

REACHING FORWARD / SOUTH

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Beth Smilack

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Specialist
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SHARE Director
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Conference Information

Stranger Things... Avoiding the Upside Down

The past three years have been full of challenges, at the 2023 RFS conference we will explore all the ways to keep your library right side up. Learn how libraries can "right" their challenges and celebrate their successes.

Badges

Conference badges must be worn at all times to gain admission to programs and exhibits.

Coffee

Morning coffee, sponsored by RAILS, will be available from 8:00 to 10:30 A.M.

Exhibit Hours

8:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Handouts

Handouts are available at <https://www.ila.org/RFS>.

Hashtag

#RFSouth2023

Lanyards

In accordance with CDC guidelines, ILA is not requiring proof of vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test result to attend Reaching Forward South 2023. But the use of colored lanyards to indicate social distance preferences is continuing to be a positive addition to the conference experience.

When you stop at the help desk to pick up your badge, you can choose a blue or yellow lanyard.

Blue Lanyards = "I'm comfortable with people in my personal space. I welcome hugs or handshakes."

Yellow Lanyards = "Please respect my personal space and ask before going in for a hug, handshake, or leaning in close."

Before you leave, be sure to stop by the help desk to recycle your lanyard. We'll reuse them for future conferences and prevent them from ending up in a landfill.

Lost and Found

Articles may be turned in and reclaimed at the Help Desk.

Lunch

Lunch will be served at 12:30 to 1:30 P.M. in Tuscany East/West. Don't remember which boxed lunch you ordered? We will have a list of everyone's orders on hand.

Mothers' Room

A Mothers' Room is located near the Help Desk in the Sorrento Room.

Quiet Room

Need to take a break? The Capri Jr. Room will give you a place to relax and refresh.

WiFi

Wireless Internet is complementary. The passcode is **Regency04**. The R in Regency is capitalized.

Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 A.M.	Morning Coffee, Exhibits, and Networking
9:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Breakout Session 1
10:15 – 11:15 A.M.	Breakout Session 2
11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Breakout Session 3
12:30 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 P.M.	Breakout Session 4
2:45 – 3:45 P.M.	Breakout Session 5

Program Schedule

9:00 – 10:00 A.M.

Building Up Your Library and Community

Strong community partnerships, especially in small and rural libraries, can increase engagement in your library. With today's hustle and bustle, it is important to reach people where they are. When libraries collaborate with other city departments, businesses, and community organizations, they can transform into the true hub of the community. This session will go into details on how to identify and make connections then leverage these partnerships to help your library and your community grow.

Speakers: Amanda Doherty, Mt. Pulaski Public Library; Betsy Mahoney, Six Mile Regional Library District; Lindsey Herron, Wood River Public Library; Nichole Lauko, Millstadt Library District

Location: Florence

Establishing the Necessary Rhythms to March to Your Own Beat

Plunging toilets and power washing sidewalks weren't in my job description! I don't have enough time to get it all done. I lie awake thinking of all the things I need to accomplish. Sound familiar? In this session, you'll learn one rural library director's story of getting organized. After establishing solid rhythms, she began to dream big and impact her community. You'll learn how time blocking, organization, and checklists can ensure things get done. You'll walk through the practical process of making checklists, including dividing tasks into daily/weekly/monthly/yearly categories. And then you'll dream big. You'll be equipped with the tools to establish solid rhythms in your library, allowing you the free time to dream big and plan community-impacting services, programs, and events.

Speaker: Ginger Newingham, Athens Municipal Library

Location: Genoa

Making SHARE Work for You

Discover what SHARE offers to its members; learn about our Kit & Kaboodle program, McNaughton Books Leasing, SHARE mobile app, and a new discovery layer for PAC searching. Learn how SHARE can customize your library's overdue notices, PAC page, just to name a few. We will also discuss what features will be coming down the pipeline for Polaris/Leap.

Speakers: Dena Porter, Illinois Heartland Library System; Linda Johnson, Illinois Heartland Library System; Anna Wiegand, Illinois Heartland Library System

Location: Salerno

Networking - Everyone Does It! Right?

NETWORKING is one of those buzz words we hear all the time. It is also something we do all the time, but how can it be enhanced? This session will focus on how strategic networking can help ensure your library stays relevant and supported by your community.

Speaker: Juliette Douglas, Six Mile Regional Library District

Location: Sienna

Program Schedule

10:15 – 11:15 A.M.

Bring Your Genealogy Program to Life!

This session will give specific guidelines on how to create, build, and support genealogy programs. The main focus of the presentation will be on our Branching Out genealogy classes, which have been taught monthly at the Hayner Genealogy & Local History Library since 2013. We will describe a variety of free and subscription databases, give collection development suggestions, discuss building relationships with genealogy patrons, talk about successful advertising, and give specific advice on genealogy class topics.

