

**ALA Midwinter 2015:
 Council in Action**

When it comes to big things, the American Library Association (ALA) is staying the course. During the Midwinter Meeting in Chicago, January 30–February 3, the Budget Analysis & Review Committee (BARC) recommended that the general shape of the Midwinter schedule remain unchanged, despite a proposal to add more programs, BARC chair Patricia Wand reported to ALA Council. Rodney Hersberger, chair of the endowment trustees, announced that the endowment had grown to \$40 million. The FY16 Programmatic Priorities based on President Courtney Young’s initiatives were passed. Because of possible economic damage it was decided to keep the 2016 ALA annual conference in Orlando despite Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” laws.

Yet changes were made. Loida García-Febo (a 2007 *Library Journal* Mover & Shaker), Julius C. Jefferson Jr., and Mike Marlin were elected to the Executive Board. Council passed the Revised Standards for Accreditation of Master’s Programs in Library and Information Studies, along with changes to the ALA Policy Manual on committee communication, the term

of Membership Initiative Groups, and an interpretation of the Code of Ethics regarding copyright.

Council also considered a full slate of resolutions. The Social Responsibilities Round Table’s (SRRT) Resolution on the Destruction of Libraries and Schools in Gaza in 2014 was the most contentious item. After passionate discussion, the resolution was defeated. Assertions that the situation in the Middle East is too complicated for ALA to engage and that the resolution negatively singled out Israel seemed to convince councilors; only about 14 voted for the resolution.

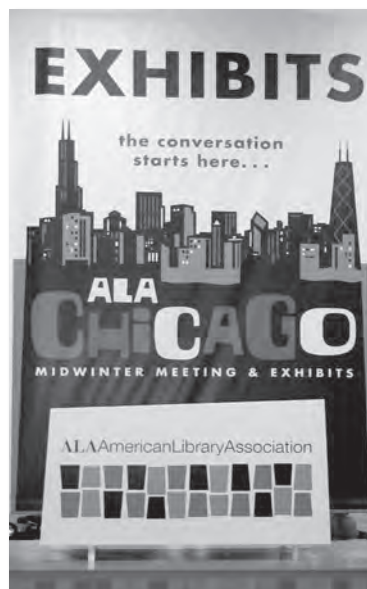
Another SSRT resolution seeking ALA divestment from holdings in Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions because these firms were involved in the repression of the Occupied Palestinian Territories was withdrawn, after it was reported that ALA no longer invests in individual stocks but rather in mu-

tual and other funds, greatly complicating divestment.

The joint Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) and International Relations Committee (IRC) Resolution Denouncing Recent Assaults on the Freedom of Expression as Exemplified in the Attack on *Charlie Hebdo* passed after some debate.

A Resolution Urging Library Directors To Encourage and Support United for Libraries Memberships for Each of Their Trustees from Council II was passed, after being amended for clarity.

The Committee on Legislation resolution in support of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) urging the U.S. Congress to fund its digital reports as well as preserving its collections passed without comment. The resolution also urges Congress to ensure the existence of a national repository to provide public access to these reports if NTIS-enabling legislation is eliminated.



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KY Library District Upheld, More in the Balance

The McLean County Public Library, a one-branch system in the tiny rural community of Livermore, KY, is a valid special taxing district, a

state appeals court affirmed in a January 30 decision, enabling it to continue raising revenue without voter approval. McLean County is one of almost 100 county library systems in Kentucky operating as a special taxing district, so the decision was welcome news for the entire Kentucky library community.

It took the Kentucky Court of Appeals more than two years to issue its ruling, which backed the findings of a lower court against five plaintiffs, all McLean County residents. Their appeal was filed on December 27, 2012, asking that all library taxes collected since 2011 be refunded since the special district was not properly created.

In a ten-page decision, appellate judges upheld a McLean Circuit Court decision. The case hinged in part on whether state law KRS 67.715 gave the McLean County Fiscal Court the legal authority to form the special taxing district, the mechanism by which the vast majority of Kentucky's library systems raise money.

The library tax in McLean County is 3.8¢ per \$100 of valuation. As a special taxing district, the library is allowed to set that rate without voter approval.

