Plus,

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**ALA Midwinter 2014: Report from Philadelphia (Left)**

ALA Councilor for Maryland, Pat Hofmann, reports on her recent visit to Philadelphia for the ALA Midwinter Conference.

**Discussing the American Dream…Immigrant Story, The Distance Between Us, is the 2014 One Maryland, One Book**

Now in its seventh year, the Maryland Humanities Council’s One Maryland, One Book statewide reading and discussion program has made Reyna Grande’s memoir, *The Distance Between Us*, its selection for 2014.

**Lúnasa Performs at Library Event**

St. Patrick’s Day was very special for Frederick County Public Libraries. More than 500 lucky patrons picked up free tickets at the library to attend the March 17th performance of the world-renowned Irish instrumental band, Lúnasa, performing at this year’s annual Celtic Concert.

**MLA Acquires New SmartBoard**

To great success, MLA Board uses the new SmartBoard at a recent meeting.

**A Two-Toned Wonder from the Saturnian Outskirts**

NASA’s Space Place article describes Saturn’s unique two-toned moon, Iapetus.
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I recently acquired some of the very first issues of the Crab. Thus, for this month’s editor’s note, I wanted to share with you the very first Editor’s Note from the Crab, Volume 1, Number 1, Summer 1971, along with a corresponding recipe for Crab Soup. Enjoy this blast from the past, which you’ll find both is and isn’t all that different from the Crab today.

Annette Haldeman, MLA Crab Editor
Department of Legislative Services Library

The Crab • Spring, 2014

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Current Editor’s Note

The primary purpose of this newsletter will be to inform the members of the Maryland Library Association of activities and personnel within the organization. It will also carry national, state, and regional news affecting libraries and librarians in Maryland, activities of other library groups in the state, library school news, editorials, a calendar of coming events, and letters.

The success of THE CRAB will depend on the contributions of the members of MLA. We hope you will send us information to make this a lively means of communication among the members of the Association. The deadline for the next issue will be September 10, 1971. Please send your contributions to:

Miss Eleanor O. Hofstetter
Chairman, MLA Editorial Committee
Towson State College Library
Baltimore, Maryland 21204

or to any member of the Editorial Committee.

Even before we went to press, one member of MLA wrote and asked that we identify acronyms as he was confused by the alphabet soup he often found in library media. We will certainly try to be careful with acronyms but in the interests of space we will use EPPL, BCPL, and PGML to identify certain large library systems in the state, and JMRG to identify that active division in MLA. If you do not know what these are, please ask a colleague.

A word about the name of this publication is also in order. It has no negative connotation. The lowly crustacean which brings so much enjoyment to Marylanders seemed an appropriate symbol of the state. We present below a recipe for our namesake.

Please respond to THE CRAB with a letter indicating your general or specific feelings about our efforts. We hope the stars are with us because most of the preparation for this first issue was done under the zodiacal sign of Cancer (the Crab).

Crab Soup

Ham hocks or meat stock 4 onions
1 lb. string beans 3 carrots
1 lb. lima beans 1 1/2 bunch of parsley 1/2 cup rice
1 can tomato puree 1 can of corn
1/2 head cabbage 5 stalks celery
1 can tomatoes 1 1/2 peppers
2 dozen live hard crabs 1 lb. claw crab

Cook all vegetables for 1 hour with crab meat and stock except corn, lima beans and potatoes. Add these and cook for 15 minutes. Add crabs and crab meat and cook for 20 more minutes. Season to taste with Old Bay, salt and red pepper.

Contributed by Charlie Webber
Illustration Division, Johns Hopkins Univ.
I’ve always enjoyed reading the Crab, particularly since it went digital. What I didn’t realize when I agreed to run for president of MLA was that one of the joys of the presidency is writing this column four times a year. It’s not a burden, but it’s the sort of detail I don’t consider when I agree to step into a new leadership role. I’m a big-picture girl: if a role is challenging but fun and I can make the time, I’m generally all in.

**How do you approach taking on new challenges?**

Do you jump in or do you carefully consider the impact and responsibilities of the role? Perhaps a hybrid of these two approaches? MLA needs both the “jumpers-in” and the “cautiously willing.”

