



## AzLA 2013 Conference Update

The Conference Planning Committee and all its members and volunteers have been busy over the summer. We're very excited to share what we have planned for this year's conference in Scottsdale/Fountain Hills!

### Program

We have a [fantastic program](#) lined up featuring our fabulous and talented Arizona library colleagues. There will be pre-conferences, posters, roundtables, presentations, and a new fast-paced program type: Blitz sessions. Each Blitz session includes three 20-minute presentations, allowing attendees exposure to a variety of topics in a single, tightly focused session.

Many thanks to all who submitted such fine proposals for the conference. With

your submissions we put together a conference program that will be well-rounded, interesting, and educational, which will highlight the many ways libraries are interacting with their communities in today's eSociety.



Jamie LaRue, opening keynote speaker and closing panel moderator for the 2013 conference.

### Speakers and Special Guests

This year we are thrilled to welcome Jamie LaRue as our opening keynote speaker and closing panel moderator and participant! [Jamie LaRue](#) has been the director of the Douglas County Libraries, headquartered in Castle Rock, CO, since 1990. DCL has become known for

their pioneering approach to purchasing and hosting eBooks on their own platform. LaRue is the author of *The New Inquisition: Understanding and Managing Intellectual Freedom Challenges*,

*(Continued on page 3)*

## AzLA 2013 Conference Scholarships

We will be rewarding 5 scholarships that cover the full conference registration fee. Recipients must be current AzLA members, agree to write an article about the conference for an AzLA publication, and volunteer for 2 hours at the conference. Applications will be accepted from August 26, 2013 through September 30, 2013. The [application](#)

[information](#) must be submitted to Barbara Howe, AzLA Membership Committee, at [bhowe@azlibrary.gov](mailto:bhowe@azlibrary.gov) by September 30, 2013 to be considered. All applicants will be notified of the decisions by October 20, 2013. For more information please visit the [AzLA conference website](#).

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## Message from the President

### *The Past Year's Progress*

It's been almost a year since I became president of AzLA. I almost can't believe that the time has gone by this fast, but the calendar does not lie. By the time this column is published two major events will be about to happen – the fall 2013 AzLA election and the 2013 Annual Conference. With this in mind, I thought I should talk about these two events in my last column in the newsletter.

As you know, our conference this year will be at the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Conference Center. Jamie LaRue, an extremely interesting guy, will be setting the tone for the conference in the keynote address at the opening of the conference. Jamie has a well-followed blog, has been a regular columnist in his local newspapers, and was recently on National Public Radio talking about e-books. With this year's theme focused on the role of libraries in the e-Society, Jamie is a great choice to get us geared up for the conference.

You'll find a conference update from the Conference Committee elsewhere in this issue. Having reviewed the list of programs, I realize that I'm going to have a very tough job selecting one of them to be designated the President's Program. You'll have to wait until the conference to find out which one gets chosen! Register for the conference today. You don't want to miss paying the early bird registration rate.

The Governance Committee has been hard at work over the last six months trying to put our house in order. As I mentioned before, our bylaws, handbook, and practices had become out of

sync with each other. The Governance Committee was formed to attempt to bring these things back in alignment, to recommend needed revisions or updating, and ensure that we maintain good order for the long-term.

At our April board meeting, the committee recommended and the Board approved a revised set of bylaws with the exception of just two parts, and in the August 1 board meeting, the Board approved those two parts. The entirety of the bylaws will appear on the fall election ballot for the approval of the membership. Shortly before the election starts, I will be sending out a fairly detailed statement on the bylaws and encourage the membership to officially approve them.

In anticipation of this, the Governance Committee has been working on revising the Handbook. The committee has managed to revise the Handbook so that it will be in alignment with both the old and the new bylaws and, as much as possible, in alignment with current practices. It will be good to have a place that members can go for reliable information about AzLA!

Since this is the last column I'll be writing during my year as president, it would be appropriate to reflect on the year's progress. When I made my rounds of the state last summer, members told me that they wanted more professional development opportunities that would be broadly delivered across the state and throughout the year. The Professional Development Committee has developed a plan to make that happen.

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**[Tom Wilding](#)**  
AzLA President

**“The Governance Committee has been hard at work over the last six months trying to put our house in order.”**

## Message from the President (cont.)

Part of the plan is that we expect some conference events to be available virtually for those of you who can't make the drive. We also held a regional forum in Sierra Vista, and another is being planned for spring. That's not the end of it though, and additional plans are being made to bring more training and development to members.

