

Elections Bring New Library Leaders

In elections ending in April, three of the country's major library organizations—the American Library Association (ALA), Public Library Association (PLA), and Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)—selected new leaders for the coming years.

On May 2, ALA announced that Cuyahoga County Library executive director Sari Feldman beat out University of Wyoming dean of libraries Maggie Farrell for the presidency. Feldman will serve as president-elect until stepping in as president for the 2015–16 term at the close of next year's ALA conference in San Francisco, which will mark the end of incoming president Courtney Young's tenure. When the counts were certified, Feldman had 5,185 supporters, about 55.3 percent of the 9,665 total ballots cast for president in the 2014 election.

"I am deeply honored to be given the opportunity to serve libraries and library professionals as president of the American Library Association," Feldman said in a statement. "I look forward to continuing the leadership commitment of current president Barbara Stripling and president-elect

Courtney Young to support advocacy for all libraries by strengthening our ability to speak with a unified voice"

In total, the 2014 ALA election saw 9,940 ballots returned out of a total of 52,049 distributed to ALA members and potential voters. That response rate of 19.1 percent is a dip of more than two percent from the last few years of voting and the lowest total since 2011, when just 9,613 ballots were cast from a pool of 52,901 potential voting members—an engagement rate of just 18.2 percent.

The election also saw ALA voters choose 36 new representatives for councilor at large positions, representing the top 36 choices from a field of 72 candidates. The 33 candidates with the highest vote tallies were elected for full three-year terms. Of the remaining three, two councilors will serve one-year terms, while the third will serve a 13-month term set to begin immediately.

In the PLA election, Multnomah County Public Library executive director Vailey Oehlke defeated Salt Lake County Library director Jim Cooper for the top spot, garnering 1,457 of the 2,038 votes cast in that election. A member of the PLA board from 2011 to 2013 and current member of the executive board of the Urban Libraries

Interview

Miguel Figueroa

Miguel Figueroa, a 2005 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker, was just named director of the Center for the Future of Libraries, a newly minted American Library Association program tasked with working to keep libraries ahead of the always changing cultural curve.

What made this the right position for you at this time?

It felt like an opportunity to think broadly about libraries, which is something I enjoy doing, and come back to a place that was interested in doing new and different things.



What steps can librarians take to be more prepared for whatever the future holds?

It can be hard for any organization that's trying to work in the here and now and also move forward. Being inclusive will help us get a stronger base of perspectives we can use to develop new models.

What do you foresee as the biggest challenge for libraries going forward?

People's perception of research has changed in recent years. We need to anticipate and shape how the library is going to continue to be a source for information that is increasingly provided electronically.

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Council, Oehlke will serve a three-year term, taking over as president-elect at the close of this year's ALA conference in Las Vegas before serving as president in 2015.

In other PLA elections, Sacramento Public Library director Rivkah Sass was appointed the organization's ALA division councilor, while Richland Library executive director Melanie Huggins and Omaha Public Library assistant director Many Shorr were chosen to serve as the PLA board's two new directors-at-large.

At ACRL, Ann Campion Riley, associate director for access, collections, and technical services at the University of Missouri libraries and a member of the ACRL Board of Directors from 2009 until 2013, won the presidency with 1,501 votes, out of the 2,362 ballots cast. University of Iowa librarian John P. Culshaw and College of Western Idaho director of library services Kim Leeder were elected to four-year terms as directors-at-large.

Univ. of Michigan Libraries Open Nap Stations

Stephen Griffes, operations supervisor at the University of Michigan's (UM) Shapiro Library, Ann Arbor, remembers studying in the library during his time as a UM undergraduate. He also remembers occasionally taking an inadvertent nap or two in that library—as hallowed a college tradition as the keg stand and far more in line with academic values. Now, the Shapiro Library is officially enshrining the importance of a catnap among the stacks, opening a napping station where weary students can recharge by crashing out on convenient cots.

The Central Student Government (CSG) proposed the idea of a nap station, which began with a survey of more than 4,000 students that asked what they valued most in a potential designated nap space and found that

the top priorities were proximity to study areas and classes, making the library a natural partner.

Advocates for the nap space hope it will serve as a way to educate students about the health dangers posed by pulling all-nighters or consistently operating on too little sleep. "We want to raise awareness of the detrimental impact of sleep deprivation on student health," said CSG representative Adrian Bazbaz. "We take a lot of precaution over alcohol abuse, drug abuse, depression, but we haven't tried to tackle this health issue on campus before."

