FEATURE ARTICLES

Annual Statewide SLRC Storytelling Conference 9
If you’ve ever wanted to learn how to tell a story or if you are already an experienced storyteller and you want to learn more, even if you are not a children’s librarian—the SLRC Storytelling Conference is the right conference for you. The Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland State Library Resource Center (EPFL/SLRC) held its first annual storytelling conference on Tuesday, June 14.

Exercise Your Right to Vote! Constitution Day at Harford Community College Library and Hays-Heighe House (Right) 12
On Monday September 19, 2016, the Harford Community College (HCC) Library and HCC Office of Student Activities co-sponsored Constitution Day activities celebrating the 229th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Library Community 13
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) first signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson. Johnson believed that “full educational opportunity” should be “our first national goal” and signed ESEA as a civil rights law in response to his “War on Poverty.” Its significance has resonated and guided state and local school policy for more than five decades.

Career Online High School Program Available for Free to Prince George’s County Residents 14
The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is offering qualified community members the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate through Career Online High School, a program brought to public libraries by Gale, a part of Cengage Learning.

One Incredible Galaxy Cluster Yields Two Types of Gravitational Lenses 15
There is this great idea that if you look hard enough and long enough at any region of space, your line of sight will eventually run into a luminous object: a star, a galaxy or a cluster of galaxies. In reality, the universe is finite in age, so this isn’t quite the case. There are objects that emit light from the past 13.7 billion years—99 percent of the age of the universe—but none before that. Even in theory, there are no stars or galaxies to see beyond that time, as light is limited by the amount of time it has to travel.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents: Features</th>
<th>THIS ISSUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editor’s Note</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President’s Message</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEWS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALA Conference 2016 Highlights from Orlando</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chart New Courses Together: MLA/DLA 2017 Conference at Hyatt Regency, Cambridge, May 10-12, 2017</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Reality Technology, A Library First!</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEOPLE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three New Library Hires at Montgomery College (Right)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPARTMENTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSD Corner (Right)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who’s New in the MLA Technical Services Division?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARDENT PLEAS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send Us Videos!</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Editor’s Note

The start of the fall season is upon us yet again, and thus starts another MLA year. Be sure to check out new MLA President Kathleen Teaze’s first President’s Message on page 5. She reports on her recent activities in her new presidential role and also offers some wisdom on the benefits of membership and participation in MLA, setting the stage for another great year for the Maryland Library Association!

I’m also excited to report on several conferences in this issue. Check out page 7 for some details about the 2017 MLA/DLA Conference and its new location in Cambridge. As well, flip to page 9 to learn about the first annual statewide SLRC storytelling conference held this past June; it looks to have been a great success and plans are already in the works for 2017!

Lastly, the Crab is trying something new this issue. Do you have videos you’d like to share with us? Find more details on page 18 and a sample video to test. We’d love to see if we can get this to catch on and bring another element of first-hand reporting to the Crab!

Annette Haldeman, MLA Crab Editor
Department of Legislative Services Library
In my first message as President, I want to express my gratitude for being given the honor of serving you, the members of this great organization. Thanks for electing me to this position and I look forward to the coming year.

Following my job description as President, I attended various Chapter Council meetings at ALA’s annual conference in Orlando and learned how important our Chapters (state library associations) are. Not only are we involved at home in all the important work that libraries do, but we are in the best positions to inform ALA about priorities for libraries in our states. Especially in this year when important decisions were being made about how ALA responds to chapters, I gained a new appreciation for the role of our chapter, the Maryland Library Association, in the national organization.

http://www.ala.org/offices/cro/getinvolved/partnership

Closer to home, I attended the Maryland Association of Counties’ (MACO) Summer Conference in Ocean City this past August. MLA members set up and staffed the MLA booth with great style and enthusiasm. To show the range of resources provided by libraries, Carroll County provided a 3-D printer that printed Yoda busts in excellent detail; Harford County contributed a fascinating Watercolor robot that painted colorful designs with real brushes, watercolor paint set and tiny pots of water to clean the brushes; and Past MLA President Mary Hastler brought a homemade and very workable hologram projector. We were able to show off our resources in a fun way. Attendees expressed much love for libraries and we were able to make great connections for the future. Plus, we had major fun!

