The Crab • Winter, 2015

Volume 45, Number 3 • Spring, 2015

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FEATURE ARTICLES

Washington County Free Library Commended
The Alice Virginia and David W. Fletcher Branch was a recipient of the award for choosing to rebuild and renovate a 50-year-old building in the heart of downtown Hagerstown.

A Tale of One Library and Many Great Programs
Ocean City had more than its fair share of snow this winter. Indeed, “the weather outside was frightful!” The Ocean City Library countered with an abundance of exciting programs.

Harford County Public Library Opens 3D Printing Lab
On January 15th 2015, a new era began at Harford County Public Library’s Abingdon Branch with the opening of the library’s Innovation Lab.

Cecil County Public Library Hosts Author Laura Lippman (Left)
Cecil County Public Library was honored to host Baltimore native and New York Times bestselling crime novelist Laura Lippman.

State Circle 2015
The annual Maryland Library Legislative Day in Annapolis is a major opportunity we have as libraries to advocate on a state level.

National Library Legislative Day
Each year, librarians from across the country gather in Washington, DC for two days for training sponsored by the American Library Association and to educate their elected officials on the value of libraries. This year, National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) will be held on May 4-5 at the Liaison Hotel in Washington, DC.

The Heavyweight Champion of the Cosmos
The El Gordo cluster has an estimated mass of $3 \times 10^{15}$ solar masses, or 3,000 times as much as our own galaxy!
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Editor’s Note

Spring has sprung! (or at least by the time you read this, it has, since Mother Nature can’t seem to make up her mind these days). We here at the Crab are pleased to provide you with the content of this issue, no matter what the weather, though.

In this issue, you’ll find accountings of MLA’s legislative efforts on both the state and national levels, with information about the Maryland Library Legislative Day in February, and news about the upcoming National Library Legislative Day at the beginning of May (see page 20).

As well, there are two different ways in which you can find out what has been going on and what will be happening in Ocean City, Maryland, this year. The Ocean City Library has enthusiastically reported on its recent activities and partnerships with local organizations (see page 9). You will also find a number of mentions in this issue on programs of all shapes and sizes coming up at the MLA-DLA Joint Annual Conference, being held on May 6-8, 2015; there’s something for everyone!

It is my sincere hope that it’s warm enough to read this issue outside; but if not, hopefully, it will keep you warm on a chilly spring day. Enjoy!

Annette Haldeman, MLA Crab Editor
Department of Legislative Services Library
Library Advocacy—A Job For All Of Us

On February 18th, library staff and supporters from across the state joined forces in Annapolis for Maryland Library Legislative Day. Coordinated by the Maryland Library Association Legislative Panel led by Mary Baykan, this year’s Legislative Day was particularly important to libraries due to the unusual number of freshmen legislators elected last November. It is vital that these new lawmakers understand how all kinds of libraries are represented in state law.

On this day each year, we strive to maintain high visibility for libraries and communicate the importance of all of our services. This year was no different. The morning saw us accepting proclamations in the Senate and House for Maryland Library Legislative Day and then moving on to visits with our district representatives. In the afternoon, as district visits continued, some of us were testifying in committee, while others packed committee hearings in support of library-friendly bills. Our evening reception, well-attended as usual, closed out a very successful day. Kudos to Mary, MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty and the MLA staff for their tremendous work in making Legislative Day and the reception a success.

Advocacy is one of the key services of MLA. It is the first bullet point in our mission statement and Goal 2 in MLA’s 2015-2017 Strategic Plan. Goal 2 reads: “MLA empowers members to communicate the value of libraries.”

I am a huge fan of this sentence. First of all, it beautifully and concisely defines advocacy—communicating the value of libraries. You’ll notice that there is no target audience defined. That is as it should be. Whether they are elected officials, bureaucrats, library users, library non-users, business owners, corporations, students, teachers or parents, everyone has something to gain by knowing more about libraries and every one of them can exert influence that would benefit our mission as library crusaders. Secondly, it clearly defines who will advocate. This is not solely the role of the Legislative Panel, or the Executive Director and staff, or even the Executive and Advisory Boards of MLA. MLA empowers you, as members, to wave the flag for libraries. This is how we become powerful.

If we do not advocate for libraries they might still exist, but our work in Maryland shows that when we communicate our value explicitly at every level, libraries do not simply exist, they thrive.
Get a Taste of the Town in Towson

Josh McCready, Baltimore County Public Library

The 4th annual “Taste of the Town,” an event to benefit the Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library’s (BCPL) early childhood literacy efforts, is scheduled for Saturday, May 9 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Towson Branch of BCPL. Sample food and drinks from some of the Baltimore area’s finest restaurants and caterers, enjoy live music and a fantastic silent auction, all for a great cause! Tickets go on sale for Taste of the Town on March 20, and can be purchased at any of the 19 BCPL branches, online at www.foundationforbcpl.org or by calling 410-887-6196.