For the library, the first step was finding an appropriate space. Rather than a room set away from the action of the building, Shapiro staff decided that a quiet corner nestled between tech services and the library's Espresso book printer was the perfect spot and one where students were already taking a load off. "We decided that would be a good test section, since people were already using it as a comfortable space," Griffes told *Hotline*.

Right now, the nap stations consist of inexpensive vinyl cots and pillows housed in disposable paper pillowcases, the same as would be seen in a hospital setting. Students also have access to temporary lockers. That extra degree of security can help people sleep easier, knowing their jackets and bookbags will be on lockdown until they get their second wind.

A set of higher quality cots, purchased by CSG, are on their way. The accommodations will likely retain their vinyl and paper coverings, which are easy to replace and wipe down with antibacterial spray, ensuring that spaces for laying down one's head don't become breeding grounds for disease. Signage on site reminds students to keep the cots clean and also to keep their 40 winks to 30 minutes or less. And the combination of low-cost cots, repurposed storage lockers, and placement in an area where staff

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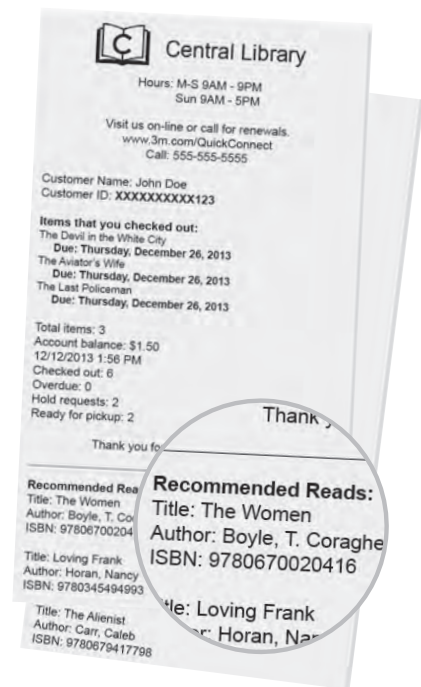
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You Can't Judge a Book by Its Cover

Allie Bruce, a children's librarian at the Bank Street School for Children, New York, had the following tale to tell Hotline, one about book covers and opening a Pandora's box.

It all started with a complicated question with a complicated answer. I'd been asked by a humanities teacher, Jamie Steinfeld, at the school I work at—the Bank Street School for Children—to booktalk some realistic fiction titles for her class in early October 2013. As I held up Julia Alvarez's *Return to Sender* (Knopf, 2009), a girl raised her hand.

"Why is there a bird on that cover, when every other book you've shown us has had a picture of the main character?" There were only ten minutes left before lunch, and I was tempted to shrug her question off.

Later, I found a paperback version of *Return to Sender* and showed them how on the cover sunlight falls upon the white main character (Tyler), illuminating his face and blonde hair, while the Latina character (Mari) has her back turned, so only her ponytail is visible.

"Can you tell that this book features a character of color?" I asked.

No, they answered. I held up the hardcover version of *Return to Sender*, featuring a picture of a bird. "What about this version—can you tell it features a character of color?"

Again, no. I asked them the same question about the

character featured on the cover of Mike Lupica's *Heat* (Penguin, 2006) and of Jacqueline Woodson's *Locomotion* (Putnam, 2003). By this point, most of the kids were incredulous.

To give us a common vocabulary, I introduced the word *whitewashing* and pulled up the infamous images of the galley of Justine Larbalestier's *Liar* (Crows Nest, 2009), which originally featured a white girl rather than a girl of color, despite what the book explicitly states. (The cover has since been changed, and reprints now feature a girl of color.)

To follow up with that lesson, I put together a slide show of problematic book covers that reduced characters of color to abstract images. Over subsequent months, another teacher and I held student-directed diversity sessions about various topics: book covers, gender bias, what sorts of actions they can take to protest injustices, a field trip to a Barnes & Noble store, and a class visit from two editors at Knopf.

The exchange with Knopf children's book editors Erin Clarke and Michelle Frey allowed the kids to see the complexities involved in cover-making. Clarke and Frey brought covers they liked, covers they didn't, and books that had had dozens of covers considered. The kids got to pass around potential covers for a not-yet-published title and give feedback on what worked and didn't work. They also learned that editors are also sometimes frustrated by cover decisions; Clarke and Frey shared a story of one book that could have had an artistic, colorful cover but was given a "pretty girl" cover, to both of their frustration.

