

REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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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.



Photography by Dennis Pryber, Verso Design Corp.

ON THE COVER

iREAD® Committee Chairs Alexandra Annen and Portia Latalladi staff the summer reading program's booth at the ILA Annual Conference in Tinley Park, October, 22–24, 2019. Latalladi, of the Chicago Public Library, is the 2020 chair, with program theme “Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover.” Annen, of the Homer Public Library, is the 2021 chair, with program theme “Reading Colors Your World.” A roundup of ILA awards celebrated at the 2019 conference, conference statistics, and a photomontage are included in this issue, starting on page 22. Learn more about ILA's flagship initiative at ireadprogram.org.

THE *ILA REPORTER* IS GOING QUARTERLY IN 2020!

Over the past year ILA has made some changes in the way we communicate, including more formalized and regularized e-news via the ILA Alert, and our new blog, the ILA Connector. The *ILA Reporter's* publication schedule will change too, to a quarterly one with issues in March, June, September, and December. What won't change is the focus on topics and ideas of interest to Illinois librarians. See you in March 2020 with our annual feature on library buildings and renovations!

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.

CONTENTS



- 4 THE PNG IS FOR YOU AND ME**
by Kyla Waltermire
- 10 COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE: MY LIBRARY IS...**
by Dan Bostrom and Mary Witt
- 14 BRANCHING OUT: HELPING PATRONS WITH GENEALOGY AND DNA**
by Amber Lowery
- 18 SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS: AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH COMMUNITIES**
by Betsy Adamowski, Karolyn Nance, and Debra Stombres
- 22 ILA AWARDS SHOWCASE**
- 32 ILA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP**
- 34 ILA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**



Illinois Library Association

33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401 | Chicago, IL 60654-6799

phone: 312-644-1896 | fax: 312-644-1899

email: ila@ila.org | www.ila.org

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The PNG Is for You and Me: Project Next Generation Grants

To paraphrase Jane Austen, it is a truth universally acknowledged, that a librarian interested in expanding services must be in want of a grant. When it comes to services for middle and high school students, one of the best grant options available is the Project Next Generation (PNG) grant.

The PNG grant is an initiative of Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian, administered by the Illinois State Library using grant funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the Library Services and Technology Act. According to the Project Next Generation page on the Secretary of State's website, the purpose of the grant is to "bridge the digital divide by making recent technologies accessible to students who have limited access to computers." At-risk and underserved middle and high school students are the target audience for this grant. While the PNG grant started as an invitation-only opportunity, a few years ago it became a competitive grant for which any public library can apply. Libraries may receive up to \$40,000 through the grant program.

The Mississippi Valley Library District first became involved with the PNG grant in 2012. The district—specifically the Fairmont City Library Center—was invited to apply because of the demographics of the community it served. Fairmont City, which is located a few miles from St. Louis, had a population of 2,635 in 2011. Seventy-four percent of the community identified as Hispanic. Thirty-eight percent of the community lived at or below poverty level, and only 50% of those age 25 or older had graduated from high school. There was no internet access to speak of; the library was one of the few places in the community with an internet connection. The youth in the community were being left behind by the local school district as homework assignments became increasingly reliant on computer and internet access.

The PNG grant was a welcome boon to Fairmont City. Library staff surveyed the community and identified technological needs that the library could help to meet. Staff lined up mentors who could engage with the youth and teach them how to use technology. With an approved grant in the amount of \$26,257.00, the library district began to instruct youth in internet safety, photo editing, using drawing tablets, video editing, and how to find money for college.

[continued on page 6]

“The purpose of the grant is to bridge the digital divide by making recent technologies accessible to students who have limited access to computers.”



Since that first year, the grant has expanded to include the entire Mississippi Valley Library District service area. Programs evolved, becoming more advanced as the participants became more exposed to and confident in using various technologies. The most recent grant activities included making stop-motion videos; using math in everyday life; learning about aquaponics; engineering tangible, manipulative video game enhancements; and incorporating virtual and augmented reality with drone video footage and photography. Over the years the district has partnered with a number of organizations and individuals, including but not limited to the owner of a local hobby store, a science museum and planetarium, a local app maker, a makerspace lab, and an astronomical society.

IMPACT

When a successful grant program develops, great stories result. Here are two of the Mississippi Valley Library District's favorite stories. Both illustrate how the PNG activities have the ability to impact lives outside of the activity itself.

For one of the library's past activities, participants built robotic mice and raced them for prizes. One participant brought his younger brother, who eagerly watched the event unfold. The participant took second place in the races, earning him a chance to choose a prize. He asked his younger brother to choose the prize because it was the younger brother's birthday and the prize was to be his birthday present. The younger brother excitedly chose a robotics kit, which he took home and assembled that night. The next day the younger brother took the robot to school. He and his classmates were so excited by it that his teacher called the library and asked how she could go about getting some robotics kits for her classroom.

Another PNG activity hosted by the library was learning digital photography and how to manipulate it. A teen, who had attended several PNG programs leading up to this activity and who was always quiet and withdrawn, came to the event. The digital photography session unexpectedly opened him up — he asked questions, he was engaged, and he began interacting with the mentor and with other participants. His finished piece won first place in the digital photo contest held as part of the PNG activity. The young man was so enthralled with the activity he declared that not only would he go to college, but he would pursue graphic design as a career. Sure enough, after attending several more PNG activities and graduating from high school, he went to college and he is in the process of earning a degree to help him achieve his goal. This young man is one of many who found their callings through these programs. Other PNG participants have pursued college degrees in STEM fields or joined their school's STEM and robotics clubs to further their interests and knowledge.

The Mississippi Valley Library District was awarded a PNG grant for 2020, making this the ninth consecutive year of involvement in the grant program. So, what have we learned during this time?

- Commit to being a teen-friendly environment. Teens are not the enemy; they are the future. Inasmuch as possible, be more understanding and flexible when interacting with them. Get to know each of them as individuals and treat them as valued patrons.
- Mentors matter. You don't need to do it all or know everything; use the experts. Mentors could be a member of the community whose hobby is to rebuild radios, or they could be a high school teacher who sponsors a STEM club. Whoever you ask to be a mentor, be sure that they can communicate information clearly and logically while also making the subject entertaining and interesting.
- Don't assume. Don't assume your participants have any prior knowledge on a topic. Give participants a solid foundation upon which to build their experiences. When an understanding of the foundational material is achieved, then creativity and problem-solving will follow.
- Failure is always an option. But, you have to learn from it. Evaluate what worked and what didn't. Identify ways to improve your future activities.
- Have a Plan B. What will you do if you have a mentor who needs to back out of an activity? How will you adapt if your grant is only partially funded, or if funding doesn't arrive until halfway through the project timeline? Plan for the worst and hope for the best.
- Think ahead. Yes, your grant might meet the community's current needs, but what makes PNG grants successful in a big picture context is when they build on each other and create a long-term impact. How will you get from Starting Point A in the first year to Long-Term Goal B in the fifth year? Aim to keep challenging and lifting up the community instead of rehashing the same thing over and over.
- Ideas are everywhere. Ask your patrons what they're interested in or if they know anyone with experience on a topic of potential interest. Evaluate your local organizations and resources. Look outside of the library field—sign up for NASA newsletters, register for online technology seminars, get product updates from technology vendors. Ask your middle and high school students what pie-in-the-sky ideas they have for technology programs - what do they want to get their hands on?