These experiences reinforced my belief that membership in MLA provides a wealth of benefits. Some of these are:
Growing your network

MLA divisions and interest groups sponsor events throughout the year where we can connect with our peers, share ideas, ask for advice, or become a member of a committee. Giving back can be the greatest reward and benefit.

Continuing Education

MLA offers members the chance to update knowledge of library basics or acquire new skills through seminars, workshops and conferences at reduced rates. In my role as a library administrator, I find that MLA provides the best bargain for staff development.

Annual Conference

MLA’s annual conference provides opportunities to learn best practices or new ideas and mingle and brainstorm with others who share your interests.

Political influence

Maryland Library Association and the MLA Legislative Panel track issues that affect libraries both on the state and federal levels and are a major way that we make our voices heard in Annapolis. Likewise, as the state chapter of the American Library Association, MLA has an important role to play in the national organization dealing with the big issues affecting libraries of all kinds.

So, whether you are looking to learn about job postings, network in our professional community, or just have some fun meeting new people, please participate in Maryland Library Association. And please encourage your colleagues and friends to join!
ALA Conference 2016 Highlights from Orlando

Lucy Holman, ALA Councilor for Maryland

The Orlando heat did not stop the ALA 2016 Annual Conference from being an exciting and active conference this year. The conference was held June 23-28 in the Orlando Convention Center, and the attendance was down from San Francisco with 11,602 registrants and 4,995 exhibitors for a total attendance of 16,597. It is worth noting, however, that lower attendance does not necessarily mean lower revenues as the San Francisco conference also had greater expenses.

ALA Council began its work on Saturday, June 25. The Council had an engaging discussion about how the association can build upon the “Libraries Transform” campaign that was launched this year. Of particular note, the Council addressed the issues of increasing awareness of the campaign across the country, creating advocates outside the library community and shifting the perception of libraries from being obsolete or “nice to have” to essential parts of our communities.

ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels updated Council on ALA Executive Board action since January and implementation of Midwinter Council resolutions. Much of the work was primarily around budget preparation for FY 2017, upcoming conference planning, and financial auditing.

Treasurer Mario Gonzalez updated Council on ALA’s 2016 budget, which ended September 30, 2016. He also presented the 2017 budget, which was proposed at $65,403,215 with total operating revenues of $49 million (down 2.5% from FY 2016) and total operating expenses of $52 million (up 2.3% from FY 2016). With only the Association of College and Research Libraries’ (ACRL) biennial conference planned this year, 2017 will be a higher spending year than 2016, which had revenues from the Public Library Association (PLA) and American Association of School Librarians (AASL) conferences. The budget does include a 1% salary increase for staff so that the association can continue to recruit and retain strong staff support. Gonzalez highlighted the need for the organization to focus on efficiencies to limit operating costs and to look for avenues to diversify and grow revenue sources as the association’s primary revenue sources are growing slowly if at all. ALA’s budget reflects its strategic directions with member engagement as the primary responsibility. Membership in March 2016 surpassed 60,000, which is a high point since the recession of 2008, and the organization vows to continue to recruit new and continuing members.

Council also passed several resolutions during the conference, including the following:

- a call for libraries to build more inclusive communities and engage their communities to de-escalate a culture of violence based on discrimination and for those libraries to stand with LGBT, Latinx, and other diverse communities in confronting hate and discrimination;
- support for the Library of Congress’ professional selection and modification of subject headings, specifically endorsing the Library’s proposal to substitute the term “undocumented immigrants” for “illegal aliens”;
- confirmation of the request from the Committee on Organization that eight of the 11 members of the Chapter Relations Committee should be chapter leaders;
- support for the Marrakesh Treaty, which facilitates access to published works for the blind and visually impaired and call for its ratification;
- recognition of Congressional Champions in support of School librarians and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); and
- with the American Association of School Librarians, a call to the Department of Education to address equity issues while developing the ESSA rules regarding funding and staffing school libraries.