Participating restaurants include BB’s Café, Bill Brown Treats, Charles Village Pub, Chick-fil-A at Towson Town Center, Fazzini’s Taverna, Jake’s NY Deli, Joe’s Crab Shack, La Cakerie, Noodles & Company, Prigel Family Creamery, Wegmans, and more to come! Corporate sponsors include platinum sponsor, M&T Bank, as well as 3M, Baltimore County Revenue Authority, Bay Imagery, CCBC, Todd Carpenter & Colette Searls, Centric, Michelle Deenoncourt, Douron, Ellin & Tucker, John Holman - State Farm Insurance, Midwest Tape, Recorded Books, Sawmill Marketing Public Relations, Sheraton Inn-Baltimore North, and Teracat Data Solutions, Inc.

This year, the honorary host is Katie Workman, author of The Mom 100 Cookbook and creator of themom100.com blog. Katie is also the founding editor-in-chief of cookstr.com, the website that shares tested, trusted recipes from cookbooks created by respected chefs and cookbook authors. Katie has been featured on The Today Show, VH1, Fox News and many other national and local television shows, as well as the New York Times, Food & Wine magazine, Parade magazine, Relish and Cooking Light magazine, where The Mom 100 Cookbook was named one of the best five weeknight cookbooks of the past 25 years. Katie’s next book being published in August. BCPL is honored by her participation and support.

“Taste of the Town” has been held at the Perry Hall Branch for the past three years, but moved to Towson this year to highlight a different part of the county. For more information, please visit www.foundationforbcpl.org or call Josh McCready at 410-887-6196.

ALA Midwinter Report

Lucy Holman, ALA Councilor for Maryland

The following is a report of the various meetings attended at Midwinter and they were unable to support a resolution to allow programs, indicating that Midwinter should maintain the same financial footprint as in previous years. BARC cited meeting space and AV support costs and staffing costs as potential issues, as well as a loss of programs at the Annual Conference. The size of midwinter meetings was mentioned as allowing for creative approaches to meeting management.

As well, BARC reported having five financial learning webcasts.

Sunday, Council I

Sunday Council I included a discussion on strategic planning, encompassing three main areas of focus:

- Advocacy
- Information policy
- Leadership & professional development

ALA/APA meeting

There were changes to the policy manual on National Library Workers Day (NLWD), which was on April 14, 2015.

Monday, Council II

New accreditation standards were approved.

Changes to the policy manual on committees were approved; 2 reports per year are now required by each committee.

Changes to policy manual on Membership groups were approved.

Changes to the policy manual on Copyright interpretation of code of ethics were approved.

BARC membership was limited to four years in a lifetime; this was referred back to the Chief Operating Officer, as Council was uncomfortable with the 4-year limit.

Council approved placing an amendment to the ALA bylaws to change back to Roberts Rules as the parliamentary guidelines to the full membership for a vote in the Spring 2015.

Council approved the use of programmatic
priorities that reflect the strategic plan for the FY 2016 budget.

**Monday, Council III**

Various tributes and memorials were offered.

Council voted to support United for Libraries resolution to encourage directors to pay for trustees to be members.

The International Relations Committee (IRC) approved support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) report approved a resolution in support of Charlie Hebdo.

The Committee on Legislation approved a resolution on support of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

The report from The Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion indicated that there was a survey on the Council website.

There was much discussion on destruction of libraries in Gaza; the associated resolution was not approved.
Recognizing individuals, organizations and programs that exemplify smart growth initiatives throughout the state, the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission presented awards for leadership, community planning and conservation at its third annual forum and awards ceremony today.

Winners are both professionals and university students who demonstrate their commitment to smart growth — development or redevelopment that is compact, walkable and takes advantage of existing infrastructure while preserving the rural landscape — in Maryland.

The commission selected a diverse set of award recipients, from the owner of a farm-to-table restaurant, who is helping to keep local farmers in business, to a facade improvement program promoting the architectural significance of older buildings in Ocean City.


The Alice Virginia and David W. Fletcher Branch of the Washington County Free Library was a recipient of the award for choosing to rebuild and renovate a 50-year-old building in the heart of downtown Hagerstown, contributing to the continued success of its revitalization.

Other winners included:

John Coleman, Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

Recognizing individuals, organizations and programs that exemplify smart growth initiatives throughout the state, the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission presented awards for leadership, community planning and conservation at its third annual forum and awards ceremony today.