- Model good learning practices. As stated earlier, you don't need to know everything. Learning along with the students can be a positive experience for everyone, especially if you model good learning practices. Be attentive to the mentor, ask clarifying questions, and if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
- Foster peer mentoring. Some students will pick up the material quickly and others won't; that's normal. Tap into the students who understand the material to help them guide their peers. Peer mentoring fosters confidence, patience, and relationship building, all of which are skills needed throughout life.

Hopefully you are inspired and energized to investigate the PNG grant's potential for your community. So, what are you waiting for? Go get that grant! **ILA**

Project Next Generation around the State

Information about Project Next Generation grants is available on the Illinois Secretary of State's website at cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/png.html. In July 2019, the Secretary of State announced the grants awarded for the 2020 fiscal year: "Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White awarded \$464,469 in FY20 Project Next Generation (PNG) grants to 29 public libraries statewide. PNG is a mentoring program administered through Illinois public libraries. Project mentors work with middle and high school students to use various technologies, achieve success through project based learning and gain life skills such as effective communication, goal-setting and conflict resolution." The following libraries are the 2020 awardees:

Alpha Park Public Library, Bartonville: "PNG: Game Design for the 21st Century Learner"

Beardstown Houston Memorial Library: "Project Next Generation"

Brimfield Public Library District: "Project Next Generation: Imagine, Innovate, Inspire"

Carbondale Public Library: "Project Next Generation"

Centralia Regional Library District: "Project Next Generation: Learning for the Future"

Chicago Public Library: "ChiTeen Voices: Learning and Living Out Loud"

Chicago Heights Free Public Library: "Project Next Generation"

Chicago Ridge Public Library: "Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow"

Robert R. Jones Public Library, Coal Valley: "Project Next Generation: Empower the Future; Explore the Past"

Mississippi Valley Library District, Collinsville: "Smart with START"

Decatur Public Library: "Youth and Teen Virtual Library and Civic Engagement Project"

Elmwood Park Public Library: "Project Next Generation"

Geneseo Public Library District: "Steam Up Learning for Success"

Six Mile Regional Library District, Granite City: "Science by the Book Club"

Harrisburg District Library: "Project Next Generation"

Joliet Public Library: "Vision 2020"

Kankakee Public Library: "Project Next Generation: Bolstering Literacy with At-Risk Youth"

LaSalle Public Library: "Project Next Generation"

Marion Carnegie Library: "Project Next Generation"

Matteson Area Public Library District: "Choices @ MAPLD"

Moline Public Library: "Club PNG"

North Riverside Public Library District: "Connecting the Digital and Physical Worlds"

Oglesby Public Library District: "Bringing History into the Future with Technology"

Peoria Public Library, Lincoln Branch: "Project Next Generation"

Lille M. Evans Library District, Princeville: "Technology Ambassadors @ LME Library"

Richton Park Public Library District: "Project Next Generation"

Schaumburg Township District Library: "Tech Bytes: Serving Technology to Teens After School Program"

Sparta Public Library: "Engineering and Design at the Sparta Public Library"

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MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

"Because of my association with LIRA, I am a more sophisticated professional and steward for the library and community. I've learned more than I had in almost 30 years working in libraries about safeguarding community assets as a direct result of my involvement with LIRA. Hopefully, additional Illinois libraries will come to understand LIRA is more than insurance; it's a community pulling for each other, contributing to a greater good, and ensuring all are stronger, safer, smarter, and better as a result."

– Tina Hubert, Six Mile Public Library

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Complete This Sentence: My Library Is...

What are the first thoughts that come into your head when someone asks you to tell your library's story or when you feel you need to do a better job of proving your library's value to various stakeholders (customers, potential customers, administrators, colleagues, funders, elected officials, etc.)? In the Reaching Across Illinois Library System's (RAILS) work with libraries of all sizes and types (academic, public, school, and special), we've found that library staff members often have one or more of the following thoughts:

- I don't have time.
- My library doesn't have any money.
- I'm afraid.
- I have no idea how to go about doing this!

Despite these reservations, few can deny the need for all connected with libraries to tell our story more effectively. Budgets are tight, and there is great competition for funding. Many libraries (especially school and special libraries) are in danger of losing professional library staff; some face the danger of losing their library altogether. Not enough people know about all of the wonderful things libraries are doing or how the library in their community, company/organization, or school can help them to lead a more productive and enriched life.

When RAILS revised our strategic plan in 2018, we conducted a listening tour throughout our entire 27,000 square mile area to find out "what kept our members awake at night." We heard over

and over again from all types of libraries that they needed help telling their story. As a result, the second goal in our new plan is to "work with libraries of all types to tell the library story."

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) discovered the same overwhelming need when the association created its 2019–2022 strategic plan. As a result, the advocacy strategy in the new plan includes both legislative and community advocacy, and the desired outcomes of these efforts include increased support for libraries from government decision-makers and for communities and people served to "value the presence and vitality of libraries."

So how can we all begin to tell the library story more effectively? RAILS initiated our My Library Is... campaign to help. The MyLibraryIs.org website includes general advice for all types of libraries in the form of toolkits, a blog, and other basic information. It also includes continuing education opportunities, both in person and online, information on grants to fund individual library efforts to tell their stories, and a Sharing Showcase, where all Illinois libraries can share stories (including patron testimonials), print materials, templates, videos, social media posts, and other materials that have helped them tell their stories.

Here are a few tips we have learned through our work on the campaign thus far, with real-life examples and strategies different types of libraries have used to tell their stories more effectively.

[continued on page 12]

**...for
everyone**

...fun

...vital

**...a place
to create**

...wired

**...stocked
with books
and media**

**...where staff
are information
experts**



1. THINK SMALL.

There is something that every library can do to start telling their story and proving their value more effectively. It's important to get started and to do something, no matter how small. It may not be perfect and it likely won't bring you overwhelming support overnight, but as the saying goes, "every little bit helps."

Find out what other libraries are doing and don't be afraid to copy their efforts. Talk to others from your type of library. Peruse the Sharing Showcase on the MyLibraryIs.org site for inspiration and share your ideas. Explore local partnerships and collaborate to accomplish big things. Sometimes, with very little effort, and a lot of common excitement, an idea comes together. We can all tell a more effective library story by working together.

For example, the Illinois Prairie Public Library District in Metamora, Illinois began co-hosting events with a senior center. This effort attracted enough support and donations to the point where the program became self-sustaining. "I don't know if everyone has such an open space and people eager to host other events. But I do know that it starts with talking to people," said Joel Shoemaker, Director, Illinois Prairie Public Library District.

2. DEVELOP ONGOING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PEOPLE YOU WORK FOR AND WITH.

This can be as simple as being friendly, saying hello when you pass colleagues in the hall, and asking them about their day. And it's often easy during the course of these conversations to slip in a word or two about your library and what you are doing to make the person's life easier.

Kristen Rademacher, Teacher Librarian at Marist High School, often turns to teachers for help reinforcing the value of the library. Through conversations, emails, and even impromptu meetings in the hallway, she communicates shared goals and priorities. "Teachers are often my best advocates, telling their teams about a great unit we worked on together or how useful I was in assisting their students with research projects. They also are wonderful at reinforcing things I teach in their classrooms, such as requiring students to continue using databases and other strong source material and to cite these resources properly."