McLean County Public Library is Kentucky's newest library taxing district. Although its creation came during a vigorous wave of statewide fiscal conservatism, McLean County judge executive Kelly Thurman defended the action as necessary to solidify the small library's financial footing.

The facility first opened in the 1950s as the Livermore Community Library, founded by the Livermore Women's Club. By 2010, the women's club was no longer running the library, and the county's fiscal court agreed to take over. But it became apparent there would not be sufficient funds available. The Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives recommended the creation of a spe-

Interview

Gary Wasdin

After serving as executive director of the Omaha Public Library since January 2010,



Gary Wasdin recently became library director of the King County Library System (KCLS), Issaquah, WA. The 48-branch system (the 2011 *Library Journal* Library of the

Year) serves urban and rural areas and is currently well into a \$172 million capital bond renovation and expansion program launched in 2004.

What are the major differences you're seeing between Omaha and KCLS?

In KCLS we have the luxury of not having the same financial stresses that most libraries struggle with—although with that luxury comes a great deal of responsibility to a public that has very high expectations. They invest heavily in their library, but they also expect to see a very large return on that investment. The communities are very engaged. But that also comes with a higher accountability to the people we serve.

How are the renovations going?

They're great. One of the things I like so much about KCLS is that there's a consistent look and feel throughout the system. Even though each branch is unique and really reflects its community, at the same time there's a strong branding presence in each space, so you know you're in a King County Library. You have a consistent color palette and signage.... It's really great to see that as an effect of this bond program.

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cial taxing district. In June 2011, the county judge executive did just that, breaking a 2–2 tie in fiscal court.

Local opponents to the newly created library tax wasted little time, and by April 12, 2012 the original lawsuit was filed. When the circuit court heard the case on November 29, 2012, it summarily ruled against plaintiffs, declaring that as county judge, Thurman had “statutory authority to create the public library taxing district.” But an appeal was filed less than a month later.

McLean County is not the only library system in Kentucky operating as a special taxing district and facing a court challenge. Districts in Campbell and Kenton counties are fighting a legal battle with citizens who claim the counties have improperly raised tax revenue for decades. A ruling for the plaintiffs could mean a rollback to dramatically smaller tax rates and a corresponding reduction in services.

Another setback could create a legal precedent through which the majority of Kentucky libraries could have their funding method challenged.

“All Eyes on IMLS” | ALA Midwinter 2015

Eager to promote strategic priorities for 2015, officials for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) trained a spotlight on the various federal funding resources available through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at an American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter session. At a talk entitled “All Eyes on IMLS: Funding Priorities and Reauthorization,” IMLS acting director Maura Marx and associate deputy director for state programs Robin Dale outlined the scope and focus of LSTA’s grants to states and other discretionary spending for libraries.

A priority for 2015, Marx said, will be the congressional reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA), which in turn authorizes both LSTA and the Museum Services Act (MSA). MLSA, which allows the IMLS to exist as the independent federal agency for libraries and museums, was last passed in 2010 and must be readopted by both houses of Congress and signed by President

Obama by September 30, 2016.

The reauthorization of MLSA by the 2016 deadline is a major concern for IMLS in the coming year. The president’s proposed FY16 federal budget contains a \$9.6 million increase for IMLS over the FY15 enacted total of \$227.9 million, with much of that increase targeted for the national digital platform initiative.

MLSA established IMLS when it was first passed by Congress in 1996. The act was reauthorized in 2003 and again in 2010. Reauthorization, Marx explained, is a congressional oversight process in which lawmakers will review MLSA, measure its effectiveness, and consider changes before approving (or denying) the necessary appropriations. This legislation, in theory, will also extend the law for a fixed or indefinite period. The House Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will do the primary work early in the process.

Any changes, Marx noted, could naturally alter IMLS’s priorities and goals. Therefore, the agency’s ongoing mission will be to increase public awareness of how effectively MLSA is working. A pilot program of 16 states will begin reporting outcomes and evaluations of IMLS funding work by December 2015, with all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands reporting into the system in 2016. This data will also be made available to the public.

Of the total \$227.8 million budgeted for IMLS in federal FY15, about \$180 million (79 percent) will go for LSTA services. Grants to State Library Administrative Agencies are by far the largest slice of the LSTA pie, budgeted at \$154.8 million in FY15.

