

\$1 Million Grant To Fund Chicago, Aarhus Venture

On June 30, at the Chicago Public Library's YouMedia wing, Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel (pictured) announced a \$1 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that will allow the Chicago Public Library (CPL) and Aarhus Public Libraries in Denmark to work together to create a new model for innovation, experimentation, and decision-making within libraries.



The grant is the largest of its kind ever given, according to Deborah Jacobs, director, Global Libraries, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the 1994 *Library Journal* (*LJ*) Librarian of the Year.

The grant itself was actually made to the CPL Foundation and will fund the commission of a partnership with design firm IDEO to facilitate “re-thinking [of libraries’] traditional mix of services and programs, identifying fundamental questions about their roles in an evolving world,” said Chicago library commissioner Brian Bannon, a 2009 *LJ* Mover & Shaker.

The grant is not geared toward international staff exchange but rath-

er toward overhauling the process of implementing new projects. Both libraries will put the process to the test by applying it to existing challenges, which may include a reconfiguration of the physical space in the library, as Aarhus is evaluating as it examines the role of play in children’s learning, or creating a new program to address a specific need in the community.

The results of the collaboration will be presented at an international libraries conference, to be held in Chicago in June 2014. A toolkit will follow some six months later, according to Bannon. The kit will likely detail potential projects, design methods, and measurement tools.

ALA Recovers Stolen Funds

Early at the 2013 annual conference of the American Library Association (ALA), June 28–July 2, copies of a page from *Illinois Lawyer Now*, a publication of the Illinois State Bar Association, were quietly distributed

to members of the press. The page reported the disbarment and suspension of 11 Illinois attorneys. Among those disbarred was Mary Frances Wilkens, a lawyer since 2006, who was charged with misappropriating \$174,300.53 from ALA for her personal use between 2006 and 2012. Wilkens was employed in the offices of *ALA Booklist*, the association’s book review publication.

According to a statement released by ALA treasurer Mario Gonzalez, whose term began at the conference, the misappropriation by Wilkens was discovered by ALA staff in the summer of 2012. Gonzalez said that Wilkens had been “caught through our internal controls process” and that the funds were immediately and fully recovered. Wilkens was terminated and disbarred as an attorney and is still under investigation by authorities. The ALA counsel had reported the situation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Gonzalez stated that although the officers and Executive Board of ALA were aware of the situation, “because an active investigation is under way, we are limited in what we can discuss.” He did report that although “no material deficiencies have ever been identified through these audits

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Interview

Elliott Holt

In Elliott Holt's Cold War-set debut novel, *You Are One of Them* (Penguin), ten-year-old best friends write letters to the Soviet premier asking for peace. Jenny receives a



response, but Sarah does not, and when Jenny heads to the USSR at the Kremlin's invitation, Sarah feels left out. Their relationship had not healed when Jenny and her parents die in a plane crash. Ten years later, Sarah receives a letter from Moscow suggesting that Jenny's death might have been a hoax and heads to Russia to investigate.

The book reads like part coming-of-age novel, part mystery. Is that how you saw it?

EH: Coming of age is always a mystery! A lot of people have fantasies about revisiting their pasts or getting another chance to see people they've lost. It's hard for [Sarah] to separate her perceptions (and what she wants to believe) from reality. Grief is mysterious, and Sarah turns into a sort of detective, trying to make sense of her loss.

The book was inspired by a real girl. What details made you want to tell your own version?

When Samantha Smith wrote to the Kremlin and was invited to the USSR in 1983, I was inspired. I was sad when Samantha was killed in a plane crash in 1985. When I got older, I found myself thinking about her for different reasons. She was such a seemingly ideal version of American girlhood. I was interested in the way she became a symbol. I thought, "What if a less perfect poster child also wrote, but didn't get a response?"

How much did you have the present-day narrator in mind while writing about the past?

This book is a character study. Sarah's memory (fractured and fallible as it is) is a character, too. The real questions she's answering are about herself.

which contributed to the misappropriation," following the incident, ALA requested a special audit of internal controls. The auditor made a number of recommendations to strengthen those controls further, all of which were implemented.

Media Specialist Role Endangered in Florida

School media specialist positions are being hit hard across the Sunshine State, with school librarians finding their positions renamed—and, in some cases, their jobs re-assigned or terminated—for the coming 2013–14 school year.

In the Sarasota County School District, all high school and middle school media specialists have been cut for the 2013–14 school year, according to Gary Leatherman, communication director for Sarasota County Schools. Of the 12 affected employees, ten took teaching assignments, and two were hired in roles where they will now coordinate scheduling, testing, and progress, he said. Aides will now staff the media centers. Sarasota cut its elementary school media specialist position in 2010.