Members also told me that AzLA wasn't visible enough. The Marketing and Advocacy Committee has developed a preliminary plan to address this by building a stronger marketing and advocacy network throughout the state. You'll see some of the results of this at the November conference, but expect to see more in 2014.

The Membership Committee has been revitalized and is identifying things with added value to attract new members, increase retention of members, and to

make sure those of us who are at or near retirement remain active in AzLA (and that includes yours truly). The new Web and Social Networking Committee has been working with the Association Manager to increase the AzLA website's functionality and make it a more valuable resource for members.

I hoped that when I left office this year, I would leave behind a stronger association that is focused on our collective ability to nimbly progress. I have been very pleased at the amount of cross-communication that has developed among the committees. I hope that in the longer term AzLA will have made that collaborative spirit as part of its culture. I have been honored to serve as president for this year, and I wish our incoming president, Ann Boles, all good success during her upcoming year!

**Tom Wilding**

## 2013 AzLA Conference Update (cont.)

and wrote a weekly newspaper column for over 25 years. Join us for LaRue's inspiring key note presentation, "Change that Matters." LaRue will examine this topic from many perspectives and highlight possibilities: both exciting –and risky.

Other special guests will include Grand Canyon and Judy Goddard/Libraries Ltd. Award-winning authors; the AzLA Service Award honorees; and a special Luncheon event with Liz Warren, director of the South Mountain Community College Storytelling Institute.

In this year's closing panel, LaRue will join AzLA Leadership to tie together conference program highlights and suggest future directions for Arizona libraries.

### Exhibitors and Sponsors

We are excited to host a large number of diverse vendors in the Exhibit Hall this year, and more information on all the vendors attending will be available soon. We are also extremely grateful to our sponsors who, as of August 20<sup>th</sup>, include: the State Library of Arizona and the Friends of Pima County Libraries.

### Conference Scholarships

If you would like to attend the conference but can't afford the registration, consider applying for one of the scholarship options. AzLA will provide five scholarships that cover the full conference registration fee. Scholarship recipients must be current AzLA members

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## 2013 AzLA Conference Update

and agree to write an article about the conference for the AzLA Newsletter. For more information, see the article about Conference Scholarships on the front page of this newsletter. The application form is available on the [conference website](#). The Arizona State Library also has a standing Continuing Education scholarship program and the AzLA Annual Conference is an eligible activity. Find out more about this scholarship opportunity on the [State Library site](#).

### Registration

Conference Registration is now open and early bird rates run through October 11<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you register early to save! This is also a great time to reserve your room at the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort for the special Conference rate of \$129/night. The deadline to receive the Conference hotel room rate is also **October 11, 2013**.

### Special Events

In addition to the diverse educational programming, we also have some fun extracurricular Conference activities planned: early morning Yoga sessions, a

## Resume Review Clinic at the AzLA Conference

You are invited to attend the "Resume Review Clinic" during the 2013 AzLA Conference. The same clinic will be offered twice: on Thursday, November 14 and Friday, November 15, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The clinic will be directed toward librarians who are seeking positions. Librarians from different

## We Need Volunteers for the Resume Review Clinic!

The Membership Committee is inviting AzLA members to volunteer to review resumes of potential library job seekers. See what [a volunteer wrote about her experience](#) at an ALA Conference.

The Resume Review Clinic is geared toward professionals who are seeking library positions.

TweetUp, a Conference Reception [co-sponsored by AzLA and SIRLS \(School of Information Resources & Library Science\)](#) featuring a DJ, and an opportunity to see one of our own, Librarian Jessica Cole of the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, in a performance of The Music Man by the Scottsdale Musical Theater Company (get your ticket through the Conference Registration). This is not a Conference to be missed!

See you in November!

For more frequent conference updates, [follow the AzLA Conference on Twitter](#).

**René Tanner and Ginny Pannabecker**  
AzLA 2013 Conference Planning Committee Co-Chairs

types of libraries with experience in the hiring process will serve as clinicians. Please bring a copy of your resume for discussion and suggestions.

**Alexandra Humphreys and Laura Stone**  
Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee

We need people from diverse library fields who have had some experience as reviewers, such as librarians who have served on hiring committees, who have worked with HR, or those who have recently found a new job.



**Ginny Pannabecker and René Tanner**

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**"We need people from diverse library fields who have had some experience as reviewers..."**

## Volunteers... (cont.)

The Resume Review Clinic will take place on Thursday, November 14 and Friday, November 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Conference site. The exact location will be announced. The shift for

each volunteer will be 1-2 hours on any day depending on your availability. Please apply!

