



Arizona Library Association Newsletter

Volume 47, No. 1

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ALA Scholarships' Deadline is March 1

Scholarship money is available for future librarians! ALA has more than \$300,000 for students who are studying library science or school library media at the master's degree level. Scholarships typically range from \$2,500 to \$6,500 per student per year.

The application and instructions are available [online](#). The application deadline is March 1, 2014. Official transcripts must be received on or

before February 1, 2014.

If you have questions about the application process, you may contact the ALA Scholarship Clearinghouse at 1-800-545-2433 ext. 4279 or scholarships@ala.org.

The ALA Scholarship deadline is approaching fast, so do not delay. Apply now!

Library + Lions Club = A Sight To See

Pima County Public Library (PCPL) has been working since June 2013 with the Tucson Downtown Lions Club to hand out over 3000 pairs of reading glasses to library patrons who need them.

Through a recycling program called ALERT (Arizona Lions Eyeglass Recycling Terminal, Inc.), the Lions Club collects and cleans used reading glasses, then sorts them by prescription before distributing them. More than 30,000 pairs of reading glasses have been given away so far in the Southern Arizona region.

Librarian Karen Greene says the partnership between the Lions and the Library is a win-win for getting glasses out into the community. Reading glasses are currently available at the

[Joel D. Valdez Main Library](#), plus twenty-two of the branches around Pima County. In addition, there are eyeglass collection boxes at thirteen of the branches to give back to the Lions. "Patrons can ask for glasses at the library desk, or if our staff happens to notice that they are squinting or having a hard time reading something, we might offer a pair to someone," said Greene.

The Lions Club has already collaborated with PCPL's [Bookbike](#), a service that gives free books to the community. Greene said that some of the Library's Bookbike visits allow staff and volunteers the opportunity to provide free glasses to people who need them to

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Message from the President

The Arizona Library Association Stands By Intellectual Freedom

I would like to begin my missive to you by enlightening you on how your association is supporting freedom of information. The AzLA Executive Board passed a resolution early in 2013 which supported the American Library Association's opposition to the actions taken by the Tucson Unified School District in response to the dissolution of the Mexican American Studies (MAS) program in the Tucson Unified School District, and the subsequent removal of books that were associated with the MAS curriculum.

The ALA Resolution Opposing Restriction of Access to Materials and Open Inquiry in Ethnic and Cultural Studies Programs in Arizona reads, in part:

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association:

- 1) Condemns the suppression of open inquiry and free expression caused by closure of ethnic and cultural studies programs on the basis of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- 2) Condemns the restriction of access to educational materials associated with ethnic and cultural studies programs.
- 3) Urges the Arizona legislature to pass HB 2654, "An Act Repealing Sections 15-111 and 15-112, Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to School Curriculum."

In November, the Freedom to Read Foundation filed an *amicus* with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Arce v. Huppenthal*, a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Arizona Revised Statute § 15-112(A).

Because of an email glitch, the AzLA Board did not learn about the filing in time to join in, but we will probably have a chance to show our support in some way at a later date. Below is a press release from the Freedom to Read Foundation, discussing the lawsuit:

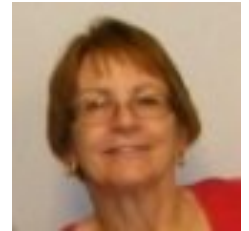
Freedom to Read Foundation files brief in lawsuit challenging Arizona's Ethnic Studies ban

November 26, 2013

Contact:

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bjones@ala.org
(312) 280-4222

The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) yesterday joined with several other library, education, and free speech organizations in filing an amicus brief with the Ninth



Ann Boles
AzLA President

“The AzLA Executive Board passed a resolution early in 2013 which supported the American Library Association's opposition to the actions taken by the Tucson Unified School District...”

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President's Message (cont.)

Circuit Court of Appeals in Arce v. Huppenthal, a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Arizona Revised Statute § 15-112(A). The brief argues that the statute, which led to the disbanding of Tucson's Mexican American Studies (MAS) program, violates Arizona students' First Amendment rights to receive information and is unconstitutionally overbroad.

Following the law's 2010 passage, the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) was notified that its MAS program violated the statute. Facing the prospect of losing a significant amount of state funding, TUSD had no real choice other than to dismantle the program. As a result, the MAS program ceased to exist and books were removed from classrooms and banned from use in instruction.

