Message from the President

Are you in a good place? Your Montana Library Association has arrived at one, thanks to its members. Offline 2014 set records for attendance and participation. The ideas created and knowledge shared rejuvenated everyone who trekked out to Carroll College in Helena. And, of course, it had to snow. It just would not be a Montana Library Association event unless it snows! Lorcan Dempsey, VP of OCLC Research & Chief Strategist made an inspiring keynote speech, and shared this comment by David Lankes, “The MISSION of LIBRARIANS is to IMPROVE SOCIETY through FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE CREATION in their COMMUNITIES.” At MLA, we think that might be our mission, too. Our community is our members. We want to facilitate knowledge creation, and that is the point of our continuing education offerings. That, and to network, visit, catch up, and share. Those are the things that make a successful event.

Makerspaces are a new way of facilitating knowledge creation in libraries, and Montana libraries are on the cutting edge, hosting a Mini Maker Faire in Kalispell (February 22), running pilot programs in Great Falls, and offering dedicated space in Missoula. Montana State Library might create travelling makerspace trunks. Who else will follow?

In a few short weeks, hundreds of us will gather in Billings for our annual conference event. ‘THRIVE’ is the theme. We invite you to attend and enjoy Deidre Coombs, our keynote speaker, as she discusses how to see conflict as an opportunity and inspires us to courageously seek creative solutions to the tough issues of our times. MLA will actively facilitate knowledge creation in its community by offering workshops, speakers, and meetings of interest groups. Join us there.

For more information on the 2014 Montana Library Association Conference, please visit mtlib.org and get ready to “THRIVE!”

Beth Boyson, President
Montana Library Association
ImagineIF Libraries Encourage Exploration, Fresh Ideas and Self-Discovery
By April Szuch,
Public Services Librarian
ImagineIF Libraries

As of January 13, the Flathead County Library System is ImagineIF Libraries. And it is not just a name change. It is a change in physical spaces, services, programs and attitude.

ImagineIF is all about expanding boundaries and exploring ideas. ImagineIF is about transformative, hands-on experiences and remarkable possibilities for the future.

Starting this year, ImagineIF Libraries will offer experience-based programs that will teach new skills, stimulate imagination, and turn the library into a place for building, collaborating, and creating. Coming this summer, a book bike will offer library services at community events.

ImagineIF Libraries are also fine free. Removing fines is one way the libraries thank their communities for their support. The libraries do not want fines to keep anyone from visiting.

During launch week, January 13-18, the community joined in to celebrate ImagineIF with new library cards, free tote bags and temporary tattoos, a photo booth, launch parties, live music, balloons and a family gaming day.

Find out more about ImagineIF at www.imagineiflibraries.org.

*Top: The new ImagineIF sign outside the century-old building in Kalispell. Bottom left:: Library Foundation Executive Director Dori Muehlhof hands out balloons during launch week. Bottom right:: Circulation Manager Patty Jones helps customers during the launch party.*

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2014 MLA Library Calendar

Last call for historic photos of your library for the 2014 MLA Library calendar! Send questions or photos to Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Chair, MLA PR and Marketing Committee at lisameckjack@gmail.com ASAP!

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Do You Know the Best Apps for Books?
By Susie McIntyre
Chair, Montana Library2Go Executive Committee

Enjoy this excerpt from an article by Elyse at Smart Bitches Trashy Books and learn all about the fabulous OverDrive Media Console App.

Then I discovered the OverDrive Media Console App. It should be called the Magic Sparkle Library Book App of Joy because it’s flippin’ amazing. It allows the reader to download eBooks and audio books from the library directly onto their reading device with the same ease as buying them from the shop.

Now, the app will only allow you to borrow books from a library that uses OverDrive Media to manage their digital content. Over 22,000 libraries in the US use OverDrive including major metropolitan libraries like New York and Atlanta. I browsed through the list and it seemed fairly extensive; most of the libraries in my home state are part of a consortium that uses this service, and as a member of one, I can borrow from all the others.

