

Bankrupt Detroit Impacts Library, Employees

Four months after Detroit filed for the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, retired Detroit Public Library (DPL) employees are still worried over the fate of their retirement benefits, which are all but certain to be targeted for significant cuts.

On July 18, Detroit filed for bankruptcy, with debts estimated at \$18 billion to \$20 billion. Former library employees, now collecting benefits negotiated long ago by their union, are watching closely as a pivotal moment in Detroit’s fiscal crisis is played out in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Some former library employees are doing more than watching: in July, Michael Wells, a retiree who logged 34 years with DPL, and Janet Whitson, a fellow library retiree, joined Robbie Flowers, a current DPL employee, in filing a lawsuit in state court challenging the city’s right to declare bankruptcy, arguing that such an action would violate their rights by causing pension benefits to be slashed. (They are otherwise protected by Michigan’s state constitution.)

A judge later ordered a stay of that case, in anticipation of the wider le-

gal action that was heard in federal court. But William A. Wertheimer, attorney for the three plaintiffs, told *Hotline* that this early litigation was an important step, both in training a spotlight on the library retirees’ concerns and helping to pave the way for any appeals process that may become necessary.

The federal trial started on October 23 and ended on November 13, with filings on whether the city had negotiated in good faith with creditors. At press time, a decision was expected shortly.

If the city wins, a debt-restructuring plan would likely be presented to the court sometime around January 1. Kevyn D. Orr, the city’s state-appointed emergency manager, has said repeatedly that underfunded pensions account for about \$3.5 billion of Detroit’s debt, and large cuts will be required to balance the city’s books.

UNBALANCING THE CHECKBOOK

Balancing the city’s budget may unbalance the budgets of a lot of Detroit citizens, library employees included. One city proposal estimates that pensioners will receive about 16¢ on the dollar.

“There’s a lot riding on this,” said Wells. “I get calls all the time from

Interview

Tyler Capps

Learning to cook may be daunting, but author Tyler Capps uses humor, down-to-earth instructions, and cartoons to make the process fun in *Cooking Comically: Recipes So Easy You’ll Actually Make Them*



How did you begin cooking?

I really got started cooking only about three or so years ago. I’d had the itch to learn to cook for a really long time, but I had never been in a situation where I had my own kitchen and the time to play around in it. So as soon as I did, I went nuts.

What is your comic/art background?

I’ve been drawing ever since someone handed me my first crayon, and I grew up reading comic books and comic strips. That’s really been the one constant throughout my life.

Who are some of your influences?

My biggest influence by a pretty big stretch would have to be Bill Watterson and “Calvin and Hobbes.” I had every collection book growing up, and I read them religiously. They really shaped my view of comic strips and what they could achieve.

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LibraryAware Community Award

The LibraryAware Community Award emphasizes the library’s engagement with the community and will recognize a library or library system that has demonstrated its ability to make its community “aware” of what the library can do for it—and has delivered on that promise. The award will be given by *Library Journal* and funded by LibraryAware, a product of EBSCO Publishing’s Novelist Division.

Postmark deadline: **January 13, 2014**

former colleagues and people who worked for a long time. I have nothing to tell them right now. The unknown is really the fear.”

“There’s that anxiety of, ‘How are we going to cope?’” said Laurie Stuart, president of UAW Local 2200, which represents many library employees and has worked to champion retirees’ efforts to keep their pensions intact.

For years, Stuart said, DPL employees viewed the pensions as a significant perk negotiated in good faith, almost certainly at the expense of other attainable salary increases. “This was not expected,” Stuart told *Hotline*. “We all thought our pensions were secure.”

Jim Gibson, who retired last March at age 63 after 28 years with DPL managing six separate departments, said he retired earlier than first planned because he saw Detroit’s bankruptcy proceedings as inevitable and he wanted to begin receiving his pension, which amounts to about \$2,100 a month.

Asked if he did indeed retire at the right time, Gibson said, “It’s unknowable.”

HEALTH COSTS RISE

As the case unfolded, DPL retirees were given a new financial headache with which to cope. The city recently notified them by mail of significant hikes in their health insurance costs. About 28,000 current and retired employees are affected.

News of the increase in health-care costs was another body blow in an already tense year for the retirees. Those interviewed for this article de-

scribed living on fixed incomes with little or no room for unexpected expenses. This has only added to their determination to fight any attempt to cut into their pension benefits.

