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Editor’s Note

As long-time members of MLA and/or readers of the Crab may be aware, the late summer and early fall season begins a new year on the MLA calendar. For those of you who are new or weren’t aware that the new MLA year typically starts in July, that means that the Fall issue of the Crab is the first time we hear from our new MLA President for the upcoming year. In this issue, newly minted MLA President Joe Thompson welcomes you to the Maryland Library’s Association (see page 5). In his president’s message, you can learn about the New Members Interest Group (NMIG) and how you can “Get to Know MLA” via a series of web meetups over the next several months, as well as information about student membership, library advocacy, and so much more! Our new President also expresses his thanks and appreciation to last year’s MLA president, Denise Davis. I echo those sentiments—thank you for your service as MLA President, Denise!

In the spirit of thanks and appreciation, I’d like to wish a fond farewell to Erin Dingle, one of our longtime copyeditors for the Crab. Erin has retired from her position at Frederick County Public Libraries and has thus also retired from the Crab. I thank Erin for all of her thoughtful editing over the years that I’ve been editor of the Crab and wish her all the best in retirement!

In light of Erin’s departure, the Crab would like to welcome some new copyeditors to the editing team. Joining the team, along with myself and fellow copyeditors Regina Rose and Amy Miller, are Hannah Wilkes (Frederick County Public Libraries) and Robert Miller (University of Maryland University College Library). Welcome, Hannah and Robert, and thanks to Regina and Amy for their continued service.

Enjoy this issue of the Crab and we’ll see you in the winter for our next issue, to be published January 15, 2019 (submissions due December 5, 2018), so start planning your next Crab submission!

Annette Haldeman, MLA Crab Editor; Department of Legislative Services Library
Welcome to the Maryland Library Association!

In this, my first column of the 2018-2019 year, I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome those of you who have joined MLA since our annual conference in the spring, and also thank each of you who have sustained your MLA membership for years or decades. Our membership is strong and stable, but we want to make sure not to take your membership or your participation for granted. We are a successful association because we have you—our engaged volunteers—developing programs, facilitating discussions, and encouraging the next generation of library staff to become involved in accomplishing this important work.

Not already a MLA member? Please accept this personal invitation to join! While many of us became involved in MLA by attending a meeting or program or the MLA Conference, and we learned about the association through conversations with those who had already experienced the joy of participation, the reality is that not everyone working across Maryland libraries has the opportunity to easily leave the library building or classes. For these individuals, learning about the association through personal connections can be a challenge.

For this reason, our New Members Interest Group (NMIG) will be offering a series of “Getting to Know MLA” web meetups over the next several months to bring the association to you, wherever you are. What is a division, and what do they do? How does one get involved in an interest group? What is the role of a panel? These are just a few of the questions we’ll address. You will talk with our division leaders, our conference chair (the incomparable Tiffany Sutherland) and I about the work of the association and how you can get involved. I very much want to thank Kimberly Knight, NMIG Chair, for working with me to develop these meetups. These are our scheduled dates, all to be held at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time:

- Wednesday, October 17, 2018
- Thursday, December 13, 2018
- Wednesday, February 13, 2019
- Wednesday, April 17, 2019

In the coming weeks we’ll post log-on information on the Marylib email listserv, MLA’s Facebook page, MLA’s Twitter feed and the MLA website’s calendar.

Are you a student? Did you know that your MLA membership is only $22? You can join online at https://www.mdlib.org (select “Join MLA”) or print and mail this form. In addition to connecting you with our network of MLA members, membership also gets you access to our quarterly Crab newsletter (of which this column is only one small part!). Are you interested in joining both MLA and the American Library Association at the same time? If you’re getting a degree in library or information science you can join both associations for one low price of $42. Visit https://www.ala.org/cfapps/jntapp/index.cfm?urlcode=ST-MD for details. Looking ahead, this year we will be continuing to implement the MLA Strategic Plan (PDF) for 2018-2020. Each year the MLA President works with the MLA Executive Board and Advisory Council to develop our goals for that year. These are our 2018-2019 goals:

We will ensure that the 2018-2020 MLA strategic plan remains the focus of our
planning activities in this middle year of the 3-year plan, and we will continue to work toward achieving our mission: The Maryland Library Association builds and promotes a strong, engaged, knowledgeable, diverse and inclusive library community to advance the transformational impact of Maryland’s library staff and libraries.

We will ensure the growth of our diverse and inclusive leadership, which will specifically support Goal 4 of our strategic plan, to foster “an inclusive organizational culture, representing a growing and increasingly diverse organization, and prepare members for leadership opportunities.”

