

ALA Hosts First Right to Libraries Signing

American Library Association (ALA) president Barbara Stripling unveiled the “Declaration for the Right to Libraries” on August 5 during a signing ceremony at Nashville Public Library (NPL), the first in a series of official signing events ALA plans to host across the country.

ALA considers the document the cornerstone of Stripling’s presidential initiative, “Libraries Change Lives,” which is designed to build sustained public support for America’s libraries of all types—public, school, academic, and special.

Said Stripling, “The declaration will serve as an advocacy tool to help communities take action and illustrate the value of their libraries and library staff. Our hope is that library supporters will take advantage of this tool and present collected signatures to local leaders and legislators throughout the year.”

Kent Oliver, NPL director, as well as Nashville library leaders and community members, joined Stripling at the event. All were among the first to sign the “Declaration.”

Signings are being organized at libraries and other locations through-

out the nation. The petitions will be presented to Congress by library supporters during National Library Legislative Day activities, May 5–6, 2014.



Online signing of the declaration will be made available later this summer.

In the next year, libraries of all types will hold signing ceremonies.

SAPL Debuts Digital Commons, Tests Kiosk

The San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) this month will unveil Connect at Central, a new 12,800 square foot digital commons in the system’s main library. “Connect” will feature

enhanced Wi-Fi capabilities and a bank of 80 public desktop computers, 24 of which will be separated into a training center area for instructor-led library programs, digital literacy courses, and instruction on other subjects such as résumé building and job searching on the Internet.

The new area will also include a remodeled teen services department, with 18 iMacs, and a technology test drive area allowing staff to assist patrons with iPads, tablets, and other electronics, as well as 15 laptops and 20 Google Nexus 7 tablets for check-out within the building. In addition, as a beta tester for OverDrive, SAPL will be experimenting with an installation of the company’s new OverDrive Media Station (OMS) interface on a ruggedized kiosk that could be deployed in public areas outside of a library.

SAPL will be featuring the OMS interface on a Zivelo M32 Floor Display, a pedestal-mounted kiosk made with an aircraft-grade aluminum enclosure. Via swipes and taps that will be intuitive for anyone who has used a tablet or smartphone, patrons can navigate the OMS interface to explore a library’s collection of ebooks, audiobooks, music, and videos and easily read or listen to samples, place holds, or have an available ebook sent to

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Who Taught You the Most?

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News in Brief

Pacific Northwest libraries were awarded more than \$1 million in grants from the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation**. Among the funded projects are the introductions of science, technology, engineering, and mathematical subjects at the **Pierce County Library District, WA**, and Spanish-language programs for children at the **North Central Regional Library, Wenatchee, WA**.

Contra Costa County Library (CCCL), CA, received a \$49,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant from the **California State Library**. The money will fund CCCL's Remember & Go project, a database of historical materials related to the county.

EBSCO has partnered with **NetAdvance** to add the latter's **JapanKnowledge** collection to the **EBSCO Discovery Service**. Users will have access to Japanese-language materials including dictionaries, encyclopedias, and university dissertations.

The **Denver Public Library (DPL)** launched its DPL Connect service, a book bike that will be ridden by a librarian to community events. The mobile library has a rotating collection of books and free wireless Internet access.

The **University of California, Long Beach**, was among the first sites to go live with **Innovative Interfaces' Content Pro IRX**, an institutional repository solution. The service can be added onto **Content Pro**, a digital asset management system.

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their tablet, ereader, or smartphone.

When OverDrive begins its official rollout of OMS later this year, most libraries will likely install the interface on standard touch screen computers such as the OverDrive-recommended Dell XPS 27, which are sturdy enough for placement within staffed libraries. Zivelo units, by contrast, are designed for placement in high-traffic public areas such as malls and airports. For now, SAPL is planning to use the unit as a central station within its main branch, which receives 1,700 visitors per day. OverDrive will be watching how the unit performs, gauging the feasibility of OMS installations in public locations outside of libraries, which could be a marketing boon for libraries looking to promote ebooks and other digital content.

"It's a public-proof hardware solution," Steve Frank, product owner for OverDrive, said of the Zivelo M32 on August 3 during the "User First: Delivering on the Promise" session at OverDrive's Digipalooza 2013 User Group meeting in Cleveland. "This is something that you could place in a mall, you could place in a museum."

As an example of the idea's potential, Frank noted that the Free Library of Philadelphia had recently marketed its ebook collections using billboards with QR codes in public transit stations. "Twenty-five titles is really nice, but wouldn't it be nicer to have a public kiosk there with some animations and [access to] your entire collection? It's a little more compelling," he said.

