articles on various subjects, including Ozark culture and Arkansas music and art. You will also have the opportunity to hear a presentation by Felton Thomas, Executive Director of Cleveland Public Library. In addition to other valuable initiatives, Thomas has pursued a successful mission to remake Cleveland Public Library as “The People’s University.” Check him out on YouTube.

Something new this year is the addition of ArASL and ALPS events as part of the annual conference. Saturday will be a special day dedicated to these two divisions. We are planning engaging programs that will encourage school librarians and library paraprofessionals to take this opportunity to become more active in the ArLA Conference. ArLA’s financial situation makes it difficult to sponsor separate conferences. I hope during the next few years we will witness ArLA’s financial recovery and see ArLA build closer relationships with ArASL and ALPS. We have an opportunity to learn from each other and work together to create a stronger association for all library workers.

Please take this opportunity to review the conference information in this issue and make your plans to join us at the Embassy Suites in Rogers September 22-25.

**MAKE IT  
HAPPEN**  
*Arkansas Libraries Transform*

*Dean Covington, President of the Arkansas Library Association, is Library Director at University of Central Arkansas.*

## FROM THE EDITOR: The Conference Issue!

by *Britt Anne Murphy*

*Library Director, Hendrix College*

Welcome to the conference issue! Having returned recently from the American Library Association Conference, which knocked the socks off any state association meeting (yes, even the Texas Library Association's), I was humbled to put together this year's conference issue for little ALA. A conference issue definitely takes a village to put together, which reminded me how many different voices it takes to put together a good conference. ArLA's Executive and Conference Committees truly are trying to be inclusive and listen to what their membership wants out of conference. As a result, this fall's conference is really breaking new ground for ArLA, which is daring to "transform" itself into something a little more happening.

ALPS and ArASL will both gather on Saturday before the official conference begins to focus on programming that is of interest to their constituencies, but they welcome any and all library workers to attend and learn from each other. There are some very exciting YA author line-ups and transformative ALPS programming that I, a stodgy academic librarian, will be excited to get the chance to attend! Another first is to have a Tech Expo on the usually sleepy Sunday morning prior to the keynote – brunch will be provided. Finally, public library workers especially are excited to have a Performers' Showcase on



*Murphy*

Tuesday morning. And ArLA will attempt to entice a few more dollars from your pockets to the scholarships fund with a fun trivia night on Monday, and a pie-themed fundraiser on Tuesday in honor of our closing speaker, Arkansas food writer and pie enthusiast, Kat Robinson. ArLA is dropping the price differential for members and non-members, and is letting attendees be flexible in choosing which days to attend. Read up on the details in this issue.

A little more dry, but just as important, are the articles on nominations, scholarships, and the strategic plan, which will be voted on by the membership at conference. Take a few minutes to scan the draft strategic plan – it holds the future of the Association in its goals and strategies. Read the strategies carefully – some of them propose changes that will transform ArLA into a 21<sup>st</sup> century association. If you find it progressive, regressive, or even just ok, be sure to submit comments and attend the general membership meeting at conference. The more our library community participates, the more representative and relevant our association is, so please use conference as an opportunity to learn from each other and attend to how ArLA can work for you.

The Summer issue also has a sample of innovative programming, from live animals to labyrinths to youth literature, advocacy efforts by our NLLD team, and helpful advice from several of our regular columnists. By flipping through the pages of this issue, it's clear that our library community is "making it happen." Libraries do indeed transform individuals, communities, and institutions, but real transformation begins within us. We have to be open to change ourselves if we are to transform others.

*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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# ArLA Fall Conference Preview

by **Daniel Fouts**, Conference Committee Chair, and  
**Susie Kirk**, Public Relations Committee Chair

*Make it Happen: Arkansas Libraries Transform* is ArLA's 2018 conference returning to the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas in Rogers, Arkansas from Saturday, September 22 to Tuesday, September 25, 2018. Aligning ourselves with ALA's Libraries Transform campaign, this year's conference is all about how libraries transform the communities they serve and how libraries are transforming themselves for the future. As a special bonus this year, ArASL's *Reading Zen* and ALPS's conferences will be held on Saturday, September 22. Register before September 10 to receive pre-conference registration pricing.

A wide range of sessions and keynote speakers are being selected to offer every attendee a worthwhile experience no matter their library type or personal interests. Read below for highlights, speakers, and events, as well as a little about what's in nearby Rogers that might deserve a visit. As more information comes out, consult the conference website: [arlib.org/conference](http://arlib.org/conference).

## ArASL & ALPS Conferences

New this year is a plan to bring school library specialists and library paraprofessionals to Rogers a day early for their own time of professional growth and development. On Saturday, September 22, ArASL and ALPS members will have sessions and share a lunch, and hopefully there will be sharing of information and networking between the two groups – anyone who registers for the day (only \$75 for members *and* non-members) can attend sessions from either conference. Add any other day you'd like to attend for \$75 per day, or throw in the towel and attend the whole she-bang for just an additional \$225. There will be many not-to-miss sessions, social events, exhibits, and expos!

Similar to last year, this year's ArASL conference will have a core theme that all sessions are centered around. The day-long focus will be on the printed, drawn, or written page and its impacts on all communities our school libraries serve. It goes beyond reading to how students interact with the page and each other; thus the thematic tag line of "Reading Zen." Authors, book talks, book club ideas, and engaging panels featuring the best of Arkansas youth librarians and school media specialists will hopefully entice you to spend an energizing day with us! Please stay tuned to the Arklib listserv for

updates as conference approaches.

ALPS is adopting the "Libraries Transform" theme by making their division a happening one! Saturday will have sessions devoted to paraprofessionals: training sessions, new programming ideas, new approaches to public and technical services, and lots of humor and fun. Of course ALPS doesn't hesitate to invite any of their colleagues from across the hallway to their sessions... and will encourage their members to peek in on the enticing programming aimed at youth. Be sure to stay on for Sunday's Tech Expo and brunch, the Awards Dinner (who will get the Lorrie Shuff award this year?), and Monday night trivia (how about an ALPS team?), as well as even more programming for and by your ALPS friends extending through Tuesday.

## Guest Speakers

This year's ArLA conference will feature a number of distinguished speakers. Four guest speakers are in the works to present at the ArLA Conference:

**Felton Thomas** is the Executive Director of the Cleveland Public Library. Thomas was appointed director of the Cleveland (Ohio) Public Library (CPL) in January 2009. Since beginning his tenure at CPL, Thomas has furthered the mission of CPL to be "The People's University," including launching initiatives aimed at addressing community needs in the areas of access to technology, education, and economic development in all its 27 CPL branches. In 2012, Main Library opened TechCentral, an innovative, one-of-a-kind technology center offering the community access to cutting edge technology, including 3D printers. Thomas was president of the Public Library Association in 2016-2017 and has been involved with PLA since 2006. His awards and accomplishments include being named a "Mover and Shaker" by *Library Journal*, and acting as a fellow and sponsor in the Urban Library Council's Executive Leadership institute.



*Thomas*

**Robert Cochran** will be our featured author at the luncheon on Monday, September 23. Cochran is a professor of English in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, and serves as director

of the Center for Arkansas and Regional Studies at the University of Arkansas. Cochran has “refused to specialize decently,” writing books on topics as remote from one another as Irish playwright Samuel Beckett and Arkansas movies. His documentary videos feature a Western Swing fiddler, a maple syrup maker and ginseng digger, and a quilter and rug maker. He most recently co-authored *Lights! Camera! Arkansas!: From Broncho Billy to Billy Bob Thornton* (2015) with his spouse, Suzanne McCray, and currently serves as editor of the “Arkansas Character” series published by the University of Arkansas Press.



Cochran

**Lindsey Simon** will be visiting from the American Library Association’s Communications & Marketing Office. She is their Public Awareness Campaign Coordinator and will lead sessions on ALA’s initiatives to deliver key messages to external audiences about the value of libraries and library professionals through public awareness efforts. The current campaign, “Libraries Transform,” which was adopted for ArLA’s conference theme, is ALA’s public awareness campaign and serves to highlight the transformative nature of the nation’s libraries in today’s changing world. Since the campaign launched in 2015, more than 7,100 libraries and library advocates have joined Libraries Transform, and ALA last year extended its commitment to the Libraries Transform Campaign through 2020.



Simon

**Kat Robinson** is a food and travel writer based in Little Rock. She travels Arkansas and the South searching for good stories, tall tales and the next great little restaurant. In addition to her blog, Tie Dye Travels, Kat has written three books: *Arkansas Pie: A Delicious Slice of the Natural State* (2012), *Classic Eateries of the Ozarks and Arkansas River Valley* (2013),



Robinson

and *Classic Eateries of the Arkansas Delta* (2014). A television special, “Make Room for Pie: A Delicious Slice of the Natural State with Kat Robinson,” aired in March 2018 on AETN (Arkansas PBS).

### Special Events

This year’s conference will feature several social and networking opportunities, so be sure to make space in your conference planner to include them. Saturday conference goers will share a lunch, and ALPS members will gather for their famed happy hour and recognition ceremony. On Sunday morning, enjoy brunch at the Tech Expo, a new event that will highlight the latest technologies, apps, devices, and gizmos, and how library workers use them. Also on Sunday is the annual Awards Dinner – a not-to-be-missed opportunity to honor your colleagues for their contributions over an elegant spread.

The author’s luncheon will be Monday, as will a trivia event fundraiser at a local venue to raise money for scholarships, including a new scholarship that funds attendance at the leadership event ALL-In. Get your teams ready – for \$20 per person you can battle your colleagues and have an opportunity to win fabulous prizes, including a free membership to ArLA!

Tuesday morning another new event geared towards public library workers will span a three-hour time period in the morning – a Performers’ Showcase. Finally, public library folks can get a sampling of all the great talent available to them in order to plan for future programming at their libraries! A tour of the University of Arkansas Libraries’ new high density storage facility is also in the works for conference goers who choose to attend any day of the conference.

Don’t forget to visit the Exhibits which will feature a range of companies and people offering information, goods, and services for perusal and purchase. The ever popular basket auction that supports the Library Education & Aid Fund (LEAF) will span Sunday afternoon to Monday afternoon. We rely on you to provide baskets to sell at the auction – no basket is too small to put up for auction, and you can be as creative as you like! A pie-themed fundraiser is in the works as well, in honor of Kat Robinson, the proceeds of which will benefit LEAF.

### Breakout Sessions

Below is a taste of the sessions you’ll be able to choose from at this fall’s conference.

#### Reading, Eating and Exercise: Using Libraries to Teach Healthy Lifestyles

Hands on workshop by Simone Kirk, Star City

Library Branch Manager; Sandy Doss, Warren Library Branch; Sandra McAllister, Lake Village Branch Manager; and Jane Pelkki, Registered Dietician. *Southeast Arkansas Regional Library Branch managers will share hands-on tips for creating community gardens, culinary experiences and more minutes of motion at their libraries!*

#### **Games and All: Techniques for Integrating Technology into Education**

Lecture with Q&A by Lavoris Martin, Associate Librarian at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. *Explore the variety of interactive learning strategies including games, blogs, digital storyboarding, interactive tutorials, and more.*

#### **Comic Con Fundraiser for the Small Library**

Presentation by Robin Egerton, Branch Director of Mulberry Public Library. *Get valuable tips on how small libraries can plan and implement an authentic Comic Con as a library fundraiser, with great promotion, vendor participation, cosplay, and food.*

#### **Friends of the Library: Keeping it Friendly**

Lecture with a Q&A by Ruth Hyatt, Manager of Library Development at the Arkansas State Library. *This session can help you develop and/or cultivate your Friends of the Library into a group that has a strong relationship with the library, so that you can work together for the good of the library.*

#### **Don't Just Stand There - Say Something. Networking Tips for Library Staff**

Presentation by Jodie Borderding, Consulting & Education Services Manager at Amigos Library Services and Tracy Byerly, Chief Programs Officer at Amigos Library Services. *In this hands-on presentation, Amigos Library Services staff will take you through tips and tricks to help you strengthen your networking and interpersonal communication skills.*

#### **Transforming the Strategic Plan to Achieve Success**

Panel with Q&A by Joel Thorton, Head of Research and Instruction Services at University of Arkansas Libraries and Jay McAllister, Engineering Librarian at University of Arkansas Libraries. *By exploring the strategic plans of a specific group of regional universities, attendees will learn about meeting the needs of the customer and be introduced to a framework for realigning their own library to the institution's strategic plan.*

#### **Social Media for Libraries of All Shapes and Sizes**

Panel with Q&A moderated by Susie Kirk, social media library technician at Henderson State University. *In this panel a group of social media*



*managers from a variety of library positions and types will discuss tips, tricks, successes, and failures of using social media for their libraries.*

#### **Exploring Rogers**

Located in scenic Northwest Arkansas, Rogers is situated in a unique area known for its museums, art galleries, shopping, and dining. In between sessions, conference attendees can visit the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art ([crystalbridges.org/](http://crystalbridges.org/)) in nearby Bentonville or get outdoors to enjoy cycling, golfing, Beaver Lake, or a stroll at Hobbs State Park ([fohspcai.wildapricot.org/](http://fohspcai.wildapricot.org/)). Slices of Arkansas history can be found at nearby War Eagle Mill ([wareaglemill.com/](http://wareaglemill.com/)) and the Civil War battlefield Pea Ridge ([www.nps.gov/peri/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/peri/index.htm)). More links and suggestions can be found at Rogers' visitor information site: [visitrogersarkansas.com/](http://visitrogersarkansas.com/).