A federal lawsuit, including students from the MAS program, was filed challenging the statute on both First Amendment and Equal Protection grounds. The federal district court rejected the State's claim that curriculum decisions constitute "government speech" over which they have absolute discretion and held that the statute's ban on courses that are "designed primarily for pupils of a particular ethnic group" was unconstitutional. Nonetheless, the court upheld the rest of the statute, finding it did not violate the First Amendment, nor was it overly broad. The student plaintiffs appealed to the Ninth Circuit and invited FTRF to submit an amicus brief.

"In submitting this brief, the Freedom to Read Foundation is standing up for the right of all Arizona students to a curriculum based on educational merit, not political motivation," said Executive Director Barbara M. Jones. "Students in the MAS program improved their educational performance. And there is no evidence that those students learned 'racial resentment' or discovered an interest in 'overthrowing the U.S. government,' as the proponents of Arizona HB 2281 contended. Providing young people with access to a wide range of ideas, including those about different cultures, helps them to think critically, become better citizens, and succeed in family and workplace life. Censoring ideas promotes ignorance and fear."

Joining FTRF in the suit are the American Library Association, American Booksellers Association for Free Expression, Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, National Association for Ethnic Studies, National Coalition Against Censorship, National Council of Teachers of English, and REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking. To view the amicus brief, visit www.ftrf.org/?Current_Cases.

Founded in 1969, the Freedom to Read Foundation is a non-profit legal and educational organization affiliated with the American Library Association. FTRF protects and defends the First Amendment to the Constitution and supports the right of libraries to collect—and individuals to access—information.

[Ann Boles](#)

AzLA President

Library + Lions Club = A Sight To See (cont.)

read and do other tasks.

“These eyeglasses are not only helpful for those who need them, but many of the frames are very fashionable,” said Greene.

Lions Clubs across the country offer

recycled reading glasses. Contact your local Lions Club and start your partnership up today – your community will thank you!

William Bevill and Karen Greene
Pima County Public Library

The Children’s Author/Illustrator Network

The Author/Illustrator Network is updated with each edition of the newsletter on the [AzLA website](#). Look for the Children’s Author/Illustrator Network on the AzLA homepage under the “Tools and Resources” heading in the toolbar.

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.

Library Spotlight

Phoenix Children’s Hospital Medical Library

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.

[Phoenix Children’s Hospital](#) (PCH) is Arizona’s only licensed freestanding children’s hospital and was recognized in 2013 as a “Top Children’s Hospital,” based on the Leapfrog Group survey comparing hospitals’ performance on national standards for safety, quality, and efficiency. Additionally PCH was again ranked by U.S. News & World Report’s Best Children’s Hospitals. Phoenix Children’s has two libraries: the [Medical Library](#), headed by Medical Library Manager, Kathy Zeblisky, and the [Emily Center Family Health Library](#) for patient education, staffed by three Registered Nurses with training in consumer health information. Both libraries are located at [Phoenix Children’s](#)

[main hospital campus](#), Thomas Road and 20th Street in Phoenix, AZ.

For Arizona residents, [Emily Center](#) staff can respond to information requests via phone, email, or by mailing information packets. On site the Emily Center features a library with thousands of books, videos, CDs, and articles, including materials for children. Emily



Outreach Bulletin Board and recent PCH Authors publications at the Medical Library entrance.

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Library Spotlight (cont.)

Center materials are searchable via the [Phoenix Public Library](#) online catalog.

Emily Center staff include Registered Nurses: Eileen Mitchell, Joy Macleod, and Brianna Scott.

Learn more about their work from this National Library of Medicine, Pacific Southwest Region Midday Oasis webinar recording,

[“Consumer Health Resources: Views from the Field,”](#) or view the [Emily Center slides from the webinar.](#)

[The Medical Library](#) is led by Kathy Zeblysky who manages every aspect of the physical and virtual library, open 24/7 by badge and key code to hospital staff and registered volunteers. Kathy staffs the library 7:00am – 3:30pm, Monday-Friday. Kathy also provides support for the Emily Center such as expert searching and managing interlibrary loan services for both libraries. The Medical Library’s mission is to support the research, educational, and professional information needs of Phoenix Children’s employees, from staff, students, and residents, to nurses, physicians, and administrators.