Marion County Public Schools has cut 15 of its 30 elementary school librarian positions for the 2013–14 school year, although 11 of those positions had been vacant owing to a hiring freeze for the last three years, according to Kevin Christian, the district's public relations officer. The remaining 15 professional media specialists have been assigned two schools each and will be staffing these locations with the help of paraprofessionals.

In Pasco County, the school district has done away with the media specialist role and created a new position called an "information communication technology literacy coach,"

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according to Linda E. Cobbe, director, communications and government relations, for the district school board of Pasco County. Former media specialists have since been “hired for the new positions or were placed in other classrooms or appropriate jobs,” Cobbe told *Hotline*.

Lynette Mitchell, a library media specialist for the past 22 years, told *Hotline* that in her district of Citrus County, FL, “teacher on special assignment/media” is the new title, which means the position could now be staffed by a teacher with a media center background—but it also could be filled by someone who is just out of school, said Mitchell. A request for comment to the Citrus County School District was not returned.

Second Suit Filed To Halt NYPL Central Renovation

Only July 10, the group Citizens Defending Libraries (CDL), together with a coalition of scholars, authors, and preservationists, filed a lawsuit against the trustees of the New York Public Library (NYPL) to stop the demolition and removal of the stacks that support the Rose Reading Room of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, as part of a major redesign and renovation of the central library. The move follows a separate suit to halt the plan that was filed by various

plaintiffs a week earlier, both with the New York Supreme Court.

The coalition will ask for an immediate temporary restraining order to stop all construction that impacts the stacks, its attorney, Michael Hiller of Weiss & Hiller, said in a statement.

On July 12, NYPL’s attorney Richard Leland signed an agreement stating that the renovation would not begin until October, or when an environmental review is completed.

Ken Weine, VP of communications and marketing for NYPL, told *Hotline*, “The renovation of the 42nd

Street Library will improve service for scholars, preserve the library’s collections for future generations, and provide a state-of-the-art circulating and business library. The library is working with all relevant state and city agencies, and we will let the outcome of this legal action—which we have not yet reviewed—speak for itself.”

The first suit, filed on July 3, seeks the same outcome but bases its claim on different arguments.

NYPL president and CEO Anthony Marx recently agreed to commission an independent cost estimate at a

Libraries Changed My Life: A Platform for Patron Advocates

Ingrid Abrams is a children’s and teen librarian at Brooklyn Public Library. Natalie V. Binder is a systems librarian at the Jefferson County R.J. Bailar Public Library in Monticello, FL. The two have never met, yet they teamed up virtually to create Libraries Changed My Life (LCML), a Tumblr initiative in response to Michael Rosenblum’s article “What’s a Library?,” which was published in the *Huffington Post* in May.

The post by Rosenblum, the founder of CurrentTV, posited the growing irrelevance of libraries—and earned the ire of librarians and supporters everywhere. Abrams and Binder established LCML, they said, so people from all walks of life could share how libraries have made an impact on their lives.

Posts highlight the variety of ways that libraries have influenced and shaped the lives of these users, from being a home away from a not-so-safe home to helping a person with Asperger’s syndrome to socialize. In a recent entry, children’s book author Tim Federle shared, “[The library] saved me and changed my life. It was a free workspace in a city defined by its expenses. I wrote vast chunks of my first novel at a library. I return to it now as a kind of church, where the only praying I do involves hoping I’ll complete a chapter before the security guards start switching off the lights.” Other authors who have told their own library stories include Sara Farizan and Marilyn Johnson.

“Rosenblum implied that only poor people use libraries, for the Internet. I don’t appreciate that a place that serves underresourced people is considered bad,” Abrams said. “But average people use the library every day. We try to show that by posting a variety of users: authors, teachers, and students.”

One high school student from Saegertown, PA, went a step further and included on the site his petition to stop library cuts in his own school district; it’s been widely shared.

Abrams and Binder encourage all types of submissions, whether visual, video, or anonymous. They can also be sent through the Tumblr website or via email or regular mail. Abrams added, “We hope that LCML can be a standing reminder that libraries do matter. Even if we don’t always have the funding to back that up, we have the people to back that up.”



The **Central Arkansas Library System**, Little Rock, opened its new **Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library and Learning Center**. Both former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton attended the dedication ceremony.

Goucher College, Baltimore, introduced a new minor in **Book Studies** for its undergraduate students, beginning this fall. It will include courses in the history of libraries.

The **Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library** at **Columbia University**, New York, received the **Soane's Foundation Honor** for its collaborative gala, **Transformers**, with New York's **Museum of Modern Art**. The event highlighted the **Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives**, which the institutions acquired last year.

