The Crab • Summer, 2014

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Greetings, loyal Crab readers! Summer is upon us once again and you know what that calls for...a recap of the annual MLA-DLA Annual Conference. In this issue, you will of course find a Conference recap from Conference Director David Dahl (page __) and a recounting of all of some of the great sessions at the conference in the featured conference section. For your visual pleasure, we also have a number of photos that will give readers a bird’s eye view of the lively and engaging conference presentations as well as the social events. If you missed the conference (like I did this year), I hope that the recap and the photos will encourage you to attend next year (I hope to!).

The annual conference always seems to forge relationships, build networks, and give credence to the fact that Maryland’s libraries are some of the greatest libraries around! This is imminent in the programming, initiatives, and outreach in Maryland’s libraries throughout the year and not just at the conference, as you’ll learn through reading about several events also chronicled in this issue, such as the Innovation Expo held in the Spring (page ___) and the activities of the “Little Friends” at the Walkersville Library in Frederick County (page __).

Congratulations to everyone in Maryland’s library community in their continued successes at conference, library initiatives, the enrichment of MLA as an association, and beyond!

Annette Haldeman, MLA Crab Editor

Department of Legislative Services Library
How quickly a year passes! I’ve been honored to serve as MLA President. Overall, it has been a very good year for Maryland library professionals and the Association. There is a notable exception, but we’ll get to that in due time!

The MLA/DLA Conference was terrific, thanks to David Dahl, MLA’s conference director, the MLA conference committee, and Beth Borene, David’s counterpart in Delaware. Check out David’s recap of the conference on page ___. (CRAB staff can fill this in after layout is done)

There were lots of highlights at the conference, but my personal favorite was the opening session speaker, Garry Golden. Most resonant was his emphasis on libraries as a place to exercise your brain, particularly for older adults. His talk reinforced for me how innovative and forward thinking Maryland libraries are. Another speaker, Sara Houghton, who goes by the blog moniker “Librarian in Black,” also reinforced how wonderful it is to work in Maryland. From my perch at the head table, I heard several conference attendees approach Sara and tell her what an inspiration she was to them in their careers; all of the folks I overhead were from Delaware. My greatest take-away was that we are so lucky to work in a state where public libraries are built into state law and work in a cooperative fashion. So many of the barriers that Ms. Houghton encounters in her work just aren’t an issue for most of us. Lastly, it was a pleasure to pass the gavel to John Venditta at the MLA annual business meeting in Ocean City.

A Presidential Goals Recap

Membership over 1,000 — Not quite

Our membership numbers are solid and consistent but haven’t topped 1,000 yet. At National Library Legislative Days in Washington, DC, I had a conversation with the Executive Director of New York’s Library Association and he reminded me that our associations are for exceptional library professionals, they aren’t for everyone. If you want to advance your career, this is the place for you to meet people, get involved, and learn more about being the best that you can be in your job. Live and learn – this wasn’t the right goal to have for MLA.

E-learning model for MLA – in process

Thanks to SMUG (Social Media Users [Interest] Group) and Erica Karmes-Jesonis, chair of that group, we have some piloted online programs that were free to MLA members and fee-based for non-MLA members. MLA Treasurer Daria Parry, and Margaret Carty, MLA Executive Director have also worked hard on this idea. Next year, the Professional Development Panel (PDP) folks will get into the game and we’ll have a model for financially sustainable online learning.

Division Re-Vision taskforce - completed their work

The Executive Board voted to accept the report of Emily Gamertsfelder and her team in April. The highlights are:

- The Leadership Development Committee will merge with Leadership Management Division and shall be called Leadership Development Division (LDD)
- APLSS (Associates, Paraprofessionals and Support Staff Division) will be renamed the Support Staff Division.
- The process of Re-Visioning is recommended as a regular pre-cursor to MLA’s strategic plan process.
- The taskforce created a relational organization chart so that those who aren’t part of the leadership team can more easily understand how all the committees, divisions and interest groups fit together.
- It was also recommended that if DEAL (Developing Emerging and Inspiring Leaders) formerly SIG (the Student Interest Group) continues to grow and flourish that they consider becoming the New Members Division.
consider becoming the New Members Division.

• All of the committees will have “MLA” as part of their title so that new members have a better chance of understanding that the MLA Technology Committee is in charge of MLA’s technology, it is not a committee of members interested in technology for their library.

• LDD has been tasked with developing an annual training session for prospective officers to encourage and support MLA members interested in taking on leadership roles.

• My personal desire for all divisions and interest groups be renamed with silly acronyms did not make it through the process…

The process of Re-Visioning is recommended as a regular pre-cursor to MLA’s strategic plan process.

Special thanks to Emily for all of her hard work and negotiation with divisions and interest groups throughout this process!

Strategic Plan—In Progress

The strategic plan process is being capably led by Debby Bennett, Director of Caroline County Libraries. She’s got a great team working with her and great consultants in Julie Zamostny and Dolores Maminski.

The FY17-19 plan will be a working document that gives the leadership of MLA goals to work toward and each division, committee, and officer will be asked to develop strategies in their annual work plans to achieve the goals set out in the Plan.

An online survey of members was conducted in March.

Material was also gleaned from the University of Baltimore study of the MLA web site – see goal 5.

Overall, I expect this plan to be very easy to read, understand, and gain a foothold on how each member can contribute to the health and vitality of the organization.

Redesign MLA Web Page—Begun, in a fashion

Lucy Holman, Director of University of Baltimore’s Langsdale Library and past-past president of MLA teaches a course at UB on User Research Methods. MLA was a client of her spring semester class and the students held focus groups and did an online survey of why people visit and how people use the MLA web site.

The data gathered from Lucy’s class has been used in the strategic plan and will provide great material for redesigning the MLA web site in the coming year.

New MLA member software has also been purchased that will drive the design of the web site – exciting stuff!

Advice to future MLA Presidents, stick to 3 goals!

Not a bad year, all in all, and I graciously left lots of projects for President Venditta to play with!

It’s been a year that has seen big and small signs that Maryland Libraries are valued in their communities. Howard County Public Library was named Library Journal’s Library of the Year. Harford County Public Library was recognized too many times to list here. Wicomico Public Library got its first funding increase in years and was the recipient of the President’s Award for Customer Service. School libraries held their own and academic libraries continued their adjustments to the changes in higher education.

In the “notable exception” category is Baltimore County Public Library. In a surprising and alarming move, County Executive Kevin Kamenetz’s FY15 budget called for moving three departments (28 positions) out of BCPL and into Baltimore County government. It was described as a cost savings measure, but the savings identified were already underway before this action by having the library piggyback on County hardware, software and contracts without any takeover of positions. The transfer of positions includes control over some BCPL core services like its Integrated Library System and Information Services which functions as the library’s virtual branch and in-depth reference unit, with most positions requiring an MLS and/or Library Associate Training Institute (LATI) certification and several years of library experience.

The BCPL Board of Library Trustees was not consulted and the move may not even be legal under state law. Much will happen before this article goes to press, but please continue to support your colleagues at BCPL, particularly the dedicated folks in Information Services, Graphic Design, and IT.

Apologies for a public library heavy column this quarter! I wish each of you the best in your professional and personal lives – see you around the state.
What do Americans Say about Public Libraries?

Frazier Walker, Community Relations Specialist, Cecil County Public Library

Over the course of 2013, the Pew Research Foundation released a number of studies relating to public libraries. While Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) noticed news articles and blog posts after each release, there was an absence of advocacy using the research.

