



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

Lucas McKeever is the recipient of the 2018 TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award. This annual award, presented by ILA's Resources and Technical Services Forum and sponsored by Today's Business Solutions, Inc., is awarded to an individual who has made a substantial contribution in the area of library technical services, particularly with regard to commitment to leadership, programming and professional development in the technical services field.

Lucas has been the Head of Technical Services at Elmwood Park Public Library (EPPL) since October 2015. Lucas has taken on new initiatives in recataloging and developing procedures for new collections including wifi hotspots, Explore-to-Go kits, and early literacy teaching materials. His accomplishments also include two large-scale projects which are part of the EPPL Strategic Plan: a library wide inventory project, and the organization and digitization of the local history collection. His work on this collection includes the writing of a new collection policy, and assisting SWAN in developing platforms such as Portfolio to integrate, promote awareness of, and share digitized materials online in ways that benefit all members of the consortium.

Lucas' work is notable for its breadth, which simultaneously assists patrons in areas such as improved online searchability, and also enthusiastically and innovatively brings staff together for a common good. His commitment to improving patrons' accessibility has additionally included projects such as the creation of a new call number system specifically designed for improved access to graphic novels. Such efforts have notably revitalized the use of library resources at EPPL. His colleagues describe Lucas as

“providing great guidance and support” and note that he “considers every angle of an issue, and continually provides opportunities for other staff members to be included and heard.” Lucas has also demonstrated his supportive, inclusive, and community

focused philosophy by spearheading an innovative staff training day and being an integral part of successful fundraising efforts for an oral history project and a community mural. Lucas' other notable professional activity includes serving as a member of the Harrington Park Press Advisory Board for Library and Information Resources, his co-authored article "Changing Course: Collaborative Reflections of Teaching/Taking 'Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Information Professions'," and recognition as one of the *Windy City Time's* "30 under 30."

The TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, October 9, during the 2018 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Peoria. The luncheon starts at 12:00 noon.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release