One key resolution that was narrowly deferred until 2017 Midwinter was a resolution on gun violence developed by a workgroup made of up of members from the Committee on Legislation (COL), Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force. There was a great deal of discussion on both sides of the debate, with many expressing grave concerns for the violence in their own communities, while others expressed concerns that such a public statement would have significant impact on library funding. After the lengthy debate on ALA’s position and the Association’s role in the overall national conversation on gun violence, in the end there was no satisfactory draft ready to present, so Council recommended that the workgroup continue to develop a full resolution for January 2017.

As always, there were a number of memorials and tributes for outstanding libraries and librarians. Councilor Rivkah Sass, a former librarian at Baltimore County Public Libraries (BCPL), took a moment of personal privilege to read the full memorial of Charlie Robinson (a former director of BCPL) and share personal memories of him.

Lastly, the IFC announced the publication of the new Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy; its first issue was available on June 6.

In local news, you may remember that after Midwinter 2016, chapter councilors were going to propose amendments at the Annual Conference that would increase chapter input to Council, ALA’s Executive Board, and the Chapter Relations Committee. Led by Councilor Jayne Beline of New Jersey, several Councilors in New York, Washington, D.C. and Maryland drafted such
an amendment. ALA President-Elect Julie Todaro and ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels met with the New Jersey leadership in Orlando just before the conference. Julie is committed to working more collaboratively with chapters and chapter leadership. There was a great deal of debate about several clauses in the amendment, with concern that changing the membership of Executive Board to include a chapter councilor would set a precedent to enlarge the board to include division and interest group representatives, and so forth. The Chapter Relations Committee did change their membership to require that eight of the 11 members be active in their chapters (see above). Realizing that there was not support to pass the amendment in Council, the local group of Councilors decided to withdraw the amendment and create a taskforce to develop more formal ways to connect “big” ALA with state chapters, which will hopefully move us forward in a positive direction.

Chart New Courses Together
MLA/DLA 2017 Conference at Hyatt Regency, Cambridge, May 10-12, 2017

Julie Ranelli, MLA Conference Director

The MLA/DLA Conference will be in a new location in 2017. The conference will be held on May 10-12, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, MD.

Speakers will include nationally renowned storyteller Kim Weitkamp on Wednesday evening, cultural innovator and activist Vernā Myers with her talk “What If I Say the Wrong Thing? Interrupting Bias in Ourselves and Others” on Thursday evening, and Michael Halpern from the Union of Concerned Scientists at the Friday luncheon.

The conference committee is currently planning pre-conferences and sessions, and more details will be available in the next issue of the Crab.

Please plan to join us at the new MLA/DLA conference venue this spring!

Virtual Reality Technology, A Library First!

Robin Jacobsen, The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) piloted a virtual reality (VR) technology gaming development program this summer for the state. As a national first, PGCMLS conducted highly successful Virtual Reality Technology Roadshows, with hundreds of participants at multiple locations. Customers of all ages were excited to get their first experience of this technology at the library.

These events were followed by Virtual Reality
Technology Camps for hands-on design of virtual reality spaces and games by area youth. The summer activities culminated in the Virtual Reality Jam, a friendly VR gaming competition. The entire project was a surprising combination of STEM education and summer fun. "Like our partners, we want youth to view themselves as makers more than just consumers of digital media," said Michael Gannon, Chief Operating Officer for Support Services.

Students learned how to design virtual reality places and games with the Unity game engine, OSVR (Open Source Virtual Reality) software, and OSVR Hack Dev Kit headsets. "The ways that children communicate, collaborate and independently learn will forever be enhanced — but not replaced with — creative technologies," stated Matt Barinholtz, founder of FutureMakers, which was a partner in the project.