The Pew research debunks many myths about how Americans feel about public libraries and CCPL was convinced that the data could be used to create a compelling and multi-purpose library advocacy document. The resulting infographic boils down piles of research into a succinct, relevant and impactful graphic that libraries nationwide can use for a variety of advocacy purposes.

There is no advocacy “season.” It’s our year-round job to continually educate the community about the services and the value of public libraries. Politicians leave office, patrons move and even if a service is publicized, it can quickly be forgotten in the hectic pace of everyday life. Librarian stereotypes are still pervasive and many library systems are challenged with questions like “Why do we need libraries in the internet age?” The Pew research and this infographic serve as proof—from a neutral, non-library organization—that public libraries are dynamic resources for education, connection to technology and community success.

A free-to-download, free-to-share digital version of the infographic is posted on the CCPL Advocacy page, along with a customizable PowerPoint and other advocacy resources: http://www.cecil.ebranch.info/your-community/

SOURCES:
Little Friends of the Walkersville Library

Robin Bowers, Frederick County Public Libraries

At the Walkersville Library, a branch of Frederick County Public Libraries, the Friends Organization has decided to go small. The development of the “Little Friends of the Walkersville Library” this year is generating support, excitement and funds while rejuvenating their Library Friends group.

The Little Friends are the students of the Children’s Center of Walkersville, a local childcare and preschool center directed by Ginny Simonceau. Ginny integrates community service and volunteering into her curriculum and this partnership has developed with that idea as the foundation. The students help plan communitywide events held at the library like the recent community egg hunt and develop ideas for fundraising for the library’s benefit. They were busy for weeks, planning activities and designing posters at the center that advertised the egg hunt event. The Children’s Center provided the children’s games and crafts at the hunt and local businesses provided the eggs and prizes. All participants had to do was show up and have a good time at a free family event. The event was highly successful, with 225 people in attendance from the community.

The “Little Friends” also take on fundraising projects for the Friends group. The students organize the sale of official “Little Friends of the Walkersville Library” t-shirts that they wear to library events and water bottles with the “Little Friends of the Library” logo on them. They donate all the profits from the sales to the Walkersville Friends Organization which supports programming efforts at the library.

The “Little Friends” are also frequent guests at the Walkersville Library. Students hang posters at the center to promote the library, directed at parents, asking them to take their child to the library. “This makes mom, dad and caregivers aware of the library in their community and they become interested in our materials and programming. That brings them to our doors. Once they are here, they are very surprised by all that we offer. Many parents haven’t visited the library since they were a child and they are very surprised to see how much has changed,” says Branch Administrator Robin Bowers. “We are so excited to have this Little Friends group here in Walkersville and we hope this is just the beginning.”

Whether it’s attending library events, raising money for library programming or being little library advocates in the community, the Little Friends are a very valuable asset to the Walkersville...
Great things do come in small packages.

**Donna L. Sebly, Harford County Public Library**

This spring, the MLA Public Services Division sponsored a program to help library staff recognize stress and burnout on the job and to do something about those two all-too-familiar conditions. "Rekindle the Fire: Coping with Burnout: Strategies for Dealing with Stress" drew a wide variety of attendees, from branch managers to circulation staff, from full-time to part-time, to those stressed out to those wondering how to handle a stressed-out co-worker. Presenters included Sandy Lombardo, of Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL). She presented a PowerPoint on the causes and effects of stress and burnout in the office and in our lives, reviewing sure signs of stress and offering solutions.

Sandy Meyers, of Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL), added information on solutions for burnout. Then the presenters, along with Dave LaPenotiere, retired branch manager at BCPL, participated in a panel discussion with program participants to address particular situations and concerns in the library.

This was followed by a demonstration of office yoga by Christina Teasley of AACPL and Towson University. Program attendees found all three formats—presentation, panel discussion, and demonstration—to be invigorating and informative. The handouts and PowerPoint are available at [http://www.mdlib.org/divisions/psd/handouts.asp](http://www.mdlib.org/divisions/psd/handouts.asp).
Conferences are a special time. Over the span of a few days, hundreds of attendees descend on a location, united by a common purpose. In the case of the 2014 Maryland Library Association and Delaware Library Association Joint Annual Conference, those days were May 7-9, the location was Ocean City, Maryland, and the purpose was to share with and learn from others in order to propel our libraries along the paths of greatness.

When a conference ends, its existence goes unknown by those who travel to the same location only hours later. Like the waves hitting the beach, its existence is only temporary. However, the energy the conference inspires spreads to those who experience it and it’s our responsibility to bring that energy back to our libraries. When the Conference Committee created the conference theme “Turn It Up!,” it could mean many things. Reflecting back on the experience, though, the theme signified the most is taking the energy that exists around us, focusing it, and building upon it to do great things.

If you attended MLA/DLA 2014, hopefully you left reenergized by more than 600 enthusiastic attendees, over 100 thoughtful speakers, and over 90 engaging sessions and activities. If you didn’t have a chance to go, be sure to take a look at the Coverage in Lanyrd (http://lanyrd.com/2014/mladla14/coverage/) where you can find slides, handouts, and other resources added by many of this year’s presenters. Several sessions were also videotaped and will soon be available to view on the MLA website.

Thanks in large part to this year’s Conference Committee members, several new twists were added to the conference experience. The tradition of some favorite pastimes were also renewed. New activities, including a revamped poster session, Networking Uncommons, Hospitality Suite, and morning yoga sessions on the beach, were developed to increase the number of ways that you could interact with other conference attendees. The conference committee hopes that you were able to utilize one of these components to make new
connections and meet up with old friends. In addition to connecting in physical spaces, vibrant discussions also took place in the social media sphere. Check out #mladla14 to get a look at the conversations, thoughts, and images from the conference.

Many thanks and gratitude to everyone who made this year’s conference a success—the Conference Committee, presenters, sponsors, vendors, and everyone who attended. Thank you for both your in-person feedback on your experiences and the formal feedback you submitted though the post-conference survey. This year’s Conference Committee has reviewed your feedback, and I know next year’s committee will take your comments to heart as they plan another great conference experience.

Speaking of next year, it’s not too early to start making your plans to attend MLA/DLA 2015 from May 6-8. Next year’s committee has already started the planning process. Contact Julie Zamostny, MLA/DLA 2015 Conference Director at jzamostny@washcolibrary.org if you have questions or want to know how you can help. And, keep an eye on Lanyrd and #mladla15 for a sneak peek at what’s in store. It will be out of this world!

Navigation…
The next 50-something pages are fascinating pictures of this year’s excellent conference. We know you want—some time—to pore over them at length.

However, if just now you need to skip directly to the other articles on the conference, and save the pictures for later browsing, click or tap: Skip the Pix For Now!

When you’re ready to settle in, use your Bookmarks or the Table of Contents to see the pix.
Wednesday...

Bruce Hall, Assistant Director, Safety and Security, The Enoch Pratt Free Library, one of the speakers at Wednesday’s full day Pre-Conference Program, “WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN MY LIBRARY?: Handling Homeless, Disruptive Behavior and Public Perceptions Through Compassion and Law Enforcement”
Speaker Andre Jones at Wednesday’s half day Pre-Conference Program, “THE GUEST EXPERIENCE: Serve with Passion and Pride..Every Patron, Every Time”
Deborah Caldwell Stone, Deputy Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association, speaks at Wednesday's half-day Pre-Conference Program, “PRIVACY IN LIBRARIES: Maintaining Confidentiality - It’s Everyone’s Business”
Garry Golden, Wednesday’s General Session speaker, addresses the crowd.
The audience gets into the action at Wednesday’s General Session with Garry Golden.
Jim Gill, Musician, Author, and Child Development Specialist, performs at Wednesday’s half day pre-conference program, SONGS TO READ! BOOKS TO SING!
FEATURES: MLA-DLA Conference Photos!