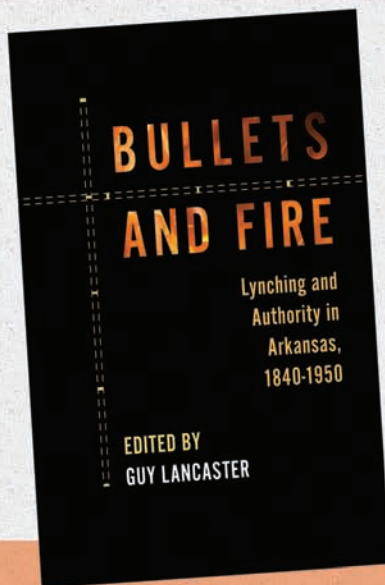
The area also boasts an array of great restaurants. Foodies may want to check out Crepes Paulette, The Rail, The Egg and I, or Abuelo's, just to name a few. Certainly an abundance of breweries and brew pubs abound in northwest Arkansas. Follow this website for locations and hours: [nwatravelguide.com/micro-brewery-northwest-arkansas/](http://nwatravelguide.com/micro-brewery-northwest-arkansas/). A deluxe breakfast and nightly evening reception will be complimentary for those who book their stays at the conference hotel – the Embassy Suites of Rogers.

To register online follow this link: [arlib.org/event-2894360](http://arlib.org/event-2894360). You may pay online or mail a check to the billing office. Our host hotel is offering a special discounted rate of \$141/night for our attendees with the group code ALA through **August 31, 2018**. To book a room call the Embassy Suites of Rogers at 479-254-8400 and use the code **ALA**, or book online through the conference website.

*Daniel Fouts is the School Library Media Specialist at Osceola High School. Susanna Kirk is the Social Media Library Technician at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia.*



# CONGRATULATIONS ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNERS!



## Bullets and Fire

*Lynching and Authority in Arkansas, 1840-1950*  
Edited by Guy Lancaster

**Winner, 2018 John William Graves Book Award**

"The essays in this book are accessible to history novices, but include plenty of fresh scholarship for those already familiar with this part of Arkansas's history. Some essays, such as Richard Buckelew's telling of the Clarendon lynching of 1898, read like a modern-day true-crime tale — instantly seductive but far from middlebrow, adeptly touching on race, class and gender."

—Matt Baker, *Arkansas Times*

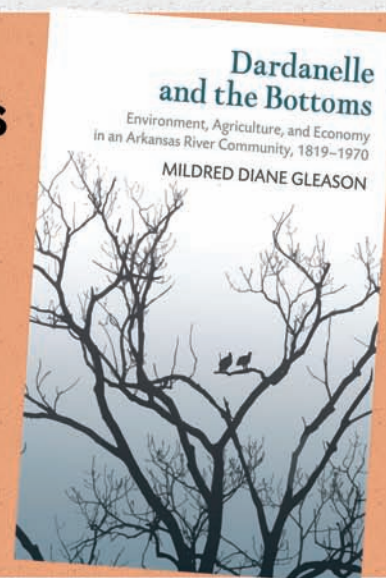
## Dardanelle and the Bottoms

*Environment, Agriculture, and Economy in an Arkansas River Community, 1819-1970*  
Mildred Diane Gleason

**Winner, 2018 J. G. Ragsdale Book Award**

"Dardanelle and the Bottoms is a meticulously researched study of an Arkansas community over its entire life—its economic ups and downs, its racial problems, its slow transformation from a thriving agricultural center to a struggling twenty-first-century town. There is much to learn here, for the future of all such small towns."

—Shirley Abbott



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## Scholarship Fundraisers Abound at the ArLA Conference!

by *Ashley Burriss*

*Lawrence County Library Director*

*Chair, LEAF Committee*

**B**asket time is coming – for those of you who have no idea what I’m talking about (or think I’m a basket case), the annual Basket Auction at conference is ArLA’s fundraiser for the Library Education and Aid Fund (LEAF) and the Scholarship Committee. Any individual or institution can bring baskets of all shapes and sizes as donations. Usually the auction opens on Sunday and ends Monday with a dramatic nail-biting finish in the exhibit hall.

LEAF funds are used to help out libraries quickly when confronted with emergencies. In the past this has included assisting libraries after storms and tornados caused extensive water damage in library facilities. Funds have also helped libraries advocate against efforts to decrease millages and support literacy efforts, such as the Readers’ Map of Arkansas.

One of the most important functions of LEAF is to assist Arkansas Library Association members in their pursuit of an advanced degree in librarianship. Our goal every year is to raise enough funds in the basket auction to equate to one scholarship of \$1,500. ArLA also wants to develop future leaders for the Association and the State, and so the Scholarships Committee will be establishing a new scholarship perhaps as early as this fall for those applying to the Arkansas State Library’s leadership

development program, ALL-In. Join us for a Trivia Night fundraiser planned on the evening of Monday, September 24 at the ArLA conference in Rogers to raise funds for the ALL-In scholarship. Details will be forthcoming as to time and venue, but hopefully a local brew pub will host. Start thinking about who you want to be on your trivia team – participate for only \$20 per person. Fabulous prizes will be awarded to the winners, including a complimentary membership to ArLA! With Kat Robinson, Arkansas pie expert, closing the conference, we hope to also have a pie-themed fundraiser so no one will go home hungry. Make sure you come to conference on Tuesday prepared to fight for your favorite type of pie.

Back to baskets...thoughts of book-themed baskets have been thrown around, but any/all are appreciated! Hmm...September conference would be a good time for some fall gift baskets/decorating themed baskets – how about a LEAFy basket? Or how about tying in with the conference’s “Arkansas Libraries Transform” theme and putting together a butterfly basket?

Hope to see many clever and colorful baskets at conference...but don’t forget to do your bit at conference and let the bidding wars begin! If you have questions or haven’t yet let me know you’re bringing a basket to donate, contact me at (870) 886-3222 or [akburriss@hotmail.com](mailto:akburriss@hotmail.com). I’ll be sending out more instructions to basket-donators and bidders as we get closer to conference, as well as more details on our other fundraisers.

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## Join Us for an Awarding, Winning Night!

by *Judy Calhoun*

*Chair of the Awards Committee*

**T**he Arkansas Library Association Awards Banquet is a special event held at our annual conference designed to recognize and celebrate academic, public, and school leadership achievements made by the ArLA Library community throughout the year.

Please join us at the Awards Banquet this year at 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 23 in the Grand Ballroom of the Rogers Embassy Suites for an opportunity to honor your colleagues.

The following awards will be presented at conference:

**LaNell Compton Prize** is awarded to the author of the best contribution to library literature published

in *Arkansas Libraries*.

**Frances P. Neal Award** is given to recognize a career of notable service in librarianship within the state of Arkansas. This award is presented to someone who has recently retired.

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

**Bessie B. Moore Trustee Award** is granted to an individual trustee or board of trustees who/which has made a significant contribution to the development of a library at the local, regional, or state level.

**Retta Patrick Award** recognizes an individual member of the Arkansas library profession who has made an outstanding state or national contribution to

school librarianship and school library development.

**Arkansas/SIRS Intellectual Freedom Award** is given to a person(s) or group(s) for notable contributions that have furthered the cause of intellectual freedom on behalf of a library in the state of Arkansas.

**Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award** recognizes distinguished paraprofessional library service in Arkansas libraries.

**Suzanne Spurrier Academic Librarian Award** recognizes an outstanding academic librarian within the state of Arkansas.

**Ann Lightsey Children's Librarian Award** is named in honor of Ann Lightsey, and is awarded to a children's librarian who dedicates her life to children and reading.

**Rising Star Award** is to recognize a library worker who has worked in libraries less than five

years. Nominees must be members of ArLA and have provided exceptional service for their library communities. A bonus of this award is a free year of membership in ArLA.

Hopefully by the time you read this article you have nominated someone deserving for an award. If you missed the deadline but feel you had extenuating circumstances, please feel free to submit a late nomination to Judy Calhoun at [director.searl@gmail.com](mailto:director.searl@gmail.com). Information about ArLA awards, including past winners, criteria for awards, committee members, and other information, can be found on the ArLA website at [www.arlib.org/membership/awards](http://www.arlib.org/membership/awards).

*Judy Calhoun is the Director of the Southeast Arkansas Regional Library and can be reached at [director.searl@gmail.com](mailto:director.searl@gmail.com).*

## MAKING THE MOST OF TECHNOLOGY Sales and Support as Learning Opportunities *by Nathan James, Central Arkansas Library System*

I want to start my first contribution to this column by thanking Carol Coffey for the great articles she has written and for suggesting I take it on as her successor.

For those that don't know me, a brief introduction.

My library career began at Central Arkansas Library System in the '80s as a page. I eventually went on to get an MLIS and become the manager of the nascent Computer & Network Services department. In 1998, I left CALS for the vendor world. At Innovative Interfaces, I spent most of my time in the Sales department and traveling. Now I'm back at CALS and grateful for the opportunity to come home to roost and try to make a difference for the better in my local community again. So for my first column, I'll discuss the things you can learn from your vendor sales and support relationships contacts.

While reading at TechSoup for Libraries, I came across this comment from Chris Jowaisas:

*I get emails from various hardware manufacturers and they'll have webcasts trying to sell you something, but a lot of times when they do these webcasts or webinars, they will have a 15- or 20-minute introduction to the subject in general about*



*James*

*a problem you're confronting, say how to do backup efficiently for low cost and with the least amount of hassle. Now, of course, again they're going to try and sell you their product because they think it's the best, but what I found, is that again they'll give you really a good grounding in understanding what the problem is and what some of the various solutions are.*

Librarians often spend time at conferences and user group meetings learning about new products, services, and technology. But with tight travel budgets, those opportunities may not be open to everyone. If you can't travel, you can still learn a lot from talking with the salespeople vying for your business; as Jowaisas points out, a sales presentation can also be a learning opportunity. Most of us can't devote time to the all of the many sales calls and emails we receive regularly, so it helps to have a strategy for intentionally using these interactions to get the most benefit from them.

One effective strategy is a periodic market survey for your major products. Ask your current vendor and the main competitors for an overview of their products, but do set appropriate expectations by letting the vendors know that your goal is just a market survey (unless you really are considering changing vendors). The good presentations will provide insights into the future of the technologies you use and expose you to developments and trends you may not have considered. At the end of the process you'll also have a better sense of whether your current vendor is still the right choice or whether it's time to consider a change.

