

## Cambridge Public Library Wins Architecture Award

More than five years after it first opened in November 2009, the renovated and expanded Cambridge Public Library (CPL), MA, is still receiving accolades. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) sent two judges to CPL this past November to evaluate the library for its prestigious Institute Honor Award for Architecture. The new library was designed by William Rawn Associates in conjunction with Ann Beha Architects, who handled the restoration of the original 1889 library. CPL has won 22 awards, including the Boston Society of Architects' Harleston Parker Medal for "the single most beautiful building" built in the Boston area in the last ten years. It was also featured in *Library Journal's* Year in Architecture article (*LJ* 12/10) and in *American Libraries* Library Design Showcase (2010).

Fifteen buildings received this year's AIA award for architecture, but CPL is the only library in the group. This is the third consecutive year that the AIA has chosen a project in-

volving the restoration or renovation of a historic library building.

CPL director Susan Flannery, who worked in the original building, was involved in the plans for a new library from the very beginning of the project. When asked if she missed anything about the old library, she replied with an emphatic, "No!"



Because of its small size, the old building was crammed with stacks, and the historic WPA murals in the reading room were obscured. Now, cleaned and properly lit for the first time, the murals are a showpiece. Postrenovation, the old building combines roomy public areas with spaces for collections and technology. Flannery said they tried hard to keep as much space as possible for public use but that the second floor was so tiny and oddly shaped that it was only feasible for administrative staff offices. A glass-walled conference room was

cleverly constructed on the porch of the old entrance.

Flannery told *Hotline* that the decision to build a green building was central from the beginning of the design process. The building is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certified thanks to a number of components, the most striking of which is the three-story curtain wall, the first of its kind in the United States. Automated systems inside the glass wall control heat and glare to make appealing reading spaces year-round. Flannery cited the ground floor as one of the building's highlights. The large space filled with current titles and natural light is open and inviting.

Also of particular note are the spaces for teens and children. The teen room, located on the ground floor off the computer lab, gives teens their own space while making it easy for library staff to supervise. The children's room occupies the entire third floor and resembles an enormous tree house: the ceiling looks like a forest canopy, and the structural pillars are patterned like tree trunks. It is Flannery's favorite place in the library, she said, "because I see it as the future."

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**Your Library Could Be a New Landmark**

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## Princeton Receives \$300M Rare Book Bequest

Princeton University's Firestone Library, NJ, recently received the largest gift in the university's history, the university reported February 16: some 2,500 rare books and music manu-

scripts, with an expected appraised value of nearly \$300 million. William Hurd (Bill) Scheide, a Princeton alumnus and third-generation collector of rare books, bequeathed the collection to the university upon his death, at age 100, in November 2014.

Fortunately, packing up such valuable works and transporting them to Princeton will not be a concern. The collection—begun by Bill Scheide's grandfather William Taylor Scheide and continued by his father, John Hinsdale Scheide—has been housed at Firestone Library for more than 50 years, in a room that recalls the original family library in Titusville, PA, down to the original furniture, bookcases, and stained-glass windows. Bill Scheide brought the collection to Princeton after his mother's death, in 1959, and since then it has been fully accessible to scholars, researchers, and students in the same manner as the university's other rare materials. Although his death has made this de facto arrangement official and permanent, nothing else has changed, and the Scheide Library will maintain its own identity within the building.

While the collection is not exceptional in terms of size, said Paul Needham, who has served as the Scheide librarian since 1998, it is remarkable as a closed selection reflecting three generations of "very careful collecting." Its first item, an 1861 reprint of Michael Faraday's *Course of Six Lectures on the Chemical History of a Candle*, was purchased in 1865 by Scheide's grandfather when he was 18. Bill Scheide bought the final book in June 2014.

"So often the collecting gene doesn't get inherited, so for it to happen three generations in a row is really unusual," Needham added.

