

**Massachusetts Ebook Pilot Offers Insights**

The Massachusetts State Ebook Project, conceived by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner’s (MBLC) Statewide Resource Sharing Committee and the Massachusetts Library System (MLS), with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), this summer concluded a pilot program, offering many insights into the challenges and promises that statewide consortial ebook lending programs may offer.

The pilot involved a comprehensive approach to ebook lending. Beginning in November 2013, Baker & Taylor’s (B&T) Axis 360 platform offered about 3,000 popular fiction and general interest ebooks under a standard one ebook, one user, two-week lending model, and BiblioLabs made available more than 25,000 public domain ebooks, library special collections, and other content with an unlimited simultaneous use model. EBL, a division of ProQuest, joined the pilot in February 2014, with a short-term loan model whereby patrons were able to access 135,500 academic and professional ebook titles for seven-day checkout.

“We were trying to look at three different models,” explained MLS advisor Deb Hoadley. “We intentionally decided at the very beginning that we weren’t going to have our own server and try to worry about our own technology. BiblioBoard had the platform that we needed for uploading our own content as well as the visually appealing way that they were displaying mostly public domain [ebooks].... Baker & Taylor met that content need of best sellers and popular fiction for all ages, and then EBL [provided] the short-term loan model.”

Forty-nine libraries participated: ten academic, 28 public, eight school, and three special libraries.

To prepare participating libraries for the pilot, MLS put together a task force that generated a launch kit with a step-by-step manual, postcards and other promotional materials, instructional webinars for library staff, on-site training sessions with vendors, and an internal blog and electronic list to post updates and answer questions.

The results of a post-pilot survey of participating libraries seemed to illustrate different levels of engagement with these training efforts. While more than 97 percent of respondents said that they were aware of the pilot and knew that their library

**Interview**

**Kyle Denlinger**

In our latest In-Depth Interview with *Library Journal* Movers & Shakers from academic libraries, we caught up with Kyle Denlinger, eLearning Librarian at Wake Forest University’s Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Winston-Salem, NC.

**Your first job was to create a massive open online course (MOOC). Can you talk about that experience?**



What we did was design a four-week online course for parents and alumni primarily. I built it on a kind of conglomeration of free Google tools. Once we opened it for enrollment, we had about 700 people sign up. Since that first course we’ve done three more.

**What advice would you give to libraries considering implementing a MOOC for the very first time?**

For anyone interested in doing MOOCs, make sure you have the staff to support it, make sure that you have somebody who’s familiar with online pedagogy, with the tools necessary to create a lively course.

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**INSIDE**

- Knight Fdn. Challenge on Libraries.....2**
- REFORMA Supports Minors .....4**
- Duncan Announces \$82M in Grants....5**
- Book Challenges Antidiversity? .....6**
- National Book Award Long Lists.....7**



**Who Moves You?**

The editors of *Library Journal* need your help in identifying the emerging leaders in the library world. Our 14th annual Movers & Shakers coverage will profile 50-plus up-and-coming individuals who are innovative, creative, and making a difference. Learn more and submit your nominations, visit <http://ow.ly/C6ZWN>.

Postmark deadline: November 7, 2014

was a participant, only 65 percent said that their library had used the launch kit and training materials that MLS provided.

In written comments from librarians respondents who said that they had, at some point, been unable to help a patron find and download something they wanted, problems included “a combination of technical issues, [patrons’] own unfamiliarity with their device, and then the book just not being available.” Another librarian noted that Kindles are popular with patrons but still a challenge to use with lending platforms. Another wrote that “patrons get very frustrated by having to access ebooks...across different platforms” and that their patrons regularly make unfavorable comparisons between library ebook borrowing and the ease of buying and downloading ebooks from Amazon.com.

The separate patron survey confirmed these views and included written complaints about difficulties logging on to different platforms, that too many books were unavailable for checkout, and about problems with Kindles (the preferred platform for 20 percent of respondents, compared with 35 percent iPad users, 17 percent NOOK users, 13 percent computer/laptop users, about nine percent “other” tablet users, and 6.5 percent smartphone users).

However, almost 90 percent of those respondents still said they were ultimately able to find and download an ebook that they were interested in

or that met their needs, and almost 72 percent said the overall experience had met their expectations. Written comments indicated that satisfaction likely increased once users received help or figured out how to use the platforms on their own.

## Knigh Fdn. Challenge Spotlights Libraries

On September 10, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (KF) opened the most recent Knight News Challenge: How might we leverage libraries as a platform to build more knowledgeable communities? The challenge hopes to elicit projects that “build on the transformational power of libraries and use their ideas, principles and assets in innovative ways to help people learn about the world around them and engage in the places they live.”