To apply send an email to [Alexandra.Humphreys@asu.edu](mailto:Alexandra.Humphreys@asu.edu).

## Library Spotlight

### *Guadalupe Branch Library—Maricopa County Library District*

**Do you have a library to suggest? It can be an academic library, public library, school library, or special library, even an online-only library, as long as it's managed within/related specifically to Arizona! Email your suggestions to [Virginia.Pannabecker@asu.edu](mailto:Virginia.Pannabecker@asu.edu).**

The [Guadalupe Branch Library](#), part of the [Maricopa County Library District](#) (MCLD), is located in Guadalupe, Arizona (between Tempe and Phoenix, Arizona).

This library serves community members of all ages from Guadalupe, Tempe, and Phoenix. Maria Mucino, the Branch Library Manager, and library staff members, Betty Flores, Roxie Neuman and Tim

Blackburn plan a [variety of program-](#)

[ming](#) to meet the needs and interests of Guadalupe Library's community. According to a [Community Overview page](#), the Town of Guadalupe, "is a Native American and Hispanic community of about 5,500 residents between Phoenix and Tempe at the base of South Mountain. The town proudly maintains a strong cultural and ethnic identity. It is named after the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico. Guadalupe was

founded by Yaqui Indians around the turn of the century and was incorporated in 1975."



*The circulation desk of the Guadalupe Branch Library. The mural can be seen on the right.*

Although small in size, the Guadalupe Branch Library location supports creative programming and houses a diverse collection, including materials in English, Spanish, and Yaqui. The library plans frequent events that promote community networking, learning,

and exploration for patrons of all ages, as well as support for job applications and more. On the day I visited, Head Start Zero-Five program representatives were at the library for an information event. Parents and their children came to learn about the Zero-Five program, receive a library tour, and attend a story and snack time.

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## Library Spotlight (cont.)

Cultural events and values of Guadalupe Town community members are vital components of the library's programming. The library features two colorful murals related to festivals and traditions for El Día de los Muertos, an important holiday in Guadalupe. Each mural covers a wall in the main reading and collection areas. Both murals were painted by Nike Glen, Betty Flores, and students and members of the Guadalupe Town community. In September the library is [hosting two events for community members to create a third mural](#) in honor of Hispanic Heritage Week.



*The Head Start Zero to Five information session and program.*

Teen engagement is a high priority for Library Manager Maria Mucino. One of her goals is to increase teen interest in and use of the library's collections and services. She is looking forward to creat-

ing a teen space with a teen tech table with digital devices that will form the centerpiece of a new teen area. Maria has seen first-hand the increased interest of teens in all types of information sources: educational, literary, and otherwise, when viewed on devices such as

iPads. The library hosts regular teen events like [Karaoke Night at the Library](#), "Reading is fun when you get to sing it!" Upcoming workshops planned for this year include [photography](#) and [writing](#) with profes-

sional mentors. Photographer Peter Mortimer from *Arizona Highways* magazine and Tom Leveen, a teen author, will be participating. Teens interested in volunteering may also be able to achieve a Service Award. While the library benefits from teens' service, teens also benefit from their valuable community contribution.

## Library Staff Spotlight

### *Maria Mucino*

Engaging and educational programs that offer opportunities for creativity and critical thinking are top priorities for Maria Mucino, Branch Manager of the Guadalupe Branch Library. A new library manager at this location, she's already set into motion many events since her arrival in May. Recently, the library hosted a Lego animals program for children of all ages. You can see pho-

tos of this event and the Lego animals on the [Guadalupe Library Branch Facebook page](#). Maria provided healthy snacks, and each child presented their animal to the group and talked about their design choices. At a story-time event for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, Maria provided colorful fruits and vegetables for children to build caterpillars.

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## Library Staff Spotlight (cont.)

Then they ate these healthy, fun snacks (even spinach!) while listening to the story. Providing nutritious snacks in fun situations is another way Maria and her staff build added value into library programming in Guadalupe, where few local stores carry fresh produce.

Maria also provides multilingual programming at the Guadalupe Branch Library. She speaks Spanish, Japanese, and English fluently. Maria received her Master's degree in Library Science from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). As part of this Master's degree, she studied at the Keio University in Tokyo, Japan, and completed a fellowship at the National Diet Library of Japan. Maria worked in the United Nations library in New York City as a cataloger and at Proquest as Metadata Librarian and contributing editor. After moving to Arizona, Maria worked for Mesa Public Library for 12 years before becoming Branch Manager at Guadalupe.