There are also competitive grants awarded on the basis of merit and a dedication to causes IMLS has deemed critical. At the ALA session,

People

Colleen F. Barany was promoted to Reference Librarian at the Cape Coral–Lee County Public Library, FL. She was previously a Library Assistant.

Amy Dodson was named Director of the Douglas County Public Library System, Minden, NV. She previously held the same title at Pine River Library, Bayfield, CO.

Gretchen Freeman retired as Associate Director of Salt Lake County Library Services. She had worked for the library for 11 years.

Cliff Jo, Director of Finance and Business Operations at Pierce County Library System, Tacoma, was named the 2015 Government

Financial Executive of the Year by the Business Examiner Media Group.

Ann R. Renken was promoted to Head of Collection Services at West Des Moines Public Library. She was previously a Technical Services Assistant.

Steven Escar Smith, Dean, University of Tennessee Libraries, Knoxville, was appointed to the Executive Board of the Tenn-Share Consortium.

Darla Wegener was named Head Librarian of the Tulare County Library, Visalia, CA. She was previously Library Manager for the City of Long Beach, CA.

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Marx and Dale emphasized IMLS's two main priorities for 2015: Learning in Libraries and a National Digital Platform. IMLS will field competitive grant proposals in these areas with about \$26 million available overall.

Early learning, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) learning, Maker spaces in libraries, and workforce-adult learning were the four main components included under the Learning in Libraries umbrella.

The National Digital Platform, meanwhile, is the entire system that provides digital services to people and companies across the United States. It exists today, Marx said, as a set of disconnected components that must be brought together into an effective infrastructure.

The new competitive grant application process has been revised and begins with a simple two-page proposal subject to peer panel review. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit a full proposal, followed by more peer review.

OCLC's Linked Data Work | ALA Midwinter 2015

In the early days of the World Wide Web, many libraries blocked search engines from crawling their sites and used other means to insulate library records from the open web.

Since then, despite several projects that have started to share library data with the wider web, "a lot of that reticence to engage, historically, is still there," said Richard Wallis, technology evangelist for OCLC and chair of the W3C Schema Bib Extend Community Group (SBECG) during the "OCLC Links and Entities: The Library Data Revolution" session at the American Library Association (ALA) 2015 Midwinter Meeting in Chicago. Yet the library community is increasingly aware of the need to enhance

the discoverability of library resources on the open web.

In an effort that parallels and complements the Library of Congress's (LC) Bibliographic Framework Initiative (BIBFRAME), OCLC is using schema.org to help facilitate this discoverability via linked data,

explained Wallis and his colleague Ted Fons, executive director, data services and WorldCat quality management for OCLC.

Using embedded metadata or microdata to optimize search engine rankings and drive relevant traffic to websites became an increasingly com-

Tuck Turns 40

A blog tour, a hashtag (#Tuck40th), and a special anniversary edition are just some of the ways that the kid lit community is celebrating the 40th anniversary of Natalie Babbitt's *Tuck Everlasting* (Farrar, 1975). The book—which asks the question, "What if you could live forever?"—has become a staple on many school reading lists and is considered a classic example of children's literature. In the story, ten-year-old Winnie encounters the Tuck family, who have a spring whose water grants eternal life, and she must decide whether to drink the water.



In 1975, the year *Tuck* was published, Babbitt told *Hotline*, the topic of death in children's literature was still somewhat taboo. She is delighted that the book has, and continues to be, used by teachers.

Since its publication, the book has sold more than 3.5 million copies worldwide, and on January 20, an anniversary edition was released containing bonus material, with an introduction by author Gregory Maguire (*Wicked; Out of Oz*). Maguire also hosted a special anniversary event at New York City's Symphony Space on January 25, where he interviewed the 82-year-old Babbitt, calling her a "living legend" and an "American magician of words" and comparing her to author Willa Cather for her ability to paint the American landscape so vividly.

Over the course of the evening, Babbitt shared some backstory about the novel. At the time she was writing the book, Babbitt and her husband, Samuel, had a lake house in Forestport, NY, which became the setting for the book. It was in that lake house that her three children first heard *Tuck* read aloud to them, by their father, before the work's publication. Lucy, Babbitt's youngest, told *Hotline* that even as a young child she "knew right away that it was something special."

