

Miami-Dade Raises Taxes To Pay for Libraries

The continuing struggle to fund library service in Miami, FL, and surrounding Dade County took a happy turn for librarians and advocates. On Tuesday, July 16, Miami-Dade County commissioners voted to increase the property tax slightly, increasing the funding available to the Miami-Dade Public Library System (MDPLS).

The hike would leave libraries with a budget of approximately \$52 million for the coming year. That figure is short of the \$64 million that advocates were aiming for but represents a major step up from the \$30 million earmarked earlier this year in a budget proposed by Miami mayor Carlos Gimenez. It also denotes an increase of \$8 million over this year's library budget. The hike will prevent as many as 90 layoffs that would otherwise have been required by Gimenez's initial budget.

It remains to be seen whether the mayor will veto the higher property tax for libraries, which the county commissioners approved by an 8-5 margin. The mayor, who was aiming to keep tax rates in the county flat this year by slashing budgets and getting public employee unions to pay more of their own health-care costs, had

until July 25 to make his decision. He told reporters following the vote, "I'm going to have to consider my actions."

John Quick, president of the Friends of Miami-Dade Public Libraries, told *Hotline*, "We are both happy and disappointed. I think it's a win because we were able to add \$22 million to the budget, but we're disappointed because we think \$64 million is what is needed." Quick and others who sat on a task force appointed by the mayor had recommended the \$64 million figure, which would have let the library restore branch hours that have been shortened over the last four years, as well as reinstate programming that has taken a hit as MDPLS budgets have dwindled since the recession began.

The support of community leaders is all the more crucial because the library's internal leadership is in transition: Raymond Santiago, MDPLS director and *Library Journal's* 2003 Librarian of the Year, is retiring effective August 1.

Advocates and library employees also pointed out that the ink is not yet dry on the higher property tax rate. The commission's vote set the ceiling for the tax rate for libraries, but a final vote to set rates is due later this fall. "This is the first step in a long budget process," Sylvia Mora-Oña, assistant director of

Interview

Stephanie Davis-Kahl

In our latest in-depth interview with *Library Journal Movers & Shakers* from academic libraries, sponsored by SAGE, we spoke to 2014 honoree Stephanie Davis-Kahl, the scholarly communication librarian at Illinois Wesleyan University (IW).



Where did your work with students start?

When we started talking about how to implement an institutional repository, we realized our strength is the work our students do, which is also a product of faculty mentorship.

Why do you think student-led journals and content are on the rise?

Undergraduate research journals are a fantastic way to showcase the work being done on a campus. They're also a great model for other students doing their own research. It's very easy to set up a journal. It's also a very affordable way of promoting the school.

What are some tips for librarians entering the student journal fray?

Succession planning is so important. Any new journal needs to start with a deep group, where you're developing new generations of leaders.

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public services at MDPLS, told *Hotline*. “We’re cautiously optimistic, but until September 25, anything can happen.”

EveryLibrary Launches Fund for Library Crises

Most libraries know what it’s like to struggle with finding funding. Getting a levy or tax hike passed is hard work. Living through lean times that freeze hiring and stifle collection development can be trying. But when the rug gets pulled out from under you suddenly, it can be even worse. In order to provide some assistance when 11th hour budget cuts come knocking, EveryLibrary, the political action committee (PAC) devoted to strengthening the place libraries have at the civic table, is working on a new program with just these sorts of dilemmas in mind—the Rapid Response Fund, a pot of cash meant to give libraries facing sudden budget cuts the tools to rally supporters quickly and fight back.

According to EveryLibrary founder and 2014 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker John Chrastka, situations that could benefit from the aid of the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) come up with troubling regularity in libraries nationwide. While city councils and other officials who control local purse strings have an order that generally functions to keep funding levels predictable, there are instances in which those groups, or just a single member, can disrupt that order and call established budgets into question.

Chrastka pointed to last year’s attempt by a parish council member

in LaFourche Parish, LA, to divert funds earmarked for the local library to the building of a new jail as one high-profile example, but said that EveryLibrary was receiving calls for help from institutions in similar predicaments every month.