The association is always in search of new leaders. Divisions need steering committee members, in addition to presidents, vice presidents, and secretaries. Division presidents are typically in charge of holding meetings and guiding the yearly work of the division while the vice presidents are tasked with programming (consisting of both stand-alone programming and serving on the conference committee). Interest Groups need chairs and often, a steering committee, to help plan get-togethers and online discussions and conference programs.

There are so many ways to be involved with the association from serving on conference committees to participating in a division, attending programs, volunteering to take pictures at an event, serving on an MLA committee, filling out a membership survey, running for a state-wide office, and so on.

**What are you doing to cultivate your leadership genes?**

I’m writing this column from seat 3B on a flight to Indianapolis for the Public Library Association conference. There are, by my count, a bunch of librarians on board. There are directors, assistant directors, department heads, IT folks, branch managers, public service librarians, support staff, and trustees. There are even some library vendors. It took leadership to get on the plane (not to brave the flight necessarily, but to be selected or encouraged to go, especially for those who are paying their own way). It will take even more leadership to share what we’ve learned when we return to Maryland. Conference attendance, whether at MLA-DLA in May or ALA in June, or even at a special conference like PLA, ACRL, or Computers in Libraries keeps us energized and connected to the profession.

Advocacy is leadership in action. It was great to see so many librarians in Annapolis on February 19th for Library Legislative Day. Every kind of library was represented. Thank you for the leadership demonstrated on that day, exemplified by librarians showing up en masse, shaking hands with legislative leaders, and testifying for library legislation.

In the everyday work we do, we are also leaders. In early childhood education, public libraries have always been integral to the development of young minds. Public libraries and their librarians are at the heart of communities hosting community conversations, STEM programming, connecting customers with job opportunities and so much more. School librarians are technology leaders in their schools and are providing valuable support in implementing Common Core Standards, all while connecting students to books that engage and educate. Academic librarians lead students in their transition to the working world and into the depths of information literacy. Special librarians are anchors in their institutions, developing a specialized set of knowledge and skills tailored to serving patrons focused on finding specific information, ranging from medical to legal and everything in between.

Leadership takes on many forms; reflect on what you give to the Maryland Library Association and what it gives to you.

As in the best of relationships, the accounting of what I have given to and gotten from MLA is hard to tally, will never balance, and I am richer for it.
Read Across Maryland Kicks off 30 Days of Reading

Paula Isett, Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services

The Division of Library Development and Services and the Maryland Library Association joined with the Governor’s Office to celebrate the kick off of Read Across Maryland, an annual event in March that highlights the importance of reading by setting aside thirty minutes a day to read. With the slogan, “Thirty Minutes for Thirty Days,” students and library customers downloaded the Read Across Maryland reading log, recorded their progress for the month and then uploaded the log to the Read Across Maryland website: http://www.readacrossmaryland.org/.

February 28 was the kick-off at the Spauldings Branch Library in Prince George’s County, where elected officials and library staff, along with students from Samuel P. Massie Academy, gathered for refreshments and orientation to the program. Throughout the month, special book clubs were held with a local radio celebrity, Angie Ange. Tray Chaney, actor from HBO’s The Wire, performed his song “Radical Readers.”

Throughout the month, as part of Read Across Maryland, the Maryland State Department of Education collected new books in a book bin provided by the Weinberg Foundation and its Baltimore Library Project partners. These books will be delivered to one of the libraries currently being renovated under this project. The project has already remodeled six Baltimore City Public School Libraries and there are three currently under construction. More information can be found about the project at http://www.baltimorelibraryproject.org/.

Cecil County Public Library’s Small Business Information Center’s Global Impact

Frazier Walker, Cecil County Public Library

What do Elkton, Maryland and Tokyo, Japan have in common? The library!

Cecil County Public Library’s (CCPL) Small Business Information Center Librarian, Laura Metzler, recently visited with Professor Mika Koshizuka, of Gakushuin Women’s College of Tokyo, Japan. Koshizuka traveled to America to study business resource centers in United States’ libraries and universities.

Koshizuka’s month-long trip to America spanned from San Francisco to New York; to Philadelphia for the American Library Association Midwinter Conference; and to Washington, D.C. Cecil County is the most rural location that Professor Koshizuka visited.

