Program Descriptions for 2023 MLA Conference

Please note: schedules are subject to change

Montana State Library Continuing Education Credit Categories:

Red: Library Administration

Green: Library Services to the Public

Blue: Collection Management and Technical Services

Purple: Technology

Wednesday April 12th, 2023

Pre-Conference Sessions

9:00AM-12:00PM - Framing the Future: Strategic Planning for Small and Rural Libraries - Tracy Cook, Stu Wilson, Pam Henley

Well-designed strategic plans identify what members of the community are under-served and works toward creating inclusive services and libraries that welcome all members of their communities. This workshop gives library staff and trustees of small and rural libraries the tools to engage in community-focused planning.

Tracy Cook provides consulting assistance on a variety of topics and oversees the consulting, continuing education, and lifelong learning programs within the State Library. Tracy’s areas of expertise include library law, board development, personnel, local government relations, and advocacy. Tracy enjoys hiking, canoeing, citizen scientist work, and golf. She also volunteers for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the National Park Service whenever she can.

Stu Wilson is the former Director of Library Strategies Consulting Group, Executive Director of The Friends of the Hennepin County Library and Vice-President of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library. Wilson has more than 25 years of fundraising and planning experience and is the founder of Fitzgerald in Saint Paul. He also served as the lead consultant in creating The Trust for Montana Libraries.

Pam Henley provides consulting and advisory services to public librarians and trustees from her office in Bozeman.

9:00AM-12:00PM – Year of Learning: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion - Slaven Lee, Alyssa Ramirez, Emily Wicks, Jenny Bevill, Rajiem Seabrook, Heidi Wallace

Libraries try to create spaces where everyone is welcome and to provide equitable access to information. Libraries do this for people from diverse backgrounds and origins, regardless of their beliefs or
affiliations. But achieving goals for equity, diversity, and inclusion is not easy and often takes years of undoing old systems of inequity, starting within libraries themselves.

In this 6-session series, topics related to equity, diversity, and inclusion will be discussed as they relate to libraries across Montana. Every other month will highlight a new focus area, with opportunities for Montana library professionals to learn, interact, and take action. Funding from this grant will compensate professional facilitators and content experts, ensuring safe and productive conversations that are meaningful to participants.

Throughout the first year of this multi-year program, a flipped classroom model will be utilized to incorporate synchronous and asynchronous learning. The self-guided portion will give participants the freedom to read and reflect at their own pace. During the virtual discussion, participants will explore topics even further and create action plans, with the help of the facilitator, to impact their communities.

The series will kick-off during the Montana Library Association Conference in Billings this April. During this session, EmpowerMT will help participants become leaders in ending oppression by deepening self-awareness, increasing understanding of inequities, and developing intervention and ally skills. It will be structured around participatory activities, small and large group discussions, and drawing on the experiences and expertise of workshop participants. This workshop will create the foundation for the remaining Year of Learning sessions, which will include the following topics: Optical Allyship, Serving community members with disabilities, LGBTQ2S, Indigenous peoples, and Mental health/suicide prevention.

Slaven Lee is the Director of Missoula Public Library

Alyssa Ramirez is the Director of Lincoln County Libraries

Emily Wicks is the Director of Chouteau County Library

Jenny Bevill is a dynamic educational leader with more than 20 years of experience teaching in public schools, museums, and community centers in New York City and Montana, including a decade at the Guggenheim Museum from 2004-2014. Jenny served as the Educator and Outreach Specialist at the Missoula Art Museum from 2018-2021 where she helped develop the distance learning platform, Museum as Megaphone, and the Art Host Initiative which connects Tribal nations across Montana with the museum to share contemporary Indigenous art. Jenny has taught and/or created content for many statewide arts organizations in Montana including the Office of Public Instruction, the Montana Arts Council, and Flathead Valley Community College. She has been a workshop leader for Humanities Montana since 2016 where she now coordinates the statewide Democracy Project for teens.

Rajiem Seabrook is the Director of Equity and Impact at EmpowerMT, a statewide nonprofit with a mission to create a just and inclusive society. Mr. Seabrook is an educational and institutional leader in shaping and promoting equity and diversity-based policies, partnerships, and strategic initiatives that foster inclusive businesses, schools, and communities across Montana. Rajiem is a long-standing member of the community and is passionately engaged in athletics, academics, social justice, and political reform. Rajiem is one of several co-founders of the Montana Black Collective-Missoula and serves on the MCPS IVALUE Leadership Team and the MLK Jr. Community Celebration Committee. Mr. Seabrook’s devotion as a father, coach, mentor, community leader, connector and organizer fuels his commitment to creating a better world for future generations.
Heidi Wallace’s life experiences as a sixth-generation non-Indigenous Montanan led her to pursue a life of creating positive change in individuals and institutions. Heidi is alumni of the University of Montana, where she was honored in 2010 with the Native American Studies Distinguished Alumni Award. Heidi has served as EmpowerMT’s Executive Director since 2013 and is a certified Diversity and Inclusion leader through Cornell University. A skilled facilitator, consultant, and educator Heidi has a 20-year history of building strategic partnerships regionally and nationally to foster innovation, elevate leadership, and inspire action in the areas of racial equity, diversity, access, inclusion, and coalition building. Heidi serves on the Board of Trustees for the PacificSource Foundation for Health Improvement and other social justice-focused coalitions, advisory boards, & committees.