Those weren’t the kinds of calls EveryLibrary was initially built to field, though. The original vision for EveryLibrary was not to respond to these kinds of sudden funding issues, Chrastka told *Hotline*, saying that the organization has previously concentrated on building strategic plans in the long term for its partner libraries. But when he started seeing situations like these crop up more and more, it became clear that the PAC was in want of a more nimble arm to offer help to libraries that needed a quick burst of support, rather than a strategic plan rethought from the ground up.

While the RRF itself is new, it’s based on a model that EveryLibrary has seen success with in the past in places like Miami-Dade County, FL, where the mayor announced budget changes that would have severely impacted Miami-Dade libraries last fall, near the end of the budget negotiation cycle (see story above). EveryLibrary helped to get funds to local grassroots library advocates and in the closing days ran a series of ads on social media that helped draw attention to the library’s plight and played a role in securing \$7 million in stopgap funding in the budget for libraries. While it didn’t solve the problems in Miami-Dade, Chrastka said, “putting money in fast helped them live to fight another day.”

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Please note that as of July 21, the staff of *Library Hotline* has settled into new offices in New York City’s Financial District.

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According to Ben Bizzle, a 2013 *LJ Mover & Shaker* and director of technology at the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library, AR, who also serves as a strategic advisor to EveryLibrary, intensive marketing on social media is likely to be one of the main tools used by the RRF, as it's easy to deploy on the fly and can make a quick, effective call to action. "The best way to reach people at the 11th hour these days is from social media," Bizzle told *Hotline*, saying its a lesson taken from the good results many libraries have had goosing attendance with social media reminders in the days just prior to an event.

It's also a cost-effective means of getting the word out to voters, advocates, and stakeholders. "It doesn't take a lot of money from our contributors for us to be able to make big financial differences in these libraries," Bizzle pointed out. Rapid Response will be funded by

individual contributions, as well as assistance from corporate sponsors.

To be eligible for Rapid Response help, libraries must meet a series of criteria, proving that their funding crisis was unexpected, that it can still be averted, that there are more than 100 hours until a vote or final decision, and that the library has a legitimate advocacy group ready to ensure the investment of funds will be met with boots on the ground action. It's also a one-time-only action that libraries can call on in crisis. "If this is blowing up in your face every year, we need to do bigger planning," said Chrastka.

One-Click Servers Among LITA Top Tech Trends

Anticipatory and contextual discovery, open hardware, one-click server installs, and even Biohacker spaces were

some of the topics discussed at this year's annual Library and Information Technology Association (LITA) Top Tech Trends panel on Sunday, June 29, at the American Library Association (ALA) annual conference in Las Vegas.

Ken Varnum, web systems manager at the University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor, kicked off the program with a discussion of how discovery has evolved and how librarians might adapt. Electronic resources and the Internet offer patrons access to an ever-vaster collection of content every year. But the end result is "oceans of information" that many patrons don't know how to navigate. Librarians can play a role in helping patrons create more focused subsets of these "oceans," Varnum said, particularly as discovery solutions offer increasingly sophisticated ways to tailor searches.

"I think what's going to be happening is that discovery systems are going to become much more locally tuned, [...] with a little work on the librarians' side, we'll be able to pool the resources and actually focus what we search on very specific subsets of the giant ocean."

On a related note, Roger Schonfeld, program director for libraries, users, and scholarly practices at Ithaca S+R, discussed the growth of anticipatory and contextual discovery tools, such as Google Now, an Android app that has the capacity to note that a user has an upcoming flight scheduled, automatically check current traffic and public transportation conditions, and suggest the best time to leave a current location using the optimal route to the airport. Once a user is at his or her destination, the app might suggest local restaurants or attractions, based on the user's habits.

"It's discovery that's driven not by what I might search for but what I might care about, which is a really different paradigm," Schonfeld said.

These types of tools work by collect-

News in Brief

Anet, a consortium of 20 Belgian academic and special libraries, signed an agreement with **OCLC** to add two million records to WorldCat. It is the first library consortium in Belgium to do so.

University of Toronto Libraries selected **YBP Library Services (YBP)**, a division of **Baker & Taylor**, as a primary supplier of academic titles. YBP will provide scholarly books published in the United States and UK.