Kathy uses the Medical Library space in the PCH campus Administration Building to best effect: promoting library services with eye-catching bookmarks that change each month, hosting a popular Banned Books display, and providing a

variety of reading, discussion, meeting areas, and research spaces within the



The Phoenix Children’s Hospital Medical Library meeting and reading area is a multiuse space.

one-room library collection area. Kathy’s regularly updated PCH Authors bulletin board at the library entrance makes in-house research readily available for a quick overview or to borrow for in-depth reading. In addition to typical library services, Kathy provides

additional support for PCH, such as: specialized programming for hospital faculty and staff, workshops and programs for residents and students, and participation in hospital committees and working groups. The medical library’s online collection is supplemented by resources available through the [Arizona Health Information Network](#) (AZHIN), and its physical collection is a designated disaster management location if pediatric hospital libraries in other regions lose access to their collections during a natural disaster.

The Medical Library and The Emily Center of Phoenix Children’s combine to provide online and physical collections focused on health information and research, expert research services for patients and for PCH staff and students, and critical information that saves lives through support for hospital, staff, and patient understanding and decision making.

[Ginny Pannabecker](#)

“The medical library’s... physical collection is a designated disaster management location if pediatric hospital libraries in other regions lose access to their collections during a natural disaster.”

Library Staff Spotlight

Kathy Zeblisky

Many hospitals and healthcare providers see tremendous value and return on investment in employing medical librarians for research support, data management, and maintaining access to current resources. [A recent article in JAMA \(Journal of the American Medical Association\)](#) describes medical librarians as critically needed experts in an environment that requires fast, reliable, up-to-date, and comprehensive health care research: from long-term evidence-based practice projects to time-sensitive urgent care decision-making. Kathy Zeblisky, Medical Library Manager for [Phoenix Children's Hospital Medical Library](#) in Phoenix, AZ, meets all types of research needs for the PCH community, while managing online and physical collections and providing library services and tailored programming for physicians, nurses, residents, students, and other staff.



Kathy Zeblisky, Medical Library Manager for Phoenix Children's Hospital Medical Library.

Kathy treats her work at PCH's Medical Library as her small business: she stays on top of trends in information management and technology, and keeps current with issues and research in health care overall, and in children's health. Kathy responds to her customers with timely, high-quality research and information services, including when she notices a need, such as providing health care industry data and comparative methods updates for hospital administrators. According to Kathy, there really is no 'typical day,' in the life of a medical librarian. Literature searches and docu-

ment requests occur daily, for example, but each request is different, and Kathy is frequently out of the physical library to participate in committees, workgroups, or other areas within PCH. Kathy provides educational programming, including support for University of Arizona (UA) medical students as a

Clinical Education Librarian, and hands-on Evidence Based Medicine workshops for monthly resident conferences, in partnership with Rebecca Birr, Library Manager at Maricopa Integrated Health System.

Prior to medical librarianship, Kathy, who has a BA in Anthropology and a Masters of Business Administration in Finance, worked on Wall Street. Upon moving to Arizona, Kathy began her Master of Library Science degree at the University of Arizona. She planned to become a business librarian, but during the program she took a part-time position at John C. Lincoln Hospital Medical Library and loved it. She's been a medical librarian ever since! An active member of the [Medical Library Association \(MLA\)](#), [Medical Library Group of Southern California & Arizona \(MLGSCA\)](#), and [Central Arizona Biomedical Libraries \(CABL\)](#), Kathy values the networking, educational, and professional opportunities that these associations provide. Kathy is also accredited with the [Academy of Health Information Professionals \(AHIP\)](#) at the Distinguished Member level and highly recommends this pro-

“Prior to medical librarianship, Kathy, who has a BA in Anthropology and a Masters of Business Administration in Finance, worked on Wall Street.”

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Library Staff Spotlight (cont.)

professional development program for health sciences librarians.

Kathy's goals include maintaining and refining her current services and practices to provide the best clinical, professional, and educational support for the PCH community. For anyone considering medical librarianship, Kathy says, "Although you don't always know the specific effects of your work and how it makes a difference in patients' lives, the times when you do find out, it

makes you feel like a million bucks!" Medical librarians really can save lives. Kathy remembers this, takes it seriously, and enjoys working every day with the many dedicated people at Phoenix Children's.