Japan is divided into prefectures, which are similar to states in the United States. The Tokyo Prefecture does have a program similar to CCPL’s Small Business Information Center (SBIC), but many prefectures are rural and have different needs than an urban center. For many aspiring business owners in rural Japan, a trip to Tokyo would not be possible.

Koshizuka and Metzler discussed, at length, how CCPL developed and grew the SBIC and how its success largely stems from developing relationships in the business community. By attending local meetings of groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Lions Club,
Metzler has developed many relationships and can connect with both established and aspiring entrepreneurs. CCPL is also partnered with business groups such as Cecil Business Resource Partners, among others.

The librarians also studied CCPL’s demographics databases, the online resume review process, and the concept of reserved “reference/research/job hunting” computers for patrons, separate from general public access computers.

Koshizuka plans to share her findings from across the United States and from CCPL with the Japanese library community.

Cecil County Public Library Finalist For 2014 National Medal Award

Frazier Walker, Cecil County Public Library

Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) is honored to announce its selection as one of 30 national finalists for the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ (IMLS) 2014 National Medal Award. In its 20th year, the medal is the nation’s highest honor and a prestigious award that highlights institutions for their extraordinary public service and remarkable contributions to their communities.

“We are deeply honored by the recognition of CCPL’s strategic focus on creating educational and economic opportunity for all, being both a community anchor for achievement as well as a champion for community success,” commented Denise Davis, CCPL’s Director. Cecil County Public Library submitted an application that focused on its educational and economic development services and was accompanied by letters of support from County Executive Tari Moore, Superintendent of Schools Dr. D’ette Devine, Office of Economic Development Director Lisa Webb and Senator Barbara Mikulski.

“Cecil County Public Library’s success reflects the growing success of our county overall. Cecil County is home to many innovative and pioneering institutions,” stated County Executive Tari Moore.

“Museums and libraries serve as civic gathering places, bringing together individuals in pursuit of educational resources, community connections, skills development, and multifaceted lifelong learning,” said Susan Hildreth, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. “We are very proud to announce Cecil County Public Library as finalist for the 2014 National Medal. This year’s National Medal finalists illustrate the many ways museums and libraries can excite lifelong learning and civic engagement.”

Finalists are chosen because of their significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. National Medal for Museum and Library Service winners will be announced April 24.

Let’s Talk About It:

Muslim Journeys

Liz Bowen, Frederick County Public Libraries

January 16th marked the first night of a five part scholar-led book discussion series called Let’s Talk About It (LTAI): Muslim Journeys at Frederick County Public
Libraries. Dr. Donald Wright, Director of Middle Eastern Studies at Hood College in Frederick, guided 35 individuals on a journey into the theme of Literary Reflections, starting with *The Arabian Nights*. The first twenty participants to sign up received their very own special copy of the book.

Enriching the LTAI series was a selection of related programming across the library system. Community events that ranged from branch book clubs to tween programming to a film series to an art and architecture lecture, fostered discussions that modeled the LTAI purpose. Films selected were part of the Muslim Journeys Bridging Cultures Bookshelf, including *Koran By Heart; Islamic Art: Mirror on the Invisible World*; and *Islamic Art Spots*.

The Frederick County Public Libraries was one of 125 libraries and state humanities councils from across the United States selected to take part in this grant funded opportunity whose goal is familiarize public audiences with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world. The grant is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA).

For more information about the Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys series and to explore other themes and resources, please visit the Bridging Cultures Muslim Journeys website http://bridgingcultures.neh.gov/muslimjourneys/

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KRIEGER SCHOOL of ARTS & SCIENCES
ADVANCED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
Everyone who attended the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Conference in Philadelphia will vouch that it was cold! Despite the blizzard-like weather, everyone who made it through had a great experience. Attendance was the best in three years, with a total of 12,207 participants (8,407 registrants and 3,800 exhibitors).

ALA has more than 60,000 members. The organization’s long range plan focuses on advocacy, building the profession, transforming libraries, member engagement and organizational excellence. The plan is mentioned frequently at Midwinter, as it is the foundation of all ALA activities.

As ALA Councilor for Maryland, I attended Chapter Leaders Forum, Council Orientation, one Chapter Relations meeting, Council Information meeting, three Council meetings, and a couple of candidate forums. I also attended my favorite meeting, the Chapter Councilor’s Forum, which is a time for all of the Chapter Councilors to get together.