STEAM Up is a new series at the library that combines Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. "When is the next project?!" is commonly heard from children after attending a Lego or STEAM Up program. Steam Up is every other Wednesday and Lego events are every other Friday. Maria schedules these events for Early Release Day afternoons in Kyrene and Tempe School Districts to provide a fun, creative, and

educational activity when school gets out early; and they get a nutritious snack too!



*Maria Mucino, Branch Manager at the Guadalupe Branch Library.*

Maria sees STEAM Up events as a way to encourage experimentation, creativity, and critical thinking. A recent STEAM Up event in August featured *Angry Birds* where groups of children used cardboard boxes to create buildings, adding soft 'green pig' balls. In the first round each used a catapult to launch 'angry bird' balls at the buildings.

Then, Maria showed videos and books on architectural and building practices. The groups built new cardboard buildings that showed changes based on what they'd observed in the first round and what they learned from the books and videos.

Maria is an enthusiastic manager of the "tiny, but mighty" Guadalupe Branch Library. Her goals include further outreach to community groups like the Guadalupe Senior Center where the library will be showing films during lunch, the Guadalupe Town Council, the Yaqui Tribe, and local school teachers. When not at the library, Maria enjoys time with her family and participates in service projects like the [ASU Hispanic Mother-Daughter Mentoring program](#) for first generation Hispanic women college students.

**Contact Maria at:**  
[MariaMucino@mclldaz.org](mailto:MariaMucino@mclldaz.org)

## Emerging Technologies

### *The New iPhones are Coming*

We all know that the next new piece of technology is always visible on the horizon. [PC Magazine](#) recently reported that Apple announced the date of September 10<sup>th</sup> for the unveiling of the next iPhone (#6 by this point).

This revelation has made me think about the way we have accepted the planned obsolescence of our devices. Earlier this year, we learned that our current video game consoles are slipping past the veil of current generation to last generation by the holidays. The tablet you looked at six months ago is just now hitting closeout pricing, which is great if you didn't plunk down the bleeding edge price six months ago. Laptops have a similar cycle. However, it is the smartphone that seems incapable of remaining in our pockets for very long before the next new thing hits.

Many mobile providers have already stepped up and offered customers a "benefit" to keep up with the latest technology. I used quotes around benefit because it only appears to be for your benefit. Raise your hand if you ever bought mobile phone insurance. We all did at one time and realized we could a) be careful with our devices and never need it; b) save ourselves a chunk of change when disaster strikes; or c) have a mishap late in your contract ensuring that you can only replace your phone with a newer model. It's that last option that got the providers thinking. Now when you sign up for service, you will be

hit by hard sale early upgrade plans. All the big providers are doing it. Whether it is called, Jump, Next or Edge, all it adds up to is an extra fee tacked onto your bill just like the insurance was.

Buying a mobile device is treated differently than most electronics. When you walk out of the store with your new phone and \$200 less in your wallet, you actually have a \$500 phone in your pocket / purse. Your provider kicked in the other \$300 in exchange for your agreement to spend on average \$70 a month for the next 24 months. That's \$1,680 for those who haven't done the math, and not really a bad turn around for the provider's \$300. If you're paying for the "benefit," now you only have to wait just twelve months until you can go back to the store and get a new phone. And why not? You already paid ahead for the privilege, and you have a new phone to learn how to use all over again. What I'm really trying to drive home is that if you pay the fee when you buy your shiny new iPhone 6, you can come back in 12 months and get the even better iPhone 7. If you choose not to pay the approximately ten buck monthly fee, you will miss out on the iPhone 7, but you'll be in great shape for the mind warping brilliance of the iPhone 8 in 24 months. Oh for the progress of technology.

**Vinny Alascia**

Arizona State Library Archives and Public Records

**“Many mobile providers have already stepped up and offered customers a ‘benefit’ to keep up with the latest technology.”**

Emerging Technologies is sponsored by the MCLC TechTalk Committee and is written by Vinny Alascia, Librarian at the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, and TechTalk Co-Chair. Visit the Tech Talk blog at <http://mclctechtalk.wordpress.com/>.



## YA Corner

### Printz Prep

Now that summer is over and school is back under way, it's time to catch up on all of that "serious" reading we meant to do. What better way to do it than read through some teen novels that may or may not be under consideration for the Printz Award? As many of you may already know, metropolitan Phoenix librarians meet each January to discuss and debate what books they feel will win the Printz (and the Newbery and Caldecott) Award that month at ALA's Midwinter Conference. Anyone can nominate a title to be on the [Maricopa County Mock Printz reading list](#). It currently only has three titles on it:

*Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell  
*Midwinter Blood* by Marcus Sedgewick  
*Out of the Easy* by Ruta Sepetys

But there are other lists out there for mock Printz debates. Here are a few of my favorites.

