

## Colorado Libraries Weather Floods

In September, Colorado was inundated by rains that caused unprecedented flooding throughout the state, damaging or destroying more than 19,000 homes and claiming eight lives. Weeks later, recovery crews were still trying to return the state to a sense of normalcy, as libraries worked to provide needed services to residents while also attempting to repair damage at their own facilities.

Throughout the state, libraries were largely spared the worst of the storm's wrath, though the misses were often narrow ones. Despite its proximity to a stream that overflowed its banks, the main branch of the Boulder Public Library (BPL), for instance, did not suffer any significant harm. "Considering the expanse of the damage and that it cut across many areas from rural to suburban to urban, it is somewhat miraculous that more damage wasn't reported," said Colorado State Librarian Gene Hanier.

Across town, on the University of Colorado's (UC) Boulder campus, the story was similar. Norlin Library was one of more than 70 buildings on the campus that was affected, with some

water in the basement. However, the damage was minimal, and most of the 100 or so books touched by water issues should be saved by air drying, programming and communications librarian Deborah Fink told a reporter for the campus paper *The Independent*.

Other libraries fared worse. Just three miles north of the UC campus, the library of Crest View Elementary School had to be packed up wholesale and moved to the school's gymnasium for safekeeping after flood waters repeatedly inundated the site. Though most of the library's resources were saved by maintenance workers, the space itself will need to be remade from scratch.

Since the flood, a small army of parents have helped to sort through the boxed-up books to ensure none had been affected by water or mold. "Amazingly, there were maybe ten books out of thousands that were damaged," said Crest View library director Nancy Carabell. "What we don't know yet is how many books were thrown out rather than boxed up." Later this month, school librarians from around Boulder will be joining Carabell to take a full inventory and get a better picture of how Crest View's collection fared. Whatever the

## Interview

### Ben Ortiz and Katherine Reagan

On the 40th anniversary of hip-hop, *Hotline* spoke to assistant curator Ben Ortiz and curator of rare books and manuscripts Katherine Reagan at the Cornell University Hip Hop Collection (CHHC), NY.

#### Why did you involve hip-hop creators as subject experts?

Central to our philosophy is the belief that hip-hop's pioneers and other cultural creators must be involved as deeply as possible in all aspects of the CHHC. It is important for them to be the ones telling their own personal and cultural stories.

#### Who is working with the collection?

Our advisory board includes DJ Afrika Bambaataa, Rahiem from Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, Crazy Legs and Jorge "Popmaster Fabel" Pabon of the Rock Steady Crew, and MCs such as Grandmaster Caz, MC Sha-Rock, and Zulu Queen MC Lisa Lee.

#### Who is the collection's patron base?

Journalists, filmmakers, PhD candidates, professors, students, dancers and artists, and others who are passionate about hip-hop culture.

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## Know a Mover & Shaker? Of Course You Do!



*Library Journal* is counting on you to nominate the 2014 "class" of Movers & Shakers, 50 individuals who are changing the face of libraries and library services—whether they work in libraries (of any type) or elsewhere. You know people just like them: everyday librarians who do extraordinary work every day. Nominate them now!

**Nominations due November 2: [libraryjournal.com/movers](http://libraryjournal.com/movers)**

state of the holdings, though, it will be a while before Crest View has a proper home for them again.

“What we know going forward is it will take two or three months to get new shelving in,” said Carabell. “It could be January or later before we have an operational library here.” As an interim plan, Carabell said, “We’re partnering with Boulder Public Library (BPL) to try to make sure every kid has a BPL card.”

Meanwhile, libraries that were not hit as hard served as relief centers for patrons. Some 45 miles northwest of Boulder in the resort town of Estes Park, the Estes Valley Library (EVL) closed for only one day after the town’s downtown was evacuated on September 12. While commercial spaces across the street from the library suffered from three feet or more of rising waters, EVL escaped the worst. Four inches or so of mucky water ruined carpeted floors and walls on the building’s first floor, but no books or computers were lost. “In the scheme of things, the library feels very fortunate,” said Director Claudine Perrault.