“It’s consuming for me to think about, and it’s starting to get me more and more angry,” said Whitson, who was forced to leave DPL on a permanent medical disability after dealing with some severe back ailments, including “two failed back surgeries,” one of them a spinal fusion procedure. She spoke of needing a variety of monthly prescriptions, whose copay will jump from \$5 to \$20 once the new costs take effect.

“We could ride out this health-care problem,” said Whitson, who has emerged as a public face of the city’s retiree population, granting numerous print and TV interviews. “Every American is going through this. It’s in flux for everyone. We understand that. But to now be threatened with our livelihood the way we are [with the pension cuts]...to me that is unforgivable.”

Wells, too, spoke of his financial preparation before retirement. Meticulously balancing his pension and other income against anticipated monthly expenses, Wells said he was confident of managing financially for his retirement years. But now, he said, fears of having his pension slashed and the recent health-care cost increases have upset this math. “Now they’re moving the goalposts on me,” Wells said.

AT DPL, BUSINESS AS USUAL

DPL is not without its own financial problems, but the city’s bank-

LIBRARY REFERENDA

If you had/are having a referenda for capital improvements and/or operating funds between December 1, 2012 and November 30, 2013, tell us how it turned out at www.libraryjournal.com/referenda.

The results will be included in *Library Journal’s* feature in April 15, 2014.

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ruptcy has not adversely affected its day-to-day operations, Executive Director Jo Anne Mondowney told *Hotline*. Ninety percent of its revenue is raised through millage, she said, although a shrinking tax base and steadily declining property values have forced severe budget cuts. There were branch closures in 2011, amid a series of systemwide controversies, and Mondowney said more belt-tightening is expected down the road. “We are not certain what’s going to happen,” she told *Hotline*.

Mondowney admitted that some vendors that regularly do business with DPL have expressed concern over the city’s bankruptcy and how it will bear upon the library’s financial health. “Rightly so,” she said. But Mondowney said DPL is committed to maintaining business as usual.

“Detroit is a fighting city,” Mondowney said. “The people here fight for what they believe in. They fight for their life, believe me.”

Judge Dismisses Lawsuit Against Google Books

In what analysts are describing as a big win for scholars and libraries, federal circuit court judge Denny Chin on November 14 dismissed a lawsuit against Google brought by the Authors Guild claiming that the company violated copyrights by digitizing millions of books and making short samples of the works available via its Google Books service. In the decision, Chin stated that Google Books provided “significant public benefits” and was protected by the principle of fair use.

Google has been scanning books into its searchable online database since 2004, while the Authors Guild has been suing over the practice since 2005. The guild’s case took a hit in July, when the 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals stripped it of class-action status.

On November 14, Judge Chin granted a motion filed by Google more than a year ago, in which it argued that authors’ copyrights were not damaged by having their titles

digitized into Google Books, as readers could not peruse the entire book but only explore selections from it. In order to read the whole thing, Google argued, “readers still must buy a

Archive To Crowdsource Digital Humanities

The Shelley-Godwin Archive, a free online resource featuring the digitized manuscripts of Percy Bysshe Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, William Godwin, and Mary Wollstonecraft, will include tools designed to encourage collaborative humanities research.

“What we want to do is create, in the archives, a platform for participatory curation and encoding of our manuscripts,” said Neil Fraistat, project director from the University of Maryland’s Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH).

The archive is a partnership among the New York Public Library, MITH, and Oxford University’s Bodleian Library, with contributions from the Huntington Library, the British Library, and the Houghton Library, which are believed to possess over 90 percent of all known relevant manuscripts attributed to the four writers.

Fraistat explained, “The question is, how can we involve the public in a way that helps to create citizen humanists? . . . We built this on an infrastructure that is meant to go far beyond simple access principles.”

Ranging from Percy Bysshe Shelley’s Romantic-era poetry to Wollstonecraft’s influential *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* and from Godwin’s writings on anarchism to Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, these manuscripts will make it easier to explore how the family influenced one another’s work. Through collaboration, “citizen humanists” can also help transcribe pages in the manuscripts that are currently available only as digital images of the handwritten pages, or even develop more authoritative versions of many of Percy Shelley’s poems.

Approximately one quarter of Percy Shelley’s poetic canon was published posthumously, Fraistat said, and many poems were incomplete. After his death, Mary Shelley did compile and prepare for publication an authoritative collection of posthumous poems, but her father-in-law, Sir Timothy Shelley, suppressed its publication. Mary Shelley had to wait until 1839 to publish her first edition of her late husband’s poetry. In the meantime, pirated versions had been circulating for almost two decades.