The Maryland State Department of Education’s Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS), FutureMakers, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and PGCMLS built this program on Maryland’s Statewide Programming Laptops Initiative for Community Education (SPLICE). The support from DLDS is appreciated, and PGCMLS intends to continue this initiative by purchasing headsets and software for use with SPLICE.
Selma Levi and Ryan O’Grady, Enoch Pratt Free Library, State Library Resource Center

If you’ve ever wanted to learn how to tell a story or if you are already an experienced storyteller and you want to learn more, even if you are not a children’s librarian—the SLRC Storytelling Conference is the right conference for you. The Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland State Library Resource Center (EPFL/SLRC) held its first annual storytelling conference on Tuesday, June 14. Jointly sponsored and hosted at The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH), fifty-four aspiring and experienced storytellers from all over the state, comprising eleven different Maryland counties and organizations, attended the conference to hone their storytelling skills.

Wesley Wilson, Chief of SLRC and the Central Library gave the keynote address, which emphasized the partnership between SLRC/Central and LBPH, and set the stage for the conference on storytelling as a “creative art that is both as old as the hills and fresh as the next captivating story.”

The noise level was high as was participants’ spirits during the small group collaborative morning session presented by Selma Levi, Children’s Department Manager at EPFL/SLRC, on using the Story Map Technique. Ms. Levi’s session presented an interactive learning experience that provided a dynamic way to individualize the storytelling process in the form of the Story Map Technique. An attendee noted that this was a “very effective workshop” and another stated that “Selma’s presentation gave doable, practical ideas.”
In the first afternoon session, Leslie Bowman, Chief of The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Amanda Gonzalez, reference and outreach librarian at LBPH, presented an overview of the adaptive and sensory techniques, tools, and materials they use when working with customers of the library. Many attendees in the audience remarked that gaining knowledge about LBPH’s specialized work was an invaluable and insightful part of the conference. One librarian remarked “I especially liked learning about services provided by LBPH” and another wrote “I am more aware of ideas to help assist a visually impaired student in the future.”

In the second afternoon session, Karen Burdnell, a current Pratt Librarian working on a Masters in Storytelling, professional storyteller, and winner of the National Association of Black Storyteller’s coveted Liar’s Contest, presented “The Nitty-Gritty of Storytelling,” regaled the audience with a variety of stories (including stories within stories!) and explained her philosophy of storytelling. Spontaneity was the name of the game as her presentation was interrupted by the invasion of a very mobile beetle of extraordinary size. Ms. Burdnell never blinked an eye as some conference attendees shrieked in surprise around her—a tour de force performance of how to overcome storytelling adversity.

(Left) Karen Burdnell’s telling of David Holt’s “The Magic Catfish” brought down the house.

(Below, from left to right) Karen Burdnell, Selma Levi, S. “Bunjo” Butler, and Lynne Distance. The group poses for a photo at the end of the conference.

(At right) Lynne Distance tells Virginia Hamilton’s “The People Could Fly”
The day-long conference wrapped up with a round robin of stories from Master Storytellers S. “Bunjo” Butler and Lynn Distance, who between them have six decades of storytelling experience. Butler, former National Association of Black Storytellers President and Festival Director, told his spellbinding version of “The Tar Baby” in honor of June-teenth celebrations, while Ms. Distance, a Traveling Troubadour and Jali Storyteller, had the audience on the edge of tears with Virginia Hamilton’s “The People Could Fly.” Ms. Burdnell’s telling of David Holt’s “The Magic Catfish” brought down the house.

Mark your calendars—the Second Annual Statewide SLRC Storytelling Conference is already planned for Tuesday, June 13, 2017 and registration will open sometime in Spring 2017. The keynote speaker will be local storyteller Anne Sheldon and the entire conference will be based on the theme of “The Future of Storytelling.”

(Right, top) Conference attendees pay rapt attention to the presentation by Leslie Bowman, Chief of The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Amanda Gonzalez, reference and outreach librarian (LBPH)
(Right, below) Leslie Bowman, Chief of The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Amanda Gonzalez, reference and outreach librarian (LBPH), present.
(Below) Karen Burdnell gets to the heart of the matter presenting her talk “The Nitty-Gritty of Storytelling.”
On Monday September 19, 2016, the Harford Community College (HCC) Library and HCC Office of Student Activities co-sponsored Constitution Day activities celebrating the 229th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787.