12:00-1:00PM – Lunch
12:00-1:00PM – MLA Spring Board Meeting
12:00-1:00PM – Trustee Interest Group Meeting

1:00PM-4:00PM - Giving Montanans Their Fullest Opportunity: Working with local government officials and government budgets - Tracy Cook

Attendees will explore the why of local governments and libraries, how they work together, and the duties of various local government officials. We’ll also talk about financing library services, the requirements and limitations placed on local governments, and how to be better stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Tracy provides consulting assistance on a variety of topics and oversees the consulting, continuing education, and lifelong learning programs within the State Library. Tracy’s areas of expertise include library law, board development, personnel, local government relations, and advocacy. Tracy enjoys hiking, canoeing, citizen scientist work, and golf. She also volunteers for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the National Park Service whenever she can.

1:00-4:00PM – Cool Tools and Taming Wild Web Apps: MSL’s Digital Services to Libraries - Bobbi deMontigny

This workshop reviews digital services available to Montana Libraries through MSL. This is where you can learn about updates & changes to some of these services, and brush up on your skills with training & tips. This session incorporates breakout groups to further discuss and explore what works & what doesn’t.

Bobbi deMontigny provides Technical Support for the Montana Library Network. With an MLIS and over a decade of experience in the field she is thankful for the opportunities she has had to serve just about every kind of library across the state of Montana. In her current position she primarily supports web based services to Montana libraries. Some of these include MontanaLibrary2Go services, ASPeN, OCLC group services and the Montana History Portal. Bobbi lives just outside of Helena where she enjoys active and artistic hobbies in the summer and curling up with her dog and a good book in the winter.
1:00-4:00PM – Montana Shared Catalog Spring Members Meeting

1:00-4:00PM – TRAILS 2023 Spring General Council Meeting

5:00-6:30PM – 2023 MLA Annual Conference Opening Reception, Billings Public Library

6:30-7:30PM - Montana Book Awards Ceremony, Billings Public Library, Elizabeth Jonkel, Host

Montana Book Awards author event with award winners

Thursday April 13th, 2023

Breakfast – 7:30-8:30AM

Session A - 8:30-9:30AM

Montana Library Network Overview – Amelea Kim

The Montana Library Network is a “collaborative community of Montana libraries working together to provide all Montanans with library content and services sufficient unto their needs.” But what does that mean exactly? Learn more about the MLN at this session, and learn how you can help contribute to improving library services in Montana, both locally and statewide.

Amelea Kim has worked as the Lifelong Learning Librarian at the Montana State Library since June 2018. Her library interests include children’s services, particularly services for ages 0 – 5, health literacy, community outreach/support, and supporting Montana librarians in the amazing work that they do! In her free time, Amelea enjoys hiking, baking cakes and consuming said cakes, and making forays into various crafting hobbies.

Tech Tools for Advocacy - Shaundel Krumheuer

Promoting and sharing all of the great activities that take place in our libraries can be daunting, so let’s explore some tools that make it fun! We will use technology tools (Google Drawings & Slides, Canva, Adobe Express) to help promote all of the aMaZiNg happening in our spaces! Create posters, announcements, newsletters, and more to share in-person, via email, and on social media. Bring your device for a hands-on creation session!

The 2022-2023 school year marks Shaundel Krumheuer’s 22nd year as an educator at Billings Senior High, 10 as an English teacher, 5 as a Technology Integration Specialist, and most recently as a TIS/School Librarian combined. She is the MCCE Board Treasurer and has been a 406 Tech Cadre facilitator for over 10 years. She has presented at a variety of venues, including the MEA-MFT conference, the MCCE Summer Tech Summit, the MLA Annual Conference, the NCCE Conference, as well as throughout the state in various districts. In 2019-2020, Shaundel was a member of the Negotiated Rule-making Committee working with the proposed Technology Integration, Computer
Science, and Library Media/Information Technology Standards for Montana. This fall, she served on the Library Praxis Review Panel. She’s a Google Certified Educator who has been in a serious relationship with Google since the days of the invite-only status. A Montana girl who loves her Bobcats, Shaundel is a fan of mountain lakes, books, and pottery, and is owned by two feral Golden Retrievers.

What's art got to do with it? - Aaron LaFromboise

What does art have to do with a library? How do you create an art positive space? Come to learn about incorporating art into Medicine Spring Library. Hear tips and tricks on any budget and in any space.

Aaron LaFromboise is the Director of Library Services at Medicine Spring Library, the academic library for Blackfeet Community College, the community library for the Blackfeet Reservation, which also holds the Blackfeet Archives. Aaron is the Immediate Past President of the American Indian Library Association, a former Montana State Library commissioner, and a staunch advocate for Native American presence within libraries. Outside of the library Aaron spends time with family, beads, and sews.

A Greater State of Continuing Education: Updates and Access to the MSL Certification Program – Colet Bartow

This presentation will include updates to the MSL Continuing Education and Certification program that have been in the works. Help with ASPeN and an overview of continuing education sources will be highlighted. Bring your questions!

Colet’s professional background is in school librarianship, professional development, and state education agency leadership. Her history with MSL started in the late 1990s as a school library representative to several committees and included time as an MSL Commissioner. She currently serves at the Continuing Education Coordinator for MSL.

100 Books Before Graduation and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten – Kathryn Murphy and Ezzie O’Clair

Introducing 100 Books Before Graduation to Montana!! We’ll provide tangible information for anyone wanting to start either of these programs. We’ll be answering questions, sharing info, and brainstorming program operation for any size library – please attend!

Kathryn Murphy is the Teen and Adult Services Librarian at Sidney Richland County Library. In her free time she likes to read, craft and play board games with her husband and three children.

Ezzie O’Clair is the Children's Librarian at Sidney-Richland County Library. Besides reading children’s books, she loves rainbows, kindness, and music. In her free time, she is nearly always with her awesome dog, Percy.
Grant Writing 101 - What You Need, How to Start, and Where to Look – Heidi Gunderson

*Grant Writing 101 will outline how to begin the grant writing process, where to find available grants, and the information you need readily available before you begin.*

Heidi Gunderson is the current librarian and English teacher for the Absarokee School District and she’s currently working on her Master of Library and Information Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the sole-proprietor for Heidi Gunderson Writing, a grant writing company. Over the past 16 years, she has written $1.5 million dollars’ worth of grants for her school district and the community.