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Contents: Features

Contents continued
Sheila Murphy, MCAT Community Relations Manager, Upper Bay Counseling & Support Services, Inc., interacts with audience participants in a group activity at the full day pre-conference program on Wednesday, "WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN MY LIBRARY?: Handling Homeless, Disruptive Behavior and Public Perceptions Through Compassion and Law Enforcement."
Conference attendees help themselves to some good eats at Wednesday’s All Conference Reception.
Anita Crawford—Circulation Supervisor, Carroll County Public Library, Finksburg—speaks at Thursday morning’s conference session, “IT’S NOT MY JOB: Convincing Staff Why It Is Their Job.”
Panelists address the audience at the conference program, TWEENS, TEENS, AND TECHNOLOGY™ on Thursday afternoon.
Conference attendees browse the silent auction swag, hoping to score the perfect item.
Carl Olson, Government Information Librarian, Albert S. Cook Library, Towson University, speaks at the Thursday morning conference program, “REAL LIFE WITH GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS: Making Government Information Relevant to Students Using Resources for Real Life Challenges.”
Dr. Jamie Campbell Naidoo, University of Alabama, and author, Rainbow Family Collections: Selecting and Using Children’s Books with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Content speaks at Thursday morning conference program, “OVER THE RAINBOW, UNDER THE RADAR: Public Library Services for LGBTQ Children and Families in Conservative Communities.”
Erin McMahon, Elementary teachers/STEM Specialist, Frederick County Public Schools, engages the audience in the Thursday morning conference program, “SIMPLE, CHEAP AND STEAM-Y: Creating STEAM Maker Space Programming @ Your Library.”
(From L-R): Mary Hastler, Audra Caplan, Jo Pinder and ?
Participants chat with Thursday’s Banquet Speaker, Aaron Henkin, after his talk, “One City Block: Everybody’s Story”
Pat Hofmann (L), MLA's ALA Councilor, looks on as Jim Fish reads through some ALA materials.
James Kelly, Assistant Director for Public Services, Carroll County Public Library, speaks at Thursday afternoon program, “CORE VALUES: Building the Library You Dream About.”
Speakers (from L-R): Erica Jesonis, Web Manager, Cecil County Public Library, Catherine Johnson, Head of Information Literacy Initiatives, University of Baltimore, and Natalie Burclaff, Reference and Instruction Librarian, University of Baltimore, at their Thursday morning program, “TUNING IN: Creating Social Media Buy-In”
Julie Ranelli, Queen Anne’s County Public Library, addresses the audience at Thursday’s afternoon program, “CREATING AND MAINTAINING TEEN WRITING GROUPS,” as author Zachary Teal (The Foreigners: The Arrival) looks on.
Linda Pastan, William G. Wilson Maryland Author Award winner, addresses the audience at the Author Award Luncheon on Thursday.
Lynn Wheeler, MLA Past President, presents a $7,500 check to MLA from the donors to the Capital Fund for a Capital Lady Campaign (in honor of MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty's 75th birthday) for MLA Technology.
Michael Gannon, Associate Director for Administrative Services, Prince Georges County Memorial Library System, addresses the audience at the Thursday morning program, "FACILITIES 101: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Secret Life of Your Library Building"
Audra Caplan (left) presents the MLA Honorary Membership award to Jo Ann Pinder.
Conference attendees mix and mingle at the conference poster session.
Pub quiz participants anxiously await the start of the conference's premier annual event.
Pub Quiz Master Michael Gannon talks it out with one of the teams as the rest of the participants look on.
Sharon Lauchner, Library Collections Coordinator, Frederick County Public Libraries, speaks at the Thursday morning program, “WHAT DO THEY WANT, WHEN DO THEY WANT IT: Increasing Circulation through Merchandising and Collection Strategies.”
Participants in the Silent Auction write down their bids.
Prospective bidders look over the silent auction items.
The audience gets together to participate in Thursday morning's "SIMPLE, CHEAP AND STEAM-Y: Creating STEAM Maker Space Programming @ Your Library"
Post Thursday afternoon session, TWEENS, TEENS AND TECHNOLOGY
Participant group discussion at Friday morning session, APPS, TABLETS AND CHILDREN

... OH, MY!
Ben Kutil, Owner, Make Things Studio and Adjunct Graphic Design Faculty, Maryland Institute College of Art speaks to the audience on Friday morning at "KNOWING YOUR AUDIENCE - User Centered Design Principles Applied to Library Websites."
MLA President-elect John Venditta addresses the crowd as MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty (left) and MLA President Carrie Plymire look on.
Dennis Nangle, Public Libraries Services and Networking Branch Chief at the State’s Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS) speaks at Friday morning’s program, “DLDS: What’s Going on at the State Library and What’s an LSTA Grant Coordinator?”
Mentors and mentees chat at Friday morning’s Speed Mentoring program.
MLA Emerging Leader, Elizabeth Jones (right), of the Washington County Free Library, receives her award alongside award presenter and nominator, Elizabeth Hulett, also of the Washington County Free Library.
Janet Vogel (right), of Frederick County Public Libraries, receives her MLA Emerging Leader Award from presenter and nominator Stephanie Long.
Liz Slack, of Baltimore County Public Library, revels in her prize winnings at the raffle drawing.
Louise LeTendre, Harford County Library Board of Trustees Chair (right), receives the Citizens for Maryland Libraries Davis McCarn Technology Award from Citizens for Maryland Libraries’ Vice President Linda Lupro.
Marilyn Pontius, Branch Manager, Hancock War Memorial Library, a branch of the Washington County Free Library, speaks at the Friday morning program, "Doing More with Less".
Mark Cyzik, of the Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University, speaks at Friday morning’s program, “INTRODUCING CALIBRE AND SIGIL: Two e-Book Software Packages.”
Conference attendees gather at the Friday morning MLA Breakfast.
Mentors and mentees chat at Friday morning’s Speed Mentoring session.
Natalie Burclaff, Reference and Instruction Librarian, University of Baltimore, speaks to the audience at the Friday morning session, “DIGGING INTO THE RECENT PAST: Retooling Discipline Specific Instruction,” as Dr. Elizabeth Nix (Assistant Professor, Division of Legal, Ethical and Historical Studies, University of Baltimore), another presenter at that session, looks on.
Friday’s pre-lunch crowd mixes and mingles.
Rob Favini, OCLC Member Liaison, Northeast, speaks at Friday morning’s session, “PARENTS, ALUMNI AND LIBRARIES: What Customers Really Believe About the Library.”
Sarah Houghton; Director, San Rafael Public Library; better known as the blogger "the Librarian in Black," speaks at Friday's luncheon, themed "BETTING ON LIBRARY FUTURES."
Ms. Bolger gave excellent examples of different cases on banned books, free speech, online censorship, net neutrality, and the regulation of television and radio. In one of the banned book cases, Board of Education vs. Pico, the court held that school authorities cannot remove books because of political or religious content. For more information on this case, visit http://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/457/853/case.html.

In addressing online censorship, Ms. Bolger described attempted restrictions of online content by the United States Congress. The Communications Decency Act (CDA), Child Online Protection Act (COPA), and Child Pornography Prevention Act (CPPA) were all unsuccessful pieces of legislation that aimed to regulate online content. The Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was successful, and among the items regulated under this law are library internet filters. For more information on CIPA, visit: http://www.ala.org/offices/oif/ifissues/issuesrelatedlinks/cppacopacipa.

