

## Miami-Dade Avoids Layoffs for Now

An eight-hour marathon budget meeting on September 10 ended when Miami-Dade County Commissioners broke open the piggy bank, emptying a \$7.8 million library reserve fund to avoid cuts in service that would have slashed operating hours at many branches and eliminated hundreds of staff jobs. (Those plans themselves represented an improvement over earlier scenarios that would have closed as many as 42 of the system's 49 branches.)

"It was good news for us," said Miami Dade Public Library System (MDPLS) director Raymond Santiago, the 2003 *Library Journal* Librarian of the Year. "We're happy to be able to maintain our services and not go through with layoffs this year."

While zeroing out its rainy-day fund gave MDPLS some breathing room, its budget worries are far from over. With a \$20 million budget shortfall looming next year, even higher than this year's \$15 million, library officials and advocates were back at work the next day, faced with an even more daunting challenge: building a new, sustainable model for MDPLS so they don't find themselves back in the hot seat in 12 months.

Lisa Martinez, spokesperson for Miami mayor Carlos Gimenez, said that unlike one of the mayor's earlier proposals, "the current solution restores staffing levels, which is a good thing.... But it leaves us with a budget cliff at the end of the fiscal year."

There's every indication that the MDPLS budget will remain flat, too. With six of the 13 county commissioners facing reelection next year, the chances of the commission approving a rate hike in 2014 seem slim.

According to Theo Karantsalis, a former county librarian, further reductions to MDPLS services aren't the answer, either. "You can only cut services so much," said Karantsalis. "We're down to the bone, and there's nothing left to cut."

John Quick, board president of the Friends of MDPLS, said that he and other advocates haven't given up on the possibility of increasing funding through tax revenues but that no one is counting on it. "We'd rather be operating under a worst-case scenario for strategic purposes," Quick said. "We're continuing to work on getting the millage rate raised, but we need to do things to show we're not just sitting back and waiting for the county commission to give us more money."

Quick has been working with pa-

## Interview

### Jim Draper

On October 16, *Library Journal* (LJ) and *School Library Journal* will host "The Digital



Shift: Reinventing Libraries." Gale, part of Cengage Learning, is a gold sponsor of the event, and LJ reached out to Jim Draper, vice president

and general manager, Gale, in the first of a series of interviews.

### What will be the next big disruption/innovation?

We see the public library evolving into a genuine educational institution. In the academic and K-12 spaces, we see the further blending of lines in terms of classroom materials and library materials. On the academic side, students are accessing more class resources online via enhanced e-textbooks and learning management systems.

### What business will libraries get into that is undreamt of today?

Patrons will create new value, directly and immediately, from large data repositories, using metadata and algorithms that might not even be visible to them. This will be different from "search" and will require us to invent tools that balance the need for speed against superb outcomes and results.

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## Is Yours the Best Small Library?

*Library Journal* is seeking nominations for its annual Best Small Library in America award. Cosponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the award showcases the work of libraries that demonstrate outstanding service to populations of 25,000 or less (view eligibility requirements at [ow.ly/oKBZD](http://ow.ly/oKBZD)). The postmark deadline for nominations is October 14, 2013.

Quick has been working with patrons, supporters, and county officials to brainstorm a wide variety of fundraising ideas to help MDPLS mitigate its impending budget deficit. Whether that means finding new grants, bringing in corporate sponsors or underwriters, or opening library branches as event spaces for private functions, no idea is being written off. But with such a short time line to make such major changes happen, “the most important thing,” Quick said, “is to make sure this stays at the forefront of everybody’s attention and [that] we don’t end up in the same position next year.” They’ll have help on that front from organizations like Save the Miami Dade Libraries, organized by Andrew Herridge and Vanessa Reyes-Herridge.

In the meantime, a working group of stakeholders—library employees, patrons, county officials—is taking shape under the direction of the mayor’s office, to reevaluate priorities and start planning for a more sustainable future. “We’re really beginning that discussion of what are we going to evolve into,” Santiago said. “We need to look inward to become a system everyone wants to support.”

Some solutions could be relatively painless, such as moving library funding under the umbrella of the county’s general fund. That would give administrators more flexibility in writing library budgets and offer more wiggle room in covering future shortfalls. In the long term, becoming a more sustainable library system could mean any number of things

for MDPLS—even looking at where branches are located and possibly shuttering those that aren’t serving the community effectively. “We can use this to take a hard look at the library system from all points of view,” said Santiago. “We’re putting everything on the table.”