Some \$2.5 million will be awarded to the challenge winners altogether, with individual awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$1 million (the typical award size is between \$200,000 and \$500,000). This financial support will go toward the design, development, and implementation of the projects.

Submissions closed September 30. However, the process is designed to be iterative, and between October 1–20 projects can receive feedback from fellow participants and the public in order to refine their proposals. Semifinalists will be announced October 21, and each project has another week to

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
*Library Journal & School Library Journal*

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#### Outside U.S.

760-317-2332

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, 123 William St., Suite 802, New York, NY 10038. 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: Send change of address to Library Hotline, PO Box 460483, Escondido, CA 92046-9803 Telephone 800-588-1030 Outside US 1-760-317-2332.

Printed in the U.S.A.



## Librarian of the Year

*Library Journal* is seeking nominations for the 27th annual Librarian of the Year Award to honor a professional librarian for outstanding achievement and accomplishments reflecting the loftiest service goals of the library profession.

Please send submissions in an electronic format such as a Word document or a PDF directly via email to Rebecca Miller at [rmiller@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:rmiller@mediasourceinc.com).

**Postmark Deadline: November 3, 2014**

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refine its original proposal. Then the finalists will be selected and a list of proposed winners submitted to KF trustees. Winners will be announced in January 2015.

KF is especially interested in journalism, media, and the arts, focusing on community engagement and open information. John Bracken, director of the journalism and media innova-

tion division, which administers the News Challenge, told *Hotline* that ten years ago KF became concerned that it was helping to train journalists for jobs that weren't going to exist much longer. The first News Challenge questions were open-ended, asking people to "tell us your ideas about news." Recent topics are more focused on areas that KF members are excited about.

Winners of the last News Challenge—"How can we strengthen the Internet for free expression and innovation?"—included projects from the New York Public Library and the Digital Public Library of America. The ongoing \$6.7 million Knight Library Initiative, which launched in December 2010, is currently encouraging public libraries in 27 cities to become digital community centers by helping them to strengthen their connectivity and technical infrastructure and providing digital training.

Since 2013, KF has partnered with the innovative design firm IDEO, using its OpenIDEO platform to maximize people's engagement with the proposals. The submission process is set up to be both idea-generating and transparent, with entries available for commentary as they are posted. Once the challenge is closed, KF's panel of advisers, composed of professionals from other foundations, libraries, and digital media, will identify the finalists and meet with them virtually to discuss any questions. "We want to enable nonlibrarians to stand up and raise their hands and share their ideals, even if they're not associated with a library," Bracken explained to *Hotline*, "entrepreneurs, journalists, software developers, designers, parents, teachers who are passionate about libraries in a digital age."

As of press time there were more than 200 entries posted, ranging from a branch system for academic libraries to a centralized government customer service program.

## REFORMA Brings Support to Unaccompanied Minors

For months, librarians Oralia Garza de Cortes, Lucía M. González, and Patrick Sullivan have spearheaded a program to put appropriate books in the hands of unaccompanied minors entering the United States. The trio, active members of the American Library Association's (ALA) affiliate REFORMA (National Association To Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos), presented the Children in Crisis project proposal to the REFORMA executive board and membership during ALA's annual conference in June.

Children in Crisis aims to provide literacy support for the unaccompanied children who have been arriving from Latin American countries by the thousands. Many of them have been relocated to detention centers nationwide as they await immigration processing and the final decision about their futures from international lawmakers.

REFORMA launched the campaign—with Garza de Cortes, a Latino children's literature consultant in Austin, TX, and Sullivan, emeritus librarian at San Diego State University, serving as cochairs—to raise funds for Spanish books and backpacks for Spanish-speaking immigrant children from countries such as El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

The first phase, from August 11–22, resulted in enough money and donations to deliver 300 books to children in the McAllen Texas Centralized Processing Center. "The passion that our members have to assist and educate our children about the importance of reading and libraries is big," said Silvia Cisneros, president of REFORMA and a senior youth services librarian at the Santa Ana Public Library, CA, who delivered those books on September 10. "When we launched this campaign, there was response within minutes."

For many of the children, the REFORMA outreach is their first encounter with librarians and library-related programs.

The books were donated by the publishers and distributors Lectorum, Bilingual Publications, TOMO Books, and Libros Books and through funds raised by REFORMA members—mostly librarians who serve Spanish-speaking communities. A personalized label in each book given to a child contains a message thought up by children's librarian and author González: "Un libro es un compañero que te da luz y cobijo" ("A book is a companion that gives you light and shelter").

Along with de Cortes and Sullivan, Cisneros will continue to oversee the project for the immediate future. The organization hopes to provide books to another Texas site before going on to the next phase, which will consist of raising and distributing money to various local chapters of REFORMA in regions where children are being sheltered. The chapters are expected to purchase backpacks and books for donation.



