

James Patterson, Scholastic Donate \$1.25M

Before his days as a best-selling author of the “Alex Cross” series (Little, Brown), James Patterson wasn’t an avid reader back in high school, he told *Hotline*. In fact, it wasn’t until his early 20s, when he worked on the floor of a psychiatric hospital in Massachusetts during the night shift, that he discovered his love for reading—a love to which he credits his writing career.

Patterson today—who has had more *New York Times* best sellers than any other writer, according to Guinness World Records—is a staunch advocate for books, literacy, and the love of reading. Following on the heels of a \$1 million donation to independent bookstores in 2014, the author of *Middle School, I Funny*, *Maximum Ride*, *Witch & Wizard*, and the upcoming *Public School Superhero* (Mar. 2015; all Little, Brown), Patterson announced that this year he would donate \$1.25 million in grants to U.S. pre-K–12 school libraries.

“We just keep looking for things where there is a need,” said Patterson, regarding his latest effort in grant giveaways. “Unfortunately, with budget cuts, school libraries are the first thing to go.”

With the \$1.25 million James Patterson Pledge to Libraries grant, Patterson has joined forces with Scholastic Reading Club to reach out to the club’s wide network of 62,000 schools and 800,000 teachers. Plus, “Scholastic will match each [grant] dollar received with Bonus Points, which teachers can use to acquire books and other materials for their classrooms,” according to the publisher’s press statement.

Patterson, who grew up in Newburgh, NY, and later moved to Lexington, MA, said he spent his school years without a school library, and he understands their significance as well as his ability as a public figure to help provide relief on some scale and draw attention to the problem. He also emphasized that every individual possesses that ability, on some level.

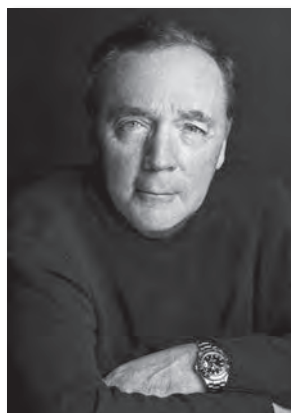
As of March 9, nominations for school library funding can be submitted by anyone—teachers, librarians, administrators, or parents—on behalf of any U.S. pre-K–12 school. The grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per school, and for those

intimidated by the grant application process, it “couldn’t be simpler,” assured Patterson.

Applications must be made online at Scholastic’s James Patterson Pledge to Libraries official website. The bulk of the application is the response to the question, “What would your school library do with \$1,000–\$10,000?”—which must be answered in 300 words or less.

Patterson, who will be involved in the selection process, said that both he and Scholastic seek applications for all types of school library needs, from “repairs to a computer system” to a “school project focused on books and reading.”

Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis throughout the year.



NEH, Mellon Foundation Revive Backlist Work

As part of a wider emphasis on digital publishing and the relevance of humanities scholarship, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) are giving new life to out-of-print (o.p.) humanities books. In

Courtesy of James Patterson’s official website.

≡ INSIDE ≡

- Interview with Amy Randazzo2**
- UWM Offers Climate Change MOOC...4**
- Rosie Revere, Engineer, in Space.....5**
- Hoopla Launches New Interface6**
- Lights, Camera, Action at Tampa Bay..8**

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For more information, visit libraryjournal.submittable.com/submit

January, the two organizations announced a joint pilot grant program, Humanities Open Book (HOB), that will help publishers identify important o.p. works, secure rights to them, and convert them to EPUB format ebooks freely accessible under a Creative Commons (CC) license. Awards

range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per recipient and will cover a period of one to three years.

Scholarly books and monographs in the humanities have a relatively short print run, and works published since 1923 are not in the public domain. While some emerging models, such as Knowledge Unlatched or the crowdfunded Unglue.it, aim to bring back as open access, DRM-free ebooks o.p. titles that are still under copyright, HOB calls specifically on academic presses, scholarly societies, museums, and other institutions to identify backlist items that they deem worthy of reviving.

Potential publishers are asked to provide a list of the books they wish to digitize, with brief descriptions of their content and scholarly value. The proposal deadline is June 10, with winners announced in December and projects commencing in January 2016.