### FOCUS ON PRINTING AND MORE

The collection focuses strongly on the history of printing in Europe and the Americas. Other themes include the exploration and development of

## Interview

### Vickery Bowles

On January 5, Vickery Bowles became Toronto's newest city librarian. Bowles has been with the Toronto Public Library (TPL)



for 32 years, most recently as director of collections management and citywide services, and will now oversee one of the world's busiest library systems, with some 2,000 employees and ten million items in its collections.

#### **You're committed to transitioning TPL to a stronger digital presence. How have you put that into practice?**

Last year we opened up two new digital innovation hubs. Our 100th branch, which will be opened later this spring, will have our third [hub]. We have a staff innovation program as well, where we're encouraging staff to present ideas they want to pursue....The other part of the digital strategy has to do with our e-collections, and we've made tremendous progress in that regard.

#### **What else would you like to see happen at TPL?**

E-learning is a huge opportunity for libraries to explore more fully, either through MOOCs or collaboration with educational institutions. As libraries we have a lot of physical space, and we're reinventing the ways we use that space. I think a great opportunity would be to partner with other organizations to deliver e-learning courses in either hybrid, blended models or a purely digital model.

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America, the history of the Bible—including the first six copies ever printed, starting with a 1455 Gutenberg Bible that Bill's father, a member of Princeton's class of 1896, purchased in 1924—and the history of science. It is not primarily concerned with literature, although it does contain two copies of Shakespeare's First Folio (as well as the second, third, and fourth); in addition, Bill Scheide, a musi-

cologist, added a small but important selection of music manuscripts and notebooks by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart, and others, including many autographed pieces.

Other notable items include a printed copy of a letter from Christopher Columbus to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain chronicling his discovery of the New World, a first printing of the Declaration of

Independence, an 1856 autographed speech by Abraham Lincoln on the problems of slavery, and correspondence and copy books written by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant during the last weeks of the Civil War.

Firestone is in the process of an extensive renovation, but while the rare book section will be reformatted and moved to another floor, the Scheide Library will keep its own room and furnishings. Major collection items are being digitized on an ongoing basis and can be accessed through the Princeton University Digital Library.

The collection reflects both its owner's erudition and his generosity. "[Scheide] loved when graduate students—sometimes undergraduates—wanted to study his books. He was extremely welcoming of readers," Needham told *Hotline*.

Scheide contributed to a variety of philanthropic causes. In addition to establishing a music scholarship at Princeton, endowing a music history professorship, and funding a number of campus construction projects including the Arthur Mendel Music Library, he was the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's most generous individual donor and its longest-serving board member. "He was extremely modest about that," Needham recalled. "He would never even volunteer that he had been involved. That would not be the way a gentleman would do it."

## Kansas May Criminalize Educators

School teachers and librarians have cause to be alarmed. If voted into law by the Kansas legislature, Senate Bill 56 (SB56) would amend a state public morals statute "by deleting an exemption that protects K-12 public, private, and parochial schoolteachers from being prosecuted for presenting material deemed harmful to minors," reported *Courthouse News Service*.

## Branching Out



Work is full steam ahead on the **Shippensburg Public Library, PA**, renovation. The 9,639 square foot Stewart House effort will be completed this fall and include the installation of an elevator and an HVAC system and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), among other up-

grades. The work is funded through a \$1 million Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Pennsylvania Department of Education grant, plus \$500,000 from the Keystone Recreation Park and Conservation Fund. The second phase of the project, a 6,000 square foot \$6.6 million addition, according to *Public Opinion News*, will begin in spring 2016 and eventually be home to teen services.

Norwich University, Northfield, VT, broke ground in January for a major rehab to its 58,000 square foot 1993 **Kreitzberg Library**. The \$6.5 million effort is part of a \$100 million plan to upgrade several campus facilities, under the heading of "Forging the Future." The work, designed by Jones Architecture and Gund Partnership, will include new workstations, group study spaces, high-tech classrooms, and a café, according to the *Rutland Herald*. The project is looking to finish before the opening of the fall semester.