"Together, we can all find better ways to complete the My Library Is . . . sentence and to gain more support for all types of libraries."

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3. USE WORD-OF-MOUTH MARKETING.

When someone compliments your library, ask them to spread the word to friends, family, colleagues, other students, etc. about how the library helped them. If a patron gives you a compliment, highlight it as a testimonial on your website, in a newsletter, or via social media. Ask other library staff members to talk about the library to friends, family, and other colleagues, targeting the communication to whomever they are speaking with. For example, if a friend of theirs is looking for a job, they can highlight the job-hunting assistance available at the public library. If they know a student who is writing a paper, they can highlight the library's role in helping to find the most reliable resources and in deciphering "real" versus "fake" news.

When faced with a budget crisis, Quincy Public Library turned to citizen advocates and asked them to contribute their voices to help tell the library story. Citizens showed up at city council meetings to show their support. Library staff used edited videos from the meetings to share on Facebook. "The videos were viewed hundreds of times on social media. They really helped start a conversation with our community about the value of the library," said Kathleen Helsabeck, Executive Director at Quincy Public Library.

These are just a few examples of what other libraries have done to tell their stories and tips on what you can do to get started. Be sure to share your stories and how you have effectively promoted your library via the Sharing Showcase on the mylibraryis.org website. Together, we can all find better ways to complete the My Library Is ... sentence and to gain more support for all types of libraries by sharing the library story far and wide, and asking others to help us spread that story as well. **ILA**

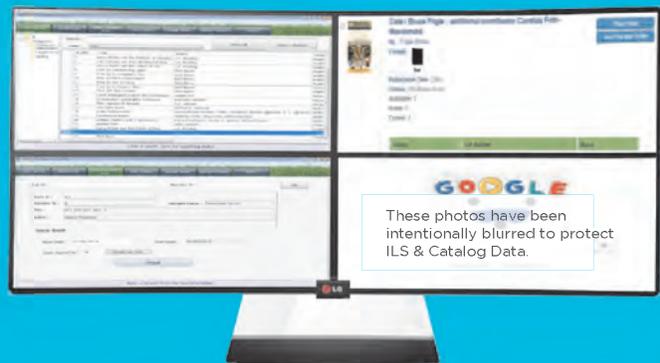
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Branching Out: Helping Patrons with Genealogy and DNA

The commercials and advertisements are just about everywhere you look; multiple companies on multiple platforms all offering the same, yet different promises of learning more about your family history, right in your own home. For two milliliters of saliva or a quick scrub of the inside of your cheek, one can supposedly learn everything they ever wanted to know about their family history, and the trend affects libraries.

In just the past few years, DNA and genetic genealogy has grown by leaps and bounds, as the price becomes more affordable and companies vie for customers. One of the foremost companies, Ancestry.com, reportedly has more than 20 million people in their database. This is quite a feat, considering that the company began selling kits only seven years ago. There is an excitement cultivated by the advertisements, promising answers to long-held questions. It leaves the interested public in one of two categories, however: those who want to test, but have questions, and those who have tested, but still have questions. The public library should be a source of answers.

As a reference assistant who also happens to be a genetic genealogist, I see and talk to people almost daily on this subject. Of those who have not tested, there are the patrons who are almost desperate for information about their heritage, but paralyzed by the number of testing options. Then there are others who worry about the safety and privacy.

BUYER BEWARE?

With everything we do online today, naturally, there is a concern about protecting one's privacy when it comes to DNA testing. There are a number of points to take into consideration, however. Every reputable commercial DNA testing company has a clear privacy policy. Companies are highly territorial and protective of their clients' information. Lax security would be bad for business, after all.

The user has control over what information is used and shared. If a tester does not want the collected DNA matched with other users or the sample used in research, they have the option to opt out. One can even decide later to opt out or delete your test results entirely, but companies such as Ancestry.com note that, if one's information was part of ongoing medical research, that cannot be withdrawn after the fact.

"If you have given your consent to participate in ongoing research efforts and you delete your results, we will stop using information about you in any future research. However, information cannot be withdrawn from studies in progress, completed studies, or published results," states Ancestry.com's online privacy policy.

Helping patrons find and understand what they are agreeing to is part of our job, especially since these direct-to-consumer kits are so popular and connected to genealogy databases at many libraries. (Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest Online at Peoria Public Library.)

[continued on page 16]



Keeping abreast of changes—good and bad—in this industry is challenging. There have been data breaches¹ and concerns about how data are shared with third parties², even prompting the Federal Trade Commission's scrutiny since these companies are not regulated under HIPAA, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. A bipartisan group of senators has introduced legislation to extend HIPAA's reach to these DNA-testing services.

Some concern is warranted. Earlier this year, FamilyTreeDNA, one of the country's largest at-home genetic testing companies, apologized to customers after failing to disclose that it had shared DNA data with the FBI. More than 2 million records were shared.³ Other testing firms, such as Ancestry.com, state on its website that the company “does not voluntarily cooperate with law enforcement,” but if “compelled to disclose your Personal Information to law enforcement, we will do our best to provide you with advance notice, unless we are prohibited under the law from doing so.” In the interest of transparency, Ancestry produces a report listing the number of valid law-enforcement requests for user data.



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Meanwhile, law enforcement is using open-source sites such as GEDmatch, which is free and has users voluntarily uploading their data, to find DNA matches and solve crimes. One of the most famous cases solved to date was that of the Golden State Killer, a serial rapist and murderer believed to be responsible for three crime sprees throughout California from 1974 to 1986.

Given the issues raised, it's important to advise patrons to carefully read the terms and conditions of any testing service they choose, but millions of people have already taken the plunge.

FLESHING OUT FAMILY TREES

For those who have tested, many of them do not understand how to read their results and use them to find more information. Other patrons have tested, but discovered unexpected, sometimes life-altering, information. These patrons, and others, have started coming to the library looking for answers, leaving library employees at a disadvantage unless there is an interested and prepared person on staff.

I began my adventure into genetic genealogy and DNA just over three years ago, after a friend strongly suggested I purchase and submit a DNA kit. I was very apprehensive about DNA, not because of privacy issues or which company to use, but because I am not well-versed in science subjects. It can be quite intimidating to the traditional researcher to adopt this technology. Over the last couple of years, I worked diligently to understand this technology, its application to genealogy, and how to explain it to members of the general public. In fact, since that first test, I have tested with, or uploaded data to, five of the major DNA-testing websites to study differences with each company. At my own expense, I have also tested around 30 known relatives to compare their data.

There are a number of excellent books and online resources, such as blogs and Facebook groups (see sidebar), that help me assist patrons with their questions about DNA. Since 2017, I have given a number of programs teaching interested parties the fine points of testing and what one can learn from it. Such programs have included a four-session class on DNA with Bradley University's OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) program for seniors, library conferences, genealogy societies, lineage societies, and the general public. Several of the blogs I follow are well-written and clearly explain developments and methods of research.