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Other winners included:

• Karl Brendle, who served as Economic Development Officer and Director of Community Planning and Business Services for the city of Laurel and as a member of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission, for a lifetime of service and commitment to smart growth;
• the Greater Homewood Community Corporation, Baltimore, for leadership in strengthening neighborhoods in central Baltimore, focusing on lower- and middle-income neighborhoods, improving public schools and facilitating investment, community organizing and leadership development;
• Spike Gjerde, Owner and Chef of Woodberry Kitchen, for commitment to local farmers and providing them with a reliable market for high-quality products and supporting the rural economy;
• the Farm Alliance of Baltimore City, for helping transform neighborhoods by removing blight and bringing life and purpose back to often-forgotten parts of the community, through increasing food access, creating viable farms, revitalizing vacant lots and building vibrant urban communities;
• the Homewood Community Partners Initiative, for focusing on solutions to urban blight, generational poverty and social struggles by collaborating on projects as varied as erecting homes and businesses on former vacant lots to planning community festivals;
• the Ocean City Development Corporation Façade Improvement Program, for reversing the trend to demolish dilapidated structures and convert them into surface parking lots, providing financial assistance and incentives to renovate Ocean City buildings with a focus on their public face;
• the Evergreen Heritage Center, for showcasing best practices in environmental conservation and providing an example of how to live off the land while protecting it for future generations, providing environmental education programs, healthy living programs to organizations, experiential learning for college students and workshops on best practices in sustainable agriculture and forestry.

A separate competition for university students called the “Sustainable Growth Challenge” focused on Maryland’s future leaders.

First prize went to a team of Morgan State University Landscape Architecture Program students who presented “Rethinking Street Typology for Social Equity, Environmental Stewardship and Economic Revitalization: A design intervention in the small-town historic context of Easton,” a comprehensive approach to even out social disparities in a community in Easton that lags behind the city’s general prosperity.

Second prize honors went to a team from Community College of Baltimore County-Catonsville Department of Geography program who presented “The WALL: A Watershed Analysis Model on a Local Level,” a watershed analysis model.

Johns Hopkins University’s Environment, Energy, Sustainability and Health Institute team took third prize for “Wilson Park Aquaponics,” a project that addresses a food desert area of Baltimore City.
A Tale of One Library and Many Great Programs

Ruth Wanberg-Alcorn, Worcester County Library

It was the best of times…

Ocean City had more than its fair share of snow this winter. Indeed, “the weather outside was frightful!” The Ocean City Library countered with an abundance of exciting programs that helped distract patrons from the freezing tantrums of Mother Nature. Here are but a few examples:

The library offered “Modern & Contemporary Poetry” (ModPo) in collaboration with the University Of Pennsylvania. The university provided the video course, syllabus, poems and access to Professor Al Filreis, who has taught the course at the University of Pennsylvania since 1985. ModPo covers a great range of modern and contemporary American poets and traces the history of poetry as it breaks from traditional forms and moves to proto-modernists such as Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, who worked in “experimental modes.” Coverage continues by focusing upon the modernist movement (late 1800s to 1950s) and ends with the post-modernist poets of today. The course offers a simplified way to understand cultural transitions in the United States in general and, more specifically, how poetry reflects these historic changes.

Normally, ModPo is an intense ten-week course. However, the Ocean City Library’s rendition (ModPo–plus) followed the syllabus of this ‘fast-paced’ course, and, instead of holding one class a week for 10 weeks, the library held one class a month for 10 months.

During the meetings, participants discussed individual reactions to the poems that were read and the videos that were viewed. Participants learned to “parse” poems, focus on “collaborative close readings” and find more in each poem than ever thought possible. Participants marveled at Al Filreis’ teaching techniques and appreciated his non-lectured approach as he stressed, “[w]e need to undo the way we learned to read… [and] re-socialize ourselves into shifting our attention with language.” Professor Al Filreis was chosen as the Pennsylvania Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation in 1999-2000; to benefit from his teaching style is quite a gift.

One of the poets we studied, William Carlos Williams, wrote: “Forcing twentieth-century America into a sonnet— gosh, how I hate sonnets—is like putting a crab into a square box. You’ve got to cut off his legs to make him fit. When you get through, you don’t have a crab anymore.”

So, taking William Carlos Williams’ words to heart, or making light of them, at the halfway point of the ten-month ModPo–plus program, there were a few adjustments made to the course’s procedures; the adaptations worked and our numbers grew.

Fortunately, Don Winslow, the library’s resident poet extraordinaire who first found this Coursera gem last spring, faithfully acted as the co-facilitator, along with Ruth Wanberg-Alcorn. The sessions were collaborative in nature; everyone shared their impressions on the material presented, and, in the end, benefited by the wide-variety of personal experiences, thoughts and insights enthusiastically offered.

If any other library staff member has an interest in this course, the library would be pleased to provide examples of what worked, what they wished they’d done differently, and, in other words, help in any way they can. Contact Ruth Wanberg-Alcorn for further information at ralcorn@worcesterlibrary.org.

Note: The library used “Coursera” (free) as a ‘vehicle’ to get to UPENN’s ModPo. You can sign up for ModPo in September 2015.