Constitution Day events were held at the Student Center Globe Cafe and at the HCC Library. The activities featured voter registration, pocket constitution giveaways, and snacks. Volunteers from the Harford County Board of Elections were at both locations to assist with voter registration and provide a demonstration of the new voting system (https://harfordvotes.wordpress.com/voter-resources/voting-system/). A “Constitution and the Right to Vote” PowerPoint display explained the importance of voting rights with the additions of Amendment 15 (“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude”) and Amendment 19 (“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”)

Free pocket-sized Constitution and amendments booklets as well as other giveaways were available at all HCC Library Service Desks and at the Globe Cafe in the Student Center near the HCC Office of Student Activities.

The Library showcased various “Constitution Day” posters, including “How a Bill Becomes a Law” and “The Constitution of the United States.” A number of government documents were also on display on the second floor of the HCC Library.

For more information, check out HCC Library’s “Constitution Day” LibGuide at: http://harford.libguides.com/government_information

In addition, the 1808 historic Hays-Heighe House at Harford Community College—a public history site that showcases the social and cultural history of Harford County—sponsored a “Constitution Day Celebration for Kids” on Saturday September 17, 2016. Attendees learned about our nation’s “instruction manual” and wrote their own constitutional amendments. One of the amendments was chosen to be sent to the National Constitution Center.

The current “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day” had its roots back in 1940 with a joint resolution passed by Congress that required the President to issue a Proclamation that set aside the third Sunday in May for public recognition for all those who attained American citizenship, as “I Am an American Day.” In 1952, Congress repealed the 1940 joint resolution and passed a new law moving the date to September 17 to commemorate the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. Effective May 24, 2005, the U.S. Department of Education released a “Notice of Implementation” that federal legislation proposed by West Virginian Senator Robert C. Byrd and passed by Congress requires all educational institutions that receive federal funds from the Department of Education to provide education programs relating to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year. (http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/constitution-day.php/)
The Every Student Succeeds Act and the Library Community

Melissa Grabill, President of the Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) first signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson. Johnson believed that “full educational opportunity” should be “our first national goal” and signed ESEA as a civil rights law in response to his “War on Poverty.” Its significance has resonated and guided state and local school policy for more than five decades.

So why is ESSA important to the school community? In the initial bill signed into law in 1965, school libraries had a place through legislative language and subsequent support in federal Title programs. However, the last reauthorization of ESEA in 2001 under the Bush administration changed that. Known as “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB), the legislation left school libraries behind as language supporting them was dropped from the final bill. NCLB was a disaster for school libraries and librarians across the country. Thousands of colleagues in K-12 schools were lost and we’ve seen school libraries close around the country because they were not specifically included in NCLB. Subsequently, reauthorization of ESEA has languished in Congress since 2009 and with each year, we see more stories of states and local school districts around the country dropping their support for school libraries.

In 2015, in a dramatic turn-around after mounting pressure from national groups, Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and Patty Murray (D-WA), HELP Committee Ranking Member, came together in a bi-partisan fashion to begin the reauthorization of ESEA. A coalition of more than 20 education businesses, associations, and media groups called on Congress to support dedicated school library funding in the reauthorization of ESEA, and to expand the federal investment in school libraries. The American Library Association Washington Office led the charge through lobbying, social media, and letter writing campaigns, and the ALA Executive Board voted to dedicate additional resources to support the legislation’s passage. When the final Senate bill languished during the summer and into the fall of 2015, it looked like the bill would again not pass. However, a coalition of national groups again pressured Congress, and in December 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA Reauthorization) was signed into law by President Obama.

For the first time since 2001, language supporting school libraries is back in ESEA. However, the work is not yet finished. Rulemaking at the state level has begun, including work through the Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) to get suggested language into the final state plan that will be submitted to the United States Department of Education by March 2017.

Language supporting school libraries has been included in ESSA under Title I, Part A - Improving basic programs operated by state and local educational agencies; Title II, Part A—Supporting effective instruction; Title II, Part B, Subpart 1—Literacy education for all, results for the nation (LEARN) and Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL); and Title IV, Part A—Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Block Grants). MASL would like to see both supporting language and technical assistance provided to local educational agencies in the final ESSA plan to support continued development and maintenance of effective school library programs.

