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**Illinois Library  
Association**

## Press Release

**The Illinois Library Association's Awards Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Andrew Medlar as the recipient of the 2015 Davis Cup Award. This annual award, honoring Marion Davis, recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in library services to youth. This award is proudly sponsored by the ABDO Publishing Company.**

After receiving his MLIS at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Andrew began his career at the Brooklyn Public Library. In 1997, he moved to Chicago to work for the Chicago Public Library where he is currently employed. He became the Youth Materials Specialist, serving for twelve years, before accepting the position of Assistant Commissioner for Collections in 2013. Currently, Mr. Medlar holds the position of the Assistant Chief of Technology, Content & Innovation.

At the Chicago Public Library, Andrew has initiated specialized and innovative programs for young people and the librarians who serve them. He created CPL's *Author of the Month* initiative; promoted the circulation of Launchpads (self-contained preloaded tablets); established sponsorship of ALSC's and CBC's 2015 Day of Diversity; and hosted "*Book Buzz*" in partnership with the Association of American Publishers. Mr. Medlar has enthusiastically participated in local library events including CPL's *Best of the Best*, *Bookmania* (a celebration of children's books) and Chicago Public Schools annual elementary *Battle of the Books*.

On the national level, Andrew has been an active member of ALA (the American Library Association) for the past nineteen years. Mr. Medlar is the 2015 – 2016 President of the Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC). He has also served on the Budget, Caldecott, and Laura Ingalls Wilder Award Committees, as well as chairing the Sibert. He was named the Librarian of the Year in 2009 by the Spanish Institute of Foreign Trade & Spanish Association of Publishers Guilds.

Mr. Medlar has been an adjunct instructor at Dominican University for six years, teaching courses in library materials for children and library materials for young adults. As a reviewer of children's books, he has contributed to professional journals, including *Booklist*. He has also spent time as a judge for the children's nonfiction category for the Society of Midland Authors Award. Currently, Andrew serves on the Illinois Library Association's Public Policy Committee, and he is a member of the steering committee for the Rebecca Caudill Young Reader's Book Award. In 2008, Andrew received Librarian of the Year honors from the Chicago Public Library Board of Directors.

The Davis Cup Award will be presented at the Awards Gala held on Friday evening, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, during the 2015 Illinois Library Conference in Peoria.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

**For Immediate Release**