SAPL director Ramiro Salazar is expecting the OMS to be in high de-

LEAD THE CHANGE

Coming to Phoenix, Arizona

On September 10, B.A. David Company founder David Bendekovic and local library innovators will lead attendees through exercises to develop

an action plan for leadership at any level. For more information and to register, visit: www.LibraryJournal.com/LeadTheChange

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mand. In addition to the M32 unit, the library will also have three other standard touch screen stations located throughout the main library.

“Folks will have an experience of actually previewing whatever items they might be interested in,” he said. “And they’ll have an opportunity to then send those titles to their mobile device and check them out from the library. We’re working with OverDrive to further develop the station.”

The new center will help the library fulfill significant demand for public computers and access to broadband Internet service, Salazar said.

“One of the very important roles that libraries play is trying to bridge [the digital] divide by providing access to broadband, access to computers,” he said. “In many of our branch libraries here, the demand for public computers is huge.... Walk into a library any day of the week, any time of the day, and you’ll see people utilizing most of the computers, if not all of the computers.”

Connect aims to address these needs in a comprehensive manner. The “test drive” area, for example, may get its heaviest traffic from older patrons who need assistance downloading ebooks or other content to a new device for the first time. The remodeled teen services center, meanwhile, was designed in an effort to facilitate “skills like collaboration, strategic thinking, teamwork, content creation, communication, and working with team members,” Salazar said.

Like many libraries, SAPL is seeing rapid growth in demand for ebooks and other content. Connect, Salazar said, “will allow us to showcase the vast resources we offer through the digital services unit. Not only ebooks—we currently offer over 30,000 titles—but all of the e-content that the library has.”

Connect at Central was made possible by a grant from the federal Broadband Technology Opportunity Pro-

gram (BTOP) given to the Texas Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) in 2010. At \$1.18 million, this is the second-largest distribution of those funds from among 38 Texas libraries. After matching the grant with \$200,000 from its own resources, SAPL was able to develop Connect at Central and fund broadband enhancement projects at 13 of its 25 branches.

True Diary Removed from NYC Summer List

The inclusion of Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*—winner of the 2007 National Book Award—on a required summer reading list for sixth graders has raised the ire of a group of parents in Belle Harbor,

University of Iowa Library IDs Tiny Tome

University of Iowa outreach librarian Colleen Theisen’s recent social media efforts are proof that outreach can create new connections inside as well as outside the library, leading to new discoveries.

On August 2, Theisen started a series of Facebook posts highlighting the largest, smallest, and oldest items in the libraries’ collection. For smallest, on August 5, she posted about a 4mm x 4mm book, so small it couldn’t be identified.

Theisen’s post caught the attention of the libraries’ conservator Giselle Simón, who informed Theisen that the library had a new microscope. Using this more powerful tool, the library was able to identify the book, despite some damage, and to reunite it with a larger version with which it had originally been sold. It turns out to be a section of the Bible, published by Toppan Printing Company to coincide with the New York World’s Fair in 1965.

Now that the library staff know who made the book, they also know how it was done. Theisen tracked down a reference that explained that the book had been produced by “a new microprinting process. An ultra-high-resolution lens was used to take a camera proof of a phototype set of the original,” leading to the equivalent of .34 point type, according to the December 1965 edition of *Miniature Book News*.

“We purchased the new microscope to upgrade an older one with less power just last winter,” Simón said. When it’s not reading Bibles, Simón told *Hotline*, the new \$2,500 microscope is usually used to identify and investigate fibers and pigments found in paper and books to help determine the best conservation treatment. It is also used for media consolidation, a process in which conservators check whether printed ink, manuscript ink, or hand-applied paint is flaking away and, if so, apply an adhesive in a fine mist or with a brush.

The use of the microscope is also revising the libraries’ theories of the book’s history. Theisen and the conservation lab assistants initially thought that damage to the book may have resulted from abrasion caused during a previous attempt to read it. But Simón looked at it under the highest magnification and now thinks the damage is “a flaw in the paper or a printing error—something original to the book,” Theisen told *Hotline*.

The discovery generated far greater publicity for the library and its 4,000-volume Charlotte Smith Collection of Miniature Books than your average Facebook promotion; it was picked up by *The Atlantic*.

The library wasn’t able to find any auction records for this or other, similar ultra-microminiatures, so no current value has been established. At any rate, the question is academic. Said Theisen, “As a special collections library, each and every item’s value is its education and research value, and they will not be sold, so they are priceless.”



NY, who have successfully called for its removal, the *Daily News* reported. Bowing to pressure from parents (and after inquiries from the paper), the principal of Public School/Middle School 114 in Rockaway Park announced that the book is no longer required reading.