Finished ebooks are to be formatted as EPUB 3.0.1 files (or a later version) in order to provide fully searchable and scalable text that will be readable on any device. Publishers may choose among six CC licenses and are free to produce versions in additional formats such as PDF or KF8/AZW3 for Kindle, as well as charging a fee for any print-on-demand or value-added versions.

Embedded metadata must conform to the Book Industry Study Group (BISG) Best Practices for Product Metadata. Within these restrictions, said Brett Bobley, NEH chief information officer and director of the Office of Digital Humanities, finished books should be of high quality and accessible to the general public.

Bobley first conceived of HOB while considering NEH's 50th anniversary in 2015. "I was lamenting the fact that we have been funding...all these amazing books over

Interview

Amy Randazzo

What do you do with an unexpected \$350,000? When social media campaigns



brought the Ferguson Municipal Public Library, MO, donations of several thousand new books and the aforementioned money following the turbulent summer and

fall of 2014, Director Scott Bonner hired Amy Randazzo to serve as its long-awaited children's services librarian.

Did you have concerns going in that this is, essentially, a crowdfunded position? Does that feel any different?

It does feel a little different, knowing that I have this job due to some very generous people and that I'm not only serving our patrons and our community but also them. Scott [Bonner] has reassured me that they will find a way to keep this position going after the donations run out.

What are your plans once you settle in at the library?

We're participating in StoryCorps, so that's likely to be the first major project for the library that I'll be a part of. I would love to get some recurring programming going, though what that might be, I haven't quite decided yet! Ferguson hasn't had a dedicated person for programming before, so I'm feeling like I can do anything. There are a lot of groups and organizations focused on Ferguson right now, so I'm hoping that I'll be able to make some connections and see how we can work together to benefit everyone.

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the last 50 years,” he told *Hotline*, “yet it seems like the vast majority of those books only sell a small number of copies and then rather quickly go out of print. I started thinking...what are some ways that we could take all these terrific books and make them more widely available.”

Bobley began gathering input from librarians, scholars, publishers, and fellow funders, all of which were enthusiastic. But when he spoke with Donald Waters, senior program officer of the Mellon Foundation’s Scholarly Communications department, and program officer Helen Cullyer, they not only liked the concept but suggested that Mellon partner with NEH to administer the grants.

In December 2014, the Mellon Foundation board approved an initial commitment of \$500,000, and a request for proposals (RFP) was issued in January. NEH and Mellon—the largest funders of humanities research in the United States—have jointly committed \$1 million. They

People

Gayle Brown was promoted to Associate Publisher/Art Director of Eerdmans Books for Young Readers at Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. She was previously Art Director.

Georgia Coleman was promoted to Director of Library Experience at Richland Library, Columbia, SC. She was previously its Community Outreach Manager.

Janice Mathurin, Director of Operations at West Fresno Family Resource Center, CA, was appointed President of the Foundation for Fresno County Public Library for 2015.

Mary Olson, Reader’s Advisory Librarian at Medina County District Library, OH, received the Allie Beth Martin Award from the Public



LIBRARY OF THE YEAR 2015

LJ is looking for role model libraries to vie for the honor of 2015 *Library Journal*/Gale Library of the Year. The \$10,000 prize celebrates the library that most profoundly demonstrates service to the community; creativity and innovation in programming or a dramatic increase in library usage; and leadership in creating programs that can be emulated by other libraries.

To the extent possible, please send submissions in electronic format via email to rmiller@mediasourceinc.com.

Mail nominations to: Library Journal/Library of the Year Award, 123 William Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10038.

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will work together to choose outside peer reviewers.

In addition to scholarly presses, Bobley wants to see libraries applying for grants. While he envisions university libraries approaching faculty members, he also imagines public libraries looking for local authors. He hopes that HOB ebooks will be well publicized by publishers and academic institutions and also as part of the Digital Public Library of America, HathiTrust, and the Internet Archive.

UWM Climate Change MOOC Proves Popular

The University of Wisconsin–Madison (UWM) is offering a new four-week massive open online course (MOOC) on Changing Weather and Climate in the Great Lakes Region. The university, in coordination with Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS), is partnering with 21 public libraries statewide to share scientific information about global warming via video, readings, an online discussion board, and quizzes, as well as in-person sessions at the libraries with scientists, staff, and graduate students from UWM, the National Weather Service, and UW–Milwaukee.