One of the most notable cases in which free speech was challenged is the case of Dr. Mitchell Tepper, founder of The Sexual Health Network and the website SexualHealth.com. His organization gives access to sexuality information, mutual support, education, counseling, healthcare and other issues for those with disabilities and their family members to live normal, productive lives. Dr. Tepper’s website would have violated both CDA and COPA because it could have been considered “harmful to minors,” and his testimony was crucial to challenging those laws in court. For more information, visit: http://ncac.org/resource/ashcroft-vs-aclu/

Net neutrality was the final topic Ms. Bolger discussed. She pointed out that President Obama has wavered on this issue, which he formerly promised to support, and this is a major cause for concern. To watch a video on this topic, visit: http://billmoyers.com/episode/full-show-is-net-neutrality-dead/

Ms. Bolger gave a very inspiring and informative presentation. There are many more cases related to banned books and online censorship that she was not able to talk about due to the time constraints. Any of these cases can be of service to librarians to help understand laws and possible challenges to library services and materials. An understanding of the law and the cases will help us all to deal with censorship and privacy issues that come up in many libraries today.

(M MLA's Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel (IFAP) sponsored a session on censorship at this year’s MLA/DLA Annual Conference. The guest speaker was Ms. Kate Bolger, a First Amendment lawyer at the law firm Levine, Sullivan, Koch, and Schultz, LLP, in New York City. The session was engaging and informative. Ms. Bolger’s passion for the Constitution and her knowledge of the law and the history of law was unparalleled.

Ms. Bolger provided the group with a history lesson on the origins of censorship laws in England and how they evolved when transitioning to the New World. She discussed prior restraint laws and their chilling effects and also addressed the concepts of constructive treason, seditious libel, and free speech. There were many parallels to today’s legal landscape, as the issues of the past are still issues today, but with many additional modern-day factors affecting current rulings.

Laws in England have not evolved as much as one might think, especially their stringent prior restraint laws. Prior restraint laws are censorship laws imposed upon citizens restricting expression before the expression takes place. These restrictive laws were one reason for migration to the New World. The concept of free speech in the press was born with the trial of John Peter Zenger, in 1735 (see http://www.ushistory.org/us/7c.asp for more information). The jury acquitted Zenger of libel, thus supporting the right of the press to voice dissenting ideas and criticism of the government.

Donna Ballard, Enoch Pratt Free Library

2014 MLA/DLA Conference Recap: All You Need to Know about Censorship and the Law

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(M MLA’s Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel (IFAP) sponsored a session on censorship at this year’s MLA/DLA Annual Conference. The guest speaker was Ms. Kate Bolger, a First Amendment lawyer at the law firm Levine, Sullivan, Koch, and Schultz, LLP, in New York City. The session was engaging and informative. Ms. Bolger’s passion for the Constitution and her knowledge of the law and the history of law was unparalleled.

Ms. Bolger provided the group with a history lesson on the origins of censorship laws in England and how they evolved when transitioning to the New World. She discussed prior restraint laws and their chilling effects and also addressed the concepts of constructive treason, seditious libel, and free speech. There were many parallels to today’s legal landscape, as the issues of the past are still issues today, but with many additional modern-day factors affecting current rulings.

Laws in England have not evolved as much as one might think, especially their stringent prior restraint laws. Prior restraint laws are censorship laws imposed upon citizens restricting expression before the expression takes place. These restrictive laws were one reason for migration to the New World. The concept of free speech in the press was born with the trial of John Peter Zenger, in 1735 (see http://www.ushistory.org/us/7c.asp for more information). The jury acquitted Zenger of libel, thus supporting the right of the press to voice dissenting ideas and criticism of the government.

Donna Ballard, Enoch Pratt Free Library

2014 MLA/DLA Conference Recap: All You Need to Know about Censorship and the Law

Ms. Bolger gave excellent examples of different cases on banned books, free speech, online censorship, net neutrality, and the regulation of television and radio. In one of the banned book cases, Board of Education vs. Pico, the court held that school authorities cannot remove books because of political or religious content. For more information on this case, visit http://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/457/853/case.html.

In addressing online censorship, Ms. Bolger described attempted restrictions of online content by the United States Congress. The Communications Decency Act (CDA), Child Online Protection Act (COPA), and Child Pornography Prevention Act (CPPA) were all unsuccessful pieces of legislation that aimed to regulate online content. The Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was successful, and among the items regulated under this law are library internet filters. For more information on CIPA, visit: http://www.ala.org/offices/oif/ifissues/issuesrelatedlinks/cppacopacipa.

One of the most notable cases in which free speech was challenged is the case of Dr. Mitchell Tepper, founder of The Sexual Health Network and the website SexualHealth.com. His organization gives access to sexuality information, mutual support, education, counseling, healthcare and other issues for those with disabilities and their family members to live normal, productive lives. Dr. Tepper’s website would have violated both CDA and COPA because it could have been considered “harmful to minors,” and his testimony was crucial to challenging those laws in court. For more information, visit: http://ncac.org/resource/ashcroft-vs-aclu/

Net neutrality was the final topic Ms. Bolger discussed. She pointed out that President Obama has wavered on this issue, which he formerly promised to support, and this is a major cause for concern. To watch a video on this topic, visit: http://billmoyers.com/episode/full-show-is-net-neutrality-dead/

Ms. Bolger gave a very inspiring and informative presentation. There are many more cases related to banned books and online censorship that she was not able to talk about due to the time constraints. Any of these cases can be of service to librarians to help understand laws and possible challenges to library services and materials. An understanding of the law and the cases will help us all to deal with censorship and privacy issues that come up in many libraries today.
On May 8, the Maryland Library Association honored Wicomico Public Library at the MLA/DLA Annual conference in Ocean City, Maryland with the President’s Award for Customer Service. The Maryland Library Association advocates for the Maryland Library community and at the annual conference, they award individuals, organizations and libraries that put their energy, time, skills and finances into bettering the relationship between a library and its community.

“The MLA President’s Award acknowledges the role that Wicomico Public Library plays in this community, and the efforts of the staff members to tailor the library’s services to fit that community,” said Andrea Berstler, Executive Director of Wicomico Public Library. “Even with the library’s restricted budget and older buildings, the staff has been able to create a ‘new’ library, one that will continue to provide for the educational, cultural and recreational needs of this community for years to come. We are honored to receive this award.”

Surprisingly, the library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, not a department of Wicomico County government. Between 2008 and 2009, the library received a 40 percent cut in its county funding, the largest decrease among county funded organizations. Wicomico Public Library’s per capita funding is now the lowest in the state of Maryland. The library continues to operate at this funding level today despite the ever increasing demands of technology and a continually growing variety of resources required in meeting the needs of the community.

“We get volunteers from all walks of life and as a public library, we have a variety of needs, so it becomes about creating a mutual benefit,” said Paula Mitchell, Events and Volunteer Coordinator for the library.

This relationship between community and organization is how the library sustains its mission and vision, from the biggest of events such as the annual Light of Literacy Awards down to the smallest group of children anticipating the turn of a page at a story time.

While lending books and other materials is, and will continue to be, a fundamental library service, the library’s vital role is as an educational, social and cultural hub in the community. Over the past 18 months, the library has made many transformations through projects such as The BookShelf, the new Friends of the Library bookstore and the recent three dimensional bookshelf mural which serves as an icon and the beginning steps in the downtown renaissance. The library continues to serve the community through its Job Search Center and the English Language Lab. The library’s vision and mission extends deeper into the community as staff and volunteers are present at city-wide events such as Third Friday and the Salisbury Festival. The library is also hosting city-wide events in its own space through the Night in the Stacks: Chocolate, Champagne & Classics social evening and at the library Café family connection event.