I was glad I had not ignored that young girl's difficult question that had months ago opened this so-called Pandora's box. Addressing this complicated question about skewed publishing practices allowed the kids to think critically and develop their own opinions about books, toys, movies, television, and the entire world around them. At the end of the learning unit, the kids had new eyes and greater perspectives.



Sixth graders from the Bank Street Children's School.

routinely roam meant the cost to set up the space was minimal, said Griffes, who declined to give an exact figure for expenditures.

The nap stations, which opened just a few weeks ago, saw some use by students during exams week, but Griffes noted it will take time for the space to make a name for itself. It will have until at least the end of the 2014 fall semester to do that, with the library and CSG planning to coordinate advertising and awareness efforts for the new space once that semester kicks off. Until then, staff will at least be able to direct students dozing elsewhere in the library to a place where they will be comfortable and their gear will be safe. "Instead of bugging someone and waking them up, we're giving them an alternative," Griffes said.

Joking Around at Jacksonville Libraries

Some of Jacksonville Public Library's (JPL), FL, most innovative school partnerships revolve around jokes. Humor can be a powerful tool when it comes to encouraging children to read. Research shows that reading and sharing riddles, jokes, silly rhymes, and funny stories can enrich vocabulary and boost reading skills, social skills, and critical thinking. That's why Anita Haller, senior librarian of children's services at the Southeast Regional Library, organized a monthlong Humor Festival and collaborated with media specialist Rhanda Hardee from Greenfield Elementary School to kick off the event with a Joke Fest.

Joke Fest at the Southeast Regional Library was hosted by Greenfield Elementary School Joke Masters—students who had mastered the joke-telling process from reading, writing, memorizing, and rehearsing to performing before an audience. Nearly 25 third, fourth, and fifth graders par-

ticipated and more than 60 people attended the first event.

The Humor Festival ran throughout April—National Humor Month—with events for all ages at the four libraries of JPL's Southeast Region. Programs included improv comedy; stop, drop, and read for fun; cartoon festivals; a film festival; and family humor hour. The libraries were decked out with humor materials, complete with decorated boxes filled with jokes. Humor Festival proved a good vehicle for children to practice reading and public speaking skills and share a laugh with others.

NYPL Partners with Coursera

In a move that will help a leading urban library system begin defining its role in the burgeoning field of massive open online courses (MOOCs), the New York Public Library (NYPL) on April 30 announced a partnership with MOOC provider Coursera. Beginning this summer, NYPL will support a selection of Coursera's online curricula by hosting weekly in-person discussion groups at several branches in the Bronx and Manhattan through Coursera's Learning Hubs program. Neither organization is paying the other as part of the partnership, but NYPL officials note that sharing information regarding participation in these programs will benefit both parties.

"Online courses can be a boon to increasing learning, especially when students engage with each other, keep each other focused, and have access to advice and further options for study," NYPL president Anthony Marx said in a statement to the press. "The library is proud to be joining this experiment by providing Coursera students with a place to gather, support each other and delve into the library for more information to help them persist and learn."

"I think it's a meaningful collabora-

Barbara J. Ford retired as director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She first began in the position in 2003.

Suzanna Krispli was named Director of the Northern Tier Regional Library, Gibsonia, PA. She previously held the same title at Hampton Township Community Library, PA.

Kirstin Krumsee was promoted to Government Information Library Consultant at the State Library of Ohio, Columbus. She was previously its Reference Services Librarian.

Julie White Walker was promoted to State Librarian for the Georgia Public Library Service, Atlanta. She was previously Deputy State Librarian.

Benjamin R. Weseloh was promoted to Director of the West Chicago Public Library District. He was previously its Adult Services Manager.

Andy Woodworth was named Reference/Adult Services Supervisor at Cherry Hill Public Library, NJ. A 2010 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker, he was previously a Reference Librarian, Burlington County Library System, NJ.

LYRASIS has elected three new members to its **Board of Trustees** to serve three-year terms: **Wanda Brown**, Associate Dean, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC; **Deborah Robinson**, Director of Library Services, Tallahassee Community College, FL; and **Jay Schafer**, Director of Libraries, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

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tion on both parts," Luke Swarthout, NYPL director of adult education services, told *Hotline*. "For us, it's a way of experimenting with a different type of blended learning, with a real partner who can give us some feedback and even potentially give us a sense of whether these students are more likely to persist and complete [a MOOC]."

