REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2020 | VOLUME XXXVIII ISSUE 2

The Illinois Library Association Reporter

is a forum for those who are improving and reinventing Illinois libraries, with articles that seek to: explore new ideas and practices from all types of libraries and library systems; examine the challenges facing the profession; and inform the library community and its supporters with news and comment about important issues. The *ILA Reporter* is produced and circulated with the purpose of enhancing and supporting the value of libraries, which provide free and equal access to information. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people.

ON THE COVER

Bigger than a Building

Libraries have always been about more than our buildings, and more even than the collections we house. First, libraries and collections need people—trained, expert people—to make them relevant and accessible. Second, library collections and services need to be available to users outside our buildings, and this aspect of librarianship has never been more essential than now. This year's National Library Week slogan rapidly morphed from "Find Your Place at the Library" into "Find the Library at Your Place" during the coronavirus global pandemic this spring, and libraries rose to the challenge. ILA's "Bigger than a Building" campaign seeks to draw attention to libraries' reach; read more about Illinois libraries' responses to and planning"amid an unprecedented public health crisis on p. 4. Access "Bigger than a Building" advocacy resources on the ILA website at **ila.org/advocacy/bigger-than-a-building**.

The Illinois Library Association is collaboratively shaping a new future for libraries in Illinois, providing leadership, advocacy, partnership, and learning for the benefit of Illinois libraries. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

The Illinois Library Association has five full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Blaida and Associates for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization.

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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter.* Copy should be submitted by email to ila@ila.org. You are encouraged to include press-ready digital photos (300 p.p.i.) and graphics with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

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Editorial: Bigger than a Building

I We haven't typically published editorials in the *ILA Reporter*, but these aren't typical times. As of the time of this writing, Governor Pritzker has already extended his initial "stay-at-home" order (originally in effect March 18 through April 7), once, through April 30; and has signaled his intention to extend it again through May 30. It's difficult to know today exactly what the situation in Illinois, and indeed the nation and the world, will be by the time this issue lands on desks.

The articles in this issue address issues of perennial importance, some of which have taken on greater significance during the pandemic crisis, including "Library Burnout: It's Common and Okay to Admit," "Voter Education at the Public Library," and "Public Libraries Versus the Echo Chamber;" this last authored by a colleague outside our own profession, yet integrally interested in it: a library architect. Others look to what we might consider once library buildings are physically open to the public again, such as "'Where Is Your Quiet Area?' Helping Patrons Unplug from a Plugged-In World" and "When Libraries and Makers Meet."

ILA leadership and staff worked tirelessly through the early, middle, and current stages of the pandemic to bring our members the most timely and up to date information we possibly could—even when answers were in short supply. As librarians ourselves, we don't like to not be able to provide answers, and we, too, were challenged by the rapid pace of developments. I know from speaking to friends and colleagues that my personal experience of time "telescoping" in weird ways is not unique to me: Some days seemed endless, while weeks seemingly flew by and conditions changed on a daily, sometimes hourly, basis.

"ILA leadership and staff worked tirelessly through the early, middle, and current stages of the pandemic to bring our members the most timely and up to date information we possibly could."

Libraries across Illinois did yeoman's work to continue services remotely, even while physical buildings were closed. Far from a comprehensive list, here are a few examples:

- The Bloomington Public Library: promoting e-books and online databases, online story time, and offering previously in-person programs in virtual contexts via Facebook and YouTube.

- Chicago Public Library: remote eCard signups to access eBooks, downloadable audiobooks, and other online resources; live homework help from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. in English and Spanish; and electronic editions of the latest issues of more than 100 popular magazines.

- Crystal Lake Public Library: moved Wi-Fi routers closer to the windows to enable access more broadly beyond the building.

- The Edwardsville Public Library: publishing on their blog online stories and activities for children, a bookmark competition for National Library Week; and online access to e-books, databases, and videos.

- Effingham Public Library: story time via Facebook group and book discussions via Zoom.

- The Elmwood Park Public Library and Milner Library at Illinois State University: using the libraries' 3D printers to manufacture face shields to donate to area hospitals; the media resource center director at Elm School in Burr Ridge has posted a video on YouTube showing how the printers use plastic filament to build the parts layer by layer.

- Gail Borden Public Library District: daily programming online for children and adults including story time, topical interactive discussion groups, and reference services by text and email.

- Galesburg Public Library: weekly story time, promoting e-books and educational databases, and virtual educational resources for children to use while participating in remote learning.

- The Homer Township Public Library: enables teen volunteers to earn service hours by creating and illustrating recipes for the Students Rebuild: Hunger Challenge, in which the Bezos Foundation makes donations to programs fighting hunger for each artwork created.

- Mahomet Public Library: an online springtime photo contest, Zoom book clubs, and Facebook Lego challenges.

- The Wood River Public Library: converting its summer reading program into a virtual experience, including outreach to families without broadband access via story time on the local radio station and encouraging reading via lawn signs and banners at main intersections.

Hopefully by the time you read this we will be on the road to re-opening. Libraries will have a key role to play as society opens its doors and gets back on its feet. Library services were able to continue thanks to library staff members who came in to the buildings periodically to perform minimum essential business operations, those who retooled their work to be able to do it remotely, and those who helped formulate plans for possible phases of re-opening gradually to offer public, in-person services. We truly are "Bigger than a Building," not only during the current crisis, but ongoing. ILA

Nate Gass and Haley Samuelson, Cook Memorial Public Library District

The Public Library's Role During Elections: Voter Education in a Post-Truth Era

In the upcoming months we will witness one of the most watched presidential elections of our generation, one which has only been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet despite the increased interest in the election we find ourselves in a worrisome information environment with public trust in key information sources declining. According to a 2017 Pew Research study Americans' trust in information sources such as local and national news organizations, government sources, and even family or friends has eroded. Given our partisan political climate, the rise in "fake news," social media bubbles, and other factors, our service communities are struggling to identify good information. In the midst of this uncertainty and distrust libraries find themselves uniquely positioned to be a corrective.

The same Pew Research study reported that when it comes to seeking out information, public libraries and librarians are Americans' most trusted source. Another section found that "government and politics" is one of the subjects that most interest Americans, beating out topics like "science," "business," and "entertainment." In other words, Americans are very interested in politics and trust information that comes from librarians. Between trust in libraries and increased interest in politics, an extraordinary opportunity has emerged for libraries to provide trustworthy nonpartisan information regarding voter education.

VOTER EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS

Illinois is a progressive state in its approach to both voter registration and ways people can cast their ballots. Illinois libraries have a strong tradition of providing services and resources to voters, including serving as a place where people can register to vote. But our residents are not always aware of the myriad options in terms of registering to vote and casting their ballot. As the general information landscape has migrated away from print to online resources, libraries have been rethinking service and information delivery practices across the board, but given that Illinois is a voter-friendly state and the wealth of resources that already exist, is there a void for libraries to fill in voter education? We discovered that yes, there is!

While our library district in Libertyville/Vernon Hills, Illinois, is fortunate to have access to an incredibly useful county website, there is no concentrated place for election and voter information that includes resources that take a voter from start to finish in an election cycle. As information professionals a natural role for librarians is to create a "one-stop shop" online resource with a wide breadth of reliable information for everyone, from first-time voters all the way to seasoned and politically active voters.

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DATABASE DEMONSTRATION
Ask us about FREE online resources!
BE A VOTER!
TODAY'S DEMONSTRATION
Cook Memorial Public Library District

[continued from page 6]

We felt an online resource was the best approach because most of today's voting resources are—for better or worse—predominantly online. Creating a print document with links seemed cumbersome. We did however want to address the digital divide by providing printed flyers for in-person promotion and offering drop-in demonstrations at the library to assist users who have difficulty finding and navigating a web page. You may want to consider something similar.

So you've decided to create a voter education page for your library. But where to start?

BUILDING A VOTER EDUCATION RESOURCE IN ILLINOIS

Before gathering information it is important to settle on the scope of your project. If the resource is to be useful, it cannot overwhelm your users. For this reason, we recommend crafting guidelines to keep you focused on the purpose, assist in editorial decisions, and ensure quality control over the longevity of the project.