Contact Info

[Kathy Zeblisky](#)

Medical Library Manager
Phoenix Children's Hospital, Medical Library
(602) 933-4248

YA Corner

Hunger Games Monopoly

Editors Note: This month's column has a guest writer, Kearsten LaBrozzi, teen librarian at the Main branch of the Glendale Public Library. Kearsten and her Teen Library Council created a life-size Monopoly focusing on the Hunger Games.

Here's what you're going to need:

- Game Board (20 poster boards, halved, w/ place names)
- Inflatable Dice
- Property Cards (cardstock)
- Monopoly money (borrowed from Monopoly game, or printed: 20 \$500, 20 \$100, 30 \$50, 50 \$20, and 40 of \$10, \$5, and \$1)
- 32 houses, 12 hotels
- 5 each of math, science, and trivia challenge cards (cardstock)
- Gift bags w/ parachute images taped on ("Sponsor parachutes" w/ random money amounts)
- Reaping bowl/container

First, we had to change names to Hunger Games properties (thank you teens and Wikipedia!), and with Mason Dam and Avenue of the Tributes instead of Trafalgar Square and Park Place, we pasted names, rent, and color strips to poster boards cut in half. We laminated our board pieces to keep them in good

condition, and then duct taped them down when we played.

My supervisor designed Hunger Games money and Victor pins for our winning team, as well as property cards (with rent values) for wheeling and dealing. We also printed images of houses and hotels, and found blow-up dice at a party store.

Our Teen Library Council (TLC) helped us make changes to the game board and game play to reflect both the books and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts, which our players LOVED!

Instead of Jail, we sent teams to "The Arena," where any kind of "minute-to-win-it" style games could work, and handed out sponsor "parachutes" as

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YA Corner (cont.)

prizes to winners. "The Reaping" took the place of Community Chest, Chance, the Taxes, and Go (they still collected \$200 when passing Go/ Reaping). When a team landed on The Reaping, they pulled a challenge card from the Reaping bowl, and then had one to two minutes to answer or risk the question going to the next team. Correct answers also won sponsor parachutes.

For the challenges, we used books in our collection for math and science trivia and our teens for the Hunger Games trivia (though there are many lists online). I used Sean Connolly's [The Book of Perfectly Perilous Math](#) (ISBN:

97807611637490), and a variety of science titles, paraphrasing a bit to apply them to the Hunger Games. For example, I shared Connolly's "Spend a Million" challenge (pg. 21) as, "You've survived the Hunger Games and received 1 million dollars. In protest, you

vow to spend it wastefully at a rate of \$.50 a second. About how many days would it take?" (23)

We only had 90 minutes, so we played by speed rules: the teens sorted themselves into teams of four, and we shuf-

fled and handed out the properties (with \$1500) to the teams at the game's start.

It's best to read through the Monopoly rules ahead of time, and if possible, recruit a Monopoly fan to help if questions come up during gameplay.

This is a fun and easy program to run, and although the prep is intensive, it's simple to package and share with others. For a longer description,

pictures and downloadable PDFs, please visit my post on [Teen Librarian's Toolbox!](#)

Kearsten LaBrozzi

Teen Librarian
Glendale Public Library



Teens enjoy playing the Hunger Games Monopoly game board that they helped to create.

Call for Library Renovation Information

Has your library recently been renovated? Then brag about it!

AzLA would like to help get the word out by featuring your library in our newslet-

ter. Let us know about your renovation project by sending pictures and information about whom to contact to [Kim Belair](#).

Emerging Technologies

Choosing a Tablet

This past November my current tablet, a Toshiba Thrive, had passed two years of service. Due to the rapid development of mobile technology, two years is about all you can expect to get before you hear the call for an upgrade. One of the first things I noticed was that apps became harder to update without error. The freezes and reboots became more frequent. This wasn't happening because of a breakdown in the tablet so much as the evolution of the software beyond what the tablet could cope with. Those monthly and weekly updates do take a toll; while we enjoy the increased functionality of the app, there is a price to pay. Facing all this, I began my search.