Sales presentations are also a great way to get

an overview of new (or new to you) technologies. We recently used this approach to learn about digital signage. A live presentation can give you a better understanding of a new product or service compared to what you learn from a marketing brochure. Many of these presentations will include context and background to help you understand the specific product, the problem it is intended to solve, key features, and possibly information on the other main vendors. For a minimal investment of time you get an introduction to something you may have known little about and the chance to ask questions about anything that is unclear.

At a minimum, you should always take advantage of opportunities to keep up with your current products. If you have an assigned account manager, that person can be one of the best sources of information about product developments and why they are important to you. The information you get from a good account manager will be much more useful than any group presentation because it is tailored to your needs. Your account manager can also help you learn to better use the products you own and get more value from them. They may suggest additional purchases, but often you will get great, free advice just by taking the time to talk with your rep to discuss how things are going and how you are using the product.

If you aren't in the mood for a sales pitch, there are other opportunities to learn from vendor interactions you might not think of as educational. Technical Support in particular can be more than simply a means to resolve problems, it can provide tips for better using what you already have. Support

staff are often experts who have worked with many customers, and they can sometimes provide advice on best practices. While you should keep your support interactions focused on one issue at a time, you can always ask for advice related to the issue. Another tactic is to bring up something that annoys you, or that you have wondered how to do better. Keep the mood positive though; think "We use this product a lot and I wish I could..." rather than, "Your product is terrible because I can't..."

Here's an example to illustrate. We have an LED sign attached to the outside of a building which stopped updating when we tried to send new displays. During the support call to fix the issue, I mentioned I had to go outside after sending an update to be sure it worked and how much I wished I could see what the sign was doing from my desk. Once we fixed the initial problem, the tech showed me how to set up a remote connection to the sign which has made working with it much easier.

Think of your vendors as more than just sales reps. In the best situations the vendors you contact and choose to work with can be trusted advisors offering advice and education on the markets in which they operate, on the specific products you use, and on how to get more value for the money you spend on technology.

*Nathan James is the Director of Technology & Collection Innovation at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock. Send suggestions for tech topics you'd like to see covered in this column to [njames@cals.org](mailto:njames@cals.org).*

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## TRAINING: TIPS, TOPICS AND TECHNIQUES

### **How to Train with Minimal Pain: Professional Development for Busy People** *by Chrissy Karafit and Joanna Ewing, University of Central Arkansas*

**T**he University of Central Arkansas Torreyson Library held its annual Professional Development Day on May 11, 2018. Faculty members Joanna Ewing, Tina Murdock, and Jessica Riedmueller and staff members Sandra Hooper, Danielle Kraus, and Karen Pruneda volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee charged with planning and organizing the professional development event. The planning committee employed several strategies to help this event meet the varied needs of staff and faculty.

Because the UCA Library is open 24 hours five days out of the week, it can be a challenge to schedule a training day that includes all personnel across three shifts. The month of May, in between spring and summer semesters, has served as a good training time for our library. In May, the library traffic slows down enough to allow the library to close for one full day, and staff from all shifts can come together for professional development.

At the beginning of the planning process, several library staff who were collaborating with faculty on a shared governance proposal began brainstorming possible topics for professional development. They shared this initial brainstorming with library faculty, and the list was passed on to the professional development planning committee. Drawing on broad categories from this list, the committee created a survey that was sent to all library faculty and



staff to gauge interest in training topics and collect additional ideas.

In reviewing survey responses, the planning committee realized several topics of interest related to wellness and stress management. The committee reached out to the campus Student Health Center to recruit experts on these topics. Two licensed counselors presented on methods for dealing with stress and anxiety, managing conflict in the workplace, and cultivating well-being in spite of challenges.

A speaker from the University Training office facilitated an exercise in which all faculty and staff anonymously shared their expectations for library administration and colleagues, and library administrators shared their expectations for faculty and staff. Developing a common understanding of professional expectations for administrators and colleagues helps to support efficient and effective organizational communication. Another exercise helped faculty and staff identify their primary values and recognize those values they share with colleagues. Expressing these shared values can help personnel to remember their common purpose during high-stress periods.

In addition to information related to library policies and culture, the committee sought to include content pertaining to the broader community as well. Informational sessions included a presentation on library shared governance planning, staff senate activities and opportunities for service, and an overview of services available through the campus and community to assist with personal issues. At some point, everyone has life events that can be difficult to manage, such as new babies, divorce, or death of a loved one, and it helps to know what resources are available to assist with issues such as mental health, nutrition, and legal questions.

As a token of appreciation, the committee provided bags containing several healthy snacks, which participants could munch throughout the day, or save for later. These were very well received. In addition to the morning and afternoon snacks provided, takeaway items fostered positive attitudes

and contributed to a more relaxed atmosphere. At the end of the day, all participants were asked to complete a quick survey to gauge the appropriateness of training offered and identify areas for improvement in future training sessions.

Are you considering planning a professional development event for your library? If so, here are a few ideas to consider:

- Involve staff in the planning process, including the schedule as well as session topics.
- Consider adding some simple decorations to liven up the meeting space.
- Provide a mix of informational sessions along with more interactive ones to keep your participants engaged.
- Reach out to professionals in your volunteer pool and colleges or universities in your area to find experts who can present on specialized topics.
- Consider strategies for providing ongoing professional development training throughout the year, with specialized training for targeted groups as needed.
- Follow up afterward with your planning committee to discuss what worked, what could be improved, and things to consider for next time.

Library-wide professional development sessions are a great way to keep staff informed while also boosting team morale. We plan to use the participant feedback received from this year's professional development day as we look to expand our employee training opportunities in the future.



*Torryson Library at University of Central Arkansas.*

## No Kidding: Carlisle Public Library Hosts Goat-Themed Story-Time

by Rachel Felts, Branch Manager

Carlisle Public Library

Like many small public libraries, every week at the Carlisle Public Library we have story time – at our library it occurs at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays. The Carlisle Public Library is part of the Lonoke County Library System, which also encompasses Lonoke, England, and Cabot. Our story time program is designed for ages 0 to pre-school, which works out very well because we have several children that are home schooled and opt-out of public pre-k.



Every week we have a different theme. Frogs, rain, transportation, Earth Day, puppies, and goats are examples of some of the themes we have covered this year. Story time always begins with us joining each other on our big, round ABC rug. We stretch out our sillies, sing our “Days of the Week” song, update our calendar to the current season, month, day and date of the week, and discuss our current letter and number of the week.

The Goat-themed story time included reading *Giddy Goat* by Jamie Rix, a wonderful story of gaining friendship and helping others. Then we read the cute story of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Ronne Randall, which the children found funny and loved to say “trip trap trip trap” with me as I read. We finished up with a barn craft and went outside to pet the two goats that came as our special guests and even helped to name the baby goat. The children picked out their choices for the name, and we posted them on the library’s Facebook page. There was a tie between “Diamond” and “Lupe” so we ran a Facebook poll. The winner was....Diamond! This story time was a favorite for patrons young and old.

Another popular program was puppy dog-themed, which was paired with a “Read-to-a-Rescue” program. This one was a huge success with both dogs and humans. Connecting children with animals through stories has proved to be a winner with us – check out these programs and more on the Carlisle Public Library Facebook page.

*Rachel Felts is Branch Manager of the Carlisle Public Library in the Lonoke County Library System.*

## ALPS AT WORK:

Change is Good!

by Simone Kirk, ALPS Chair

After a rather turbulent year in 2017, the Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals Division (ALPS) geared up to take a new approach in offering supportive services to its members. The new motto: change is good...if it’s taken one step at a time and implemented responsibly.

In 2018, the first shift in plans for the division manifested in moving “InfoBits” into the month of May to take the place of the usual event in May – the ALPS Conference. In past years, the free training day for paraprofessionals was always held in November. As part of the process of revamping the Division, the

ALPS Board decided to strive for higher attendance numbers and reach more paraprofessionals. It proved to be a win-win decision to offer ALPS members a training opportunity in spring, scheduled when academic libraries slow down after finals, and public libraries haven’t started summer reading activities yet. As a result, attendance at this year’s InfoBits more than doubled. A total of 45 paraprofessionals took advantage of the free training at the Garland County Library, and the response from ALPS members has been unanimously positive.

The ALPS division also changed the format of InfoBits. In the past, several general sessions focusing on a particular topic were scheduled. The new format offered a more conference-inspired set-up. After attending a general starter session as

a group, ALPS members had the opportunity to choose between three break-out sessions each time slot on various topics; bullet journaling, cataloging, community leadership, and fundraising were just a few examples. The ALPS Board selected sessions carefully, after asking the ALPS membership for input on training content. Survey results displayed a mix of very practical, everyday needs of library support staff, focusing evenly on public and academic library subjects.

A huge demand had been voiced to the ALPS Board by division members for an active shooter response training. Unfortunately, the InfoBits training session provided by the Hot Springs Police Department proved itself vital – while attendees listened to Corporal Zac Rostan’s instructions, another active shooter event took place at a school in Texas.

InfoBits closed with a general presentation on an equally touchy and difficult subject – ALPS members learned about child advocacy and child abuse. Important information was shared by Tracey Childress, Supervisor of Clinical Services at the Cooper-Anthony Mercy Child Advocacy Center in Hot Springs, on how to handle potential abuse cases as witnesses in the library environment. Proper procedures and Arkansas State Laws were discussed with attendees.

After wrapping up InfoBits, the ALPS Division will now focus on the upcoming ALPS Conference in September. For the first time, ALPS will join forces with ArLA and host a joint conference event. A full day of training will be dedicated to ALPS members prior to the ArLA Conference on September 22. The Division plans for positive attendance numbers and strives to turn this pilot project into another successful ALPS training opportunity. There will

be plenty of time built in for the “signature ALPS socializing event” on Saturday evening featuring a pasta bar and beverages, and some extra time for “off the books” networking, including a lunch we’ll share with our ArASL colleagues.

ArLA’s School Library Division, ArASL, is also planning a day-long conference just across the hallway on September 22, and so we’re hoping they will be a lot of cross-fertilization with school library workers, since much of their programming will be of interest to ALPS folks from all different settings. Naturally, we welcome any and all library workers into our programming as well! ArASL’s theme is “Reading Zen,” so perhaps we can also come up with some excellent “Zen” programming.

Registration for the ALPS Conference on September 22 can be done by visiting the ArLA conference website: [arlib.org/conference](http://arlib.org/conference). You can either attend just the ALPS (and/or ArASL) Conference for \$75, or if you’d like to attend the rest of the ArLA Conference, you’d pay just \$225 more - the all-inclusive fee for Saturday-Tuesday is \$300. There are many tempting and relevant programs scheduled for Sunday-Tuesday, as well as a Tech Expo and brunch Sunday morning and Awards Dinner Sunday night. Monday will feature the author lunch and a trivia night, and Tuesday the public library workers are putting together a fabulous Performers’ Showcase. Please register today for another fun and informative ALPS Conference, and think about attending the whole conference, or pick to attend whichever days you’d like to come – it’s only \$75 per day. I look forward to seeing you there!

*Simone Kirk is the Branch Manager at the Star City Library Branch of the Southeast Arkansas Library System.*

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## Dwain Gordon Retires from State Library

*by Carolyn Ashcraft*

*Arkansas State Librarian*

**M**any library paraprofessionals and professionals throughout the state know that Dwain Gordon is retiring at the end of June. Dwain came to the Arkansas State Library twelve years ago in July of 2006 to serve as Associate Director of Development Services (now referred to as Deputy Director).

Dwain has a B.A. in Political Science and B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Southern Mississippi, and an M. Ed. and M.L.S., both from the University of Mississippi. Prior to his

library career, Dwain was a public school classroom teacher for seven years.

Dwain’s work in public libraries began at First Regional Library System in Hernando, Mississippi, as manager of the Southhaven Branch from 1983-1985. This was followed by two years at Memphis/Shelby County Public Library and Information Center where he worked as children’s and young adult librarian. Dwain relocated to Arkansas and worked at the Central Arkansas Library System from 1988-2006. While at CALS, he served as Branch Manager in Sherwood, Acquisitions Department Manager, Youth Services Department Assistant Manager and Manager, and completed his time at

CALS as Youth Collections Manager.