Guidelines might include:

- Mission/Purpose
- Target Users
- Scope
- Content and Style Guidelines, including types of information and web formatting
- Promotion

The next step is to decide where you will publish your information. Will you add a page to your existing website or do you need to build something new? The answer will depend on editing capabilities within your library's website, budget (probably zero), and familiarity with other web tools. For libraries with limited options, a simple link to a public Google Document can be an effective solution.

After these preliminary decisions you are ready to start collecting resources. Start by highlighting the administrative bodies behind Illinois elections which are the Illinois State Board of Elections (https://www.elections.il.gov) and individual County Clerk offices. These are the offices that oversee voter registration, establish polling places, administer alternative voting methods, and enforce election cycle deadlines. By incorporating these government offices you are connecting your users with the nuts and bolts of election day. Government sites are often dense and hard to navigate so consider ways to break down the information into more usable pieces.

An easy way to further highlight these offices and your library's voter education efforts is to participate in National Voter Registration Day (https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/), a bipartisan effort sponsored by election officials across the country. Participation creates a low-cost, visible way to connect with young and first time voters who often cite not knowing how to register to vote as an obstacle to participating in elections. In the upcoming 2020 presidential election, ensuring people are registered to vote ahead of any mail-in ballot request deadlines will become essential as our elected officials navigate COVID-19 best practices for elections.

As you continue to gather information, keep in mind the end goal and how you plan to get there. Are you creating information or curating from existing information? Are you answering basic questions like who is on the ballot, what election cycle are we in (e.g. primary, general, midterm, etc), where and how someone can register to vote, and when the election is held? Too many times we have run across excellent election resources that do not include the date of the upcoming election!

If you are focused on the curation of existing information think through questions or obstacles your service community faces when seeking voter information. One example may be difficulty in finding information about candidates, especially in local elections as traditional outlets such as print news shrink and election coverage lessens. When considering service communities, don't forget your teen patrons who are the largest rising voting block. Groups such as Rock the Vote (www.rockthevote.org) and 22x20 (www.22x20.org) have excellent resources to help educate, motivate, and engage first-time voters.

Beyond gathering quality sources a librarian's role includes organizing the information so it is useful and easily retrievable. A challenge will be to design your mass of collected sources into a reference tool that presents the information in a clean, structured, and user-friendly way. While there could be an entirely separate article dedicated to this topic we can provide some tips learned along the way.

Start by organizing the information into logical voting and election topics. For example, we organized our information as follows:

- Voting Registration information
- Important Dates
- Candidates & Ballot Measures
- Government Websites
- Campaign Finance Disclosures
- Election News Coverage
- Fact Checking Resources
- Links to Political Parties

Use headings and section dividers to clearly separate topics. Simple icons next to headings can visually denote sections while users skim the page and election-themed icons are freely available for download (see sources). Consider keeping your resource limited to one web page. It is okay if the page is long. In today's increasingly mobile environment it is easier to scroll than to navigate multiple pages. You can utilize web anchors and create a menu for users to maneuver areas within a page. Including additional information in your page's footer such as who compiled the information, a disclaimer about the project's purpose, and a timestamp showing when the page was updated lets users know the library is a neutral and current information source.

After publishing your resource, promotion to the wider community beyond regular library users becomes crucial. People are looking for trustworthy information and have a positive view of the library even if they are not regular library users. Focus on using your usual promotional outlets but also think of ways to reach a larger audience such as posting signs in local businesses or forming a partnership with a local high school club. Expanding the library's reach beyond its user base is a core value libraries strive for daily; your voter education resource is no exception.

As the 2020 election approaches be bold in guiding your library and community through the election cycle. Make sure your community knows how and where to register to vote, provide solid information to help voters reach informed opinions, present the material in a meaningful and user friendly format, and make sure your users know the resource exists. By applying basic librarianship to Voter Education we have the opportunity to prove yet again how invaluable the library is to every community and to every voter.

SOURCES

Pew Research Study
https://www.pewinternet.org/2017/09/11/how-people-approach-facts-and-information/

Cook Memorial Public Library's Be A Voter page
https://www.cooklib.org/be-a-voter

Cook Memorial Public Library Be A Voter Guidelines
https://www.cooklib.org/BeAVoterGuidelines

Free election themed icons
https://www.flaticon.com/authors/freepik

Don McKay, Sheehan Nagle Hartray Architects

Public Libraries Versus the Echo Chamber

The provocatively titled book *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* by Robert D. Putnam (Simon & Schuster, 2000) uses declining participation in bowling leagues to illustrate the erosion of in-person social intercourse in America. The author blames this development on technologies like television and the internet that make it easy to spend our leisure time alone. Since the book's publication, social media and our ability to curate what we read, watch, and listen to when and where we want have accelerated expectations for individualized experience. We are increasingly aware of the consequences, good and bad.

One consequence is the "echo chamber," that popular metaphor for a closed system that amplifies or reinforces a certain, often narrow, point of view. Echo chambers are not new—they seem part of that tribal mentality inseparable from the human condition. What is new is the social influence exerted by echo chambers that are nourished by the internet. Echo chambers are designed to exclude and polarization naturally follows.

As we figure out how to address the growing influence of echo chambers, one well-established institution already stands as a natural antidote to modern echo chambers—the public library. Public libraries are inclusive institutions; they literally welcome everyone. They have a democratizing influence by providing access to resources we may be otherwise excluded from by lack of income or social status, resources that help us better ourselves and our communities. By design, public libraries have resources for all but the most extreme interests and points of view.

Today's public libraries feature differentiated environments that support individualized experiences for children, teens, adults and the elderly, for school students and the home- schooled, for businesses and the unemployed, for book clubs, artists and makers. In light of the loss of in-person social intercourse, public library environments offer a significant, if unanticipated, benefit—they are physical places, settings for in-person social interaction.

Public libraries seem to have intuitively recognized the advantage of being a public place, but they have struggled to explain it. 'Community center' is one popular characterization that public libraries have used to rebrand themselves, but this, while true, fails to distinguish libraries from park districts and other facilities that claim a similar role. The recent characterization of public libraries' role in our "social infrastructure" comes closer to the mark.

Public libraries build social infrastructure by responding to the needs of their communities. David Seleb, Director of the Oak Park Public Library, thinks that "the willingness and ability of public libraries to act with intentionality in meeting community needs earns them an unusual degree of trust among public institutions." Oak Park's recent community survey confirmed that the library is the community's most trusted government agency.

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Photo credits: Mark Ballogg Photography

I'd Really Like to Eat a Child

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Acting with intentionality gives public libraries social agency that is essential to building public trust. One way that libraries exercise their agency is by curating information, an activity that is increasingly valuable as social media amplifies bias and local newspapers struggle to stay in business. Why do we entrust librarians to curate information? One reason according to Emily Faulkner, Director of the DeKalb Public Library, is that "librarians prioritize professionalism."

Librarians' professionalism is rooted in a fundamental sense of civic duty that extends beyond traditional library services. The Illinois Heartland Library System serves more than five hundred central and southern Illinois member libraries, many of them small, rural and lacking resources. Membership Coordinator Anna Yackle sees these libraries exercise their social agency in a wide range of ways, from providing on-line testing services for truck drivers and food handlers to operating food pantries and distributing feminine hygiene products to the most vulnerable in their communities. According to Ms. Yackle, strong civic values that emphasize "respect, privacy and dignity" underlie this diverse range of services.

If there is an overarching value that resonates across public libraries, it might be equity. Ms. Yackle describes the efforts of Illinois Heartland Library System libraries as "trying to level the playing field." For Mr. Seleb, it is about addressing the needs of the community's most vulnerable because, "once people feel safe, that they are having their most basic needs met, they become open to other things" that help them establish a more secure place in society. Randall Yelverton, Director of Peoria Public Library, says simply, "We believe in equity." All of these are contemporary variations on the early twentieth century idea of public libraries as "everyman's university."

The public trust that libraries have earned allows them to initiate meaningful programs and activities not entrusted to other institutions. Some programs are relatively neutral like those that address physical isolation, which can be a substantial challenge in rural communities. The Illinois Prairie District Library, which consists of six branch libraries, two of which Director Joel Shoemaker describes as "very rural," recently initiated a program to make lap blankets that were distributed to seniors isolated by their rural locations. Illinois Prairie District Library makes a point of attending local school and chamber of commerce meetings as a way of connecting with members of the community they serve.