Babbitt began her career as an aspiring book illustrator, and it was famed editor Michael di Capua who gave Babbitt the confidence to try her hand at writing. The lake house was also the inspiration for the cover art, which Babbitt herself created. The anniversary edition features a new cover, by Bagram Ibatoulline. Babbitt was quite pleased with the change and was moved that her publisher, Macmillan, presented her with the original cover illustration.

As part of the anniversary celebration, 40 bloggers around the country asked and answered the question, "What if you could live forever?" over the course of 40 days (January 1–February 9). For coverage of the celebration throughout the year and to participate in the conversation, follow the twitter hashtag #Tuck40th.

When asked what she wants as a legacy, Babbitt said to *Hotline*, "That my books do not play down to kids."

mon practice during the past decade. In 2011, Google, Yahoo!, and Microsoft Bing jointly announced the launch of schema.org, a structured data markup vocabulary that enables webmasters to nest metadata within HTML5 web pages, through microdata tags that all three search engines will recognize.

The transition from a World Wide Web of linked pages toward a “Web of

Data” is well under way, but library data—in particular library catalog data—is being left behind.

The MARC (MACHINE-Readable Cataloging) standards that libraries have used for 40 years to format cataloging records for computer systems present two key problems in terms of discoverability. First, MARC does not structure metadata about library re-

sources in a way that modern search engines—or any nonlibrary software—will recognize.

Second, a MARC record will contain a lot of information about a specific resource, including the title, author, and publisher of a book. Yet a single MARC record, like an old card catalog record, points to a single resource. By contrast, using structured data to define an entity, such as an author, enables a computer system to link that author to other entities via uniform resource identifiers (URIs) and web addresses where related structured data is present.

For library data, schema.org does have shortcomings. As OCLC senior research scientist Carol Jean Godby reports in a recent working paper, schema.org has defined very few relationships among creative works; there is no way to describe collections or series; there is no way to represent the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) concepts of “work,” “expression,” “manifestation,” and “item”; and “there are no models of transactions involving library resources and the organizations that provide or receive them.”

With BIBFRAME, LC has opted to address the shortcomings of schema.org by starting from the ground up, building a model that can replicate the data contained in MARC records and expose it using linked data techniques. Meanwhile, with Google, Bing, and Yahoo! supporting schema.org, OCLC views the standard as vital if libraries want to see their content displayed on the open web. The organization has been working to expand schema.org vocabularies to accommodate library data better.

To that end, OCLC has been centrally involved with the W3C SBECC, which aims to expand schema.org markup language to include additional bibliographic information and other data employed by libraries.

Branching Out



Construction on the **Hunters Point Community Library** (rendering), Long Island City, NY, will begin this spring, according to the *Times Ledger*. The \$30 million project, designed by Steven Holl Architects, features a 21,500 square foot building that will encompass reading rooms, a gallery, a performance space, dedicated children’s and teen areas, a cybercenter, a reading garden, and a rooftop terrace. Some initial design elements and landscaping have been scaled back, but individuals involved seem delighted with the final concept. City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) is especially pleased with the building’s progress. “For nearly 15 years I have worked to make this day possible,” he told the *Times Ledger*. “Once this library is built it will become a crown jewel in the [Queens Library] system.” The building, situated along New York’s East River, is expected to open in 2017.

On February 4, the Memphis Public Library broke ground for the 8,300 square foot technology lab at the **Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library**. The \$1.9 million project will be free and open to young people age 13 to 18.

The creative space will house an art studio, an audio production lab, and a Maker space featuring 3-D printers, among other amenities. Looking for a summer completion, the lab was “created specifically to provide opportunities for safe and productive teen initiatives,” said Keenon McCloy, Memphis director of libraries. Funding comes from the Memphis Library Foundation, which has already met its \$1.5 million initial benchmark.

It seems the answer to our question concerning renovations to the **Howard Miller Library and Community Center**, Zeeland, MI (*Hotline*, 12/1/14), is yes. Or at least we think so. On Monday, February 16, the city council was to discuss hiring an architect for the remodel of the 44,000 square foot building following requests for proposals that were due on December 12. According to the *Holland Sentinel*, imperative to the process would be “reallocating space within the library and adjoining community center.” Furnishings and mechanical systems would feature prominently as well in creating a facility appropriate for the modern library user. To be continued.