Funding drives everything, and funding for programs and staff can come from many sources — some will originate at the Federal level, from state legislatures, and local school boards. We need to effectively advocate to all those funding partners about the role that school librarians have in student achievement and the role that school library programs play in school outcomes. Through this advocacy, partners need to be educated about the changes in ESSA concerning school libraries and librarians.

Help MASL by becoming partners in spreading the word about effective school libraries in Maryland and their role in the academic fabric of our students’ lives. More details will follow in coming months.
Career Online High School Program Available for Free to Prince George’s County Residents

Donna Scott-Martín, Prince George’s County Memorial Library System

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is offering qualified community members the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate through Career Online High School, a program brought to public libraries by Gale, a part of Cengage Learning. Part of the world’s first accredited, private online school district, Career Online High School is specifically designed to reengage adults into the education system and prepare them for entry into post-secondary career education or the workforce.

“Individuals with a high school diploma are employed at a rate of 76%. For those without high school credentials, the employment rate drops to 57%,” according to a 2014 Connecting Youth to Opportunity report by the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. The report text can be found at http://www.thecommunityfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Dropout-report.pdf

“Earning a high school diploma is a life-changing achievement,” said the Library’s Chief Executive Officer Kathleen Teaze. “By offering Career Online High School, we’re empowering our residents to seek new opportunities and transform their lives.”

“We’re delighted to partner with PGCMLS to offer Career Online High School and give residents access to education and the potential to change their lives,” said Paul Gazzolo, senior vice president and general manager for Gale.

PGCMLS will award scholarships for Career Online High School to qualified learners looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. Once enrolled, Career Online High School pairs each student with an Academic Coach who assists with developing an individual career plan, offers ongoing guidance and encouragement, evaluates performance, and connects the learner with the resources needed to demonstrate mastery of the course material. Classes are supported by board-certified instructors and students have 24/7 access to the online learning platform. Coursework begins in one of eight high-growth, high-demand career fields—from child care and education to certified transportation—before progressing to the core academic subjects. Many students are able to graduate in as few as 4 to 6 months by transferring in previously earned high school credits.

Learn more about Career Online High School at one of the branches of PGCMLS or on the website at www.pgcmls.info.

Send us The News!

You’re doing good work; we know it! Inspire Maryland’s library community: public, academic and institutional. You’re making news. Now, let us all read it.

Please check the masthead on the last page for our address, and tell us what you and your colleagues have been up to.

We’ll be proud to pass it along.
There is this great idea that if you look hard enough and long enough at any region of space, your line of sight will eventually run into a luminous object: a star, a galaxy or a cluster of galaxies. In reality, the universe is finite in age, so this isn’t quite the case. There are objects that emit light from the past 13.7 billion years—99 percent of the age of the universe—but none before that. Even in theory, there are no stars or galaxies to see beyond that time, as light is limited by the amount of time it has to travel.

But with the advent of large, powerful space telescopes that can collect data for the equivalent of millions of seconds of observing time, in both visible light and infrared wavelengths, we can see nearly to the edge of all that’s accessible to us.

The most massive compact, bound structures in the universe are galaxy clusters that are hundreds or even thousands of times the mass of the Milky Way. One of them, Abell S1063, was the target of a recent set of Hubble Space Telescope observations as part of the Frontier Fields program. While the Advanced Camera for Surveys instrument imaged the cluster, another instrument, the Wide Field Camera 3, used an optical trick to image a parallel field, offset by just a few arc minutes. Then the technique was reversed, giving us an unprecedentedly deep view of two closely aligned fields simultaneously, with wavelengths ranging from 435 to 1600 nanometers.

