

**III Drops OCLC Suit, Will Absorb SkyRiver**

Innovative Interfaces (III) will drop its ongoing antitrust suit against OCLC, the company announced March 4.

The company also announced that all operations of its sister company SkyRiver Technology Solutions will be integrated into Innovative and the SkyRiver cataloging service will become part of Innovative’s product suite. According to Tom Jacobson, Innovative’s director of resource sharing, Leslie Straus, former president of SkyRiver, is no longer with the company.

Innovative’s move follows founder Jerry Kline’s selling off of his remaining interest in both companies last month to private equity firms Huntsman Gay Global Capital and JMI Equity, which first invested in the companies in March 2012.

Kline also stepped down from the board, and Steve Young, senior partner of Huntsman Gay, was named chair. Neil Block, formerly president of Innovative, joined Polaris on January 22.

In February, Innovative spokesperson Gene Shimshock told *Hotline* that the news would have “no impact” on the litigation against OCLC,

a position the company seems to have reexamined quickly.

“We decided to view a relationship with OCLC as a potential collaboration partner, unclouded by legal issues,” said Kim Massana, Innovative’s CEO. “We are looking forward to competing with OCLC in the market for library technology services, including in the areas of cataloging and library service platforms. At the same time, we are excited to refocus our efforts to engage with OCLC management and our common accounts to help libraries meet the unprecedented information and technology challenges in today’s environment.”

Jay Jordan, OCLC president and CEO, said in a statement, “We applaud the decision of the new owners of Innovative Interfaces and SkyRiver Technology Solutions and CEO Kim Massana to withdraw the claims against OCLC. We look forward to possible future engagement with Innovative where it benefits libraries.”

**Edwin Mellen Press Drops One Suit Against Librarian**

The Edwin Mellen Press (EMP) has dropped one of two lawsuits against librarian Dale Askey, the press announced in a release dated

**Interview**

**Rick Block on LIS Ed**

*Hotline* caught up with Rick Block, 2008 *Library Journal*/Teaching Award Winner, in this first of a series sponsored by ProQuest. Block, who was at Columbia when he won the award, is now Metadata Librarian at Seattle University and teaches online at the Palmer School of Long Island University, NY.



**What are the most urgent issues in library education today?**

There is a perceived disconnect between practitioners and educators. The landscape changes

so quickly. There will be a continuing need to assert the [ongoing] relevance of libraries, librarians, and the advanced degree.

**Are there too many people graduating with an LIS degree?**

I don’t think so. A library school education is an investment but...it gives you a unique set of skills.

**What is the biggest challenge facing your current students?**

The current job market is a huge challenge. A challenge for graduates is marketing their skills in nontraditional settings.

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**Library of the Year**

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March 1, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Company. The suits stem from a negative blog post Askey wrote about EMP.

The move came after McMaster University, named as a codefendant in one of the two suits, reportedly “made arrangements to ensure Associate University Librarian Dale Askey can cover his anticipated legal costs.”

“The Association [of Canadian University Presses] and others have pursued a social media campaign complaining about legal action taken by EMP.... The financial pressure of the social media campaign and pressure on authors is severe. EMP is a small company [and therefore] must choose to focus its resources on its business and serving its authors,” the press said in its statement.

Among those others who called upon EMP to drop the suit include the Canadian Library Association, American Library Association, Association of American University Presses, Association of Research Libraries (ARL), and Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), as well as a variety of smaller groups and individual librarians, including more than 3,000 signatories of a Change.org petition. (For a roundup of the events and articles about the suit, see INFOdocket.com.)

However, the fate of the second suit, which named Askey alone, is still proceeding.

Askey declined to comment, noting, “The suit naming me as sole defendant remains in force. My lawyer is speaking to the plaintiff’s lawyers about their intentions there, but for now, from my point of view, it’s not over.”