Speakers: Beth Phillips, The Hayner Public Library District; Lacy McDonald, The Hayner Public Library District

Location: Sienna

Outreach Services: The Pros and Cons of a Bookmobile and Discovering Alternatives

Are you looking to purchase a Bookmobile? This presentation is an opportunity to learn about the financial aspects of owning and operating a Bookmobile. Administration and Board Members are invited to gain knowledge on the subject and learn about other mobile library alternatives and trends that support the outreach and community engagement needs of their communities.

Speaker: Rene Leyva, Fossil Ridge Public Library District; Tana Petrov, Fountaindale Public Library District

Location: Salerno

Surveys that Don't Suck — or, Getting Better Data with Well-Written Surveys

How your survey questions are worded is the difference between getting quality data that tells an accurate picture and getting unreliable data and answers to questions you didn't really mean to ask. Do you know if your survey is collecting the information you actually want? Together, we'll take a look at what goes into a good survey, including choosing the best question types, writing clear questions, tools for building your survey, if incentives are worth it, and writing effective survey emails and intros. This session is an excellent primer for those without formal survey research training and a valuable refresher for those with prior training and experience. You'll leave with the knowledge needed to immediately review and improve an existing survey or to start writing a new one. Have some tricky draft survey questions? Bring one or two, and we'll review them together.

Speaker: Shandi Penrod, Illinois Heartland Library System

Location: Florence

Trans People in the Library: How to Navigate Working with Trans Coworkers and Serving Trans Patrons

As more and more trans people are openly living as themselves, libraries are more likely to knowingly (or unknowingly) interact with trans people. This session will include interacting with patrons and fellow staff members. We'll talk about what to do if you meet someone who introduces themselves as trans, if you meet someone and they later come out as trans, and if you meet people who you think might be trans but don't know. The session will help you navigate new pronouns, names, and gendered terms when interacting with trans people as well as understand why those things are so important to the trans community.

Speaker: Lee Friz, Mississippi Valley Library District

Location: Genoa

RFS Networking: Youth and Young Adult Services

Join other library professionals in your field for an hour of community and networking! Use this opportunity to ask questions, sound out ideas, or just catch up with your colleagues. Each session is designed for specific library workers. Join the youth and young adult services staff at 10:15; front line staff at 11:30; managers at 1:30; and marketing specialists at 2:45.

Facilitator: Devin Scott, Salem Township Public Library

Location: Tuscany East/West



11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Get Ready for Two Solar Eclipses!

Do you remember the incredible level of public interest about the solar eclipse in August 2017? Get ready to do it all over again! There are two impressive solar eclipses happening in October 2023 and April 2024 that will be visible across the state of Illinois. In this fun and engaging hands-on session, learn what eclipses are, when to look for the two eclipses coming up, how to view the eclipses safely, and where to get reliable eclipse information so you can begin to confidently answer questions from the public.

Speaker: Hunter Miller, Adler Planetarium

Location: Sienna

Stacks, Our Library Cat, and How You Can Have One Too

Our library has had a feline employee, Stacks the Library Cat, since 2009. Stacks is very well known at the library, and has even made the list of “Top Literary Felines” in *Cat Fancy* magazine. She has been in articles in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Springfield Journal Register*. This session will discuss the pros and cons of owning a library pet, what steps we took in acquiring her, and how your library could get their own pet mascot. Session will also touch on other library pets, such as fish tanks, lizards, hamsters, and more “secure” library pets.

Speaker: Sara Zumwalt, Litchfield Public Library District

Location: Genoa

Start a Library Twitch Channel: How to Stream!

Come and learn how Glen Carbon Library started a teen Twitch channel focusing on gaming, art, and books! Learn how to build your channel, and make your own branding material for your channel using the tools already at your disposal. Talk about how to approach your administration for approval, and acquire the tools you need for a successful program for any age group!

Speakers: Aimee Villet, Glen Carbon Centennial Library; Samantha Lego, Glen Carbon Centennial Library

Location: Florence

Staying in Touch: Using Social Media to Connect and Engage with Your Community

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how important social media is for connecting with the community, but how do you find time for it and what platforms are best for your library? We'll be discussing these issues as well as best practices and tips & tricks for encouraging engagement. Whether your library has a strong social media presence or you're just getting started, this session will give you ideas and help you think about new directions. Come prepared to discuss your social media successes and challenges.