The **Texas A&M University Libraries**, **CITY**, received two awards for its "Deeper Than Swords: Celebrating the Work of George R.R. Martin" exhibit: the **John Cotton Dana Award**, sponsored by the **H.W. Wilson Foundation**, **EBSCO**, and the **Library Leadership and Management Association**, a division of the **American Library Association**, and the 2014 **Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab "American Book Prices Current" Exhibition Award**.

LYRASIS and its partners—the **Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts**, Philadelphia; **Historically Black Colleges & University Library Alliance**; **Image Permanence Institute**; and **University of Delaware Art Conservation Department**, Newark—received a \$700,000 grant from the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**. The money will fund the preservation of local photographic and magnetic media collections and increase their use.

Three public libraries have selected **Innovative Interfaces' Polaris Integrated Library System**: **Irving Public Library, TX**; **Pleasant Hill Public Library, IA**; and **Urbandale Public Library, IA**.

The **Vigo County Public Library**, Terre Haute, IN, opened seven **Little Free Library** units thanks to a \$5,000 **Duke Energy Foundation** grant. Filled with donated books, the units were installed in areas of high traffic where patrons may not have ease of access to the library itself.

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ing and retaining a lot of personal information on users, so there are privacy trade-offs, Schonfeld acknowledged. Still, librarians should be cognizant of this trend in the commercial sphere and consider how libraries could better anticipate the needs of users.

Bohyun Kim, associate director for library applications and knowledge systems at the University of Maryland's Health Sciences and Human Services Library in Baltimore, spoke to Top Tech Trend attendees about an emergent offshoot of the Maker space movement—Biohacker spaces, essentially Maker spaces with a selection of lab equipment for biology experiments and tests.

Biohacking has been around since as early as 2005, with networks such as DIYbio.org nurturing the amateur biologist movement since 2008. Specifically describing the founding of Genspace, a community biology lab and Biohacker space launched in New York City in 2010 by the molecular biologist Ellen Jorgensen, Kim explained the goals of the movement.

"Everybody who wants to do science should be able to do it without having some sort of affiliation with a big institution," Kim said. "Before we had Maker spaces, we weren't able to manufacture things...unless we had access to certain hardware. Maker spaces made that possible. It democratized manufacturing, and the same thing is now happening in Biohacker spaces. Biology is being democratized."

LibraryBox developer and former associate professor and librarian at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Jason Griffey discussed democratization of a different sort. Most librarians are familiar with open source (OS) software, and many institutions now use OS software such as WordPress and Drupal in their daily workflows. Griffey (a 2009 *LJ Mover & Shaker*) encouraged attendees to begin considering electronics and com-

Collaborating on the Summer Slide: University Students Tutor at Jacksonville Public Library

In a tutoring session to help students organize story ideas, Erika Orłowski, elementary education major, directed four boys seated around a table at the Southeast Regional Library, part of the Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) system, FL, to write a topic sentence on the top of a hamburger bun. The three main story ideas were to be written on a leaf of lettuce, a slice of tomato, and a rather thick burger, with the finishing thought to be placed on the bottom of the bun—all drawn on paper, of course.

Orłowski, a junior at the University of North Florida (UNF), is one of 15 tutors participating in a unique collaboration between the university and JPL, initiated last year by Anita Haller, children's services senior librarian at Southeast. The four-week project during the summer months, an expansion of the 2013 pilot program, focused on reading and writing skills for about 24 children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Under the direction of Katrina Hall, associate professor of literacy at UNF, the students first assessed the boys' reading and writing skills and then created activities and lesson plans to meet their needs.



Alex Giovagnoni, UNF student tutor, guides students on word puzzles.

When the burgers looked well done, Orłowski moved the boys to a game with vocabulary sight words on Popsicle sticks. Nicholas, 9, smiled as he earned a large number of sticks for words he was able to read. Nicholas's mother, Kim, said he has been enjoying the tutoring sessions. "He especially enjoys the games they play," she said.

At another table, tutor Alex Giovagnoni worked with Carsten, 5, and Ben, 7. Ben worked intently on a word search puzzle of state names, nodding to answer questions without taking a break from the puzzle. His parents, Sharline and Ben, brought Ben and his brother because they are homeschooled. "We thought it would be a nice experience for them to work with someone other than Mom or Dad," she said, adding that Ben "loved" the sessions.

He's not alone. Haller, who sees the program as a benefit to all involved, hopes the university will collaborate with the library for many years to come.