Gord Arbeau, McMaster director of public and community relations, told *Hotline*, “We’ve now been able to confirm with our counsel that they’ve received a notice of discontinuance from Edwin Mellen Press, effectively ending the case against

the university. This is good news for all those across North America who have supported McMaster’s position on protecting free speech and in defense of academic freedom. Since this case was filed, McMaster indicated that it would rigorously defend the principles that are foundational to the university.”

## Elyria Schools To Lose School Librarians

The Elyria City School District, OH, is losing all of its media specialists for the coming 2013–14 school year, with school libraries to be run by principals, teachers, and some media techs, according to its CFO, Fred Stephens.

After a \$4.3 million property tax levy failed to pass in November in Elyria, the district is pushing through \$3 million in cuts including its six remaining media specialists among the 21 noncore positions lost, plus another 22 from administrative areas and 16.5 core roles from the math, science, social studies, and special education departments, Stephens said. Other losses include seventh grade sports teams, as well as a high school television program.

The district hopes to avoid cutting the remaining \$1.3 million, owing to a new budget proposed by Gov. John Kasich that would send an additional \$1.6 million to the district for the 2013–14 school year and another \$2 million the following year.

The governor’s plan, which has drawn ire from the Ohio Education Association, increases funding for gifted programming and special education, among other areas, but actually reduces the amount per student each school receives from the current \$5,700 to \$5,000, said Stephens.

“There is more money in total,” he said. “But the argument is that there are some winners and some losers and that will have to be ironed out.”

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## AN ONGOING BATTLE

Many in Ohio say the state has been in a battle with its legislators for decades since its Supreme Court ruled in 1994 that the way it funds public schools—through property taxes—is unconstitutional, as wealthier districts aren't forced to make as steep cuts as areas that are more economically disadvantaged.

"And Elyria is one of them," said Sarida Volante, president of the Elyria Education Association, an independent chapter of the state union, referring to the challenges Elyria faces in raising capital for schools. The district cut 52 positions last year and also closed a school.

Last year, Elyria did not have any reduction to its number of media specialists, Volante said. This year, however, five of the six media specialists cut will be absorbed into other teaching positions, with one permanently losing her job because she doesn't have other certification that lets her be placed elsewhere.

Without media specialists in the schools, the district is scrambling to find other ways to give students the library access that they need. Elyria is planning to work with the local public libraries to see how they might be able to step in with electronic links or even bookmobiles, said Stephens. In addition, principals will be asked to run li-

braries, with teachers then managing students in the libraries, he added.

"They're expensive for us to run," Stephens said of school libraries. "We want students to have access but not spend as much money on them."

Stephens noted that Ohio's school districts are also losing funds to charter schools—with each new one that opens taking added dollars from existing public schools that have faced cuts annually. Elyria was paying just \$300,000 to charter schools eight years ago—and today pays \$6.5 million. "We wouldn't have to make these cuts if we had that," Stephens said, referring to the money going to charter schools.

Yet even if more funds were to come back to Elyria, Volante fears that it's very hard to restore what has already been removed from the schools. And while she has been told that media centers will continue to operate, she said the specifics on how have not been shared. "What we know is once we lose our media specialists, the chances of them coming back are very slim."

## DC Library Advocates Feud Over Redevelopment

A plan to replace an aging library in the District of Columbia's (DC) West End as part of a massive private development has opened a rift between some unlikely foes: the DC Library Renaissance Project (DCLRP), a library advocacy group founded by Ralph Nader, which has gone to court seeking to halt the project, and several neighborhood groups, led by West End Library Friends, who want ground broken as soon as possible.

DCLRP is also at odds with the DC library system itself. Ginnie Cooper, the district's chief librarian, told *Hotline*, "We do support the development and look forward to the larger, better West End Library."

Both sides await a Court of Appeals ruling that should go a long way

## News in Brief

International publishing house **De Gruyter** signed a deal with **YBP Library Services** (YBP), Baker & Taylor's academic division, to make its ebooks widely available for purchase. The 10,000 titles from De Gruyter's ebook program, e-dition, will now be offered through Global Online Bibliographic Information, YBP's acquisition and management interface.

