Message from the President

Your Montana Library Association is hard at work these days. With a book challenge in Livingston, a conference planner to hire, a rebate to work out with our conference hotel, and National Library Legislative Day in Wash. D.C., your friendly Board just keeps on keeping up.

Let’s give a round of applause to the Intellectual Freedom fighters. The IF Committee heard of the challenge to Punkzilla by Adam Rapp in Livingston and provided a training in handling book challenges to the Superintendent of Schools, school principals and librarians. New staff had all the necessary selection policies and reconsideration forms in place, thanks to former employees. Not having written them or even used them before, this neutral training created a fair process and hearing for the book. At press time, we are awaiting the decision by the committee to keep or remove the book.

You know what’s fun to do if you ever get a chance? Hire a conference planner. Seriously, they are the most organized, detail oriented, articulate, people-loving, program centric folks you will ever meet. The MLA Task Force charged with hiring one drew a very qualified pool from all over the USA, and the interviews were a huge lesson to us. The influence that credentialed planners have over prices, meals and transportation makes ME want to become one, then I could travel more! For now, we will reap the benefits of employing D&D Planners better known as Debbi and Doug (D&D) Kramer out of Three Forks. Thank you Task Force and thank you D&D.

Finally, in case you haven’t heard the Billings Hotel and Convention Center refunded almost 25% of our total fee due to the unavailability of reliable Internet during our conference. That $3,000 dollars goes a very long way for MLA. The entire Professional Development funds were just replenished. It was a terrible bump in the road for everyone involved. Thank you to all members, presenters, and attendees who adjusted to it, documented their experiences and most of all, remained calm.

I had the great joy of representing Montana at ALA’s National Library Legislative Day in Washington DC. All the congressional aides we spoke to and Senator Walsh, too, knew their hometown libraries very well. It was remarkable. Judy Hart has done such great work for MLA, and it helped MLA make huge inroads related to LSTA funding, services for veterans, early childhood reading, and broadband issues for rural communities.

Good luck to everyone as you commence with Summer Reading!

Sincerely,

Beth Boyson, President
2014 MPLA Leadership Institute
By Lauren McMullen,
Statewide Consulting Librarian
Montana State Library

A few weeks ago I was thrilled to participate in the Mountain Plains Library Association 2014 Leadership Institute at Estes Park, Colorado. Thirty-five librarians and mentors from the 12-state MPLA region joined Facilitator Maureen Sullivan for four days of learning, networking and leadership development. The institute was held at the wonderful YMCA of the Rockies; the view was fabulous, the weather was very spring-like, the accommodations were comfortable, there was time for fun, and the food was great!

Librarians from all 12 states in the MPLA region were in attendance at the Institute: Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. I was the only person from Montana this year. All library types were represented, including public, academic, school, special and state libraries.

The Institute agenda included interactive workshops on leadership essentials such as work/leadership styles, communication, managing differences, risk taking, using power and influence, leading change, creating a culture of commitment, group problem solving and decision making, project management, and planning your own professional development. In between activities and during the last de-briefing day the most amazing networking took place, with everyone sharing programming ideas, workplace joys and challenges, and brainstorming library futures: Dewey-less libraries; library nurses; Google Glass and other cool technology in the library; library bikes and other innovative mobile hotspots; unusual partnerships; new ways to collaborate; checking out museum passes, cake pans, tools, gardening supplies and all kinds of stuff; using drones for book deliveries; and lots more.

The MPLA Leadership Institute was an incredible opportunity to connect with talented library leaders who brought many different perspectives to the idea mill. I came back to Montana refreshed and energized with new ideas. I look forward to continuing many new professional friendships throughout the MPLA region.

Thanks to the Montana Library Association Professional Development Committee and my own organization for providing support for me to attend the Institute. I heartily recommend this professional development experience to all of my MLA colleagues! Check out the MPLA website for more information about the organization, the Institute, and other activities: http://www.mpla.us/index.html.

MPLA Updates
By Norma Glock,
MPLA Representative

Just a reminder to everyone that it is not too early to think about the cold weather that may be here next November. So head to sunny Arizona for the Mountain Plains/Arizona joint library conference at Fort Lowell in Scottsdale/Fountain Hills, Arizona, November 12-14, 2014. Better yet plan to win $100 by presenting the best paper at the conference for MPLA Professional Forum. See the website mplaus for more information. Arizona and MPLA have been working hard to live up to their theme, Libraries: the Best of the West.
It’s time to register for the 2014 PNLA Conference!

“Mining the Past to Plan for the Future” will be held August 13, 14 and 15 in historic downtown Helena at the Premier Great Northern Hotel. The Holiday Inn on the Last Chance Gulch walking mall will have rooms reserved as well. All will be within walking distance—conference sessions, evening events, tours, restaurants, and shopping. Along with the notorious “Corks & Cans,” to be held at the Brewhouse, we have planned a vendor reception with Wilbur Rehmann’s jazz quartet, a ride on the Helena Tour Train, a President’s reception at Lewis & Clark Library, and most importantly, a grand line-up of breakout sessions and authors. There will be something for everyone! And for the keynote, we will present the Unshelved guys!