Indigenous Perspectives in School Librarianship – Deborah Rinio

*Learn about the Indigenous Perspectives in School Librarianship (IPSL) cohort at MSU. Listen as participating candidates share their experiences and the projects they’ve implemented in their schools. Discuss how you can integrate IEFA and other culturally responsive standards in your library.*

Dr. Deborah Rinio is the Program Leader for the Library Media Certificate Program at Montana State University and PI of the Indigenous Perspectives in School Librarianship grant from IMLS.

Bears Books Galore - K through Adulthood - Angela Archuleta

*An extended book talk with a Read Aloud that shares both fiction and non-fiction books about bears-includes resources where you can find information about real bears.*

Angela F. Archuleta is in her ninth year as a school librarian this fall. She has worked as a K-6 Librarian at Kincaid Elementary in Anchorage, Alaska, Grades 5-8 Librarian in Lewistown, Montana, the Audiovisual Library at Flathead High School in Kalispell, Montana, the Junior High and High School Librarian in Lame Deer, Montana on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and is currently serving as the KW Vina Elementary Librarian in Browning, Montana on the Blackfeet Reservation.

Video Games at Your Library: A Presentation on How and Why - Joe Lanning

*Video games are a dynamic, modern, popular medium worthy of a spot in every library, but starting a collection comes with a series of daunting tasks. This presentation provides practical information on how the Billings Public Library chose, purchased, and cataloged its collection, and how yours can, too.*

Joe Lanning is Reference Librarian and Library Archivist with the Billings Public Library.
**Why Diversity is Essential to the Library Ecosystem: (With Bears, Whales, and Others)** - Sierra Benjamin

Diversity and inclusion are important to many of us on a personal level, but what concrete advantages do these ideas bring to the modern library, and how can we communicate this importance to the people who control our funding? We will discover the benefits of diversity with the help of some friends from the natural world. As a wide variety of organisms cause a forest or ocean to be ecologically stable and resilient, so a wide variety of perspectives, especially in collections and policies, is necessary for a library’s success!

Sierra Benjamin is a Library Advisor and the Safety Officer for ImagineIF Libraries. In her free time, Sierra enjoys reading, making art and spending time in nature. She also enjoys practicing jiu-jitsu and gardening with her family.

**Putting the FREE in Freedom to Read** – Star Bradley

*During Banned Books Week 2022, the MSU Library held an event where library staff gave away 250+ banned books. The presenter will discuss this event from idea to implementation. The session will highlight details, including: staffing the giveaway table; student feedback; and Friends of MSU Library funding.*

Star Bradley is a Reference and Instruction Librarian at Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT. Her primary focus is on instruction, both credit bearing and guest lecturing. Star is also a member of the Outreach & Events committee, and assists with many of the library’s outreach efforts.

**Ready Set Go: Public Librarians and Fire Prevention Awareness** – Kellian Clink

*Nothing is scarier than a fire. Being ready with a plan, a rehearsal, a communication scenario, thinking though the critters, the kids, the drive though a fire makes a difference. Kellian will share Montana’s Firewise Programs and synthesize tips from many states’ plans to make homes, families, and the aftermath easier. Public Librarians can play an important part in the fire prevention education scenario.*

Kellian Clink is a librarian and has presented at MLA, PNLA, and many other venues on library research, student affairs research, and history.

**Session C - 11:15AM-12:15PM**

**It’s Not Just Print: A Primer on the Censorship of Online Databases & Technology** - Hannah McKelvey

*As libraries continue to respond to challenges against print materials, several states are facing legislation targeting K-12 schools and electronic content in library databases. This session will provide an overview of online database and technology censorship and suggest actions libraries can take to prepare for potential challenges to their own electronic content.*
Hannah McKelvey is an Assistant Professor and Electronic Resources & Discovery Services Librarian at Montana State University Library. Her current role includes managing electronic information licensed by the Library through third-parties and to facilitate discovery and access to Library resources.

**Conversations with the Commission** – Jennie Stapp, Montana State Librarian; Commissioners: Elsie Arntzen, Tom Burnett, Patricia Dubosky, Tamara Hall, Dalton Johnson, Robyn Scribner, and Peggy Taylor

*Conversations with the Commission is an important annual event in the work of the Montana State Library Commission. The session gives the Commission a chance to share information about the priorities of the Commission and provides an open forum to discuss the trends and issues impacting the Montana library community.*

The State Library Commission serves as the governing body of the Montana State Library which is the state agency responsible for library development in Montana.

**Adopt-a-Species - a Habitat Education Program for Montana, facilitated by Librarians** – Liz Burke, Corie Rice, Ryan Schmaltz, Matt Ferrell

*Adopt-a-Species is a habitat education program for K-5 students partnered by the Forest Service, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks and 2 local non-profits. It features species trunks, fall assemblies, a spring art/writing contest, and a May educator workshop. Librarians play a key role delivering this program in their schools.*

Liz Burke is Conservation Educator at the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest and has managed Adopt-a-Species for 22 years. Corie Rice is the Program Specialist for Montana WILD, Fish Wildlife and Park’s education Center located in Helena. Ryan Schmaltz is Education Program Specialist for Montana Wild, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Matt Ferrell is Conservation Educator with the Montana Discovery Foundation, a non-profit friends group of the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest.