¹ <https://www.hipaajournal.com/direct-to-consumer-dna-testing-service-exposed-consumer-records-online/>. July 12, 2019 HIPAA Journal article; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myheritage-privacy/security-breach-at-myheritage-website-leaks-details-of-over-92-million-users-idUSKCN1J1308>;

² <https://www.fastcompany.com/40580364/the-ftc-is-investigating-dna-firms-like-23andme-and-ancestry-over-privacy>; <https://time.com/5349896/23andme-glaxo-smith-kline/>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/04/business/family-tree-dna-fbi.html>



Resources for Learning About DNA Testing

Today, my efforts to learn everything I can about genetic genealogy give me a wealth of information to pass on to our library's patrons. From answering patrons' questions about privacy, to making recommendations on the company with which they should test, based on their needs, I can give them guidance and information. I help those who just received their results interpret the information. Sometimes, it is as simple as offering to review their DNA matches or listen to a theory. I make connections for people to continue their research. From my own experiences, I suggest resources based on their questions and comprehension. A dry erase board and blank family tree charts are some of my favorite tools to use when working out the puzzles of DNA.

Learning about DNA takes effort and dedication, but libraries and staff can provide help to patrons in the immediate future. It is as simple as providing a handout or adding a page to the library's website offering resource suggestions to patrons. Seek out the local genealogy society and request its assistance in programming. Ask the library to pay for a kit for an interested staff member, who can then learn by doing testing on one's own.

While DNA cannot and should not be considered the only resource when researching a family tree, it is an invaluable tool in anyone's genealogy quest. As library staff, we are called to guide our patrons through the quagmire of materials, not to find just any information, but to draw attention to the best resources available. Learning about DNA and how to use it in genealogy is just another step in our never-ending journey to help our patrons help themselves. **ILA**

Books:

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy by Blaine Bettinger (Family Tree Books, 2016)

Genetic Genealogy in Practice by Blaine Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne (National Genealogical Society, 2016)

Facebook Groups:

Genetic Genealogy Tips and Techniques

DNA Detectives

Websites:

International Society of Genetic Genealogy (https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page)

Your Genetic Genealogist (<http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com/>)

DNAeXplained (<https://dna-explained.com/>)

DNA Painter (<https://dnapainter.com/>)

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Service Organizations: An Opportunity to Connect with Communities

The United States and the international community are both peppered with volunteer opportunities, all designed to make the world a better place. For the local library director, some of these organizations offer valuable opportunities to connect with local community leaders, provide service to library patrons outside the library walls, and give the library a visible presence in community activities. The directors of the libraries featured here are members of three such organizations: Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions Club, all of which are international organizations; these are their insights about the value of joining such organizations and how such service has made them better library directors.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Debra Stombres, executive director of the Poplar Creek Library District, is currently a member of her local Kiwanis International organization. Her library is also a member of two local Chambers of Commerce and has representatives on a couple of local village commissions. Of the various organizations in her library district, Kiwanis International is the one that actually gives a financial donation back to the library each year.

The Kiwanis mission statement reads, “Kiwanis empowers communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children.” The organization’s vision statement: “Kiwanis will be a positive influence in communities worldwide—so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive.”

Kiwanis is a service organization with 550,000 members in 80 countries, focusing on serving children by improving their communities. Annually members report 150,000 service projects and raise almost one hundred million dollars. Founded by Detroit businessmen in 1915, Kiwanis chose children as its service directive in 1919. The organization’s web page outlining its history notes “The name ‘Kiwanis’ was coined from an American Indian expression, ‘Nunc Kee-wanis’ meaning, ‘We trade.’” In 2005 Kiwanis changed its motto to “Serving the children of the world,” while business networking is still part of the benefit of participating.

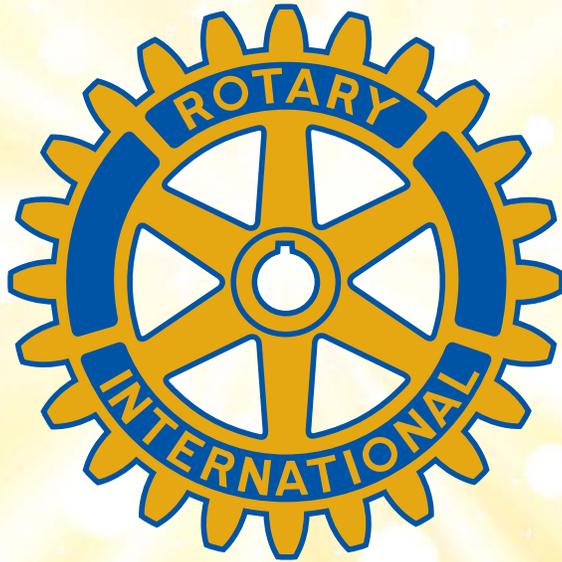
The Kiwanis structure begins at the local club level with individual clubs having their own president, vice president, and other officers, as well as committee chairs. Individual clubs belong to one of 49 districts worldwide and delegates elect officers and trustees for the Kiwanis International Board at the international convention. There are local service projects and there are international projects. The Kiwanis Children’s Fund has partnered with UNICEF to fight maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). This project entitled, “The Eliminate Project” recently added Chad as the 26th country to eliminate MNT since this project began in 2011. All clubs support this international project.

What does it mean to join a local club? Debra Stombres joined her local Kiwanis club in Streamwood, Illinois shortly after becoming the executive director of the Poplar Creek Public Library. She and a co-worker are club members, attend monthly meetings and volunteer for local fund raising events. While balancing time away from the library as well as personal time, Debra finds that her involvement in her local Kiwanis club has given her opportunities to build friendships with local community leaders and promote library services all the while serving the community and the world in a very satisfying manner.

[continued on page 20]



Kiwaniis[®]



The Streamwood Kiwanis Club locally gives college scholarships, supports local school needs, and offers young people events such as a talent show and a fishing derby, while also supporting the international goals of the organization. Fundraisers range from the popular annual peanut sales to garage sales, and gaming nights. Volunteers work throughout the year raising funds to support various children's needs.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Karolyn Nance, director of the Bartlett Public Library District (BPLD) is a member of the Bartlett Rotary Club, serving as secretary and literacy chair for the organization. BPLD is also a member of the Bartlett Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce. The opportunity for Nance to network and meet other community leaders through Rotary has helped the Bartlett Library to become more prominent as a leading government agency within the Bartlett community.

Chicago attorney Paul Harris founded Rotary International on February 23, 1905 as one of the world's first service organizations. The Rotary Club of Chicago was a place where professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful lifetime friendships. Rotary's name came from the group's early practice of rotating the weekly meetings among the offices of each member. "Whatever Rotary may mean to us; to the world it will be known by the results it achieves," said Harris.

Rotary International is dedicated to international, worldwide commitments. Within 16 years from its founding, Rotary had established clubs on six different continents. Today, club members work together online and in-person to solve some of the world's most challenging issues. Rotary Clubs are also known for persevering in times of strife and hardship. For example, during World War II, Rotary clubs in Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, and Austria were forced to split their clubs apart. Despite some of the very real threats they received, these clubs continued to meet in secret during and after the war.

Rotary International took on the goal to eradicate polio in 1979. Their first goal was to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines, which they successfully completed. As of today only three countries in the world remain that have not been able to stop the transmission of polio.