A second notable program, “Shared Visions,” united the Ocean City Library Writers with twenty-three visual artists from the Ocean City Center for the Arts, and created an artistic collaboration presented as the Art Center’s 2015 kick-off event!

This event built upon a past united effort between the Ocean City Library Writers and local artists called “An Evening of Reflections.” In this initial collaboration, fourteen Ocean City Library Writers created written reflections of paintings by visual artists Randy Hofman and Pete Cosby. This year’s event, “Shared Reflections,”

The Ocean City Library Writers submitted thirty-one original poetry and prose pieces, and twenty-three visual artists painted wonderful reflections of the writers’ printed words. The January 20th formal presentation of “Shared Visions,” held at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, was a “standing-room-only” event!

Excerpts from poems/prose displayed:

“Words do not come easy
Lying beneath the surface,
Bubbling, burning freely,
Waiting for a purpose.”

—Schauer

“the songs of our life are sung in duet for
all who we love, we do not forget”

—jhill
It should be noted that the Ocean City Library, the Center for the Arts, and the Performing Arts Center, all work together to provide residents and visitors alike with outstanding service, programs, art exhibits, concerts, theatrical productions and combined presentations. These three facilities, united, form the heart of the artistic scene in Ocean City. In fact, the Ocean City Center for the Arts transported works from “Shared Visions” to the Performing Arts Center to display during their grand opening, thereby officially bonding together the library, art center, and performing arts center.

Other recent library initiatives include the following:
The Ballet Theatre of Maryland performed Cinderella at the Ocean City Convention & Performing Arts Center in March. This event, sponsored by the Worcester County Library Foundation, featured a live auction of original paintings by library employee, Michael Carmean.

Three Ocean City Library Writers, Jane Hill, Bonnie Hiewsky and Cary Kamarat, have recently published books of poetry.

Cary Kamarat, drawing from his book Travelwalk, lead a multimedia presentation involving poetry reading, theatre, photography, and music at the Ocean City Center for the Arts in February.
On January 15th 2015, a new era began at Harford County Public Library’s Abingdon Branch with the opening of the library’s Innovation Lab, a digital creation and collaboration space, to the public. The library’s former staff training lab was transformed from a traditional computer-dominated staff learning space to an interactive and collaborative public creativity space. The lab was funded by Rosedale Federal Savings & Loan, the Harford County Public Library Foundation, and the Friends of the Abingdon Library. The space features many different things to help a customer digitally realize their personal vision and to help them bring their ideas to life.

The Innovation Lab’s biggest draw is the 3D printer area that one encounters when first
walking into the lab. The 3D printers are normally printing a piece the entire time the lab is open to the public which is during all of the library’s public service hours. The two Makerbot printers are usually producing an object found on the Lab computers, something the customer designed in the Lab, or something the customer designed at home and has brought into the Lab to be printed. Some examples of projects created in the Lab include figures, animal reproductions, personalized items, customer designed parts for games and planes, chess pieces, nuts, bolts, Minecraft items, roses, animals, human bones, and sheep. Customers have up to two hours to print their free 3D objects, and the library provides the tools to help its customers digitally create objects. Some of the devices for use in the space include a video camera, green screen with lights, a studio quality microphone, and a professional light box to help the customer capture and create their vision. Customers can edit their created objects on any of the computers in the lab.

The lab itself is set up with six computers in two work areas to encourage collaboration and conversation. All of the computers in the lab have software to create, manipulate and print 3D objects, record and edit audio, and edit video and photographs. 3D design, manipulation, and printing in the lab uses software that is either open source or free, so customers do not need to make a huge financial investment to learn to design 3D objects.

There is an iMac work pod with three 27-inch computers that are able to design and print in 3D, edit video with iMovie, edit photos with Photoshop Elements, and create and edit music using GarageBand and Audacity. The PC stations can design and print in 3D and use Windows Movie Maker to edit video, Audacity to edit audio, and GIMP to edit photographs.

For more information, contact the Abingdon Library at 410-638-3990 or find the library on the web at http://hcplonline.org/abingdon.php.
HOLY TEEN PROGRAMMING!

COMIC BOOK CLUB AT YOUR LIBRARY

Graphic novels are some of the most circulated items by teens in today’s libraries. Many consider graphic novels to be a “gateway book” towards literacy. This program explores how to build on their interest of graphic novels by creating a comic book club at your branch. Bill Stea will teach us why such a program is crucial for teens, how to market it, and how to keep it fresh and interesting through a myriad of activities that cost little to nothing to do, and includes a demonstration on how to create your own club’s comic book!

PRESENTED BY:

BILL STEA

Young Adult Librarian
Waldorf West Branch
Charles County Public Library

@ #MLADLA15 - Clarion Resort Hotel Ocean City, MD – May 6-8

Volunteens (and teens)!