Photo credits: Mark Ballogg Photography

"Whether driven by a sense of civic duty, by ideas of what makes for a healthy democracy, or by social conscience, underlying all of these public library programs is an idea that isolation is unhealthy."

Other public libraries leverage the trust they have earned to present programs that address pronounced social and cultural divides. As Mr. Yelverton notes, "Programming in the public interest is a duty of public libraries." One example is Peoria Public Library's Peoria Speaks program, which is funded by Illinois Humanities initiative "aimed at strengthening the democratic process through community dialogues across the state of Illinois." Recent programs have addressed challenging topics like opioid addiction and marijuana legalization.

The DeKalb Public Library curates programs on polarizing subjects like immigration. The City of DeKalb is distinguished by a rural/urban dynamic born of its rural location, its large public university, its strong commercial history and its ties to the city of Chicago. This makes it a natural home for divergent opinions. According to DeKalb Public Library's Director, Ms. Faulkner, "the library is recognized as a place of no uncivil discourse," which has allowed them to host constructive discussions about divisive issues.

Whether driven by a sense of civic duty, by ideas of what makes for a healthy democracy, or by social conscience, underlying all of these public library programs is an idea that isolation is unhealthy. Besides programming, public libraries also address isolation by simply being a place, perhaps a unique place, that welcomes you without expecting something in return, without trying to sell you something. The virtue of place allows Illinois Prairie District Library to host baby story-times aimed at giving new parents an opportunity to get together and share experiences. It gives retired farmers in the Illinois Heartland Library System a fireplace to gather around and share stories. In a community with few places for young people, many of whom live in apartments, the DeKalb Public Library is a popular destination for teens. Ms. Faulkner notes that the library is "the first public place these kids are independent, the first place they must learn how to interact with others including those they may dislike."

By contrast, today's virtual echo chambers deliver a false sense of inclusion that addresses isolation with isolation. Uncivil discourse is their lifeblood. Dissent is not only unwelcome, but often triggers intimidation and threats. As community places trusted by the public, libraries are an antidote to these kinds of echo chambers. As Mr. Yelverton says, "It is easier to caricature people in social media than in person."

There is an unspoken caution that public libraries seem to understand, which is that public trust depends on, as Mr. Seleb put it, "learning how to listen to what the community needs and then responding with intentionality." This is not a neutral position, but a proactive stance that requires ongoing vigilance.

As we embed ourselves in virtual worlds, we may either become lost in the medium or we may question the value of the simulated comforts they offer. A healthy and civil democracy and a more just society may depend on unpredictable and often challenging in-person social intercourse. Public libraries play a significant role.

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Tana Petrov, Fountaindale Public Library District

When Libraries and Makers Meet: Increasing Community Engagement through Maker Activities

There is no one-size-fits all formula when it comes to libraries and maker activities. In fact, there are several maker models that libraries can use to engage their communities. Choosing the model that works best depends on several factors, such as community needs and interests, in addition to staff time, resources, space, and equipment that the library has at its disposal. Whether it is planning a maker event that requires several months worth of planning, or simply putting together a makercart that includes just a tape and a few craft supplies, libraries can use maker spaces to help increase community engagement while promoting creativity and hands-on learning in technology, art, and design. This article explores different maker models, in addition to the challenges and successes of several libraries in their efforts to stay relevant in a competitive technology world, where practical STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) skills are essential, and where collaboration and teamwork are more important than ever.

"There is no one-size-fits all formula when it comes to libraries and maker activities."

THE LIBRARY AS A MAKERSPACE

Makerspaces—also called maker labs, digital media labs, and launch pads—are collaborative spaces where library users get together to explore, learn, and create do-it-yourself or do-it-together projects that involve tech or non-tech tools. This idea of a communal creative space where library users can have access to tools and, perhaps more importantly, access to each others' skills and knowledge, has inspired libraries to embrace the maker culture and to incorporate it into their services.

Some libraries offer digital media labs for creating digital content—movies, music, and video games—while other libraries have expanded their labs into dedicated makerspaces that offer a variety of maker equipment, such as 3D printers, laser cutters, soldering irons, and sewing machines. The Indian Trails Public Library District offers both: digital services labs (sound lab, video editing lab, and archival station) and the Launch Pad, where users are able to tinker with anything from button maker kits, crochet hooks, jewelry tools, embroidery, and sewing kits to silhouette cameo vinyl cutters and 3D printers.

Makerspace activities don't always need to involve expensive technology. The Urbana Free Library offers 3D printers, vinyl cutters, sewing machines, electronics, and graphic tablets in its Teen Open Lab, with the recent addition of Makerspace Jr. that expands access to the lab equipment to children in elementary school. The library's recyclables table has been as popular as the tech and maker equipment, however. Using toilet paper tubes, paper bags, and scrap paper, library users are known to make anything from animals to portable cities.

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CREATOR PRO
FLASHFORGE

DO YOU HAVE YOUR CARD?
The Animator's Bible
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Joliet Junior College
MakerLab
Our MakerLab is open to the Community!
3D Printers
Laser Cutter/Engraver
Vinyl Cutter
3D Carving Machine
& More

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THE LIBRARY AS A MAKER FAIRE

Maker Faires, Maker Days, STEAM Fests, or Do-It-Yourself Fests hosted by libraries are celebrations of community and library staff talents, skills, creativity, and willingness to share knowledge and ideas to help others. The desire to foster community among local makers and to gauge broader community interest in maker projects at the library have been the motivating force behind Wilmette Public Library's Maker Fest. To find speakers and makers to lead the workshops, the library formed a cross-department team; each member contacted local businesses, schools, and hobbyists to ask them to participate. In addition, the library publicized a call for makers online, via social media, and in print.

The New Lenox Public Library District took a similar approach when planning its second annual Maker Day. In addition to relying on staff talent to lead the maker activities, the library put out an application for finding potential makers and advertised it on the library's website and via word of mouth.

The Palatine Public Library District's STEAM Fair (attended by 1200 people in 2019) brought together 29 outside groups, including forest preserves, LEGO clubs, local museums, schools, universities, a herpetology program with live animals, and a band that fuses live music with original video game animations. To find speakers and presenters to lead the maker activities and workshops, the committee of seven staff members from various departments, responsible for planning the event, used staff's collective community knowledge, tapped the local Chamber of Commerce, and relied on community contacts with which it had previously partnered.

THE LIBRARY AS A MAKER CLUB

While some libraries prefer a more spontaneous environment (or the so-called "drop-in" maker sessions for all ages), other libraries have initiated a more structured approach to maker activities. That is the case with the Alpha Park Public Library's Crafternoon Delight program designed for adults. Each month, library users explore making a new craft; they are required to register beforehand, as much planning takes place behind the scenes. Often, there is a waiting list, and if supplies are more expensive, there is a small fee. As for collecting supplies and finding people to lead the workshops, the library relies on the community. One of its board members taught programs on quilling, and a patron, who turned out to be skilled at painting, offered to teach a class. Through Facebook, it found a maker to teach a hand-lettering class. The ultimate goal is to have the class available for free, to keep it accessible. One way to do so is asking for donations from local businesses. Patrons have also made monetary donations to support the program.

This same sense of bringing communities, and even libraries, together is seen at the Cary Area Public Library with its Maker Club. The library doesn't have a maker space or any large pieces of equipment such as 3D printers. It is able to allow participants to do projects that involve this equipment, however, by having a neighboring library do the 3D prints and cuts.

MAKER OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPACT

Maker activities are an excellent way to increase library outreach and to meet patrons at their point of need, without having them come to the actual building to enjoy services and offerings. That is the approach the Fountaindale Public Library District took with creating its Tinker Technology Troupe. Originally formed to initiate the STEAMbox Kits, the Tinker Technology Troupe offers activities such as robotics, vinyl cutting, 3D printing, and coding, and its programs are so flexible that they can fit almost any maker need: in-school, after school, or a special one-day event. In addition to community and school visits, the Tinker Technology Troupe manages the library district's annual Maker Faire and Make-A-Mess Fest.

Fountaindale's STEAMbox Kits are another unique way to educate and entertain K-12 students. Each kit focuses on a different science, technology, engineering, art, or math topic, and it includes equipment and instructions for hands-on activities.