**Indigenous Titles that assist you in Building a Culturally Responsive and Diverse Collection in Your Library: K through Adulthood** – Angela Archuleta

*Do you want to find more quality Indigenous materials for your library? Have you wondered where to find good resources? Come explore the books and resources for finding those materials. This session will include micro-reviews on books - Kindergarten to Adults.*

Angela F. Archuleta is in her ninth year as a school librarian this fall. She has worked as a K-6 Librarian at Kincaid Elementary in Anchorage, Alaska, Grades 5-8 Librarian in Lewistown, Montana, the Audiovisual Library at Flathead High School in Kalispell, Montana, the Junior High and High School Librarian in Lame Deer, Montana on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and is currently serving as the KW Vina Elementary Librarian in Browning, Montana on the Blackfeet Reservation.
**Get Out There: Bike Library Outreach in the Wild!** - Taylor Arnold, Victoria Cassou, Elizabeth Fellerer, Jaclynn Reaves, Kelsie Rubich

*Take the library out into the wild and meet your community where they’re at! In this session, you’ll learn how the Billings Public Library uses a bicycle library to host seasonal outreach programs at events, parks, local businesses, the skate park, and more. No bike? No problem! These ideas work without wheels, too!*

Taylor Arnold works in the Billings Public Library Circulation department and has spearheaded Skate Park outreach and skate clinics, created unique social media promotions, and managed the Adult Hygiene kit program.

Victoria Cassou is a BPL Reference Librarian with a background in Youth Services. She has participated in the Bike Library program for two years, focusing her programming on story time, baby yoga, and outreach at the Children’s Hospital. She is also a graphic designer and created the program logo.

Elizabeth Fellerer is the BPL Acquisitions Specialist. She has focused her seasonal outreach efforts on representing the library at large-scale community events like 406 Pride, the Farmer’s Market, the Back to School Bash, and the downtown trick-or-treat event.

Jaclynn Reaves works in the BPL Circulation department and created the Hablar Conmigo program, a Spanish language conversation group that meets at a local coffee house. She has brought this program back into the library as a year-round offering.

Kelsie Rubich is the BPL Assistant Director and oversees the Bike Library outreach program. This summer, she learned to ride a skateboard (and didn’t break anything!) at some of the outreach events.

**12:30-1:45PM Keynote Luncheon with speaker Jamie Jonkel – Hotel Ballroom**

**Session D – 2:00-3:15PM**

**Montana Library Association Annual Membership Meeting – Hotel Ballroom**

**Session E – 3:30-5:00PM**

**Safety, not security: promoting library safety with compassion and inclusivity** – Amanda Allpress, Elizabeth Jonkel, Rick Jenkins, Brett Bloom

*Learn about Missoula Public Library’s new Safety Specialist position, a divergence from traditional security. Also, hear from Rick Jenkins of Safe Libraries Consulting and head of safety at Seattle Public Library on de-escalation tactics and approaching library safety with compassion and care.*

Amanda Allpress is the Assistant Director of Operations at Missoula Public Library. Her previous position at the library was Reference Librarian, with a focus on senior services. In past library work she has been a Young Adult Librarian, a Library Information Technician at a community college, and a Technical
Services Librarian at a law firm. When not at the library, you may find Amanda working in the garden or doing some “outdoorsy” activities with her husband and dogs.

Elizabeth Jonkel has been Assistant Director at Missoula Public since 2009. Prior to that, she worked in government and as a consultant in Canada and in the United States. She will always look at photos of your cat.

Rick Jenkins has over 30 years of security experience, including work in San Diego, Las Vegas, and Tokyo, Japan. For the last 13 years he has proudly worked for the Seattle Public Library Security Division, winners of the “Team of the Year Award.” As a Lead Security Officer, Rick is responsible for coordinating day-to-day operations at an eleven-story downtown public Library and navigating all the issues that a dense urban environment presents. In his spare time Rick enjoys walking his German shepherd, Roman, spending time with his family, and gloating about the success of his fantasy football team.

Brett Bloom is a Safety Specialist at Missoula Public Library. He has helped MPL create the position into what it is today. He has a background in security forces, the air force, and animal control. He is a writer, currently working on his second novel.

**iB4 Mindful Library Skills – Chani Craig**

*iB4 is the necessary, and often overlooked, framework individuals need B4 starting research in an academic or school library. Combining several modalities including mindfulness, SEL, mediation, and conscious information literacy, iB4 concepts can help librarians create more intentional FYE lessons or k-12 curriculum for the adolescents they serve.*

Chani Craig is currently a school librarian in Whitefish, Montana, with over 25 years of experience in education as a teacher, coach, librarian, and (most importantly) a student. Studying and teaching in Italy, Japan, and Australia, as well as on both coasts of the US has given Ms. Craig a unique perspective on contemplative educational practices and identifying instructional methods that transcend areas and cultures.

**Understanding and Accessing Census Bureau Data - Kimberly Davis**

*Learn how to navigate census.gov to access the most current and relevant demographic, socioeconomic, and housing statistics about your community using existing and new data products and tools. During this session we will explore sources of data, frequency, and various levels of geography data is released. With a focus on the American Community Survey (ACS), we will look at narrative profiles and quick facts about local, county, state, and national level data. Attendees will learn how to search and navigation features in data.census.gov as well as how to download tables and create thematic maps.*

Kimberly Davis serves as a Data Dissemination Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau. Her primary role is to communicate business, demographic, and economic statistics from the Census Bureau that assist with business planning, decision making, development, and grant writing. Engaging with the public, including local governments, tribal nations, businesses, media, universities, and a variety of organizations and data users, Ms. Davis is responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders.
through the dissemination of Census Bureau data products and resources. Currently, Ms. Davis provides outreach services to organizations in the states and Tribal Nations of Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming. Ms. Davis holds a certificate from the Graduate School USA Executive Leadership Program, Colorado State University Program Management, Digital Fundamentals and Marketing and works with Agile Development teams as a multi-division product owner.