My first criterion was easy. I have too much invested in Google and Android to go back to an iPad. If had I been an iPad user then the search would have been much shorter. Another thing to consider is that I do a lot of writing on my tablet. A seven or eight inch screen meant a keyboard that was a little too compact for my hands. I was sticking with a ten inch screen. Current top shelf components meant the tablet had to have:

- A quad core processor
- 2GB Ram
- 16, 32 or 64 GB expandable storage
- Minimum resolution of 1920 x 1200

I was really interested in getting a Nexus device; these are devices free of extra software and meant to deliver a pure Android experience. The Nexus 10 by Samsung released in 2012 is still a top

contender among Android tablets but lacks the expandable storage. Rumors of a new version roared through the internet around Black Friday but died shortly after. While waiting, I came upon the Samsung Note 10.1 2014 edition. With a name like that I expected it to be cutting edge and it is, meeting all my criteria. While not a Nexus I knew some users of Samsung tablets and have liked what I have seen.

While what you are willing to pay for a tablet should guide your decision, I left price out of the discussion for one reason. Having spent three years with some sort of tablet, I know I rely on the device for much of what I do online, for work and my writing so spending a little more was not a problem. The good news is, especially with Android tablets, you can find something that will meet your needs at a price that you can be comfortable with. My wife, for example, liked the Note but not the price. She replaced her Thrive with an Asus Memo Pad HD 10 for a couple hundred dollars less.

If you are shopping for a tablet think first about what you will use it for and how much you care to spend. Do some research reading reviews by pros and users alike. Then, get out to Best Buy or Staples to try out a few different sizes and see which screen size you like best. After doing all that, you should wind up with just the tablet for your needs; that is, at least for the next two years.

[Vinny Alascia](#)

“Due to the rapid development of mobile technology, two years is about all you can expect to get before you hear the call for an upgrade.”



From The Mountain Plains Library Association

The MPLA is coming! The MPLA is coming!

Well AzLA, I have a confession to make...I've been seeing other Associations. ALA. ACRL. MPLA. Well, in the case of MPLA, it's more than just seeing, it's been pretty intimate; but that shouldn't be a surprise, since I am the AzLA/MPLA liaison. But, let me try to explain...

I've been a member of AzLA since 2000, attending and presenting at conferences, serving on and leading committees, and writing for the newsletter. Obviously, I enjoy working with a wide range of AzLA colleagues in attempting to address the issues and needs of libraries and library staff in Arizona, as I recently threw my hat in the ring and was fortunate to be selected as your President-elect.

Way back in 2001, AzLA shared its annual conference with this 'MPLA' group. I hadn't heard of them before, but it was kind of interesting having library folks in town from such exotic places as Oklahoma and Montana. I recall attending sessions and having lunch with some of these 'outside' folks, as a newly minted Gov Docs librarian. I remember thinking 'good people doing interesting things', but when the conference was over, that was it, I put my head down and got back to work. A few months later I picked up the AzLA Newsletter and saw that this 'MPLA' was offering a new Leadership Institute. Hmmmm...

I applied, was accepted, and went. I met

librarians from the Mountain Plains Region, I met librarians from Arizona, and I reconnected with a Gov Docs librarian that I had met at the AzLA/MPLA Conference. I met library leaders like Maureen Sullivan and Dr. Mary Bushing, and Mentors like Dorothy Leigl, Lesley Boughton, and Marilyn Hinshaw. I met school librarians, public librarians, prison librarians, academic librarians, law librarians, rural librarians, urban librarians, and suburban librarians. In the remote setting of Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, we worked hard and dug deep. For five days we lived library leadership, we focused on professional development like I'd never experienced before. With diverse colleagues I learned about libraries and learned about myself. I'd like to think I learned valuable lessons about leadership, specifically, that while authority puts you *in charge*, it doesn't make you a leader. You can get involved and affect change from any level.

When I jumped at the opportunity to get involved in MPLA and joined in 2002, the first thing I noticed is that it's different than AzLA. While AzLA focused on library type, specialization, or issue within Arizona, MPLA seemed intent on improving the educational and professional development opportunities of library workers and our state associations in general, through grants, networking opportunities, presentation opportunities, and other means of professional contribution. There are a lot of

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“While AzLA focused on library type, specialization, or issue within Arizona, MPLA seemed intent on improving the educational and professional development opportunities of library workers and our state associations in general...”

From MPLA (cont.)

similarities in how libraries do their thing in a 12 state area, but also a lot to be learned from a variety of approaches to the common issues faced.