Saturday, February 21, marked the completion of phase one of the renovation to the Johnson Building Central Library, **Boston Public Library (BPL)** (pictured). Though work continues on the main floor, the second floor children's library, teen zone, nonfiction collection, reference services, and community reading space are open for business. The children's space includes a sensory learning wall to enhance the early literacy facet of the project, as well as the Story-Scape story time spot. The space also houses a digital learning table and computer area. The tween space, a first for a BPL branch, serves as a transition between the youngest patrons and their teen counterparts. The tween domain encompasses computers, graphic novels, and a craft area. Teen Central features a media room, a digital lab, diner-style booths, and collaborative work spaces. The \$16.1 million project was designed by Boston firm William Rawn Associates, together with Consigli Construction.

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If the bill becomes law, librarians who work with young adult literature; English teachers who teach “controversial” books, including *The Red Badge of Courage*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Huckleberry Finn*; and sex educators could be subject to a class B misdemeanor charge and, if convicted, serve up to six months in jail.

“Harmful material,” according to SB56, includes “depictions of nudity, sexual conduct, homosexuality, sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse ‘in a manner that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the community with respect to what is suitable for minors.’”

“Frankly, legislators should stay out of what is taught in classrooms,” said Joan Bertin, executive director of the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC).

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Mary Pilcher-Cook (R-Shawnee), who serves on the state senate’s Standing Committee on Judiciary, has captured the attention of advocacy and education communities, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Kansas National Education Association, and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas and Mid-Missouri. These organizations appeared before the committee on January 22, 2015, to testify against the bill.

Kansas ACLU executive director Micah Kubic criticized SB56 for being “overly broad,” reported the *Kansas City Star*, warning that the bill “could criminalize teachers simply for distributing handouts, displaying posters, or sharing educational information.”

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, the deputy director of the American Library Association’s (ALA) Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF), said that she believes the law was created owing to a particular incident and not intended to impact what a library offers—but it would have impact, nonetheless. The “incident” that triggered the drafting of SB56 took

## “Reading Friends” Pairs Retirees with Young Students

The Reading Friends program at the St. Croix Falls Elementary School library in rural Wisconsin pairs students in need with adults who possess love, patience, and time to share. The volunteers, most of them retired senior citizens, join the school weekly and individually work with more than 130 children to help them learn and enjoy reading.

It started in 2008, when longtime St. Croix Falls residents Marilyn Brissett-Kruger and her husband, Al, decided to take action in order to bolster literacy. Brissett-Kruger enlisted her close friend retired teacher Barb Boyken, and together they called their circle of associates, contacted the local elementary school, and started an enduring program called the Reading Friends.

With a group of volunteers ready to commit, Brissett-Kruger teamed up with Georgia Scott, then a reading specialist at the school, to get it off the ground. Currently, Rita Platt, St. Croix Falls Elementary library media specialist since 2010, coordinates the initiative from the school end.

More than 40 percent of the students at St. Croix Elementary receive free or reduced-cost lunch. While they consistently do well on state tests overall, some students need an extra boost.

The Reading Friends help meet these needs. Each pre-K through first grade classroom has at least one dedicated volunteer who spends an hour or more weekly with a student, reading aloud or listening to the student read a short story.

In second through fourth grade, students are paired with a Friend for 15- to 30-minute sessions weekly. Students are selected based on test scores and teacher input. They are often the children who need extra help but do not qualify for Response to Intervention (RTI) services. Reading Friends prevents them from falling through the cracks. Students are also chosen for nonacademic reasons, such as needing a nurturing adult in their lives.

Getting the program started was easy. Brissett-Kruger and Boyken initially recruited volunteers by emailing friends and calling community organizations such as the Lions Club. These days, most are found through word of mouth. Today there are 35 active Reading Friends.

Sustaining the program has proven to be challenging, however, largely owing to tightening school schedules in the age of RTI and the Common Core State Standards. Brissett-Kruger and Platt work together to keep it alive, and volunteers have proved extremely flexible in meeting the school’s demands. At the beginning of the school year, they spend hours making pairings and fine-tuning the schedule. After that, the teachers and volunteers coordinate well together.