“I know there are libraries doing more, holding more classes, programs and events,” said Berstler. “The perspective that needs to be seen here is that we do all that we do while being the library with the lowest per capita funding in the state.”

The serendipitous presence of the library can be experienced throughout Wicomico County and the library staff continually looks forward to cultivating programs, events and resources to cover the ever changing needs of the people it serves.

Wicomico Public Library has locations in Downtown Salisbury, the Centre at Salisbury, in Pittsville, and the Bookmobile. Not only does Wicomico Public Library offer numerous resources such as free Internet access, a variety of classes and events, and an online virtual library with eBooks, but it engages with the community by supporting learning, building community, and enriching lives. You Belong @ Wicomico Public Library!

For more information on Wicomico Public Library’s services, programs and upcoming events please visit WicomicoLibrary.org or check out the print newsletter now available in various local businesses.
MLA President Carrie Plymire (left), presents the MLA President’s Customer Service Award to Wicomico County Public Library’s Executive Director Andrea Berstler, who happily accepted the award on behalf of the library.
WITH THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE who are choosing to be self-represented litigants (SRL) when going to court, libraries are also experiencing an increase in customers who need legal information. The problem that many library professionals face is how to deliver effective service to these customers without giving legal advice.

Fortunately, there are some innovative programs out there to help both library staff and customers when it comes to legal questions. On Thursday, May 8, at the MLA/DLA Annual Conference, Joan Bellistri and Sandy Brewer gave an excellent presentation on what is being done in their respective counties.

Joan Bellistri, Director of the Anne Arundel County Public Law Library, Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County, gave an overview of the “Ask a Lawyer in the Law Library” program held every Wednesday from 11 am to 1 pm in Annapolis. Essentially, these are ‘one shot’ sessions co-sponsored by the Anne Arundel Bar Association and the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service for the public to ask questions and seek basic legal advice from a licensed Maryland attorney. Due to the overwhelming response from the public, Bellistri said that there is a lottery type of system to sign up for these sessions to make sure everyone is given a fair chance. The lawyers who participate in this program are doing so pro bono (i.e., for free) which the Maryland Bar Association encourages its members to do. As Bellistri and Brewer both pointed out, Maryland does not require its licensed attorneys to do pro bono work but strongly recommends that they do.

For the librarians involved, part of their role is to get an idea of what kind of questions those wishing to attend a session have about the law. To ensure that the public understands what kind of legal advice they can seek, Bellistri advertises it as a “Civil Non-Family Law Self-Help Program” and gives ideas of what type of questions can be answered. Their web site http://www.circuitcourt.org/component/content/article/113 also provides more information including a disclaimer about the advice given during these sessions. In order to accommodate more people, they offer an additional day at the North County Area Library branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) on the 3rd Wednesday of every month (except June and July) from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, with the same guidelines.

As for the Civil Law Self-Help Center program in Howard County, by Sandra Brewer, Law Librarian with the Howard County Law Library, there are both similarities and differences with Anne Arundel County’s program. Their center in Ellicott City operates the first three Tuesdays of every month from 9 am to 12 noon (http://www.mdcourts.gov/circuit/howard/civilselfhelp.html). It takes people on a first-come, first-served basis and requires that each person requesting advice be an SRL and fall within low income guidelines. As with Anne Arundel, Howard County has seen such a rise in popularity of their program that they now offer an additional date (January through September) at the East Columbia Branch of Howard County Library from 6 pm to 8 pm.

For library systems that may be considering offering a similar legal advice clinic, Brewer offered some suggestions. She said that the leadership of your organization must buy into the concept in order for it to succeed or even get off the ground. Part of this process will include contacting your local bar association and circuit court law library to find out about pro bono opportunities that exist in your service area. When setting up the program, you have to consider where and when to hold it, guidelines for who may participate, marketing the program, and deciding who in the library will be performing the tasks involved. She recommends borrowing ideas from other programs that are currently in operation, trying a pilot program for a couple of months, and tweaking the process as you go along. You should also be careful of ‘volunteer burnout’ of the attorneys offering their services. You need to have a good size pool of volunteers and make them feel welcome by providing little incentives such as free coffee or refreshments, writing up articles about the program for local law-related newsletters, and having an annual recognition luncheon for all participating attorneys. Inviting local judges to speak at or take part in these luncheons are great ways to entice attorneys to join in (plus it offers a photo op for everyone involved!)

Both Bellistri and Brewer offered some great ideas and insights into just what is involved in setting up a legal advice program. While it does involve work, careful planning and setting up reasonable expectations and goals will help to make legal clinics succeed in your library system. These clinics are a great way to offer a much needed customer service at little cost.
Serving Families in the Library

Donna L. Sebly, Harford County Public Library

In two preconference programs on the subject of families, the 2014 MLA/DLA conference offered participants a unique opportunity to examine the issue of how libraries can best serve users with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). While the morning program focused on children and teens with ASD, the afternoon program, sponsored by the Public Services Division, took a look at families and adults with Autism. This preconference program, “Serving Families and Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: The Reference and Circulation Librarians,” was presented by Catherine Creighton Thompson, Ph.D.

While there was necessarily some overlap of information between the two programs, Dr. Thompson offered afternoon program participants a slide presentation on ASD, looking broadly at its characteristics and surprising prevalence in our society. She especially focused on how these conditions impact families, and she offered a variety of resources available to families who have an adult child with ASD. These same resources, of course, would be useful for teens and younger children with ASD.

The surprising piece of the program was how easily families with children or adults with ASD can be accommodated at the library. If, for example, library staff members know that people with ASD like to follow strict routines, maybe something as simple as posting signs in the library outlining the rules and procedures for library users to follow would help. Is that library user having trouble understanding the routine? How about creating a simple “Visual Schedule” to help out? A chart showed the steps in taking out materials (“Select book… Have Library Card… Return book on due date”), along with simple graphics, all very simply outlined for all library users, but especially helpful to users with ASD. Dr. Thompson also delved into employment issues, noting that libraries offer especially good work environments for people with ASD.

Best of all, Dr. Thompson was available to answer specific questions and concerns coming from program participants. Handouts were also included with the presentation.
The Maryland State Department of Education’s Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS) worked with the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) and FutureMakers to present the second annual Innovation Expo on Saturday, May 31st. The event was free and open to the public. There was also an additional training session for Maryland public library staff. The south side of the exhibition floor featured a variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) themed interactive booths, which were hosted by statewide technology education nonprofits, museums, universities, public libraries, and others. The north side of the exhibition floor featured a Minecraft playing area hosted by the Enoch Pratt Free Library and FutureMakers; Minecraft-inspired crafts were offered by Carroll County Public Library.

The purpose of the Innovation Expo is to offer statewide library staff a unique opportunity to learn about innovative STEM program ideas while experiencing them alongside members of the public. Throughout the day, library staff and customers of all ages extracted DNA from strawberries and used electricity to engrave dog tags with their own drawings. They used 3D printers to make phone cases and learned how to solder circuits. The Expo gives staff a chance to witness the transformative power of these programs first-hand.
Over 60 library employees from all corners of the state participated in the event. The most common reaction from the librarians, members of the public, and exhibitioners was that they were impressed with how much families enjoyed learning together. Seniors enjoyed learning about Minecraft from their grandchildren, teens helped toddlers control roving robots, and tweens helped one another design video games.