Throughout his tenure in Arkansas, Dwain has been an active member of the Arkansas Library Association, having served as President, Conference Chair, Exhibits Chair, and as a chair or member of several of the ArLA committees, including the



*Dwain Gordon, 1995.*

Awards Committee where he established the new “Rising Star” award.

Friend and colleague Barbie James, Library Media Specialist at Forrest City High School, wrote in 2006, “How many ways can you say extraordinary? Uncommon. Exceptional. Gifted. Masterful. Intelligent. Each word individual and collectively describes Dwain Gordon. Throughout his career he has consistently exhibited exemplary character, commendable leadership, and an unparalleled ability to work with others.”



*Dwain Gordon, 2018.*

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## **BPL Celebrates Reading, Creativity, Community, and All Things Geeky**

*by Dalene Shrier and Hadi Dudley*

*Bentonville Public Library*

**S**pringtime at Bentonville Public Library (BPL) was lively as the library team prepared for two signature events: Bentonville’s Youth Literature Festival and Bentonville GeekCon. Both programs are primarily funded through partnerships with stakeholder groups such as the Bentonville Library Foundation and the Friends of the Bentonville Library. These groups joined forces with donors, grantors and other contributors to create community celebrations.

### **Bentonville’s Youth Literature Festival**

Bentonville’s Fourth Annual Youth Literature Festival (BYLF) was held in late April. Ever-evolving, this year’s festival proved to be the best yet! A solid partnership with local schools, particularly Bentonville Public Schools (BPS) and its ESL Center, increased access to festival authors and illustrators.

On Friday, April 27, thirteen authors and illustrators from around the country and the NWA

region provided 26 school visits to local schools. Presenters offered students an inspiring and authentic connection to books, reading, writing, and art.



*Batman and Wonder Woman striking a pose while taking a break from fighting crime at BPL’s First Annual Bentonville GeekCon! (2018) Photo by Mike Quain & Angelina Waterhouse.*



Authors on relevant reading lists were invited to BYLF, prompting interest from school librarians, teachers, and students. BPS 4<sup>th</sup> graders participated in a Tournament of Titles that used Arkansas' Charlie May Simon reading list as the basis for the competition. Ellen Airgood's most recent book, *The Education of Ivy Blake*, was well known by students due to its inclusion on state and local reading lists. Caroline Tung Richmond's book, *The Only Thing to Fear*, was on Bentonville Middle Schools' Battle of the Books reading list and was also well known by students.

BYLF's first official "School Visit Day" was filled with energy, inspiration, and gratitude. Many students recently finished a rigorous testing schedule, so festival presenters received warm receptions in school gymnasiums, cafeterias, and libraries. An elementary teacher and father to a kindergartener shared, "My son struggles with ADHD and anxiety, and art is one of the things that calms him down. After picking him up at the end of the day, he could not stop talking about everything he had seen and heard during the presentation and how he wanted to create an imaginary world, just like Mr. Hoyt had done. This morning, he decided to gather his art supplies, set up his tent, and he's been outside drawing!"

On Saturday, April 28, BYLF opened to the

community with presentations, workshops, and activities that were designed as engaging experiences for all ages. Highlights included Janet Wong's "A Festival of Family Stories: Celebrating Día" program which featured multilingual poems read by students in their native languages. Ms. Wong also led "The Poet and the Pooch" where children read with her and BPL's therapy dog partners. Mary Casanova's "An American Girl® Getting to Know You Celebration" was a huge hit.

Bestselling authors such as Alan Gratz, Kazu Kibuishi, and Roland Smith generated crowds at the Library. Arkansas authors and artists joined the ranks of national festival talent: Karen Akins, James Babb, Thomas Cochran, Rich Davis, Evin Demirel, Kristin Gray, plus Bentonville's own and nationally-renowned children's book illustrator Ard Hoyt. The celebration featured a Barnes & Noble Bookfair and concluded with a formal book signing.

By the end of BYLF, more than 10,000 participants were encouraged to read, create, and grow their own artistic talents! Bentonville's Fifth Annual Youth Literature Festival is planned for Fall 2019.

### **Bentonville GeekCon**

The First Annual Bentonville GeekCon, held on Saturday, May 5, 2018, was a cosmic success!



*Sports writer and author Evin Demirel discussed athletics, race relations, and social issues with "The Men of West," a male student athlete group, at Bentonville West High School during Bentonville's Fourth Annual Youth Literature Festival. Photo by Aaron Jones, Advisory Board Member, Bentonville Public Library.*

Previously known as Free Comic Book Day, Bentonville GeekCon expanded offerings to our community.

More than 2,500 library attendees had the opportunity to experience martial arts demonstrations, listen to three local illustrators discuss their work and inspiration, make their own recycled computer part jewelry, and learn to design their very own game. Of course, free comics were distributed at noon! Vendors and exhibitors included members of the Diamond Garrison of the 501<sup>st</sup> Legion, the Kessel Base of the Rebel Legion, and the Bes'uliik Clan of the Mandalorian Mercenary Costume Club, Gear Gaming Store, Friends of the Bentonville Library, Free Geek Arkansas, and Bentonville ATA Martial Arts.

Our *Party on the Porch* gave con-goers a chance to eat lunch, provided by Jimmy John's, and hang out with a few of their favorite heroes. Batman, Wonder



*Nine-year old Ainsley poses with author Mary Casanova and American Girl® doll Kit Kittredge for a photograph at Bentonville Public Library during Bentonville's Fourth Annual Youth Literature Festival. Photo by Megan Byrnes, Library Specialist, Bentonville Public Library.*

Woman, and Star Wars' Rey dropped by to make sure all was well at Bentonville GeekCon. Even the littlest heroes were eager to show off their best super poses.

BPL and AETN collaborated to bring Super Why to Bentonville GeekCon for a comic-filled adventure for children. Attendees were treated to a special screening of the Super Readers' comic adventure, *Attack of the Eraser!* Afterward, each child received a packet of full of fun activities and coloring sheets followed by a chance to meet Super Why himself and get a photo.

And you can't forget about tabletop gaming! Throughout the library, everyone was encouraged to pick a game from BPL's collection, grab their friends, and play. The Northwest Arkansas Roleplaying Gamers were in attendance to offer their expertise and enthusiasm for all things gaming.

Door prizes, giveaways, and a silent auction added to the festivities. A new opportunity for GeekCon support with substantial product donations was facilitated by a Library Advisory Board member's vendor connections.

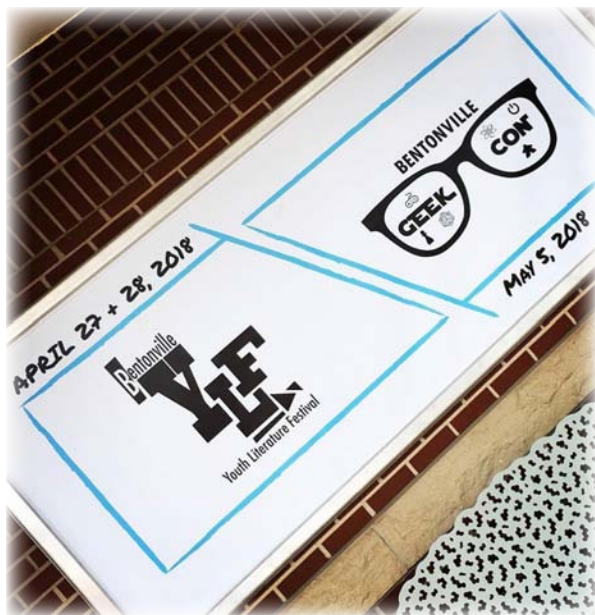
The Second Annual Bentonville GeekCon will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019.

### **Conclusion**

The BPL team has taken a big bow and deep sigh! Bentonville's Youth Literature Festival and Bentonville GeekCon are hard work, requiring considerable support and resources in the form of funding, donations, volunteers and staff time. Both events are certainly labors of love. We believe the positive impact our library makes on patrons, students, and families is worth it. Although we



*Attendees line up in anticipation of free comics at Bentonville Public Library's First Annual Bentonville GeekCon event (2018). Photo by Mike Quain & Angelina Waterhouse.*



*The Library used social media and traditional marketing to promote BPL's back-to-back events this spring. Soapbox Influencer Marketing designed the veranda banner and other BYLF materials. BYLF and GeekCon graphics courtesy of Ard Hoyt and Heather Hays. Photo by Dalene Schrier.*

are already rocking to the joyful chaos of Summer Reading Club, staff reflect on this spring's successes and look ahead. We are excited to plan, improve and grow Youth Lit Fest and GeekCon in 2019. The best is yet to come!

*BYLF and GeekCon were both recognized by the Children's Book Council as "Official Events" for Children's Book Week. Children's Book Week is the annual celebration of children's books and reading. Established in 1919, it is the longest-running national literacy initiative in the country. Learn more at [everychildareader.net/cbw](http://everychildareader.net/cbw).*

*The mission of Bentonville's Youth Literature Festival (BYLF) is to connect our community with authors and illustrators to spark imagination, inspire young learners and nurture a lifelong love of reading, writing and creativity. Learn more at [bylf.org](http://bylf.org).*

*The mission of Bentonville GeekCon is to bring the community together through a common interest in all things geeky. Learn more at [bentonvillegeekcon.org](http://bentonvillegeekcon.org).*

*Dalene Schrier is a Library Specialist at Bentonville Public Library. This article was co-authored with Hadi Dudley, Director at BPL.*

## ArLA Strategic Plan Takes Shape

*by Daniel Boice, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, and*

*Crystal Gates, Member, Strategic Planning Committee*

*"Plans are nothing. Planning is everything."*

So said Dwight D. Eisenhower, famed for planning the largest multinational military operation in history. To keep everyone focused on the goal, planning was essential, down to the smallest detail. Yet Eisenhower understood that changing conditions required immediate and constant updating of the plans. So it is with all organizations: identifying the goal and maintaining a focus on attaining that goal is essential to healthy growth.

Over the past few years, ArLA's leaders have worked long and hard to keep the organization afloat. In late 2017, with basic health restored, new ArLA President Dean Covington and the Board agreed to launch a strategic planning process to help chart out where we need to be heading. With widespread input, we could identify important goals and begin to develop the processes necessary to reach those goals.

In the spring of this year, the Executive Board formed a Strategic Planning Committee, with members representing school, public, academic, and

special libraries, from all around the state. These included Jami Anne Balkman (Alma School District & Crawford County Library System), Johnice Dominick (Carroll & Madison Library System), Crystal Gates (Laman Public Library, NLR), Debbie Hall (State Library), Carol Hanan (Arkansas Tech), Jil'ana Heard (Lake Hamilton High School), Laura Hbler (Lawrence County PL), Susie Kirk (Henderson State), Britt Anne Murphy (Hendrix), and Shelly Porter (West Fork Elementary). Dan Boice (UAM), who had led strategic planning for other library organizations, was appointed chair.

Input for the process has been broad. A brainstorming SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) session with the ArLA Board surfaced concerns for finance, membership numbers, and organizational structure, as well as confidence in a dedicated membership and established traditions of conferences and cooperation.

The Strategic Planning Committee met in February and constructed a membership survey which, we hoped, would help us get a sense of how the state's library community felt about ArLA and what concerns and hopes were out there. The Committee aimed for a survey that would go to ArLA members and non-members, and would not

be long and frustrating. The twelve question survey instrument was administered via Survey Monkey and took respondents an average of three minutes to complete. More than 300 individuals completed the survey, 49% of whom were ArLA members and 51% not. Almost half of the respondents self-identified as living in Central Arkansas, 24% in the Northwest, and the other three regions taking up the rest. 51% said they were affiliated with a public library, 31% with academic, and 14% with school libraries.

Respondents by and large appreciate *Arkansas Libraries*, the annual conference, opportunities for service, and especially networking! Respondents were not shy about telling us their concerns, including a desire for more educational opportunities and the ability to attend conferences virtually. Many reported the lack of time and funding. Additionally, respondents took advantage of the opportunity to explain their comments and to voice ideas, complaints, suggestions, and even some appreciation.