#### DELIVERING RELIEF

After evacuating on September 13, librarians were back on the job by September 15, opening the library to community meetings and providing power and Internet access to Estes Park citizens who were struggling to contact loved ones and learn more about the city’s emergency plans. That Saturday, said Perrault, was the busiest day in EVL’s history, motivating staff to keep the library open nearly every day since the flood. EVL also modified its hours during the first weeks following the flood, opening earlier to accommodate more patrons and closing earlier so no one would be tempted to drive there at night, then a dangerous proposition.

While power and Internet con-

nectivity have been largely restored to Estes Park, the library is still providing a range of basics—like toilets residents can flush. About a third of the town’s homes are in areas prohibited from flushing for fear of sending untreated sewage into the river. The library, which is in an area where flushing is allowed, is encouraging folks to come use the facilities, rather than the Porta Potties to which many residents are currently consigned.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

The recovery effort in Colorado is expected to be slow. With numerous roads washed out, relief workers have found it difficult to get where they’re needed; the shutdown of the federal government has only complicated matters.

Librarians statewide, though, report that the community has come together to support them, from offering help with cleanup efforts to delivering coffee and hot chocolate to library staff working to keep facilities open under less than ideal conditions. About half of the labor going into repairs at EVL, said Perrault, was from volunteers. And even the hardest hit librarians are looking for bright sides to grim situations. At Crest View, Carabell is already exploring ways to redesign the school library and offering students the chance to weigh in on what the new library should look like. Though some suggestions—like trampoline floors—aren’t much help, Carabell reports that other ideas, like shelves on casters that can easily be moved around for a more flexible floor plan, could be put into place when the library reopens. “The kids are chomping at the bit to get back into the library,” said Carabell. “The possibility is that we can come out of this thinking about how to be more patron-friendly.”

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
*Library Journal & School Library Journal*

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LIBRARY HOTLINE (ISSN 0740-736X) (RPUSA 123397467) is published weekly (every Monday except on the two Mondays nearest to the year-end holidays) by Library Journals, LLC, 160 Varick Street, 11th floor, New York, NY 10013. Randy Asmo, Chief Executive Officer; Ian Singer, VP, Group Publisher. Library Hotline is a registered trademark of Library Journals, LLC. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. SUBSCRIPTION: \$119.99 per year, Canada \$159.99, Other (incl Air) \$159.99, Single Copy (U.S.) \$5.95, and Single Copy (all other) \$10.00. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address to: Library Hotline, PO Box 5881, Harlan, IA 51593-1381 Telephone 800-588-1030. Outside U.S. 1-515-247-2984.

Printed in the U.S.A.

## Chicago Public Library To Expand YOUmedia

Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel announced on October 3 that his office would expand the Chicago Public Library's (CPL) YOUmedia digital skills program by \$500,000 in order to serve 25 percent more teens in 2014. The program teaches web design, digital media production, and programming.

The announcement, which was made at the first of three city budget roundtables, came just a week after the online expansion of CPL's "Teacher in the Library" homework help program; K-12 students with a CPL library card may now access online tutoring seven days a week.

Beginning next summer, CPL will offer YOUmedia training at six new library locations, plus an additional "pop-up" program that will provide resources at a new branch library in a different neighborhood each month throughout the year. At present, four CPL branches offer YOUmedia programming to kids in grades six to eight, with additional training at the Harold Washington Library Center for high schoolers. In all, more than 1,500 teens receive YOUmedia training in Chicago.

"We're excited to expand this model into more neighborhoods as it's been so successful in engaging teens in deep learning," said Brian Bannon, CPL's commissioner, in the announcement.

Nearly half of the participants in YOUmedia's Chicago programming are African American teenage boys, and 80 percent of participants travel on average five miles to access the program, according to a 2013 study of YOUmedia by the Chicago Consortium of Chicago School Research.

