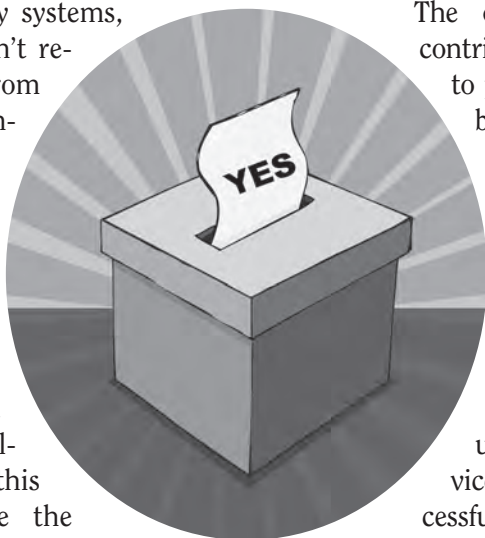


Oregon Volunteer Library Aims for Public Funding

Like many library systems, the Josephine Community Library (JCL) in Josephine County, OR, is looking to secure funding from the community via a ballot initiative this November. Unlike most library systems, however, JCL doesn't receive any funding from the government, instead relying entirely on private donations and volunteer labor to keep the lights on. But while the model has seen a degree of success, a failure to pass a ballot initiative later this year could stymie the nonprofit's efforts to continue providing library services.

JCL got its start in 2007, after the county cut all of its public funding and shut down the system's four branches, which served a population of 82,000. While the county council helped find money in the budget to keep up the exteriors of the buildings, other public money was cut off. The doors of the library did not stay shut for long,



though. After closing down in May 2007, the main branch was back up and running by December 2008, operating under the oversight of JCL, a private nonprofit supported through donations and run by volunteers. By the end of 2009, all four branches were up and running again.

The organization uses contributions and grants to pay the bills and a bare bones staff of 14 employees, including one part-timer who holds an MLS. But the majority of the work at JCL is done by a group of 360 unpaid volunteers. The service has been so successful that it won a Governor's Volunteer award from the state of Oregon.

Despite concerns among librarians that celebrating a library so dependent on nonpaid staff could devalue the skill of professional librarians, state librarian MaryKay Dahlgreen said that few librarians have objected to the state honor, and even those who voiced concerns were impressed by the organization's achievements. "There's probably not a library in Oregon or anywhere else that doesn't rely on its volunteers," Dahlgreen told *Hotline*, who also pointed out that the dire circumstances at play left residents with few options.

As successful as that emergency response has been, it remains a triage effort, and there's an acknowledgment at all levels that JCL's current

Interview

Frida Rodriguez

At Connecticut College, New London, the Office of Residence Education and Living (REAL) and Office of Sustainability are working together to create the Connecticut College Lending Library, loaning donated books to a new crop of students. REAL coordinator Frida Rodriguez spoke with *Hotline* about the program.

What does the library look like now?

It's pretty modest. The library is housed in one of our residence halls. There was a closet there full of board games and equipment for the school's Quidditch team, and we took that over.

What are the borrowing policies?

Students can come within the first two or three weeks of the semester and borrow the books that we have on hand. If they fail to return a book, they're charged a fee to replace the title, and they're also not welcome to make use of the lending library in the future.

Is this project having an impact yet on students?

We've already helped dozens of students save hundreds of dollars and get them access to textbooks that they might not have been able to afford otherwise.

Any chance you'll collaborate with the larger school library?

There are no plans to connect this to the larger library as yet. For the time being, it's a stand-alone project. Eventually, we'd like to see it move into a bigger space and be able to serve more students.

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model is not sustainable going forward. "Right now, people who come in have a good experience," JCL executive director Kate Lasky said. "But you have a long line, and you can't get in when you want to get in.... This

News in Brief

OCLC and Ingram Content Group have collaborated on a program that automatically maintains Ingram's MyiLibrary ebook holdings in OCLC's WorldCat.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services announced the winners of the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The honored libraries are Chicago Public Library; Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, NV; Mid-Continent Public Library, Independence, MO; and Octavia Fellin Public Library, Gallup, NM.

