

Winter in Philadelphia | ALA Midwinter 2014

Snow and cold presented transportation challenges in getting to Philadelphia for the American Library Association's (ALA) 2014 Midwinter Meeting, leading some exhibitors to express disappointment in the light crowds on the exhibit floor, though ALA reported attendance of 12,207, topping recent Midwinters in San Diego, Dallas, and Seattle.

Privacy, an ongoing preoccupation of librarians, was a running leit motif at Midwinter as usual. The Washington Update—Under a Microscope: The Story Behind the Revelations About the NSA Surveillance Programs—was well attended despite its early time slot.

Issues about the usability and findability of ebooks continued to be of abiding interest, with many positive developments. ReadersFirst released its first guide to ebook providers, giving all of the major vendors high marks, in large part because they've all released APIs that can be used to integrate their offerings into a library's ILS—and ILS vendors have been partnering with the ebook providers to make such integrations work

in practice, not just theory. On the academic side, defining the boundaries of fair use continues to be of interest. On the U.S. landscape, Sunday afternoon saw a look behind the scenes of the Google Books court decision.



“I think this is a victory for not just Google or libraries,” said Google legal director of copyright Fred von Lohmann. “It shows that fair use continues to be an important part of how copyright works in the United States.”

Fair use issues are also in flux beyond the U.S. borders, with the World Intellectual Property Organi-

zation (WIPO) considering a treaty that would define library-specific exceptions and other countries moving from a specific laundry list approach to a more flexible one, as Janice Pilch of Rutgers University Libraries and Peter Jaszi of the American University, Washington College of Law Library, explained at Fair Use and DRM in Libraries: Beyond the United States; An Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) Forum.

The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition/Association of College & Research Libraries (SPARC/ACRL) Forum focused on the confluence of two major ongoing trends: big data and open access (OA). Panelists discussed the necessity of helping data move toward OA along with the journal articles that data produces. Clifford Lynch, executive director, Coalition for Networked Information, moderated the panel, saying that the goal was to “make it easier to move between articles and data,” which would make room for new analysis of extant data.

GOOD GOVERNMENT

On Saturday morning, January 25, the What's Next for E-rate pan-

Photos by Kevin Heneghan

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Library of the Year

All libraries are good, some are great. *LJ* is looking for role-model libraries to vie for the honor of being the 2014 *Library Journal*/Gale Cengage Library of the Year. To learn more and submit your nominations, visit ow.ly/swYmZ.

Postmark deadline: April 5

Interview

Richard Reyes-Gavilan

After nearly five years as the executive director of the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), Richard Reyes-Gavilan is heading south to lead another of the nation's most notable urban library systems as head of the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL), and *Hotline* spoke with him about the transition.



What made the position at DCPL attractive to you?

The administration has been exceptionally supportive of library services, and that is gold. So

few cities have that kind of electoral official support—it's really great to feel I'll be able to focus on doing things rather than getting support to do things.

What in particular impressed you about that support in recent years?

There has been a tremendous amount of energy into new and renovated branches lately. From a staff perspective, the system has done a huge amount of hiring in recent months. There's a whole lot of new energy in the system, and it's going to be a thrill, a joy, and a challenge to harness [it].

What are you most proud of during your time in Brooklyn?

The new Information Commons at Brooklyn's Central Branch stands out. I had a vision for a new space in that building months after I got there in 2008 and to work on that space from the planning to the fundraising to overseeing the construction.... That will probably be the thing I'm most proud of.

What advice would you give your successor at BPL?

The advice I would give is to spend as much time away from your desk as humanly possible. This is a job where you're positioned to get stakeholders thinking about libraries in new ways.

el concentrated on ways to get more out of the program for libraries, ideally while putting out less in the way of time and effort to earn the discounts. That means changes that result in an E-rate program that works smarter, not harder, and makes fewer time-consuming paperwork requirements of library staff.

During Sunday morning's update, the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) representatives shared program and process news relevant to libraries. In an effort to provide more flexibility to grantees, IMLS is changing its granting process this year, moving to a two-deadline system, in October and February.