The app is free in the Barnes and Noble, Amazon, Android and iTunes stores. Once I downloaded it I saved it to my home screen and opened it up. It prompted me to search for and select my library. Once I’d selected and added my library, I could browse their digital collection.

Searching for e-books and audio books is very easy; you can search by title, author, etc., or you can browse by format or genre. There are filters that allow you to browse by subgenre or by titles with available copies only. It took me only a few minutes borrow a few eBooks and place holds for a few more.

Once you select a title to borrow or hold you’ll be prompted to enter your library card and pin number. You can select the format of the e-book you want to borrow (e-pub or Kindle) and then download. If you are borrowing an audio book it downloads as a MP3 file. The app defaults to the shortest lending period available (in my case, seven days), but you can change it in settings.

Once e-books are downloaded you can go to your bookshelf to read them. The OverDrive app allows you to jump from the bookshelf to the library and back again through a menu button the uppermost right-hand corner. The books can only be read via the app—they don’t show up in your NOOK library. An icon next to each title tells you how long you have left on your loan. Clicking on a plus sign next to each title gives you the option to return the book early or just delete it from your device.

The book opens in the OverDrive reader. It’s fairly intuitive. Several icons on the top of the reader allow you to adjust brightness, color, font, etc. You can bookmark your page, flip to the table of contents or share comments on the book via email, Facebook, Twitter or Goodreads. My only complaint is that you cannot highlight or make notes. You also can’t look up words the way you can the NOOK reader.

My husband used the app to download audiobooks to his iPod. The audiobook opens in the app, not in iTunes. You can bookmark your place in the audiobook (something iTunes does not allow you to do), share comments on the book via email, Twitter, Goodreads or Facebook, and set a timer so the playback shuts off automatically after 15, 30, 60 or 90 minutes. I personally liked the audio player in the app better than iTunes or the one for Audible; it seemed easier to use and had more functionality.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)
Once your lending period is up you will no longer be able to open the title on your bookshelf, and it will offer you the option of deleting the cover icon from the shelf. You must be connected to WiFi to search the library and download books, but not to read or listen to the books once downloaded. That means if you’re traveling you can quick grab a library book using airport WiFi and then read or listen on the plane with no issues. The whole search and download process takes only a few minutes if you know what you want to read.

The OverDrive Media Console app is available for NOOK, Kobo, Sony Reader Wi-Fi, Kindle, and Adobe Digital Edition eBook readers. It’s also available for Android, Blackberry, iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, and Windows Phone mobile applications. The OverDrive Media app site also contains helpful FAQs for using the app as well as several how-to videos.

This app is basically my new favoritest thing ever. It ranks right up there with Benedict Cumberbatch, unicorns, frozen yogurt, and of course, libraries.

This excerpt was reprinted with permission. Please view the original article in its entirety at Smart Bitchest Trashy Books.

All Things Cates
By Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson
Chair, Cates Committee

Get your auction items ready for the annual Sheila Cates Silent Auction.at conference. Whatever you can donate will be gratefully accepted!

Get your funny bone primed and your creative hat ready for the Sheila Cates fundraising event at conference. On Friday night this year, after the membership meeting, we’re having a comedy show and hat fashion show. Prizes for most creative, of course!

We are excited about a Sheila Cates video we are putting together for conference. Grand debut will be at the New Members Breakfast which the Cates Committee is now sponsoring. You won’t want to miss it!

If you have questions about any Cates items, please let Cates Committee Chair Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson know at lisameckjack@gmail.com.

Mountain Plains Library Association News
By Norma Glock,
MPLA Representative

Lauren McMullen has been chosen to attend the 2014 Mountain Plains Library Association Leadership Institute in Colorado. Congratulations to her.