Presenters:
Jill Hutchison (Asst. Branch Manager, Children's Librarian; St. Mary's County)
Tina Pickens (Librarian; Baltimore County)
Deidrah Reeves (YA Librarian; Harford County)

Helping other kids makes me feel good
I'll volunteer! I want to help at the library!

We can do it if we work together!
And we need community service hours!

Awesome!
I can do it!

Tweens Need:

- Community Service Hours
- Valuable Work Skills
- Sense of Accomplishment
- Knowledge of Their Value to Their Community

Libraries Need:

- Help During Summer Programs
- Extra Hands to Give Out Prizes
- Summer Reading Sign-up Help
- To Create a Sense of Ownership of the Library's Mission

@ #MLADLA15 - Clarion Resort Hotel Ocean City, Maryland - May 6-8 2015
Cecil County Public Library Hosts Author Laura Lippman at Elkton Central Library.
Cecil County Public Library was honored to host Baltimore native and New York Times bestselling crime novelist Laura Lippman on Friday, February 27. Elkton Central Library was a stop on her book tour for *Hush, Hush*, the twelfth in her Tess Monaghan series.

Since the publication of her first novel in 1997, Laura Lippman has won virtually every major award given to United States crime writers, including the Edgar Award, the Anthony Award, the Agatha Award, the Nero Wolfe Award, the Shamus Award, and the Quill Award. In addition to eight stand-alone novels, Lippman has developed Tess Monaghan from an accidental private investigator to a self-employed working mom living in Baltimore. *Hush, Hush* is a book centered on motherhood.

Co-sponsored by CCPL’s Friends and Foundation, Ms. Lippman’s visit was the first ticketed fundraising event that CCPL has held in the library.

“We didn’t know what to expect, since library events are always free,” stated Friends President Amanda Butler of the sold-out event. “We knew she was a popular author, but would the community buy tickets to see her? The answer was an enthusiastic yes!”

Butler added, “We wanted a full house and the opportunity to raise awareness about CCPL’s Friends and Foundation. It was also an excellent opportunity for ‘Friend-raising’ – we sold a few memberships, too.”

“Similar to complementary programming that we might do around a One Maryland One Book selection, we planned two companion programs and a few book discussions in advance of the Laura Lippman event,” said Morgan Miller, Assistant Director for Public Services. “We had ‘A Day in the Life of a Forensic Scientist’ and author Ken Lang, a former homicide detective turned novelist. Both programs were at capacity and a great way to promote the Lippman visit.”

As CCPL’s Friends and Foundation were exploring new territory, they decided to capitalize on Lippman’s visit, to reach a second audience in the same evening. “We partnered with Minihane’s Irish Pub & Restaurant in downtown Elkton for an after-party event, explained Butler. “We had success working with local restaurants last fall with our Crab Crawl, so we thought, why not support another local business?” There was no cover charge and the Friends sold additional copies of *Hush Hush*.

“It was fun to ‘hang out’ with Laura Lippman and share some Cecil County hospitality,” said Miller. “A number of people commented they hadn’t been to Minihane’s before and now couldn’t wait to go back. The evening was a success on many levels.”
Mary Baykan, MLA Legislative Panel Officer

In November, Maryland voters went to the polls and when the smoke cleared, there had a new Republican Governor and 70 new members in the General Assembly. This was somewhat unexpected and resulted in major changes in the Executive Branch and in the committees of both the Maryland Senate and in the Maryland House of Delegates. Many new cabinet secretaries have been appointed and there have been changes in the chairmanships of important General Assembly committees. The state had little time to recover before the current session of the General Assembly convened in January. For libraries, this means being very proactive in educating newly elected and appointed officials on the important roles libraries play in education at all levels and in economic development.

A major opportunity we have as libraries to advocate on a state level is the annual Maryland Library Legislative Day in Annapolis. Modeled on the American Library Association’s National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on Capitol Hill, librarians, Friends of Libraries, and trustees have come from all over Maryland to spend the day in Annapolis to advocate for their libraries for a number of years.

This year, Maryland Library Legislative Day was on February 18th. Maryland Library Day just gets better and better. This is thanks in part to so many dedicated and talented people including the staff at the MLA office, MLA President John Venditta, and the staff of the Anne Arundel County Courthouse Library.

Our day started at the Anne Arundel Courthouse Library with a briefing and time to grab a muffin and a cup of coffee, thanks to the generosity of our hosts. MLA staff distributed folders for library teams to take and deliver on their delegation visits. Then it was off to either the House or the Senate to hear House Speaker Michael E. Busch and Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller declare it to be Maryland Library Day in
Annapolis. The rest of the morning and afternoon provided time to make those delegation visits, giving library advocates an opportunity to meet both new and seasoned elected officials from their home districts. Passing in the halls, it was gratifying to hear library teams report that their delegations were enthusiastic in their support of the important services libraries provide to the citizens of Maryland.