"The library has long focused on creating a fun and welcoming learning environment for children," Haller shared. "By adding the extra ingredient of academic attention from college students, we have improved the recipe for learning and demonstrated that the public library is truly a gateway to educational success."

For the college students, Hall said the program provides an opportunity to see firsthand how the children react to the lessons and activities planned for them, which can be quite different from their assumptions.

"Anita Haller has really worked on our partnership and has always invited UNF into the library," Hall said. "Southeast is the closest library to the school and the library community is very diverse, ethnically and socioeconomically. My students have learned a great deal working with a nice mix of children."

puter hardware in the same light.

“It took us decades to realize that the benefit of open software was that we could control it,” compared with proprietary, commercial software, he said. “I think that there is some degree to which, over the next several years, we are going to start deciding that...open hardware is going to

give us the ability to control certain aspects of the computing experience we put in front of people.”

Current open hardware products include “Ethernut” embedded Ethernet devices, the Arduino open microcontroller board, and hacker Bunnie Huang’s recently launched Novena Open Laptop project. Griffey’s Library-

Boxen work with commercial hardware, but during installation, the portable router’s firmware is overwritten and replaced with Linux-based OpenWrt.

Mita Williams, user experience librarian at the Leddy Library at Canada’s University of Windsor in Ontario, described one-click server installations as her trend to watch. Setting up a personal server once required time, patience, and technical know-how. Lately, applications such as Minecraft Realms are enabling regular consumers to set up and get started with their own cloud-based servers in an instant.

“I think [simplified server installations are] going to lower the barriers of participation to all sorts of software, not just for individuals but for libraries,” she said, pointing to the City University of New York’s (CUNY) DHbox project as an example. Founded by CUNY Hunter College reference librarian Stephen Zweibel, DHbox enables faculty or students within minutes to set up a cloud-based digital humanities lab with configurations of web-publishing platform Omeka, Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK), interactive computing command shell IPython, RStudio OS enterprise software for the programming language R, and MALLETT (Machine Learning for Language Toolkit).

With DHbox, “You don’t have to learn how to install all of that software,” Williams said. “They’re providing a service just to make it easy for scholars...to just get their hands dirty and try the software itself.”

AASL Approves New Mission Statement

At the 2014 American Library Association (ALA) annual conference in Las Vegas, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Board of Directors unanimously approved a new mission statement: “The American Association of School Librari-

Branching Out



New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) is looking to restore its **Milton H. Latter Library** Green Room ceiling and French fresco mural. The campaign to refurbish the 9,000 square foot library, housed in a 1907 mansion, is a joint partnership among the NOPL Foundation, NOPL, and Friends of NOPL.

Brookes Bible College, St. Louis, opened its new Lois Friess Memorial Library in early July. The building, part of the school’s new St. Ann’s campus, is a 26,000 square foot, three-story structure that made its debut in May. The new campus can accommodate 700 students and is completely Wi-Fi accessible. The library, librarian office, and registrar office comprise the facility’s first floor.

The new 18,000 square foot **New Buffalo Township Public Library**, MI, opens in mid-August. Supported by a \$5 million bond approved in 2012, along with a \$900,000 grant from the Pokagon Fund, the new library, constructed on the site of its 1977 predecessor, doubles its size. Designed by FTC&H Architects, with construction by Skillman Corporation and interior design by Alyce Riemenschneider of Quinn Evans, the library now has nearly twice as many computers, a fireplace, local history room, and conference room. The children’s area features a read-to-me corner; the building also houses a teen space, 22-space parking lot, sculpture, bike racks, and an outdoor patio.

Saturday, June 21, marked the opening of the new children’s addition to the **East Hampton Library** (EHP) (pictured), NY. Established in 1897, the library began its expansion plan, designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects, with construction by Ben Krupinski Builders, in 2001. For those suffering triskaidekaphobia, that’s 13 years of wrangling with government agencies and local officials, zoning disputes, and a lawsuit, according to SLJ.com. But all now ends well for EHP, as it grew by 6,800 square feet, 4,000 of which on the main floor encompass the youth section, with an additional 10,000 books, new computers, and dedicated spaces for children and teens. In keeping with the heritage of East Hampton, on Long Island’s East End, the space features a nautical theme, including lighthouses and a boat-shaped information desk. The \$6.5 million project was supported through private donations and New York State grants. More than \$1 million came from actor Alec Baldwin; the gift will underwrite the Baldwin Family Lecture Room on the building’s lower level.