## LSSI Veteran To Head Texas State Library

After a yearlong search, Texas welcomed Mark Smith as the new state librarian on August 30. But with a background that includes 14 years as a vice president of Library Systems and Services, Inc. (LSSI), the native son’s return to Texas libraries makes some librarians uneasy. Others, though, think Smith’s unconventional CV could be an asset.

The appointment as state librarian marks a homecoming for Smith, an Austin native whose career in libraries began in the Lone Star State, where he worked with a variety of different library systems as a systems administrator. Later, Smith served for two years as director of communications for the Texas Library Association (TLA).

Since 1999, though, Smith has been in the private sector, serving as West Coast VP for LSSI. There, he was responsible for managing operations for multiple libraries in California and Oregon. In 2003, Smith was named California Library Association Member of the Year for his work with the Riverside County Library System.

Gretchen Pruet, library director for the New Braunfels Public Library

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## Who Moves You?

The editors of Library Journal need your help in identifying the emerging leaders in the library world. Our thirteenth annual round of Movers and Shakers will profile 50 or more up-and-coming individuals from around the world who are innovative, creative, and making a difference. From librarians to vendors to others who work in the library field, visit [ow.ly/dXwcb](http://ow.ly/dXwcb).

Nominations are due November 2, 2013.

(NBPL), TX, admits that Smith's LSSI background initially concerned her. "Most of us who are familiar with LSSI probably had a moment of pause when we realized that was where [Smith] was employed, because a lot of us initially saw it as a threat," said Pruett. "We can probably all come up with a story of LSSI taking over a small library and things didn't go well."

As for whether his new position paves the road for an increased LSSI presence in Texas, Smith called it a possibility but not one he intends to foster. "It may be an option communities explore, but it won't be because I encouraged them to do that," said Smith.

He added, "I firmly believe it's not the role of the Texas State Librarian to influence how local communities manage their library services. That's a local decision, and it should remain a local decision."

#### AN ADVOCATE FOR LIBRARIES

When one talks to Texas librarians about Smith, it's not his abilities as a manager that are lauded but his skills as a communicator who can, as TLA executive director Patricia Smith put it, "encourage donors and supporters and negotiate with legislators and decision-makers." Dana Rooks, dean of libraries at the University of Houston, was "delighted" when she learned that Smith was a finalist for the position. She recalled him fondly from his time as TLA communications director and cited his proven ability to reach out and work with legislators, citizens groups, and other stakeholders and demonstrate the worth of libraries to all parties. "In California, he did a lot of legislative and media work, which is a very important set of skills," Rooks said.

It's a skill set that stands to serve Smith well in Texas, where the state legislature has slashed library funding in recent budgets. For all her initial ill-ease with Smith's LSSI back-

## First Book Lobbies for Kid Lit Diversity

First Book made significant strides this summer toward its new goal of dramatically expanding the market for diversity in children's literature, its president and CEO Kyle Zimmer told *Hotline*. Through the Stories for All Project's successful, gradual implementation over the past few months, First Book is now poised to lobby publishers and influence the kid lit industry like never before, Zimmer said.

"First Book serves the kids and families in the lowest 30 percent of the socioeconomic strata in the [United States] and Canada, and that's about 45 percent of American kids," Zimmer noted. "And what that means is that if we really build this market, we actually by volume will dwarf the regular retail market—and that changes everything. Then the publishers have a strong market that they can step into with content that addresses a much broader cultural array of kids."

The nonprofit group—which has provided more than 100 million new books and resources to schools and programs in underserved communities



in the [United States] and Canada since 1992—in March purchased \$1 million worth of titles from HarperCollins and Lee & Low Books featuring a diverse array of characters and cultures, the first phase of the project.

First Book chose the two publishers—one major publisher and one smaller publisher—out of 26 bids, "a stunningly positive response" to the group's mandate for "a high degree of diversity and a real deal—the lowest prices—to get as many books into kids' hands as possible," Zimmer said. "The publishers already so much want to be part of the solution, and I think we tapped a nerve. They were deliriously happy to find a solid opportunity to sell books that they love, that reflect the diversity that they know as well as everyone is part of the American culture. They stepped up, and they stepped up with enormous enthusiasm."