INSIDE ALA

Going into the conference, debate frequently centered on ALA's new Code of Conduct. It drove a significant part of the discussion at the Intellectual Freedom Roundtable. Yet despite concerns that it might do so, the code did not dominate LITA's Challenges of Gender Issues in Technology Librarianship panel, which instead focused on the importance of intersectionality. Regardless of some technical difficulties, panelist Cecily Walker (attending via Skype) struck a key note when she spoke to the importance of getting beyond anecdotes of deliberate harassment to address the structural systems that perpetuate discrimination. While reports from the final Council session are not yet in, so far, ALA's internal governance has been proceeding in an incremental and evolutionary way.

The proposed changes in the draft revised standards for accreditation of MLS programs place a greater emphasis on systemic planning and assessment but do not impose more proscriptive standards for program content, admission standards, or numbers of students. Neither do they propose rankings or dramatically more

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data collection and dissemination (though ALA staff did mention that the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, which accredits ALA as an accreditor, is pushing in the direction of additional data). Other suggested changes include making a greater distinction between the roles of tenure-line and nontenure-line faculty; making a stronger statement on diversity for both students and faculty; and emphasizing measuring outcomes over inputs (echoing the discussions pervading librarianship).

Report: U.S. Students Struggle with Reading

A majority of fourth graders in the United States still don't read proficiently, according to a "Kids Count" report released by the Annie E. Casey

Foundation. The data shows that 80 percent of lower-income fourth graders and 66 percent of all youngsters are not reading at grade level at the start of fourth grade.

Although reading scores were slightly higher overall when compared with a decade ago, according to the report "Early Reading Proficiency in the United States," two-thirds of all children did not meet that important benchmark. At the same time, the gap between students from higher- and lower-income families grew wider, with 17 percent improvement seen among the former group compared to only a six percent improvement among their lower-income peers.

"The good news is that all but six states have made progress in improving reading proficiency in the last ten years," said Laura Speer, associate di-

rector of policy advocacy reform for the foundation. "However, more than 50 percent of children in every state are not proficient readers by the time they enter fourth grade. New Mexico and Mississippi have the worst outcomes (79 percent), while Massachusetts has the best (53 percent)."

This latest data snapshot compared reading data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress released in November 2013 with data taken from the assessment in 2003, when a majority of states began participating. Despite an improvement over the last decade in reading proficiency in many states, large disparities remained not only among economic classes but also in certain racial minorities (black, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native) and their white and Asian peers, according

Lemony Snicket Prize for Librarians Facing Adversity

A day in the sun awaits long-suffering librarians: the American Library Association (ALA) has approved the new Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity, proposed and funded by the "Series of Unfortunate Events" author himself, Daniel Handler.

The prize is designed to honor "a librarian who has faced adversity with integrity and dignity intact," according to the award proposal. ALA council gave the prize a thumbs-up at the ALA Midwinter Meeting held in Philadelphia January 24–28, 2014.

The annual award—granted only if a suitable candidate is found—comes with a cash prize of \$3,000 from Snicket's book earnings, plus an additional \$1,000 for travel expenses. In addition, Snicket, whose picture book *The Dark* earned him the Charlotte Zolotow Award, will provide the winner with "an odd, symbolic object from his private stash" and "a certificate, which may or may not be suitable for framing."

"We're all trying to envision what this certificate might be," said Nanette Perez, program officer at ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF), who worked to bring Snicket's idea to the table.

"This seems like a better way to channel money to librarians than my previous strategy, which was incurring exorbitant late fees," Snicket said of the award.

"Lemony had originally contacted ALSC (Association for Library

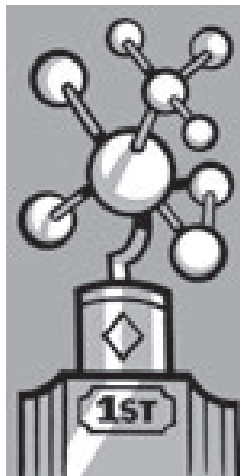
Services to Children) to establish an award to honor a children's librarian," Perez added. But "ALSC thought it would be better opened up to all librarians—not just children's librarians who face adversity. They contacted the [OIF] because usually when people think of adversity, they think of librarians facing challenged books."