When technology is not an option for community outreach, being on budget and on trend at the same time is still possible. For instance, when the New Lenox Public Library saw a decrease in teen program attendance numbers, it took a creative approach and started visiting high schools, bringing art and crafts supplies to engage students, with an emphasis on the joy and value of making things by hand. In addition, the maker activities helped with establishing good relationships and opening doors for more collaborations between the public library and the local high schools, such as book club discussions and a poetry slam.

The Glen Ellyn Public Library's STEAM Fair was also created to support the local school district's curriculum. With its fun and educational format and with more than 20 organizations presenting, the event had a positive impact not only on children, but on community members of all ages, as well.

In other cases, community groups and organizations are the ones reaching out. For example, a not-for-profit group, New Blankets, reached out to the Southern Illinois University's Morris Library (Carbondale) and offered to provide training and equipment for the Library's maker-type activities. The group has also brought in speakers and makers to lead some of the workshops. Conversely, SIU librarians visit elementary and middle schools in Southern Illinois and expose students to maker activities, especially 3D printing, where they are able to train future generations of makers. The greatest accomplishment has been working with all of the students on campus, as well as with the community, and being able to highlight local makers' skills through Morris Library's well-known open house events, which showcase maker work on campus.

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MAKER CHALLENGES

Certain technology equipment and maker supplies can prove expensive. If the budget is an issue, there are still strategies to make space for makers. One way to combat the low budget challenge is to start with what you already have, and then grow your makerspace by testing and learning what works and what resonates with your community.

For example, on a limited budget, the Grayslake High School Library initiated Maker/Breaker Space area, as well as Pop Up stations, such as Lego/K'Nex Build and Community Coloring, Post-it Note Sudoku, and Bulletin Boards. Additionally, for the highly popular Box Robot contests, students used only boxes and tape. The library has also filled in the gaps by applying for grants, searching through freecycle.org (network of people who are giving and getting reusable free stuff for free in their own towns), and seeking donations. But when approaching the community for donations, the Milledgeville Public Library advises to ask for only specific items that refill supplies you need. When the library first implemented maker activities, it put out the word to the community that it needed donations, and… the donations flowed in. Three years later, the library is still working through the initial pile of donations.

Perhaps staffing poses the biggest challenge for most libraries, especially when staff needs to learn how to use the equipment in order to help library users. Finding staff members who both know how to troubleshoot the equipment and are available to work particular weekends could be tricky. If that is the case, a solution would be to form a cross-departmental team of staff with technical knowledge, or reach out to tech-savvy volunteers. For example, The Urbana Free Library is exploring the option to reach out to teens who use the Teen Open Lab to help with technology and maker equipment. In addition, the library's teen librarian made a contact at a local Maker Fair with a library school student who expressed desire to assist with technology. The library also has a subscription to CreativeBug and is finding the videos (such as the ones on how to use a sewing machine) helpful.

When there is not enough staff to help out during a maker event, libraries (such as the New Lenox Public Library, the Bloomington Public Library, and the Vernon Area Public Library) often reach out to volunteers to help out with running stations, assisting children with projects, taking attendance, and cleaning up afterwards. When planning a maker event, however, the more staff is involved, the more coordination and communication is needed, which could bring additional challenges. One way to prevent this is to form committees of different people each year, schedule meetings ahead of time, set expectations early on in the planning process, and distribute tasks evenly among everyone involved.

MAKER CONSIDERATIONS

There are a few things to consider when planning a big maker event, in particular. For the Palatine Public Library District's STEAM Fair, some of the considerations were partners backing out at the last minute, staff sickness the day of the event, and limited parking space for attendees. Additional challenges were technology malfunctions (some of the robots the library district was planning to showcase at an in-house booth malfunctioned the day of the event; luckily, it had other robots available) and an excited community that turned out early for the fair, making setting up boots challenging for exhibitors and staff. Increasing maintenance and security staff to assist with set up, takedown, and crowd management is the plan for the library district's next fair.

For other libraries, an obstacle has been not having enough time (there are non-maker jobs to do) and getting other staff to get on board with planning maker activities, especially maker events. In that case, passive programming might be the solution, where maker supplies can be left out on a makercart or a table, with activities requiring minimal supervision and less take down and clean-up time.

And what about those solo librarians who would like to implement maker activities, but simply don't have enough time and staff to plan and implement them because they are required to staff a desk? The Milledgeville Public Library came up with a creative approach: self-guided maker programs, where it provides construction paper, stickers, pipe cleaners, markers, tape, glue sticks, and other decorating supplies. The library puts out all of the recyclables and lets the kids (and teens and adults) free-build, without supervising the activities. To prevent the mess kids would leave, the library no longer provides liquid glue. Not knowing how many people would show up for a maker activity is something else to consider. To make sure there are enough supplies, most libraries ask for registration and typically give priority to card holders.

WHY MAKERS MATTER

Given how challenging and time-consuming it could be to plan maker activities, why should a library consider launching such services? One reason is that the maker culture has presented libraries with opportunities to engage existing users, while attracting new community members by meeting their evolving needs. Individuals and communities are in a need to acquire more-advanced technology and practical STEM skills and competencies; these skills can be obtained in the library.

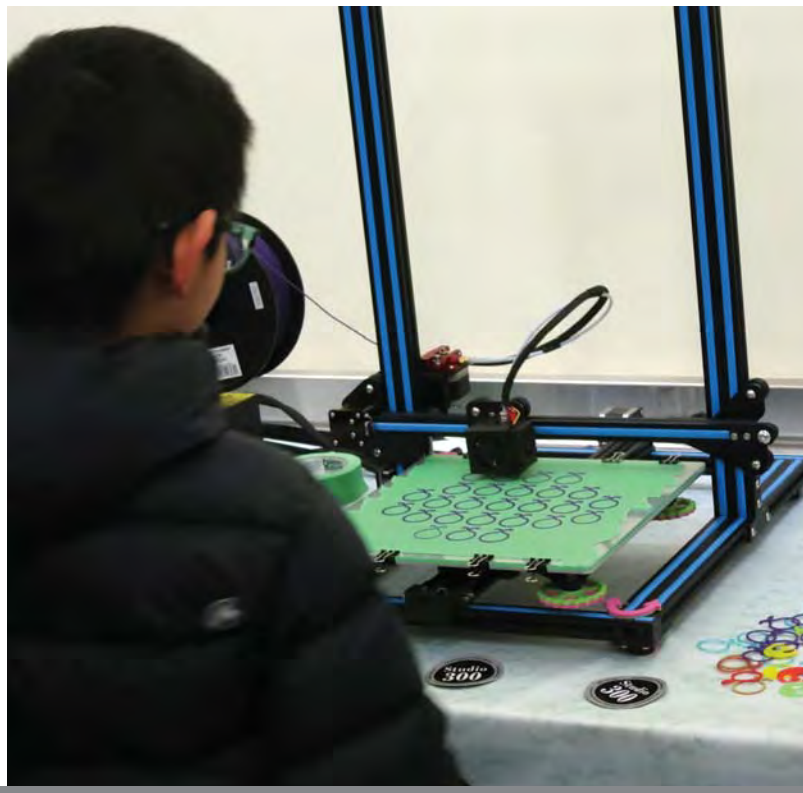
The collaboration between libraries and makers benefits both sides. The library can provide space and resources; on the other hand, makers can provide knowledge and ideas in order for libraries to develop new and relevant services. And this is how the concept of the library becoming a maker faire or a makerspace has become increasingly popular among Illinois libraries.

The positive community feedback is also an indicator that libraries should take the risk and the time to experiment and implement maker activities. The Urbana Free Library shares that it has not received negative feedback from its community. In fact, Library users have made comments such as "I've been wanting to do this for so long," "We looked forward to this all week!," and "We were so excited to come back this month and make a matching pillow!" A staff member from the Wilmette Public Library commented about its highly successful Maker Fest: "The vibe in the building was very positive. You can't measure that on paper, but it was real."

With making, there is no right or wrong, and even if no one is learning, there is a great deal of fun and spontaneity involved. There is a genuine sense of camaraderie among participants, and that is perhaps why it all matters.