As a result of that first phase, the group was able to purchase 255,350 culturally diverse books, adding more than 700 titles to the First Book Marketplace available to those serving kids in need.

So what's next for First Book? In June, the group unveiled at the Clinton Global Initiative America the planned next phase of the project, a "Commitment to Action" that includes outreach to 30,000 new schools and programs, special collections of diverse and multicultural titles, matching grants for educators, and an influential council of authors to help inspire new books and stories.

Said Zimmer, "If...you are a librarian and are working in a Title I or a Title I-eligible school or you have a special program that does outreach work with kids...in need, sign up. Tell us what you need. Because I promise you, we will stand on our heads to make it happen."

In the meantime, First Book will continue to push kid lit publishers to diversify their offerings. And Zimmer hinted at more to come. "There will be another announcement," she teased. "It's an exciting move for us, and you'll understand why it's important to diversity."

ground, NBPL's Pruett suggested that the same credentials could help make Smith more effective in dealing with legislators in a climate where library budgets have not only to do good but increasingly must make good business sense—something LSSI has had to do in every community and library system with which it has worked.

"I'm optimistic that they picked the right candidate and that he can deliver our message and the value of libraries to legislators so that they can put some money back into funding us," Pruett said.

For his part, Smith is looking for-

ward to the new challenges of the position. He's eager to build relationships between libraries and other organizations, as at Riverside, where he shepherded a relationship with the Riverside County Workforce Investment Board to help connect job seekers and employers.

During his tenure, Smith wants to emphasize that Texas libraries are spaces not for just access to information but for civic engagement. "The librarian...should be there to engage with the community.... The library should be a third place, a place where people can go and interact with each other," explained Smith.

## Detroit Public Library Feeds Kids After School

The Detroit Public Library (DPL), Forgotten Harvest, and the Chrysler Foundation have partnered to provide free nutritious snacks to school-aged children who attend after-school reading programs at 20 DPL branches throughout the city. The snack packs are also available to children on days when Detroit Public Schools are closed and during special DPL-sponsored programs. During the 2013–14 school year, more than 2,000 snacks per week will be distributed, Forgotten Harvest estimated.

Initially, the Chrysler Foundation provided Forgotten Harvest with a grant to source, prepare, and deliver nutritious lunches for the final sessions of the 2012 summer reading program. Following the successful pilot, the foundation increased its support in 2013 to \$74,000 in order to provide lunches for the summer reading program and snacks for the after-school reading program.

In recent years, according to Patrice Merritt, executive director, DPL Friends Foundation, participation in the summer reading program has been stagnant. However, owing in part to the lunch program, the number of children participating increased in 2013 to 6,598—up 23 percent from the number of participants in 2012.

## USF Library Renews 24-Hour Service After Protests

The University of South Florida (USF), Tampa, library had been open 24 hours a day, five days a week. But due to financial constraints, on August 26, USF students returned to school to find a library that opened at 7:30 a.m. week-day mornings, only to shut its doors at midnight. In response, hundreds of students protested the decision with "sit-outs" and letter-writing campaigns.

### Branching Out

After renovations that began in May (see *Hotline*, 4/15/13), the **Uphams Corner Branch** of the Boston Public Library, in Dorchester, MA, will reopen on October 21. Last renovated in 1989, the 4,428 square foot library, which was originally founded in 1904, has undergone a \$3.2 million makeover, which includes a new roof, downspouts, and gutters; repointed masonry; new windows; reconstruction of interior and exterior staircases; and a new heating system. Housed in a municipal building, the library has some unique features, including a youth room that was once a swimming pool.

Maker spaces are taking off like a house afire. And Texas's **Round Rock Public Library** is set to do it up big following a \$49,500 Special Projects Grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). The proposed Innovation Station is a collaboration among the city of Round Rock, the local school district, a local nonprofit, and a tech workshop. The goal of the space is to "engage youth in project-based science, technology and engineering, mathematics, art and design, or STEM+Art." The partnership received special recognition from among the grant submissions, of which 70 were selected.