Two years ago, Reading Friends realized it wanted to extend the work into the summer and met with the local nonprofit group Northern Waters Literacy. Many Reading Friend pairs continued their work all summer, meeting at the public library each week. This venture succeeded beyond all expectations: 91 percent of students who had summer Reading Friends maintained their reading skills, and 70 percent actually increased reading levels between June and September.



Bev Casperson and first grader Isaac Briggs.

Photo courtesy of Rita Platt.

place in 2013 at a middle school in Johnson County in which a poster hung outside a sex education classroom asked, "How do people express their sexual feelings?" On the poster was a list that included "oral sex," "anal sex," and other sex acts. (No images were shown.) After parents complained, the poster was removed and the teacher disciplined.

"Pornography and obscene materials are becoming more and more prevalent in our society," Pilcher-Cook told the *Topeka-Capital Journal*, "and it is all too common to hear of cases where children are not being protected from the harm it inflicts."

"I think it's an exercise in self-delusion to think that...[sex education] information is totally unfamiliar to these kids," said Bertin.

She added that undoubtedly there will be a wide variety of response from parents regarding whether it is acceptable to show what could be considered "controversial" information to kids, but it should be up to educators to decide what should be taught and how to handle the presentation of information—as well as offer a choice for parents to opt out.

## People

**Catherine Bruck** retired as University Archivist at Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. She had been with the school for more than 16 years.

**Peter Havel** resigned as Director of Cedar Grove Public Library, NJ. He first took the position in 2011.

**Whitney Payne** was appointed Director of Grants, Research, and Statistics at Georgia Public Library Service, Atlanta. She was previously Business Services Director at Gwinnett County Public Library, Lawrenceville, GA.

**Robert Pursell** was named Partner and Vice President of Sales at Dragonfly Sales & Mar-

The bill is troubling to its opponents in several aspects, but one that Jocelyn A. Chadwick, a former assistant professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, points out is that the bill undermines constitutional precedent—meaning court cases in the past that have protected teachers and the literature they teach, i.e., *Monteiro v. The Tempe Union High School District*. A similar bill was proposed last year but did not pass, according to the *Kansas City Star*.

In the meantime, Caldwell-Stone said, "It's on our list of our bills to monitor."

## More from ALA Midwinter 2015

Below are a few last highlights from the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, January 30–February 3, in Chicago.

### STUDYING BOOK BEHAVIOR

ALA announced at the conference that it has partnered with the Book Industry Study Group (BISG) to study the behavior of library patrons, includ-

ing their use of digital resources, marking the first joint survey by the organizations. The survey, with questions developed by both partners, will look at what devices people are using and what they're reading. Results will be released at ALA's annual conference this June in San Francisco, with a report to be published in September. At the session conducted by BISG, executive director Len Vlahos said the publishing industry is more often defined by its disparate parts than viewed as a whole. This can make for a lack of commonality when trying to analyze data, he explained. To that end BISG represents publishing across its full spectrum.

Vlahos touched on a number of current industry concerns, among them epub content structure, rights, and metadata. An important new development within the organization's Book Industry Standards and Communications (BISAC) Subject Headings list—which has been seeing wider use in libraries—is the provision of a YA content type. Vlahos also gave an overview of industry numbers for the past six years, summed up as "flat is the new up for the industry as a whole." Ebook use is stabilizing, print is stable but still resilient, and Vlahos believes the two will coexist for a long time to come. The next disruption, he conjectured, will be one of business models.

**Marketing Consulting.** He was previously Marketing Director for the Medical Publishing Division at McGraw-Hill Education.

**Gloria Repolesk** was promoted to Children's Department Head at Emmet O'Neal Library (EOL), Mountain Brook, AL, following **Carol Melton's** retirement. Repolesk was previously EOL's Elementary Children's Librarian.

**Alice Sherwood** retired as Head of Children's Services at Greenwich Library, CT. She had been with the library for almost 28 years.

**Dorothy Swain** was promoted to Director of Greenville Public Library, RI. She had been its Assistant Director since 2001.