Setting the bait: how to land a whopper of an audience - Jennifer Birnel, Dave Colamaria

The Montana History Portal uses several ways to encourage use of our content to different audiences. We have used conference presentations and workshops to target teachers, social media to reach history lovers, exhibits for our website users and students, and now we are implementing geocaching exploration through Adventure Labs to engage tourists. Learn how changing your bait can hook a larger audience for your library services.

Jennifer Birnel is the Director of the Montana History Portal for the Montana State Library (MSL). She taught middle school for 12 years, holds a BA in communications and a master’s degree in literacy. Jennifer enjoys reading, camping, and kayaking.

Dave Colamaria joined the Montana History Portal as a Specialist in 2021. He has a master’s degree in History, and over a decade of previous experience working with and for the US Navy’s official history organization. He also has over a decade of experience in data analysis and statistics. He enjoys running, hiking, and skiing.

Fostering Teen Civic Engagement Through the Democracy Project - Jenny Bevill

Librarians and teens will share teen-led projects, strategies, and outcomes from year two of the Democracy Project, a statewide initiative designed to increase civic engagement among 13-19 year-olds. Participating libraries receive support from Humanities Montana to build teen audiences and achieve community-based goals.

Jenny Bevill is a dynamic educational leader with more than 20 years of experience teaching in public schools, museums, and community centers in New York City and Montana, including a decade at the Guggenheim Museum from 2004-2014. Jenny served as the Educator and Outreach Specialist at the Missoula Art Museum from 2018-2021 where she helped develop the distance learning platform, Museum as Megaphone, and the Art Host Initiative which connects Tribal nations across Montana with the museum to share contemporary Indigenous art. Jenny has taught and/or created content for many statewide arts organizations in Montana including the Office of Public Instruction, the Montana Arts Council, and Flathead Valley Community College. She has been a workshop leader for Humanities Montana since 2016 where she now coordinates the statewide Democracy Project for teens.
Serial and Series Records in the Wild: How to Spot and Catalog Them in the MSC - Keiley McGregor, Laura Tretter

If you’re overwhelmed looking at the MSC’s instructions for cataloging serial, series, and multi-part works -- and knowing when to apply a call # analytic! -- join us! This session is intended primarily for catalogers in the MSC; however, all who are puzzled by these types of materials are welcome.

Keiley McGregor works for the State Library as Trainer to the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) consortium. She enjoys trail running slowly, thrifting, and puzzles of all kinds.

Laura Tretter works for the State Library as System Administrator to the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC). She enjoys skiing, snowboarding, running slowly, and crafting of all sorts.

5:00-6:00PM – Happy Hour sponsored by The Trust for Montana Libraries

6:00-7:00PM - Cozy Networking with Tea-nanigans! – Amelea Kim

Come to a fun and cozy tea-themed networking hour! We will have teas available to try, delicious snacks to accompany the teas, and casual conversation with your conference peers. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come - you can stay for the whole time, or just pop in for a bit!

7:30-9:00PM – Sheila Cates Scholarship Fundraiser Event – Hotel Ballroom

Friday April 14th, 2023

Breakfast – 7:30-8:30AM

Session F 8:30-9:30AM

Go Wild with Continuing Education! How to Access and Use MSL Learn - Colet Bartow

This session will introduce you to the new MSL Learn platform and the courses offered. Online learning doesn't have to be dull or daunting! Colet will help you access the site and take advantage of the free courses offered to Montana librarians and trustees.

Colet’s professional background is in school librarianship, professional development, and state education agency leadership. Her history with MSL started in the late 1990s as a school library representative to several committees and included time as an MSL Commissioner. She currently serves at the Continuing Education Coordinator for MSL.
Copyright & Creativity - Shelley O'Rourke

The materials from this online resource provide accessible and practical information about copyright and its role in encouraging creativity with the goal of offering useful and positive information about how students can successfully navigate and rely on copyright in their own roles as creators.

Shelley O'Rourke has been an educator for 27 years, 15 as a middle school English teacher and 12 as a middle school librarian. She is currently serving as co-chair of the School Library Division of MLA.

Montana, Challenged Books and Responses - Kellian Clink, Matt Beckstrom, Jasmine James

Why are books being challenged in Montana? How are library's responding? What are the outcomes? What's the future hold? Kellian Clink will share results from a November 2022 survey that queried Montana Librarians about kinds of challenges & responses, Matt Beckstrom will discuss his experiences as the chair of the Montana Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee, and Jasmine Jackson will talk about their personal journey and how they have yet to see a nonbinary character in a book and what it would mean to them to see one.

Kellian Clink is a Librarian & Professor with 35 years of experience being a responsive librarian and a researcher in the arenas of Libraryland, History, and Student Affairs. Kellian has a MA, MLS, Specialist in Ed. Leadership.

Matt Beckstrom has a MIS from University of North Texas (2012) and is Systems Librarian at Lewis & Clark Library in Helena. Matt is also the Chair of the MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, MLA’s ALA Representative, American Library Association Councilor, and LITA Liaison to the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee. He is the author of several books and articles on privacy, security and intellectual freedom.

Jasmine Jackson is the Lib Tech II Student Supervisor, at Montana State University. They have been involved in the Bozeman Poetry Collective, have a Bachelor’s in Literature from Montana State University (2020) and is currently working on their MLIS degree.

Wrangling the Wild West of Hot Spot Cataloging in the MSC - Keiley McGregor, Melody Karle

The Montana State Library's Hot Spot Lending Program expanded patron access to the internet via hot spots, both in and out of the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC); however, it's presented cataloging challenges for staff. Come learn the MSC recommendations for cataloging hot spots to best support patron discovery and circulation.

