

FoLIG meeting notes
October 7, 2019
Kent Island Library

MLA Updates

- The conference planning is coming along. We are still waiting to hear if Carla Hayden can speak.
- MLA is joining CML to sponsor the Poe House as Maryland's first Literary Landmark.
- MLA plans to put out a statement soon opposing MacMillan's eBook policy.

EBooks and Vendors

- Amazon has a stronghold on kindle materials in Overdrive – libraries can't access this content who don't use overdrive.
- All of the big five have changed their eBook licensing terms to go to metered only or to increase prices. It seems like this is an unfair marketplace for libraries. We are trying to get this in front of the Attorney General. There are groups looking to sue MacMillan in Rhode Island.
- At MAPLA, they were advocating for all public libraries to put up a link on their front page about this campaign letting the public know about this issue.
- Have any authors expressed opinions on this? Author's guilds are tending to listen to the publishers, who are saying that libraries are costing them money.
- We worry that we don't have enough power to appeal to the publishers or lawmakers. A lawsuit might be the only way to make a dent with this topic.

Government Stronghold on funding

- St. Mary's County Library had a difficult time with their Drag Queen Story Time. They didn't request extra security, got it anyway. Then the county took \$2500 away from the library for the extra security. The Attorney General is saying the county's actions are unconstitutional
- We're reminded of the Anne Arundel County issues about the Drag Queen Story Time and their board having control over "controversial" programs
- The federal government has threatened to fine UNC and Duke for Middle East studies having an anti-Israel Bias.
- What issues are libraries taking on that could create issues with library funding (like what happened in St. Mary's)?

The Library's Place in Political and Social Conversations

- In Garrett County, they have a statement of values that says these are true of the library regardless of connection with any particular political candidate.
- LGBTQ displays and materials are coming into question in public libraries more and more. Could this be because school libraries are closing more and more so parent's attention are being placed on public libraries? How will this cause public libraries to change? In what way will we evolve?

Data

- Do we need to just assume that no data is safe, regardless of what safeguards we put in place? How will this change what data we collection from customers if we are unsure if it will be safe?

- There is a first amendment rights advocacy group saying libraries should allow filming within the library. Should libraries be ok with people filming in the library? How does this line up with the movement of people using their phones to document evidence?
- Do we want to be able to provide footage from security cameras if we get a subpoena for it?
- What reasonable things can we do to improve security to continue to protect customer safety, while also maintaining our principals around privacy of data? Where is the line? Is it possible to ever reach absolute security? At what point do you just acknowledge that we are a public building?
- Through these changes, it's important for libraries to remember our fundamental principles so we maintain the need for a library overall.
- Amazon is working on facial recognition policy recommendations for law makers.
- How will we deal with the potential of the census data being inaccurate? Are there other ways we can obtain data to help us get the funding we need? Or will we just take a hit because of this?

The Library as Forum

- The trend of teens standing up for climate change – how can libraries become a forum for this conversation without losing neutrality?
 - Stewardship of public resources is a great way to take neutrality out of the conversation. Libraries are naturally green and has always been concerned about this.