The simplification of PNLA membership fees will hopefully allow more folks to attend. Membership is now $50 for personal memberships and $150 for institutional memberships. Unlimited attendees can attend on an institutional membership.

Check it all out at www.pnla.org/conference. Early registration closes July 7, so act now!

Lewis & Clark Library Receives a Big Read Grant

Lewis & Clark Library announced that it received a grant of $16,000 to host The Big Read in Lewis & Clark County. The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to revitalize the role of reading in American culture by exposing citizens to great works of literature and encouraging them to read for pleasure and enrichment. The Big Read is managed by Arts Midwest. Lewis & Clark Library is one of 77 nonprofit organizations to receive a grant to host a Big Read project between September 2014 and June 2015. The Big Read in Lewis & Clark County will focus on *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. Activities will take place October 1-31, 2014.

This marks the eighth NEA Big Read grant that the Lewis & Clark Library has received since 2007. “The impact of these grants on our community is priceless,” stated Library Director, Judy Hart. “Each Big Read has brought exciting events, authors, speakers, and programs to our community and we feel truly fortunate to be one of three organizations nationwide selected for an eighth grant.”

NEA Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa said, “While the act of reading is usually a solitary one, through the Big Read it will become a social one. This year's Big Read grant recipients are not only playing an important role in encouraging reading but are also developing creative opportunities to involve all members of their communities to come together to discuss and celebrate these great works on literature.”

The Big Read provides communities nationwide with the opportunity to read, discuss, and celebrate one of 36 selections from U.S. and world literature. The 77 selected organizations will receive Big Read grants to promote and carry out community-based reading programs featuring activities such as read-a-thons, book discussions,

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lectures, movie screenings, and performing arts events. The NEA has also developed high-quality, free-of-charge educational materials to supplement each title, including reader’s guides, teacher’s guides, and audio programming, all of which are available to the public on neabigread.org.

Established in 1868, the Lewis & Clark Library is the oldest library in the state. The mission of the Lewis & Clark Library is to provide the best possible services and materials for informational, educational, cultural, or recreational use by the community. The Lewis & Clark Library offers a variety of services free to the public, including book groups, internet service, children’s story time, and numerous public programs. Stop by and check your email, catch up on local and world news, or participate in one of our many wonderful programs. Don’t forget to visit branch libraries in Augusta, Lincoln, East Helena, and the Bookmobile. Check the library’s website at www.lclibrary.org for more information and an updated calendar of events.

MontanaLibrary2Go: How to “Renew”
By Susie McIntyre
Chair, MontanaLibrary2Go Executive Committee

Overdrive now lets you “renew” titles. Just kidding, when they say “renew”, they mean put a hold on the item and check it out again. Here’s how:

1. Log into MontanaLibrary2Go and navigate to your Account.
2. On your library Bookshelf, select the Renew icon next to the title you’d like to renew. Note: This option does not appear until three days before the title is supposed to expire.
3. If there are no existing holds on a title, the Renew icon will be green, like in the first example at right. In this case, you can use the renew feature to hold a copy of the title for you, so that you can borrow it again immediately once your first checkout expires.
4. Enter and confirm your email address in the renewal form that opens, then click the Renew button.
5. Once you renew a title, its Renew icon on your library Bookshelf will have a checkmark next to it.

You can also track which titles you’ve renewed from your Holds page. As soon as your first checkout expires, you will get an email telling you that the title is available for you to borrow again. Once you are notified, you have 72 hours to check-it out.

Note: If you have already borrowed the maximum number of titles from your library, you will be unable to retrieve your hold until you return a title or a lending period expires.
New Director at Rosebud County Library
By Cherie Heser,
Outgoing Director
Rosebud County Library

Heather Johnstone, who is already known to many librarians throughout the state because of her program presentations for Fall Workshop and her attendance at both the 2013 Summer Institute and MLA Convention, is the new director of Rosebud County Library in Forsyth as of June 9.

Heather has been a clerk at the library, beginning with BTOP work and continuing with responsibilities in IT, AV cataloging, and teen and adult programming. She has added highly popular teen “lock-ins” to the library and is well known for her ability to help just about anyone with just about any device. Because of experience in the local system and active involvement as a track coach, she has rapport with many in the community and will be a real asset to the library as a director with a lot of energy and enthusiasm.

Heather replaces Cheryl (Cherie) Heser, who became director in December 1997, and has enjoyed working not only with the community of Forsyth and the surrounding areas in Rosebud and Treasure County but also with the statewide library community in State Library task forces, the Montana Shared Catalog Executive Board, and the Montana Library Association. In the latter organization, she has been Representative-at-Large East, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee Chair, MPLA Representative, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Cherie will be writing and studying, hiking, traveling, gardening, and enjoying the grandkids, but you will continue to see her at MLA events.

