

Levy Defeat Means Drastic Cuts for WV Library

Large-scale staff cuts, branch closures, and slashed program offerings are all on the table as the Kanawha County Public Library in Charleston—widely considered West Virginia’s best library system and the state’s largest—works to reshape itself after a state Supreme Court decision permanently altered KCPL’s annual funding mechanism and created a \$3 million budget gap that will require the library to cut spending by 40 percent in 2014.

In November, voters soundly defeated a spending levy that would have kept the library budget whole.

With that last hope dashed, Mike Albert, president of Kanawha County’s library board of directors, told *Hotline* in a phone interview, steps are being taken to map out belt-tightening strategies “in a reasonable and sane fashion.” KCPL’s current \$7.5 million operating budget is fully funded through June 2014, but after that, “obviously when you lose 40 percent of your budget, it’s going to have an impact,” Albert said.

For KCPL officials, this crisis is a worst-case scenario come true, following a decade of acrimony and legal battles with the local board of edu-

cation. Both sides saw victories in the courts along the way, but in February 2013, the West Virginia Supreme Court ruled that local school boards were no longer required to contribute part of their budget to help fund county libraries, finding that the 1957 special state act that created this mechanism was unconstitutional.

It was a resounding win for the Kanawha County school board, which first sued in 2003 to sever its financial ties to the library, arguing that having to devote money to a “non-school” purpose amounted to unfair and unequal treatment, since only nine of West Virginia’s 55 county systems were funded through this requirement. The board had been giving KCPL about \$3 million annually, or roughly 1.25 percent of the school district’s total spending and 40 percent of the library budget.

WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE THE LIBRARY?

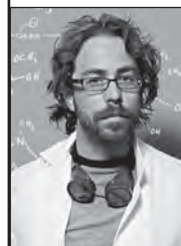
“That library has always been the gold standard,” Karen Goff, secretary of the West Virginia Library Commission, told *Hotline* in a recent phone interview. “I don’t know how they’ll sustain it.”

Options already presented to the board include closing six of the nine existing KCPL branches, defunding

Interview

Jonathan Coulton

Musician Jonathan Coulton’s success is inextricably linked to the Internet-based “Thing a Week” project for which he recorded 52 songs in one year. Coulton talked to *Hotline*



about how the Internet has changed collaboration and how libraries’ physical space can assist that creativity.

Do you think that a good social media

presence is as important as good music?

You can’t get anywhere with just one. I think of social media as a way of enhancing and enabling whatever organic word of mouth is already happening.

You’ve encouraged fan engagement with your music. Was this how you always envisioned sharing your work?

Once I discovered Creative Commons, it made so much sense. It seems insane to take a position that what you make is completely yours and no one may trifle with it.

Would you consider using the library as a place to create and collaborate with fans or other musicians?

I think it’s a great idea. It’s a really beautiful way to think about the purpose of a library as it changes over time.

Photo by Dale May

INSIDE

- L.A. Schools Lose Librarians 2
- Teachers Earn Digital Badges..... 4
- Library Patrons Shift to Online..... 4
- Mobile Tech Users Move to Android.... 6
- CO, SkyRiver Team in Cataloging..... 7



Paralibrarian of the Year

Library Journal will honor one support staffer with the 15th annual Paralibrarian of the Year award, sponsored by DEMCO, in its March 1 issue.

Learn more to submit your nominations at ow.ly/rprQf.

Postmark deadline: January 13

the mobile library, and severing ties to several community programs. For example, the 2013 West Virginia Book Festival in Charleston, sponsored by KCPL, was canceled owing to budget constraints.

In a November 12 statement to the library board of directors, Albert said, "These will be difficult times, but we intend to proceed in a diligent and thoughtful manner.... This is not the kind of work any of us wants to do. We must deal with it. KCPL will remain the largest public library in West Virginia and will continue to provide the best possible service to all of the people of Kanawha County."

NO PLANS TO FOLLOW SUIT

Although the Supreme Court cited nine county boards of education affected by the legislature's 1957 special act, Goff, at the state library commission, said that seven, besides Kanawha County, are directly affected by the ruling.

Those seven school boards could now challenge their requirement to channel part of their budget into funding for the local library networks. But Goff told *Hotline* that she believes few, if any, of those boards will take advantage of this opening. A small sampling seems to support Goff's opinion.