Discussing the proposal at ALA, "Everyone was very positive," said Perez. Some of the responses included, "You mean a famous author wants to recognize my work as a librarian? Yes, please!" "This is too fun to not pass up," and "I want to attend the awards ceremony every year now just to see what the 'odd object' is."

The five-person awards jury will include one non-voting OIF rep and ALA members, including at least one from the youth divisions—ALSC, AASL (American Association of School Librarians), YALSA (Young Adult Library Association)—and at least one from the IFC (Intellectual Freedom Committee) or IFRT (Intellectual Freedom Round Table).

The deadline for applications is May 1, and the winner will be announced at ALA's 2014 annual conference in Las Vegas.

"A bunch of people have already expressed interest on Twitter and Facebook," Perez said. "Right now I'm scrambling to get it out on the website." She added that ALA's online application—ala.org/awardsgrant/lemonysnicket—was to be live as of February 7.



The Snicket Prize.
Art by Seth.

to the snapshot. Dual-language learners, who are the driving force behind the country's demographic change, were among the least likely to hit this important milestone.

"Reading is critical for all children," Ralph Smith, senior vice president of the foundation and managing director of the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, told *Hotline*. "It is unacceptable to have the gap in reading proficiency rates between low-income and high-income children increase by nearly 20 percent over the last decade."

OCLC Introduces WorldCat Discovery Services

OCLC on January 22 announced WorldCat Discovery Services (WDS), a suite of cloud-based applications that combine FirstSearch and WorldCat Local. Beginning in March, the suite will offer FirstSearch subscribers access to a central index that represents nearly 2,000 e-content collections containing articles, ebooks, and other content from providers including EBSCO, Gale, and ProQuest. In total, WDS will enable the discovery of 1.3 billion electronic, digital, and physical resources in libraries worldwide, using a single search.

"The big change here, for FirstSearch users, is the inclusion of content that used to only come with WorldCat Local," Andrew Pace, executive director of networked library services for OCLC, told *Hotline*.

Developed with input and feedback from 650 beta test libraries and an advisory group of 30 librarians, WDS will ultimately supplant both FirstSearch and WorldCat Local. To facilitate the transition, FirstSearch will continue to operate in parallel with WDS for a year, while WorldCat Local subscribers will have access to both services for 18 months during a beta period beginning in April 2014.

Barbara Brattin was named Director, Kenosha Public Library, WI. She previously held the same title at Wilkinson Public Library, Telluride, CO.

Pamela Dong was named Manager of the Jackson Branch of the Ocean County Library, NJ. She was previously Head of Customer Service and an Associate Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers.

Brytani Fraser was appointed Librarian at the Conover and Claremont Branches of the Catawba County Library System, NC. She was previously Youth Services Library Assistant at Mooresville Public Library, NC.

Jody Hanneman has resigned as Youth Services Coordinator at Black River Falls Public

Library, WI. She had been with the library for more than four years.

Roberta Menger has retired as Director of Bayfield Carnegie Library, WI. She had been with the library for 23 years.

Emily Myhren was named Children's Librarian, Midland Park Memorial Library, NJ. She was previously a Monitor at the Jackson Branch of the Ocean County Library, NJ.

Dillon Savage was appointed Instructional Applications Developer at Barnard College Library, New York. He was previously an Applications Developer at New York Public Library.

John White was named Dean of Libraries at the College of Charleston, SC. He had served as Interim Dean since 2012.

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In addition to the index, several new features will be included as part of existing FirstSearch subscriptions. For example, the WDS interface was developed using responsive design techniques, enabling it to adjust automatically to any screen size, including desktops, tablets, and mobile devices. In addition, the suite will offer subscribers several fee-based, optional features, such as customized traffic and usage reports, or management tools for course reserves and reading lists.

"What you're seeing is [a library's] existing investment in FirstSearch databases and reference interface, a tremendous amount of additional value—such as the central index and the discovery features that will be part of the application—coming to them as part of their existing investment, rather than them having to go out to a commercial product and spend an extra \$20,000, \$30,000, or \$40,000 for the same functionality," John McCullough, discovery product manager for OCLC, told *Hotline*.