“She didn’t have enough copies of the first edition to mark them up for the printer,” explained Fraistat, so “she depended on the texts of two different pirates as her base text. While she caught many errors that were in the pirated text, she also didn’t catch many.”

Complicating matters further, many people, including Mary, began pulling lines from Percy’s unfinished poems and sharing them as poetic fragments. Editors started mixing and matching these fragments and publishing them as new works.

The archive is currently available to the public in beta release, which enables the exploration of all of the known manuscripts of *Frankenstein*. New content and functions, beginning with annotation features and drafts of *Prometheus Unbound*, will continue to be added until the online archive is complete.



book from a store or borrow it from a library.”

In the opinion, Judge Chin agreed that Google Books is not a place where readers can go to pirate books but rather a tool to help people find books that may be of interest to them. Chin cited libraries as a particular beneficiary, noting that “Google Books has become an essential research tool, as it helps librarians identify and find research sources, it makes the process of interlibrary lending more efficient, and it facilitates finding and checking citations.”

Attorney Jonathan Band, who penned a friend of the court brief on behalf of the Library Copyright Alliance, told *Hotline*, “Purely from a lib[rary] mission perspective, Google Books is extremely useful, so the decision is terrific.”

News in Brief

Stanford University Libraries, CA, is looking for applications for its second Stanford Prize for Innovation in Research Libraries. The winners will be announced February 2014.

The **University of Georgia’s Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies**, Athens, has acquired the archive of Robert J. Bielen, a former Peace Corps staff physician in the Dominican Republic. The collection includes manuscripts, scrapbooks, reports, photographs, books, and articles related to Bielen and the Peace Corps.

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and **Columbia University**, New York, received an 18-month grant totaling \$150,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The universities have partnered to convert historical titles into e-journals.

Additionally, **Columbia University’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library** acquired the archive of publisher **Granary Books**. The col-

Chin’s opinion is the latest in a series of defeats for the Authors Guild, which recently began its appeal against a similar decision in its case against the HathiTrust. James Grimmelmann, a University of Maryland law professor who has followed the case since it began, said that taken together, these decisions constitute a major win for the principles of fair use and accessibility. “This is a big step forward for full-text indexing,” Grimmelmann told *Hotline*. “The decision will encourage other institutions to digitize their collections and make them searchable.”

In his opinion, Chin also noted that Google Books could actually be of benefit to authors and publishers by helping readers to discover their books and offering them easy access to purchase the titles. “Hence,” Chin wrote, “Google

lection includes 30 years’ worth of production files for limited edition books.

Three libraries have received **Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)** grants from the State Library of Oregon to expand shared resources: **Albany Public Library**; **Lebanon Public Library**; and the **Linn-Benton Community College Library**, Albany.

Chatham-Kent Public Library, Ont., has integrated Innovative Interfaces’ Sierra Services Platform, the Encore discovery solution, and the Decision Center collection management tool into its system. It switched from SirsiDynix’s Horizon.

The **Seth MacFarlane Collection of the Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan Archive** opened to the public at the Library of Congress. The collection includes astronomer Carl Sagan’s (1934–1996) notebooks, report cards, correspondence, drafts of scientific papers, books, articles, and historical documents.

Books will generate new audiences and create new sources of income.”

The Authors Guild has already filed an appeal in the case. According to Grimmelmann, though, the Guild’s odds don’t look good, as previous cases have held that adding search functions to a work are transformative changes. “As a practical matter, the case is seeming increasingly resolved,” Grimmelmann said. “It’s looking like this is the new reality of fair use.”

Planned Library Shifts to Heart of Temple Campus

A new library planned for the north side of Temple University’s Philadelphia campus has been postponed as administration officials work to find the new facility a home closer to the center of campus. The planned \$190 million budget for the project, which includes \$50 million from the state of Pennsylvania, will remain the same, though ambitions for it to become what one board member described as “a great living room for Philadelphia” may be scaled back.

Temple University dean of libraries Joe Lucia told *Hotline*, “The project has not been cancelled. It’s just been moved off Broad Street.” Lucia claimed that wherever it’s placed, Temple’s new library is going to be “a space where the community can come to live its public intellectual life.”

Plans for a new library were first hatched seven years ago, as part of a master plan called “Temple 2020.” According to Lucia, the new library is the only project from that plan that hasn’t been completed. With the new administration taking suggestions from students, staff, and alumni over where the new library should be located, the time line for its completion is murky, though Lucia said in a statement that the goal is for the new

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library to be constructed in the next four years.