"It was never a consideration," Michael L. Queen, president of the Harrison County Board of Education, said of attempting a legal challenge to sever its financial contribution to the library network there. "We'll continue to fund our libraries at the level which we have always funded" them.

Tim Yeater, president of the Wood County board of education, echoed that sentiment. "There is no one even considering not financing" the library, he said. The schools there contribute about \$450,000 over a five-year period—a small slice of the district's \$17 million budget for the same time frame.

In Raleigh County, school officials told a local newspaper that they, also, have no intention of trying to end their financial support of the local library.

But Goff cautioned that legal safeguards are no longer in place to prevent these school boards from changing their minds down the road.

"Nobody's breathing easy," she told *Hotline*. "Board of education funding is now voluntary—and not mandated. And boards of education are elected."

L.A. School Libraries Lose Materials and Librarians

Los Angeles K–12 schools, already operating with a paucity of teacher librarians, now also have a shortage of library aides. While parent-teacher organizations are stepping in to raise funds to hire library staff in a few cases, other school libraries are being run by volunteers—violating the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) own rules and resulting in the loss of potentially millions of dollars worth of materials.

"We have proof that volunteers are doing that," said Franny Parrish, about volunteers running school libraries. "They're even giving volunteers access codes to check books in and out."

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**

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
Library Journal & School Library Journal

VP, Group Publisher Ian Singer

Editorial Director Rebecca T. Miller

Editor Ian Chant

Contributing Editors

Lauren Barack, Kate DiGirolomo,

Matt Enis, Bette-Lee Fox,

Meredith Schwartz, Bob Warburton

Art Production Josephine Marc-Anthony

Creative Director Mark Tuchman

TO CONTACT HOTLINE:

Editorial

Phone: (646) 380-0700

Fax: (646) 380-0756/0757

E-mail: LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com

160 Varick Street, 11th floor

New York, NY 10013

Advertising

Roy Futterman or your LJ rep

Phone: (646) 380-0718

rfutterman@mediasourceinc.com

Classified

Howard Katz, Classified Manager

Phone: (646) 380-0730

Production

JoAnn Powell, Production Manager

Phone: (646) 380-0741

Subscriptions

Phone: 800-588-1030

www.libraryhotline.com/sub

Outside U.S.

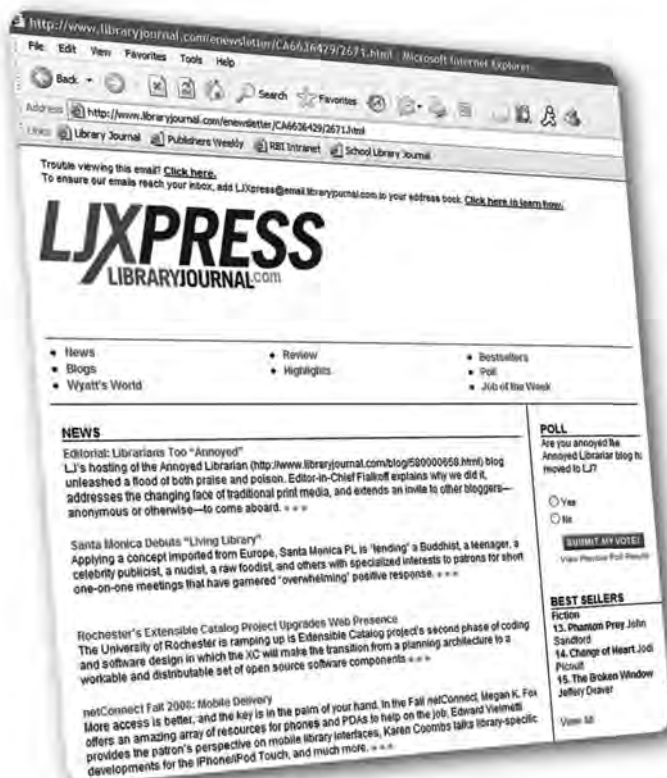
Phone: 515-247-2984

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.

LJXPRESS

LIBRARYJOURNAL.com



LJXpress is a fast track to the latest news, reviews, articles, columns, tech talk, and LibraryJournal.com web-exclusive interviews, reviews, blogs, collection development lists, and more for public and academic librarians.