"Budgets are statements of values and priorities, and as we have done during the past two years, we will make major reforms while mak-

## Link to Libraries Matches Schools with Sponsors

Some 37 small local businesses—and one family—in western Massachusetts have signed on in the past year to sponsor either an elementary or middle school or a nonprofit group in order to supply underserved children with hundreds of new books. Known as the Business Book Link Project, the program is the brainchild of Link to Libraries (LTL), a Springfield, MA-based literacy organization that distributes new books to needy kids in western Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, and New York.

Businesses interested in a Book Link sponsorship donate approximately \$1,200 to LTL and must commit to a relationship of three years, in which they are expected to engage regularly with their sponsor on a one-to-one basis, Susan Jaye-Kaplan, president and cofounder of LTL, said. The organization then matches the sponsor to a needy school. The donated funds help defray the costs of the 300–500 new books that LTL supplies to the sponsor for distribution to kids during read-alouds and other visits throughout the year.



Students and administration of the Tatham School, West Springfield, MA, with members of the American Hockey League's Springfield Falcons, the school's LTL sponsor.

"The idea was to not only increase the number of books in each site but more importantly to engage businesses and individuals to partner, sponsor, and become one with the school," Jaye-Kaplan explained. "To let these businesses and the family feel a strong connection with 'their school' [so] when the three-year commitment is up, they might consider this 'their school' and continue."

Noted Jaye-Kaplan, "We see this already happening as they engage and connect with us to let us know how the project is working. The children meet their benefactors, take them on tours of their schools or buildings, invite them to all sorts of school events. This only enhances the bond."

LTL is also present at the sponsor's initial tour of a school, at which the sponsor is presented with a plaque and meets the school's principal, who then presents the sponsor with a funding "wish list" of nonbook supplies. LTL encourages principals to include a wide range of items on their wish lists, in varying cost levels, everything from dictionaries to picnic tables—both of which, incidentally, have been donated recently by sponsors to their adopted schools, Jaye-Kaplan shared.

In addition, "Some of the banks are giving financial literacy classes, kids are getting college tours and lunch, and one company gave Kindles," Jaye-Kaplan said.

Later in the process, LTL will ask the sponsored schools to create thank you notes, which LTL presents back to the sponsors at least twice a year "to keep the communication open," Jaye-Kaplan said.

"We think this could be franchised easily by any school district, and we would be honored to help in that endeavor," Jaye-Kaplan told *Hotline*. The project's goal is to reach 50 sponsored schools or literacy nonprofits by the end of the 2013, Jaye-Kaplan said. "Since we are all volunteer, the goal is manageable," she noted, adding, "If we had staff, our goal would be 100 by June 2014."

ing major investments, especially in the lives of children,” said Emanuel in the announcement.

## Questions About Online Degrees Linger

Online MLS programs have become widespread, offering people who

don't live near an American Library Association (ALA)-accredited program or are otherwise unable to attend a traditional master's program the opportunity to get their library science degree. But the perception of these web-based programs hasn't kept pace with their prevalence, according to a recent poll on the blog

Hiring Librarians. The informal survey found that some librarians remain concerned about the quality of these programs and question whether they provide students with the skills to succeed in the field.

The informal survey of 291 anonymous hiring librarians, conducted by Hiring Librarians founder Emily Weak with help from Brianna Marshall, managing editor of Hack Library School, found that 36 respondents—just over 12 percent—expressed negative views of online degree programs. Though based on a small number, the finding was significant enough to give Weak, herself a graduate of San José State University's online MLIS program, who now works as adult and virtual services librarian in Mountain View, CA, a moment's pause and prompt her to dig into the numbers.

Weak discovered that many of the concerns expressed by potential employers were issues of perception, mostly around whether the programs offered MLS students important face-to-face experience working with patrons and as part of a library team. Of the 36 who viewed online degree holders in a poor light, only three had actually had a negative experience with a graduate of an online program. Here's part of what one responding hiring librarian had to say: “We want people with experience, but lack of experience is not a deal breaker. However, if someone received an MLS through an online program and has no experience, we are not going to grant an interview. As librarians we are concerned about the dumbing down of the education system, which we are a part of, and many of us here feel that an online degree is not the same as immersing oneself with other MLS candidates.”