School Library Journal houses the [Someday My Printz Will Come](#) blog that is authored by Karyn Silverman, Sarah Couri, and Joy Piedmont. Both Silverman and Couri have been on the official YALSA Printz Committee. On their September 8<sup>th</sup> post they give a delightfully long list of books that they think are

contenders.

On Goodreads there is a [Mock Printz 2014](#) Group that votes each month on a title or two to discuss about their Printz worthiness. This list is much longer than the SLJ blog, but Goodreads offers the discussion via the social media aspect of the site, which is an added benefit.

Now you may ask, why should I read these "serious" books instead of the fun fantasy, science fiction dystopian titles that my teens are clamoring for? These are the titles that you will sell to your patrons by putting them in their hands. These are the titles that could be used easily for school reading assignments. But if you don't know about them or haven't read them, how will you share them with the teens who need them the most? I'll leave you with the example I had today. An eighth grade boy needed a realistic fiction title of at least 200 pages within his HIGH lexile range. He doesn't enjoy reading. Would some of the former Printz books have worked for him? You betcha.

[Kristin Fletcher-Spear](#)  
 Administrative Librarian  
 Glendale Parks, Recreation and Library Services

## The Children's Author/Illustrator Network

The Author/Illustrator Network has been updated for July/August on the [AzLA website](#). Look for the Children's Author/Illustrator Network on the AzLA homepage under "Quick Links."

Author/Illustrator programs are the delight of children, teachers and parents,

and Arizona librarians are fortunate to have a one-stop shop for calendars, contact and scheduling information of local and visiting authors. Mary Wong creates this resource list for librarians and teachers throughout the state.



**Kristin Fletcher-Spear**  
 (and her daughter  
 Emma)



## From MPLA: MPLA Service

The election results for MPLA Officers were recently announced. Congratulations to incoming Recording Secretary Melissa Clark, an Information Services Librarian at South Dakota State University, and to incoming Vice-President/President-Elect, Annie Epperson, the Head of Reference Services at the University of Northern Colorado. Both women have served with MPLA before, which I see as a good sign; they *have* been involved, and not only do they see the Association as worthwhile, they see that the Association has continued opportunities for them.

In MPLA, these two offices are the only ones elected by the entire MPLA membership. Other important positions are filled in a variety of ways. Each of the twelve states in the Association has a representative who is a voting member of both the MPLA Board and their state association Board. The State Representative is selected by the state association, which in AzLA's case is an election via the membership. For this position, it pays to know both MPLA and AzLA, and to be known in your state.

In addition to the Executive Officers and the State Representatives, MPLA maintains a number of Committees (Awards, Communications, Leadership Institute, Membership, and Professional Development) that exist to support the membership and "promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities." Participation on these Committees starts with a desire to get involved in these issues on a regional level. Professional development is not an Arizona-only issue, and by contributing to a regional organization you have an opportunity to do good things on a larger scale while working with amazing people from all kinds of libraries throughout a large swath of the country.

See what positions are available at the [MPLA Manual of Procedure](#), get involved, and perhaps in a couple of years we will be congratulating you on being elected to an executive office in MPLA!

[Dan Stanton](#)  
MPLA Representative  
480-965-1798

## Apply for MPLA 2014 Leadership Institute

The next [MPLA Leadership Institute](#) will run from May 4-9, 2014 in Estes Park, Colorado. If you see yourself as a leader on the job or within your library association, then this institute will help you to hone the necessary set of skills and increase your insight into leadership aspects from any level. You must [apply](#) by November 1, 2013.

The 9th MPLA Leadership Institute will again be facilitated by nationally known

organizational development consultant Maureen Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan has over 25 years of experience in leadership development and is the immediate Past President of the American Library Association. She helped establish the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute and is a faculty member for its annual program.

Applicants must satisfy the following criteria to be considered:

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## Apply for MPLA 2014 Leadership Institute (cont.)

- Be employed in a library organization in MPLA's 12-state region
- A current member of one of MPLA's 12 affiliated state library associations
- Have a minimum of 5 years in a library-related job with progressive experience
- Have a record of experience that demonstrates leadership potential
- Are expected to continue their contribution to the profession
- Have a thoughtfully completed application
- Two letters of recommendation



*Estes Park, Colorado. What a view!*

**Anali Perry** [leadership@mpla.us](mailto:leadership@mpla.us).

### Links:

[2014 MPLA Leadership Institute Info](#)

[2012 MPLA Leadership Attendees](#)

[Previous MPLA Leadership Institute Attendees, Mentors and Photos](#)

Questions, contact [Aubrey Madler](#).