We will ensure that member recruitment and retention is a focus of every MLA activity, which will connect to Goal 3 of our strategic plan, to make sure that “the library community is well-informed about MLA and the opportunities and value it provides.” We will grow membership by 5% between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

We will ensure that library advocacy is a focus of attention across all of MLA, which will specifically support Goal 2 of our strategic plan, to foster and promote “highly effective advocacy for the Maryland library community, conveying the needs, principles, and value of libraries.” All divisions, committees, panels, and interest groups will support library advocacy.

We will work to advance Goal 1 of our strategic plan, to “empower members to successfully address pivotal challenges and opportunities for the Maryland library community.” All divisions, committees, panels, and interest groups will support a future-ready library community.

In closing, I very much want to thank each of our volunteer leaders for sharing their experience, knowledge and time. Your dedication to Maryland libraries and our association ensures our present and future success. I also want to express my appreciation to our immediate Past-President, Denise Davis, for her commitment to MLA and leadership on a number of important library advocacy efforts over the past year. None of our association’s important work would be possible without the dedication of our Executive Director, Margaret Carty, and MLA staff Kate Monagan and Tina Pickens. I’m incredibly grateful to be working with each of you, and looking forward to all of the great things that we’ll accomplish in the coming year!
MLA Presents the Excellence in Marketing Award

Victoria Falcón, Southern Maryland Regional Library Association

A brand new award to recognize the talent and contributions of marketing and communications professionals in Maryland libraries will debut at the Maryland Library Association’s 2019 conference. The Excellence in Marketing Award is an opportunity for those within Maryland libraries to share ideas and learn from their peers.

The award will recognize the best marketing campaign design (to include print or digital material) created during the 2018 calendar year. Any library organization in Maryland can enter up to three submissions by January 31, 2019.

“The first award will be given out during the next MLA conference,” said Vicky Falcón, MLA’s Marketing & Membership Committee chairperson.

“One of MLA’s strategic goals is to provide professional development and training initiatives through embracing innovative formats,” Falcón stated. “This is certainly a new and creative way to learn from the creativity of other library systems.”

The award will be judged in four categories with a rubric of ten points maximum for:

- Originality;
- Measureable results;
- Quality of content; and
- Campaign design

Additional points may be given for:

- audience appeal;
- presentation of information in a clear and informative way;
- attractive appearance;
- appropriateness of design/graphics/photos; and
- uniqueness of format.

The top prize is a one-year organizational membership to MLA, with recognition for additional honorees. The award will be given annually.

For more information about the new Excellence in Marketing Award, contact Vicky Falcón at vfalconc@somd.lib.md.us.

Officer Candidates Needed for Maryland Library Association (MLA)

Have you ever considered serving as an officer for the Maryland Library Association? Here is your chance to contribute to the future of your professional organization!

The MLA Nominations Committee is currently seeking candidates for the offices of Vice President/President Elect/Past President, which is a three year term, and Treasurer, which is a two year term. Candidates for office must be members of MLA.

For more information, see the MLA Bylaws at https://www.mdlib.org/files/docs/about/bylaws.pdf
Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Harry Potter in Laurel

Marcy Richardson, Prince George’s County Memorial Library System.

The Laurel branch of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System hosted a STEM for Families event on August 14, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the U.S. release of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone. Over 120 kids and adults came dressed in their Hogwarts house colors to make lava lamps, explore static electricity and learn about attraction/repulsion with dancing beads. Participants answered trivia questions for prizes and made crafts to round out the afternoon.
Stephen “Mike” Kiel, Robert L. Bogolmony Library, University of Baltimore

The University of Baltimore Library recently got a facelift complete with a glass atrium and a new exterior. Come inside on a quick pictorial tour. Then come for a real life visit!
There’s plenty to admire outside, too!
The new atrium welcomes our patrons.
1st floor

The first floor is home to the combined information desk to greet patrons and triage questions. The main computer lab has lots of natural light, as do the flowerbeds.
Lower Level

The lower level has the library’s new flexible instruction room, as well as a “homey” writing center and other academic support services.
2nd floor

The second floor has some librarian staff space, student lockers and a variety of student study spaces.
3rd floor

The most open and flexible floor is 3, with unique study carrels, movable furniture, and a great view of the atrium.
4th floor

This is the home of all the library’s books, and the most beautiful views from a laptop bar and the window seats.

We’re looking forward to seeing you.
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FEATURES

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Keeping Current with Comics

Laura Sheahen, Ruth Enlow Libraries of Garrett County

Librarians KNOW that engaging with teens can be a challenge. In rural western Maryland, older patrons and families with young children often come to the library. However, library staff want to make sure young adults find what they like as well.