I have traveled to and presented at conferences in exotic locations (Jackson Hole, Lake Tahoe), served on professional development and leadership institute committees, and tried to introduce AzLA folks to MPLA. I have collaborated with a wide range of people who are dedicated to their state associations, to ALA, to specialized associations, but also dedicated to MPLA. I think the dedication to MPLA comes from its unique position of promoting 'the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.' As members get involved, they see the

results of their efforts as individuals rise and contribute to the library world. We also benefit ourselves, through powerful networks and friendships. I have seen job opportunities, professional references (including tenure evaluations), and collaborative research come about as by-products of the work MPLA does on behalf of the profession.

So heads up - The MPLA is coming to Arizona for the 2014 Conference! I advise you to take a look, attend sessions, mingle, and engage in professional discussion and friendly conversation. I hope you'll experience why our tagline is, "Big Horizons, Close Community".

[Dan Stanton](#)

MPLA Representative
480-965-1798

Networking & Learning at AzLA

Beckoned to the land of the People of the Sun, librarians gathered together for a three-day conference at the Fort McDowell Conference Center. The opening session on Thursday, November 14, began with words from Yavapai Council Member Paul Russell. "M'hahm jik'gah," he said, which literally means "What do you see?" For a conference with the theme of libraries in an e-society, this seemed be an invitation to open our eyes to the world before us – to look carefully at the changing face of librarianship. Guest speaker Jamie LaRue, former Director of the Douglas County Libraries, also spoke about vision and the future of librarianship. He said, "Figure out the questions, and we can add value." In order to figure out the questions, we first have to see what's going on around us and see where the

gaps lie. From this, we can move forward with greater impact.

Keeping this in mind, I attended a variety of sessions, opening my eyes to a number of new eTools while learning from the wisdom of the librarian presenters. Whether laughing along to pirate lingo from Pirate Mango Language, dreaming of a field trip to the Poetry VOCA library, or brainstorming ideas for an LSTA grant submission, the conference shed light on many opportunities for professional growth. During and between these sessions, I mingled and made connections with other knowledgeable librarians, discovered the potential of LSTA grant opportunities, made note of cool new websites, mingled with professionals who have been

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"Whether laughing along to pirate lingo from Pirate Mango Language, dreaming of a field trip to the Poetry VOCA library, or brainstorming ideas for an LSTA grant submission, the conference shed light on many opportunities for professional growth."

Networking & Learning at AzLA (cont.)

in the field for decades and also with students eager to launch their own careers, partook in an e-reader roundtable, socialized near the pool at the evening reception, explored the exhibit hall, and learned about additional opportunities to become a more active participant in AzLA.

Ultimately, the most valuable part of the AzLA conference for me was something that was reiterated at the Closing Meeting. As librarians, we have a wealth of information to share, but that knowledge cannot be properly disseminated if we just sit quietly in our brick and mortar buildings hoping someone will come to us. We must go out into our communities and show how we can help. If we want to have lasting impact, we need to use the tools of our virtual society to enhance and extend the reach of our in-person expertise. Together we can foster the bonds that will sustain us as we change to meet the

needs of our dynamic world. One of the first steps to doing this is to network. Although I networked as much as I could, I wish there were even more opportunities to do so at the conference. Perhaps in the future we can have longer sessions that allow short break-out times so we can get to know the attendees at our tables. After all, the more relationships we form, the better our web of expertise and the further our reach into our communities and beyond.

I am grateful for the scholarship from the Arizona Library Association that made attendance at this conference possible. With all of this inspiration, you may see my name on next year's presenter list! If you need any information about the conference, feel free to contact me.

[Kim Belair](#)

Technology Specialist & Librarian I
Mesa Public Library

2013 AzLA Annual Conference Reflections

Thanks to a continuing education scholarship from the Library Development Division of the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, I was able to attend this year's AzLA conference.

The conference was packed with a variety of programming with presenters sharing their knowledge and ideas with us.

Jamie LaRue was an excellent keynote speaker. Ideas he shared that resonated with me are the fact that sometimes the opposition to change isn't always external, but internal and people resist change because they want a say in the

change. As he stated, "Anything is Possible."

The preconference program on Basic Cataloging with RDA (Resource Description and Access) was beneficial. The goal for this form of cataloging is geared more towards how a person would search for an item.

I attended eight programs and there were several others I would have liked to attend. Here is a synopsis of three of my favorite programs attended:

Creative Community Connections: Tempe Public Library's Outreach. Tempe

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2013 AzLA Annual Conference Reflections (cont.)