The keynote speaker, Justin Hoenke from the Chattanooga Public Library, emphasized that it is often youth services librarians who push libraries forward by reimagining the structure and content of their programs. In Hoenke’s youth services area, teens, tweens, and children are free to interact with both emerging and historical technology. He was quick to point out that it isn’t the quantity or type of technology that drives libraries, but rather staff attitudes and the general library atmosphere.

When Hoenke’s library began to rethink the way that its youth services space was used, there was just one piece of technology: a manual button maker. It was left out on a table with some old magazines and scissors. Soon, the buttons became a fad at the local middle school, and the library became known as “a cool place to go.” These days, all of the library’s equipment—3D printers, record players, iMacs, arcade games, and the old button printer—is out on the public floor, right next to the books.

Library staff are always available to help their customers learn to use the equipment or tackle a tough concept; their workstations are on the public floor, too!

The Innovation Expo was a success; Over 60 library employees from all corners of the state were in attendance, and the reviews were overwhelmingly positive. After the event, DLDS staff met with members of Maryland’s statewide technology education network to hear their impressions of the day and discuss new ways of bringing ideas like those demonstrated and discussed at the Expo to libraries around the state. The energy and excitement expressed in this conversation made it clear that programs like the Innovation Expo play a critical role in forming connections, inspiring new ways of thinking, and keeping Maryland’s libraries at the forefront of STEM education. If you have ideas for future programs or would like to play a larger role in statewide STEM and innovative youth initiatives, please contact Liz Sundermann at DLDS via e-mail at lsunderman@msde.state.md.us or by phone at 410-767-0450.
On May 5 and 6, librarians from across the country gathered in Washington to impress upon their congressional representatives, the value of libraries on a variety of issues. Organized by ALA, the first day of the two day event prepared the advocates for protocols on visits with legislators and gave them tips on how to be more effective. On the second day, librarians conducted the actual visits with their legislators.

The Maryland librarians from public, academic, and school libraries, as well as MLA executive officers, and representatives from the Division of Library Development and Services, who visited and spoke with Brent Palmer and Ann Jacobs, Aides of Senators Mikulski and Cardin included: Carrie Willson-Plymire, Mary Hastler, Mary Baykan, Glennor Shirley, Lynn Wheeler, Jay Bansbach, Lucy Holman, Natalie Edington, Irene Padilla, Dennis Nangle, Darnice Jasper, and, Margaret Carty.

The aides were given packets that included key issues of concern to libraries, requesting support for:

- funding the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at $180.9 million for FY 2015;
- funding the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program at $25 million for FY 2015;
- including effective school library programs in reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); and
- the inclusion of public libraries in Workforce Investment plans.

Kathleen Teaze visited with staff in Representative Donna Edwards’ office (District 4) and reported: “They were both welcoming and supportive. I gave them the packet and discussed a couple of items that I know Congresswoman Edwards is strong on, especially early literacy. I pointed out the sheet of legislation that is important to libraries and told them that we’d be happy to help if they need any and happy to provide more info if necessary. It was a pleasant, upbeat, short, meeting.”

Skip Auld, and others from the Anne Arundel County Public Library system, met with Representative Sarbanes (District 3) and reported:

“We had a very good visit with Congressman Sarbanes. Legislative Assistant Helena Mastroianis began the meeting but Mr. Sarbanes joined us in the first five minutes. He then spent 30-45 minutes talking with us. He asked Helena to get follow-up information on E-rate, which he had worked on when with Baltimore City Schools. He was very interested in what’s happening with Anne Arundel County Public Library, how we compare with the large jurisdictions/library systems like Montgomery, Prince George’s, Baltimore City and County. He had visited us at AACPL Headquarters about a year ago. We’re still trying to work out a visit to our Board of Trustees meeting [on] May 15.”

The following persons will also coordinate visits in the home territory of the congressional representatives: Mary Hastler (District 1), Mary Baykan (District 6), Jim Fish (Districts 2 and 7), Sharan Marshall (District 8), and Kay Bowman (District 5).
For information on the key issues, visit the ALA web site: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/advleg/nlld/nlld14_key_issues.pdf.
Las Vegas. It is different attending the ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas than in other major American cities. First, all attendees will attest that it was hot. “107 degrees but it feels like 105 degrees,” was a common phrase to hear. 111 degrees was the hottest temperature we experienced. Second, it was hard to walk outside due to the heat and the distance between buildings.

The conference took place from June 26 to July 1 at the Las Vegas Convention Center; 13,019 attendees and 5,607 vendors were there, for a total of 18,626. This was a good number, as it was 1,000 higher than Anaheim two years ago, although less than in Chicago last year.

Council was busy, as usual. After the Council Information Session and the ALA Membership Meeting on Saturday, ALA Council I took place on Sunday morning. A video message from the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Tom Wheeler, was played. He spoke about working with libraries to simplify the e-rate program and to improve WiFi access throughout public library buildings. You will hear more about a $2 billion initiative. ALA is working with the FCC to help create this program. We approved minutes and received reports, including one from the Digital Content and Libraries Working Group. This group has worked very hard to encourage publishers to sell e-books to libraries, with great success and with more to be done. This group will stay active for at least another two years. A resolution was passed to “Support Stable Funding for Air Force Libraries.” This passed (I voted yes) so ALA will urge Congress to direct the Department of Defense and the Air Force to restore funding to Air Force libraries.

Council II took place on Monday morning. We heard reports from a few committees. One important resolution was passed. ALA will urge Congress to grant the District of Columbia budget autonomy in order to prevent the unnecessary closing of city government facilities, including public libraries in the event of a federal government shutdown. I spoke in favor and voted yes.

Council III took place on Tuesday morning. Memorial tributes were heard. The budgetary ceiling was passed for FY 2015. The Committee on Legislation put forward two resolutions. The first was about digitization of United States government documents. The second reaffirmed support for Network Neutrality. I voted yes to both resolutions. The Intellectual Freedom Committee revised many interpretations of the Intellectual Freedom Manual, prior to the next edition’s publication. After discussion, the revisions passed. The main objection related to the section on labeling. I voted yes to the revisions. The Intellectual Freedom Committee will begin another revision and will take all comments into consideration. The Committee on Professional Ethics published an Interpretation of the Code of Ethics related to Copyright. Council approved this document. I voted yes. The International Relations Committee requested that ALA become a signatory to the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development. This was approved. I voted yes.

Other highlights of the conference:

- President Barbara Stripling formed a Presidential Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
- ALA has hired a Director of Literacy.
- The Declaration for the Right to Libraries will continue for another year.
- ALA has established a Center for the Future of Libraries, directed by Miguel Figueroa.
- Advocacy for school libraries continues to be a priority.
- ALA is involved in a planning process and is actively seeking input. The strategic directions are advocacy, information policy and professional and leadership development.
- Capwiz is changing to Engage and all chapters will need to migrate by the end of October.
- The federal revision of the Workforce Investment Act includes public libraries. The bill has passed the Senate and will go on to the House. This is seen as a historic breakthrough by ALA.
- If I can provide any additional information on any of these topics, please let me know.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your ALA Chapter Councilor for the past three years. I have learned so much and I have a great respect and appreciation for ALA, their staff, and the hundreds of volunteers who help accomplish the work of the association.

Thank you,
Pat Hofmann, ALA Councilor for Maryland
A Glorious Gravitational Lens

Dr. Ethan Siegel

As we look at the universe on larger and larger scales, from stars to galaxies to groups to the largest galaxy clusters, we become able to perceive objects that are significantly farther away. But as we consider these larger classes of objects, they don’t merely emit increased amounts of light, but they also contain increased amounts of mass. Under the best of circumstances, these gravitational clumps can open up a window to the distant universe well beyond what any astronomer could hope to see otherwise.