**GET IT FIRST, GET IT FAST,
GET LJXPRESS!**

LIBRARYJOURNAL.com®

**SIGNING UP IS EASY AT
www.LibraryJournal.com/xpress**

Parrish, a library aide at Dixie Canyon Community Charter School for the past year, works 15 hours a week serving 700 kindergarten through fifth graders. The school lacks a teacher librarian on staff. Parrish has seen schools stripped of useful library time for their students—and stripped as well of important learning materials, including books, she said.

At Dixie Canyon, Parrish inventoried the book collection when she started in September 2012 and found \$12,000 worth of books missing. The school library had been open to teachers who could check out books for students, but without any library staff to help, materials were often not returned.

“For a teacher to track down books

and run a class, that’s not possible,” said Parrish, who is also a member of the California School Employees Union and has filed a grievance against LAUSD. “We believe millions of dollars of books across the district are missing.”

But LAUSD schools don’t have the funds, it appears, to hire staff to run every school library. Just 349 library aide positions were funded for the 2013–14 school year—and only 40 of them paid for by the district—to support 18 primary centers, 469 elementary schools, 85 middle schools, 85 high schools, and 28 span schools where various grades are at one site, according to data from LAUSD.

At some schools, like Wonderland Avenue Elementary in Canyon Hills, parent-teacher associations (PTAs) have reportedly stepped in to help fund some assistance. But for eager parents who may not have the ability to fund a position yet have the time to volunteer? LAUSD says to stay home.

A policy bulletin published in April strictly outlines the way volunteers can—and cannot—work in school libraries. If a library aide is not on staff in an elementary school, or a teacher librarian is not on staff in a middle or high school, volunteers cannot help with basic tasks like checking books in and out.

That’s precisely why Parrish got involved with filing a grievance against LAUSD, to protest the district’s statement that school libraries should be open but with nonaides or teacher librarians running them. She said she will keep filing new grievances until proper funding is restored for “appropriate staffing” to all the libraries in the district.

Libraries See Use Shift from in Person to Online

Fifty-four percent of Americans visited a library in person or used a

New Site Offers Teachers Digital Badges for New Skills

Even teachers need a little acknowledgment for learning new skills, according to Laura Fleming, a school library media specialist at New Milford High School in Bergen County, NJ.

Through her site, Worlds of Learning, Fleming is offering teachers at her school and beyond the opportunity to earn digital badges—indicators of accomplishment that can be posted online—for mastering digital literacy in a number of areas.

Fleming said that her site, launched in October, provides a fun way for educators to be self-motivated and rewarded for their efforts. “This is supposed to be informal learning,” said Fleming, who joined New Milford this year but has been a school librarian for a decade. “I want to keep it that way. I want them to feel this is a safe place and at the same time be challenged.”

Fleming built the site for about \$300 with open software, paying for a screencast program and hosting costs. She doesn’t yet know how many badges her site has granted, but teachers and other aspiring badge earners have accessed Worlds of Learning from far and wide, she said. One educator from California State University requested permission to adopt the site for her own use, which Fleming allowed.

To date, teachers at Fleming’s school can earn badges for proficiency in very specific skill sets: WeVideo, an online video editor; ThingLink, a graphics generator; AnswerGarden, a polling tool; Wordle, a word cloud program; and QR Code Generator. Fleming now adds a new badge “each week or so,” she said.

All the badge-earning apps Fleming suggests are free, and Worlds of Learning provides screencasts describing the tools and how to use them. The badges can be displayed on sites through Credly, a service that issues and shares badges, as well as Mozilla OpenBadges.

Fleming said that the “majority of the staff at New Milford High have joined” her site. “I don’t want them using any tool because it’s cool,” she said. “I only want them using tools... that will help [children to learn].”