Four libraries received the **2013 Reading Is Grand! Celebrating Grand-Families Telling Our Stories @ Your Library** grant from the **Black Caucus of the American Library Association**: **Bridgeport Public Library**, CT; **Malloy Jordan East Winston Heritage Center** of

the **Forsyth County Public Library**, Winston-Salem, NC; **Oxon Hill Library**, MD; and **Inglewood Public Library**, CA.

The **South Orange Public Library**, NJ, was awarded a shared \$15,000 grant for the **"American Dream Starts @ Your Library"** literacy project. The library has partnered with the **Literacy Volunteers of America** and others to provide literacy assistance to residents of Essex County.

Libraries Connect Ohio, a partnership of Ohio libraries and library organizations, was given a \$1.6 million federal **Institute of Museum and Library Services** Library Services and Technology Act grant by the **State Library of Ohio Board**. The money will continue to fund the **Ohio Web Library**, an online database of various resources.

The **State Library of Kansas** announced the **15 2013 Kansas Notable Books**, all written about or by residents of the state. The winners will be recognized at the **First Lady's Kansas Book Festival** in September.

government ID; a call to a toll-free number, or a video conference.

The definition of "personal information" includes data such as "geolocation information, as well as photos, videos, and audio files that contain a child's image or voice," along with "persistent identifiers that can be used to recognize a user over time and across different websites or online services," according to the FTC.

Library sites are largely not impacted by the new rules, since they apply to commercial enterprises, said Deborah Caldwell-Stone, deputy director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association (ALA). However, librarians should know whether their site uses a commercial widget or another tool that collects information about young patrons, she said. If so, librarians must "be aware of what it is doing with information." In addition, Caldwell-Stone emphasized, "You need to be aware of the law because you have parents asking you for information about it."

"It's hard to determine how this will play out until we see how sites respond to the COPPA revisions, but it's likely that the updated regulations will impact mobile app use in K-12 learning,"

said Michelle Luhtala, department chair at the New Canaan High School Library, CT. "Many apps don't function properly without permission to access geolocation information, photographs, audio files, and videos," added Luhtala. "Schools that integrate mobile

app use in the classroom often require students to download apps during the school day when parents are not available to grant permission."

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state legislative hearing. At the same hearing, Marx said, "We are working with our architects to come up with a design for this new space that will incorporate as much as possible of the historic stacks material."

Tighter COPPA Rules Restrict Kids' Web Use

New rules take effect this month intended to protect children's privacy online, and some librarians are worried that the more stringent regulations may impede mobile app use in elementary schools—and also prevent youngsters from recreationally sharing favorite hobby sites with one another.

The regulations update the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

(COPPA), launched by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in 1998. The amendments are meant to limit companies' abilities to reach children under 13 online and collect personal information about them without their parents' permission.

Businesses will now have to obtain parental consent for kids to use their sites and apps and to gather personal data about their child users, in many cases. Acceptable proof of permission from a parent can include a signed form that is faxed, mailed, or emailed; a credit card, debit card, or



Baker & Taylor, Bookmasters Partner

Major distributor Baker & Taylor (B&T) will offer publisher services to its customers via a new strategic partnership with Bookmasters, the company announced on July 10.

B&T will offer its customers access to all of Bookmasters' services, including print-on-demand and short-run digital printing, offset printing and binding in a range of formats, content and editorial services, ebook conversion and distribution, publisher distribution services and third-party fulfillment, and book sales and marketing services.

The move comes as private equity firm Castle Harlan acquired Bookmasters, also announced on July 10. Castle Harlan previously acquired B&T in July 2006 for approximately \$455 million.

Some media sources initially reported a merger of the two compa-

nies, but that is not the case. Though owned by the same investor, the two firms remain independent. "‘Merger’ is just so wrong,' B&T CEO and president Arnie Wight told *Hotline*. "It is an arms-length commercial agreement. We will use [Bookmasters] as an outsourced agent."

White explained that B&T already offered some of these services, using a variety of third parties to do so. Now, in addition to expanding the range of offerings, "we'll be able to consolidate and use Bookmasters for everything," he added.

Council To Study Latino Families' Digital Use

The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) and the Joan Ganz Cooney Center (JGCC) at Sesame Street Workshop have created the Aprendiendo Juntos ("Learning Together") Council (AJC) to identi-

fy models and practical strategies to improve digital literacy for Hispanic-Latino families. AJC plans to use the findings to influence public and private investments in effective programs for the community on a regional and national scale.