In addition to required ALA meetings, I attended the United for Libraries Tea and listened to six great authors. Laura Lippman, Sue Monk Kidd and Lisa Scottoline were all featured on the same incredible panel! I also had the cool opportunity to test Google Glass.

The Chapter Leaders Forum is a day-long session for Chapter Executive Directors, Chapter Councilors, Chapter Presidents and incoming Chapter Presidents. Margaret Carty (Maryland Library Association) and John Venditta (Eastern Shore Regional Library, MLA President-Elect) also attended this meeting, so Maryland was well represented.

Margaret Carty spoke to the group about association membership. Most chapters stated that they are interested in providing more tangible benefits to their members.

We learned that CapWiz, the Congressional Quarterly service, will be renamed “Engage.”

Glenn Miller and Kathy Silks, from the Pennsylvania Library Association, spoke about their new program, PA Forward. This initiative connects libraries to literacy and searches out active business and non-profit partnerships.

“Money Smart Week” is April 5–12, 2014. ALA encourages all libraries to sign up and participate by presenting a financial program.

Council Orientation is for new and returning councilors who are interested in a council refresher. ALA officers have a few minutes to speak and introduce themselves. Among those who spoke were ALA President Barbara Stripling, ALA Treasurer Mario Gonzalez, and Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels. Eli Mina, Council’s Parliamentarian, handles all rules of order for Council meetings and resolves any procedure questions that come before Council.
Chapter Relations held two meetings during the conference; I attended the first. Some items of interest:

- ALA received a large grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to work on a national public policy agenda and action plan for libraries, called “Policy Revolution!” Stay tuned for more information on this initiative.
- Fiels reported that ALA is establishing a Center for the Future of Libraries, funded by an IMLS grant.
- Emily Sheketoff of the Washington Office described the ALA legislative text alerts feature. Text “library” to 877877 to participate and receive critical, periodic text messages about library advocacy opportunities.
- Sheketoff reported that the Washington Office is monitoring net neutrality and discussing their next steps. More information on library-related politics news from the Washington Office can be found at [http://www.districtdispatch.org/](http://www.districtdispatch.org/).

**Council Information Meeting**

During this meeting, reports were presented by the ALA President, President-Elect, Executive Director, Treasurer, Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC), and the Endowment Trustees and Nominating Committee.

**Council I**

John Venditta received recognition as President-Elect of MLA.

Council Business, such as minutes, nominations for Executive Board, and reports were presented.

Sari Feldman and Robert Wolven presented a report from the Digital Content Working Group. They have seen some successes and still have a lot of ongoing work.

**Resolution: Electronic Communications.** A task force will work with ALA staff to determine options for communication. I voted yes; this resolution passed.

The [ALA/APA Council](http://www.ala.org) takes place at the end of Council I. This group provides national certification for library workers, advocates for improved salaries and training for library workers, and provides reports and analyses.

**Council II**

**Action Item: Prayer in ALA Meetings.** The policy manual will be revised to say, “The American Library Association refrains from having public prayers during its meetings. Moments of silence may be observed during meetings.”

The Freedom to Read Foundation presented a report.

**Resolution: Improve Member Access to ALA Unit Governing Information.** This resolution will require Divisions and Round Tables to share both draft and final minutes and to keep a historical record. I voted yes; this resolution passed.

**Resolution: Edward Snowden.** The resolved stated, “ALA recognizes Edward Snowden as a whistleblower who, in releasing information that documents the mass surveillance programs of the National Security Agency, has performed a valuable service in launching a dialogue about transparency, government surveillance, and overclassification.” I voted no; this resolution failed.

**Resolution: Allow Programs at ALA Midwinter meetings.** This resolution was referred to BARC.

Maureen Sullivan, Immediate Past President, presented a nomination for honorary membership in ALA: Patricia Glass Schuman (ALA Publishing). Council approved the membership.

**Council III**

Memorials were presented for four individuals: Augusta Clark; Maj. Robert Owens; Dr. Nasser Sharify; and Dr. Bohdan Stephan Wynar.

Tributes honored Ed Hermance, owner of Giovanni’s Room Bookstore, and Senator John D. Rockefeller IV for his support of libraries.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Committee on Legislation reported to the council, both presenting resolutions within their reports.