According to Lucia, “We think the new library is going to be the center of the academic experience, and we’re thinking about positioning it that way.”

Though philosophical differences played a role in scuttling the Broad Street location, practical and safety concerns came into play as well. The Broad Street library would have been rather inaccessible to students, requiring them to cross a busy four-lane street to access it from the rest of campus.

Lucia also confirmed that the new library would be an original building, not a renovation to Temple’s extant Paley Library. It will be designed by Snøhetta, the architecture firm behind North Carolina State University’s award-winning James B. Hunt Library, and Lucia envisions it hosting amenities like Maker spaces and facilities where students can work with data visualization software. As to what role Paley would play after the building of a new facility, there’s no official plan yet.

The site on Broad Street, meanwhile, is still owned by the university, and Lucia told *Hotline* that the property remains part of the plan for further developing Temple’s campus.

Neverwhere Returns to New Mexico Classes

Neil Gaiman’s best-selling urban fantasy novel *Neverwhere* has been restored to the curriculum at New Mexico’s Alamogordo High School (AHS), ending a temporary suspension owing to a parental challenge, the district superintendent’s office confirmed. According to the school’s media specialist, the book remained available to students in the library, although it had been pulled from English classes for several weeks until a



Illinois libraries got some solid funding news in late October. The **El Paso Public Library** (pictured) received a \$1.1 million Illinois Public Library Construction Act grant along with \$900,000 in matching donations to proceed with a renovation project that will double the size of the 1906 3,200 square foot Carnegie building, as well as install elevators and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—compliant restrooms. The bulk of the fundraising came from a \$600,000 bequest from the estate of Dorothy Yambert, per *Pan-tagraph.com*. Among the improvements will be a community room and a local history room. **Chatsworth Township Library** also benefitted from a likewise generous Illinois construction grant that will be used to construct a new \$1.5 million, 6,675 square foot library next to the local elementary school. It also will be ADA-compliant and include a dedicated children’s wing.

The **West Liberty Public Library**, IA, opened to the public on November 24, despite ongoing construction, following the completion of the majority of its 18-month renovation project. Todd-Hackett Construc-

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review committee found it to be acceptable for classroom study.

The principal of AHS, Darian Jaramillo, supported librarian Vicki Bertolino’s decision last month to keep the book available in the library—even as it was pulled from the Eng-

tion is responsible for the work, which included repairing water damage to the 11,500 square foot structure. The flooring installation in early November was the last item to be checked off before the facility could once again be put to public use. Among the new features are dedicated sections for children and teens and numerous electrical outlets “to accommodate 21st century needs,” per the *West Liberty Index*.

A “facelift” is on track for the **Harold Washington Library**, Chicago’s Central Library, to the tune of \$6 million. It will cover mechanicals, such as lighting, heating, cooling towers, generators, and the roof, per the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Exterior tuckpointing is in the plan as well. Also, the library’s **Maker Lab** received one of a dozen Chicago Innovation Awards.

On November 5, the Poway City Council approved \$1.5 million to move forward with plans for a remodel to the **Poway Branch Library**, part of San Diego County Library. The project, which will begin next spring, according to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, will include the incorporation of a canopy over the courtyard, an expanded children’s section, a dedicated teen zone, upgrades to the computer labs, and additional study rooms, among other amenities. The council’s infusion of cash will be combined with \$125,000 from the Friends of the Poway Library plus \$375,000 from the county. The project is looking for a late 2014 completion.

lish curriculum—until a review committee could be formed and make its final ruling, Bertolino told *Hotline*.

The 1996 novel, which had been a part of the AHS English department’s curriculum for nearly ten years, was suspended from classrooms in early

October after a mother complained to the school board about what she characterized as the book's "sexual innuendos" and "harsh" language—occurring on a single page of the 400-page book. The district then created a review committee and opened a public comment period.

"We have decided to continue to use *Neverwhere* as a supplemental text or material for Alamogordo High School," district spokesman Doyle Styling told *Hotline*. "It did go through a review process, and it was found to be educationally suitable, balanced, and age-appropriate for high school students."

OverDrive Offers New School Library Options

Digital content vendor OverDrive upgraded its digital service for school libraries, with a choice of thematic visual screen settings, more deft search

tools, a new book recommendation system, and social media options, among other features.

OverDrive's upgraded metadata now allows students and teachers to cross-search libraries' collections of ebooks, audio, music, and video according to genre, Lexile and ATOS reading levels, and other categories. The site also allows educators to create thematic book lists and students to adjust their checkout time and suggest titles they would like their libraries to acquire.