At their weekly club meetings, Rotarians recite the following pledge, "The Four-Way Test."

Of the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Each Rotarian pledges to adhere to these principles, believing maintaining these in their personal and work lives helps improve communities.

Each local club offers many service opportunities to their communities and makes generous donations. The Bartlett Rotary Club donated \$25,000 to the Bartlett High School Boosters to support building a football field for the school. The Bartlett Rotary Club also donated money to a local church to assist with raising enough funds to fix their 100-year-old bell. This year the Bartlett Rotary Club is using \$20,000 from its reserve fund to purchase a Rotary Clock to be put up in downtown Bartlett next to the train station. Community residents and businesses will be able to purchase plaques featuring their names and/or their businesses. This fundraiser will match the Club's \$20,000 to cover the total cost of the clock, \$40,000.

The Bartlett Rotary Club holds a number of fundraisers throughout each year, including an annual Rotary 5000 event, an evening out with dinner and a raffle that typically nets about \$11,000 for the club; Hustle up the Hancock in conjunction with the Bartlett Fire Department, during which a few Rotarians will participate in the race at the Hancock Tower in Chicago to raise donations; and each club member of the club also donates \$100 each towards the project, which nets about \$10,000 for the club.

One of the most successful service projects has been Rotary Reads. The Bartlett Rotary Club partners with the Bartlett Public Library District annually for the Illinois Family Reading Night sponsored by the office of the Secretary of State and State Librarian, Jesse White. The Bartlett Rotary Club purchases snacks for the event and also donates a free new book to each of the children who attend. The highlight of this evening is that the Bartlett Rotarians our guest readers to all of the attendees.

Rotary International is a very successful organization and each of the local clubs continue to serve in their communities and really are able to make a difference through their fundraising efforts and service projects.

“When a public library can invest some time and effort into their community by partnering with an active service organization, we can increase our effectiveness in improving the lives of our patrons.”

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

Betsy Adamowski, executive director of the Wheaton Public Library (WPL) is a member of the Wheaton, Illinois Lions Club, and serves as its secretary. WPL is also a member of the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and Downtown Wheaton Association; Betsy is the incoming president for the Wheaton Rotary Club. Building relationships with organizations and businesses is a strategic goal of WPL and is very important to the success of the library.

Lions Clubs International (LCI) is a social welfare organization. The LCI mission is very simple, “Lions Serve.” Melvin Jones, a Chicago business leader, founded the first Lions Club in that city in 1917. Jones had adopted a motto “You can’t get very far until you start doing something for somebody else,” which led him to work with other business groups around the world to come together and form the International Association of Lions Clubs. The history of LCI is rich with such notable happenings as rising to Helen Keller’s challenge to the organization to do more for the blind and hearing impaired, giving musical legend Stevie Wonder his first drum set, and starting the sight guide dog program. This focus became trained on libraries when in 1935, the Milwaukee Lions Club made a donation to the Milwaukee Public Library to purchase a Talking Book machine for the blind to hear books.

LCI truly takes Jones’ motto seriously and works hard to make a difference in every community that it serves. Working with WPL, the Lions Club of Wheaton has been making a difference to families who have a child or adult with vision impairment for many years. In the last few years, WPL has been hosting vision screenings using the *Spot Vision Screener* on a regular occurrence. The *Spot Vision Screener* is a fast and objective way to detect up to six amblyopic risk factors that may lead to blindness in children or impaired vision development in a non-intrusive span of five to eight seconds. The Wheaton Lions members do the testing, if impairment is detected, the caregiver of the child is advised to see an eye doctor. If financial assistance is needed for the doctor visit or glasses the Lions Club will help. This is a win-win situation for both the Lions Club and WPL as it is serving a special need for library patrons, it is making the library a destination, and it is

giving both the Lions members and the Library staff a way to build a relationship. Along with the *Spot Vision* testing the Wheaton Lions Club donates funds to WPL to support low-vision equipment, large print materials, VOX books, and audiobooks.

It is important to note that LCI supports six global causes: sight, hearing, hunger, environment, diabetes, and childhood cancer. This is an ambitious philanthropy and libraries of all types can reach out to a Lions Club anytime to build a relationship to not only receive funding to help develop a program, a service project, or a collection to support any of the global causes but also to develop a relationship that will strengthen the library and Lions’ missions. Lions clubs around the world are looking for opportunities to build and expand their message; the library can be the place for that to happen.

CONCLUSIONS

There are many service organizations around the world doing wonderful works in their respective communities. Public libraries share many common goals with these organizations as we serve our communities by identifying the needs and wants of our local taxpayers, our key stakeholders. When a public library can invest some time and effort into their community by partnering with an active service organization, we can increase our effectiveness in improving the lives of our patrons.

The first step is to recognize common ground by looking at the library’s strategic plan and comparing it to the goals and initiatives of the service organization. The second is to determine if the organization serves the stakeholders of the library. Third, determine just how much time the library can devote to an outside organization before it cuts into its own internal needs. Fourth, see what areas of community involvement your library board already has committed to. With balance, planning, and attention to the big picture, a library director can invest well in their respective community by serving in a service organization.

■▲

2019 ILA Awards



Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award

Sponsored by the ILA Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Fund. Award presented to (from l to r) Roz Topolski, Vernon Area Public Library Dist., Susan Dennison, Indian Trails Public Library Dist., Anne Baker Jones, Vernon Area Public Library Dist., Jo Hansen and Andrea Larson, Cook Memorial Public Library, and Janice Kellman, Vernon Area Public Library Dist.



Crosman Memorial Award

Sponsored by Dominican University School of Information Studies. Award presented by Kate Marek, Dominican University (l) to JJ Pionke, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (r).



Intellectual Freedom Award

Sponsored by the ILA Intellectual Freedom Fund. Award presented by Paul Mills, Fountaindale Public Library District (l) to Dr. Nicole Cooke, University of South Carolina (r).



Librarian of the Year Award

Sponsored by Today's Business Solutions (TBS), Inc. Award presented by Mickey Smith, TBS, Inc. (l) to Brian Shepard, Indian Trails Public Library District (r).



Golden Ticket Award

Sponsored by Brainfuse. Award presented by Jack Rothstein, Brainfuse (l) to Natalie Williams, Indian Prairie Public Library District (r).



Davis Cup Award

Sponsored by ABDO. Award presented by Heather Vulpone, ABDO (l) to Heather McCammond-Watts, Glen Ellyn Public Library (r).



Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award
Sponsored by the ILA Robert R. McClarren Fund. Award presented by David Seleb, Oak Park Public Library (l) to Illinois State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (r).



Deborah Dowley Preiser Marketing Award
Sponsored by the Oak Park Public Library. Award presented by David Seleb, Oak Park Public Library (l) to Christopher Renkosiak, Lincolnwood Public Library District (r).



Alexander J. Skrzypek Award
Sponsored by the Illinois State Library. Award presented by Greg McCormick, Illinois State Library (l) to Amy Sobrino (r), Effingham Area Alzheimer's Awareness.



Young Adult Librarian of the Year Award
Sponsored by Sourcebooks. Award presented by Beth Oleniczak, Sourcebooks (l) to Heather Colby, Homer Township Public Library District (r).