Going live on Innovative Interfaces' Polar is Integrated Library System are the newest members of the Central Library Consortium, OH: Upper Arlington Public Library and Bexley Public Library. They migrated from Virtua and Millennium, respectively.

The Parma-Snow Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, OH, received the Auditor of State Award with Distinction.

Research information manager Swets retained its global ISO 9001:2008 certification after passing its ISO (International Organization for Standardization) audits.

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts acquired the collection of theatrical designer Jo Mielziner (1901-76) from lighting designer Jules Fisher.

The New-York Historical Society received two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The first will support a three-year research fellowship, and the second will fund the cataloging and conservation of its American Historical Manuscript Collection.

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model cannot open for enough hours [to meet demand]."

That's why JCL is putting an initiative on the November ballot that would establish an independent library district with its own board in Josephine County that would be funded by a 39¢ per \$1,000 valuation property tax. That's slimmed down from the 55¢ per \$1,000 tax that failed prior to the shutdown in 2007. Lasky likes JCL's odds this time around, pointing to the 300 library cards JCL issues every month as a sign of steadily growing value to voters around the county, coupled with an increased awareness of what it takes to provide that service. "We've been talking about the lack of funding every year," Lasky told *Hotline*. "There's nobody here who thinks volunteerism can replace every form of service required for a large community."

If the initiative passes, Lasky has a long list of things libraries in Josephine County could provide that they don't now, like dedicated children's librarians and increased support for local schools. If the measure fails, she said, volunteers will keep doing what they can, but hours and services at the four branches will remain limited and eventually start to shrink.

Neighboring Jackson County shuttered its 15 branches in 2007, only to reopen the following year under the management of outsourcing firm Library Systems & Services, LLC. Jackson County libraries now suffer from the same limited hours as their neighbors in Josephine County, however, and are asking voters to approve a new property tax to fund a new library district in that county as well, said Dahlgreen.

IMLS Addresses Need for Broadband in Libraries

Though broadband Internet access has become more common in U.S. households during the past decade,

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the digital divide has not yet been bridged. In fact, challenges now loom larger than ever for households without broadband, said Richard Reyes-

Gavilan, chief librarian, District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL), during his opening remarks at the “Libraries and Broadband: Urgency and Im-

pact” public hearing hosted by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on April 17. According to IMLS estimates, about 100 million Americans don’t have access to high-speed Internet at home, while 19 million have no Internet access at home.

“I have to admit, about seven or eight years ago, I started to get kind of tired of this phrase ‘the digital divide,’” Reyes-Gavilan said. “I’ll also admit that I was wrong.”

For example, he noted that less than a decade ago, it was still possible to apply for most jobs without going online, adding that the same could be said of applying for health insurance and communicating with staff and teachers at a child’s school. But today, that is no longer true.

Millions of U.S. families are being left behind during this period of transition, but “public libraries remain the very best option for leveling the playing field,” said Reyes-Gavilan.

MOMENT OF TRUTH

This viewpoint, and these concerns, were echoed by speakers and panelists throughout the hearing, held at DCPL’s Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. The gathering marked the first time that IMLS has exercised its statutory authority to hold public hearings. This authority was granted during the 2010 reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act, according to IMLS director Susan Hildreth.

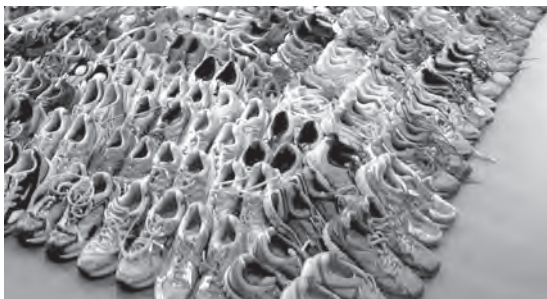
“We chose this moment to use this new authority because this is a moment full of potential,” Hildreth said, noting that several key agencies are working to address the need to improve public access to broadband.