Acknowledgments:

The author would like to thank staff members from the following libraries for taking the time to share their experience and knowledge: Alpha Park Public Library, Bloomington Public Library, Cary Area Public Library, Fountaindale Public Library District, Glen Ellyn Public Library, Grayslake High School Library, Indian Trails Public Library District, Milledgeville Public Library, New Lenox Public Library, Palatine Public Library District, Southern Illinois University's Morris Library (Carbondale), The Urbana Free Library, Vernon Area Public Library, and Wilmette Public Library.



The American Library Association's Center for the Future of Libraries

More examples, resources, and discussions on the topic of libraries and the maker movement are available on the ALA's Center for the Future of Libraries website, at http://www.ala.org/tools/future/trends/makers.

Kim Tipton, McHenry County College Library

"Where Is Your Quiet Area?" Helping Patrons Unplug from a Plugged-In World

In addition to using library technology offerings such as Wi-Fi hotspots and virtual-reality headsets, teens are learning to knit, college students are working on puzzles, and groups of adults are quietly coloring. Why are people drawn to these "unplugged" activities? Research has shown that calming activities such as coloring reduce anxiety (Noor et al., 2017). Librarians who host teen knitting groups see improved self-esteem in the teens, in addition to "natural opportunities for peer-to-peer learning" (Behrens, 2015, p. 38). The personal reward of completing a project can also give teens the confidence to try something new later on (Rodenbaugh et al., 2014).

In some cases, these programs also benefit people beyond the patrons who participated. After a rock-painting craft program at the Crystal Lake Public Library, staff learned that one participant enjoyed it so much that she painted more rocks at home, added inspirational messages, and left them around town for others to find. In 2018, teens at the Rochester Public Library District turned plastic bags into sleeping mats for the homeless (Browning, 2018). The Gail Borden Public Library District also hosts a philanthropic knitting program for teens called "Knitting for a Cause."

UNPLUGGED STUDENTS

Relaxing activities aren't limited to public libraries. Students are overwhelmed, so in spaces traditionally used for study and research, academic libraries have coloring pages and board games to help students relax. The Melick Library at Eureka College has coloring supplies, chess boards, and jigsaw puzzles for students. "It's been nice to see students come to the library specifically to interact with the puzzles and unwind," said Public & Access Services Librarian Kelly Fisher. The McHenry County College Library has Legos, coloring pages, and a puzzle for its students, initially as stress-relief activities during midterms. The students enjoyed these things so much that staff now leave them out permanently. These resources are accessible to libraries of all sizes and budgets. Board games and puzzles can be found at thrift stores and dollar stores. Free printable coloring pages are available on websites such as Crayola's, at crayola.com/featured/free-coloring-pages.

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Students at the McHenry County College Library take a break from classes by coloring and playing with Legos. (Photo credit: Kim Tipton)

Rocio Matthews prepares for a cooking demonstration of Columbian recipes at the Chillicothe Public Library's Cooking Around the World series. (Photo credit: Catherine Barnett, Chillicothe Public Library)

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UNPLUGGED CONVERSATIONS

Libraries like to create programs to introduce their communities to new people and ideas, an approach the Chillicothe Public Library took. Its "Cooking Around the World" series is presented by people with heritage from a featured region. The speaker demonstrates dish preparation and highlights the culinary aspect of their particular culture. "People enjoy the time to sit and talk," said Programming Librarian Catherine Barnett. The audience is primarily adults, but many families often attend, said Barnett, who values the multigenerational aspect of the program. The Crystal Lake Public Library also wanted to provide a space for people to sit and talk, especially about current events in a "safe and fair environment," said Marcia Tillman, Library Technical Assistant and coordinator of its Koffee Klatch series. Tillman has heard from patrons that they appreciate the safe space to have these big conversations. A moderator leads the group, and the Library provides magazines, newspapers, and books to encourage conversation.

UNPLUGGED AND OFFLINE

Unplugged doesn't necessarily mean quiet! This past January, 51 teens willingly disconnected from their personal devices for a few hours and took part in the Galesburg Public Library's After Hours Nerf Lock-In. When asked why he thought the program was so popular, Reference and Young Adult Librarian John Driscoll said, "It gets tweens and teens running around playing, which is always fun, and getting to do it in a setting where that's normally not allowed makes it even more exciting." To make the program inclusive to anyone who wanted to participate, according to Driscoll, the Library designed some of the challenges for holding a defensive position, instead of physically running around in an area.

UNPLUGGED PARTNERSHIPS

For one of its Nerf programs, the Galesburg Public Library partnered with a local Live Action Role Play (LARP) group. "They loved working with the teens," said Driscoll. "Our teens loved seeing the costumes and participating in the LARP group's story." Driscoll noted that an added benefit of partnering with an outside group was being able to share the planning responsibilities. The Jerseyville Public Library partnered with its Parks and Recreation Department to present StoryWalk. While hiking or fishing, visitors enjoy experiencing a picture book along a paved quarter-mile path around a nearby lake. Book pages are separated, laminated, and placed consecutively around the path, according to Beth Smilack, the library's social media specialist. It often combines the story with a community event. One picture book about construction sites inspired the library to invite businesses with big trucks. "We even had a helicopter—that was a big hit!" said Smilack. The Du Quoin Public library partnered with its own patrons to provide a long-running recipe exchange. The Library sets out a box for patrons to leave copies of recipes, then staff collect the recipes and make photocopies on demand for patrons. Passive programs such as this are a good solution for libraries with limited staff and resources. This also makes the activity more accessible since busy patrons can drop off a recipe rather than attend a scheduled program.

UNPLUGGED SPACES: RESPONDING TO PATRON NEEDS

Even with a blend of active learning and unplugged programs, librarians are still asked one common question: "Do you have a quiet area?" A Pew Research study found that 61% of Americans think libraries should have defined spaces for specific activities. According to the study, "The value of having separate spaces for different activities (especially for noise reduction) was mentioned very often in our focus groups, both by patrons and library staff members" ("Should Libraries Shush?", 2013). The Helen Plum Library recognized the value of providing separate spaces for separate activities. According to Support Services and Communications Director Sue Wilsey, its adult and youth services departments are located next to each other with nothing separating the space. As active programs and noise levels increased in the youth department, staff wanted to maintain some quiet for their adult patrons, but staff had to sacrifice meeting and program space to do so.

Prairie State College responded to its students' requests for quiet by converting a group study room into a dedicated quiet space, said Carolyn Ciesla, Dean of Learning Resources and Assessment. Ciesla said she often sees students with their heads down, suggesting that the students need a quiet place to rest in addition to study. When two rooms became available at the University of Illinois Undergraduate Library, "We thought of the rooms as respite or sensory safe spaces," said JJ Pionke, applied health sciences librarian and library disability expert. Walls were painted light blue and the library added comfortable seating and an Amazon Echo for sound and meditation apps.

UNPLUGGED SOLUTIONS

Providing a quiet space in your library doesn't have to mean a major renovation. Solutions are available for a variety of layouts and budgets. The Main Library at the University at Albany (Albany, NY) was a gathering place for students on campus and often called "the noisy library" (Stanwicks, 2016, p.1). Students often requested a quieter place to study and some asked why the library was so noisy in the first place. In response, the library worked with its student advisory board to study how patrons regularly used the spaces. The library ultimately established three noise-level zones: collaborative, quiet, and silent. The library matched furnishings to the zone, with group tables in collaborative zones and independent study carrels in quiet zones. The University of Limerick (Ireland) created similar zones in response to student complaints about noise and follow-up studies showed that "zoning had the biggest impact on noise levels and complaints" (McCaffrey & Breen, 2016).

To arrange similar zones at your library, consider the following:

- Involve your community to determine how it would like to use the space.
- Use existing furniture to create physical barriers to define quiet zones.
- Match furniture to the zone. (For example, invite groups with large tables or encourage individual study with private study carrels.)
- Separate quiet zones from noisier parts of the building, such as the computer lab or the main doors.
- Add soft materials (such as area rugs or upholstered furniture) to a space to absorb sound.
- Relocate service points away from quiet zones.

If your budget allows, consider investing in acoustic wall paneling, which one can purchase from home improvement stores. A less expensive option for sound management is to add white noise machines to drown out surrounding noise, a solution that the Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem, NC) implemented. Six white-noise machines successfully mitigated the sound problems that a large room caused due to tiled floors and a ceiling that echoed.