The lauded young adult novel—a story about Junior, a Spokane Indian who transfers from his school on the reservation to a rich, white school—received a starred review from *School Library Journal* and is recommended for a grade seven to ten audience. In the original review, Chris Shoemaker wrote, “The teen’s determination to both improve himself and overcome poverty, despite the handicaps of birth, circumstances, and race, delivers a positive message.”

Nevertheless, Queens, NY, parent Kelly-Ann McMullan-Preiss stepped

forward last week with the support of about eight other parents to request that an alternative assignment be given to their children. McMullan-Preiss cited the repeated discussion of “masturbation” as the main reason for her complaint, according to the *Daily News*.

Attempts by *Hotline* to reach administrators and school library staff for comment were unsuccessful. Alexie, after a banning of his book unrelated to the Queens controversy, also said recently in an interview on the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) blog, “I have no objection to a parent not wanting their kid to read my book. But when they try to control a school’s curriculum, that’s when the fight is on. So the second they try to make it a policy, no, I can’t think of when it’s acceptable because whatever the text, you can teach and learn from it.”

Alexie’s publisher echoed those sentiments. Megan Tingley, executive vice president and publisher of Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, told *Hotline* that her company is “proud” to be the publisher of the book and that the company is “opposed to censorship of any kind.”

She added, “We are dismayed about the recent decision of a middle school in Queens, NY, to remove the critically acclaimed book from its required reading list.” The book, she said, “is a story about hope and resilience.”

The NCAC has also come out in support of Alexie. Its Kids Right To Read project coordinator Acacia O’Connor noted, “Studies have shown that students who have some semblance of choice, read more. Alexie’s book is often selected for reluctant readers because it’s so popular and kids really feel that the characters and their experiences speak to them.”

She also said, “If the parents have some objection to reading a specific title, we always encourage that an alternative is offered instead. If the book was selected by the teachers or school media specialist, it was for a reason.” The NCAC plans to honor Alexie in November 2013 for his work on free speech.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt To Go Public

While major news outlets like the *Boston Globe*, *Newsweek*, and the *Washington Post* are selling for pennies on the dollar, on the book side, the big financial developments reflect much greater confidence that the marketplace will put a high value on publishers’ work. On the heels of the recently completed Penguin Random House merger, on August 5, major publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) filed plans with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to go public, offering shares to the public worth up to \$100 million.

People

Nancy Busch was promoted to Dean of Libraries at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She had been serving as Interim Dean after **Joan Giesecke** stepped down from the position.

Laura Connors was appointed Associate Director for Public Services at Broward County Libraries Division, Fort Lauderdale, FL. She was previously Assistant Regional Manager at the Northwest Regional Library, Coral Springs, FL, and Southwest Regional Library, Pembroke Pines, FL.

Melissa Goertzen was named Ebook Program Development Librarian in Collection Development at Columbia University, New York. She was previously Research Assistant

at the Social Media Lab at Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS.

Irene Herold was named Librarian at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa. She was formerly Dean of the Mason Library at Keene State College, NH.

Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) filled three new positions: **William N. Coffee**, a member of the La Grange Public Library board, was elected Vice President; **Kathy Parker**, Administrative Librarian of the Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library District, was elected President; and **John Sayers**, the Director of the Kewanee Public Library District, was elected Secretary.

In Memoriam

Daniel P. Brassell, retired Director of the Medfield Library, MA, died on February 19. He was 68 years old.

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Correction: Charissa Jefferson was named Business and Data Librarian of the Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge, not Long Beach. We apologize for the error.

The company was formed by the \$1.75 billion acquisition of Houghton Mifflin by educational software firm Riverdeep in 2006 and the company's \$4 billion acquisition of Harcourt's education, library reference, and trade business from Reed Elsevier in 2007. (*Library Journal* was owned by Reed Business Information, a subsidiary of Reed Elsevier, until 2010.) The business saw roughly \$1.3 billion in revenue last year and has a 40 percent share in the U.S. K-12 market.

Last year, HMH filed for bankruptcy, removing nearly \$3 billion in debt and reducing its debt load to about \$250 million. Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley are the lead underwriters of the public offering, joined by Citigroup, Credit Suisse, and Wells Fargo. None of the proceeds will go to the company, reports Publishers Marketplace, only to HMH's backers, which at the time of the bankruptcy

filing included hedge fund Paulson & Co., Apollo Global Management LLC, BlackRock Inc., Guggenheim Partners LLC, and Avenue Capital Group.