The **American Society of Mechanical Engineers** (ASME) has made its ASME Digital Collection available on **Silverchair Information Systems'** online publishing platform, SCM6. The archive holds ASME's transaction journals dating back to 1960, its conference proceedings from 2002 onward, and ASME Press ebooks.

**EBSCO Publishing** expanded its partnership with **Oxford University Press** to index two additional resources on its EBSCO Discovery Service. University Press Scholarship Online and Oxford Dictionary of National Biography are now searchable within the service.

The **Library Support Staff Certification Program** began taking applications for En-

rollment Assistance Awards, which pays for half of the program's enrollment fee. The awards will be given out at the end of March.

**Columbia University Libraries/Information Services'** Rare Book and Manuscript Library, New York, added to its collection of Tennessee Williams material, including annotated typescripts of plays and correspondence. The libraries previously purchased the contents from his home in Key West.

After a two-year effort, Internet connectivity was brought to the **Guam Public Library System** through IT&E, a communications company.

The **University of Nebraska Omaha** became the 100th institution to implement **OCLC WorldShare Management Services**, an online library management service.

The **Courthouse Libraries**, BC, integrated into its system **Soutron Global**, a cloud-based library software solution. The Courthouse Libraries is a nonprofit funded by the Law Society and the Law Foundation of British Columbia.

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toward determining whether the two apartment buildings—and a new library—will ever be built.

The DC Zoning Commission signed off on the plan last April, and Cooper told *Hotline* that the city council reviewed and approved the development agreement as well. But Nader's group challenged the zoning commission's decision in court. Arguments from both sides were heard on February 14 by a three-judge appeals panel. Although the court has placed the matter on an expedited schedule, no one knows when a decision will be handed down.

The Washington, DC, attorney general's office, representing the district in the hearing, declined to comment, citing the ongoing litigation.

Three years ago real estate development firm EastBanc submitted plans for a 300,000 square foot project. In return for building a new 20,000 square foot library at 23rd and L streets NW, EastBanc could build two upscale apartment buildings on separate tracts of public land, acquired at no cost. The district would also get a new modern firehouse out of the deal, to be located (like the library) on the ground floor of one of the buildings. The value of the two plots together has been estimated at \$30 million by the city.

DCLRP officials estimate its worth at far more than \$30 million. Robin Diener, DCLRP's executive director, told *Hotline*, "We're not against a new library.... The question is, what are we giving up?"

"There is an appearance of corruption arising from the case," Oliver Hall, attorney for DCLRP, told *Hotline*. "The idea that this deal is the only way the district can acquire a new library is just not believable."

#### FRIENDS ARE FOR IT

"The logic of saying a new library is going to hurt a community as-

tounds me," said Susan Haight, president of West End Library Friends. "We very much oppose their position," said Haight, whose group numbers about 80 members. "They are not from the neighborhood. They are funded and have paid staff."

Haight said the current West End Library is 40 years, old with about 20,000 square feet of space spread over two levels. She described the site as "very old and very dated" and in need of replacement. "If you said

to me, is it falling down? I would say, No," Haight added, but she noted that the neighborhood has long sought a more modern facility, one that can handle rising usage trends.

## LC: Unlocking Cell Phone Not a DMCA Issue

The Library of Congress (LC) on March 4 issued a statement arguing, in part, that allowing U.S. consumers to "unlock" their cell phones was not

### Midwest Tape Launches Hoopla Streaming Pilot

A beta test for hoopla, the new digital content platform from Midwest Tape, was launched on March 1 at the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), OH, and will expand during the next several weeks to include tests at several other libraries.

The service, which Midwest Tape debuted at the 2012 Public Library Association conference in Philadelphia last March, will allow library patrons to borrow from a collection of more than 2,500 movies and television shows, 9,000 audiobooks, and more than 200,000 music albums, including new releases. The company has said that all of these collections will be continuously expanded and that the album selection will soon grow to over 300,000 titles.