[Adriane Juarez](#) and [Anali Perry](#) are Co-Chairs of the [MPLA Leadership Institute Committee](#)

### Note:

I'm currently the MPLA AZ Representative. I attended the first MPLA Leadership Institute in 2002, attended the 2012 Institute as a Mentor, and served as Chair/Co-chair of the Leadership Institute Committee from 2009-2012. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions:

[Dan Stanton](#)

Government Information Librarian  
Arizona State University  
480-965-1798

Registration costs are \$550 for MPLA members and \$650 for nonmembers. These fees include lodging (based on double-occupancy) and all meals. Attendees must pay for their own transportation costs. Individual libraries, state libraries, and state associations have assisted attendees with registration and/or transportation costs in the past. It is up to the individual attendees to pursue these or other sources of financial assistance.

Thirty participants will be selected through a process involving the 12 states and the MPLA Leadership Institute Committee. Notifications will be sent by December 15, 2013.

### Contact:

**Aubrey Madler** [coordinator@mpla.us](mailto:coordinator@mpla.us),  
**Adriane Juarez** [leadership@mpla.us](mailto:leadership@mpla.us), or

“If you see yourself as a leader on the job or within your library association, then this institute will help you to hone the necessary set of skills and increase your insight into leadership aspects from any level. “

## ALA Annual Conference Highlights

Thanks to the Arizona State Library's Continuing Education Grants, I was able to attend the American Library Association's 2013 Annual Conference in Chicago this July. This year's theme was *Transforming our Libraries, Ourselves*. As always, the conference was filled with thousands of librarians, authors, vendors, library lovers and readers, all under the same roof sharing new products, technologies, and amazing ideas. If you missed a program or you just wanted to chat about it, it was easy to check your Twitter feed for updates. Alice Walker, Oliver Stone, Ping Fu, Brandon Sanderson, Second City and Janice Ian were just a few of the many authors and entertainers to join us. Every con-

ference gives away lots of cool freebies. My favorite this year was my *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* umbrella. Along with the great swag, there were technology demonstrations, author panels, book signings, and libraries presenting the amazing things they have accomplished this year.

Chicago is an amazing city. If you get the opportunity to attend an American Library Association's Annual Conference in the future, it is an experience not to be missed.

### [Shari Durst](#)

Librarian II  
Mesa Public Library

## ALA Chicago 2013: Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves

This year's American Library Association conference took place in Chicago with the theme *Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves*. Due to the generous support from the Arizona State Library, I was able to attend after receiving a Professional Development Scholarship. As a school librarian, it can be difficult to participate in library-specific professional development with funding not always available for attendance. This was an amazing opportunity and an incredible, inspiring experience. Over 10,000 librarians from every aspect of the field gathered to celebrate literacy and share experiences and resources. Were you unable to attend? It's not too late to benefit from the many resources. ALA encouraged its many presenters to provide materials available online; any session

with handouts can be found [here](#).



Chicago Cultural Center, formerly the Public library.

Many of the sessions I attended focused on school librarianship, and I walked away with new ideas ready to be implemented in my own library this year. [20 Programs Under 20](#) offered specific, affordable programs that can be implemented in a public or school library.

[Take 10 with Tweens and Teens](#) gave creative and fun program ideas such as blackout poetry done with discarded books, zombie makeup how to, and fan culture programs.

Another session dealt with the importance of using data to document the instructional impact of any implemented

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## Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves (cont.)

programs. This session also provided the PowerPoint through an [interactive wiki](#).

In addition to program presentations, attendees had the opportunity to hear from well known authors and visit a huge exhibit hall of vendors, poster sessions, and author events. Having the opportunity to sit in the second row and hear Alice Walker speak and read from her latest book was the highlight of the program for me.

Professional development is an integral

part to growing throughout our careers in libraries. Take advantage of the State Library Scholarship program this year to attend a local, state, or even national conference for continuing education. More information about this program can be found [online](#). Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the scholarship or this year's ALA conference.

[Pamela Gautier, MLS](#)

School Librarian, Amphitheater School District  
Tucson, Arizona

## Ideas and Things: 2013 ALA Conference Summary

Thanks to a continuing education scholarship from the Library Development Division, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, I attended the 2013 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago and was exposed to a world of ideas and things.