**Resolution: Curbing Government Surveillance and Restoring Civil Liberties.** First, ALA calls upon Congress to pass legislation supporting the reforms embodied in USA Freedom Act (H.R.3361/S.1599) as introduced, and upon the President to sign such legislation. Secondly, the resolution commends Senator Patrick Leahy and Congressman James Sensenbrenner, Jr., for sponsoring the USA Freedom act. I voted yes; both portions of this resolution passed.

**Resolution: Expanding Federal Whistleblower Protections.** This resolution urges Congress to extend whistleblower protection and establish a secure procedure for whistleblowers. It commends those who risk their livelihoods, reputations and liberty to expose evidence of government fraud, waste, or abuse. I voted yes; this resolution passed.

Eric Suess, ALA Awards Committee Member, presented a request from the committee for approval of the Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity, a $3,000 award to “a librarian who has faced adversity with integrity and dignity intact,” with up to $1,000 to cover travel expenses and $1,000 for administrative costs, plus “an odd, symbolic object from [Mr. Snicket’s] private stash, and a certificate, which may or may not be suitable for framing.” I voted yes; the Council approved establishing the prize. More information about the prize may be found here: [http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/lemony-snicket](http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/lemony-snicket).
Urban Art next to Convention Center.
City Hall, Philadelphia.
In the Philadelphia Convention Center.
Urban view, cold and wet!
Discussing the American Dream...

Immigrant Story

The Distance Between Us is the 2014 One Maryland One Book

Author Reyna Grande
WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS, and our country’s strengths lie in the multiplicity of cultures that contribute to the fabric of society today. To most, the American Dream means freedom, equality, and prosperity. Whatever the idea means to you, it cannot be denied that the concept of the American Dream is intrinsically tied to our identity as Americans.

Now in its seventh year, the Maryland Humanities Council’s (MHC) One Maryland One Book statewide reading and discussion program has made Reyna Grande’s memoir, *The Distance Between Us*, its selection for 2014. The One Maryland One Book committee of librarians, educators, authors, and bibliophiles made its choice in January from over 100 titles suggested by readers across the state under the theme of “the American Dream.” Grande’s memoir recounts her experience before and after entering the United States as an undocumented immigrant shortly before she turned 10. She gained legal status at the age of 13.

Heart-breaking and lyrical, *The Distance Between Us* captures Grande’s journey and vividly brings to life her tumultuous early years, torn between two parents and two countries. Her experience is specific yet universal, personal and timely, offering many opportunities for creative programming and topics for lively discussion.

A great strength of One Maryland One Book is its partners. Many of the best programs each year take place in libraries, and your library is invited to partner with MHC to help bring the program to all regions of the state this year. Reyna Grande will visit Maryland in late September, kicking off her tour of the state at the Baltimore Book Festival. Information about applying to co-host a stop on the author tour and funding to support community programs will be available on the Maryland Humanities Council website this spring.

We invite your community to take part and explore the American Dream this fall. Programming will take place during September and October. If your library would like to participate, please visit www.onemarylandonebook.org for more information. Click on “How to Participate” to access the partner participation form.
Lúnasa Performs at Library Event

Photos courtesy Melody Jamieson.
Erin Dingle, Frederick County Public Libraries

St. Patrick’s Day was very special for Frederick County Public Libraries. More than 500 lucky patrons picked up free tickets at the library to attend the March 17th performance of the world-renowned Irish instrumental band, Lúnasa, performing at this year’s annual Celtic Concert. The concert was held at the Marion Burk Knott Auditorium at Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg. Lúnasa released their first recording in 1997 and word-of-mouth rave reviews have led to sold out shows ever since. “This is the hottest Irish acoustic group on the planet” said the New York Times. The all-star quintet has become one of the most popular bands on the international Celtic music scene.

The free and family-friendly event was underwritten by the C. Burr Artz Trust and Plamondon Hospitality Partners. The Celtic Concert, presented annually by the Emmitsburg and Thurmont libraries since 2000, has grown from a handful of people listening to music in the library community room to a highly anticipated community event.

“This celebration is a wonderful way to pay tribute to the heritage of our community, and to promote our library services in the northern part of the county,” says FCPL Director Darrell Batson. “We are pleased as always to partner with the Emmitsburg and Thurmont communities.