Now, according to the *Boston Business Journal*, the company is looking for more acquisitions, mostly in the area of educational technologies, though the company also bought CliffNotes and other reference titles from John Wiley & Sons in 2012. Since 2010, HMH has eliminated 720 full-time jobs, or 18 percent of its workforce. However, HMH has been adding head count recently, though revenues have been down slightly,

Sales for the second quarter of 2013 were \$363 million company-wide, with a net loss of \$14.2 million. Trade publishing sales were \$39.2 million in the period (compared to about \$30 million during the same quarter a year ago), with EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, de-

preciation, and amortization) of \$4.6 million. HMH attributes the gains to "sales from the culinary product line as well as young readers titles."

HMH declined to comment on how the initial public offering (IPO) will impact its plans for the future.

Finding Bigfoot in the Stacks

Columbus State Community College's Delaware, OH, Campus Learning Center starts its information literacy outreach early. The library doesn't just reach out to new students, or even prospective students. It's starting with elementary school students, thanks to a campuswide partnership between the college and the Delaware City School District.

More than 70 fourth graders from Laura Woodward Elementary School experienced a day at college on May

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25, 2012, according to Dana Knott, library coordinator, and Kristine Szabo, reference and instruction librarian. Knott and Szabo had to design a library project to grab the attention of the students and got their topic from a primary source when a librarian

with a son in elementary school suggested Bigfoot.

Knott and Szabo decided to focus on information literacy and the evaluation of sources, they wrote in *College & Research Library News*, specifically, to how students should use the

CRAP test (currency, reliability/relevance, authority, and purpose/point of view) to evaluate Bigfoot.

They created a Bigfoot Field Guide folder for the students to record their findings and weigh their sources, a PowerPoint presentation that identified terminology, polls, a Wordle, and a LibGuide. Knott and Szabo found that “students loved the mood pencils and Bigfoot Field Guide folders; the clickers [used to vote in the polls] fascinated them almost to the point of distraction.”

They had about two months to prepare for the project, Knott told *Hotline*. The work mostly consisted of constructing the supporting materials and meeting with teachers in advance—about 30 hours all told. Costs were minimal, about \$60–\$75.

During the course of the lesson, the librarians found that students trusted eyewitness accounts given by adults over those given by children and that the more sources they gauged, the stricter they became. “In fact, there were some sources that the librarians thought were good that the students did not,” Knott and Szabo wrote.

In addition to teaching information literacy and promoting college attendance, the collaboration educated the elementary school students about the evolving role of librarians. At the beginning of the lesson, “most of the students believed that librarians mainly recommended or checked out books,” Knott and Szabo wrote. “Happily, by the end of the day their perception had completely changed. Librarians now were considered smart professionals who helped people get ‘good’ information and navigate the Internet and databases.”

Knott and Szabo again presented Bigfoot to fourth graders from the same elementary school this year and will do so again to CSCC students’ families and children from the Columbus community in October.

Branching Out



The **Homer Township Public Library** (pictured), Homer Glen, IL, reopened its expanded facility on July 1, with additional renovations ongoing. The 14,000 square foot library gained 11,600 square feet of usable space during the initial construction, which also includes a new parking lot. The library now features a restful reading area with a fireplace, a computer area with 24 stations, and a “community corridor” of tables and chairs for collaborative activities, according to the *South Town Star*. The \$4.5 million project will see the conversion of the existing library into the new children’s area, to be completed in October. The building plan was designed by architectural firm Engberg Anderson and supported through a combination of government grants, private dollars, and bond funds.

After much planning and expectation, ground was broken on July 30 for the new **Driving Park Branch** of the Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), OH (see *Hotline* 1/7/13 and

6/17/13). The 15,000 square foot, \$6 million facility is the first of ten libraries either to be renovated or moved by 2020 as part of a major CML building program. This first phase of the scheme “will transform or significantly upgrade” both urban and suburban branches, as well as renovate the Main Library.

The **Langdon Public Library**, Newington, NH, celebrated on July 16 the groundbreaking for its renovation and expansion project. The 1,600 square foot library, in a building bequeathed to the town in 1892, is looking to increase by another 740 square feet as well as solve structural issues and modernize during the \$1.79 million effort. The work should be completed by March 2014.

August 5 marked the beginning of repairs and upgrades to two branches of the **San Antonio Public Library**; both the Guerra Branch and the Johnston Branch will be closed during the three-week period.

North Carolina’s **Granville County Library System** (GCLS) opened two Express Library locations, in Wilton and Oak Hill. The sites feature technology from LEID Products, LLC, of Auburn Hills, MI, with the introduction of the firm’s iLibrary System. Each facility has a stand-alone iLibrary computer kiosk that connects to the GCLS online catalog, along with Access.it electronically controlled lockers in which to store holds. Patrons can access the materials via a keypad code. Items can be returned through a book drop.

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