REFORMA president Silvia Cisneros (r.) with Border Patrol Officer Lopez. Cisneros delivered 300 books to the McAllen Texas Centralized Processing Center on behalf of the library organization.

## Arne Duncan Announces \$82 Million in Grants

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan believes that mentoring is the key to high school graduation and reiterated his belief in an interview with Bloomberg EDU host Jane Stoddard Williams during a September 22 event leading up to the third annual American Graduate Day, a live national broadcast that celebrates those who help improve high school retention rates, on September 27.

The interview and program, hosted by WNET and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting—and emceed by author and youth advocate Wes Moore—kicked off a week of celebrations that culminated in a broadcast on September 27, live from the WNET studios in New York City’s Lincoln Center.

During his interview, Duncan noted that students need “just one

The Association of Research Libraries/Society of American Archivists **Mosaic Program** has chosen its Fellows currently enrolled in MLIS programs focused in archival studies: Micha Broadnax, Simmons College, Boston; Joanna Chen, University of California, Los Angeles; Adriana Flores, Simmons College; Harvey Long, University of Wisconsin, Madison; and Sara Powell, Simmons College.

**Hennepin County Library**, MN, implemented the 3M™ SelfCheck™ System and QuickConnect Interface into its system. More than 80 kiosks will be installed at all 41 library locations by the end of 2014.

**United for Libraries** has partnered with **Serendipity Films** in a Kickstarter campaign to fund a documentary, titled *Free for All: Inside the Public Library*. The goal is to reach \$75,000 through donations.

The **San Francisco Public Library’s Bayview Branch** was renamed in honor of the late Linda Brooks-Burton, a former Librarian and Branch Manager. It will now be known as the Bayview Linda Brooks-Burton Branch Library.

Mobile library **BiblioBoard** has partnered with **Riptide Publishing** and **Dreamspinner Press** to offer LGBTQ+ ebooks to users. More than 2,000 titles from these publishers will be available through BiblioBoard’s website and apps.

Five libraries in the Middle East and the Arabian peninsula have selected Innovative’s **Sierra Library Services Platform**: American University of Cairo, Egypt; Emirates College for Advanced Education, Abu Dhabi; Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, Lebanon; Institute for Applied Technology, Abu Dhabi; and University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

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person.” The seeds of success or failure are sown early, he said, explaining that kindergartners who are frequently absent from school are less likely than their classmates to graduate from high school.

Duncan also recommended changes in teacher education and a rise in teacher pay as ways to improve student performance. “The residency model,” such as doctors complete, “makes tremendous sense” as a way to increase both student and teacher retention.

During the program, “Duncan announced the award of \$82 million for 41 grants under Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) that will help 116,000 at-risk students to prepare for college and receive the support they need to achieve success in postsecondary education,” stated a September 22 press release through the U.S. Department of Education.

According to the press release, “Two types of grants are being awarded:

\$51,420,120 for 31 partnership grants in 19 states, and \$31,264,008 for ten state grants to Alabama, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.” The state and partnership grants awarded in 19 states are “competitive six- or seven-year matching grant programs that target entire grades of students.” Schools ally with local organizations or businesses, and the funds must include matching local contributions and in-kind services.

This year, applicants were encouraged to address how they plan to increase postsecondary success, implement college- and career-ready standards, and work in conjunction with Promise Zones—places where the federal government has collaborated with local communities and businesses to create jobs, increase economic security, improve educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime.

One grant project is a \$5.78 million partnership grant between North-

eastern Illinois University and Chicago Public Schools District 299 that will be used to transform the way schools prepare some 7,229 disadvantaged students for high school and college. Beginning in 36 elementary and middle schools that feed into 14 high-needs Chicago public high schools—and partnering with 11 colleges and community-based organizations—the project has three objectives: to increase academic preparation and performance of GEAR UP students in higher-level math, English, and science courses; to increase high school graduation and college-going rates; and to increase students’ educational expectations by deepening their knowledge about the advantages of postsecondary education and the availability of student aid.

Asked his opinion of the impact of high-stakes testing and cuts in funding to education, Duncan stressed the importance of extracurricular activities in boosting graduation rates. “Nobody wakes up and says, ‘I want to be a high school dropout,’” he said.

Bloomberg’s Williams then asked what Duncan tells people who say that students’ failure to graduate is because the material is too difficult. “I absolutely reject that. The answer is never to dummy things down.”

## Study: Do Book Challenges Suppress Diversity?

What is the overlap between challenged books and books by diverse authors? Inspired by the recent flurry of challenges to titles with diverse characters or by minorities or LGBTQ writers, young adult author and Diversity in YA cofounder Malinda Lo conducted an informal study to see whether there is a correlation between challenged books and diverse content.