The free course is taught by Steve Ackerman, professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences and director of the Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies, and Margaret Mooney, the institute’s director of education and public outreach. Classes started on February 23 and will wrap up at the end of March. Each session covers a different season and explores the way the weather is changing as well as how to mitigate it, Ackerman said.

This “targeted open online course” was created as a way to educate the public about the effects of climate change, Ackerman said, using weather data and other observations to show what is already happening in the Great Lakes region. He also

Library Association, presented to a public librarian exhibiting “extraordinary range and depth of knowledge about books or other library materials, and distinguished ability to share that knowledge.”

Claire Schmieder is now an Adult Services Librarian at Cherry Hill Public Library, NJ. She was previously a Program Assistant at the Alice Paul Institute, Mount Laurel, NJ.

Robert A. Seal, Dean of Loyola University Libraries, Chicago, was named the 2015 Association of College and Research Libraries’ Academic/Research Librarian of the Year.

Valerie Taylor retired as Director of the Chester County Public Library, SC. She had been with the library for more than 27 years.

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hopes to start a public conversation about the issue of climate change.

Ackerman said he was excited about how course participants will talk inside their local libraries about the climate change impacts in their neighborhoods and how that would affect their own traditions.

The online course will also cover other environmental issues related to climate change, such as the impact on forestry, shipping, farming, gardening, and invasive species, as well as offering tips for disaster preparedness, such as dealing with snowstorms, heavy rains, and tornadoes, Ackerman said.

A total of 3,846 people enrolled in the course by the end of the first week, some from as far away as Brazil, South Africa, and China, according to Lika Balenovich, UWM education innovation communication coordinator.

University faculty and staff have enjoyed visiting the libraries and talking with patrons, Balenovich wrote in an email. The course content will remain online for enrolled participants “for a time” so they can finish the readings and earn statements of accomplishment.

Some staff members at the partnering libraries said the course is a great learning opportunity.

Kristina Gomez, events and programming librarian at the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL), said their library was excited about participating. She noted the class fits well with the library’s “green” focus; the central library has a green roof with solar panels and a collection of books about environmentally friendly living and scholarly materials on climate change and sustainability.

MPL held a kickoff event on February 21, just before the course started, at which library staff encouraged people to sign up and local organizations provided information to visitors on how to green their homes.

The Fond du Lac Library publi-

cized the event on its electronic and paper calendars, in handouts and e-newsletters, and on a monthly radio show, community information coordinator Terri Fleming said.

At the Dodgeville Public Library, a small rural library an hour away from Madison, Director Vickie Stangel said the climate change MOOC is the first online course being offered at their

location and that it is wonderful to pair it with the in-person discussions in the library’s meeting room.

Stangel called the course a “win-win” for UWM, the library, and its patrons. “I’m so, so grateful the university and professors are putting in the time and effort to include us in the resources they have to spread across rural areas,” she said.

Rosie Revere, Engineer, Headed to Space

The title character from Andrea Beaty’s children’s book *Rosie Revere, Engineer* (Abrams, 2013), will be joining space pioneers Sally Ride, Valentina Tereshkova, and Barbara Morgan as another female making history when the book, which stars a brilliant young tinkerer and future engineer, travels to the International Space Station (ISS) to be part of the space station’s StoryTime from Space (STFS) program this summer.

STFS is a project from the Global Space Education Foundation that aims to foster literacy and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning by having astronauts on the ISS record their readings of selected titles with STEM concepts, as well as conducting concept demonstrations. Previous reading videos can be found on the STFS website under “Library.”

STFS is a venture that was cooked up by educator Patricia Tribe, former director of education at Space Center Houston (SCH). Tribe approached Benjamin Alvin Drew Jr., an astronaut who had traveled to the ISS twice and was the 200th person to spacewalk, about the program.

“The idea for StoryTime from Space was pilot tested in February 2011 on the last flight of the Space Shuttle *Discovery STS-113*,” said Tribe. “[Astronauts] Drew, Michael Barrett, and

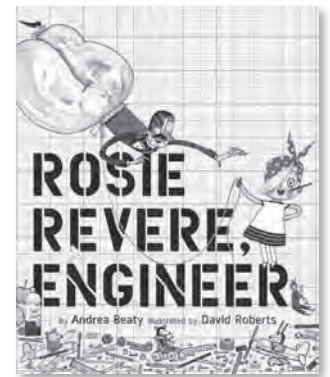


Nicole Stott tested the idea by reading and providing feedback. Since then, we have been working with NASA and [the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space] on getting items up in orbit.”