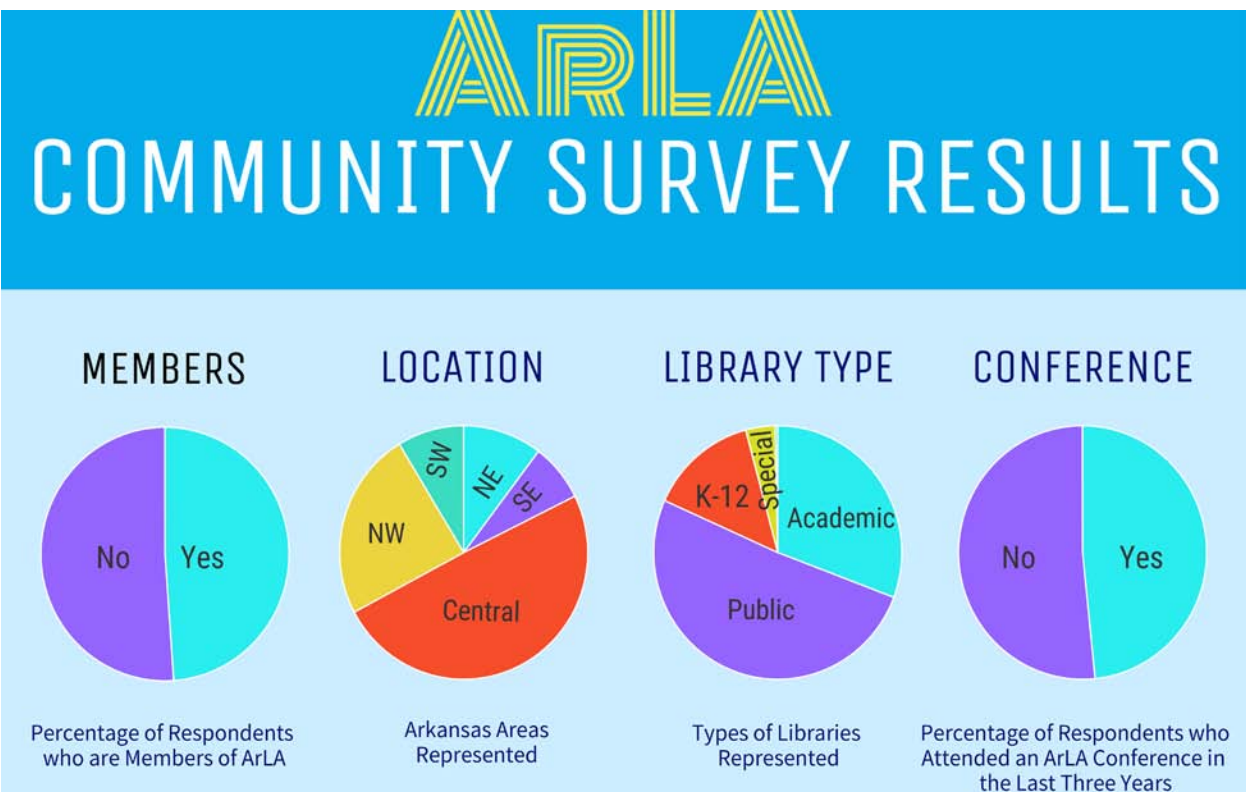
Overall, 165 people, or 58% of respondents, said they would likely become more involved in ArLA if we hosted more local events, 40.99% would like more educational opportunities and 20.49% would like more service opportunities. Another 43 people, or 15.19%, said they didn't feel they needed to become more involved, and 18.73% said they might become more involved for other reasons, such as better communication and affordability.

The members of the Committee analyzed the SWOT survey and studied the results of the

Membership Survey. In April, the Committee gathered to study the input, and then began assembling a plan. Given the pace of change, we decided on a three-year plan that can be revised annually. Using Google Documents, members modified the plan, including both organization and content. The draft will now go to the Executive Committee and to the full Board for further deliberation. A final version will be presented to the ArLA membership at the annual meeting during the Conference. Once it has been passed, the plan will go into operation and help us chart our progress as it is regularly reviewed and updated regularly.

The draft (published in the pages following this article) is based on wide input from across the state, and Committee members took very seriously every single comment. The plan owes much to the Committee members who have worked hard to assemble it, and more to those whose input helped guide our work. Please study this draft and let members of the ArLA Board know your thoughts. A copy of the draft plan will also be available on the ArLA website, with the possibility to submit comments. Please be prepared to discuss and, with luck, approve a guide for ArLA's next several years.

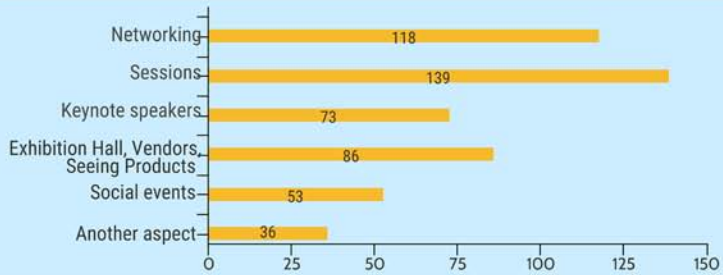
*Daniel Boice is Director of the Fred J. Taylor Library at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Crystal Gates is Executive Director of the William F. Laman Public Library in North Little Rock.*



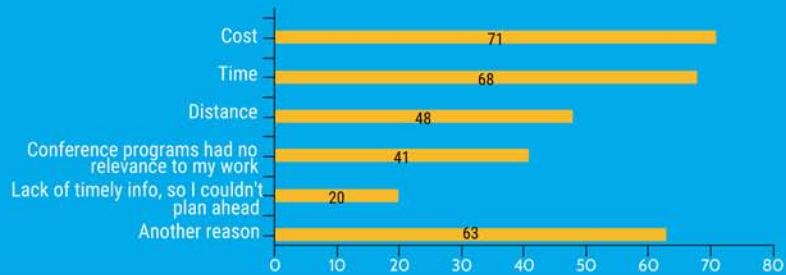
## JOB TITLES

Head Teen Supervisor Staff Services Library Clerk  
 Manager School Director Cataloger  
 Librarian Library Associate Assistant  
 Board Member Library Media Specialist Serials  
 Library Technician Library Asst Coordinator LMS

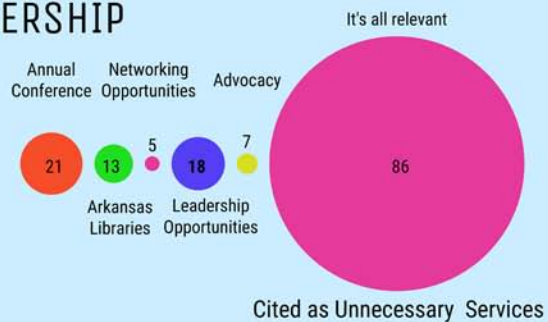
Those who attended a conference in the last three years say they valued



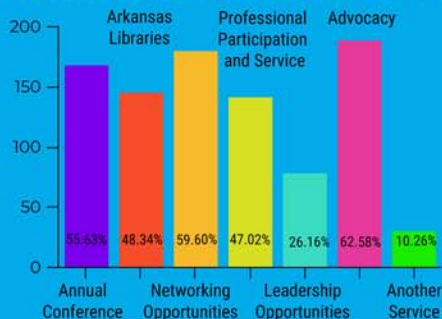
Those who haven't attended a conference in the past three years say they haven't because



## OBSTACLES TO MEMBERSHIP



## VALUED SERVICES AND THOSE WE SHOULD OFFER



## Arkansas Library Association

### 2018-2021 Strategic Plan

June 2018



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*The Purpose of the Arkansas Library Association is to promote library service and the profession of librarianship in the State of Arkansas.*

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

#### **Goal 1: Improve provision of and access to professional development.**

##### **Strategy 1.A. We will strengthen the Annual Conference.**

- 1.A.1 Broaden and restructure participation in the preparation for the conference.
- 1.A.2 Identify and invite library leaders for keynote talks as well as for breakout sessions.
- 1.A.3 Increase opportunities for networking.
- 1.A.4 Increase involvement from ArLA divisions in the Conference.

Responsible: Executive Committee & Conference Committee

Date: 2019

##### **Strategy 1.B. We will consider other modes of professional development.**

- 1.B.1 Explore ways to encourage, strengthen, and benefit from participation with existing regional associations such as the Library Development Districts, Regional Library Systems, and other geographic associations or consortia.
- 1.B.2 Study the virtual delivery of workshops, conference sessions, or other ArLA activities as possible.

Responsible: Executive Committee

Date: 2021

**Goal 2: Increase ArLA membership numbers and encourage participation.**

**Strategy 2.A. The Membership Committee will study and make recommendations on the following concerns:**

- 2.A.1. The current dues structure for membership in ArLA.
- 2.A.2 The fee structure for the Annual Conference, and the prospect of making membership dues part of the fee structure.
- 2.A.3 The annual renewal process, to better encourage committee membership and activity.
- 2.A.4 Institutional membership, especially how to make it more attractive.
- 2.A.5 We will develop a mentoring program for new members of ArLA.

Responsible: Membership Committee

Date: 2020

**Strategy 2.B. We will strengthen our advocacy for librarians and libraries.**

- 2.B.1. Study the benefits of continuing 501(c)3 status, especially as it limits advocacy work on behalf of libraries.

Responsible: Legislative Committee

Date: 2019

**Strategy 2.C. We will strengthen ArLA's collaboration with other organizations.**

- 2.C.1. Consider ways to strengthen our affiliation with other organizations, such as the Arkansas State Library, ARKLink, AAPL, and AIIM.

Responsible: Executive Committee

Date: 2021

### **Goal 3: Strengthen the organization of the Association.**

#### **Strategy 3.A. We will study and refine the structure of the Executive Board.**

3.A.1 Using the examples of comparable state associations, consider ways to increase the efficiency of the Executive Board.

3.A.2 Find ways to strengthen and improve communication from the Executive Board, including posting of minutes, announcements and agendas of meetings, and awareness of association activities.

3.A.3 Strengthen all aspects of ArLA public relations with a view to increasing participation and more effective dissemination of information.

Responsible: Executive Board & Public Relations Committee

Date: 2019

#### **Strategy 3.B. We will review and modify the structure of ArLA to meet the changing needs of the state and the profession.**

3.B.1. Form an Ad Hoc group to study the organization and recommend changes to division, roundtable, and committee structures.

[Potential recommendations include flattening the organization to include just one type of group (e.g., committee) and establishing regional cooperatives/consortia of multi-type libraries to replace divisions. Another potential recommendation would be to reassign subdivisions as “Divisions” or “Round Tables” according to the definitions in the Bylaws.]

3.B.2. Study reconfiguring ArLA Board Participation to include liaisons from groups such as ARKLink, AAPL, AAIM, as well as a representative from the State Library. Consider overall size and voting privileges of the Executive Board.

Responsible: Executive Board

Date: 2020

#### **Strategy 3.C. We will improve succession of officers at all levels and in all divisions of ArLA.**

3.C.1 Study the examples of other organizations and propose ways to formally strengthen officer transition/succession at all levels of ArLA.

3.C.2 Strengthen ArLA’s participation in and support of the Arkansas Leadership Institute (ALL-In) to encourage participation from all areas and at all levels.

Responsible: Executive Committee

Date: 2021



# National Library Legislative Day 2018

*by Courtney Fitzgerald*

*Chair, ArLA Legislative Committee*

**F**or someone who has never visited our nation's capital, embarking on the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) hosted by the American Library Association (ALA) in Washington, D.C. from May 7-8 was an exhilarating experience.

The prospect of interacting with our national congressional leaders and visiting the hallowed grounds of our country's history was inspiring, to say the least. In fact, walking through the underground tunnels that connect the House of Representatives and Senate to the Capitol Building and seeing some of our nation's leaders was a remarkable experience.