Four years ago, the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) National Broadband Plan recommended that community “anchor institutions,” including libraries, have affordable access to at least one gigabit per second

Boston Libraries Commemorate Marathon Attack

One year after the tragic Boston Marathon bombings on April 15, 2013, the city’s libraries and cultural institutions helped to preserve this painful moment and assist local residents to reflect. Eight libraries and archives, as part of the #BostonBetter consortium, hosted events and exhibits or opened special hours in recognition of the anniversary. Others began working almost immediately after last year’s marathon to conserve the memories and associated artifacts of those affected by the bombings.

The Boston Public Library (BPL) sits right at the Marathon finish line. Owing to the bombing investigations, the library had to remain closed until Wednesday, April 24, of last year, but when it reopened it became a gathering spot for Bostonians seeking answers and trying to make sense of the attack. Michael Colford, director of library services, joined a



James McGrath, “Dear Boston’ Exhibit at the Boston Public Library,” Our Marathon, accessed April 24, 2014, marathon.neu.edu/items/show/9747

citywide team of organizers from those first days. It was clear from the beginning that BPL would play a key role in observing the date.

A major part of that role was to host the Dear Boston: Messages for the Marathon Memorial exhibit, which displays objects from the makeshift memorial that sprang up on Boylston Street following the attacks. In addition to the exhibit, BPL held daily outdoor concerts and doubled the number of Art & Architecture Tours the week before this year’s marathon on April 21. There were also special talks with Robert J. Wicks, author of *Perspective: The Calm Within the Storm*, and Scott Helman and Jenna Russell, coauthors of *Long Mile Home: Boston Under Attack, the City’s Courageous Recovery, and the Epic Hunt for Justice*, as well as a slide show of photographs by Joshua Touster, whose series “Aftermath” was displayed at Curry College and the Newton Free Library.

In the wake of the bombings, librarians and academics began to wonder how best to safeguard the artifacts and stories related to this event. At Northeastern University, professors Elizabeth Maddock Dillon and Ryan Cordell acted quickly to begin the Our Marathon digital archive. In May 2013, graduate students Jim McGrath and Alicia Peaker joined the project and later became its codirectors. The archive was developed using a modified version of the Omeka platform developed by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, the same program used to document the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007.

Another project, Strong Medicine, was conceived at the Center for the History of Medicine, which is housed within Harvard’s Countway Library, as a specialized collection of materials and oral histories related to the Boston medical community’s response to last year’s tragedy. The nucleus of the collection was formed by the sympathy mail and handmade crafts collected at Brigham & Women’s Hospital in the months following the bombings. At this time, only a portion of the collection is digitized but more will be put online as items become available. Some materials that contain identifying information were redacted or will not be placed online but will be viewable in person.

broadband, Hildreth said. In March, the agency demonstrated its ongoing awareness of the need for broadband access in libraries, recommending a modernization of the Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, more commonly known as E-Rate, beginning in 2015. If adopted, changes would include the restoration of discounts for library and school broadband connectivity and a one-time “targeted surge” of funding for libraries and schools that are lagging behind in such connectivity. Stating that “the equalizer in America is education,” National League of Cities executive director Clarence Anthony argued at the hearing that technology has become entwined with modern education.

“Digital literacy is no longer a choice in American cities,” he said. “Most of all, we must recognize that it is important, that if we’re going to bridge the real economic and educational oppor-

tunities in America, people have to have access to the Internet and computers.”

Alexie Still on Hold in Idaho School District

According to the *Idaho Statesman* on April 2, after more than two hours of public testimony, Idaho’s Meridian County School Board voted 2-1 to continue the hold [odd word choice] on Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (Little, Brown, 2007), keeping it off the school curriculum’s supplemental book list.

For the time being, Alexie’s book remains in school libraries, and according to district library coordinator Pam Juel, there was no discussion of (or intent to) remove the book from the libraries.

This isn’t the first time the title has been the subject of challenge and controversy. The title is reported to

be the second most-challenged book in the country in 2012, according to the American Library Association. The *New York Daily News* reported the book was pulled from the required reading list of P.S. 114, a middle school in Queens, NY, last year.

Alexie’s enormously successful and controversial YA novel won the National Book Award in 2007 and is based on the author’s own experiences growing up on the Spokane Indian reservation.