The STFS team also includes educator Debbie Brown-Biggs; veteran astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason, who is designing the science demonstrations; Jack Moore, a public relations specialist at SCH who is in charge of the website and marketing; and author Jeffrey Bennett, who joined the team after five of his children’s books about science adventures in the “Max the Dog” series (Big Kid Science) were chosen for the first STFS mission in early 2014.

The selection of *Rosie Revere, Engineer*, which is illustrated by David Roberts, began last spring after Beaty met Drew at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, DC, and gave him a book as a thank you for doing so much to educate kids about science and space and for his service to our country.

“He and Patricia Tribe loved *Rosie Revere, Engineer*, and decided that it might be a good choice for the program,” Beaty told *Hotline*. Although Tribe said she doesn’t know which astronaut will be reading *Rosie*, the recording of the event and its accompanying classroom activities will be available on the STFS website in fall 2015.



Hoopla Launches New Interface

Library streaming media provider hoopla digital has launched Light-Speed, the 3.0 version of its user interface, which includes a faster sign-up process for new users, a rec-

ommendation engine, multitiered genre-based searching, and an algorithm designed to tailor suggestions for patrons based on usage history.

The recommendation engine is a new feature that aims to offer an experience comparable to commercial streaming services such as Net-

flix or Hulu, without compromising user privacy. Jeff Jankowski, founder and VP of hoopla parent company Midwest Tape, noted that hoopla was designed for libraries exclusively and that privacy concerns were addressed as a matter of course while developing the system. Search and viewing histories are stored by hoopla to facilitate better recommendations, but those histories are anonymized, he explained.

“We don’t even know if the user is a man or a woman,” he said. On hoopla’s servers, “it’s a number and a history, and that’s it. We just use that information to make the user experience better, and that’s our only goal.”

The new app also enables users to view movies or listen to streaming audiobooks or other content across multiple devices.

“If you already have something borrowed, as soon as you open the app it automatically bookmarks [your position] in the cloud and resumes immediately” when the app is relaunched, Jankowski said. “If you have an iPhone, and you stop listening to an audiobook five hours in, when you go home...you can resume the audiobook.... With our new design, it opens up to that position and automatically, with one touch, you’re...where you left off.”

The visual appearance of the interface has also been updated and now features “a brighter, white and blue scheme, more emphasis on high-quality images [in menus], easier to read fonts and copy,” Jankowski said. The visual redesign prioritized the interface’s appearance and navigability on tablets and smartphones and took into account usage trends since the service’s launch in July 2013, as well as feedback from hoopla’s public library partners.

The service has been growing rapidly, Jankowski said. About one year ago the pay per circ streaming ser-

Branching Out



Celebration is in order in Cañon City, CO, with the completion of the three-year renovation to the **Cañon City Public Library** (pictured; see *Hotline* 4/1/13; 2/10/14). The four-phase project finished up phases one and two in 2013 with the children’s area and the technology center. The 17,500 square foot library continued to phases three and four with upgrades to the main floor and the 1902 Carnegie section, according to the *Daily Record*. After voters rejected two tax increases, Create Cañon City—a public/private partnership—and Leck Construction worked with the community to finish the project, which was funded largely through grants.

Huzzahs were heard in Detroit with the February 26 opening of the **Douglass Technology Center@Frederick Douglass Branch for Specialized Services** facility of the Detroit Public Library. Located in the Woodbridge neighborhood, the center features 50 computers, a computer lab, free Wi-Fi access, computer classes, personalized instruction, and access to online tools.

The new 32,000 square foot **Laurel Library** branch of Prince George’s County Memorial Library System, MD, is looking to break ground in late March or early April, according to the *Baltimore Sun*. The \$14 million project will include demolition of the original 1965 structure, which closed in March 2013 owing to asbestos issues. The library has been in a temporary location ever since. The construction is expected to take 18 months.

The **Batavia Public Library**, IL, will undergo a \$950,000 renovation beginning this spring. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, the work includes widening the outdoor stairway on the back of the facility and replacing the column covers at the building’s entrance with weather-resistant materials. Also on the punch list are the replacement of several swinging doors, sidewalk repairs, and outdoor handrail upgrades. The book drop area will be expanded as well. The bulk of the funding comes from the library’s capital fund.