That task has become easier thanks to a recent gift of independent comics and graphic novels to the Ruth Enlow Libraries of Garrett County. The library was named a 2018 recipient of the Small Press Expo Library Gift Program. This program, the first of its kind in the United States, is an outright gift of comics and graphic novels to libraries as selected by their collections specialists.

In late August, one branch of the library held an unboxing display to showcase dozens of books, including Donald Duck comics, satirical cartoons from the Hark, a Vagrant! series, the popular Hip Hop Family Tree and quirky selections like Pinocchio, Vampire Slayer.

“We’re delighted that the library is receiving a wide variety of independent comics, and grateful to Small Press Expo for making this happen,” says Thomas Vose, director of the Ruth Enlow Library. “There are graphic novels available for everyone—for kids, teens and even some just for adults.”

Earlier in August, Mr. Vose took part in a formal presentation of the books to the libraries, receiving them from Small Press Expo Graphic Novel Gift Program Director Catherine Fraas. The books were selected by the libraries from publishers AdHouse, Fantagraphics, Top Shelf, Drawn & Quarterly, Cartoon Books, and Koyama Press.

The graphic novels are being distributed to the system’s five branches in western Maryland. “We’re very glad to be augmenting the library’s graphic novel collection with these wonderful titles,” says Vose. “And we hope to see not just teens, but also adults developing a new appreciation for the genre!”

More information:
http://www.smallpressexpo.com/, www.relib.net
Keeping Current with Comics in Garrett County.
Challenges to Intellectual Freedom in Libraries: Be Aware and Be Prepared

Sara Brown, Baltimore County Public Library and Mou Chakraborty, Salisbury University Libraries

BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2018 may be over, but learning about challenges to intellectual freedom in libraries is always timely. Maryland has seen its share of challenges in 2017 and 2018 and can expect more, but fortunately, there are many resources available to help prepare for challenges and address them when they arise.

The ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF) received reports of challenges to 416 books in 2017. However, OIF notes that between 82-97% of challenges go unreported, so the actual number is likely much higher. While Banned Books Week focuses on challenges to books, these are not the only library materials or services challenged. According to ALA’s March 31, 2018 “Issues and Trends,” 18% of challenges were to databases, magazines, films, and games, 7% to programs, 4% to displays, and 4% to other materials or services.

Challenges do not only come from patrons. According to ALA, while 42% of challenges are initiated by patrons, 32% come from parents, 14% from library boards or administration, 6% percent from librarians or teachers, and 6% from a combination of other groups. The majority of challenges (56%) are in public libraries, followed by 25% in schools (for curriculum or in the classroom), 16% in school libraries, 2% in academic libraries, and 1% in special/other libraries.


Materials, displays, and programs are challenged for different reasons, but common reasons cited by ALA include items containing LGBTQ+ information or characters, racism, profanity, sexually explicit material, or having a religious viewpoint.

Maryland Activity

Maryland has seen a variety of challenges in 2017 and in 2018 about materials, programs, school reading lists, displays, and more. In 2017, a proposed sex education program brought vociferous opposition in St. Mary’s County and Charles County. Bianca Palmisano of Intimate Health Counseling was set to present in both library systems as part of a Small Town Sex Ed Tour but faced an outcry from some members of the community. Charles County Public Library decided to postpone and then ultimately cancel the program. When the St. Mary’s County system decided to cancel the program because of the backlash, an outside group rented out a meeting room at the branch where it was originally scheduled and invited Palmisano to present the canceled program.

Meanwhile, Baltimore City schools faced opposition to a book assigned to high school students. Parents objected to Buck: A Memoir by M.K. Asante because of profanity and what they considered to be graphic detail. While the book had been taught in schools previously, the lesson plan was ultimately changed to remove the title.

According to OIF, other books challenged recently in Maryland include Kill or Be Killed by Ed Brubaker, Che Guevara’s Face by Danielle Smith-Liera, The Little Black Book for Girlz: A Book on Healthy Sexuality by Lindsey Rosin, and The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. The Hate U Give also appears on OIF’s Top Ten Challenged Books of 2017. To raise awareness about the present issue of book challenges, MLA’s Intellectual Freedom Panel (IFP) created a poster at MLA/DLA 2018 that included an interactive section where attendees noted their favorite banned books. The Harry Potter series was the favorite, followed by a tie between And Tango Makes Three and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Other favorite banned books included Fahrenheit 451, The Giving Tree, His Dark Materials, In the Night Kitchen, Slaughter House Five, The Lorax, Bridge to Terabithia, The Handmaid’s Tale, and Winnie the Pooh. Many of these books have consistently been featured on ALA’s banned books lists.