Illinois Academic Librarian of the Year Award
Sponsored by Library Juice Academy. Award presented by Carolyn Ciesla, IACRL (l) to Gwen Gregory, University of Illinois at Chicago (r).



Readers' Advisory Service Award
Sponsored by the Adult Reading Round Table (ARRT). Award presented by Maggie Thomann, ARRT (l) to Christen Wiser (c) and Becca Boland (r), Ela Area Public Library Popular Materials Department.

2019 ILA Awards



TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award

Sponsored by Today's Business Solutions, Inc. Award presented by Mickey Smith, Today's Business Solutions, Inc. (l), to Kristine Hammerstrand, Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) (r).



Valerie J. Wilford Scholarship Grant for Library Education

Sponsored by the ILA Valerie J. Wilford Memorial Fund. Award presented to Kelly McCully, Bourbonnais Public Library District (l).



Reference Services Award

Sponsored by Ancestry.com. Award presented by Britt Isaly, Ancestry.com (l), to Stacey Knight-Davis, Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library (r).

Resources & Technical Services Forum Scholarship

Sponsored by the ILA Resources & Technical Services Forum. Award presented to Erin Zimmerman, Heartland Community College Library (r).



Trustee of the Year Award

Sponsored by Peregrine, Stime, Newman, Ritzman & Bruckner, Ltd. Award presented by Roger Ritzman (l) to Debbie Smart, Arlington Heights Memorial Library (r).



Robert P. Doyle ILA Conference Grant for Support Staff

presented at Reaching Forward to Elizabeth Boden, North Riverside Public Library (l).

Oberman and Rich Reaching Forward Conference Grant

presented at Reaching Forward to Jessica Baker, O'Fallon Public Library (r).



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Want to see your name in print? Earn a publication credit?
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Here's what we're looking for:

- Articles that explore an issue, rather than promoting a particular initiative or program, with examples from more than one library or type of library
- 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



Illinois Library Association

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

2019 Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholars

Since 2003, ILA has honored former ILA President Sylvia Murphy Williams by awarding ILA Annual Conference scholarships and a one-year membership to the Association to ALA Spectrum scholars who live in Illinois or who are attending graduate programs in library and information science in Illinois, thanks to support from a fund established in honor of the late Sylvia Murphy Williams, 2002 ILA President, now known as the Diversity Scholarship Fund. ILA Williams Scholars are also connected with mentors via ILA's Diversity Committee. This year, we are pleased to welcome eight Williams Scholars to Illinois librarianship! Nearly all were able to attend the conference in Tinley Park in October. Several of them contributed these impressions of the conference, comments about librarianship, and their hopes, aspirations, and motivations; we welcome all of them as future members of the profession.



Nada Abdelrahim



Nicholas Berrios



Lauren Camarillo



Carol Ng-He



Priscilla Resendiz



Diana Rocha



Rita Wilkenfield



Kevin Whiteneir

Nada Abdelrahim

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign,
School of Information Sciences

Attending ILA this year was an eye opening and invaluable experience, especially given that this was my first time at a librarianship conference. I found a number of positive sessions, advocating for equity in information access in the profession as well as connecting with fellow librarians with similar goals as mine. As a lifelong library user, books were always an escape for me. However, as I started to self-educate, books became my liberation. Authors like Malcolm X and Assata Shakur opened my eyes to the reality of our society and the problems that still need solving. Librarianship is not a diverse institution, but it really needs to be, and so being in this space of librarians from all around Illinois has reinvigorated my desire to continue pushing and working for my goals: diversifying librarianship and information access for marginalized communities. I appreciate the opportunity provided to me, and I cannot wait to continue to be active with ILA and the greater librarianship community.

Nicholas Berrios

Dominican University,
School of Information Studies

The first time I ever thought about being a librarian was in 2015, and it was mostly in a joking manner. I was about a month into an AV position at a high school when I started receiving catalogs and mailers addressed to me, but with “librarian” listed as my title. The first time it happened, I threw away the mailers and went on with my day, but it started happening so often that it became a running joke among a few of my colleagues.

After a few years of working at Argo and running their student publications (my undergrad degree is actually in journalism), I started researching teaching programs. Around this same time, an English teacher saw one of the librarian catalogs on my desk and told me I’d make a good one and encouraged me to look into it. My research shifted from English teacher programs to librarian programs, and the more I thought about it, the more I felt like it was a good fit for me. In 2018 I enrolled in the school library media program at Dominican University.

I think my favorite course so far has been Curriculum and School Libraries. Since my background wasn’t in education and the high school I work at doesn’t currently have a librarian, I found it beneficial to learn how integrated libraries can be in the over school curriculum and how vital they are to a school’s success. I am also really enjoying my Integrating Technology into Programming course; coming from the tech side of things, I’ve found it fun to learn how to turn my passion for technology into different programs and activities that enhance the student experience.

Once I am done with the program, I hope to go into a high school library where I can effect change in students’ lives and inspire life-long learners.

I thought the ILA conference was fun and engaging. This was my first real exposure to the world of librarianship, so I was able to make some great connections that I know will help me grow as a librarian. Through the program at Dominican, most of my exposure is to school librarians, so it was helpful to talk with people in public libraries and academic libraries to get some of their perspectives as well.

My main hope for the ILA membership is to network and make connections with librarians all over the state to learn about the issues they face regularly and how they tackle them.

Seeing the library profession acknowledge its lack of diversity with programs like the Spectrum Scholarship and the Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship, and sessions at conferences that address inequity are something that draws me even more into the profession. Knowing that there is a force in this country that is doing everything it can to be inclusive, embrace diversity, and ensure that everyone has access to information is comforting. I hope to see that force continue to grow.

Thank you to the ILA for accepting me into its community, and for supporting me as I go through my MLIS program and beyond.

Lauren Camarillo

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign,
School of Information Sciences

During my undergraduate experience, I was able to interact with the library in two ways; the first was through my job. At the beginning of my second semester on campus, I worked as a student worker (and later student coordinator) at a smaller library on campus, which gave me fantastic “behind-the-scenes” experience into what it would be like working at an academic institution. Along with this, my supervisor was (and still is) such a mentor to me. The second set of experiences I had with libraries as an undergrad was as a student. As a double major in English and Spanish, I completed an undergraduate thesis and greatly relied on the library to provide me with the resources I needed to fulfill this research requirement. Through the combination of both of these experiences, I realized that as an academic librarian, I would not only be able to tangibly help people at the reference desk but also to pursue my own interests through research and conference attendance. So far, my favorite class in library school has been one of the required courses, Libraries, Information, and Society. In this course, we spend a lot

of time thinking about the tensions and relationships between information and society, which is one of my favorite aspects of librarianship.

In the future, I hope to work at an academic library, working with first-year and/or first-generation students, but am open to working in any library where I have the opportunity to contribute to fostering an inclusive and diverse workspace. I have yet to attend an ILA conference, but am so grateful to be supported by this organization. In the future, I hope to continue to be a part of the Spectrum family and mentor other students joining the profession. I look forward to many more interactions and partnerships with Illinois librarians!

Carol Ng-He

San Jose State University,
School of Information

Curating learning experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds in exploring arts and cultures has been my professional goal. It was a gradual process for me in deciding to become a library professional. My past experiences in using art and museum collections for teaching and learning have influenced my current work in organizing exhibits for a public library.