The **Harrison Public Library (HPL)**, NY, received some good news this summer. Rye,

NY-based global consumer products company Jarden Corporation has promised to contribute up to \$100,000 to the library's planned renovation through a matching gift program. For every \$2 donated by local businesses, Jarden will give \$1, up to its pledge goal. Among the plans for the 14,000 square foot facility, which is still in the middle of fundraising, are infrastructure improvements, technology upgrades, 41 new computer stations, a community room, and the Marmot Teen Center, named for a clothing and apparel brand distributed by Jarden, according to the *Harrison Daily Voice*. The construction has a mid-2014 start date, though the library is still looking to raise \$1.1 million. Aside from the Jarden donation, the HPL Foundation has secured \$1.2 million from the Richard E. Halperin Memorial Fund, \$1.1 million from the town of Harrison, and a \$73,000 New York State Construction Grant.

The **Carteron Community College library**, Oxfordshire, England, was converted back last September to its original intent after having been made into an engineering suite. The £35,000 project is one of three finalists in the School Library Association's Library Design Awards, according to the *Oxford Mail*, which referred to the prize as "a national gong."

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Those protests paid off on September 5, when administration and library officials announced the return of the library's popular "up-all-night" schedule.

When the schedule began in 2009, it was as a trial program that saw only the first floor of the library open all night. According to USF dean of libraries Bill Garrison, "By the time we got to finals, we had people sitting on the floor because there wasn't enough space."

The open-all-night policy was extended to the entire library the following year. According to Garrison, a weekday at 3 a.m. sees an average of 400 to 600 people.

The extended hours cost \$136,000 annually, compared to closing at midnight, mostly for staffing. For the last three years, those costs were covered by discretionary funding through the Office of Student Success. This year, though, the funding source dried up.

The first night of the sit-out began

The **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum**, Cleveland, is now accepting applications for the **Gladys Kriebel Delmas Visiting Scholar Program** to conduct research in its **Library and Archives** collections. Grants will be given in the amount of \$1,000 per week for up to two weeks.

**Waukegan Public Library (WPL)**, IL, received a \$2,000 Youth Literacy grant from the Dollar General Literacy Organization. The funds will go toward WPL's Homework Help program.

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute**, MA, was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. The money will fund the renovation of the **Special Collections** wing of the **George C. Gordon Library**.

**The Alberta Library (TAL)**, a consortium of 49 Canadian libraries, selected a group cat-

alog solution from **OCLC** for its **TAL Online** service. The catalog, which will launch in October, makes 25 million items accessible to users.

The **University of Pennsylvania Libraries**, Philadelphia, received a \$5.5 million donation from **Jay I. Kislak** and the **Kislak Family Foundation** for the overhaul of the fifth and sixth floors of the **Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center**. The new, 27,000 square foot space will be named the **Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts**, in honor of the Kislak family.

**Winding River Library System**, WI, selected several products from **Innovative Interfaces**, including the **Sierra Services Platform**, **Encore** discovery application, and **Decision Center**. It previously used **Auto-Graphics' Illuminar** system.

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with 100 protesting students, dozens of whom stayed until the library opened again in the morning. A petition to return the library to 24-hour availability was signed by thousands of students, and a letter-writing campaign saw hundreds of letters delivered to the office of university president Judy Genshaft. After more than a week of student protests, administrators announced that all-nighters would return to USF's library as of September 15.

Garrison told *Hotline* that late-night hours are no longer a special item funded by provisional outside sources but included in the library's budget. However, since the budget hasn't been boosted accordingly, "something else will get cut," though he doesn't yet know what.

Still, Garrison and the other USF librarians were touched by how many students turned out. "We were very pleased to see the students ask for space to study," Garrison said.

## Kansas City PL To Launch Software Lending Library

Using funds raised by winning the Mozilla Ignite app innovation challenge, the Kansas City Public Library (KCPL), MO, developed its new Software Lending Library, a remote desktop system that will enable patrons to "check out" and use software applications such as Adobe Photoshop or Microsoft Excel on their home computers or laptops. KCPL digital branch manager David LaCrone and his team of two systems administrators, a digital user specialist, and a web developer proved the concept will work this past spring; they plan have a minimally viable pilot running by the end of September for internal use and testing and hope to have a system ready for the public by early 2014.

The system is made possible by the gigabit-speed fiber network that Google is rolling out throughout Kansas City. (Even KCPL is not yet con-

nected. In the meantime, LaCrone's team has been working out the logistics of the system.)