NYPL and Coursera estimate that about 50,000 New Yorkers are already signed up for Coursera content. The library is still in the process of selecting the first round of classes it will support with discussion groups. Swarthout explained, "We are looking to find courses that have some broad appeal among New Yorkers and that are also consonant with the other work of the library," adding that overlap between a course and NYPL collections will be one key consideration. NYPL will likely hire facilitators, such as graduate students with subject expertise, for some of the groups.

Though this is a new venture, Swarthout linked it to NYPL's core

mission, noting that libraries have always played a role in directing patrons toward solid information, whether that takes the form of a good novel, research material, or an educational opportunity. With a proliferation of online educational opportunities now emerging, "libraries play a role in helping people filter through the clutter."

ENTRY, NOT ALWAYS COMPLETION

Offering minimal or no-cost entry to courses taught by some of the leading educators in their respective fields, MOOCs have been heralded since their inception a few years ago as a democratizing force in education. But the format's low barriers to entry tend to attract the curious by the thousands, while ultimately retaining a much smaller number of dedicated students. *Time* magazine in September 2013 noted that about 90 percent of people who register for MOOCs fail to complete them.

Swarthout acknowledged that the type of people interested in signing up

for a MOOC and then doubling down by signing up for a weekly discussion group in support of that course are “obviously...more interested than your average [MOOC] user.” But one goal of the program is to help determine how libraries, by offering an in-person component, can maintain engagement in these free online courses.

The question of whether in-person engagement and support can help increase completion is particularly crucial because, at the moment, MOOCs are not democratizing access to education as much as was originally hoped: studies have shown that most MOOC participants already have college degrees and that those who successfully complete the course are more likely to have higher education levels already.

“We’re interested in ways we can examine [if] we are making an impact,” Swarthout said. “Is there an appetite for using the library [as part of MOOCs]?”

News in Brief

Billings Public Library, MT, received the **2014 Library of the Year Award from the Montana Library Association**. It was also honored with the Excellence in Library Service Award from the Montana State Library, Helena.

Columbia University’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library, New York, has acquired the **papers of William T.R. Fox and Annette Baker Fox**, pioneers in international relations. The collection includes correspondence, memoranda, clippings, and unpublished drafts.

The **Library of Congress** introduced future enhancements to its **Cataloger’s Desktop service**, which include a simpler interface and online help documents. They will become available this September.

WISPALS Library Consortium of Wisconsin academic institutions selected **Innovative Interfaces’ Sierra Library Services Plat-**

Does it have an impact? Are we helping people toward their learning goals?”

With this partnership, NYPL becomes the first U.S. library to join Coursera’s Learning Hubs initiative. Launched in fall 2013, the program has introduced an in-person, collaborative component to the organization’s courses in 30 countries.

This isn’t NYPL’s first foray into MOOCs, however. Former NYPL reference librarian Raymond Pun (a 2012 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker) developed the Sinology 101 MOOC based on NYPL’s collection of research and scholarship on the history of China. While public library involvement with MOOCs in practice remains relatively rare, other innovators in the field include Ridgefield Library, CT, which built its adult summer reading program around a Coursera MOOC, and the County of Los Angeles Public Library, which is incorporating MOOCs into its Center for Learning. If NYPL’s

form. The consortium consists of 11 colleges representing 29 libraries.

Librarians and computer scientists at the **Texas A&M University Libraries, College Station**, received the **2014 Excellence in Digital Libraries award**. It was presented at the Texas Conference on Digital Libraries on April 28.

Credo has expanded its **Publisher and Subject Collections** owing to recent partnerships with several publishers. Hundreds of new eBooks are now available through the service.

Yale University Press’s *Interaction of Color* by Josef Albers mobile app received the **35th Annual George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award from the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA)**. It was presented during the society’s annual conference, May 1–5, held in Washington, DC.

partnership with Coursera is successful, it could provide a model for more library systems to help their patrons engage with MOOC content.

AR Librarians Help Those Affected by Tornado

On April 27, a tornado devastated hundreds of homes and took 15 lives in the suburbs of Little Rock, AR. In the rural areas north of Little Rock, the towns of Mayflower and Vilonia (in Faulkner County) suffered the most damage, with several families losing their homes.

In the days following the tornado, the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) decided to donate its overdue book fines during the week of May 5–12 to the Arkansas Community Foundation’s Emergency and Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), the local non-profit overseeing relief operations.