Finally, the day ended with a reception in the President’s meeting room in the Miller Senate Building. MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty, and MLA Staff members Kate Monagan and Chris Holly, as usual, did an outstanding job of planning and organizing the event. Several elected officials in attendance noted that the library reception is one of the best of the legislative session. Over 60 elected officials or their aides came to the reception. In total, close to 150 people attended. It was heartwarming to see the show of support from the entire library community, including trustees from many public library systems.

During Maryland Library Legislative Day, librarians had an opportunity to meet with both the Secretary of the state’s Department of Budget and Management, David Brinkley and with Senator Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair of the Senate’s Budget and Taxation committee. In discussions with these key leaders, library leaders decided the best course of action would be to follow a strategy similar to one taken in 2008, which prevented libraries from incurring a 10% in cut the following year. However, librarians must also recognize that the state is facing a fiscal struggle of its own, and when times were good, the General Assembly has been very supportive of libraries. If you see a member of your General Assembly delegation, thank them for their support of libraries.
Save the Date for the Leadership Development Division’s (LDD) All Day Preconference

“Remarkable Leadership and Risk Taking in Modern Librarianship” to be held May 6, 2015 at the Clarion Resort in Ocean City

LDD’s all day Preconference session features:
Steven Bell (Library Journal Columnist and Associate Temple University Librarian) and Corrine Hill (Library Director of the Chattanooga Public Library and 2014 Librarian of the Year)

Also, join LDD for a webinar on Wednesday February 25, 2015 at 2PM to discuss a few of Steven Bell’s Library Journal Articles from the Leading from the Library Series. Steven Bell plans to make a 15 minute appearance at the start of the webinar. Please check out the Leadership Development Division Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/LDDmla for information on current and future programs.
SAVE THE DATE!

Friends Make a Difference!

Maryland State Conference

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Arbutus Library (Baltimore County)

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LAUNCH YOUR MIND TOWARDS INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

DEFENDING ACCESS WITH CONFIDENCE
Wednesday, May 6, 9:00-12:00
In this pre-conference, learn how to respond to would-be censors while keeping your cool. Co-sponsored by the Maryland Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel and the Delaware Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee.

DATAMININGCRAFT:
WHO IS COLLECTING YOUR INFORMATION AND WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?
Thursday, May 7, 3:30-5:30
Data mining happens. Explore how you can help library users protect their privacy on the Internet. Sponsored by the Maryland Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel.

For more information, contact Monica McAbee, MLA’s Intellectual Freedom Officer, at monica.mcabee@pgcmls.info.
Glennor Shirley, MLA Legislative Panel, Federal Coordinator

Each year, librarians from across the country gather in Washington, DC for two days for training sponsored by the American Library Association and to educate their elected officials on the value of libraries. This year, National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) will be held on May 4-5 at the Liaison Hotel in Washington, DC.

The first day is a prepaid registered event where experts train participants on the most effective ways to communicate with the elected officials. The next day, Maryland librarians (along with librarians from other states) meet with their Senators or the Senators’ aides in the morning, and their district Representatives in the afternoon.

The Maryland Library Association Legislative Panel Federal Coordinator arranges the meeting with the Senators. Coordinators for each district arrange meetings with the Representatives either that day or at a more convenient time in the district.

Please contact the coordinator for your District about participation or for more detail about the date and time of the District meetings. District number, Representative, and Library Coordinator name and contact information appear below:

(District: Representative; Library Coordinator for District, coordinator’s email)
District 1: Andy Harris; Mary Hastler, Harford County Library, hastler@hcplonline.org
District 2: Dutch Ruppersberger; Paula Miller, Baltimore County Library, Pmiller@bcpnet
District 3: John Sarbanes; Skip Auld, Anne Arundel County Library, sauld@aacpl.net
District 4: Donna Edwards; Kathleen Teaze, Prince Georges County Public Library, Kathleen.Teaze@pgcmls.info
District 5: Steny Hoyer; Sharan Marshall, smarshall@somd.lib.md.us
District 6: John Delaney; Mary Baykan, Director, Washington County Public Library, baykanm@washcolibrary.org
District 7: Elijah Cummings; Paula Miller, Baltimore County Public Library, Pmiller@bcpnet
District 8: Chris Van Hollen; Christopher Freeman, Montgomery County Public Library, chris.freeman@montgomerycountymd.gov

In the following video about NLLD, the ALA Grassroots Coordinator reminds us that, “It is your support and advocacy that will educate the elected officials about the value of libraries,” http://youtu.be/OUAKx5Op1CA

Please be aware that ALA has stopped using the CapWiz software program to communicate with legislators, and has migrated to the newer Engage program. The link below will take you to the Engage program, where you can use the “Take Action” button on the MLA legislative site to contact your elected officials to tell your story about the educational and economic value of libraries: http://cqrcengage.com/alamd/.
The Heavyweight Champion of the Cosmos

Dr. Ethan Siegel

As crazy as it once seemed, people once assumed that the Earth was the largest thing in all the universe. 2,500 years ago, the Greek philosopher Anaxagoras was ridiculed for suggesting that the Sun might be even larger than the Peloponnesus peninsula, about 16% of modern-day Greece. Today, we know that planets are dwarfed by stars, which themselves are bound together by the billions or even trillions into galaxies.