At my current role at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library as their first Exhibits Coordinator, I have the opportunity to combine my longtime interest in curating learning experiences. Using exhibits as a catalyst for informal or spontaneous learning, I saw the need to bridge the gap between museum experience and library exhibit work. Through my work at the library, I developed a growing interest in getting a more holistic education about library and literacy learning. More importantly, I want to build up the field as I found very little scholarship on exhibit development existed that was geared specifically toward library professionals. This desire drove me to pursue a library

degree and exploring the pedagogy of libraries after having an MA in art education.

Thanks to the ILA Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship, I attended the ILA conference this year for the first time. I especially appreciate an emphasis on career development and the synergy among the presenters through cross-library collaboration in the sessions I participated in, which included *This Is Not What I Thought I'd Be Doing: How 4 Librarians Made a New Path for Themselves and You Can Too*, *Change of Direction or Course Correction?*, and *Shake the Creativity Tree — Practices to Help You Harvest New Ideas and Inspire Lasting Change*. In addition, the scholarship allowed me to take part in the award luncheon and IACRL luncheon where I could expand my network with colleagues whom I might not otherwise. I was encouraged to see the talents and contributions of a wide array of librarians.

Through my ILA membership, I hope to both broaden and deepen professional relationships with other Illinois library colleagues through contributing to ILA publications or volunteering. My hopes for the library profession are to see more people of color not only joining in but also taking leadership roles either in their own library, ILA or other associations. In order for libraries to truly embody diversity, inclusivity and equity, our voices need to be lifted. I am grateful for the ILA for giving us a platform to do it.

Priscilla Resendiz

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign,
School of Information Sciences

As I am a part-time reference assistant with only six months on the job under my belt, my manager sent me to Reaching Forward. To this day, it remains my favorite conference. The last session I attended that day was about a library's digital media lab. I already knew that

I wanted to commit myself to a profession that allowed me to serve my community. But this particular session showed me that libraries could be literally anything we imagined. I never want to be just one thing. And the beauty of library work is the malleability of my work. Since libraries can be anything, so can I. I hope to continue to challenge the public we serve to change the way they think about how we serve them so that libraries can remain relevant and inclusive resource centers and community hubs. I have attended the ILA Annual Conference before, but never for all three days. It completely changed the way I interacted with my peers. I was able to attend more sessions than I would have otherwise and I was able to make meaningful connections with the people I met. I hope the library profession can turn its culture of innovation inward and look at itself critically. There is so much potential for how we can serve our communities and that requires a fair amount of introspection. Personally, I never want to stop growing and challenging myself to be the best version of me. And I hope that's a mindset I can share with my colleagues.

Diana Rocha

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign,
School of Information Sciences

As a kid, the library was one of few places I was allowed to explore on my own, and it was freedom. I spent my free time as an undergrad trying to visit the (then) 80 branches of the Chicago Public Library. For my communications degree, I spent homework time analyzing current library marketing campaigns and writing mock press releases for Chicago Public Library events. Somehow, it wasn't until I was working the customer service line for a cannabis information resource website that I realized my interest in how people search for information and my belief in access to information as a human right translated pretty well into librarianship.

[continued on page 30]

Thanks to the Williams Scholarship, I was able to attend ILA—my first professional conference. As an out-of-state, first-time attendee, I was happy to meet some of the other Williams Scholars throughout the conference. There is an extreme underrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) people in librarianship, so I appreciate programs like the Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholars program that choose to invest in students from these backgrounds. Attending ILA helped me see myself as a professional within the field, rather than just a student. I am already thinking about how I might contribute in the future.

I was happy to see sessions like *DiversiTEA* with Corrie Wallace. I believe it is crucial for librarians to understand and practice anti-oppression in order to live by our code of ethics. I was also happy to see a poster about *Class Bias in Academia* by Rebecca Graham. There is no question the prohibitive cost and exclusive politics of education plays a huge role in the underrepresentation of working class people in librarianship. I hope ILA will continue to grow offerings centered in anti-oppression, net neutrality, and center more BIPOC individuals in the field. As an ILA member, I look forward to learning about how ILA can shape Illinois public policy around information and library issues.

Kevin Whiteneir

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign,
School of Information Sciences

Upon completing a master's degree in modern and contemporary art history, theory and criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2017, my first impulse was to pursue professional work in the places I knew best: libraries, archives, and special collections. Throughout my undergraduate and graduate programs, I honed my skills working and learning within these repositories. As an art

historian, I knew during the process of writing my thesis that my professional and academic goals lie in not only pursuing knowledge within libraries and collections myself, but fostering accessibility and facilitating others pursuing information. As I grew as an academic, I realized that I want to play a role in developing collections that can educate and serve the communities around me and expanding their own sense of power and autonomy through knowledge.

It's only been a semester so far, so I'm still making my way through readings and lessons before I cast my vote! However, I'm very excited for the classes that I'm anticipating delving into surrounding digital preservation, collection management, and pedagogy.

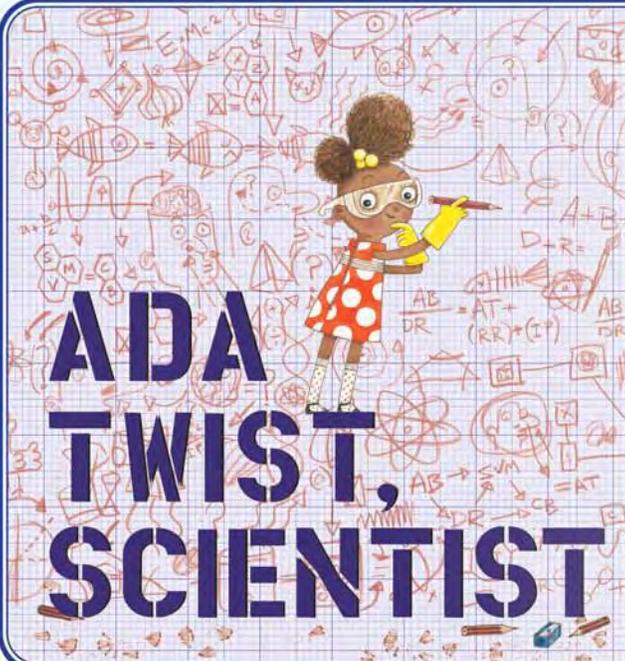
I'd absolutely attend an ILA conference! I've been to a lot of conferences; in 2019 I've been on 17 planes, most of those traveling to speak at international conferences, so I know how important it is to not only network with people in various disciplines, but also just to see what the state of affairs are beyond just written texts. How are our peers doing, as professionals, as people? What are they working on? What trends are they seeing? This is all so incredibly important so I try to keep my calendar open for conferences specifically.

As a Spectrum Scholar, naturally my hopes are to see this profession expand in terms of perspectives. It's still dominated by the boundaries of certain lived experiences: namely, white and cisgender female. Those are incredibly valuable perspectives and I have learned a lot from the librarians who fit that demographic, they are the people who made me realize I wanted to do this. That said, the profession needs members of all communities to vocalize their individual experiences, and the shared experiences that come with our identities. Within the last year, I have worked in two libraries to do exactly this, connecting with artists and small cultural institutions to create exhibits

that illustrate the history and social impact of women, people of color, queer communities, and other disenfranchised communities. I was able to use my platform to collaborate with female and queer femme artists for women's history month, both elevating their art and ensuring that library patrons saw work made by women and queer artists in their community. This is what I hope the profession can do as both advocates of the communities they represent, but also as people from those communities they are advocating for.