The oldest style of telescope is the refractor, where light from an arbitrarily distant source is passed through a converging lens. The incoming light rays—initially spread over a large area—are brought together at a point on the opposite side of the lens, with light rays from significantly closer sources bent in characteristic ways as well. While the universe doesn’t consist of large optical lenses, mass itself is capable of bending light in accord with Einstein’s theory of General Relativity, and acts as a gravitational lens!

The first prediction that real-life galaxy clusters would behave as such lenses came from Fritz Zwicky in 1937. These foreground masses would lead to multiple images and distorted arcs of the same lensed background object, all of which would be magnified as well. It wasn’t until 1979, however, that this process was confirmed with the observation of the Twin Quasar: QSO 0957+561. Gravitational lensing requires a serendipitous alignment of a massive foreground galaxy cluster with a background galaxy (or cluster) in the right location to be seen by an observer at our location, but the universe is kind enough to provide us with many such examples of this good fortune, including one accessible to astrophotographers with 11″ scopes and larger: Abell 2218.

Located in the Constellation of Draco at position (J2000): R.A. 16h 35m 54s, Dec. +66° 13’ 00” (about 2° North of the star 18 Draconis), Abell 2218 is an extremely massive cluster of about 10,000 galaxies located 2 billion light years away, but it’s also located quite close to the zenith for northern hemisphere observers, making it a great target for deep-sky astrophotography. Multiple images and sweeping arcs abound between magnitudes 17 and 20, and include galaxies at a variety of redshifts ranging from z=0.7 all the way up to z=2.5, with farther ones at even fainter magnitudes unveiled by Hubble. For those looking for an astronomical challenge this summer, take a shot at Abell 2218, a cluster responsible for perhaps the most glorious gravitational lens visible from Earth!

Learn about current efforts to study gravitational lensing using NASA facilities: http://www.nasa.gov/press/2014/january/nasas-fermi-makes-first-gamma-ray-study-of-a-gravitational-lens/

Drake Joins Montgomery College Staff

Sarah Fisher, Montgomery College

Vickie Drake joined the staff at Montgomery College in May 2014 as a reference librarian at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus library. Vickie is returning to the College from Arlington Public Library system, where she was the Manager of the Columbia Pike Branch Library. Vickie was a part-time reference librarian at the Rockville Campus library prior to that, where she worked with social media and library displays. At Takoma, she will be working on developing the position of librarian embedded within STEM and the health sciences.

Before moving to the District of Columbia metropolitan area in 2009, Vickie spent almost a decade working for the University of Texas at Austin’s Libraries. She was the Branch Manager of the Walter Geology Library from 2003 to 2008 and the Evening and Sunday Supervisor of the McKinney Engineering Library from 1999-2003. Vickie also has experience working with Strayer University and the University of Texas at Dallas.

Vickie earned her MLIS from the University of North Texas in Denton, with a specialty in Management of Libraries. She earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in history and anthropology from Texas State University-San Marcos. When she is not immersed in library work, she likes to spend her time collecting and selling vintage items and antiques, fossil and rock hunting, archaeology, working on home and garden renovations, and traveling.

Baltimore County Public Library Announces New Director

Josh McCready, Baltimore County Public Library

Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) is pleased to announce its new director, Paula Miller. Prior to BCPL, Ms. Miller was director of Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado. Before that, she served as director of the Westlake Porter Public Library in Ohio; administrator of the Eastern Shore Regional Library in Maryland; and director of the Dover Public Library, Delaware. She received her MLIS from the University of Maryland.

"I am honored to be selected as the next director for Baltimore County Public Library, and am looking forward to building on the good work and dedication of its three previous directors to ensure exceptional library service to the residents of Baltimore County," said Ms. Miller. "I am excited to begin working with the BCPL Board, staff and community partners to explore new and emerging library needs, and to find innovative solutions that keep our libraries relevant and effective to the communities we serve. Since my husband and I lived and worked in Maryland early in our careers, we feel a little bit like this brings us full circle. This also brings us closer to family and our roots."

Ms. Miller will begin her tenure at BCPL later this year when the current director, James H. Fish, retires after nearly 18 years of service. Ms. Miller is the fourth director of BCPL, and the first female director in its celebrated 67 year history. Ms. Miller was selected after a nationwide search conducted by the BCPL Board of Library Trustees.
Jim Fish Retires

Baltimore County Councilman David Marks and Baltimore County Councilwoman Vicki Almond present retiring Baltimore County Public Library Director Jim Fish with a citation from the County Council in honor of his 18 years of service to BCPL at his retirement party held at the Perry Hall Branch on June 20, 2014. During Jim’s 18 years of leadership, BCPL saw significant changes, including the recent expansion to have all 19 branches open Sunday afternoons year-round; four new branch facilities and five more with renovations/expansions; reopened branches at Loch Raven and Lansdowne; the opening of both Storyville locations; the introduction of e-books; and much more.
Technical Services Division

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!

The Maryland Collaborative Scholarly Digital Initiative (MD-CSDI)

Michelle Flinchbaugh, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

A group of academic libraries, including members of the University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Consortium, the Maryland Institute College of Art, Goucher College, and Loyola Notre Dame Libraries, formed a committee to explore the feasibility and potential need for a shareable institutional repository (IR) infrastructure in Maryland. UMBC, in collaboration with multiple partners statewide, applied for an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grant that includes a request for funds toward the start-up costs. If funded, the grant will support building and sustaining a cohesive statewide community of practicing digital scholars, testing new strategies to improve library-based repository services for digital scholars, and adding more state and national collaborators. These initiatives, as a whole, have been named the Maryland Collaborative Scholarly Digital Initiative (MD-CSDI).

An IR is defined as a suite of services for managing and disseminating scholarship, research, and creative works authored by community members, as well as a highly visible, centralized research portal for appropriate academic scholarship. An IR also serves as a showcase for scholarship, increasing visibility, relevance, and global impact. Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage (MDCH) is a statewide repository but is limited in scope to Maryland history and culture. Unlike MDCH, a Maryland Institutional Repository would be broadly inclusive in topical coverage. Some existing Maryland institutional repositories include:

- The Digital Repository at the University of Maryland (DRUM) at the College Park campus (http://drum.lib.umd.edu);
- the Digital Commons at the University of Maryland Law Library, (http://digitalcommons.law.umd.edu/); and
- the Digital Archive at the University of Maryland Health Sciences and Human Services Library (http://archive.hshsl.umd.edu/).

Hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide already provide institutional repository services, including notable examples like ScholarWorks at UMass Amherst, (http://scholarworks.umass.edu/) and SmarTech at Georgia Tech (http://smartech.gatech.edu/).

During the summer of 2013, Michelle Flinchbaugh, Acquisitions and Digital Scholarship Services Librarian at UMBC, contacted academic libraries in Maryland about a potential grant proposal to develop a shared multimedia repository and held an organizational meeting at UMBC that was attended by representatives of 14 academic libraries. At that meeting, Flinchbaugh shared information about the very successful Mountain West Digital Library’s structure, and their IR project, as well as an article comparing the benefits and drawbacks of various repository models by Josh Brown, (http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/18977/).

Representatives at that meeting decided to form two working groups, one to work on establishing the institutional repository, and one to focus on the grant proposal to get funding to develop advanced repository features for digital scholars. Michelle Flinchbaugh leads the first group, MD-CSDI. The group includes representatives from Goucher College, Maryland Institute College of Art, Salisbury University, Frostburg University, Towson University, and the University of Maryland. Chuck Thomas, the new
Executive Director of the USMAI Consortium, and served as an advisor and led the second group in developing the grant proposal.