With a huge, towering galaxy cluster in one field and no comparably massive objects in the other, the effects of both weak and strong gravitational lensing are readily apparent. The galaxy cluster—over 100 trillion times the mass of our sun—warps the fabric of space. This causes background light to bend around it, converging on our eyes another four billion light years away. From behind the cluster, the light from distant galaxies is stretched, magnified, distorted, and bent into arcs and multiple images: a classic example of strong gravitational lensing. But in a subtler fashion, the less optimally aligned galaxies are distorted as well; they are stretched into elliptical shapes along concentric circles surrounding the cluster.

A visual inspection yields more of these tangential alignments than radial ones in the cluster field, while the parallel field exhibits no such shape distortion. This effect, known as weak gravitational lensing, is a very powerful technique for obtaining galaxy cluster masses independent of any other conditions. In this serendipitous image, both types of lensing can be discerned by the naked eye. When the James Webb Space Telescope launches in 2018, gravitational lensing may well empower us to see all the way back to the very first stars and galaxies.

If you’re interested in teaching kids about how these large telescopes “see,” be sure to see the article on this topic at the NASA Space Place website: http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/telescope-mirrors/en/
Three New Library Hires at Montgomery College

Ann Hiller King recently joined the libraries at Montgomery College. King received her Master of Science in Library Sciences from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC; her Master of Arts in English from University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; and her Bachelor of Arts in English from Oregon State University, Corvallis. King has experience in both access services and reference. King will be on the Access Services team at the Montgomery College Art Library at the Cafritz Center.

C. Brandon Mollock has also joined the library staff. He has 13 years of progressive experience in the circulation department at Albert S. Cook Library at Towson University. Five years ago, Mr. Mollock explains, he “took all he thought he knew, threw it out the window and dived blissfully ignorant into the world of public library service as circulation supervisor for Enoch Pratt Free Library.” Two years later he was promoted to Library Resource Manager at Enoch Pratt and delighted in challenging established norms and asking the important questions about library service. Today, he sits on the beautiful Montgomery College campus of Germantown trying to stick all fingers and most toes into the fertile soil of Campus Access Services.

Since March 2016, Chris Verdak has been the STEM Liaison & Instruction Librarian at the Germantown Campus at Montgomery College. Since coming to Montgomery College, he has piloted and developed the STEM embedded librarian programs for all three Montgomery College campuses, integrating library resources and instructional content with the colleges’ STEM curriculum. Mr. Verdak received his MSLIS in 2007 from Florida State University and has worked in both academic and public libraries, including managing an academic allied health library for five years. He has experience in instructional design, web development, and usability testing.

C. Brandon Mollock, MCC Campus Access Services

Chris Verdak, MCC STEM Liaison & Instruction Librarian
Who’s New in the MLA Technical Services Division?

Mary Elizabeth Murtha, University of Baltimore Law Library

The MLA Technical Services Division (TSD) has been busy recruiting for officers and TSD has several new officers that it would like to welcome.

Loretta Staal is the new TSD Secretary. Loretta, a native of Southern California, joined Harford County Public Library as head cataloger in 2013. She and her husband moved to Havre de Grace, Maryland in 2012, where her husband took a job with Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Research Lab. In Loretta’s spare time she likes to ballroom dance, sail the Chesapeake (as long as the boat does not heel more than 15 degrees), and visit family on the West Coast. Before moving to Maryland, she was a cataloger for 12 years at Carlsbad City Library, in Carlsbad, California. Loretta earned her Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University in 2011, after her children were grown. Loretta looks forward to serving as secretary for MLA TSD.

Robert Krzanowski is TSD’s new Vice President/President-Elect. Robert began his career at Adams Memorial Library in Latrobe, PA, working as a library assistant for three years before being promoted to Branch Manager/Reference Librarian upon receipt of his Master of Science in Library Science in August 2008. In 2009, he moved on to Slippery Rock University to work as a Bibliographic Services Technician, a position he held until July 2014. He currently is employed by Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD, as a Technical Services Librarian. In addition to his MLS from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, he holds a master’s degree in teaching from California University of Pennsylvania. He currently lives in Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania, with his wife, dog, and 3 cats.