Keiley McGregor works for the State Library as Trainer to the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) consortium. She enjoys trail running slowly, thrifting, and puzzles of all kinds.

Melody Karle works as a System Administrator for the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) consortium at the Montana State Library. She has previously worked in both public and academic libraries, and spends her free time fostering kittens, baking, gardening, and playing competitive Scrabble.
**Placement to Prompt Access: Our Library’s Experiment with Physical and Digital Signage** - Jessica Leach, Star Bradley, and Hannah McKelvey

Presenters share the results of strategically placing physical and digital signage to increase access to library resources. They created banners in their library’s discovery layer, hung large posters near the library coffee shop to engage students waiting in line, and monitored metrics to gauge increases, if any, in resource usage.

Jessica Leach is a Student Employee Service Desk Supervisor and is a member of the Student Management Team in the Learning & Research Services department of the MSU Library. While newer to the role, she spent her undergraduate career as a student employee in the MSU Library, giving her experience in working with student employees. She is currently pursuing her MLIS, and aims to understand more about the industry.

Star Bradley is a Reference and Instruction Librarian at Montana State University Library in Bozeman, MT. Her primary focus is on instruction, both credit bearing and guest lecturing. Star is also a member of the Outreach & Events committee, and assists with many of the library’s outreach efforts.

Hannah McKelvey is an Assistant Professor and Electronic Resources & Discovery Services Librarian at Montana State University Library. Her current role includes managing electronic information licensed by the Library through third-parties and to facilitate discovery and access to Library resources.

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**Session G  9:45-10:45AM**

**Libraries and Telehealth: An Opportunity for Service** - George Strawley

Telehealth holds promise for increasing healthcare access. However, many Montanans lack broadband, private space or digital literacy skills necessary to benefit from it. This session will discuss how libraries are beginning to address those needs and discuss some of the common questions that come up from libraries about telehealth.

George Strawley, M.L.I.S., works on providing access to health information and programs through libraries as well as on the planning and implementation of funding aimed at addressing health disparities. A former librarian in both the public and community college settings, he is based at the University of Utah, where he serves as Library Engagement Specialist in the Mountain West for the Network of the National Library of Medicine.
Grassroots Library Advocacy with the MLA Government Affairs Committee - Alissa Wolenetz, Rachel Rawn

This panel will discuss the 2023 Legislative Session, changes to State Aid, and possibilities for getting involved with efforts to advocate for libraries locally and statewide.

Alissa Wolenetz is the Director of the Lewistown Public Library and Co-chair of MLA’s Government Affairs Committee.

Rachel Rawn is the Director of the Havre-Hill County Library and Co-chair of MLA’s Government Affairs Committee.

Sensory Bins in the Library – Deidre McMullin, Liza Butler, Ellie Newell

How can sensory bin play transform library play spaces, early literacy programs, and library use? What are the developmental benefits of sensory play? What about the mess? Learn how to incorporate sensory activities into your storytime and play spaces in the library.

Liza Butler and Deidre McMullin work at branches of ImagineIF Libraries, and both consider storytime a highlight of their jobs at the library.

Ellie Newell is the Youth Services Department Head at Bozeman Public Library where she spends her days enchanting young children with her love of books and things cute and lovely.

The Stories We Tell: Rewilding Government Information in Montana - Natalie Bond, Jim Kammerer

This session seeks to anchor government information librarianship to place, both practically and theoretically. Presenters will discuss their efforts to engage with regionally-produced government information and reflect on the ways in which this work re-localizes their respective libraries, simultaneously connecting users to regionally-significant materials while contributing to stories of place.

Natalie Bond is the Government Information Librarian & Head of Information and User Services at the University of Montana’s Mansfield Library. She also serves as the regional Federal Depository Library Program coordinator for the state of Montana. When Natalie is not ruminating on the state of American collective memory, she can be found running long miles on Montana trails with her dog, Olive.

Jim Kammerer is the Government Information Librarian at Montana State Library who works with state agencies and Montana libraries to provide permanent public access to state government information intended for public distribution. Outside of work, he enjoys being with his family, amateur radio, gardening, and trail running in the Scratch Gravel Hills.

Carving a niche for the school library program in your school - Dana Carmichael, Colet Bartow

The best defense is a good offense. Be the best school librarian you can be without working yourself to death. Target your efforts to support your students and staff to build a library community.
Dana Carmichael is a retired middle school librarian and teacher from Whitefish, MT.

Colet’s professional background is in school librarianship, professional development, and state education agency leadership. Her history with MSL started in the late 1990s as a school library representative to several committees and included time as an MSL Commissioner. She currently serves at the Continuing Education Coordinator for MSL.

**Session H  11:15AM-12:15PM**

**Engaging Youth in Poetry** - Diane Sun

*Diane Sun, 2022 National Student Poet for the West, will share her journey to poetry and exercises that will engage other youth in the form.*

Diane Sun is a senior at Interlake High School in Bellevue, Washington, but she was born and raised in Houston, Texas. She is the president and founder of her school’s art and literary publication, *The Interlake Review*, as well as the philosophy club. When she’s not writing, she’s debating, either for her school or as a member of the national team. When she’s not debating, she’s writing, merging the (terrifying) passage of time, the intersection of femininity and nature, and her love of her Chinese culture and community in a blend of tea leaves and late nights.

**The 2023 International Indigenous Librarians Forum in Hawai’i** - Loriene Roy, Hau’olihiwahiwa Moniz

*The first International Indigenous Librarians Forum took place in 1999 in New Zealand. Nā Hawai’i ‘Imi Loa (Native Hawaiian Librarian Association) is hosting IILF 2023. The program is infused with Indigenous cultural protocol. Indigenous delegates at each IILF create a key document such as a vision statement or action plan.*

Dr. Loriene Roy is Anishinabe, enrolled on the White Earth Reservation, a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. She was Distinguished Service Professor in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin. She was President of the American Indian Library Association (AILA) and the American Library Association.