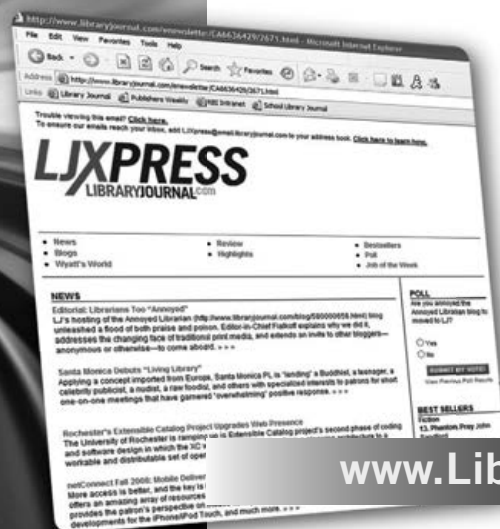
The formation of AJC was spurred by the Hispanic-Latino Families & Digital Technologies Forum that convened last June in Washington, DC. Present at the event were representatives of the Pew Hispanic Center, the National Council of La Raza, and the National Center for Latino Child & Family Research. AJC released a synthesis of that discussion, complete with a report reviewing existing research and best practices. Participant interviews from the day are also available to the public on YouTube. Some of the key points examined include the vast differences among Hispanics from various countries of origin, language and ed-

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ucation attainment, and immigration and socioeconomic status.

AJC would like to work with libraries in the future as a location for research and implementation of the council's findings, though Michael H. Levine, executive director, JGCC, said that would probably not occur before 2014. Levine encouraged librarians interested in participating in or serving as a site for future research to contact directly Lori Takeuchi, JGCC director of research, and specify how such research would serve their local community, as well as libraries and Hispanic families more broadly.

In the meantime, several field studies are already under way. AJC will support field studies directed by Vikki Katz of Rutgers University, NJ, examining the rollout of the national Connect2Compete digital media literacy initiative in California and Arizona. It will also conduct an analysis of a national survey led by Ellen War-

tella of Northwestern University, IL, of media usage by Latino parents and their children from birth to age ten.

More Vendors Help Libraries Stream Video

This year, four major library vendors have launched new or expanded streaming services that enable patrons to view movies and TV shows at their library or at home using computers, tablets, smart TVs, or any device equipped with a web browser.

Most recently, Library Ideas debuted its new Freegal Movies and Television service at the 2013 American Library Association (ALA) annual conference in Chicago. Three major studios are involved. The service will go live in July with access to 1,100 feature films and 2,500 television episodes, according to Library Ideas co-founder Brian Downing.

The new service is available sepa-

rately on a flat-fee subscription basis. Each valid library card from a subscribing institution allows a patron to stream three movies per week, with each movie or TV show available for unlimited viewing 48 hours after checkout. In addition, the company announced at ALA that its Freegal music service will now offer downloadable music videos and streaming albums. The music videos will be included at no additional cost as part of the upgrade to Freegal 4.0, which is scheduled to go live on July 31. Streaming music will be available for an additional flat fee.

Midwest Tape first presented its hoopla platform—which offers streaming movies, television shows, music, and audiobooks—during the Public Library Association conference in March 2012, and this July announced the conclusion of a successful beta test with seven library systems, as well as some 20 new participating libraries.

In January, OverDrive announced that streaming video would be incorporated into its next-generation library services platform. At ALA, the company said it was close to finalizing agreements with several U.S. movie studios. Distributor Criterion Pictures USA is a new partner.

Recorded Books has taken a different approach to streaming content. Rather than develop or enhance its own content platform, the company began testing a partnership with online movie service IndieFlix in November 2012. For an annual subscription fee, libraries can offer their patrons unlimited, simultaneous access to the IndieFlix service, which hosts thousands of independent films screened at more than 2,000 film festivals worldwide. These can be streamed via Roku devices, Xbox Live, and PS3 game consoles, as well as computers, tablets, mobile devices, and Smart TVs.

People

Philip Cercone, Director of McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal and Kingston, Ont., was elected President of the Association of American University Presses. He will serve a one-year term.

Margaret C. Danziger retired as Deputy Director of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. She had been in the position for 28 years.

Susan Forbes was promoted to Director of the Environmental Protection Agency Library, Research Triangle Park, NC. She was previously Assistant Director for the library.

Mary Ludlum announced her retirement as Director of the Grandview Heights Public Library, Columbus, OH, effective August 31. She has been with the library for 32 years.

Mark Cummings was named Editor and Publisher of *CHOICE* magazine, following the

retirement of **Irving E. Rockwood**. He was previously Managing Director at Claron, LLC.

Ed Rossman was appointed Chair of the American Library Association's Business Reference in Public Libraries Committee Adult Services for a two-year term. He is currently a librarian at Shaker Heights Public Library, OH.

Dare Wilson retired from her position as Children's Librarian at the Lexington Public Library, KY. She had been in the field for 35 years.

The Urban Libraries Council presented two awards at its annual forum: **Susan Adkins**, board member of the Seattle Public Library Foundation, received the Urban Player Award, and **Corinne Hill**, director of the Chattanooga Public Library, received the 2013 Joey Rodger Leadership Award.

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