But gravitationally bound structures extend far beyond galaxies, which themselves can bind together into massive clusters across the cosmos. While dark energy may be driving most galaxy clusters apart from one another, preventing our local group from falling into the Virgo Cluster, for example, on occasion, huge galaxy clusters can merge, forming the largest gravitationally bound structures in the universe.

Take the “El Gordo” galaxy cluster, catalogued as ACT-CL J0102-4915. It’s the largest known galaxy cluster in the distant universe. A galaxy like the Milky Way might contain a few hundred billion stars and up to just over a trillion ($10^{12}$) solar masses worth of matter, the El Gordo cluster has an estimated mass of $3 \times 10^{15}$ solar masses, or 3,000 times as much as our own galaxy! The way we’ve figured this out is fascinating. By seeing how the shapes of background galaxies are distorted into more elliptical-than-average shapes along a particular set of axes, we can reconstruct how much mass is present in the cluster: a phenomenon known as weak gravitational lensing.

That reconstruction is shown in blue, but doesn’t match up with where the X-rays are, which are shown in pink! This is because, when galaxy clusters collide, the neutral gas inside heats up to emit X-rays, but the individual galaxies (mostly) and dark matter (completely) pass through one another, resulting in a displacement of the cluster’s mass from its center. This has been observed before in objects like the Bullet Cluster, but El Gordo is much younger and farther away. At 10 billion light-years distant, the light reaching us now was emitted more than 7 billion years ago, when the universe was less than half its present age.

It’s a good thing, too, because about 6 billion years ago, the universe began accelerating, meaning that El Gordo just might be the largest cosmic heavyweight of all. There’s still more universe left to explore, but for right now, this is the heavyweight champion of the distant universe!


El Gordo is certainly huge, but what about really tiny galaxies? Kids can learn about satellite galaxies at NASA’s Space Place http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/satellite-galaxies.
The Government Information Interest Group is Proud To Present its Annual Conference Programs, on Thursday, May 7th, 2015

Mission To America
As a trusted community resource, what can libraries do to assist immigrants?

Presented by
Elizabeth O’Brien & Kristianne Schotzinger
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service
9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Sponsor: GIIG/PSD

Teaching To The Stuck Places
We live in the digital age, so everything Federal is online, right? If only it were that simple…

Presented by
Joyce V. Garczynski & Carl P. Olson
Towson University
10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
Sponsor: GIIG

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Stepping Out of the Back Room to Meet the Faculty

Missy Laytham, Loyola/Notre Dame Library

Sometimes in libraries we find that, over time, a good service becomes stale and uninspiring. The idea of the service is great, but the execution may be lacking. In the summer of 2013, that’s where two Loyola/Notre Dame Library department managers felt about the state of the faculty liaison program. After naming the problem, the technical services manager and the public services manager were given the opportunity to work together to evaluate the liaison program and make recommendations to dissolve or improve the program.

The two managers hypothesized that the program was sub-par because it lacked structure and the methods of outreach were outdated. A brief literature review confirmed that liaison programs had shifted from a primary focus of building collections using faculty input to providing outreach and services to faculty to assist with their teaching and research needs. These services varied widely, from providing the basics like reserves and interlibrary loan, to providing new models of collection access, to delivering copyright expertise and embedding librarians in the classroom and curriculum.

Following the literature review and during fall 2013, thirty-minute to one-hour interviews were conducted with the thirteen librarian liaisons and a subset of fifty-two faculty divided between the two universities, Loyola University Maryland and Notre Dame of Maryland University. Librarians confirmed that the existing program lacked structure, goals, training, mentoring, and assessment measures. Faculty interviews showed similar results. Many faculty did not know who their liaison was; they had complaints about specific library services; and they didn’t know about new resources that had been added. It was also discovered that the needs of new and pre-tenured faculty were significantly different than mid-career and long-time faculty.

During spring 2014, an overhaul of the liaison program was recommended. The two library managers would serve as co-coordinators during a pilot year and other librarians were invited to join in the planning process. Two short-term committees were formed, both containing members from technical and public service areas of the library.