Hau’olihiwahiwa Moniz is a Native Hawaiian librarian with an MLIS from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa where she’s currently completing her Hawaiian Studies Master’s Degree. She is the Graduate Research Assistant for Laka me Lono Resource Center at Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, heading programming and assisting in research.
Significant Tidings – Eileen Wright

Significant Tidings is back! A forum sponsored by MLA’s Academic and Special Libraries Division (ASLD) to present library ideas, projects, or grant developments in 15-20 minute sessions.

Eileen Wright has been a Librarian/Archivist at Montana State University Billings Library since 2001. Like many of us, she has many roles at the library, which include professor for our LSCI125 course, Research in the Information Age, outreach coordinator for the many student events, running the student and staff book clubs, and of course working with our excellent faculty on projects.

Go Wild with KEVA Planks - Shelley O'Rourke

Keva Planks are a simple yet profound way to encourage creativity, iterative thinking, and design thinking for learners of all ages. Learn the why and how of bringing Keva planks into your library.

Shelley O'Rourke has been a Montana educator for 27 years. For the first 15, she taught middle school English. For the last 12 years, she has enjoyed being a middle school librarian. In 2022, she was elected to serve as a co-chair for the School Library Division of MLA.

Expanding Access to New Neighbors - Johnny Skinner, Ashley Cummins, Deidre McMullin

Valley Neighbors and ImagineIF Libraries created a partnership in 2022 to encourage immigrant and refugee families in the Flathead to learn about opportunities at the library and around the community. Public libraries are an ideal setting for newly arrived neighbors to learn about their community, make connections, and access services. Libraries across the state have an opportunity to create partnerships and build relationships that help serve immigrant and refugee communities.

Johnny Skinner, a decade long Flathead County resident, first saw a need to engage the greater Flathead community after local reactions and attitudes towards refugees in 2016. Johnny works to make our community a more welcoming community through Valley Neighbors, a non-profit dedicated to providing support and services to immigrants and refugees both locally and regionally.

Ashley Cummins is the director of ImagineIF Libraries. Prior to her move to Montana she worked in libraries in her home state of Alabama. She has a keen interest in kittens, kayaking and karaoke.

Deidre McMullin is the manager of ImagineIF Bigfork. Her favorite parts of her job include readers’ advisory, messy storytime activities, and shiny new books.

Stitching the Harmonious Whole: Using quilts to build information literacy programming - Alex Anderlik, Stephanie Hohn, Megan Stark

Quilting is a powerful metaphor for information literacy. Join us to learn how an academic library used a crazy quilt pattern to redesign our information literacy curriculum. Bring your bits and pieces and discuss how we stitched together diverse elements of instruction into a wild and harmonious whole.
Alex Anderlik is the Reference Technician at the University of Montana’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, as well as a student of UM’s History, Central and Southwest Asia Studies, and English programs.

Stephanie Hohn (she/her) will be a Spring 2023 graduate of the University of Montana’s English Literature Department. An employee of both the Mansfield Library’s Information and User Services and Technical Support Departments, her graphic designs have been used in monthly reference displays, library zines, and promotional stickers. A commissioned series of her pattern-focused digital artwork entitled “The Method of Loci” was added to the Mansfield Library’s permanent collection in 2022.

Megan Stark (she/her) is the Undergraduate Services and Outreach Librarian at the University of Montana Missoula Mansfield Library. She is keenly interested in local information, and the many ways that different people create community together.

12:30-2:00PM – MLA Division Lunches

Session I  2:15-3:45PM

Montana Book Award - Elizabeth Jonkel

The Montana Book Award is an annual award that recognizes literary and/or artistic excellence in a book published during the award year. Eligible titles are either set in Montana, deal with Montana themes/issues, or are written, edited or illustrated by a Montana author or artist. Books for all ages are considered for the award. Attend to learn about the 2022 Montana Book Award winners and the titles that were eligible this year.

Elizabeth Jonkel has been the Chair of the MBA since 2017. She is Assistant Director at Missoula Public Library. She is joined by members of the reading committee who select the annual winner and represent different geographic locations across the state of Montana.

Risks, Hazards, Danger, Oh My! Your Library’s Response to Safety, Incidents, and More – Sarah Creech

What’s the difference between risks, hazards, and danger? How do you start talking to your staff (coworkers, students) about safety? When should you document an incident that occurs in the library? What should follow up look like after an incident? These questions and more will be answered in this presentation.

While not an expert in safety or emergency preparedness, Sarah Creech is currently the Head of Circulation and Public Services at the Bozeman Public Library. Before pursuing librarianship as a full time career in 2016, she was a food scientist who developed freeze-dried backpacking meals for Mountain House. She hails from the east coast, a graduate of Cornell University in Ithaca, NY for undergraduate studies and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for her MLIS. She, along with her husband, has called Bozeman home for 6 years.
**MSL Trunk Program Overview** - Amelea Kim

*Are you looking for fun activities to do at your library? Come and explore the MSL Trunk Program and learn about the themed trunk activities that are available to you! We will discuss the logistics of how to borrow and use a trunk, as well as go over the different trunks that are available for both you and your community.*

Amelea Kim has worked as the Lifelong Learning Librarian at the Montana State Library since June 2018. Her library interests include children’s services, particularly services for ages 0–5, health literacy, community outreach/support, and supporting Montana librarians in the amazing work that they do! In her free time, Amelea enjoys hiking, baking cakes and consuming said cakes, and making forays into various crafting hobbies.