Movies and TV shows will be streamed, while music and audiobooks can be streamed or downloaded for a specified loan period. The cloud-based platform will allow borrowers to access content across multiple compatible devices, including iOS and Android smartphones and tablets, as well as any device equipped with a Firefox, Safari, Chrome, or Internet Explorer web browser.

Robin Nesbitt, director of technical services for CML, told *Hotline*, "It really mimics that consumer experience. I see something, boom, I get it."

MidwestTape is not charging platform or subscription fees for hoopla. Instead, libraries will pay for the service on a per circulation basis. All titles range from 99¢ to \$2.99 per circ, and 93 percent of audiobook and video titles are \$1.99 or less, while 99 percent of music albums are \$1.49 or less.

Per circ pricing will allow content to be streamed or downloaded simultaneously by multiple users. Libraries may also choose to place a cap on downloads for individuals. For example, in Columbus, patrons will be limited to six downloads per month.

CML is emphasizing to both patrons and employees that the service is part of a beta test and is apt to change. But Nesbitt said that MidwestTape has been responsive to feedback, and she expects that the service will continue to improve as the company prepares for a soft launch this summer.



an issue that should be decided every three years using the library's power to grant temporary exemptions to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DCMA).

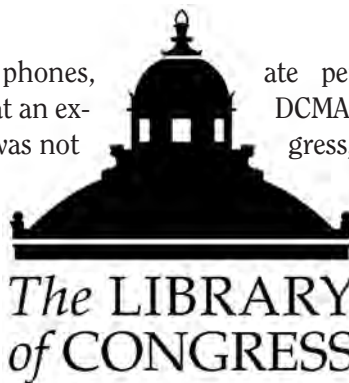
Signed into law in 1998, the DCMA criminalized technology used to circumvent digital rights management (DRM), such as encryption and content scrambling methods to prevent the copying of DVDs. A section of the law gives the Librarian of Congress the power to grant temporary exemptions to DCMA restrictions once every three years, when those restrictions are deemed a substantial impediment to fair use. For example, one regularly renewed exemption makes it legal for software to bypass an ebook's DRM access controls in order to enable an e-reader's read-aloud function in cases where no alternative audio source is legally available.

But in the case of cell phones, LC initially reasoned that an exemption for unlocking was not needed.

"The [exemption] rulemaking is a technical, legal proceeding and involves a lengthy public process," the statement reads. "It requires the Librarian of Congress and the Register of Copyrights to consider exemptions to the prohibitions on circumvention, based on a factual record developed by the proponents and other interested parties. The officials must consider whether the evidence establishes a need for the exemption based on several statutory factors."

#### LC'S ROLE IN DCMA

The statement goes on to note that LC's powers do not allow it to cre-



ate permanent exemptions to DCMA, and as designed by Congress, LC's rulemaking process

"serves a very important function, but it was not intended to be a substitute for deliberations of broader public policy."

LC has been criticized for not using its exemption-granting powers to prevent the January expiration of a "legal shield" that permitted U.S. consumers to unlock their cell phones without fear of prosecution by corporate or government authorities.

On Monday, LC's statement was released in response to an Obama administration statement (which was itself a response to an online consumer petition signed by 114,000 people on [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)) that argued "consumers should be able to unlock their cell phones without risking criminal or other penalties. In fact, we believe the same principle should also apply to tablets."

"The evidence showed that the market has changed," LC spokesperson Gayle Osterberg told NPR. "There are a wide variety of new phones that are already available unlocked, and cell phone carriers have relaxed their unlocking policies."

With this statement, LC explains that it agrees with the Obama administration that the issue has broad implications for telecommunications policy and that "it would benefit from review and resolution in that context." The statement later concludes that "as the U.S. Copyright Office has recognized many times, the 1201 rulemaking can often serve as a barometer for broader policy concerns and broader policy action. The most recent rulemaking has served this purpose."