Public library has taken some of their discarded items and placed them in the three Tempe Community Centers. In addition to the small collections available, they also provide programming for all ages. One great nugget from this presentation was that this allows them to serve those who can't or won't visit a conventional library location.

From Being Helped to Being Hired: How Librarians Can Serve Job-Seekers. This program was presented by Prescott Public Library. The presenter gave tips on three levels of involvement depending upon what the library has available: staff, time and tools. We received handouts with 20 Tips for helping job-seekers, and samples of a Functional Resume, Cover Letter, and bookmarks. The bookmarks contained a list of available library materials related to job searching, employment websites, and tips for setting oneself apart from other applicants.

Arizona Case Law. This program presented an overview of the Arizona Court System, how Case Law differs from Statutory Law, how to find cases, read citations and more. I found the court structure to be interesting. Arizona courts include Municipal, Tax, Justice of the Peace, Superior, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court. This will be helpful when dealing with legal questions. Additionally, I think the Resume Review Clinic was a great addition. I learned many good tips to assist patrons who need resume assistance. This conference is a great opportunity to meet fellow library workers, get new ideas, and bring back the excitement for what I do daily. It reminds me that what I do is important and relevant.

Please contact me if you would like me to share any of the information learned at this conference.

[Chana Burney](#)

Page Public Library
928-645-4133

“Arizona courts include Municipal, Tax, Justice of the Peace, Superior, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court. This will be helpful when dealing with legal questions.”

AzLA Annual Conference Scholarship Report

As a recent transplant from Wisconsin to Arizona, I was so happy to have been awarded a scholarship to attend the Arizona Library Association's Annual Conference in Scottsdale. I tried to attend as many professional conferences as I could in Wisconsin, and was involved in the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation Scholarship Committee, Literary Awards Committee, and the Resource Sharing Roundtable. I couldn't wait to start networking and getting involved in AzLA!

To take full advantage of the conference

offerings, I opted to attend the pre-conference on Cataloging with RDA. Cataloging is something that I was never really drawn to, but something that I've ended up doing quite a lot of! So this preconference was very educational and professionally relevant to me.

Other sessions I attended included “Information Explosion, the Special Libraries Division Meeting,” “Opening Minds to Open Access,” “Simple User Research Methods,” and “Doing It Socially.” Of these, I especially enjoyed

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AzLA Annual Conference Scholarship Report (cont.)

learning about the digital library created by the librarians at the University of Phoenix in their session “Digital Libraries: A World of Pure Imagination.” Much of what they encountered will be directly applicable to my new position, though I have the added fun of dealing with classified materials!

My new position is so different from others I’ve held, I was really looking for connections between what I’m used to doing and this new venture into Special Librarianship on a military installation. Although the sessions I attended may not have all directly related to the type of librarianship I’m now doing, I found the networking opportunities invaluable and the suggestions I got around dinner tables and in between sessions to be

very helpful. To me, this has always been one of the key reasons for going to conferences. Yes, the sessions are wonderful and the speakers bring new ideas to the table, but the interactions one can have and the things one can learn about by simply striking up a conversation with a new person – there is a truly unsung value there!

Thank you once more to the scholarship committee for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference. I hope to continue my involvement with AzLA and I look forward to working with all the other members of this great organization!

[Erin Lorandos, MLIS](#)

Librarian

Fort Huachuca, AZ

2013 AzLA Conference: The Best Ever!

If you did not attend this year’s Arizona Library Association’s annual conference, which was held November 13th through 15th at the Radisson Fort McDowell Conference Center in Scottsdale, Arizona, you missed wonderful programs, conversations with authors, informative vendors, and even yoga! There was definitely something for everyone.

I had the opportunity again this year to serve on the conference committee as a co-author liaison. Serving on the committee affords me the opportunity to network with library staff from throughout the state, virtually, and in person.

Additionally, I had the pleasure of working with the Judy Goddard Award-winning authors and two of the Grand Canyon Award winners. Although several of the authors are from Arizona, the

conference also hosted two authors from other states. The conference also hosted other authors who presented programs and sat on author panels. All of these programs were well attended and well received by the audiences.