Just in Time for Summer, Missoula Public Library Opens Bike Repair Station
By Mary Drew Powers,
Public Relations/Reference Librarian
Missoula Public Library

Missoula Public Library partnered with Mountain Line, Missoula’s mass transit system, and Missoula in Motion, a city agency whose mission includes sustainable commuting initiatives, and became the location of the city’s newest outdoor bike repair station. MPL is a great site for a bike repair station as many patrons and staff commute by bicycle, and the Library is conveniently situated between Downtown and trails that cross the river to the south side of Missoula.

MPL was chosen for location as well as the ability of in-house staff to coordinate and assist in identifying and building the infrastructure needed. The station is under the canopy of the south entrance to the library (Front Street). MPL staff poured cement to make a base and worked out the electrical so that a bike stand for repairs, an air compressor, and a vending machine could be installed. Bicycle parts & supplies are sold in the vending machine, and common tools are attached to the bike stand by stout cables. Completing the station are custom bike racks with a book design and “MPL in motion” inscribed.

This is the third of four bike stations funded by a grant administered by Mountain Line. A grand opening was held May 15 with speeches and a ceremonial ribbon-cutting by the Mountain Line mascot, Bolt the Mountain Lion.
ImagineIF Brings Chickens into the Library
By April Szuch,
Public Services Librarian
ImagineIF Libraries

During the month of April, ImagineIF Libraries offered a whole flock of programs and workshops revolving around chickens. Library customers were invited to help build a chicken coop, craft plant-protecting cloches out of chicken wire, listen to a local expert talk about raising chickens, and visit baby chicks in the children’s area.

The chicken-centric programs are just one small part of the new ImagineIF Libraries. Formerly Flathead County Library System until a rebranding in January, ImagineIF is all about expanding boundaries and exploring ideas. The rebranding launch parties for the community included a photo booth, live music, food trucks, face painting and free temporary tattoos.

The library is a place to access technology, explore new ideas, find entertainment, create new worlds, make friends, play and dream. ImagineIF is taking it to the next level with experience-based programs that teach new skills, stimulate imagination, and turn the library into a place for building, collaborating and creating.

Recent and upcoming offerings include DIY home cleaning products, a book bike to visit local outdoor events, brew-it-yourself and a community loom. Find out more about ImagineIF at www.imagineiflibraries.org.

Billings Commemorates 150th Anniversary of the Civil War
By Amy Davis,
Adult Services Librarian
Billings Public Library

Billings Public Library hosted a series of programs in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War during the month of April. Partial funding for Humanities Montana Speakers’ Bureau programs was provided by a legislative grant from Montana’s Cultural Trust and from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional funding was made possible by a grant from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

The schedule of April events included a movies series lasting into May, an interactive program for teens, and several programs for a general audience.

The series kicked off on April 3 with the movie Glory. That was followed on April 8 by Dave Cesario of Humanities Montana Speakers’ Bureau, presenting “Walt Whitman and the Civil War: A Test of Poetry/A Vision of Democracy.” The attendees all gave favorable reviews of an excellent program.

On April 15, Craig Naylor of Humanities Montana Speakers’ Bureau gave a program on Unknown Heroes of the Civil War that featured his original musical compositions in honor of his chosen heroes. He focused on the lives of Elizabeth Van Lew who spied for the Union; Colonel Ely S. Parker, a Native American on General Grant's staff; and John Washington, an escaped slave who served in the U.S. Army.

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Also on April 15, the Library featured a discussion group about the premier of Ken Burns’ new documentary *The Address*, commemorating the Gettysburg Address. Attendees watched the previews and overviews, and discussed the war in general terms. The library plans to schedule a follow-up streaming of the documentary.

The next week, the library showed *The Horse Soldiers*, second in the movie series in the Community Room. Author Kenneth G. Robison also visited to read from and discuss his book *Montana Territory and the Civil War: A Frontier Forged on the Battlefield*.

On April 24, the library held a Teen Interactive Civil War Program for the Lewis and Clark Middle School 8th grade class, which included several information stations. Billings Studio Theater’s Glenda Brauneis demonstrated & discussed period clothing. All of the kids wanted to try on the hooped petticoats, especially the boys. Civil War 3D pictures were on view as well, and Dr. Jen Lynn of MSU-B demonstrated photo analysis of Civil War era photos.

Tiea Toby and Jim Vaughn re-enacted Clara Barton and a Union officer, and demonstrated medical technology and weaponry of the era. All 220 kids had a great time.

The Yellowstone Genealogy Forum gave a class on April 29 on Tracing your Civil War Ancestors for people interested in finding out more about their family history.

The library’s Civil War series concluded in May, with three more movies: *Cold Mountain*, *Shenandoah*, and *Ride with the Devil*. 

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