It is an honor to represent all Arkansas libraries and advocate on behalf of issues that impact our communities across the Natural State. The delegation from Arkansas consisted of myself, State Librarian Carolyn Ashcraft, Amber Gregory (Coordinator of E-Rate Services of the Arkansas State Library and ArLA Legislative Committee), Donna McDonald (Director of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System), and Leisha Callan (library user, advocate, and former trustee).

## **Briefing Day**

The ALA Washington Office prepares all attendees of NLLD for any upcoming Congressional visits with a day of workshops and presentations geared towards educating everyone on the national issues, interacting with congressional leaders, and providing advocacy strategies to use at home. James Neal, the current President of ALA, and Mary Ghikas, Executive Director of ALA, both kicked off the festivities by rallying all delegations behind a common theme of "support federal funding for libraries, or #fundlibraries2019." Following the opening announcements, a panel of various directors



*Arkansas Delegation pictured with Senator Boozman. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Ashcraft.*

from the ALA Washington office such as Kathi Kromer, Kevin Maher, and Marijke Visser provided the issue briefing. Additional panelists included Aissa Canchola, Director of the Penn Hill Group, and Ellen Satterwhite, Vice President of the Glen Echo Group.

Since many of the federal funding issues facing libraries are complicated, the group clearly explained the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding streams. For instance, IMLS is the primary funding source for all libraries and museums around the country, and is the only agency dedicated to fund these services. IMLS is responsible for distributing \$186 million in grant funds to libraries as authorized from the Library Services Technology Act (ALA Briefing, 2018). In fact, LSTA is also the only federal program exclusively for libraries providing state grants, which must be matched by the receiving state, thus really stretching the federal dollars to cover library services. Programs such as IMLS do not necessarily need reauthorization to be funded, but the benefit of reauthorization allows for improvements to the program and ensures that Congress understands the value of a specific program. In addition, IMLS and the programs it administers is funded through discretionary funding and therefore is subject to the annual appropriations process (ALA Briefing, 2018). IMLS is included within the jurisdiction of the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Appropriations (ALA Briefing, 2018).

The panel then discussed the federal budget process which begins in January with the President's State of the Union address where his vision for the country is outlined, followed up with the submission of the budget proposal, or budget 'blueprint' in early February. From February through April, Congress reviews all aspects of the budget and the real work begins. Then, from April to October, a budget resolution typically falls into place, and the Appropriation Committee allocates funding across the 12 different subcommittees, at which point all bills will be reviewed and go to the House/Senate floors for voting. Finally, and if all goes according to plan, a final bill will make its way to the President's desk to sign into law by October 1. In FY 2018, and despite the fact that the original budget 'blueprint' proposed a total elimination of IMLS, \$9 million more for IMLS than in FY 2017 was added, including \$5.7 million for LSTA, and \$27 million was restored for the Innovative Approaches

to Literacy program (IAL), signaling a big win for the library community (ALA Briefing, 2018). In fact, 46 Senators signed the LSTA letter and 36 Senators signed the IAL letter, which was just one short of last year due to the work many state agencies did to secure funding for libraries. The budget ‘blueprint’ for FY 2019 again proposes the total elimination of IMLS, but a rescission package is expected to target library programs, adding an extra level of uncertainty for our communities. However, the number of co-sponsors of the original bill (S. 2271) continued to increase on a weekly basis, gaining much needed traction and support for the reauthorization.

The remainder of briefing day consisted of discussing different strategies for approaching congressional meetings, building relationships with Senators and Representatives, and recognizing the importance of the staffers and the influence they wield with their employers. The key issues that we were encouraged to discuss during our meetings were:

- **Reauthorize IMLS Act of 2017 (S. 2271):** bipartisan legislation which improves the previous reauthorization in 2010 to include:
  - Implement **disaster readiness** plans to serve communities in times of crisis.
  - Expanding eligibility for **tribal libraries** to receive funding.
  - Provide libraries with **data-driving accountability** tools to meet oversight and programmatic responsibilities.
- **Fund Libraries: fund \$189.3 million** in LSTA funding for over 120,000 libraries of all kinds across the country.
  - Currently in the House, the Labor HHS allocated \$177.1 billion for FY2019 (same allocation as FY2018).
  - Currently in the Senate, the Labor HHS allocated \$179 billion for FY2019 (an increase of \$2 million increase from FY2018).
- Libraries are essential for America’s communities: advance the **E’s of Libraries**:
  - Employment
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Education
  - Empowerment
  - Engagement
- **Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act:** provides a copyright exception for libraries as authorized entities to make accessible copies of articles and books for people with print disabilities and distribute those copies across borders.
- **Net Neutrality:** on June 11, 2018, the FCC’s net



neutrality rules were repealed allowing for an open internet as a vital platform for free speech and intellectual freedom.

### Capitol Hill Visits

Our Arkansas delegation first met with Representative Steve Womack (R-3<sup>rd</sup> District) and then with the staffers of Representative Eric “Rick” Crawford (R-1<sup>st</sup> District) on Monday evening. Then on Tuesday, our delegation met with Representative French Hill (R-2<sup>nd</sup> District), Representative Bruce Westerman (R-4<sup>th</sup> District), Senator John Boozman, and the staffers of Senator Tom Cotton’s office.

In each meeting, we engaged in positive dialogue about supporting the reauthorization for IMLS and the importance of e-rate funding. We also provided many examples of how federal funding positively impacts libraries and communities throughout the state, from providing coding workshops in underserved communities, to creating partnerships with school libraries, or to working with our veterans in providing programs through regional resources. Our library stories personalized our work with intentions to dispel the age-old myths that libraries are just for warehouses for books. It is important to help our congressional leaders understand how much libraries impact our communities, but not through force or fight, but rather appealing to the ideals they passionately hold dear.



*Arkansas Delegation pictured with Representative Hill. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Ashcraft.*

## In Conclusion

Our nation's capital is filled with so much historical significance and intrigue that one can only be amazed and moved all in the same breath. From the memorials honoring fallen service members, to memorials of former presidents that changed the course of history, to the Library of Congress that holds the answers to, well....everything, all are



Arkansas Delegation pictured with Representative Womack. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Ashcraft.

reminders of a country that fights with compassion. I had the distinct honor of visiting many of these memorials (i.e. - Lincoln, Jefferson, the National World War II, Martin Luther King Jr., Korean War Veterans, and Albert Einstein), and I walked away feeling fortunate knowing that America is built off the backs of resilient individuals who were determined to positively impact the course of history and implement change for the better. Because of them, we are lucky to live in a democracy in which every citizen has the opportunity to influence real change in our nation's laws.

We attended NLLD to help our leaders clearly see the importance of libraries in the lives of people from every cultural and socioeconomic background. We were not there to argue or battle against things we don't agree on, but rather engage in positive discussions where all voices could be heard in hopes of meeting in the middle for real change. This is my view of our responsibility with library advocacy – influencers of change.

Courtney Fitzgerald is a Senior Librarian at Bentonville Public Library and chairs the 2018 ArLA Legislative Committee.

## A Year in the Life of an Emerging Leader

by Sarah Gowdy Herford

ALA Emerging Leader 2017

This past year, I was the grateful recipient of the Emerging Leader Award by the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA). As part of the 2017 class of Emerging Leaders (EL), I attended two national American Library Association (ALA) conferences, conducted weekly meetings with my EL team members, presented at the ALA Emerging Leader's Poster Session, and got the opportunity to speak in front of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Executive Board.

### What is the Emerging Leader Program?

The Emerging Leader Program was initiated in 1997 by former ALA President Mary R. Somerville. The one-year program's goal is to foster leadership skills and allow for professional networking of 50 participants. Participants must attend two national conferences and develop a project-plan for an ALA division with their team. Participants must pay for their travel expenses, but several state and ALA divisions sponsor an Emerging Leader each year. ArLA generously sponsored my Emerging Leader term.

### ALSC and ALA Midwinter Atlanta 2017

Upon selection as the 2017 ArLA sponsored Emerging Leader, I got right to work! The first step of becoming an Emerging Leader is selecting your division project. Each ALA division selects a project for an Emerging Leader team to complete. I am a Teen Services Librarian, and therefore was selected to work with the Association for Library Service to Children. At Midwinter Conference, I



Photo by Hadi Dudley.

attended an all-day training session on developing leadership skills from ALA Past President, Maureen Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan stressed the importance of understanding our personal communication style, engaging our communities, and finding our place in ALA.

At Midwinter, I was also introduced to my amazing teammates: Christine Gaffney, Tori Ann Ogawa, and Sara White. Our team was commissioned to conduct a research study to determine the trends and needs that are affecting the future of leadership in youth services.

### I'll Always Remember Our Google Hangouts!

Each week, my team 'got together' via Google Hangouts to discuss our progress with our Emerging Leader project. We researched case studies, gathered data, conducted interviews, and sent out a nationwide survey on youth librarian leadership. Our meetings were productive, but they were also a time to discuss our current librarian roles. We discussed our weekly triumphs (a program that had 100 kids attend!) and obstacles (transitioning into a new position with no administration support). We were a team from day one, but we became friends through our Google Hangouts.

### Our Research and Results

In order to explore the career paths of youth librarians, our team wanted to gather data with a survey study, which included questions about respondents' careers. The survey was sent out to

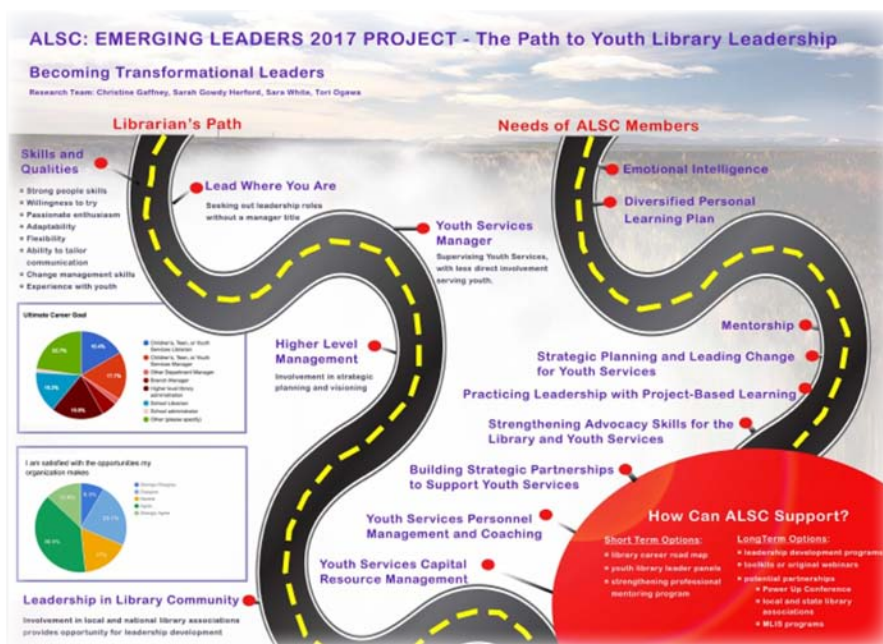
ALSC members, state listservs, and through other professional organizations. Our survey had 1,551 individuals respond! The other method of data collection the team employed was interviewing. I personally interviewed five librarians from Arkansas who spoke about their experiences working as a youth librarian. Based on our research we determined the following pathway for youth librarians and the needs of ALSC members to be successful in their career:

### Career Paths of Librarians Who Work with Youth

- Leading from Where You Are
- Youth Services Manager
- Higher-Level Library Management / School Administrator
- Leadership in the Library Community

### Needs of ALSC Members

- Foundations: Meaningful Discourse about Conference, Risk, Success, and Failure
- Creating a Diversified Personal Learning Plan with Professional Goals
- Mentorship
- Youth Services Capital Resource Management
- Strategic Planning & Leading Change for Youth Services
- Practicing Leadership with Project-Based Learning
- Strengthening Advocacy Skills for the Library and Youth Services
- Building Strategic Partnerships to Support Youth Services
- Youth Services Personnel Management & Coaching



## We have Emerged!

My Emerging Leader project concluded at ALA Annual: Chicago. As part of the EL program, teams must submit a formal paper and present a Poster Session. We presented our poster on June 24, 2017 to a room full of current and past Emerging Leaders. Our Emerging Leaders group was the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Emerging Leaders program, so our session also included a cake!