**What’s with the buttons? - A DEI Initiative** - Jessica Leach

*The Learning & Research Services department at the MSU-Bozeman Library has developed an initiative to incentivize commendable work done by student employees and to create an inclusive atmosphere through custom buttons for the department.*

Jessica Leach is a Student Employee Service Desk Supervisor and is a member of the Student Management Team in the Learning & Research Services department of the MSU Library. While newer to the role, she spent her undergraduate career as a student employee in the MSU Library, giving her experience in working with student employees. She is currently pursuing her MLIS, and aims to understand more about the industry.

**4:00-5:00 – MLA Interest Group Meetings**

**6:00-7:30PM – MLA New Members Cocktail Hour with music by Counting Coup**

**7:30-9:00PM – MLA Awards Dinner**

**Saturday April 15th, 2023**

**Session J  9:00-10:00AM**

**Helping Libraries Tame Wild Technology** - Suzanne Reymer

*The speed and scope of technology changes and innovations can be overwhelming. We’ll look at some of the latest tech developments and trends and what they might mean for your library and your community.*

Suzanne Reymer is a Consulting Librarian for the Montana State Library. Prior to that, she was a Technology Librarian and has continued to be viewed by many as the techie in Library Development. She strives to stay current on new technologies and trends while seeking to remove some of the aura of
inevitability. Aiding in this endeavor are two cats who believe that nothing is more important than a warm lap and a dog who knows that walks supersede screens.

Meet the Law Library - Sydnie Tallman

Have your librarians come across legal questions that they found hard to answer? Are your patrons looking for legal resources that you do not have in your library? Let me introduce you to the State Law Library and the resources and services that we offer.

Sydnie Tallman is the Technical Services Librarian at the State Law Library. She has worked for three years in both the circulation and technical services department. Before that, she spent 15 years in the education field, as a substitute teacher and Director of Education at Sylvan Learning Center.

Guerrilla Storytime - Come Share and Learn! – Amelea Kim

Guerrilla Storytime is a peer-to-peer skill sharing event that allows storytime providers to learn new skills and show the plethora of knowledge Youth Services professionals have. Participants pick a popsicle stick with a storytime challenge on it (ex: “What’s your favorite nursery rhyme?”) and demonstrate their answer to their peers. Come share your tried-and-true storytime ideas and learn about others, and help everyone leave with new tricks and skills to share with your community.

Amelea Kim has worked as the Lifelong Learning Librarian at the Montana State Library since June 2018. Her library interests include children’s services, particularly services for ages 0 – 5, health literacy, community outreach/support, and supporting Montana librarians in the amazing work that they do! In her free time, Amelea enjoys hiking, baking cakes and consuming said cakes, and making forays into various crafting hobbies.

Genre-fy your Library - Ann Gentry and Janell Habeck

Want to help your students find a book easily to help encourage them to read? Try setting up your library by genre. We changed our high school/middle school library 5 years ago and it has been a huge success. We will share how we did it and what our students say.

Ann Gentry has been working at the Frenchtown School Library for 15 years.

Janell Habeck has been working at the Frenchtown School Library for 10 years.
Lifelong Learning For Everyone - Amelea Kim

Lifelong learning is important for patrons of all ages. The Montana Library Network Lifelong Learning Core Services Committee is eager to help create engaging experiences for diverse patrons around the state. Join the committee in this session to learn about how the LLL CSC helps contribute to this, to share ideas for needs and trends in lifelong learning that you see, and to help increase lifelong learning opportunities across the Montana library community.

Amelea Kim has worked as the Lifelong Learning Librarian at the Montana State Library since June 2018. Her library interests include children’s services, particularly services for ages 0 – 5, health literacy, community outreach/support, and supporting Montana librarians in the amazing work that they do! In her free time, Amelea enjoys hiking, baking cakes and consuming said cakes, and making forays into various crafting hobbies.

How to Run a Successful Family Movie Night - Ann Gentry

Want to get ideas for hosting a successful Community Movie Night? Ideas for where and how to host a movie night will be shared as well as what legal aspects you might need to know.

Ann Gentry grew up in Greeley, Colorado and lived in Oklahoma and Alaska before moving to Montana. She has been working at the Frenchtown Library since 2008 and it has become her passion. Ann has hosted a successful Family movie night for the past 12 years.

Changing Perceptions Through Outreach - Jennifer Ball

How does your community view your library? Is the perception off-base or is it time to evaluate what needs to change to better meet needs? Hear about Stillwater County Library’s process of evaluation, the outreach campaign that improved the library’s image, and how their experience may help you.

Jennifer Ball is the Director of Stillwater County Library. She has worked in special, academic, and public libraries and holds a Bachelors in English, a Masters in Library and Information Science, and a certificate in grant writing. Her passion revolves around providing support and arming people with the tools they need to be successful in gaining knowledge, while also encouraging inspiration and innovation. In her free time, you might see her spending time with her family, her menagerie of nearly 60 animals, or riding the trails in a side by side with her husband.

Everything is Political: Ethics in School Libraries - Hayley Botnen

A deep dive into School Library Ethics. Let’s talk about how to stand firm against push back and how to respond to parties operating against library ethics.
Hayley is a Leo and an Enneagram 8. She focuses her librarianship on finding books for all students. She believes that while a library's heart is books, it's skeleton is relationships with patrons.

11:30-1:00PM – Author Lunch with Craig Lancaster

Craig Lancaster is the author of 10 novels, including two High Plains Book Award winners: *And It Will Be a Beautiful Life* (2022, best fiction) and *600 Hours of Edward* (2010, best first book). His latest, *Dreaming Northward* (Gramarye Media), comes out June 27, 2023, in hardcover, ebook, and audiobook. He lives in Billings with his wife (novelist Elisa Lorello), a dachshund named Fretless, and a tuxedo cat named Spatz.