Following statements by the Obama administration and the Federal Communications Commission

## People

**Linda Baker** received the 2013 Community and Junior College Libraries Section EBSCO Community College Learning Resources Leadership Award. She is currently the Manager of Reference, Instruction, and Collection Development at El Centro College Library, Dallas.

Even after retiring as Director of the Lavenia McCoy Public Library, Bayfield, CO, **Donnalee Baxstrom** still helped with the library's reopening this month (see *Hotline*, 3/11/13). She had been in the position for 35 years.

**Linda Bly** announced her retirement, effective March 22, from her position as Special Projects Coordinator of the Central Arkansas Library System, Little Rock.

**Danette Fullmer** is now an Inside Sales Representative for EnvisionWare. She was previously a National Inside Sales Manager and Account Manager for the Midwest at SirsiDynix.

**David Karre** announced his retirement as Executive Director/CEO of the Four County Library System in Vestal, NY, effective April 19. He has been in the position for 23 years.

**Britta Krabill** was appointed as the new Head Librarian & Director of Columbia Public Library, IL. She was previously the Reference Librarian for the Six Mile Regional Library District, Granite City, IL.

**MarKel Snyder** was named Chief Information Officer for the Columbus Metropolitan Library, OH. He was formerly the Director of Academic Information Services for Franklin University, Columbus.

The Jacksonville Public Library, FL, appointed two new members to its Board of Trustees. **Guy K. Anderson**, a Senior Consultant for Kirkpatrick & Associates Inc., will serve as a voting member, and **Daniela Simic**, Chief of Strategic Planning and Partnerships for the Duval County Public Schools, FL, will serve as an ex-officio member.

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in support of allowing consumers to unlock their cell phones, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) said on March 5 that she will introduce legislation in support of that goal. She previously authored legislation called the Cell Phone Consumer Empowerment Act “to strengthen consumer protections in the wireless industry, including looking at allowing consumers to unlock their phones,” according to her website.

## Study: School Librarians Boost Achievement

According to the recent Pennsylvania School Library Study, 56 percent of the state’s schools don’t have a full-time school librarian. During the current school year the School District



### Branching Out

## the studio



The **Studio at Wright Farms**, Anythink Libraries, CO (see *Hotline* 1/14/13), has opened. The Institute of Museum and Library Services and MacArthur Foundation grants-funded digital learning lab for teens is the second Maker space in the district (see *Hotline* 12/10/12), “promoting creativity through exploration” via the “hanging out, messing around, geeking out (HoMaGo)” learning philosophy. The space includes HD cameras, a green screen, lighting kits, and Final Cut Pro and iMovie for video production; a full audio recording studio with MIDI keyboard, instrument connections, and GarageBand software; graphic design and photo-editing equipment; and gaming computers and video game creation software.

Moving along in Ohio, the **Columbus Metropolitan Library** (CML) has closed on the parcel of land that was formerly the Ohio School for the Deaf, landlocking the library (see *Hotline* 2/4/13). CML is now one step closer to fulfilling its plans to renovate the Main Library and help to “revitalize” Columbus’s downtown Discovery District.

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Calgary, Alta., has some ideas of its own that will likely dwarf most of the public library projects in the United States. Designed for the digital age, according to the *Calgary Herald*, the new **Calgary central library** in East

Village will measure 286,000 square feet and cost \$245 million. The 600,000-item physical collection of books, DVDs, CDs, etc., is not expected to expand, though, with the plan putting an emphasis on new technology. It does call for a larger teen zone with gaming space and a stage, a poetry and author reading area, condensed administration space, a popular materials section, and a meeting complex “anchored by a 400-seat hall,” per the *Herald*. The final scheme will emerge following a design competition later this year, with the four-year construction beginning sometime in 2014.