This perspective mirrors larger issues that continue to haunt online education as a whole. In a recent

## Branching Out



The new 15,000 square foot **Federal Way 320th Library** (rendering), part of King County Library System, WA, opened on September 28, replacing a smaller facility built in the 1960s. The \$5 million project, funded through a 2004 referendum, features an entry plaza with benches, bike racks, and a pathway adorned with tree sculptures designed by artist Leo Saul Berk. Inside, the branch encompasses artwork by Ran Hwang, an enlarged children's section, a dedicated teen zone, three study rooms, and a community room that, when not in use, opens up to the main public space through a set of sliding glass doors. Collections have been expanded to include a large number of ebooks. The building is clad in weathering steel, which will suit the rainy climate and oxidize over time to blend with the landscape. The project architect is Nathan Messmer with SRG Partnership.

**Wesport Library**, CT, received a National Leadership Grant of \$246,545 from the federal Institute of Museum & Library Services to upgrade its year-old Maker space. Chosen as one of only two library projects from a significant number of applicants, “MakerSpace 2.0: Retinking Libraries” will feature more

“hands-on experiences, makers-in-residence, and workshops,” plus Interactive Innovation Stations (iStations) to present the concepts and techniques of innovative thinking.

On October 7, the main branch of the **Paramus Public Library**, NJ, reopened to the public after the completion of partial renovations, according to NorthJersey.com. The initial work involved roof repair performed by Cipollini Roofing, at a cost of \$185,000. Ongoing bathroom updates—the children's restroom has not been remodeled since 1963—under the eye of ASC architects with work by Aero Plumbing, will cost \$132,000. Funding comes from the municipality and a Bergen County Community Block Grant, per NorthJersey.com. Some areas of the library will be inaccessible during the final stages of construction.

LaMoyné Design Associates, Inc., of Baton Rouge, LA, has been awarded the 2013 GOLD award from the American Society of Interior Designers South Central Chapter for the new **Fairwood Branch Library** of the East Baton Rouge Public Library (see *Hotline* 4/29/13). The judges made especial note of how “the interiors reflect subtle but continuous movement, pleasantly understated motion encouraged through creative floor patterns, curved lines of the furniture, unique signage, and whimsical suspended symbols.”

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survey of more than 600 employers throughout the United States, the research group Public Agenda found that 42 percent of respondents thought students learn less in online programs than they do in traditional ones. Fully 56 percent of those surveyed said they would prefer a job applicant who had attended a traditional program at an average university to one who had completed an online course of study at a top school.

“Right now, I think it does raise a red flag regarding what courses are we offering these students online and whether employers are ready for that yet,” Carolin Hagelskamp, director of research for Public Agenda, told *Hotline*. “Not all employers are keeping up on what’s happening in higher education, so their views may be lagging a bit behind.”

Those concerns are nothing new to David Fenske, dean of the iSchool at Drexel College in Philadelphia. Fenske has been addressing concerns about whether there’s a difference between Drexel’s online and on-campus degrees for 12 years. Fenske said those concerns are unfounded. “The online courses are the same as the face-to-face classes, taught by the same faculty, and covering the same content,” said Fenske. “If you like one, you’ll like the other.”

It’s hard to say whether such concerns translate into a hiring bias. At Drexel, there are no numbers comparing the employment rates of traditional and online MLS graduates, or of how long it took grads to find positions.

As Weak points out, bias would be hard to prove. “If it’s been a factor in my job search, I haven’t known about it,” she said. “It’s not like people call you up when you don’t get an interview and tell you, ‘It’s because you had an online degree.’”

Weak thinks acceptance will come with time, as librarians who earned

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the **University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science**, Champaign, a **National Leadership Grant**. The money will fund “Closing the App Gap,” a project with the **Douglass Branch Library**, Champaign, to integrate technology into children’s summer reading programs.

Additionally, the IMLS granted the **University of Virginia’s Miller Center**, Charlottesville, \$355,000 for its **Presidential Collections**, an online database of presidential history. The money will allow the center to gain new participating organizations and expand its resources.