Fleming hopes that New Milford teachers will share and incorporate their newfound skills into lessons. Her students have begun earning badges on the site as well, a trend she would like to continue. In the meantime, Fleming stressed the importance of teachers honing their technical expertise. “If [you’re] going to teach kids how to write, you have to write yourself,” she told *Hotline*, noting that digital technology is included in the Common Core State Standards. “My goal is to have teachers incorporate digital badging into their instruction.”



public library's website at least once during the past 12 months, and 70 percent of parents have taken their child to a public library or bookmobile in 2013, according to "How Americans Value Public Libraries in Their Communities," a report released in December by the Pew Research Center. The nationally representative survey of 6,224 Americans 16 and older indicated that the overwhelming majority of Americans continue to have a positive view of libraries, although many are not aware of all of the services and resources that their libraries offer.

While library website use rose, self-reported in-person visits slipped. Thirty percent of Americans have visited a library website or online library resource during the past 12 months, up from 25 percent in a 2012 Pew survey. By contrast, 48 percent said they had made an in-person visit to a library during the past year, down from 53 percent in 2012. Overall, 86 percent of Americans over the age of 16 reported using a library or library website at some point in their lives. When asked how their library use had changed during the past five years, 16 percent of respondents who had used libraries said their usage had increased, 57 percent said their usage had stayed the same, and 25 percent said their use of the library had declined.

"Throughout our work, we've found that Americans value public libraries not only for the access to information they offer through books, databases, and Internet connections, but also their assistance in finding and navigating the increasing amount of information that is available," Kathryn Zickuhr, research associate at the Pew Research Center's Internet Project and lead author of the report, wrote in a summary. "And even people who don't rely on public libraries as much in their own lives say they value libraries as important resources for the community at large."



The diminutive Arlington Reading Room of the **Cranston Public Library (CPL)**, RI, after a six-month renovation, has reopened as the **Arlington Branch** (pictured); the first Arlington library opened in 1895. Housed within the Cranston Senior Center, the 543 square foot facility gained dedicated interior and exterior entrances; new public access computers, with Wi-Fi service; and a new lobby that now melds with the senior-run gift shop, all funded through a \$198,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A nook will be used for homework help as well as a comfortable reading space. The small collection will include for the first time best sellers and materials for children and teens, according to CPL director Ed Garcia.

Central Alabama Community College opened its new **Library & Media Center** on the Alexander City campus on November 13. The 22,600 square foot, two-story facility, designed by Godwin Jones Architecture & Interior Design, replaces the school's 1960s library and features aggregate pier founda-

tions, steel framing, a metal roof, and a brick and precast facade. The \$4 million structure houses a student commons, a writing lab, study rooms, a conference room, a fireplace, and classrooms, as well as collections and additional study areas. A two-story glass rotunda adjacent to the lobby overlooks a pond and is intended

as a gathering place for students, according to *Lake Martin Living* magazine. The project includes a two-story museum space on the north side of the building.

St. Paul Public Library closed two branches on December 2 in preparation for renovations. The **Highland Park Library**, which opened in 1954 and was remodeled in 1974, will repurpose 5,000 square feet to public space, add parking and an outside book drop, expand the children's section, increase the number of Internet stations, update seating options, and better integrate the library and recreation center. The project cost is estimated at \$7.9 million. The \$5.5 million construction effort at the 1970 **Sun Ray Library** will add 2,500 square feet of public space, erect a plaza and install new sidewalks, increase the number of car and bicycle parking spots, enlarge the children's department, add genius bar counters, build a dedicated teen space, and incorporate energy-efficient lighting and an HVAC system. The architectural firm for both projects is LSE Architects.

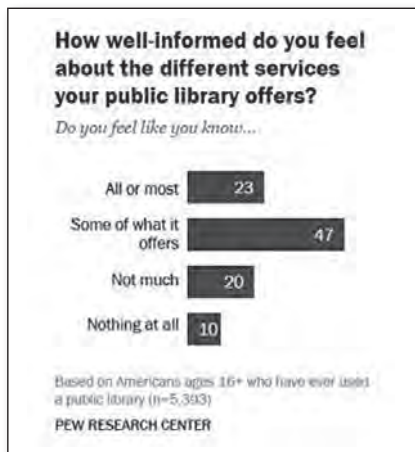
Send information on groundbreakings and ongoing and completed building projects to blfox@mediasourceinc.com

WHAT THEY KNOW, WHAT THEY NEED

Libraries still have work to do raising awareness of the services they offer. When asked specifically about library programs, 20 percent of respondents said they didn't know much about what the library offered, and an additional ten percent said they knew "nothing at all" about library servic-

es and programs. Fortunately, almost half (47 percent) felt that they were familiar with some of their library's services and programs, while 23 percent claimed to know "all or most" of what their library has to offer.