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

The E-Rate Window Is Open: What Next?

The window to apply for federal E-Rate funding in 2015 is currently open—and slams shut on March 26. Schools and libraries that rely on E-Rate subsidies for their Internet connectivity—as well as first-time applicants—now have an additional \$1.5 billion to tap for Wi-Fi.

The E-Rate program, which is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), has been the focus of sweeping reforms authorized by the FCC last July.

According to ALA's E-Rate Modernization Order Summary, options include restructuring the Wi-Fi funding formula for schools and libraries and the FCC matching funds (up to ten percent) for states that provide additional funding for construction projects and “suspending the amortization requirement for new fiber construction.”

For those new to E-Rate, here are some basics:

Eligible schools, districts, and libraries can apply individually or as part of a consortium. This is beneficial for smaller libraries and schools.

Funding is requested under two category services: Category 1 funds broadband or intranet connection; Category 2 funds internal connectivity, otherwise known as Wi-Fi.

Discounts to services depend on the level of poverty and whether the school or library is in an urban or rural area.

The only differences between the application process for schools and libraries are, according to John Harrington, CEO of E-Rate consulting firm Funds for Learning (FFL), that “the discount rates and Category 2 [Wi-Fi connectivity] budget caps are

Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro, VT, received a bequest of more than \$1.2 million from the late Ronald James Read, a former resident. The money will be added to the library's endowment fund.

Independent Publishers Group (IPG) has struck a distribution deal with **Council Oak Books, LLC**. IPG will provide print and ebook sales and distribution for Council Oak Books in the United States and Canada beginning in April.

The **Library of Congress** acquired the archive of American composer, pianist, and conductor **Marvin Hamlisch (1944–2012)**, donated by Hamlisch's wife. The collection includes music manuscripts, correspondence,

audiovisual materials, photographs, and personal items.

East Mississippi Regional Library System (EMRLS), Quitman, signed a seven-year agreement with **SirsiDynix**. EMRLS has selected **SirsiDynix Symphony** and **BLUEcloud** products.

The **County of Simcoe Library Co-operative, Ont.**, received the Minister's Award for Innovation for website design and accessibility at the 2015 Ontario Library Association Super Conference.

Siouxland Libraries, Sioux Falls, SD, selected **Innovative Interfaces Inc.'s Polaris ILS**. It migrated from a Horizon system provided by SirsiDynix.

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calculated differently. School discount rates are calculated based on their enrollment and the percentage of their students who are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch. A library system discount rate is tied to the school district in which the main library branch is located as well as the rural/urban status of the library system.... A school building's Category 2 budget cap is calculated on a per student basis. A library building's Category 2 budget cap is calculated on a square footage basis.”

For those who wish to apply but feel overwhelmed, there is free help from organizations including the American Library Association (ALA) and the State E-Rate Coordinators Alliance (SECA). E-Rate experts, including Marijke Visser, associate director of ALA's Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP), can parse through unfamiliar E-Rate language.

ALA is leading the charge for E-Rate education and has announced

the launch of “Got E-Rate?”—an initiative to support and encourage library leaders to apply for Internet discounts as part of the national E-Rate program.

“Almost all the states have a state coordinator who provides assistance to local libraries—though what form that assistance takes varies state by state,” said Visser.

Another tactic for smaller libraries or districts to consider is joining a consortium. The “lead” of the consortia often files on behalf of the members, said Visser, and some consortia offer other supports.

ALA will launch a series of E-Rate resources, including communications, education, practical tools, and technical support for librarians who are interested in applying for funding, in collaboration with the Public Library Association and other partners.

FFL's Harrington advises those who have applied before not to assume that they know what they are doing. “It's better to approach this filing window as if it is your first, because in many ways it is,” he said.

“The depth and intimacy cannot be surpassed”

- Carol Trager, East Greenbush Community Library

“The LJ Day of Dialog always provides me with a reminder of why I became a librarian. It is a thoroughly satisfying professional experience”

- Patricia Lowrey, Cleveland Public Library

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