**ProQuest** launched a new database, **Trench Journals and Unit Magazines of the First World War**. The collection contains more than 1,500 magazines written by and for the armed forces from 1914 to 1919.

The **University of Michigan Library**, Ann Arbor, received the archive of filmmaker

**John Sayles**. The collection includes production and legal documents, photographs, scripts, and storyboards spanning his entire film career.

Six new libraries joined the Ohio **CLEVNET** consortium: **Andover Public Library**; **Conneaut Public Library**; **Harbor-Topky Memorial Public Library**, Ashtabula; **Henderson Memorial Public Library**, Jefferson; **Kingsville Public Library**; and **Rock Creek Public Library**.

U.S. ISBN analysis done by **ProQuest’s Bowker** division shows that the number of self-published books in 2012 increased by 59 percent in comparison to 2011. Additionally, ebooks comprise 40 percent of self-published titles for 2012.

**McDaniel College**, Westminster, MD, was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the **Nora Roberts Foundation**. The funding will maintain the **Nora Roberts Contemporary American Fiction Collection** housed in the college’s **Hoover Library**.

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their degrees online continue to demonstrate to their colleagues that the differences are only skin deep. In fact, she argues that online programs may offer some benefits that face-to-face programs don’t, especially as library services continue to move online. “The more you’re online, the more you realize it’s a connecting experience, not an isolating one,” Weak said. “If you want to succeed and make friends, you have to create online connections, and that’s a skill just like face-to-face customer service is a skill.”

## NM Schools Bans Gaiman’s *Neverwhere*

Neil Gaiman’s dark urban fantasy novel *Neverwhere* (Avon, 1998) was

removed from both the school library and the required reading list at Alamo High School, NM, on October 10, following the complaint of one parent, who objected to its sexual innuendos and “harsh” language, according to a report by New Mexico’s local KRQE news station.

The mother said she was shocked that her daughter was asked to read the book, and her complaints to the school board led to its removal, KRQE reported. According to KRQE, this is the first complaint that Alamo High School officials have gotten about the book since it was added to the school’s curriculum in 2004.

After hearing news of the ban, author Gaiman asked on Twitter, “Is anyone fighting back?”

## States' Rejected Waivers Endanger IMLS Funding

This year, the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) received eight requests for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) waivers that would let states continue to receive previously approved matching grants through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) even though the funds they're intended to match will not be provided. That's more than the IMLS has received in any year since the financial downturn of 2008. Of the eight applicants, only three—Hawaii, Oklahoma, and South Carolina—were awarded waivers. The remaining five states—Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, and Texas—stand to lose federal funding as state legislatures fail to live up to their end of the LSTA grant agreements, which are meant to

supplement state spending on library programs, rather than supplant it.

IMLS looks at two main factors when considering MOE waivers. The first is whether the state applying can demonstrate that it experienced exceptional fiscal difficulties that were outside of its control. Since the 2008 financial downturn, IMLS director Susan Hildreth said, most states have been able to meet that challenge. After it's established that an applicant state is experiencing tough times, though, those seeking a waiver have to show that cuts to state library budgets are in line with cuts to other agencies around the state. That's where Texas had a hard time making its case, said Hildreth.

According to interim Texas State Librarian Ed Seidenberg, the problems in Texas stem from a 67 percent budget cut that hit its libraries in

2012. Those reductions lowered Texas's contributions to many LSTA-supported programs below the 35 percent mark, making them eligible for fewer IMLS dollars. While support levels for the next year are in limbo during the current shutdown of the federal government, Seidenberg expected that the failure to get an MOE waiver will cost Texas libraries somewhere between \$5 million and \$7 million in federal funding. While the Texas State Library is preparing an appeal of the decision, it's unlikely that the funding will return at the normal rate, meaning the state could see cuts in areas like grants to a program that helps public and academic libraries develop their mobile technology presence.