The new TSD President, Maggie Dull, is the cataloging and metadata librarian at the University of Baltimore’s Langsdale Library, a position she has held since July 2015. Prior to working at UB, Maggie was the cataloging and metadata librarian at Goucher College and worked as a paraprofessional at the University of Portland’s Clark Library. She is active in TSD (having previously served as Vice President and Secretary), as well as in ALCTS (Association of Library Collections and Technical Services). Maggie earned her MLIS from the University of Washington and her MA in Victorian Studies from Birkbeck, University of London. She is currently enrolled in the Certificate in Curation and Management of Digital Assets (CMDA) program at the University of Maryland. When not in a library, Maggie can be found working at national tournaments for USA Fencing. TSD looks forward to a productive year ahead. Please stay tuned for upcoming programming information and other announcements from TSD.
Send Us Videos!

The Wall Street Journal recently published an article about Vertical Videos. Most of the article is interesting, but one point struck us particularly…

“Ten years ago, most of what people experienced online was text. Now it’s photos. Soon, more and more of it will be videos,” says Fidji Simo, Facebook’s director of product.

So let’s get with the future

All of us know that a video is more engaging than a PowerPoint. A video can pan around and show us the whole new Maker’s Room, while you comment on it with your proud colleagues. A video can capture the happy comments, the pithy remarks, the spontaneous reaction, in an immediate way.

There will always be room here for the text that explains the larger context, the finer points. If a picture (or video) is worth a thousand words, remember it then necessarily requires a thousand words to fully explain the picture!

So let’s have it all

Send us videos, and send us your articles and pictures and everything you have. Let’s make the Crab a premier vehicle for education, networking, library entertainment and sharing the knowledge!

(No rash promises!)

This page includes a sample donated by a colleague as a bit of a test. There are dozens of video formats floating around, and your phone or camera might, probably not, but it might produce a video we just can’t make reliably work in the interactive PDF format of the Crab. We promise to do our best, and bet we’ll be successful (most of the time.)

So let us know if this sample test works for you!

Thank you for your support.
The Crab is published quarterly to inform MLA members about events, news and activities of interest to the Maryland library community. Subscriptions are $15 per year (4 issues). For subscription or advertising information, change of address, or extra issues, call the MLA office at 410-947-5090.

the Crab is published online at the MLA web site: http://www.mdlib.org/about/ecrab/ecrab.asp.

Questions about MLA membership should be directed to the MLA office at mla@mdlib.org. Please address all other Crabby correspondence to: crabedit@mdlib.org.

Deadlines for submissions
Fall Issue: September 5;
Winter Issue: December 5
Spring Issue: March 5;
Summer Issue: June 5

Crab Editors
Annette Haldeman; Editor
Maryland Department of Legislative Services, 410-946-5400
Erin Dingle; Copy Editor
Frederick County Public Library, 301-600-7201
Regina Rose, Copy Editor
Baltimore County Public Library, 410-836-7698
Amy L. Miller, Copy Editor
Carroll County Public Library, 410-386-4490

Art Director and production staff
Bucky Edgett; Lucky Productions, Westminster MD 21158; 410-346-6925; luckypro.biz

Copyright © 2016 Maryland Library Association
1401 Hollins Street; Baltimore MD 21223
Voice: 410-947-5090; Fax: 410-947-5089
mla@mdlib.org

Keep up with MLA/ALA events…Share job openings…
Offer weeded items from your collection to others…Ask a question!

To subscribe to the list:
Send a message to sympa@lists.umaryland.edu from the address you want to subscribe to the list. In the subject line of your message, type in: subscribe marylib Firstname Lastname (indicate your own first and last name). Leave the message body blank. When your request is accepted, the message you receive confirms your subscription to the list.

To post a message to the list:
Address your message to marylib@lists.umaryland.edu. (When you reply to a message sent through the listserv, your message will go to everyone! Therefore, it might be a good idea to include your email address in the body of any messages you post to the list. In some systems, the reader won’t be able to see the address in the sender line. For private replies, send a separate message addressed to the original sender.)

To unsubscribe from the list:
From the address with which you subscribed to the list, send a message to sympa@lists.umaryland.edu. In the subject line of your email, type in: unsubscribe marylib. Leave the message body blank.