## That's a Wrap!

My final tasks as the ArLA Emerging Leader of 2017 was to present at the ArLA conference in September 2017 and prepare an article for *Arkansas*

*Libraries*. My presentation was titled, "The Path to Youth Library Leadership: An Emerging Leader Project." My conference session and this article were great ways to reflect on my EL year and hopefully to inspire other new Arkansas library professionals to apply for the Emerging Leader program.

My Emerging Leader year will always be a year I remember. I encourage all interested librarians to apply for the Emerging Leaders program.

*Sarah Gowdy Herford is the Teen Services Librarian at Bentonville Public Library.*

## Learn about Labyrinths at Hendrix College

by *Janice Weddle*

*Assistant Librarian for Instruction and Outreach*

In honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual World Labyrinth Day on May 5, 2018, Bailey Library at Hendrix College in Conway organized programming and displays about labyrinths. A labyrinth is a pathway, often formed from concentric circuits leading a person into the center and then back out again along the same path. Labyrinths differ from mazes, in that mazes offer choices in the pathway. Mazes are designed as a puzzle someone must solve in order to reach the center of the maze, whereas labyrinths allow only a single path leading inexorably to the center.<sup>1</sup>

World Labyrinth Day fell in the middle of Hendrix's finals week this year, which made programming and displays about labyrinths very timely to counterbalance the stress at the end of the semester for students, faculty, and community members alike. This was the second year we have celebrated World Labyrinth Day, and it has quickly

become a favored tradition for our staff and students.

The highlight of our programming this year was a talk and book signing with Twylla Alexander, author of *Labyrinth Journeys: 50 States, 51 Stories*. Alexander is also a Veriditas-certified labyrinth facilitator. Veriditas is a nonprofit located in Petaluma, CA that trains and supports labyrinth facilitators around the world to "[inspire] personal and planetary change and renewal through the labyrinth experience."<sup>2</sup>

A retired speech-language pathologist and elementary school teacher, Alexander and her husband have lived around the world, but currently split their time between homes in Conway and Portland, Maine. Alexander spent two years traveling around the United States to visit an outdoor labyrinth



*Labyrinth creation station.*



*Rocks that the labyrinth walkers decorated on the World Labyrinth Day walk. Alexander provided rocks and markers and invited them to write words or draw images that meant "peace" to them. They carried their rocks to the center and left them for the next walkers to enjoy.*

in every state. Each of the labyrinths that she visited were created by women, and Alexander used their stories and her own to write *Labyrinth Journeys: 50 States, 51 Stories*.

Alexander was also working with the Hendrix Office of Religious Life to facilitate the “Walk as One at 1pm” on World Labyrinth Day, an international event sponsored by the Labyrinth Society, a nonprofit group dedicated to supporting those who “create, maintain, and use labyrinths” around the world and teaching others about labyrinths.<sup>3</sup> Partly as an effort to increase participation in the scheduled labyrinth walk on World Labyrinth Day, we scheduled Alexander’s presentation and book signing for Monday, April 30 – the last day of spring classes at Hendrix.

We collaborated with the Office of Religious Life and the Office of Marketing Communications to advertise both the talk and book signing in the library on Monday and the labyrinth walk on the following Saturday. We distributed both print and electronic information about the events across campus and to the community, through the other academic and public libraries in Conway, as well as religious groups. The Office of Marketing Communications also submitted our events to news media outlets, and the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* published information from the press release ahead of the week’s events.<sup>4</sup>

We were uncertain about what to expect for attendance at such a busy point of the semester, but



*The labyrinth team.*

we were pleased with the turnout. Hendrix students, faculty, and staff were joined by several community members (some traveling from as far away as Russellville) for Alexander’s presentation. The talk was well received by the audience, who were able to chat with Alexander and purchase her book afterwards while savoring appropriately decorated labyrinthian frosted brownies.

In coordination with our programming, several staff members and student workers worked on a display of library materials in the collection and an interactive display for patrons to engage with labyrinths in a tactile way. Starting in mid-April, Sarah Bryan, the Electronic Resources Library Specialist at Hendrix, created a table full of materials for library patrons to create their own labyrinths. Using the University of Central Arkansas’s Makerspace, which is freely open and available to community members who’ve undergone training in using the equipment, Bryan created templates of classical labyrinths on a four-inch square form that could be used to emboss the pattern onto paper or create a medallion molded from air-dry clay. It was interesting to see visitors navigate the directions for successfully using a tortilla press in the first stages of medallion creation, sensing how to apply just enough pressure but not too much to get the best imprint in the clay, and figuring out how to find the best handhold, angle and pressure for optimum use of the tool while embossing without tearing the paper.

Each of these journeys of learning serves as a mini mind-labyrinth in and of itself, where the participant embarks on a constructive journey in real-world mind to hand motor skills, learns something about themselves and how they interact in the world, and, perhaps, ignites a creative spark in their brain. In addition to the press, there were also tactile stations with chenille yarn on a felt surface and shells and stones in sand to create table-top labyrinths.

Hendrix Library Associates, our student workers who receive advanced training, also contributed



*Labyrinth start.*

their ideas and hard work into making the week successful. Our associates created a map of the labyrinths in Arkansas, using the Labyrinth Locator from the Labyrinth Society's website. We displayed the map, along with relevant books and materials from our collection. Another associate created a labyrinth-inspired pathway through our main collection book stacks on the second floor. It was quite a challenge to map out a pathway that stayed true to the features of classical labyrinths, fit within the existing layout of our ranges, and avoided directing traffic right past our study tables and carrels, which would be heavily used during finals. After several attempts to create a pathway using our building maps, our associate succeeded in creating a labyrinth for our stacks based on the double meander pattern, or the Greek key pattern, found in classical labyrinths.<sup>5</sup> We laid out the pathway using painter's tape on our carpets, and the associate who designed the labyrinth path created a poster for users about the Bailey Library Labyrinth. The Library Labyrinth has been well-received; one faculty member asked if we could permanently incorporate it into the carpet. While there are no plans at this time to lay new carpet throughout the main collection, the Library Labyrinth will likely be re-constructed next year as

we celebrate World Labyrinth Day.

*Author's Note: Thanks to Amy DeVooght, Circulation Manager, Sarah Bryan, Library Specialist, and Rita Mackintosh, Archives & Reference Assistant, at the Olin C. Bailey Library for their photographs and notes used in this article.*

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Jeff Saward, *Labyrinths & Mazes: A Complete Guide to Magical Paths of the World* (New York: Lark Books, 2003), 26-27.
- <sup>2</sup> "About Veriditas," Veriditas, <https://www.veriditas.org/page-1863725> (accessed May 24, 2018).
- <sup>3</sup> Kay Whipple, "About TLS," Labyrinth Society, <https://labyrinthociety.org/about-tls> (accessed May 24, 2018).
- <sup>4</sup> "Labyrinth events come to Conway." Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, April 28, 2018.
- <sup>5</sup> Saward, 92.

*Janice Weddle is the Instruction & Outreach Librarian at the Olin C. Bailey Library at Hendrix College.*



*Labyrinth book display.*

# An Ode to Laman

by *Lilith Mae McFarlin*



*Derrick Newby, of the Argenta Branch Library LINC, installs the last marker for an outdoor story.*



*William F. Laman Public Library's Community Engagement Librarian, Marilyn Willis, had lots of fun with children at Rose City Community Center in North Little Rock recently.*

Libraries exist to give everyone access to what they need.

They walk through the door, a single mother and her children.  
She needs to fill out job applications  
so she can afford groceries.  
Her kids are loud, and she knows it.  
We don't mind, we give her access to a computer.  
Two hours and a phone call later, she has an interview scheduled.  
We direct her to books on job interview tips.

He walks through the door, he can't hear you over the crunch  
of the Cheetos between his jaws.  
He not only has thirst for the Mountain Dew in his other hand,  
but a thirst for knowledge. He has a report due on Monday.  
We give him access to our non-fiction books, our computers, and our trash cans.  
Five print sources later, he's on his way to an A.

She walks through the door, her steps steadied with a cane,  
the gray in her hair shows maturity.  
She has trouble reading standard-size print,  
and the call numbers of the books on the shelf.  
We give her access to large print books,  
help locating her favorite titles.  
We also help her carry her books to her car,  
and thank her, even though she disapproves  
of that butterfly lower back tattoo.  
One drive home later, she's in her favorite chair,  
sipping coffee and reading her favorite western.

He walks through the door, he may have an unkempt beard and dirty clothes,  
he may be wearing a three-piece suit.  
He needs somewhere to rest before his next meal.  
Some may find him off-putting, but he deserves access, too.  
One comfortable chair and a charge to his phone later,  
he has the energy to go on and fight another day.

She walks through the door.  
Even though she has two degrees,  
she doesn't make enough to buy the books she loves.  
We give her access to our OPACs,  
along with both our fiction and non-fiction section.  
Three memoirs, two novels, and a quiet place to sit,  
she's on her way to discovering new favorites.

These are only a few examples of the access we grant to our patrons.

*Lilith Mae McFarlin is a Library Associate at the William F. Laman Public Library System.*



## AROUND ARKANSAS

by Heather Hays, Associate Editor

Rod Miller will be retiring as of June 29th, his final day as the Supreme Court Library Public Services Coordinator. He has been in this position since September 2005. Rod has also served as the Secretary for the Supreme Court Historical Society for many years and has been active in planning numerous events for them.

We will miss Rod greatly in our Documents Community, especially his smiles and good humor. He hosted numerous meetings in his Library that were well attended and received. Rod recently arranged for a tour of the Justice Building which was enjoyed by all. We will also miss all of the fun “goodies” he always distributed to us.

We had a farewell lunch for Rod on **June 29 at the Arkansas Arts Center**. We did not say “Good bye,” and we wish him well in his new and exciting adventures.



UA Little Rock Bowen School of Law’s Jeff B. Woodmansee, Associate Professor of Law, was named President of the Southwest Association of Law Libraries (SWALL) and presented “*Legal Research Worldwide*” on his teaching experiences as part of “*The School of U.S. Law*” partnership with colleagues in Poland and his other international legal education involvement at the SWALL Annual Meeting held in Houston, TX, April 5-7, 2018.

The group’s next annual conference is planned for Little Rock in March 2019, including a pre-conference session covering legal research resources and trends for local public librarians and legal paraprofessionals in the area.

On Wednesday, April 11, Carolyn Ashcraft traveled to north Arkansas yesterday to attend the dedication of the Beth Stafford Children’s Room at the Green Forest Public Library. Tiffany Newton (Director) and Johnice Dominick (CAMALS Regional Director) were gracious hosts! The ribbon cutting was attended by several area residents,

including the Mayor and County Judge. Children of all ages in Green Forest now have a larger space to enjoy at their library!



*Tiffany Newton, Director of Green Forest Library stands in the newly dedicated Beth Stafford Children's Room.*



*Area residents of Green Forest attend the ribbon cutting of the Beth Staffords Children's Room.*



Joan Moore of the Horatio Branch of the Sevier County Library System retired with 20 years of service on April 28. She has done A LOT for our library system!

As you can see by the picture to the right, she is a character and one of the best story tellers I have ever known.



Joan Moore.

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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](mailto:hhays@bentonvillear.com), and you'll most likely see it published in our journal.

*Heather Hays is the Reference Librarian at Bentonville Public Library.*

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## ArLA Scholarship Window is Open

by *Ashley Burris*

*Scholarships Committee Chair*

A scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 will be awarded at the Awards Dinner at ArLA's annual fall conference in Rogers, September 22-25. The scholarship committee is accepting applications until **September 1, 2018**.

The Arkansas Library Association Annual Scholarship will be awarded to an ArLA member who is currently enrolled in a master's program for library studies.

More information including previous awardees, application forms, criteria, and submission instructions are available on the Arkansas Library

Association website: [arlib.org/wp/membership/awards-scholarships/scholarships/](http://arlib.org/wp/membership/awards-scholarships/scholarships/).