Ideas, the essence of any library's origin and mission, moved me to consider new concepts and approaches to issues faced by libraries and the world. Jaron Lanier, author of *Who Owns the Future?*, shared his view of this networked society and his concept for building the middle class by economically rewarding people for the plethora of data/information we generate used by giant corporations. Temple Grandin, author of *The Autistic Brain: Thinking Across the Spectrum*, shared the workings of the autistic brain and the importance of a diversity of brain types collaborating on projects. In **YA Authors Decode Dystopia**, four noted authors of a teen- (and long-time personal-) favorite genre shared that dystopia matters because it reflects how teens see the world, de-

scribes their internal lives, tells the truth about "what's hard," and helps teens feel they can survive. In **Beyond Brainstorming: Making More Effective Decisions**, a consultant addressed problems to avoid and strategies to employ as we make important decisions at a furious, simultaneous rate. I attended several inspiring sessions on programming ideas: **20 Programs Under \$20, Take Ten with Teens and Tweens, Late Nights at the Library: After-Hours Programming for Public Libraries**, and **How to Plan and Run a Successful Human Library: Promoting Understanding, One Conversation at a Time**. Numerous poster sessions (I found them whenever they were open) shared programming and service success stories and research findings from colleagues nationwide. Additional conference guests including Steven Levitt, Alice Walker, Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick, Giada de Laurentis, and Janis Ian helped me appreciate ideas, poetry, passions, privacy concerns, and the importance and safety for ideas in libraries. **Book on Fire: Celebrating the**

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**"I attended several inspiring sessions on programming ideas: 20 Programs Under \$20, Take Ten with Teens and Tweens..."**

## Ideas and Things... (cont.)

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fahrenheit 451

brought out the ongoing relevance of Ray Bradbury's work and the continuing menace of censorship where ideas are threatened.

Like ideas, things were everywhere at the ALA conference. The Maker Revolution is real, with stories and helping hands throughout the sessions and the exhibit hall. For me, Ping Fu, author of *Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds*, set the tone by discussing her manufacturing roots in Communist China, her escape, and her development and products of Geomagic, a 3D modeling company in the US. In fact, she wore a 3D-printed scarf, belt, and shoes! A **Maker Showcase** featured libraries and companies spotlighting maker spaces and tools – circuits, sewing, carpentry, small manufacturing – all teaching problem-solving skills in the library. **Get STEM Connected: Bring Free Education Re-**

**sources into Your Library Programming and Maker Nation: Providing STEM Programming Through Partnership** let attendees learn about grants and projects including IMLS funding and [Star Net](#) activities with [the Allen County Public Library](#), the whys and hows of creating a maker space or STEM-related programming, and strategies for success. The name of the game is collaboration and shared resources.

This barely scrapes the surface of my experience and learning at conference. Visit ALA Connect for handouts from these and many other sessions. To explore more of what I've shared, please feel free to contact me.

### [Sandy Rizzo](#)

Librarian III

Mesa Public Library, Red Mountain Branch

## Transforming Our Libraries in Innovative Ways

Thanks to the continuing education scholarship from Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records' Library Development Division, I attended the ALA conference in Chicago. The conference theme, "Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves," is a timely one for libraries that face 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges yet are uniquely positioned to be conveners and facilitators of community innovation, positive change, and collaboration.

Author Steven Levitt, the opening general session speaker, regaled us with stories and challenged us to break convention and "*Think Like a Freak*," also the title of his upcoming book. The closing general session featured award-

winning actress and Nancy Drew/Encyclopedia Brown inspired author Octavia Spencer, who delighted the audience and discussed her upcoming first novel, *Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective: The Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit*. The book is about a "12-year-old Brooklyn vigilante with a black belt, who has moved to Tennessee after her mother dies and must solve a mystery in the town."

**The Promise of Libraries Transforming Communities: A Presidential Initiative Update** featured ALA President Maureen Sullivan and Richard Harwood, President and Founder of the Harwood

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"The closing general session featured award-winning actress and Nancy Drew/Encyclopedia Brown inspired author Octavia Spencer, who delighted the audience and discussed her upcoming first novel..."

## Transforming Our Libraries... (cont.)

Institute of Public Innovation. This program highlighted ALA's "[groundbreaking libraries-as-change-agents](#)" multi-phased initiative to engage librarians in finding innovative solutions to community issues utilizing tools and training from Harwood Institute. This method involves shifting the library from an internal to external orientation, focusing on community aspirations, and being intentionally mindful of community engagement choices and decisions. The practice is for librarians to listen deeply, engage people through their aspirations, and restore our emotions about the library profession.