Librarians can also select which subjects and genres appear under the Subjects drop-down menu.

Other features include highlighting, bookmarking, and a table of contents that includes percentage figures telling readers how far along each chapter falls in the book. An FAQ feature and step-by-step videos offer assistance to students using the service.

Launched in August, the rollout of the free upgrades is nearing completion for all of the 6,500 school libraries currently using OverDrive's digital services, said David Burleigh, director of marketing.

Common Core State Standards search options aren't included in OverDrive's updated template, but OverDrive will customize the Collections drop-down menu offerings according to teachers' needs, with up to 12 custom collections, said Burleigh.

hoopla Inks Agreements with Major Studios

Midwest Tape's pay per circ streaming media service hoopla added thousands of popular movies and television shows to its lineup, through new agreements with Universal Pictures, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, National Geographic, and BBC America.

In addition, hoopla in early November unveiled its enhanced 2.0 interface for Android, Apple iOS, and the web, featuring a new design and compatibility with Apple TV streaming devices, which will facilitate the viewing of hoopla content on large-screen televisions. The upgrade also features browsing by title suggestion and enables users to view or listen to content while browsing.

Recently, hoopla worked with the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, the University of Toledo, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, and the University of Cincinnati to sign up students for library cards.

"Our libraries have told us if we set up a booth at the student union, we normally sign up a maximum of 20 to 30 cardholders per day," said Jeff Jankowski, vice president of Midwest Tape and founder of hoopla digital. With hoopla offering demos, "we signed up more than 150."

People

Anita Ditz, Head of Children's Services at the Schlow Centre Region Library, State College, PA, received the 2014 Pennsylvania Library Association's Distinguished Service Award. She has been with the library for 30 years.

Marie Elia was appointed Processing Archivist in the Poetry Collection at the University at Buffalo Libraries. She previously served as Senior Cataloger at the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh.

Elizabeth McCraw was named Special Collections and Humanities Cataloger at the University of North Carolina's Wilson Special Collections Library, Chapel Hill. She was previously Special Projects Cataloger for the library.

James McShane was appointed Director of the Rapid City Public Libraries, SD. He previously held the same position at the Kent

Memorial Library, Suffield, CT.

Carole Medal, Executive Director of the Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, IL, received the 2013 Illinois Library Association Librarian of the Year Award. She has been with the library since 2004.

Jerome L. Myers was named Assistant Director for Public Services at Westport Library, CT. He was previously Public Services Director at the Hartford Public Library, CT, and a 2004 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker.

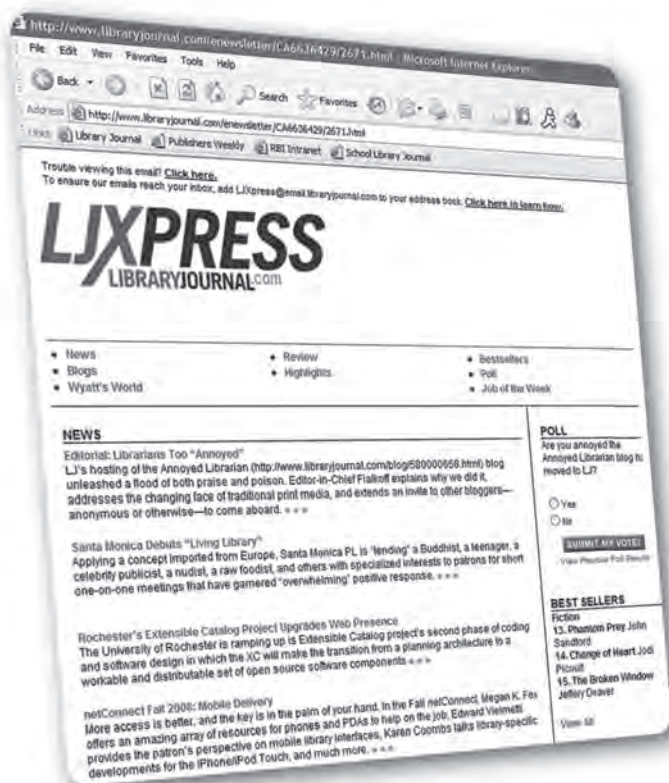
Suzanne Olawski was promoted to Deputy Director at the Berkeley Public Library, CA. She was previously the library's Neighborhood and Children's Services Manager.

Robin Weed-Brown announced her retirement as Director of the Glendora Public Library, CA, effective in December. She has been with the library for 13 years.

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