In an increasingly plugged-in world, patrons still look to the library as a place to unplug. The next time someone asks, "Where is your quiet area?", consider how you can help them find some quiet with unplugged activities or a dedicated quiet space.

Acknowledgements:

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Sarah McHone-Chase, Northern Illinois University

Library Burnout: It's Common and Okay to Admit!

As I sit to write this article, the circumstances are far from what I imagined when I first thought of the topic: Illinois is responding to a stay-at-home executive order from our governor, and most of our libraries are in some sense closed. If librarians are working, they are working from home, and that work is not necessarily looking like their typical work. Is this even the time to talk about burnout, when so many of us are feeling uncertain, scared, and stressed? Ultimately, it is okay to acknowledge job uncertainty and fear, and even job (dis)satisfaction, even under these present conditions, especially if we want to ever address job satisfaction when we get back to whatever "normal" looks like when we finally get back to our libraries. Burnout is common and normal. Openly discussing such concepts will help us to be better professionals, better managers and colleagues, and better able to serve our users.

"Burnout is very particular type of stress that causes the sufferer to feel physically and emotionally drained and unable to perform at work at the same rate that they had been able to in the past."

WHAT IS BURNOUT?

First, what is burnout, and why is it a problem?

On the December 7, 2018 episode of the podcast "Stuff Mom Never Told You," host Anney Reese and guest co-host Alison Green (of popular management/work-life advice column "Ask a Manager") discussed burnout and how to work to prevent it. Green defined burnout as being a very particular type of stress that causes the sufferer to feel physically and emotionally drained and unable to perform at work at the same rate that they had been able to in the past. Burnout results from a long and sustained time of stress and pressure and high workload. However, it is important to note that even though burnout is usually related to the workplace, it can also occur as a result of other stressful life activities, such as caring for children or aging parents, especially if one has such responsibilities on top of a full-time job. Burnout is literally feeling stretched thin.

Factors related to burnout include having unreasonable expectations, having an overwhelming and unsustainable workload, having trauma somehow associated with work, being disengaged from the work, passive-aggressive workplaces, and poor work-life culture. Additional factors can be poor communication, ineffective management, or unassertive workers (who may not be communicating their own ideas or needs). Additional factors to consider may be feeling overqualified for a position, or perhaps simply being in the same position for a very long time (a "dead end" for example). In the article "Workplace Engagement of Librarians and Library Staff," Jason Martin discusses engagement (which might be understood to be the opposite of burnout) within libraries. He states, "Levels of engagement and years of experience are negatively correlated, meaning the longer someone has worked at an organization the less engaged they will be" (25).

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BURNOUT CONSEQUENCES

Burnout has very real consequences. Individuals experiencing burnout may feel cynical and pessimistic about their work and feel that their efforts are ineffective. They may lack motivation in the workplace and feel frustrated, which can lead to mistakes. Those mistakes are, of course, bad for the workplace: When someone is feeling burnout, the workplace suffers. Burned-out workers are less engaged, and they are more likely to be looking to leave. But burned-out workers don't just make the workplace "sick," they themselves can display physical ailments. People with burnout have reported feeling stressed, catching more colds, having heart issues, headaches, and GI problems. Burnout affects the individual, the workplace, and ripples out to the economy. When people feel burned out, their friends and family will start to feel the effects. Burnout is a problem for the individual, the workplace, and society.

BURNOUT PREVENTION

Burnout is clearly not good for anyone, then, and if it can be prevented, then it should be. However, preventing burnout comes from the individual as well as the workplace. On a personal level, individuals need to be able to recognize that they are feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or overly self-critical and then find a way to take a step back, to examine those feelings and try to figure out the causes and ways to cope. Burnout is a trap of one's own making: When someone is suffering from burnout, they need to figure out appropriate boundaries to draw and then stick to them. Examples of boundaries include working only scheduled hours (not working on evenings, weekends, or vacations) and giving oneself time for breaks. Other coping mechanisms can include having a social support network, getting exercise, and getting enough sleep. The important takeaway is that when suffering from burnout, people should not try to then work even harder: Don't lean into burnout.

When we notice burnout in our coworkers or in our family and friends, it is important to acknowledge it. Burnout is common, and it is okay to talk about those feelings with others. When one recognizes burnout in oneself, one possible action is to look for new employment. Each individual needs to decide this for themselves, of course, but might want to especially consider it when all other options (setting boundaries, communicating needs and problems) have failed, or when some circumstance in the workplace is simply untenable (harassment that goes unaddressed by management, for example, or incompetent management).

TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT

In the workplace, managers need to invest in their staff in order to help prevent burnout. That investment includes paying attention to workload for staff as well as clear and open communication. That communication is a key element, as staff need to feel that they can bring their work issues to management before it becomes that much worse—good management cares about how staff are coping with work and work/life balance and good management wants workers to feel satisfied with their work.

In their excellent book, The Dysfunctional Library, authors Jo Henry, Joe Eshleman, and Richard Moniz state that, based on a study that they conducted, the greatest stressor for librarians seems to be overall workload (12). When we know how harmful burnout can be for the whole workplace, this is a clear indication that management needs to be attuned to staff needs. The Dysfunctional Library states, "one author suggests having candid discussions about workload to address interruptions, which many librarians face. Scheduling staff to allow them to be more centrally focused on a single task or cluster of tasks would go a long way to alleviating burnout."

In "How to Spot Burn-Out on Your Team—Before It's Too Late," the aforementioned Alison Green discusses ways to recognize burnout among workers: work decreasing in quality, signs of exhaustion, drop in enthusiasm and being generally more emotional. Green states that the ways to support burned-out employees include helping them to reprioritize work and encouraging them to take time off. But Green also encourages managers to look to themselves when they notice burnout among staff: Is the manager's behavior the cause of the burnout? Green encourages managers to be "brutally honest" with themselves about their management style and whether it causes tension and stress or is insensitive to the needs of staff.

BURNOUT AMONG LIBRARIANS?

Burnout is not a shameful topic, but it often feels like a secret to hide. And perhaps library workers especially feel as if their burnout needs to be concealed: We tend to think of our professional as a noble, helping profession and, at the same time, the more stressful elements (problem patrons or coworkers, for example) are not well represented or understood in the larger society, making us feel as if we somehow haven't earned the right to feel burnout.

Nevertheless, many librarians and library workers do suffer from burnout. Acknowledging and discussing our burnout issues can help us better contend with these feelings and therefore serve our patrons better. Tim Ribaric, a librarian at Brock University in Ontario, Canada, runs the lis_grievances Twitter account, which is a bot account where posters can anonymously post their com-

plaints about working in their libraries. These complaints are posted verbatim, and Ribaric states that he thinks that library workers see posting to the account as a way of "screaming into the void"—a kind of catharsis. Lis_grievances gives posters an outlet for complaining in a way that it cannot be traced back to their own accounts. This indicates that as a profession we do tend to sublimate our feelings of discontent. But Ribaric also points out that those who post to this account are complaining specifically because they care so much—pretending that there are no problems in libraries ever doesn't actually help solve problems.

In order to illustrate what burnout might look or feel like in Illinois libraries, I put out a call on the IACRL listserv, through the HSLI discussion list, and other places in order to inquire if anyone would be willing to discuss their own burnout experiences with me under conditions of complete anonymity. I asked respondents the following questions:

1) What do you understand burnout to mean?

2) How did you recognize that you were feeling burnout?

3) What do you think "made" you feel burnout? What do you attribute your burnout to?

4) How did you feel after you recognized that you had burnout?

5) What actions have you taken to combat your feelings of burnout?

6) What advice would you give colleagues across the state regarding burnout?

The information supplied by respondents is completely anecdotal: the information gathered from them was not systematic enough or in high enough numbers (the input of 5 people is included here) or varied enough in types of libraries that extrapolation to the larger profession is possible. But discussing the general replies to these questions is nonetheless useful, if only to get a better understanding of what burnout looks like for some librarians.

Respondents all spoke of burnout being a feeling of frustration and negativity in the workplace. Words such as "apathy," "depression," "overwhelmed," and "tiredness" were used. Respondents talked about realizing that they had burnout when they began feeling unmotivated in the workplace: coming in later, getting distracted, feeling resistant to coming in or to getting work done. A respondent discussed feeling impatient with tasks and people, including patrons. Respondents spoke of feeling tired and having no energy, both at work and in their home lives.