Speaker: Katherine Rose, Edwardsville Public Library

Location: Salerno

RFS Networking: Front Line Staff

Join other library professionals in your field for an hour of community and networking! Use this opportunity to ask questions, sound out ideas, or just catch up with your colleagues. Each session is designed for specific library workers. Join the youth and young adult services staff at 10:15; front line staff at 11:30; managers at 1:30; and marketing specialists at 2:45.

Facilitator: Bobbi Perryman, Vespasian Warner Public Library

Location: Tuscany East/West



Program Schedule

1:30 – 2:30 P.M.

Providing Access to Video Game History

Frequent technological advancements and shifting formats has made video game history inaccessible. Learn the most efficient and exciting ways to provide classic video game titles and resources.

Speaker: Terry Pierson, Mississippi Valley Library District

Location: Salerno

Ready, Set, Advocate! : Sharing Your Library's Story

Library advocacy isn't just for administrators and managers, and it's more than contacting your legislators. It's about sharing your library's story widely, and proactively gathering support for the important work that libraries do. We'll use the ILA Ready, Set, Advocate toolkit as a jumping-off point for ways that front-line library staff can use their knowledge of library services and their community connections to share their library's story.

Speakers: Amanda McKay, Effingham Public Library;
Nanette Donohue, Champaign Public Library

Location: Genoa

Romance: No Longer a Dirty Little Secret

Romance novels are often looked down upon as "trashy", "low-brow", and even "dumb", when in reality, "romance" encompasses a wide range of literature in a huge variety of subgenres. Romance readers include people of all genders and all walks of life who have their favorite, and not-so-favorite, romance tropes. Even if you aren't a romance reader, you can help guide your patrons to their reading HEA (learn what that means by coming to this session!).

Speaker: Bobbi Perryman, Vespasian Warner Public Library

Location: Florence

Up Next: Ensuring a Leadership Pipeline with Succession Planning

Your library should have a succession plan not just in case your director leaves suddenly, but to ensure you have a way you are developing talent and capturing critical knowledge for operating the library. Come to this session to learn about why a succession plan is important and a process your library can use to develop a succession plan. No matter your library's size, having a succession plan in place will relieve anxiety about what would happen if people in key roles leave the library and how to handle those transitions.

Speaker: Amanda Standerfer, Fast Forward Libraries

Location: Sienna

RFS Networking: Managers

Join other library professionals in your field for an hour of community and networking! Use this opportunity to ask questions, sound out ideas, or just catch up with your colleagues. Each session is designed for specific library workers. Join the youth and young adult services staff at 10:15; front line staff at 11:30; managers at 1:30; and marketing specialists at 2:45.

Facilitator: Loretta Broomfield, Marion Carnegie Library

Location: Tuscany East/West

2:45 – 3:45 P.M.

Finding Money and Resources for Your Library

Explore how public and school libraries can find sources of funding through grants, community engagement, partnerships, and government spending projects. A panel of librarians will share their experience, favorite resources, and tips on how to be on the upside of funding.

Speakers: Anna Yackle, Illinois Heartland Library System; Diana Brawley Sussman, Carbondale Public Library; Heather Yancy, Freeburg Community High School; Leah Gregory, Illinois Heartland Library System

Location: Genoa

I Swear I Didn't Click Anything!

With all the threats around ransomware, malware, viruses, and malicious Nigerian Princes; join me for some of the best practices around keeping your accounts secure and private and how to know the difference between being hacked and being spoofed. Hackers are using simple techniques to try to catch us slipping up, just once. Don't fall victim to their traps.

Speaker: Troy Brown, Illinois Heartland Library System

Location: Sienna

Realia: The Stranger Things

During this presentation, realia will be defined, examples of realia will be shared, and a brief tutorial on how to catalog realia will be provided.

Speakers: Eric McKinney, Illinois Heartland Library System; Pamela Thomas, Illinois Heartland Library System

Location: Salerno

What All Staff Members Need to Know About Intellectual Freedom

Do you feel like you can successfully address intellectual freedom topics as they come up at the library? Talking to your customers and colleagues about censorship can be an intimidating prospect. What policies, procedures, and training should your library have in place? Members from the ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee will be sharing best practices when handling questions or challenges to the library and discuss the importance of why every staff member should understand censorship issues at the library.

Speakers: Betsy Mahoney, Six Mile Regional Library District; Stephanie Favela, O'Fallon Public Library

Location: Florence

RFS Networking: Marketing Specialists

Join other library professionals in your field for an hour of community and networking! Use this opportunity to ask questions, sound out ideas, or just catch up with your colleagues. Each session is designed for specific library workers. Join the youth and young adult services staff at 10:15; front line staff at 11:30; managers at 1:30; and marketing specialists at 2:45.

Facilitator: Beth Smilack, Jerseyville Public Library

Location: Tuscany East/West

2023 Exhibitors



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