Files produced in Photoshop or other Adobe Creative Suite (ACS) programs, such as Illustrator or Flash, can grow to dozens of megabytes, and manipulating these large files using a remote desktop solution will require a very high-bandwidth connection for both the library and the home user. However, since the programs will be hosted by the library's hardware, LaCrone expects that remote users will have a fast, responsive experience, regardless of their home setup.

To comply with software licensing terms, LaCrone's team worked with a contract programmer to develop a scheduling mechanism, which ensures that only one patron is accessing a given license at a time. To use the software lending library remotely, patrons will visit the library's website and use the scheduling tool to reserve a block of time with the software. Later, the system will email the patron a direct link, which will initiate the remote desktop session.

"We see this as exactly the same as using a computer with software installed at one of our locations," LaCrone told *Hotline*. "Our model is going to be one license per use at a time."

KCPL is in the process of applying for funding to purchase a new pool of licenses for the Software Lending Library, so the new system will not interfere with on-site software use at KCPL branches. Additional discussion with software vendors may be needed to clarify terms for off-site access, LaCrone added, but he is not anticipating problems.

LaCrone said that the Software Lending Library will help bridge the digital divide by enabling the library to offer access to these programs at branches and computer centers that don't already have a dedicated station set up to run a given program.

## People

**Joyce Chiappetta** has retired as Director at Baldwin Borough Public Library, Pittsburgh. She began her career at the library in 1997 as Program Coordinator.

**Charles D. Eckman** was named Dean of Libraries at University of Miami, effective December 1. He is currently Dean of Library Services and University Librarian at Simon Fraser University, BC.

**Mary Ludlum** has retired as Director of the Grandview Heights Public Library, Columbus, OH. She had been in the position for 32 years.

**Catherine Nathan** announced her retirement as Director of First Regional Library system, Hernando, MS, effective October 31. She has been in the position since 2005.

**Hilary Newman** was appointed to the position of Senior Vice President (SVP) for Library Solutions

at Innovative Interfaces. She previously served as SVP of Product Development for the company.

**Beth Trupp** has retired as Youth Services Librarian at the Gering Public Library, NE. She had been with the library for 33 years.

**Joseph D. Walker** was named Information Technology Assistant at the Association of Research Libraries. He was formerly Help-Desk Engineer at the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Two new hires were made at the East Lansing Public Library, MI: **Shannon Lake**, previously Teen Services Librarian at the Southeast Branch of the Nashville Public Library, was appointed as Teen Librarian/Lead Librarian. **Ambler Laude**, previously a Technical Assistant at East Lansing, was promoted to the position of Collections and Technical Services Librarian.

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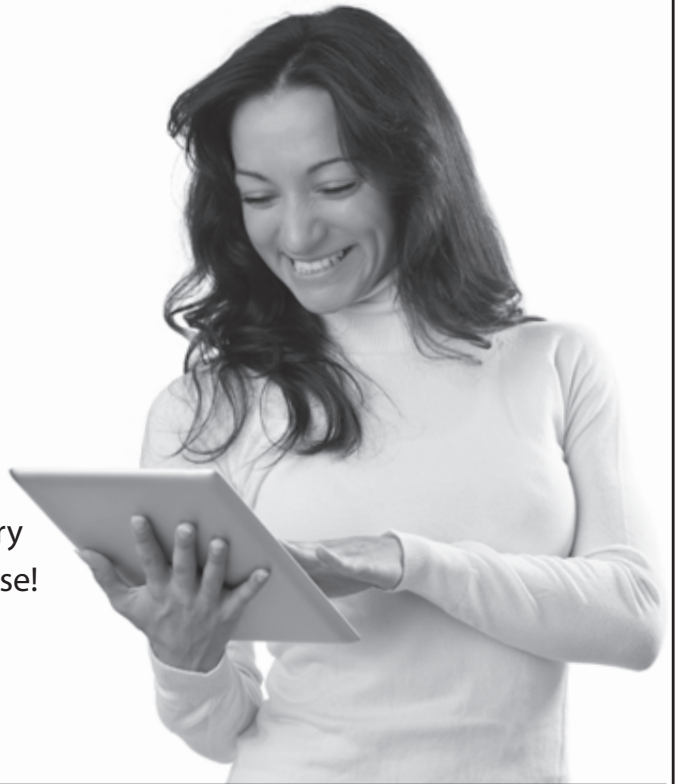
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