When viewed in conjunction with the rave reviews, these low awareness responses should give libraries pause,



noted Gary Price, library consultant and editor of *LJ* infoDOCKET and FullTextReports.com. “If people are just viewing libraries in the same positive light as broad, general concepts like ‘education,’” Price told *Hotline*, “then low awareness is still a problem.”

“If people were aware of what libraries have to offer, across the board, I think things would be a lot different...you can’t really value or appreciate what you don’t know about,” Price continued. “[Considering libraries as] an abstract concept, most

people are going to agree that [they] are a positive influence on a community. If you don’t start marketing and letting people know what libraries have to offer, they are going to continue to drift away to other services and resources.”

Boopsie Spots Shift from Apple to Android Use

Boopsie, the developer of custom mobile apps for libraries, is planning to launch Boopsie Analytics in early 2014. Currently in alpha testing stage, the new web-based platform will help the company’s customers manipulate and analyze data about a number of different patron behaviors, such as how many queries are sent to a database or catalog from the app each day or each week, what services are being accessed most often via the app, how many titles are being downloaded from OverDrive or other vendor partners using the app, what are the most popular titles accessed via the app, or whether

the use of downloadable audiobooks is on the rise. Many features will be available to the company’s customers at no additional charge, according to Boopsie CEO Tony Medrano. Complex features may be offered as part of a subscription plan.

Through its Boopsie account, each library will be able to access an online dashboard that Medrano compared to Google Analytics. Medrano emphasized that all of the data is collected and presented in aggregated form, and no personal information on individual users is preserved or viewable.

Even in the testing stage, Boopsie Analytics has spotted interesting trends. For example, users of mobile library apps made a noticeable shift from iPhones and iPads to Android devices in fall 2013. Aggregated data from more than 3.2 million Boopsie users indicates that from September to October of last year, the use of Apple iOS devices to access library apps declined by 2.38 percent, while Android use rose by 2.91 percent. This may not sound like a significant change, but it represented the largest one-month decline in iPhone use, and the largest one-month increase in Android use, in the three years that Boopsie has been tracking this data, said Medrano. Prior to this shift in September, usage of both platforms had held steady since the beginning of 2013.

“Android taking market share from Apple is how I read it,” Medrano said. “There are a couple of neat things in the market that are affecting what people are buying or what they are using more.... The Samsung [Galaxy Gear smartphone] watch and the Kindle Fire work on Android OS. And I think there’s been an inevitable increase in Android market share because of their strategy and price point.”

About 40.6 percent of patrons access library apps on Apple iOS devices, including iPads and iPhones, accord-

People

Leann Benedict was promoted to Director of St. Charles Parish Library, LA, following the retirement of **Mary desBordes**. Benedict was previously Assistant Director of the library.

Stefanie Blankenship was named Branch Librarian at Cranston Public Library’s Oak Lawn Branch, RI. She was previously the Youth Services Librarian at the Auburn Branch.

Brenna Call was appointed Director of the Vienna Public Library, WV. She was formerly Youth Services Director at South Charleston Public Library, WV.

Alissa Henkel was promoted to Head of the Adult Division at Decatur Public Library, IL. She was previously a part-time Library Assistant in the Children’s Division.

April L. Judge was named Director of Bernardsville Public Library, NJ, effective January 2. She previously held the same position at the West Caldwell Public Library, NJ.

Charmaine Lindsay retired as Chief Executive Officer at Cobourg Public Library, Ont. She had worked in the field for 30 years.

Tina Murdock was appointed Director of the Faulkner–Van Buren Library System, AR, following the retirement of **Ruth Voss**. Murdock was formerly Manager of Dallas Public Library’s Fine Arts and Humanities divisions.

Ronald V. Stoch has retired as Director of the Eisenhower Public Library District, Harwood Heights, IL. He had been in the position for 34 years.

Send People notices to LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com

ing to Boopsie data. Most of the rest use Android devices. Medrano noted that the split emphasizes the need for multiplatform app solutions, such as those offered by Boopsie.