The vendor exhibits provided the opportunity to connect with vendors, preview new or upgraded products for our staff and patrons, and meet authors who autographed their books or listen to them read selections from their books. Many advance reader copies of books and other resources were distributed.

My favorite programs were **Mark Frauenfelder and Maker Monday** and **Makerspaces: Creating, Exploring, Pitfalls** which presented a look at the history of making, ideas for maker spaces and programming, and ways to engage makers in our communities. See Mark's [BoingBoing](#) and [www.makezine.com](http://www.makezine.com) for ideas. The Maker Showcase was another great place to collect ideas from

other libraries who are offering maker projects and Maker Faire events. Creative and innovative library promotional items from libraries were on display at one event.

Other great programs included **The Promise of Libraries Transforming Communities** with Dan Cohen, Founding Executive Director of the Digital Public Library of America, which highlighted recent updates and future plans for [DPLA](#), and author Catherine Hakala-Ausperk's *Communicate with Confidence: One Year to Success*, which included tips on communicating in difficult situations.

A highlight of the trip was visiting the Harold Washington branch of the [Chicago Public Library](#) to see their Innovation Lab and YouMedia spaces, a shining example of how a library can engage their community.

Thank you, Arizona State Library for this invaluable personal and professional experience. I am happy to share additional details. I am proud to be a librarian and have renewed inspiration to help transform my community.

### [Catherine \(Cat\) Strong](#)

Managing Librarian  
Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr Library  
Pima County Public Library

## ALA Chicago: Conference Highlights

I had the opportunity to attend the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois, made possible with a continuing education scholarship from the Library Development Division, Arizona State Library,

Archives and Public Records. The conference was exciting! I attended several sessions and meetings and met Octavia Spencer during the Closing General Session. I received an autograph copy of

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## ALA Chicago: Conference Highlights (cont.)

her first novel, *Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective: The Case of the Time-Capsule Bandit*.

While I was at the ALA Conference, I attended the American Indian Library Association (AILA) Executive meeting. My term as a Member at Large was up, and I handed the reigns over to another AILA member. If anyone would like to learn more about AILA, please [visit their website](#). Below are just some of the interesting sessions I was able to attend.

**Conversation Starters: The 90-Second Newbery Film Festival.** From the program: The 90-Second Newbery Film Festival is an annual video contest in which young filmmakers create movies that tell the entire story of a Newbery award-winning book in 90 seconds or less. I saw some great short films from youth from all ages. Some of the short films shown: *The Giver*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, and *Onion John*. Please [visit the website](#) or contact [kennedyjames@gmail.com](mailto:kennedyjames@gmail.com) for more information. The deadline for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual 90-Second Newbery Film Festival is December 10, 2013.

**Late Nights at the Library: After-Hours Programming for Public Libraries** was full and I had to sit on the floor! The library staff made an awesome and entertaining presentation. In addition, they had another program the following day, which I could not attend because it was overflowing. The [Oak Park Public Library](#) staff offered practical tips on everything from getting permission from the board to marketing to new audiences to turning a program into a fundraiser. Some of the afterhours programs included speed dating, a spelling bee

for grown-ups, team trivia nights, and offering alcohol at programs!

**Cherokee Language Technology: The Syllabary and the Nation's History of Technological Adoption** presented by Roy Boney, Jr., Language Technologist of the Cherokee Nation Education Services Group, was an AILA sponsored program. Tribal libraries often play a role in language revitalization and the presenter explained the program and how they create innovative solutions for the Cherokee language on all digital platforms including smartphones, laptops, desktops, tablets and social network media such as Facebook and Twitter.

Last but not least, as I think all libraries face this dilemma was a session titled **Attracting Reluctant Male Readers** was offered at ALA by author-librarians Barbara Binns (public librarian) and James Klise (school librarian). Both authors offered a quick book review and hand-outs of titles they reviewed and recommend. The presenters represent populations (gay and African-American) that are traditionally under served. Hand-outs disappeared by the time their presentations were concluded, but James offered his Twitter handle, and I was able to contact him for his booklist and [his website](#). Some of the titles on James' list were: *The Burn Journals*, *Into the Wild*, *Monster: the Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member*, *Fallen Angels*, *The Morgue and Me*, and *Unwind*.

[Melanie S. Toledo](#)

Library Manager  
Ak-Chin Indian Community



**Octavia Spencer at a book signing.**