I had never before attended the Association’s business meeting, so it was an interesting experience. Tom Wilding, outgoing President, presided over the meeting. He announced the results of the recent election, including the President elect, Dan Stanton, and handed over the gavel to the incoming President, Ann Boles.

Jamie LaRue, the director of the Douglas County, Colorado, library system was the keynote speaker. His session cen-

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2013 AzLA Conference: The Best Ever! (cont.)

tered on looking toward the future for libraries: choose change, build a culture of risk taking, and admit your mistakes—all the while having fun. He also spoke about changes in book publishing, especially regarding e-publishing and its impact on library collections.

One new feature at this year's conference was the storyteller luncheon. Although there was a small group in attendance, the storyteller mesmerized everyone with an Irish tale. She also spoke about the fact that everyone is a storyteller, that a story is built of little pieces, and that librarians keep storytelling alive through our everyday work.

Finally, the Association's Professional Development Committee provided the attendees with the opportunity to receive professional development certificates for attending the overall conference and for attending specific sessions for the first time this year. Many took

advantage of having the certificates provided, thus showing the added value of our Library Association.

I found that the conference was a positive, rejuvenating experience for me. I always get new ideas ("Reach for the Skype: Using Technology to Connect Young Readers and Authors"), meet new people, and gain new confidence (as a facilitator for a panel). I would like to thank the Arizona State Library for the financial assistance that allowed me to experience this year's conference.

So, don't miss out on next year's conference. It will be a joint conference with the Mountain Plains Library Association at the Radisson Fort McDowell Conference Center. Be sure to mark your calendars!

[Cheryl A. McCurry](#)

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Rising to the Challenge! How a Conference Saved My Job

In November I got the chance to attend the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) conference in Hartford, CT – thanks to a Professional Development Scholarship from the Arizona State Library. The theme of the AASL conference was "Rising to the Challenge," and I had no idea how much it would apply to me until I got there and learned via email that my district might be eliminating my position as an elementary Teacher-Librarian due to major budget cuts. By the end of the conference, I knew I was not alone and even got help in developing a plan on how to convince stakeholders that our district

library program was important enough to fight for!

While at the conference, I attended workshops and sessions on transforming libraries into "Learning Commons," how other states are applying the new teacher evaluation model to librarians, partnerships between school and public libraries, the current state of eBooks and school libraries, and how to begin integrating eBooks and technology into the library. I also listened to presentations from such well-known authors as Toni Buzzeo, and made visits to out-

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"The theme of the AASL conference was 'Rising to the Challenge,' and I had no idea how much it would apply to me until I got there and learned via email that my district might be eliminating my position..."

Rising to the Challenge (cont.)

standing local school and public libraries. I came home feeling energized, buzzing with ideas and inspiration, and ready to fight to ensure the students in our district had a 21st century library program.

On my first day back to work, several colleagues and I met with our District Superintendent. He was so impressed

with our plan that he promised his support in helping to not only preserve the library (albeit with some budget cuts, but well short of elimination), but to help transform our district library program.

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AzLA/MPLA 2014 Conference Update

Hello, AzLA members! This is your 2014 Conference Planning team with a brief conference update! This year's planners are: Ginny Pannabecker, Arizona State University; Casey VanHaren, Prescott Valley Public; and Claudia Leon, Phoenix Public. Also joining us to represent MPLA are Annie Epperson, University of Northern Colorado and Dan Stanton, Arizona State University. We'll be working with AzLA President Ann Boles, many of you, and others from the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) to put together a great joint 2014 conference at the same location: the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Conference Center, November 12th - 14th. Our theme this year is "Libraries: the Best of the

West!" Look out soon in late February or early March for our Call for Programs and in the meantime be thinking about what *you* would like to submit or suggest seeing related to: showcasing best practices, unique collections, favorite outreach ideas, and other 'best of' examples from all types of libraries in our region, and regarding interactions between libraries and their communities: both in-person and online. We've seen many suggestions from the 2013 conference survey that we'll also keep in mind and if you have thoughts about the conference coming up or an interest in working on the committee in some way, let us know! Contact [Ginny Pannabecker](#).

We Want to See You!

A picture's worth a thousand words, and we want your pictures! If you have a stunning visual display, a great program idea, or something that makes your library unique, please snap a picture

and send it our way. Your bright idea could be featured in the next AzLA newsletter. Submit pictures by email to newsletter@azla.org.