Susan Hill Gele, assistant director of public relations at CALs, noted that the innovative idea has been used before during disasters with similar “widespread damage,” such as with Hurricane Katrina in 2005, previous tornados in the area, and when one of their library branches was damaged by a fire in 2011. All 14 facilities in the system are participating in the book fines program, with the money to be used at the discretion of the DRF. Readers can pay their fines at circulation desks as well as online. Gele explained that “in addition to the fines, people make donations,” which have added up to approximately \$5,000 per week during similar drive in the past, and she hopes to do as well this time.

Stephanie Vanderslice, a creative writing professor at Central Arkansas University and a Conway, AR, resident, also saw the need to help those in her community as well. As she dealt with the aftermath of the tornado during which “houses literally blew away,” she thought about those families with

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young children, especially those who love to read like her children do. Food and shelter are obvious immediate needs, but Vanderslice said that families losing homes also means “losing all their books.... Where do [people] turn for comfort [without those books]?”

Vanderslice began with a Facebook post on May 6 mirroring that sentiment. Within hours, friends and contacts at CALS and the Faulkner County Public Library (FCPL) came together, and the decision to collect donated books “just took off from there,” according to Vanderslice. The members of the informal Facebook committee were able to determine that approximately 150 Mayflower and Vilonia students lost everything in the tornado and came up with a plan to provide ten books per child.

Gele said that CALS has donated approximately 14 cases of children’s and young adult books and, should there still be a need, CALS will donate “as much as the volunteers can fit in their cars” in order to meet the estimated need of 1,500 books. Vanderslice noted that FCPL and her office had been the main drop-off locations—with donations accepted until May 20. At the end of the month, Vanderslice and the committee will host a free bookstore for the kids affected at the various schools. Vanderslice said that no operating school buildings were badly affected by the tornado, so students are still able to attend. For the students to carry their wares, the Arkansas Reading Association has donated cloth tote bags.

Sarah Coker, friend of Vanderslice and the literacy specialist at Ruth Doyle Middle School in Conway, was quick to act on the book donation initiative started on Facebook as well. She set up an account with Scholastic to facilitate new book donations for those unable to donate their own books or those wishing to help outside of the direct community.



On May 4, the Berkeley County Library System, Moncks Corner, SC, reopened the expanded 6,700 square foot **Hanahan Library** (pictured) in its new, permanent location. Having previously existed in various strip malls, the new Hanahan is a welcome sight to its many constituents. The \$1,789,095 project features the inclusion of 20 computers and three laptops for public use, wireless Internet access, more than 30 parking spots, a children’s story time space, a dedicated teen zone, a single-point checkout and reference service, independent computer areas for children and teens, a community meeting room, a kitchen area, two study rooms, and a small conference room. Funding for the new structure came from Berkeley County government’s Capital Improvement fund.

Douglas County Libraries, Castle Rock, CO, has selected Studiotrope Design Collective (SDC) and Anderson Mason Dale (AMD) Architects as the brain trust behind an architectural and design scheme set forth in 2013 under the umbrella No Leaf Unturned. The campaign will address the growth of the community and its demand for new library spaces in Parker, Lone Tree, and Castle Pines. The team of SDC and AMD was chosen from among a group of 15 firms that responded to a request for qualifications.

The **Lampasas Public Library**, TX, will undergo a \$300,000 remodel, which will break ground in June and include a 700 square foot addition in the space currently occupied by the courtyard, per the *Killeen Daily Herald*. The bid by M.W. Hail Construction Inc. was approved by a unanimous vote of the Lampasas City Council, according to the *Lampasas Dispatch Record*. Funding comes from the Library Foundation of Lampasas and the city. The work will also incorporate new flooring, window treatments, repairs to the roof, and the addition of nine new computers. The current adult fiction area will become a meeting room.

The **Beatrice Public Library**, NE, in early May began a renovation to its 23,000 square foot space. With efforts by Elkhorn West Construction, Inc., the project will cost roughly \$1.4 million, funded by the Beatrice Public Library Foundation, according to the *Beatrice Daily Sun*. The focus of the work will involve enlarging and relocating spaces and refinishing the basement; the upgrades have been under consideration for over ten years, Director Lauren Riedesel told the *Sun*. A singular component as well is the creation of a new teen space in what is now the heritage room; the new heritage room will find a home in the remodeled basement. The construction is expected to be completed in late November.

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

Photo courtesy of Berkeley County Library System.

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