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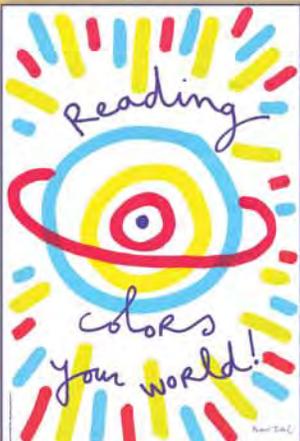
Andrea Beaty is the author of *Iggly Peck, Architect*; *Rosie Revere, Engineer*; *Ada Twist, Scientist*; and other children's titles. She is an advocate for STEM; her books have been read around the globe and in space on board the International Space Station.

Ms. Beaty spoke at this year's ILA conference at the Youth Services Forum Breakfast.

Visit www.ireadprogram.org to review 2020 iREAD incentives, and artwork by **Raphael López, David Roberts, Alleanna Harris, and Jingo de la Rosa.**

What is iREAD?

A flexible, nonprofit reading program designed by librarians featuring appealing incentives, compelling and adaptable themes, and a comprehensive resource guide chock full of ideas and reproducibles.

Sneak Preview! The 2021 theme is "Reading Colors Your World," which lends itself to a wide range of interpretations and vibrant graphic presentation. The broad motif of "colors" provides a context for exploring humanity, nature, culture, and science, as well as developing programming that demonstrates how libraries and reading can expand your world through kindness, growth, and community. Library patrons, young and old, will be encouraged to develop creativity, try new things, explore art, and find beauty in diversity. Illustrations and posters will tell the story: "Read a book and color your world!"

Left, 2021 Poster by Hervé Tullet

iREAD
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Illinois Library Association
33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401
Chicago, IL 60654-6799

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2019 Annual Conference Statistics

Total attendees: 1,665

Exhibit booths: 121

Conference Registration

	2019 Tinley Park	2018 Peoria	2017 Tinley Park	2016 Rosemont	2015* Peoria	2014 Springfield	2013 Chicago	2012 Peoria	2011 Rosemont	2010 Chicago
Full	661	542	616	641	837	555	620	538	623	673
Single day	584	267	543	527	451	170	611	197	643	575
Preconference only	0	13	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	1,245	822	1,159	1,168	1,308	670	1,231	735	1,266	1,248
Speakers	22	32	50	42	47	49	81	84	80	147
Exhibits only	98	44	46	61	89	101	131	102	169	220
Exhibitor representatives	300	220	290	270	250	267	378	203	430	469
TOTAL	1,665	1,118	1,545	1,541	1,694	1,087	1,821	1,124	1,945	2,084

* Joint conference with ISLMA.

Hotel and Booth Statistics

Hotel Rooms Reserved by ILA	342	905	402	475	1,325	980	491	810	685	685
Hotel Rooms Used	263	865	398	354	1,190	921	352	729	432	384
Number of Companies	109	92	114	113	116	113	124	111	125	149
Number of Booths (including any paid canceled booths)	121	102	126	128	138	131	141	124	145	170
Total Booth Square Feet	12,100	10,200	12,600	12,800	13,900	13,100	13,300	12,400	14,500	17,000

#ILAAC19 in photos



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.

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Jessica Barnes, Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), Burr Ridge
Tina Bartenfelder, Wheaton Public Library
Matt Binder, Schaumburg Township District Library
Kimberly Black, Chicago State University
Kathryn Blessman, Bridgeview Public Library
John Burke, Orland Park Public Library
Patricia Chavez, DePaul University, Chicago
Daniel Criscione, Mount Prospect Public Library
Krista Danis, Aurora Public Library
Gregory Diaz, Chicago Public Library
Rachel Doose, Itasca Community Library
Katie Egan, Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District
Rebecca Gal, Messenger Public Library of North Aurora
Catherine Galarza-Espino, Dominican University SOIS, River Forest
Jen Jacobs, Deerfield High School
Thomas Javorcic, Oak Lawn Public Library
Tiffany Kaufmann, Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library, Canton
Kate Lagerstrom, La Grange Public Library
Emily Loeffler, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Joshua Mabe, Calumet City Public Library
Rachel McMullen, Waukegan Public Library
Matthew Moraghanq, Chicago
Melissa Potoczek-Fiskin, Barrington Area Library
John Rimer, Roselle Public Library District
Sara Rizzo, National Louis University, Wheeling
Kendra Sandstrom, Wilmington Public Library District
Michelle Sawicki, Barclay Public Library, Warrensburg
Molly Schoenherr, Lake Forest Library
Jill Scott, Oswego Public Library District
Mary Kay Stiff, Niles-Maine District Library
Samantha Sundquist, Robert Morris University
Jacob Szpytek, Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District
Carol Valentino-Barry, Chicago
Chandrea Willard, Franklin Park Public Library District
Ashley Wilson, Grande Prairie Public Library District, Hazel Crest
Elizabeth Yolich, New Lenox Public Library

STUDENT MEMBERS

Nicholas Berrios, Dominican University, River Forest
Mallory Blink, Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District
Seanine Brady, Crystal Lake Public Library
Lauren Camarillo, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Cherilyn Contreras, Arlington Heights
DeAnna DeHoff, Orland Park
Kellye Fleming, Evanston Public Library
Melanie Lo Piccolo, Hampshire
Nimfa Melesio, Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District
Courtney Mickens, Carbondale
Rita Oliveira-Wilkenfeld, Chicago
Priscilla Resendiz, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Diana Rocha, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Anneliese Tillmann, Schaumburg Township District Library
Patricia Zbonski, Tinley Park

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Thomas Blanchard, Glenview Public Library
JoAnn Desmond, Lake Forest Public Library
Dannthy Garcon, Park Forest Public Library
Nerissa Germain-Cronister, Park Forest Public Library
Ruby Giddings, University Park Public Library District
Tamara Jost, Morton Grove Public Library
Karen Lima, Schiller Park Public Library
Elan Long, River Forest Public Library
John Edgar Mihelic, Brookfield Public Library
Jennifer Penn, Sandwich Public Library District
James Pressler, Park Forest Public Library
Craig Rost, Champaign Public Library
Deborah Stroud, University Park Public Library District
Larry Thomason, Jr., Alpha Park Public Library District

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Community Consolidated Schools District 168, Sauk Village
Freedom Elementary School, Plainfield
Centennial High School, Champaign

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

HGA Architects and Engineers, Milwaukee, WI

A community destination for Waunakee.



Waunakee's open and multi functional library-within-a-park was recently unveiled to the community. LFI worked closely with library staff and their architect, OPN, to provide the furnishings and shelving needed to bring their plan to life. Picture book browsing bins and specialty shelving with custom end panels engage patrons and keep materials organized. The woodwork for the shelving in the children's area forms a charming series of tunnels to invite kids to explore while browsing. View the rest of the project and the products LFI provided by visiting our website. We welcome you to see what LFI can do for your library!

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