Kelly-Ann McMullan-Preiss, parent to an 11-year-old boy in Rockaway, NY, had refused to allow her son to read the book and referred to it as “*Fifty Shades of Grey* for kids.”

Amy Armstrong, a teacher librarian at Heritage Middle School in Idaho’s Meridian school district, had testified in favor of reinstating the book as supplemental reading material at the April 2 Meridian school board hearing.

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“A group of people decided that parts were inappropriate and didn’t want it as a supplemental option for sophomores.” Armstrong told *Hotline*. “They want to remove the option to read it for every future sophomore student, not just their own children. It is censorship.”

Censored or not, Alexie’s work conjures strong response, often a key ingredient in opening lessons geared toward critical thinking. Or as Juel put it, “Education is not about confirming what we already know and believe. Instead, education should be about increasing our capacity to understand,

problem-solve, explore, create, and contribute to a complex world.”

Queens Library Tests New Job Application Kiosks

Building on the success of its existing job search and job training programs, the New York’s Queens Library (QL) recently began testing a new touch screen job search kiosk at its central branch in Jamaica. The kiosk is driven by Apploi, a mobile app launched in April 2013 by recruitment software and services provider Innovate CV, and is fully funded and serviced by InnovateCV subsidiary Jobs4Five. QL patrons can create a “passport” profile with essential résumé information; search for job openings via a variety of filters including location, company, industry, posting date, keywords, or job titles; and record video responses to questions provided by specific employers, which are then included as part of their application. The kiosks can also be used for real-time video interviews.

Applicants and employers “don’t have to wait a week or two weeks for an interview” after submitting an application. “They can do it right then and there,” explained Joanne King, QL director of communications.

The Apploi app is free to download and use on iPhones and iPads and currently targets jobs in the restaurant, retail, and hospitality industries, primarily in New York City. However, in the year since it launched, listings have expanded to 15 U.S. cities, as well as internationally. More than 800 companies are currently posting job listings using Apploi.

Adam Lewis, CEO of InnovateCV and Apploi, told *Hotline* that the app was designed to streamline the application and hiring process.

With service industry jobs in particular, “such a huge component of the job market involves people going

Branching Out



Post. Developer EastBanc Inc. president Anthony Lanier hopes to begin “as soon as possible,” per the *Post*. The opposition was disappointed with the outcome of their efforts, but those in favor of the plan, including the Friends of the West End Library, are optimistic about the availability of new community resources.

Lima Public Library (LPL), OH, will begin a \$527,000 interior re-

model starting in May. According to Lima Ohio.com, the three- to four-month project will encompass new carpeting, shelving, furnishings, signage, and service desks, all located on the building’s main floor. The library worked with Library Design Associates on the plan, which will reconfigure the space. Support for the project is coming from LPL, the Lima Library Association, and private donors.

The renovation to the **Olney Library** (pictured), MD, was finally completed in March after two years of work. Part of the Montgomery County Public Library, the branch gained 4,260 square feet in the Lukmire Partnership Inc.–designed project, in addition to a new HVAC system, fresh doors and windows, a new roof, updated interior finishes, an enlarged children’s section, a dedicated teen zone, improved exterior lighting, and upgraded storm water management. The facility features 21 public access computers, self-check stations, and Wi-Fi accessibility throughout; the total cost is \$12 million. Construction work was performed by Milestone Construction Services Inc.

Also coming in May is the completed interior makeover of the Lodi Public Library, CA. The 30,750 square foot facility underwent a \$425,000 three-phase renovation, funded through donations from the Lodi Library Foundation and the Friends of the Lodi Library, according to LodiNews.com. The facility has a new Computer Learning Center, featuring 15 public access computers; new window treatments; and upgrades to electrical systems including tables enhanced with outlets for patron use. Among other upgrades is the addition of six new meeting rooms and a completely revamped community room.

After six years of wrangling over the plan, including a lawsuit by a group affiliated with Ralph Nader, the **District of Columbia** is moving forward with a project that will replace the 1967 West End Neighborhood Library with a mixed-use tower housing luxury residences, commercial enterprises, and a new library, according to the *Washington*

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from store to store, giving out traditional résumés, waiting in line at open recruitment events,” he said. “The whole thing is just kind of inefficient and hasn’t progressed in the same way that professional recruitment has done. I saw this as a massive opportunity to help people connect to jobs.”