MPLA is running a fundraiser by selling grocery cards to King Soopers/Kroger Grocery stores. Fred Meyer and Smiths Food and Drug stores are part of this chain. If you reload a gift card up to $500 after spending the initial $25, MPLA gets 5% rebate. A card that can only be purchased through MPLA, can be reloaded for any amount up to $500 and can be used indefinitely. For information about purchasing a grocery card, go to mpla.us/projects/grocerycard.html on the MPLA website. Or go directly to the order form at mpla.us/forms/grocerycard.html.
News from the Bozeman Public Library
By Cindy Christin
Supervisor, Children’s Services
Bozeman Public Library

Going to PLA this March? Children’s Librarian Cindy Christin will be speaking at two pre-conferences: "Discover New Ideas about Early Learning Environments" and "Implement Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library," both on Tuesday, March 11. Cindy will be talking about Ready2Read PlaySpace, blocks, and ways to bring play into libraries, as well as hands-on activities to go with the ECRR parent-child workshops. Thanks to MLA for a Professional Development Grant, the Friends of the Bozeman Public Library, and the Bozeman Public Library Foundation for making the trip to PLA possible.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, the Bozeman Public Library has been able to offer free parenting programs for parents of preschoolers. This past fall, we planned a series of three free workshops on positive discipline. The Friends paid for a licensed counselor and educator to present while the children’s staff offered free childcare. Because the response was so enthusiastic, we have scheduled a free evening parenting program for Thursday, February 6 called "Challenging Child Behaviors: Discovering the Secrets to Working Together" by best-selling author Mary Sheedy Kurcinka, Ed.D. We are making plans for additional workshops in the spring in our efforts to support parents of young children, working with parent educators who are already offering classes. For more information, please call Cindy Christin at (406)582-2420 or email cchristin@bozeman.net.

Belgrade Community Library Teen Zone
By Rebekah Kamp
Children’s Librarian
Belgrade Community Library

Belgrade Library recently reorganized the youth services department to create a Teen Zone. Because space is limited, the library decided to use paint to create a unique space without actually putting up walls or other physical barriers. The teens voted on the color and selected a vibrant turquoise paint called “Legendary Blue” and an entire corner of black chalk board paint.

In addition to the new paint, the library has created an environment where teens feel comfortable to socialize, study, or attend a library program. The Teen Zone features fun, mobile furniture and three computers. Computers include shortcuts to teen-friendly websites, homework help, and databases. The teens also enjoy playing multiplayer Minecraft during early-release game days.

Physical changes to the room were only part of creating the Teen Zone. The library received a grant from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to expand afterschool programming. Programs will encourage students to explore STEAM topics through hands-on activities. Most recently, the teens dissected computers and other retired technology. Upcoming events include crochet for beginners, duct tape crafts, and an hour of code.

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Want to attend MLA in Billings but short on funds? Apply for a MLA Travel Grant! Fifteen $150 grants are available. For more information visit mlib.org/Handbook/grant_guidelines.asp or contact Samantha Hines at (406)243-7818 or samantha.hines@umontana.edu.
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Focus Publications Standards and Guidelines

Montana Library Focus is published by the Montana Library Association as its official vehicle for communications. It is published six times a year in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December. The deadline for submission of material follows:

- January 20 for the February issue
- March 20 for the April issue
- May 20 for the June issue
- July 20 for the August issue
- September 20 for the October issue
- November 20 for the December issue

Send submissions of reports, news releases, or features to Rebekah Kamp, Focus Editor at rkamp@mtlib.org. Submissions in electronic copy are preferred. Acceptable formats include .doc, .docx, .pdf, .tiff and .jpeg. If an electronic copy cannot be emailed to the editor, a copy may be submitted, via post, on a CD. If no disk copy can be sent, please submit text in clean, scan able copy. Use facsimile only upon request from the editor.

Reports should cover the business of MLA committees, divisions, or interest groups; for example, meetings, activities, announcements, upcoming events. News releases are brief announcements of interest to Montana librarians, but not related to official MLA business; for example, personnel news, grants received, programs held, new services offered. In general, writing in the third person is preferred for reports and news releases.

To view a complete copy of the Focus Publications Standards and Guidelines as listed in the MLA Handbook, please visit the association’s website at www.mtlib.org/Handbook/focus_guidelines.asp.