The first committee focused on developing guidelines and checklists to ensure the effectiveness of liaisons. They recommended a three-phase approach to growing the program including meeting monthly, training liaisons, and dividing technical and public services librarians evenly among subject disciplines. In later program phases, liaisons will be assigned to work in discipline-specific teams to take on large assignments with application to an entire discipline (e.g., collection analyses, impact of curriculum revisions, etc.).

The second committee focused on the needs of new faculty, developing liaison scripts and an online checklist in which faculty would identify the library services and resources that they wanted to learn about immediately, in the future, or never. The committee tested the checklist on four new faculty in advance of rolling it out to all. With scripts and checklists in hand, the pilot program was set to commence in August 2014.

Just before our Phase One launch of the liaison program, however, the library lost four liaisons due to promotion or matriculation to other libraries. While the plan had been to fine tune and train liaisons throughout the summer, librarians were instead tasked with filling position vacancies. Therefore, in year one of the pilot program it was decided that the focus would be drastically narrowed to two areas. First, time and effort would be devoted to creating program structure, providing general training to liaisons, and equipping them to leave the library building to meet the new faculty. Second, over the course of eighteen months (three semesters)
energies would be focused on welcoming and acclimating thirty-four new faculty to the two campuses and to the library's services and resources.

The past six months have had highs, lows, and mixed results. Among the lows, several liaisons had to take on temporary assignments due to staffing changes. Providing a temporary liaison did not convey the message that the library planned to send—that every new faculty member would have stability and continuity of contact during their first months on campus. With regard to mixed results, it was discovered that it is much harder to respond to faculty needs than it is to identify those needs.

While the program has not run like clockwork during the pilot phase, there have been far more highs than lows. On the structure side, it has worked well to co-lead the program. The goals and needs of liaison relationships have been viewed more holistically because of the different lenses from which the library managers view the library. Some librarians were uncomfortable having to go out and meet faculty. A lot of time was spent preparing scripts so that the librarians would know exactly what to say. There were opportunities to do role play during monthly meetings and the managers offered to go to meetings with any liaison who requested additional assistance. Initial feedback indicates that liaisons are gaining confidence in their new skill sets and they have enjoyed engaging the new faculty.

It became easier for liaisons to go out and meet new faculty because they were armed with a small library gift and an award of $1,000 so that the new faculty could select library materials for their teaching and research needs. New faculty have expressed appreciation; administrators are delighted with the alternative funding and have asked for continued library funding so that they can use it as a recruiting tool. New faculty were pleased with the option at the beginning of the year to review a checklist and identify both what they did and did not want to learn about the library.

In terms of assessment, all new faculty received a phone call, an email, a visit, and a thank you note from their library liaison this year. New faculty will meet or talk with their liaison at least six times over the course of eighteen months. Faculty also know the librarians' names and, for the most part, spent their $1,000 funding. The liaisons have communicated with new faculty in a targeted way. Liaisons have been given opportunities to practice their communication before going out and meeting faculty across campus. In just six months of the pilot, the people, the services, and the resources of the library have been marketed more effectively. There are high hopes of moving into Phase Two of the project in the next year.

New Faculty Services Checklist

The Loyola/Notre Dame Library staff congratulate you on your new teaching position! We look forward to meeting you and committing to work closely with you over the next 18 months in order to provide a smooth transition to your new library.

Please take 10 minutes to complete the short form below so that we can introduce you to the library services that matter most to you. The process is simple. First, hover over the information button beside each heading to read a description of services. Then, check “Now” if you want to learn about it during your first semester; check “Later” if you would prefer an introduction in your second or third semester; or check “No Thank You” if you are already familiar with the service or are not interested. There is a comments box below for anything you’d like to add.

- Name: Last Name, First Name
- Institution:
- Department:
- Email:
- Phone:
- Library Liaison: (see list)

- Customer Services
- Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery
- Now Later No thank you
- Course Reserves and Media Playback
- Now Later No thank you
- Borrowing Privileges and Library Consortia
- Now Later No thank you

- Acquisitions
- Recommend Library Resources
- Now Later No thank you
- Collection Analysis
- Now Later No thank you

- Teaching & Learning
- Develop Library Sessions for Your Class
- Now Later No thank you
- Create Course Research Guides
- Now Later No thank you
- Integrate Alternate Research Assignments into a Course
- Now Later No thank you
- Find Resources on Teaching and Learning
- Now Later No thank you

- Faculty Research
- Research Assistance/Alerts Consultation
- Now Later No thank you
- Citation Searching and Acceptance Rates
- Now Later No thank you
- RefWorks Citation Management and Bibliography
- Now Later No thank you
- Working in the Cloud
- Now Later No thank you

- Digital Services
- Copyright Consultation
- Now Later No thank you
- France-Merrick Digital Media and Adaptive Technology Lab
- Now Later No thank you
- Digitization Projects
- Now Later No thank you

- Other Services
- Archives/Special Collections
- Now Later No thank you
- Library Rooms
- Now Later No thank you
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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