Using statistics from the American Library Association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, Lo posited that 52 percent of the top titles challenged

## People

**Julie Holden** was promoted to Assistant Library Director at Cranston Public Library, RI. She was previously its Emerging Technologies Librarian.

**Pauline Klein** announced her retirement as Collection Development Librarian at Charlotte County Library System, FL, effective November 4. She has been with the library for ten years.

**Leo Kriz** retired as Head of Technical Services at West Des Moines Public Library, IA. He has worked in the field for almost 30 years.

**Rebecca Lemons** was appointed Executive Director of Huntington City-Township Public

Library, IN. She was previously Library Services Manager at Marathon County Public Library, WI.

**Erin Shea** was named Supervisor of the Harry Bennett and Weed Memorial and Hollander Branches of the Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT. She formerly served as Head of Adult Programming at Darien Library, CT. Shea is a 2014 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker.

Melville House made the following hires: **Mark Krotov**, previously Editor at Overlook Press, was named Senior Editor; **Liam O’Brien**, previously Retail Sales Coordinator at HarperCollins, was named Sales and Marketing Manager.

## In Memoriam

**Paul K. Sybrowsky**, cofounder of Dynix, Inc., died on September 10. He was 70 years old.

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since 2000 are about people of color and LGBTQ communities.

While many times the reason for a work's challenge is cited as explicit language or religious viewpoint, Lo wondered if another bias was at work. Though by no means conclusive, the results illuminate the importance of raising awareness during Banned Books Week (September 21–27).

Since the publication of the study on the Diversity in YA website on September 18, Lo said she received support from educators and advocates for diverse and banned books.

“I’ve been very gratified by the positive response to the post, and I hope it makes everyone involved with censorship issues look beyond the stated reasons for a book challenge, because I suspect those publicly stated reasons are sometimes hiding ulterior motives,” Lo told *Hotline* via email. “I’ve gone through my whole life dealing with subtle racism and subtle homophobia, and that’s the hardest kind to fight because people can deny it exists. But it does exist, and it has clear consequences.”

## National Book Awards’ Second Annual Long Lists

Over the week of September 15–18, the National Book Foundation (NBF) announced its long lists in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and young people’s literature for the National Book Awards (NBA), featuring books the judges deemed the best works written by a U.S. citizen and published in the United States between December 1, 2013, and November 30, 2014. One list each day was presented over four days, opening with young people’s literature and culminating with fiction.

New to the NBAs just last year, the long lists have the advantage of “honor[ing] double the number of books,” noted NBF executive director Harold Augenbraum, bringing kudos



The new 25,000 square foot **Wolf Creek Library** (pictured) branch of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System opened on September 8. It encompasses a copper-colored metal-paneled exterior, stacked-stone detail, floor-to-ceiling windows, a large meeting room, study rooms, a music room, and dedicated areas for teens and for children. The library is situated on a ridge in a wooded landscape; the large windows offer expansive views. The facility was designed by Leo A. Daly Company, with construction management from Hogan Construction Group, LLC, and is Phase 1 of the city’s Library Building Program, approved through a 2008 referendum, which includes the construction of eight new branch libraries. A portion of the \$17,659,536 project is devoted to public art, mandated by the Fulton County Art in Public Places Resolution at one percent of each building’s budget. Wolf Creek Library features Lynn Marshall-Linnemeier’s tree sculpture *Strength of Heart: A Journey Project for the Community at Wolf Creek*. The branch has targeted Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

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to more authors (and more publishers) while giving readers a greater number of reading suggestions. Rolling out the lists over four days “allowed the public to focus on just one genre a day and then move on to the next literary category,” explained Augenbraum. “Forty books in one day, in four genres, would have been too overwhelming. By spreading it over four days, it be-

comes a sort of virtual festival of the book, a celebration each year of reading and writing and authorship.”

The **Phoenixville Public Library (PPL)**, PA, began renovations that will include mechanical and structural upgrades. The 11,800 square foot library is replacing its HVAC systems and adding a new layer to a section of the roof, according to the *Daily Local*. Founded in 1896, PPL opened its Avondale stone and Indiana limestone Carnegie building in 1902. It has subsequently undergone an addition in 1987 and a more recent renovation in 2012. The library is now part of the Chester County Library System, and the construction, which is funded through the Phoenixville Area School District, is expected to cost \$738,000.

The **Essex Branch** of Baltimore County Public Library closed on October 1 for a two-month renovation. The refurbishment to the 14,000 square foot branch, which opened in 1969, will include new shelving, paint, carpet, and an updated information desk, along with the installation of new computers. Funded by the Baltimore County Capital Maintenance Project, the work is estimated to cost \$415,000.

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The National Book Award finalists will be announced exclusively on NPR’s *Morning Edition* on October 15 and the Winners at the invitation-only National Book Awards ceremony and benefit dinner on November 19 in New York City.

Photo courtesy of Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System.

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