This year’s Celtic Concert is also part of the lineup for the 2014 Frederick Reads season; the theme is “The Music of Language.”

In addition to the Celtic Concert, Frederick County Public Libraries sponsors “Music on the Terrace” at the C. Burr Artz Central Library in September and the Urbana Music Festival at the Urbana Regional Library in June.
MLA Acquires New SmartBoard

△ MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty poses with the new SmartBoard at MLA Headquarters

◁ The new MLA SmartBoard served admirably for Google “Hangouting,” document displaying, MLA website displaying, and white boarding at a recent MLA Board meeting.
Dr. Ethan Siegel

Although Saturn has been known as long as humans have been watching the night sky, it’s only since the invention of the telescope that we’ve learned about the rings and moons of this giant, gaseous world. You might know that the largest of Saturn’s moons is Titan, the second largest moon in the entire Solar System, discovered by Christiaan Huygens in 1655. It was just 16 years later, in 1671, that Giovanni Cassini (for whom the famed division in Saturn’s rings—and the NASA mission now in orbit there—is named) discovered the second of Saturn’s moons: Iapetus. Unlike Titan, Iapetus could only be seen when it was on the west side of Saturn, leading Cassini to correctly conclude that not only was Iapetus tidally locked to Saturn, but that its trailing hemisphere was intrinsically brighter than its darker, leading hemisphere. This has very much been confirmed in modern times!

In fact, the darkness of the leading side is comparable to coal, while the rest of Iapetus is as white as thick sea ice. Iapetus is the most distant of all of Saturn’s large moons, with an average orbital distance of 3.5 million km, but the culprit of the mysterious dark side is four times as distant: Saturn’s remote, captured moon, the dark, heavily cratered Phoebe.

Orbiting Saturn in retrograde, or the opposite direction to Saturn’s rotation and most of its other Moons, Phoebe most probably originated in the Kuiper Belt, migrating inwards and eventually succumbing to gravitational capture. Due to its orbit, Phoebe is constantly bombarded by micrometeoroid-sized (and larger) objects, responsible for not only its dented and cavity-riddled surface, but also for a huge, diffuse ring of dust grains spanning quadrillions of cubic kilometers! The presence of the “Phoebe Ring” was only discovered in 2009, by NASA’s infrared-sensitive Spitzer Space Telescope. As the Phoebe Ring’s dust grains absorb and re-emit solar radiation, they spiral inwards towards Saturn, where they smash into Iapetus—orbiting in the opposite direction—like bugs on a highway windshield. Was the dark, leading edge of Iapetus due to it being plastered with material from Phoebe? Did those impacts erode the bright surface layer away, revealing a darker substrate?

In reality, the dark particles picked up by Iapetus aren’t enough to explain the incredible brightness differences alone, but they absorb and retain just enough extra heat from the Sun during Iapetus’ day to sublimate the ice around it, which resolidifies preferentially on the trailing side, lightening it even further. So it’s not just a thin, dark layer from an alien moon that turns Iapetus dark; it’s the fact that surface ice sublimes and can no longer reform atop the leading side that darkens it so severely over time. And that story—only confirmed by observations in the last few years—is the reason for the one-of-a-kind appearance of Saturn’s incredible two-toned moon, Iapetus!


Kids can learn more about Saturn’s rings at NASA’s Space Place: http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/saturn-rings.
Introducing Grace Gu

Del R. Hornbuckle, Montgomery College-Rockville Campus Library

Grace Gu joined the staff at the Montgomery College in January 2014 as a reference librarian at the Rockville Campus library.

Grace had been the Reference and Instruction Librarian at the Gelman Library of George Washington University since June 2010, where she provided research and user services through reference, instruction, and research appointments. Before moving to the Washington DC metropolitan area, Grace had worked as librarian at the Houston Community College Libraries and University of Houston Libraries, respectively. Grace had also spent nine years as a social science data archivist at the University of Washington in Seattle where she earned her Master’s Degrees in Library and Information Science, Health Services, and Sociology.

Originally from China, Grace received her Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature from East China Normal University in Shanghai, China.

Send us more people!