The video component also enables candidates to stand out in ways that they simply could not with a paper CV. Early results indicate that libraries could be excellent nonprofit partners. With 100 job applications already submitted through the test kiosk since its launch in late March, Apploi is viewing this pilot as a success. “It seems like a natural partnership,” Lewis said, later noting that Apploi plans to install free kiosks in two more QL branches.

Chicago Leads in Early Race for Obama Library

For more than a year now, speculation has been swirling about who will throw their hats in the ring to host the future Barack Obama Presidential Library. The city of Chicago—the Obamas’ prepresidential hometown—is the obvious choice but not the only contender. The University of Hawaii (UH) at Honolulu, near the president’s childhood home, and New York City’s Columbia University, the president’s alma mater, are also likely bidders. But there are also at least four others in Chicago alone, and although Mayor Rahm Emanuel has stated that he prefers his city to present a unified bid, it doesn’t look like all parties are willing to play nice.

The competition for the library just entered full swing, as the Barack Obama Foundation announced in late March that the bidding process to host the library is officially open. According to the foundation, any “institution of higher learning, not-for-profit organization, private developer, or municipality that wishes to sponsor, devel-

Jody Cole was appointed Director of Shipensburg Public Library, PA. She was previously Systems Administrator of the Potter-Tioga Library System, Coudersport, PA, and a Librarian and Instructor at Mansfield University, PA.

Amanda DiFeterici was named Instructional Design and Assessment Consultant at Credo. She was previously a Librarian at South University, Savannah.

Connie Vinita Dowell announced her retirement as Dean of Libraries at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, effective July 1. She has been with the university for almost six years.

Christine Kujawa was promoted to Director, Bismarck Public Library, ND. She has been with the library for 11 years and was previously its Assistant Director.

Essraa Nawar, Assistant to the Dean for Communications and External Relations

Chapman University’s Leatherby Libraries, Orange, CA, was awarded the **2014 United for Libraries/SAGE Academic Friend Conference Grant**. She received \$850, plus full registration to this summer’s American Library Association conference in Las Vegas.

Anne Sauer was named Director of the Rare and Manuscript Collections at Cornell University Library, Ithaca, NY. She was previously Director of Digital Collections and Archives at Tufts University, Medford, MA.

Springfield-Greene County Library District, MO, hired two new Branch Managers: **Jessie Alexander-East**, previously youth services manager at the Brentwood Branch, was named Manager of the Library Center, and **Sarah Francka-Jones**, previously Reference Assistant at the Willard Branch, was named Manager of the Ash Grove and Willard branches.

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op, and maintain a multi-unit facility” is invited to submit a response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Responses are due by June 16.

“We want [the library] in Chicago. But I want to make sure the site I’m suggesting gets full consideration,” Dan McCaffrey, chair and CEO of McCaffery Interests, told *Hotline*. The real estate development company envisions the library facility as the gemstone of its Chicago Lakeside Development project, a planned urban oasis on more than 600 acres of land 15 miles south of the city center.

The University of Chicago, with its strong ties to the Obama family, is also aiming to bring the library there, but Chicago State University (CSU), situated near where Obama first worked as a community organizer on the city’s South Side, specifically wants to see the presidential library facility on its campus.

The shared mantra among all in-

terested South Side contenders is this: an Obama Presidential Library in the area would be beneficial to all, bringing unparalleled attention and economic development to this oft-neglected part of the city. Many have commented on the potential for the library to inspire young Chicagoans especially in need of opportunity.

Columbia University has not been forthcoming about its plans to respond formally to the RFQ. By contrast, UH has been transparent about its efforts to locate the facility in Honolulu, launching the Hawaii Presidential Center Initiative to tout the advantages of a presidential library in Obama’s native state.

After reviewing all responses submitted by the June deadline, the foundation will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to the most competitive applicants. It’s expected that the president and the first lady will make the final site selection in early 2015.



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