### FROM THE SHOW FLOOR

Prior to the show, OCLC announced that it has acquired Sustainable Collection Services (SCS), the analytics provider that offers tools to help academic libraries with the data-driven weeding and management of print collections.

Gale announced three new apps for its Analytics on Demand platform. "Branch Insights," "Marketing Action (Patrons)," and "Marketing Action (Non-Patrons)" are each designed to develop direct marketing campaigns for specific groups.

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Envisionware debuted an intelligent voice response (IVR) system that enables patrons to make, amend, or cancel reservations for library computers by phone. The Library Corporation (TLC) has become the exclusive provider to libraries of SocialFlow, a platform used by brands including NBC, BBC News, NPR, the *New York Times*, and the New York Public Library to optimize the distribution of content via social networks.

Baker & Taylor debuted a free app for the company's Axis 360 ebook platform. It features a built-in audiobook player and one-time install and login functionality.

Ebook platform BiblioBoard revealed new partnerships with several publishers and will now offer content from Dark Horse Comics, Dynamite Comics, Rourke Educational Media, Spotted Owl Press, Wolters Kluwer Health, Stash Media, Indie Rock Stars, China Books, African Books Collective, and Red Ediciones.

**LEADING IN TIMES OF CRISIS**

Monday afternoon's one-man session, "Leading in Times of Crisis: A Conversation with Ferguson Library Director Scott Bonner," drew a packed room with an upbeat audience eager to hear the director of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library, MO, chronicle the chain of events leading to his decision to open the small library to the community during civil unrest and school shutdowns. Bonner delivered an honest, absorbing, and often very funny account of the "thousand little decisions" he faced in August and again in November. His step-by-step analysis of his thoughts and actions and their outcomes clearly resonated with every librarian there who has ever had to make a tough call. Ultimately, he advised the audience always to keep in mind the library's mission and whom it serves. "Be true to yourself and your profession," he

**Amherst College's Robert Frost Library**, MA, received the 2015 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award from the Association of College & Research Libraries. It was honored for furthering the educational mission of its parent institution.

**Artstor** announced the three winners of its Digital Humanities Awards: Historic Dress from **Smith College**, Northampton, MA; Medieval Portland from **Portland University**, OR; and Sacred Conflicts: Religious Violence

in Comparative Perspective from **Northern Illinois University**, DeKalb.

**Claremont Colleges Library**, CA, and the **University of KwaZulu-Natal**, Durban, South Africa, selected **OCLC WorldShare Management Services** as their library management system.

The **Milton Public Library**, DE, celebrated its 140th anniversary. The first incarnation of the library consisted of one bookcase with 200 volumes.

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exhorted. "If you think we did a good job, if you think we did something special, look to your local library and what it's doing. Look to yourself."

**Kid Lit: Mostly White, but Diversity Gaining Ground**

While the diversity balance in children's literature has remained stagnant overall in the last 25 years, the number of books published for young people by people of color or featuring significant African or African American content nearly doubled in 2014, according to a report from the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There was also a slight uptick in publications featuring Asian/Pacific or Asian/Pacific American content, according to CCBC's statistics.

The shift is a partial victory for those advocating for diversity in children's books, who have been particularly vocal since CCBC's annual study results released in 2013 showed that not much has changed in the representation of people of color over the past two decades.

The multicultural publisher Lee & Low also dis-

seminated those figures in a widely viewed infographic titled "Why Hasn't the Number of Multicultural Books Increased in Eighteen Years?"

The new CCBC report shows that the number of works for children by and about African or African Americans went from 93 titles in 2013 to 179 in 2014. Asian/Pacific or Asian/Pacific American content jumped from 69 books in 2013 to 112 in 2014. However, books featuring American Indians and Latinos were nearly the same as those collected in 2013.

"We've seen the same old story year after year," CCBC director Kathleen T. Horning said in the CCBC press release. "If the numbers rise one year, they're likely to fall back the next. It's as if there has been a glass ceiling when it comes to diversity in children's books. The numbers have stagnated throughout most of my career here."



*“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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