MRV Architects of Juneau, AK, received a Design Citation from AIA Alaska for its work on the **Kodiak Public Library**. Completed in 2013 with Cornerstone General Contractors, the new 16,000 square foot library “arranges public reading rooms and the children’s room in a series of glazed ‘dormers’ along the south edge. A clerestory-lit main hall with columns framed in spruce harvested from the site creates an airy main circulation spine.”

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

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vice had about 50,000 registered users from libraries nationwide. Now, hoopla serves about 650,000 library cardholders at almost 600 library systems.

Cardholders at hoopla-subscribing libraries will be able to use the new LightSpeed 3.0 interface by downloading the free, updated hoopla digital app for Android and Apple iOS devices.

Lights, Camera in Action at Tampa Bay Libraries

Libraries in Central Florida are getting ready for their close-up. The Tampa Bay Library Consortium (TBLC), which represents public, academic, school, and special libraries in the Sunshine State, has brought on a full-time videographer to serve each branch as well as the consortium as a whole. Now special events, chats with authors, and even monthly newsletters from TBLC members are getting professional video treatment.

According to Jessica Riggins, membership coordinator at TBLC, the seeds for the program were planted in early 2014. One of TBLC's mem-

ber libraries rewrote the job description for a library assistant position into a job with more of a video production bent, hoping to start filming library events and share them more effectively with the public. It was an idea that resonated with TBLC staffers. There was just one problem, and it was a familiar one—money.

“We knew that not many of our libraries could afford to have a position dedicated to this and thought that a ‘shared’ person could benefit many libraries in our region,” said Riggins.

The program began with the hiring of video content producer Scott Patterson in October, and TBLC member libraries have found plenty of work for him.

“We average about six videos per month and have filmed things with more than 12 of our member libraries,” TBLC assistant director Beth Farmer told *Hotline*. “We have gotten a lot of positive feedback from members and have often been called back by the same library to film additional [footage] after [its] first experience with us.”

Those projects have run the gam-

ut of library content, from TED Talk-style lectures on the future of libraries to short videos highlighting the library-sponsored Manatee County Comics Convention.

“We have also begun doing video news segments in place of email newsletter updates to member libraries,” Farmer said.

To get a video produced, member libraries submit a request through the TBLC website, giving Patterson a rundown of what they want recorded, for what purpose, the intended audience, and when and where the program will take place. Once Patterson receives the request, he works with the library to ensure the shoot runs smoothly. Said Riggins, “Scott shoots the event or promotional video, edits the work, and sends the preliminary [footage] to the library to review before final production.”

The requesting library has the last word on what the “final cut” of its video looks like and owns the result, though most videos end up also being posted to the TBLC YouTube channel.

For Farmer, the videography program is just the next evolution in the traditional consortium mission to improve and enhance the way member libraries operate by pooling resources.

“TBLC has always provided centralized services to help maximize resources by sharing,” she said. “We see the video program as the next wave of library service—reaching the user visually, where they are.”

That outreach is especially important in the digital age, where libraries have to keep up with modern media or risk appearing to be behind the times. According to Riggins, that presence isn't just nice to have, it's essential to meeting the expectations of patrons.

“Providing video programming content and video promotional materials gives our libraries the opportunity to stay current with users' expectations,” she told *Hotline*.

News in Brief

LIBROS, a consortium of 17 academic libraries in New Mexico, selected **OCLC World-Share Management Services** as its library management solution.

The **U.S. Government Publishing Office** (formerly the Government Printing Office) celebrated its 154th anniversary on March 4. A new logo was created, which will be phased in throughout the agency.

The **Image Permanence Institute at Rochester Institute of Technology**, NY, received a \$399,825 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation and Access Research and Development program to support its three-year project “Digital Image

Correlation To Determine Shape Deformation of Paper Based Collections Due to Relative Humidity and Temperature Variation.”

St. Louis County Library launched a new Sweet Reads bookmobile in North St. Louis County. A library card is not required to use the service.

Columbia University Libraries, New York, announced Suzan-Lori Parks's *Father Comes Home from the Wars, Parts 1, 2 & 3*, as the 2015 winner of the Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History. In addition to Parks's monetary prize, the libraries will work with her to create a website featuring study guides, historical research, and scholarly discussions of the plays.

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