McCullough added that several features of FirstSearch will be retained, such as advanced and expert search modes, as well as many backend features for staff, noting that "the beta was all about bringing over all of the features that librarians had come to depend on."

Novice researchers will benefit from the transition as well, McCullough said, describing the discovery experience using the basic search mode in WDS as "vastly improved" compared with FirstSearch. By combining the capabilities of WorldCat Local with FirstSearch, WDS basic searches will ensure that a library's own resources are listed first in search results, for example. Patrons will also have access to direct links to any full-text resources to which their library subscribes, in addition to other features.

Kurt Munson, resource sharing and reserve librarian, Northwestern University, and part of OCLC's Reference Advisory Group, described WDS as "an ideal combination of appli-

cations for librarians and end users alike. WorldCat Discovery can help us do the complicated work librarians do, and yet it is simple enough for users to just walk up, use it, and find what they need," he said in a statement.

School Library Advocacy Gains Steam in Missouri

In an era when school districts are chopping funds to libraries, Union, MO, is looking to break the mold—and give more.

The Union R-XI School District is working to increase the budgets for all five of its K-12 school libraries, hoping to hire aides to assist in the lower grades, offer more money for materials, redesign its high school library space, and even bump up its digital services.

"Our libraries meet state standards," said Ron Sohn, a school board member. "But just because you meet state standards...doesn't mean that's where you want to be."

A former assistant superintendent who watched his four children move through the district, Sohn was an eager advocate when current assistant superintendent Aaron Jones presented his case for a larger school library budget to the board at its meeting in December.

Taking on his new role at the beginning of the 2013–14 school year, Jones has made school libraries one of his priorities. Concerned about the age of books and other materials, Jones asked school librarians to put together ideas about how they would improve their space and collections.

Missouri's Union R-XI School District's libraries, including Union

Middle School, Beaufort Elementary, and Union High School, could gain funds, thanks to efforts by Sohn and Jones.

"We want to see how we can take [libraries] to the next level," Jones told *Hotline*. "We want to turn the library media centers into the hub of the building. It's what I've always felt a library should be."

Technology is also a priority. Union launched a BYOD (bring your own device) pilot program at the high school and middle school in 2013–14, allowing students to use personal devices as tools, said Sohn. The program has been so successful, he said, the district is looking potentially to expand in the upper elementary grades next year.

Top Tech Trends at ALA Midwinter 2014

Codes of conduct and antiharassment policies were listed among the leading current trends during the annual LITA Top Tech Trends panel at the 2014 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia.

"We've all been talking about ALA's code of conduct, and I want to give a little bit of context; it comes out of the technology sphere," said Brett Bonfield, director of the Collingswood Public Library, NJ, and a 2012 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker. "If you want to change technology, one of the best tacks is changing the group of people who are creating the technology," he added, arguing that codes of conduct help create a more welcoming environment for women and minorities.

In response to a growing number of documented incidents of sexual harassment at tech conferences, many tech communities began adopting antiharassment policies in 2011, Bonfield said. That trend led ALA to codify its own set of rules this year.

News in Brief

The **American Library Association Public Programs Office** received a **National Leadership Grant** from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services**. The money will fund its one-year **National Impact of Library Public Programs Assessment** project.

Lafayette College's Skillman Library, Easton, PA, received the 2014 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries. The library was given \$3,000 and a plaque.

Ingram's OASIS platform added content from **ProQuest's Ebook Library (EBL)**. OASIS users now have access to more than 400,000 new titles from EBL.

The **H.W. Wilson Foundation** awarded scholarship grants to **14 American Library Association–accredited schools**: Kent State University, OH; San Jose University, CA; Simmons College, Boston; State University of New York, Albany; University of Alberta; Uni-

versity of Arizona, Tucson; University of British Columbia; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; University of North Texas, Denton; University of Rhode Island, Kingston; University of South Carolina, Columbia; University of Texas, Austin; University of Western Ontario; and Wayne State University, Detroit.

The **St. Louis Public Library** received a **2014 Institute Honor Award for Architecture** from the **American Institute of Architects**. It was honored for its Central Library restoration and renewal project.