For more information you can also contact the Chair of the Scholarships Committee:

Ashley Burris, Lawrence County Library  
Director  
115 West Walnut  
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476  
Phone (870) 886-3222  
Fax (870) 886-9520  
[akburris@hotmail.com](mailto:akburris@hotmail.com)

The ArLA Scholarship program is a nonprofit public charity operating under Section 501 (c)(3) and in compliance with Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

### *Past Scholarship Winners, 2001-2017*

- 2017 Allison Lightfoot
- 2016 Courtney Fitzgerald (Annual Scholarship) & Landi Brown (Shirley Fetherhof School Media Scholarship)
- 2015 Brenda Miner (Annual Scholarship) & Kristy Floyd (School Media Scholarship)
- 2014 Stephanie Freedle (Annual Scholarship) & Sherry Loyd (School Media Scholarship)
- 2012 David Sesser
- 2011 Marlena Crenshaw (Annual Scholarship) & Dustin Lee (School Media Scholarship)
- 2010 Amber Gregory (Annual Scholarship) & Ronda Hughes (School Media Scholarship)
- 2009 Angela Hand Black
- 2008 Darby Wallace
- 2007 Audra Young/Daniel Page (Split Scholarship Recipients)
- 2006 John Boone
- 2004 Hadi Dudley
- 2003 Christine Renee Mahon
- 2002 Sonya Ladett Bell
- 2001 Joni Stine



**Application Form  
Annual Scholarship  
For Graduate Study in Library Science**

Date:

Full Name:

Address:

Phone:

College (s) attended:

Degree(s) obtained:

Graduate school planning to attend:

(To qualify for the scholarship, this must be an ALA accredited school.)

Date of acceptance to graduate school:

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Position, Street, City, State, Dates of Employment

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCES**

Name, Street, City, State, Telephone

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet, please add further pertinent information which should include a statement of career goals and what you feel you can give to the Arkansas library profession. List honors and awards, relevant committees on which you may have served, and send a transcript of your college hours. Please do not exceed two pages handwritten or typed double-spaced.

I have read the Statement of Policy concerning the granting of this scholarship, and I agree to abide by its stipulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

Please return to:

Arkansas Library Association, 3416 Primm Lane, Birmingham, AL 35216 Phone: 800-241-4590 Email: info@arlib.org

**A completed ArLA Scholarship application form, a letter of application from the applicant, an official transcript, a resume and three letters of reference must be received by the ArLA Scholarship Committee postmarked no later than September 1 to be eligible for consideration.**

# Arkansas Books & Authors Bibliography

*Compiled by Timothy G. Nutt, Historical Research Center, UAMS*

- Alexander, John M. *The Man in Song: A Discographic Biography of Johnny Cash*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2018. 9781610756280 \$36.95 296 p.
- \*Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame. *The First 60 Years, 1958-2018*. \$35.00 available from [www.arksportshalloffame.com](http://www.arksportshalloffame.com)
- Chozick, Amy. *Chasing Hillary: Ten Years, Two Presidential Campaigns, and One Intact Glass Ceiling*. New York: Harper, 2018. 9780062413598 \$28.00 400 p.
- \*Christ, Mark, ed. *A Confused and Confusing Affair: Arkansas and Reconstruction*. Little Rock: Butler Center Books, 2018. 9781945624162 cloth \$39.95; 9781945624155 paper \$22.95 190 p.
- \*Clinton, Bill and James Patterson. *The President Is Missing*. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., and Knopf, 2018. 9780316412698 \$30.00 528 p.
- \*Clinton, Chelsea. *She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World*. New York: Philomel Books, 2017. 9781524741723 \$18.00 32 p.
- \*\_\_\_\_\_. *She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History*. New York: Philomel Books, 2018. 9780525516996 \$18.00 32 p.
- \*Epperson, Tom. *Roberto to the Dark Tower Came*. Atlanta: Meerkat Press, 2018. 9781946154088 \$26.95 350 p.
- Gear, William. *This Scorched Earth*. New York: Forge, 2018. 9780765382368 \$30.00 704 p.
- \*Jones-Branch, Cherrisse, ed. *Arkansas Women: Their Lives and Times*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2018. 9780820353319 \$89.95 352 p.
- \*Lancaster, Guy, ed. *The Elaine Massacre and Arkansas: A Century of Atrocity and Resistance, 1819-1919*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2018. 9781954624117 cloth \$39.95; 9781954624070 paper \$22.95 190 p.
- Mihesuah, Devon Abbott. *Ned Christie: The Creation of an Outlaw and Cherokee Hero*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018. 9780806159102 \$29.95 272 p.
- \*Mosby, Jake as told to \*Janis Kearney. *The Jake Mosby Story: A Man for All Seasons*. Little Rock: Writing Our World, 2018. \$24.95 available from [www.thejakemosbystory.com/](http://www.thejakemosbystory.com/)
- \*Ross, James D. *Rise and Fall of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in Arkansas*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2018. 9781621903529 \$55.00 277 p.
- Schraver, Debby. *Whispering in the Daylight: The Children of Tony Alamo Christian Ministries and Their Journey to Freedom*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2018. 9781621903864 \$29.95 332 p.
- \*Sutherland, Cyrus. *Buildings of Arkansas* (Buildings of the United States Series). Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2018. 9780813939780 \$85.00 328 p.
- \*Vanerslice, John. *The Last Days of Oscar Wilde*. New Orleans: Burlesque Press, 2018. 9780996485098 \$16.00 358 p.
- Willett, Edward. *Johnny Cash: Fighting for the Underdog*. New York: Enslow Publishing, 2018. 9780766092570 \$32.27 128 p.

\*Arkansas author

*Inclusion does not indicate recommendation*

## Nominees for 2019 ArLA Officers

by David Eckert

Chair, ArLA Nominating Committee

This September at conference, the ArLA membership will elect three candidates for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and ALA Councilor.

The ArLA Vice-President serves a three-year term as Vice-President, President, and Past President. The candidate for this upcoming cycle, Crystal Gates, has been nominated from the pool of Arkansas public librarians, in accordance with the informal practice of rotating the presidency between academic/special, public, and school librarians.



Gates

Crystal Gates currently serves as the Executive Director of the William F. Laman Public Library in North Little Rock, Arkansas. She is creating an engaged work culture and driving innovative, patron-centric services to meet the library's mission and exceed the community's expectations. In 2010, Crystal began serving as Director of the Jackson Parish Library in Jonesboro, Louisiana. Under her leadership, JPL was named one of the best libraries in the nation as a 3 Star Library two years in a row (2014-2015 *Library Journal*). She currently serves as the Arkansas State Representative for the Southeastern Library Association (SELA), Treasurer for Advocates for Arkansas Public Libraries, Library Development District III Chair, Philanthropy Chair of the Little Rock Alumnae Chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi, and serves on numerous professional committees, including the strategic planning committee for ArLA. As a speaker at library conferences, she shares both her successes and lessons learned from embracing innovation, directing capital projects, and advocating for libraries. An advocate of lifelong learning, Crystal holds a Master of History from Louisiana Tech University and a Master of Library and Information Science from Louisiana State University.

The Nominating Committee presents ArLA's current Secretary/Treasurer, Lynn Valetutti, for another



Valetutti

two-year term. Lynn Valetutti is the Manager of Digital Services at the Arkansas State Library. She manages the statewide Traveler program along with overseeing the state depository clearing house and federal document program. Lynn is an active member of ArLA and recently served as Secretary/Treasurer for the last two years. In addition, she is a member of ALA and serves on the OITP Committee. Prior to joining the Arkansas State Library in 2016, she worked at University of Arkansas in Monticello as the Electronic Resource and Serials Librarian for almost two years. Lynn also held the position of Coordinator of Instructional Media at OBU from 2005-2010. She graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in 2013 with a B.A. in History and Spanish and was conferred a M.L.I.S from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2015. Lynn relocated to Arkansas in 2009 to marry her husband, Jim, leaving a twenty-year career in healthcare administration to pursue her real passions with a new career path. She is an avid reader but also loves gourmet cooking.

Lacy Wolfe, current ALA Councilor for ArLA, has been nominated to serve another three-year term. Wolfe is an Assistant Librarian/Information Literacy and Reference

Services Librarian at Henderson State University's Huie Library. In this role, she is responsible for organizing library instruction sessions for classes, teaching a section of Library Research Methods each spring, and supervising the outreach efforts of the library, including supervising the Social Media Library Technician. Lacy is active in several library organizations, including ArLA where she serves on the executive committee and as a member of the College and University Division and in 2014 was selected as the Arkansas American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leader. Lacy is a life member of the American Library Association where she has served on the ALA Council for three years as the Arkansas Chapter Councilor. Lacy's ALA committee work includes the Public Awareness Committee, ACRL Instruction Group, and Library Instruction Round Table conference planning.



Wolfe

David Eckert serves as Past President of the Arkansas Library Association and is Director of the Crowley Ridge Regional Library.



Libraries transform their communities and enrich lives. At ArLA's 2018 conference, Make it Happen: Arkansas Libraries Transform, explore the multitude of ways libraries can improve, inspire, and transform themselves and the communities they serve.



### TOP 3 REASONS WHY

# YOU SHOULD NOT MISS EXHIBITING AT ARLA 2018!

- 1.** The one place you can meet librarians from all over the state of Arkansas and learn about the unique needs of Arkansas public, school, special, and academic libraries!
- 2.** The opportunity to share your exciting new company products to 300 new potential clients (and reconnect with old clients)!
- 3.** Where else can you have librarians teach you how to call the hogs? (We're going to be in University of Arkansas Razorback country!)

## VENDOR/ SPONSORSHIP PRICING

Six foot draped table (includes two people per table)

- Library vendor - \$420
- Additional draped table - \$250
- Academic/Government Agency/ Non-profit - \$325
- Non-library vendor - \$275
- Author - \$125

Sponsorship packages range from \$1,250 - \$5,000.

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or visit - <https://arlib.org/2018/Exhibits-Sponsors-Advertising>

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## Sponsorship Levels & Opportunities



### Diamond \$5000

- Complimentary Exhibit booth with premier placement within the exhibit area during conference
- Recognition during Opening & Closing Sessions
- 5 minutes during the conference to address all attendees (specific time to be scheduled in August)
- Sponsor recognition for your booth
- Complimentary full page ad in the conference program
- Large logo with link on the conference webpage



### Ruby \$2500

- Complimentary Exhibit booth with premier placement within the exhibit area during conference
- Recognition during Opening & Closing Sessions
- 2 minutes during the conference to address all attendees (specific time to be scheduled in August)
- Sponsor recognition for your booth
- Complimentary 1/2 page ad in the conference program
- Logo with link on the conference webpage



### Sapphire \$1200

- Complimentary Exhibit booth with premier placement within the exhibit area during conference
- Recognition during Opening & Closing Sessions
- Sponsor recognition for your booth
- Complimentary 1/4 page ad in the conference program
- Logo with link on the conference webpage

### Happy Hour Sponsor \$3500 (1 available)

- Complimentary Exhibit booth with premier placement within the exhibit area during conference
- Recognition in conference program by the break announcement
- Complimentary 1/2 page ad in the conference program
- Sponsor recognition for your booth
- Logo with link on the conference webpage
- Exclusive access to conference attendees for one hour during an open bar with beer and wine. No other vendors present!
- 5 minutes to address all attendees during Happy Hour.

### Snack Sponsor \$2000 (2 available)

- Complimentary Exhibit booth with premier placement within the exhibit area during conference
- Recognition in conference program by the break announcement
- Sponsor recognition for your booth
- Logo with link on the conference webpage

### Beverage Sponsor \$1500 (2 available)

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- Recognition in conference program by the break announcement
- Sponsor recognition for your booth
- Logo with link on the conference webpage

### Bag Sponsor \$1250 (1 available)

- Bag will feature sponsor logo on one side & Arla's logo on other
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- Logo with link on the conference webpage

Program Ad: Back or inside cover, full page \$1,000 Full Page \$200 ½ Page \$100 ¼ page \$50

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*Finished with her puppy craft at Carlisle Public Library. Please see article on page 12.*