“An iOS-only app may seem like a good solution, but it only addresses 40 percent of the market,” Medrano said.

Colorado, SkyRiver Offer Bibliographic Services

The Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) recently announced an agreement with library automation software provider Innovative Interfaces to make SkyRiver bibliographic services available to libraries throughout the state. SkyRiver will facilitate a comprehensive audit of CLiC’s AspenCat union catalog and, ultimately, will offer the consortium’s 400 libraries a source of cataloging records.

“Everything comes down to a good catalog record,” Jim Duncan, executive director of CLiC, told *Hotline*. “It impacts discoverability, it impacts access. And those two things, from a patron perspective, end up driving resource sharing. If a catalog record is good quality, it stands a greater chance of being found, and then when patrons find it, they want it. If you’ve got messy records, they may not understand what they’re looking at, or they may not even find it. And in a multibranch union catalog situation like...AspenCat, the cleaner we can make those records, the more comprehensive we can make them, it’s going to improve things all around.”

Forty-nine public, academic, school, and special libraries currently use AspenCat, and most of these libraries are small. Without an official cataloging source, these institutions were relying on open [standards protocol] Z39.50 targets, which resulted “in kind of a mishmash of copy cataloging activity from all of these libraries,” Duncan said.

Pacific University Libraries, Forest Grove, OR, and the **Oregon Library Association** have partnered to expand the latter’s journal, *OLA Quarterly*. The deal allows the university to host the journal on its publishing platform in exchange for technical and production support.

Brentwood Public Library, NY, received the “Voice of the Library” Community Award from the **New York Library Association** for its involvement during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The library provided resources for shelters, general information, and access to Wi-Fi.

Four new libraries switched to **Innovative Interfaces’ Sierra Services Platform**: Drake State Technical College Library, North Huntsville, AL; Lake Bluff Public Library, IL; Nyack College and Alliance Theological Seminary Libraries, NY; and Porter County Public Library System, IN.

The third volume of the **Public Papers of President Barack Obama** was made avail-

able by the **National Archives Office of the Federal Register** and the **U.S. Government Printing Office**. The collection includes the text of the president’s public speeches, news conferences, statements, and communications to Congress and federal agencies from January to June 2010.

The **Hawaii State Public Library System** received a \$45,000 grant from the **Government of the Republic of Korea**. The funds will provide the library with 2,100 ebooks, 450 paperback titles, and 200 DVDs for its Korean-language collection.

The **American Library Association’s Committee on Accreditation** announced that it is accepting comments on revisions to the **2008 Standards for Accreditation of Master’s Programs in Library and Information Studies**. A virtual town hall meeting will be held on February 20.

Send News Briefs to LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com

The SkyRiver cataloging client will enable the initial audit, which Duncan described as “a massive cleanup,” and then ensure consistency throughout AspenCat and the CLiC network, as members use the client as their primary target source of catalog records going forward. Duncan explained that SkyRiver was selected, in part, because it offered a lower-cost option compared with OCLC, but he expects the service to be a comprehensive source of records as well.

“We looked at the libraries around the country that are already SkyRiver clients and became convinced that the diversity of that database is more than sufficient for these small library purposes,” Duncan added. “It’s going to be a rare thing, I think, for [libraries] not to find a record in SkyRiver when they are copy cataloging. If they don’t find it, there’s a really solid

methodology for submitting new, original catalog records.”

The rollout of the service will be supported by an extensive training program. CLiC staff, along with independent contractors, will conduct training sessions at member libraries and incorporate training workshops into the consortium’s regional spring meetings in Grand Junction, Pueblo, and Fort Morgan.

“We have a long track record with [continuing education], and SkyRiver gives us another excuse to get out in the field and train libraries on the importance of cataloging,” Duncan said. “While we licensed SkyRiver specifically for AspenCat’s benefit, our deal allows us to have other libraries that aren’t part of AspenCat also license SkyRiver if they choose.... We will provide them with training and as much support as...they need ...in that implementation phase.”



Tired of wading through job postings?

JOBZONE

With new and improved search capabilities and listings for library and school library professionals, it is *the* resource you need to find the right job for you.

GET STARTED TODAY!

www.libraryjournal.com/jobzone

Brought to you by

LIBRARY JOURNAL. School Library Journal