Even more notes on people. New staff, departing; inaugurators, followers-through; legends, stories and facts; the library people who make things happen.

We know everyone likes to read about their fellow innovators and we hope you’ll enjoy and contribute to our People section!
Technical Services Division

Weeding at University of Baltimore Law Library

Mary Elizabeth Murtha, University of Baltimore Law Library

The University of Baltimore Law Library recently conducted a massive weeding project in preparation for moving into a new building, the John and Frances Angelos Law Center. The shelving space in the new building was substantially less than what was available in the old building, so a new plan was needed. Keeping the collection current and accommodating the new space restrictions became the two top-priority goals.

The weeding process began in 2010 with the Collection Development Committee identifying items to de-accession and discard by collection, as well as merging parts of the remaining collection together. With decisions made, the technical services staff was able to begin the de-accession and discard process. This included deleting items, deleting records from Aleph (the integrated library system) and removing holdings in OCLC. The University of Baltimore Law Library collection was reduced from the original 174,000 volumes to around 55,000 volumes in total during this process. Along with the primary goal of accommodating decreased shelving in the new building, we also used this opportunity to weed out-of-date material from the collection for titles that were cancelled as a result of budget cuts. The Library cancelled journal titles that are available through other sources such as Hein Online. Additionally, the State Codes, National Reporters, and most loose leaf titles were cancelled as well. Bound journal volumes were reduced from 33,000 to around 2,000 volumes. Duplicate copies of titles were also weeded out.

In addition to print materials, various amounts of microfiche were de-accessioned and discarded, with arrangements made for the materials to be recycled. The Collection Development Committee also made weeding decisions of titles on an individual basis, using the criteria above, along with an evaluation of the condition of the material.

Recycling and repurposing of weeded items also needed to be carefully planned for, given the amount of materials being removed from the collection. The library coordinated with housekeeping staff for the pick up and drop off of large recycling bins. The library wanted to reduce the amount of materials that had to be recycled and help other institutions at the same time, so several volumes of books identified as discards were donated to other institutions. Multiple copies of Atlantic Reporters were donated to local law firms; the library donated a total of 9,659 volumes to Ocean University of China alone. More than 25,000 volumes were recycled.

The project was fully completed and the Law Library collection moved to the new John and Frances Angelos Law Center in June 2013.

Technical Services (TS) continues its journey from the basement and the back room to take an active stance in library-wide operations. Discovery? We’re there. E-Resources? We’ll get you access. Special Collections? Promote and use! Did you know that many TS librarians provide reference and instructional services and participate actively (or are solely responsible for) collection development? It’s a brave new library world where the barriers are coming down, and library staff from all divisions must work together to keep the library mechanism purring along. Join us quarterly in the TSD Corner!
MLA is now offering three terrific blends of coffee. If you find one to your liking, visit Cabin Creek Roasters and use the "Shop" menu to order today!

Enjoy these unique coffees while enriching the programs and services of the Maryland Library Association.

**Margaret’s Choice** is 100% Arabica Coffee grown in Brazil and fresh roasted by our Roastmaster at Cabin Creek Roasters. The varieties used to produce this bird friendly coffee are among the highest quality producing Arabica beans available: Yellow and Red Bourbon, Yellow and Red Catuai, and Red Mundo Novo. In the cup it produces stable and naturally medium body with berries, dark chocolate and a hint of nuts. The stability and sweetness of this coffee makes for a rich taste that lingers smoothly in the aftertaste.

**Readers’ Brew** is 100% Arabica Coffee grown in Guatemala and fresh roasted by our Roastmaster at Cabin Creek Roasters. This Fair Trade and Organic coffee, a blend of Bourbon, Caturra, Catuai beans, evokes ripe cherries in balance with chocolate and spices. In the cup it produces a mild, balanced coffee with nice body, and excellent floral tones and fruitiness.

**Dewey’s Decaf** is 100% Arabica Coffee grown in Mexico and fresh roasted by our Roastmaster at Cabin Creek Roasters. This Swiss Water Processed Decaf produces a smooth/rich cup with a very strong chocolate bottom and a little sweeter top for a medium/full body taste. All this taste makes it hard to believe that it’s decaffeinated.
Keep up with MLA/ALA events…Share job openings… Offer weeded items from your collection to others…Ask a question!

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