Resources

Whatever the situation, libraries can find support during a challenge at http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport. This link includes guidelines for considering challenges, working with the media, special considerations for youth, and more. IFP is also here to support any Maryland library through the challenge process. Contact co-chairs Sara Brown (sabrown@bcpl.net) and Julie Ranelli (julie@qaclibrary.org) for more information.

Comprehensive selection and reconsideration policies can help libraries protect against challenges and navigate through them when they occur. ALA recently released a toolkit to help libraries create strong policies: http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit. The toolkit includes selection criteria, considerations for selecting material that may be controversial, sample reconsideration forms, and more.

Finally, remember that much of what OIF tracks comes from reports by libraries! To report challenges in any type of library, visit http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report, email oif@ala.org, or call 1-800-545-2433, x4226.
Conference Attendees Appreciate Program on Bibliographic Control

Robert Krzanowski, Carroll Community College

The Technical Services Division (TSD) would like to thank Vicki Sipe, Catalog and Metadata Librarian at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, for graciously serving as a last-minute replacement for the presentation “The Future of Bibliographic Control,” offered at the Maryland Library Association conference last May.

This was not the first time that Vicki has led a conference presentation on behalf of TSD, as she also led the “Basic Cataloging with RDA [Resource Description and Access]” and “RDA Basics: Monographs & Serials” training sessions at the 2016 and 2014 MLA conferences, respectively. She is the author of the Association of Library Collections and Technical Services web course, Fundamentals of Cataloging, and is finishing her term as Past President of ALCTS at the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans in June.

Vicki’s presentation highlighted the ongoing issues with traditional cataloging standards such as Anglo-American Cataloging Rules 2nd edition and MAchine Readable Cataloging, and the possibility of a semantic web of bibliographic information using new standards such as RDA and BIBFRAME [Bibliographic Framework]. The presentation was very well-received, and TSD is extremely grateful to her for providing such a high-quality presentation!

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.

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You’re like to know!

your MLA community
This year’s International Observe the Moon Night is on Oct. 20. Look for astronomy clubs and science centers in your area inviting you to view the Moon at their star parties that evening!

On Oct. 20, the 11-day-old waxing gibbous Moon will rise in the late afternoon and set before dawn. Sunlight will reveal most of the lunar surface and the Moon will be visible all night long. You can observe the Moon’s features whether you’re observing with the unaided eye, through binoculars or through a telescope.

Here are a few of the Moon’s features you might spot on the evening of October 20:

Sinus Iridum—Latin for “Bay of Rainbows”—is the little half circle visible on the western side of the Moon near the lunar terminator—the line between light and dark. Another feature, the Jura Mountains, ring the Moon’s western edge. You can see them catch the morning Sun.

Just south of the Sinus Iridum you can see a large, flat plain called the Mare Imbrium. This feature is called a mare—Latin for “sea”—because early astronomers mistook it for a sea on the Moon’s surface. Because the Moon will be approaching full, the large craters Copernicus and Tycho will also take center stage.

Copernicus is 58 miles (93 kilometers) across. Although its impact crater rays—seen as lines leading out from the crater—will be much more visible at Full Moon, you will still be able to see them on October 20. Tycho, on the other hand, lies in a field of craters near the southern edge of the visible surface of the Moon. At 53 miles (85 kilometers) across, it’s a little smaller than Copernicus. However, its massive ray system spans more than 932 miles (1500 kilometers)!

And if you’re very observant on the 20th, you’ll be able to check off all six of the Apollo lunar landing site locations, too!

In addition to the Moon, you’ll be able to observe two meteor showers this month: the Orionids and the Southern Taurids. Although both will have low rates of meteors, they’ll be visible in the same part of the sky.

The Orionids peak on Oct. 21, but they are active from Oct. 16 to Oct. 30. Start looking at about 10 p.m. and you can continue to look until 5 a.m. With the bright moonlight you may see only five to 10 swift and faint Orionids per hour.

If you see a slow, bright meteor, that’s from the Taurid meteor shower. The Taurids radiate from the nearby constellation Taurus, the Bull. Taurids are active from Sept. 10 through Nov. 20, so you may see both a slow Taurid and a fast Orionid piercing your sky this month. You’ll be lucky to see five Taurids per hour on the peak night of Oct. 10.

You can also still catch the great lineup of bright planets in October, with Jupiter, Saturn and Mars lining up with the Moon again this month. And early birds can even catch Venus just before dawn!

You can find out more about International Observe the Moon Night at https://moon.nasa.gov/observe.

This image shows some of the features you might see if you closely observe the Moon. The stars represent the six Apollo landing sites on the Moon. Credit: NASA/GSFC/Arizona State University (modified by NASA/JPL-Caltech)
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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:
About the Crab

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

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