When respondents contemplated the causes of their burnout, it is varied: Respondents talked about toxic work environments, bullying in the workplace, abusive or incompetent management, overly emotionally involved workplaces, and a lack of opportunities for growth. Several respondents referred to the current pandemic, as that is certainly adding to all of our stress levels.

Respondents were able to recognize their burnout based on feelings on their general feelings of depression and anxiety. Once they recognized their feelings of burnout, respondents described feeling relief at being able to recognize what was wrong, since identifying the problem helped them to identify potential solutions. Unfortunately, relief was not a universal feeling—some respondents reported feelings of guilt and feelings of weakness for not being able to handle their stress. However, respondents also reported channeling these feelings of guilt into motivation to take actions to change their circumstances by finding new work.

In order to combat their burnout, respondents described a variety of self-care activities: spending time with pets, making time for hobbies, exercising, and talking about work issues with others, including therapy. Respondents also talked about the need to set boundaries at work and several touched on the importance of knowing when to find a new job.

Finally, respondents advise others who may be suffering from burnout to recognize it for what it is and think about what you can and cannot control; consider finding a new job if that is possible. Give yourself time for self-care and for rest and fun. A respondent advises for others to not feel ashamed and to openly communicate in the workplace as much as possible—if you are feeling burnout, so might others in your library.

Conclusion

The experiences of librarians who have reported feeling burnout align with the way burnout is described by professionals. Burnout is common: many librarians in Illinois as well as other states experience it, as well as members of other professions, everywhere. Especially during COVID-19, we all need to take stock of our emotions and feelings and make time to check in with ourselves and give ourselves time to decompress. It is also important to check in with one another. Burnout mirrors much of what we are all feeling right now, anyway. But for this reason, librarians and library workers need to be comfortable talking about and addressing burnout. Desiring job satisfaction is not selfish, nor is wanting a healthy workplace. When we are happier and more fulfilled with our jobs, we ourselves are happier and healthier, and we are better able to give back to the workplace and to our patrons: it's a winning solution all around.

The author gratefully thanks all respondents who volunteered to talk about their burnout experiences.

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- Writing that considers a "how to think about…" approach rather than "how to do…"
- Submissions from all geographic areas of the state
- Submissions that relate to ILA's strategic goal area of a culture of diversity and inclusion, both in the profession and the association

ILA
Illinois Library Association

View submission guidelines at **www.ila.org/publications/ila-reporter** and consider sharing your ideas! Send submissions to **ila@ila.org**.

ILA Welcomes New Members

On behalf of the ILA community, Executive Board, and staff we would like to welcome our recent new members. We hope as a member of ILA you contribute, grow, and thrive within the library profession and the ILA community; and support ILA's continuing efforts to create and promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Featherstone, Inc., Downers Grove
GW & Associates, PC., Hillside

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Anna De Leon, Lisle
Kimberly Eversole, Chicago Public Library
Carolina Gutierrez, Aurora Public Library
Julie Huddle, Crystal Lake
Katherine Kassel, Geneva
Joe Kinzig, West Lafayette (IN)
Faye Levin-O'Leary, Indian Trails Public Library District, Wheeling
Virgina Lister, Barry Public Library
William Midgley, University of Illinois at Chicago
Deanna Musurlian, Glenview Public Library
Tim Prendergast, Hodgkins Public Library
Cynthia Romanowski, Governors State University, University Park
Katie Slayter, North Suburban Public Library District, Loves Park
Kathryn Welko, Addison Public Library

STUDENT MEMBERS

Taylor Anderson, Urbana
Sana Bell, Dominican University, River Forest
Juanita Bergman, Fairview Heights
Bradley Bibbs, Aurora
Kathleen Dienes, Chicago
Catherine Dudley, Thomas Ford Memorial Library District, Western Springs
Rebeca Ferreira, Des Plaines
Keva Kreeger, University of North Carolina Greensboro
Peter Lyon, Glencoe Public Library
Paula McMullen, Tinley Park
Jeffrey Merino, Des Plaines
Olivia Peterson, Rosalind Franklin University, North Chicago
Judith Pollard, Granite City
Jennifer Renken, Tinley Park
Ernestina Saenz, Cicero
Megan Shumaker, University of Illinois SOIS
Cynthia Wade, University of Illinois SOIS

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Beth Collier, Manteno Public Library
Allen Duncan, Edwardsville Public Library
Howard Handler, Deerfield Public Library
Angelique Minett, Morris Area Public Library District
Tami Schaibly, Maryville Community Library District

CORRECTION

Please note: In the March 2020 issue of the *ILA Reporter's* feature "New Library Buildings 2019," we listed details of the Cook Memorial Public Library District's renovation incorrectly, including the name of the architect, type of project, total cost, service population, and name of the library director. We apologize for the errors and are pleased to present the correct information below.

COOK MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, ASPEN DRIVE LIBRARY, VERNON HILLS

Architect:	product architecture + design
Type of project:	Renovation/expansion
Total cost:	$6,800,000
Service population:	59,842
Library director:	David Archer

What people are saying:

"You really did a great job taking the community's needs to heart."

"The building is so airy and filled with sunlight."

"The new enlarged children's area is so much fun!"

"There are a variety of unique spaces in this building—something for everyone!"

2020 Election Results

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Jeanne Hamilton – elected
Bloomington Public Library

David Seleb
Oak Park Public Library

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(three-year term beginning July 1, 2020–June 30, 2023)
A candidate from each pairing is elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference; a total of four directors are elected to serve three-year terms on the ILA Executive Board.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:

Karolyn Nance – elected
Bartlett Public Library

Carmen Patlan
Highwood Public Library

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:

Rick Meyer – elected
Decatur Public Library

Amy Byers
Chatham Public Library

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:

Marielle McNeal – elected
Hines Medical Library and Veterans Health and Information Library, Hines

Sarah McHone-Chase
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE:

Laura Barnes – elected
Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, Champaign

Laura Turner
Caterpillar, Inc., Peoria

This is the sixteenth year that ILA offered electronic voting, and the first year in which voting took place entirely electronically. In 2020, with 1,819 personal members eligible to vote, 565 voted (31 percent).

New Illinois Library Luminary

The ILA Executive Board approved the induction of Mary Huchting as an Illinois Library Luminary on May 8, 2020. Her campaign was spearheaded by former ILA Executive Director Robert P. Doyle, who noted in his nomination, "Mary's dedication to libraries and to excellence in publishing for librarians resulted in a broad range of substantive contributions to her chosen profession."

In a long and distinguished career (1981–2005) as a production editor and then managing editor for American Library Association (ALA) Publishing, Huchting ably shepherded to print flagship titles of critical importance to all librarians, including *Anglo American Cataloguing Rules 2 and Guide to Reference Books*. As managing editor at ALA, Huchting was responsible for assuring that 30 to 35 books per year were published under the ALA imprint.

Known for her insistence on quality, accuracy, and clarity, Huchting gained high praise from her peers and from ALA authors with whom she worked. Michael Gorman, co-editor of *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* and 2005–2006 ALA President, said "Mary's careful work was invaluable in preparing both editions of AACR2. She was eagle-eyed, diligent, and invariably right in her judgments." Patrick Hogan, Huchting's supervisor at ALA Publishing, said that nearly all prominent ALA publications passed through Huchting's hands—and, "she was a stickler for quality." After Mary retired from ALA, Doyle asked Mary to work at the Illinois Library Association as copy editor and proofreader for the *ILA Reporter* and other ILA print publications. For more than a decade, she applied her respected editorial skills with her solid grasp of the library profession's values and subject matter to improve all ILA's publications.

Huchting had gained valuable frontline library experience as head reference librarian at the Mundelein College library in Chicago from 1978 to 1981. There, she developed the reference collection, provided bibliographic instruction to students, and aided faculty research. Before becoming a librarian, Huchting had worked in the publishing industry for a number of years. In Boston, she was an editorial assistant at the Houghton-Mifflin Company, and in Chicago, she was supervisor of the editorial department at Commerce Clearinghouse. Also in Chicago, Huchting did editorial work for a number of publishers, among them the American Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association, Rand McNally, and Northwestern University Press. Huchting received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Iowa and an M.A. in Library Science from Dominican University. Mary was born in 1939 and died on May 25, 2019.