Photo by Richard Lewin

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ans empowers leaders to transform teaching and learning.”

During AASL’s mission statement discussions, three key components rose to the top, according to Eileen Kern, chair of the working group. “First is that the role of the school librarian is evolving and changing. School librarians serve as the guiding light in transforming learning through new tools and technology. Second is that the essence of school libraries is teaching and learning. This concept places school libraries at the center of any discussion dealing with education. Last is our association’s need to work with leaders, within and outside our profession, to be our voice in the transformation process.”

Amazon, Hachette Leave Authors in the Middle

In the ongoing battle between Amazon and Hachette Book Group over renegotiating the contract for book sales and profit share, the two sides have yet to come to agreement. Amazon has been publicly cited for using bullying tactics, such as raising Hachette book pricing and deliberately delaying the publisher’s book shipments, in order to strong-arm the publisher into concession of Amazon’s terms. (Amazon controls over 40 percent of the overall book sale market.)

Public opinion has largely landed on Team Hachette. Both Hachette and non-Hachette authors such as Amazon’s current #1 best seller and YA author John Green (*The Fault in Our Stars*), who is published by Penguin Random House, criticized Amazon, saying, “The breadth of American literature and the quality of American literature is in no small part due to the work that publishers do, and it’s very unfortunate...to see Amazon refuse to acknowledge the importance of that partnership.”

He also was quoted as saying that

Robin Bradford was named Collection Development Librarian at Timberland Regional Library, WA. She previously held the same title at Indianapolis Public Library.

Donna Galonek retired as Assistant Director of Auburn Public Library, ME. She had been with the library for 41 years.

Bryan Giemza was appointed Director of the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He was previously Associate Professor of American Literature at Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA.

Jennifer Greenstreet retired as Director of Ada Public Library, OK. She had held the position since 1986.

Barb Kruser was appointed Director of Helen Plum Memorial Library, Lombard, IL. She

was previously Co-Interim Director at Niles Public Library District, IL.

Mary-Jo Romaniuk was named University Librarian at the University of Manitoba, Canada, for a five-year term, effective October 1. A 2010 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker, she is currently an Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

The **University of Wisconsin Libraries**, Milwaukee, made the following hires: **Eliza Bettinger** was named GIS Specialist of the university’s American Geographical Society Library; **Nathan Humpal** was named Catalog and Data Services Librarian; and **Abigail Nye** was named Reference and Instruction Archivist.

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“he worries Amazon is trying to ‘bully publishers into nonexistence,’” according to the Associated Press.

James Patterson, a Hachette author, used his attendance at this year’s BookExpo America (May 28–30) as an opportunity to weigh in publicly on the dispute. “Amazon seems to be out to control shopping in this country,” Patterson said. “This will ultimately have an effect on every grocery and department store chain, on every big-box store, and, ultimately, it will put thousands of mom-and-pop stores out of business.... That certainly sounds like the beginning of a monopoly to me. Amazon also, as you know, wants to control bookselling, book buying, and even book publishing, and that is a national tragedy.”

In early July, best-selling author Douglas Preston (of the “Pendergast” series), who is with Macmillan, began collecting author signatures for a letter-writing campaign asking Amazon to “resolve its dispute with Hachette

without hurting authors and without blocking or otherwise delaying the sale of books to its customers.” The letter went viral, and more than 300 authors signed it. In response, Amazon spokesperson Sarah Gelman emailed the following to Preston:

“Our focus for years has been to build a bookstore that benefits authors and readers alike. We take seriously and regret the impact it has when, however infrequently, a terms dispute with a publisher affects authors. We look forward to resolving this issue with Hachette as soon as possible.”

On July 7, Amazon’s David Nagar, vice president of Kindle content, wrote a letter to Hachette suggesting that if the publisher was concerned about the financial well-being of its writers, it could give its authors 100 percent of the royalties on all their ebook sales through Amazon, according to *Publishers Weekly*.

What is evident is that a lot is at stake with no easy resolution in sight.



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