Illinois had received MOE waivers for the last two years, only to have its third request denied. While the funding to hit the state is expected to be a relatively modest \$187,000, it could impact adult literacy programs, service for the visually impaired, and grants programs to local libraries statewide, according to state library director Anne Craig, who adds that Illinois plans to appeal. Elsewhere in the Midwest, Michigan State Librarian Nancy Robertson said that her state, which was applying for an MOE waiver for the fifth straight year, does not plan to appeal this year's ruling, nor will it apply for a waiver next year in light of a newly stabilized budget situation.

Hildreth said that funding for state libraries and the programs they administer is clearly an issue, but that despite this year's spike in waiver requests, budgets are actually becoming more steady—just not at the levels that most librarians would hope for. Said Hildreth, "I think we're reaching a new and lower level of normal."

Seidenberg, for his part, hopes that the loss of funding will remind Texas legislators to use care when dealing with funds that earn the state matching federal dollars in the future.

### People

**Nancy Eckert** retired as Children's Librarian at Alexander Mitchell Public Library, Aberdeen, SD. She had been with the library for 34 years.

**Dawne Lucas** was named Special Collections Librarian at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She was previously Head of Technical Services at the Duke University Medical Center Archives, Durham, NC.

**Jonathan Obest** was appointed Development Officer at the University of California, Irvine. He was formerly Associate Director of Development at the California Western School of Law, San Diego.

**Michael Porter** was named Innovations and Strategies Administrator at the Maricopa County Library District, AZ. He previously

founded Library Renewal, a nonprofit organization.

**Tom W. Sloan** was appointed Executive Director at the Mid-Hudson Library System, NY, effective November 1. He is currently Manager of Library Services for the City of Boca Raton, FL.

Columbia University Libraries, New York, made the following hires: **Leonard Hu**, formerly a Systems Administrator/Programmer for Cyberdata, Inc., was named Associate Systems Engineer at the Library Information Technology Office; **Angie Lee**, formerly the Curriculum Development and Learning Manager at Reputation Institute, New York, was named Educational Technologist at the Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning.

### In Memoriam

**John Bernard Duff**, former Chicago Public Library Commissioner, died on October 1. He was 82 years old.

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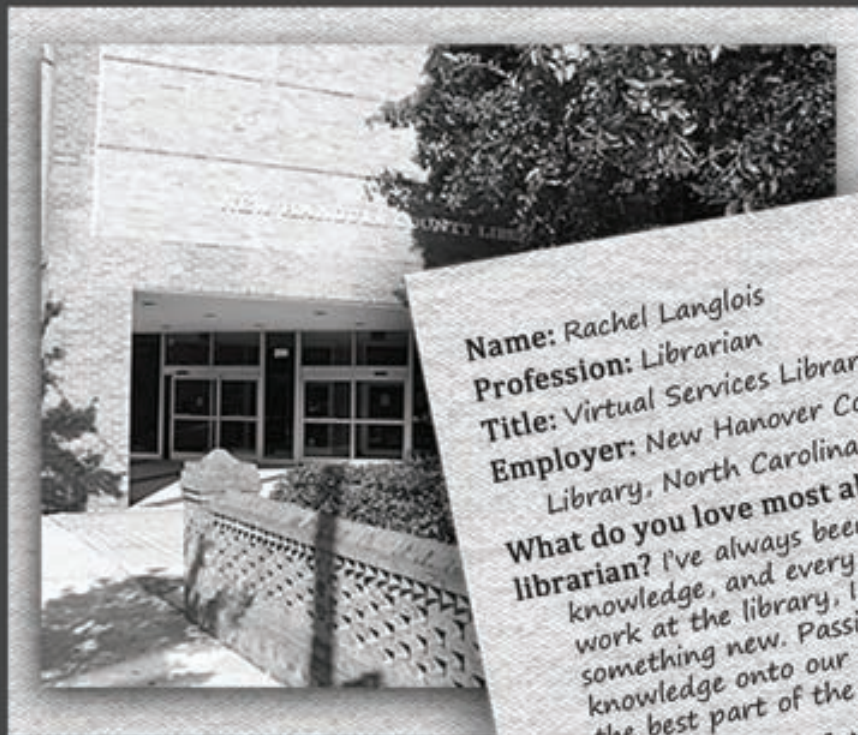
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