2020 Legislative Meet-ups by the Numbers

Legislative Lunch, West Suburban, Oak Brook, February 3, 2020

2020 Attendees: 113	Legislators: 14 (9 elected, 5 staff) out of 26 or 54%
2019 Attendees: 113	Legislators: 12 (10 elected, 2 staff) out of 27 or 45%
2018 Attendees: 66	Legislators: 13 (11 elected, 2 staff) out of 25 or 52%
2017 Attendees: 85	Legislators: 10 (9 elected, 1 staff) out of 28 or 36%
2016 Attendees: 105	Legislators: 13 (11 elected, 2 staff) our of 29 or 45%
2015 Attendees: 76	Legislators: 17 (13 elected, 4 staff) out of 20 or 59%
2014 Attendees: 85	Legislators: 13 out of 29 or 45%

Legislative Breakfast, Metro East, Edwardsville, February 7, 2020

2020 Attendees: 47	Legislators: 8 out of 15 or 53%
2019 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 8 (6 elected, 2 staff) out of 15 or 53%
2018 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 6 (5 elected, 1 staff) out of 15 or 40%
2017 Attendees: 63	Legislators: 3 (1 elected, 2 staff) out of 17 or 18%
2016 Attendees: 58	Legislators: 5 (2 elected, 3 staff) out of 16 or 31%
2015 Attendees: 59	Legislators: 6 (3 elected, 3 staff) out of 16 or 38%
2014 Attendees: 54	Legislators: 5 out of 17 or 29%

Legislative Lunch, Southern Illinois, Effingham, February 10, 2020

2020 Attendees: 30	Legislators: 7 (5 elected, 2 staff) out of 10 or 70%
2019 Attendees: 29	Legislators: 6 (4 elected, 2 staff) out of 10 or 60%
2018 Attendees: 35	Legislators: 5 (3 elected, 2 staff) out of 10 or 50%
2017 Attendees: 34	Legislators: 4 (3 elected, 1 staff) out of 8 or 50%

The 2017 event was held in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Legislative Breakfast, Central Illinois, Normal, February 14, 2020

2020 Attendees: 39	Legislators: 3 out of 20 or 15%
2019 Attendees: 52	Legislators: 11 (9 elected, 2 staff) out of 19 or 58%
2018 Attendees: 45	Legislators: 7 (4 elected, 3 staff) out of 19 or 37%
2017 Attendees: 50	Legislators: 3 (2 elected, 1 staff) out of 18 or 17%
2016 Attendees: 51	Legislators: 4 (3 elected, 1 staff) out of 22 or 18%

The 2016 and 2017 events were lunches. 2018 was the first breakfast.

Legislative Lunch, Western Illinois, Galesburg, February 14, 2020

2020 Attendees:	31	Legislators: 3 out of 19 or 16%
2019 Attendees:	21	Legislators: 7 (6 elected, 1 staff) out of 19 or 27%
2018 Attendees:	27	Legislators: 5 (3 elected, 2 staff) out of 19 or 25%

Legislative Breakfast, North Suburban, Buffalo Grove, February 17, 2020

2020 Attendees:	137	Legislators: 16 (14 elected, 2 staff) out of 41 or 39%
2019 Attendees:	146	Legislators: 19 (15 elected, 4 staff) out of 41 or 46%
2018 Attendees:	131	Legislators: 12 (9 elected, 3 staff) out of 41 or 29%
2017 Attendees:	141	Legislators: 14 (9 elected, 5 staff) out of 41 or 34%
2016 Attendees:	138	Legislators: 10 (8 elected, 2 staff) out of 41 or 24%
2015 Attendees:	124	Legislators: 17 (13 elected, 4 staff) out of 41 or 41%
2014 Attendees:	156	Legislators: 13 out of 47 or 27%
2013 Attendees:	150	Legislators: 17 out of 50 or 34%
2012 Attendees:	145	Legislators: 20 out of 50 or 40%
2011 Attendees:	147	Legislators: 23 out of 50 or 46%

This was the 30th North Suburban Library Legislative Breakfast.

Legislative Breakfast, South Suburban, Tinley Park, February 21, 2020

2020 Attendees:	57	Legislators: 6 (4 elected, 2 staff) out of 39 or 15%
2019 Attendees:	60	Legislators: 9 (7 elected, 2 staff) out of 38 or 24%
2018 Attendees:	75	Legislators: 10 (7 elected, 3 staff) out of 38 or 26%
2017 Attendees:	82	Legislators: 10 (7 elected, 3 staff) out of 38 or 26%
2016 Attendees:	66	Legislators: 11 (8 elected, 3 staff) out of 40 or 28%
2015 Attendees:	48	Legislators: 7 (3 elected, 4 staff) out of 40 or 18%
2014 Attendees:	37	Legislators: 4 out of 42 or 9%

The 2014 event was held in Lockport, Illinois.

Legislative Lunch, Chicago, March 6, 2020

2020 Attendees:	51	Legislators: 4 (1 elected, 3 staff) out of 29 or 14%
2019 Attendees:	48	Legislators: 3 out of 28 or 11%
2018 Attendees:	38	Legislators: 7 (3 elected, 4 staff) out of 27 or 26%
2017 Attendees:	75	Legislators: 4 (2 elected, 2 staff) out of 28 or 14%

Libraries and the 2020 Census

How Community Leaders Can Par
Libraries to Achieve a Complete

Libraries are essential partners in achieving

Across the country, elected officials and community leader
the digital divide, deliver trusted information, and reach

Libraries enable residents to respo
to take plac

Libraries deliver tru
libraries hosted more
misinformation and
communities. Librar
opportunities by h

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Federal Funding for Libraries

Libraries serve an important role in communities across the nation. Every day, libraries provide no-fee access to computers and Wi-Fi, jumpstart small b
help people find jobs, support
for children, and help veteran
The I

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2020 ALA Fly-In Days

ILA Executive Director Diane Foote and Rockford Public Library Director Lynn Stainbrook participated in ALA's Fly-In Days on February 10-11, visiting with staff from the offices of Senator Duckworth and Senator Durbin, and Representatives Quigley, Schakowsky, and Bustos to discuss library funding priorities. Illinois Representatives Quigley and Bustos serve on the House Appropriations Committee.

For the fourth year in a row the proposed White House budget, released while we were in DC, seeks to completely eliminate IMLS. Congress, however, has recognized the value of libraries and has consistently voted to fund the agency and the funds it administers through LSTA. In fiscal year 2020, IMLS received a modest increase to $195.4 million from $183 million in 2019; including $5.6 million for Illinois via the Grants to States program. We advocated for another modest increase in 2021, to $206 million, which still does not meet the previous peak level of funding, $213 million in 2010.

While the funding priorities have changed to relief bills with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated declarations of disaster and stay-at-home orders, we can thank our Illinois senators and representatives for their support of library funding. Senators Duckworth and Durbin both signed both letters, and 10 out of 18 Illinois representatives signed one or both; please note, Reps. Bustos and Quigley were not among the signers, not because they don't support library funding, but because as members of the Appropriations Committee, the letters are addressed to them. The following representatives signed both: Bobby Rush (IL-1), Daniel Lipinski (IL-3), Sean Casten (IL-6), Danny K. Davis (IL-7), Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-8), Bradley Schneider (IL-10), and Bill Foster (IL-11). Jesus Garcia (IL-4), Janice Schakowsky (IL-9), and Rodney Davis (IL-13) signed the LSTA one.

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A timeless update for Thomas Ford.

Thomas Ford Memorial Library
Western Springs, Illinois

Beautiful historic Thomas Ford Memorial Library, constructed in 1932, recently underwent an interior renovation to better meet community needs. LFI provided furniture and shelving to help with that goal. Study tables shown here have in-surface power and a sleek wire management leg for tech use. Featured materials are now front and center on marketplace style mobile displays. Periodicals are crisply displayed along with their back issues with magbox. To see more of the project, designed by Product Architecture + Design, visit the "Our Work" area on our website. We invite you to see what LFI can do for your library.

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