The grant proposal was submitted in early February and focuses on the challenges facing digital scholars and the libraries trying to support them. If the project is funded, a statewide community of practicing digital scholars will be cultivated by opening new communication channels and by supporting interdisciplinary communities. The project will also create and deliver training for scholars on creating and sustaining complex digital works, and explore strategies to improve institutional support for digital scholars and digital publishing. The project will also create case studies and examples of current works of digital scholarship, and test new methods for preserving such works. Finally, the project provides for licensing a shareable hosted institutional repository service to test good practices for operating a multi-institutional and jointly-governed repository.

The grant proposal includes multiple digital scholars, including Dr. Craig Saper, Director of the Language, Literacy, and Culture Ph.D. Program at UMBC, who is serving as the co-Principal Investigator and co-director of the project. Examples of Dr. Saper’s digital projects include Folkvine (http://folkvine.umbc.edu/), TypeBound (http://www.readies.org/typebound/), and the Reading Machine (http://www.readies.org/). Some additional digital works he created are no longer accessible because they were developed with technologies that are now obsolete. Dr. Saper is concerned that there isn’t a prestigious university imprint on his digital works, and has been working toward creating one that would include full peer review of digital scholarship. The grant proposal, if successful, would provide some funds toward this goal.

Digital scholars see this project as an important step toward overcoming some of the challenges that they face. The challenges to overcome with this IR grant include:

A lack of high-prestige publishers for digital works fully embracing technology: The highest prestige journals, as well as e-books, mimic print, requiring static formatting that doesn’t fully embrace technology. Because of this, digital scholarship is often self-published outside of the conventional publishing process on campus and private servers and lacks the status of university presses.

Digital scholarship often becomes inaccessible even in the lifetime of the author: Inaccessible work cannot be submitted in the promotion and tenure process, making digital scholarship a risky endeavor. Even when digital scholarship receives technical support from the institution, that support may be lost when funding ceases or when the creator changes institutions.

Unless explicitly modified for digital scholarship, the promotion and tenure process is print based: Requiring that digital works be submitted only in print causes all non-print content and the rich features and functionality that are often embedded in digital projects to be lost.

While the Maryland Collaborative Scholarly Digital Initiative Committee would very much like to support digital scholars, it is planning in a manner that will allow the consortial repository to move forward whether the grant is funded or not. Work is being timed so that the group will be ready to contract for a service around the time that IMLS is making award notifications. The committee has so far surveyed libraries about their current digital collections and institutional repositories, and has sponsored webinars with multiple IR vendors to increase knowledge of systems and their capabilities among participating libraries, all toward developing a clear shared vision of the system that we want.

MD-CSDI is actively seeking interested libraries and librarians. Any Maryland academic library interested may appoint a representative to the Committee. To do so, e-mail the Committee Chair, Michelle Flinchbaugh, flinchba@umbc.edu. Any librarian interested in repositories in Maryland may join the committee’s e-mail list, which communicates work progress and general discussion on repository and digital library related issues. To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail to sympa@lists.umbc.edu with the message “SUBscribe marylandircommunity”. For more information on the MD-CSDI, or to read the grant proposal abstract or narrative, visit the Committee’s website: http://aok.lib.umbc.edu/MDCSDI/home.html.

Digital Librarianship

Michelle Flinchbaugh, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Members of the MD-CSDI committee include a number of digital librarians. About half of the members of the committee have the word “digital” in their job titles, including “digital systems and services,” “digital media,” and “digital scholarship services,” among others. Three members hold positions primarily responsible for functions considered traditional technical services, including two in acquisitions and one metadata librarian. Two work in special collections or as archivists. Wherever their placement in the library, they all have specialized technical skills, knowledge and work experience relevant to digital libraries, including expertise on systems, digitization, processing, metadata, data transformations, digital preservation, legal issues, collection development, management, communication, project management, and so much more.

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What is a digital librarian?

A digital librarian may be someone who works on creating and maintaining a digital library or libraries. According to Wikipedia, “[a]n electronic library (colloquially referred to as a digital library) is a focused collection of digital objects that can include text, visual material, audio material, video material, stored as electronic media formats (as opposed to print, microform, or other media), along with means for organizing, storing, and retrieving the files and media contained in the library collection. Digital libraries can vary immensely in size and scope, and can be maintained by individuals, organizations, or affiliated with established physical library buildings or institutions, or with academic institutions. The electronic content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely via computer networks. An electronic library is a type of information retrieval system.”

The term digital librarian is also often used for librarians responsible for their library’s website. It may also be used for librarians responsible for purchasing and providing access to electronic resources, as well as those who create finding tools and teach others about the use of electronic resources. Thus, there is presently no consensus on what either a “digital library” or a “digital librarian” actually is.

The competencies of a digital librarian actually involved in creating a digital library may include:

★ digitization;
★ metadata creation;
★ information architecture;
★ collection creation;
★ aggregation;
★ navigation;
★ representation of digital objects in viewing environments;
★ information seeking behavior;
★ interface design;
★ conducting usability assessments and user studies;
★ integration via personalization and customization;
★ recombination of data and objects;
★ administration
★ communication and coordination; and
★ varying competencies in mark-up languages, software and databases, and web design.

Per one current survey, more than half of new librarian hires include digital in the job title. A 2009 job ad analysis found that the most sought after skills in digital librarians were knowledge of current trends, practices, standards, and technology in digital libraries, the digital library environment, and digital repositories in an academic setting. Next were HTML skills, competency in computer and software applications, and knowledge and skills in other mark-up languages and programming or scripting languages.

Few digital librarians, including recent graduates, have taken a course in digital librarianship, but pick up these technical skills on the fly, or via professional development events, online courses, or training offered by other types of organizations outside of the library world. Some library schools have begun to offer digital library programs, such as the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which has offered an advanced certification in digital librarianship for those already holding a master’s degree in library science since 2006.

Providing information and services in a digital form has become a ubiquitous part of library services. Many libraries are now going beyond providing simple access to purchased materials to providing online access to digitized portions of their collections and to born digital materials created by members of the community that they serve. The demand for digital librarians has exceeded the supply since 2001. In smaller libraries and in larger libraries that are less well funded, technical services and other library departments morph to take on responsibility for digital collections and institutional repositories. These librarians have adapted to the environment by taking on digital library roles that fit in with their traditional tasks. Catalogers may provide metadata for digital images, while acquisitions librarians may acquire content, along with the right to distribute that content, from their community to include in their digital collections and institutional repositories. Special collections librarians and archivists digitize materials from their collections to add to the library’s digital collections.

While many librarians are already engaged in digital librarianship, within MLA and in other professional organizations, digital librarianship lacks a division or group of its own, with training, professional development, and events for networking and discussion. While sometimes it seems like we are all now digital librarians, those working in specialized areas of digital libraries, digital collections, and repositories are unique in requiring specialized technical skills. As such, digital librarianship may best fit with the TSD, despite that it’s not part of the traditional paper-based technical work process of technical services. TSD has indeed stepped up to fill this gap, occasionally providing a professional development event related to digital librarianship, though such programming is not
appropriate for its member base not also working on digital libraries, and doesn’t reach a large portion of digital librarians who don’t belong to TSD or consider themselves to be technical services librarians.

It would be good to have an organization specifically for Maryland digital librarians. If you are a digital librarian in Maryland, or have another job title but are working on creating or maintaining collections of digital materials, please e-mail Michelle Flinchbaugh, flinchba@umbc.edu and let her know your job title and the name of your library. Also, in your e-mail, please let Michelle know what you think Maryland digital librarians should be doing to organize as a group.

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