**Harford County Public Library** (HCPL), Bel Air, MD, is closer to opening its Early Literacy Interactive Space with a \$25,000 donation from Dixie Construction Company. The renovation, looking to begin this spring, will transform the current children’s department “into an inspired learning area,” Dave Patzer, HCPL Foundation board president, told *Dagger News Service*. The foundation currently has \$75,000 for the project, which is expected to be completed in spring 2014.

of Philadelphia, the state’s largest district, provided only 17 percent of its schools with professional librarians. In the Pittsburgh School District, just 27 percent of schools have full-time librarians.

The Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA), Education Law Center, and the Health Sciences Library Consortium were awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership research grant to determine what school library infrastructure contributes most to student achievement, the costs and benefits associated with it, and what’s needed to develop students with 21st-century learning skills.

The Pennsylvania study found that not only are reading and, especially, writing scores better for students who have a full-time certified librarian than those who don’t, but students who are economically disadvantaged, black, Hispanic, or have disabilities benefit proportionally more than students generally.


The study results also indicate that the benefits of access to school libraries and librarians increase from elementary through middle school and high school, that flexible scheduling has a major impact, and that adding support staff further improves scores over a full-time school librarian alone.

Illustration by David Flaherty.

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**LIBRARY HOTLINE**  
 BREAKING NEWS FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION DECISION MAKERS

**Congress Cuts LSTA; Obama To Approve**  
 President Obama is expected to sign the \$915 billion budget bill for FY12 that Congress passed in December 2011, with reduced appropriations for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the Government Printing Office (GPO), whose top administrator, the public printer, will soon be out of a job.

LSTA funding stands at \$185 million, a 2.3 percent cut from the \$189 million received in FY11. Susan Hildreth, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), said she was pleased Congress recognized the need for federal support of museums and libraries. "Ideally, there would be a higher level of funding. But fiscal restraint is currently a fact of life at the federal level," Hildreth said.

Under LSTA, Grants to States was appropriated at \$156.6 million (down from \$160 million); Native American Library Services was funded at \$3.8 million (down from \$5.0 million); National Leadership for Libraries was funded at \$11.9 million (down from \$12.2 million); and the Laura Bush 21st Century Libraries received \$12.2 million (down from \$12.5 million).

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**Caldecott Winner Simms Taback Dies**  
 Simms Taback, author, graphic artist, illustrator, and winner of the Caldecott Medal for *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* (Viking, 2000), died December 23; he was 73.

Taback wrote or illustrated more than 40 children's books, winning many awards, including the Caldecott Medal for his adaptation of a Yiddish folk song and a Caldecott honor for *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* (Viking, 1997). He also received several notable book distinctions from the American Library Association, Parents' Choice Gold award, and the Sibert Medal.

He designed the first McDonald's Happy Meal box in 1977.

Taback also was a founding president of the Illustrators Guild, which later merged and became the New York Graphic Artists Guild, where he was a founding member and president. He was an advocate for artists' rights with his service as author, editor, and production supervisor for *Graphic Artists Guild Handbook: Pricing and Ethical Guidelines*.

**BOARDSMAN NOMINATION KILLED**  
 GPO was appropriated at \$106.2 million, down from \$133.1 million, and the Superintendent of Documents will be funded this year at \$35 million, down from \$39.6 million.

"It's more money than the House was initially proposing, but we can't say how GPO is going to spend the dollars," said Jessica McGilvery, an assistant director for government relations at the American Library Association's Washington office. "They have greater concerns at the moment about the upheaval there, and we are not sure what direction that will take and how that will affect FDLP and FDsys," she said.

McGilvery was referring to William Boardman, the public printer, who will soon be out of a job. Boardman was first nominated for the GPO's top job in April 2010, and he received a recess appointment from President Obama in 2011. But suspended ob-

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 Library Journal is pleased to announce the winners of the 2012 Paraphernalia of the Year award. The winners are: *Library Journal* (Best Print Publication), *Library Journal* (Best Online Publication), *Library Journal* (Best Print/Online Combination), and *Library Journal* (Best Print/Online Combination).

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