Innovative Interfaces released its update of **Encore 4.4**. It includes OverDrive eBook integration, ChiliFresh ratings and reviews, and new EBSCO Discovery Service integration features.

Additionally, France's **Université François-Rabelais de Tours Libraries** switched to **Innovative Interfaces' Sierra Services Platform**. It is the first French institution to do so.

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“Codes of conduct are not just about being fair to women in technology, they are about all forms of inclusiveness in technology,” said Leslie Johnston, director of the National Digital Infrastructure and Preservation Program at the Library of Congress (LC). “They are about stopping harassment for any group,” she said.

CSI: THE LIBRARY

Johnston also described digital forensics as a top trend to watch. It refers to the recovery, investigation, and authentication of information stored on digital devices and has historically been associated with law enforcement activities. Still, these activities are becoming increasingly important to libraries and archives as well.

“We do not receive any personal collections anymore that do not include digital content,” she said of LC’s collections. “All of the collections we receive now are hybrid collections,” containing both print content, such as letters, and content saved on media such as floppy disks or CDs.

OPENING UP

Both Emily Gore, director of content for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), and John Shank, head of the Thun Library and Boscov-Lakin Information Commons at Penn State University, discussed trends with the theme of openness.

By making their resources more easily discoverable through DPLA, their partners are seeing a “mass reuse” of their data through the organization’s open API, Gore said. For example, she noted that the Minnesota Digital Library’s traffic is up 55 percent since joining DPLA.

“The tons of money that we [as a field] have spent on digital imaging and metadata creation often hasn’t had the return that administrators thought that it should over the years,” she said. “But by opening up



February 3 marked the reopening of the **Northeast Library** (pictured), a branch of District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL). Originally built in 1932, the Georgian Revival-style facility closed for renovations in September 2012. Following a \$10 million makeover, the new Northeast features restored woodwork, new plumbing and mechanical systems, improved lighting, a larger meeting room, quiet study rooms, new restrooms and a new elevator, a fully repaired roof, fresh flooring, and an upgraded interior. The entrance has been relocated for easier access. Additionally, the library now encompasses increased community space; the basement has been re-invented into a welcoming area that will accommodate 100 people. The design/build team comprises Bell Architects and Vines Architecture with Whiting-Turner Construction.

Shively, KY, residents will be looking forward in three months to the reopening of the 2,747 square foot **Shively Library**, which is undergoing a \$200,000 remodel, according to the *Courier-Journal*. This branch of the

Louisville Free Public Library will get a new entrance, extra computers, new restrooms, new carpeting, and upgraded mechanicals.

Work is almost finished at the **Stuttgart Public Library**, AR, which underwent a multiphase renovation and expansion that began in mid-2013. According to the *Stuttgart Daily Leader*, phase one will end with the opening of the new children’s department, around March 1. The second phase involves the inclusion of additional computer areas, a lounge space, and a dedicated teen zone. The last part of the project will encompass the installation of extra shelving and study carrels and the relocation of the genealogy department downstairs for accessibility.

Another project coming to fruition is the **Cañon City Public Library**, CO (see *Hotline*, 4/1/13). Phases three and four of the work on the 17,500 square foot facility, which was originally founded in 1886, involves the renovation of the 1980s main floor and the historic Carnegie portion of the building, according to the *Cañon City Daily Record*. Restrooms will receive upgrades to meet Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. Support for the final segments of the renovation will come from a \$200,000 State Historical Fund grant through History Colorado, in addition to \$75,000 from the city.

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this content and this metadata, it is clear that a return is coming.”

Shank focused on open educational resources (OER), beginning with a discussion of the rising cost of college textbooks, and how faculty at many institutions are beginning to respond to this issue by creating open textbooks.

“They provide digital access to those textbooks, whether on a com-

puter or ereader,” Shank said. “And those types of textbooks are increasingly being seen as possible alternatives to the traditional model.”

Open textbooks aren’t just offering students a way to save money. The digital format enables faculty to present content in new ways, by embedding video, podcast, apps, or interactive content such as quizzes.

Customer Profile #172



Names: Jennifer Wells & Rebecca Mendelsohn

Profession: Branch Manager & Children's Librarian

Employer: Cobb County Public Library, Marietta, Georgia

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