

Newsletter

Big Horizons Close Community

December 2014—January 2015

www.mpla.us

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Inside, check out the highlights of the 2014 Arizona Library Association / Mountain Plains Library joint conference, and get a head start on planning for next year's joint conference, September 23-25, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.



Arizona Colorado Kansas Montana Nebraska Nevada New Mexico
North Dakota Oklahoma South Dakota Utah Wyoming

President's Message

by Annie Epperson



As many of you know, I was fortunate to attend the Leadership Institute this past April. Facilitator Maureen Sullivan is a walking library of useful resources, and one that she directed our attention to is *Race for Relevance*, by Harrison Coerver and Mary Byers. In this book, which calls for radical change in associations in order that they continue to thrive, I found some wisdom that will guide the work I'll undertake with MPLA in the next year. As I look over the five areas of change the authors recommend, I see that, frankly, MPLA is pretty well on course already.

I feel that there are two tasks before us: Focus and Outreach.

I feel that there are two tasks before us in the coming year: Focus and Outreach.

We need to FOCUS - meaning, be clear about our purpose, and that is to provide professional development to members. Not only the opportunity for PD, we need to ensure that members take full advantage of what we have to offer. We need to be clear about our membership, whom we serve and strive to reach, and what they need in order to thrive in their work and professional lives. Of course, most of us think of individuals, but we do have institutional members to consider as well. We'll focus on providing meaningful, relevant, and timely professional development and programming to our membership in this coming year.

Second, we will leverage technological OUTREACH - we already have an excellent team in Dan and Roy, who provide a wonderful set of tools whereby we can reach out to the membership; I feel it is imperative that we add another tool or two to our kit, so that we can continue to be relevant, beyond this year and into the future.

As I look over the 2010 - 2015 long range plan, I see that we are well on our way to meeting those goals; there will be additional work for us to do as well. I have work in mind for every one of our committees, work that will often overlap between committees. For example, a membership drive with a primary and central message about professional development grants touches two committees, and might well necessitate cross-communication with others.

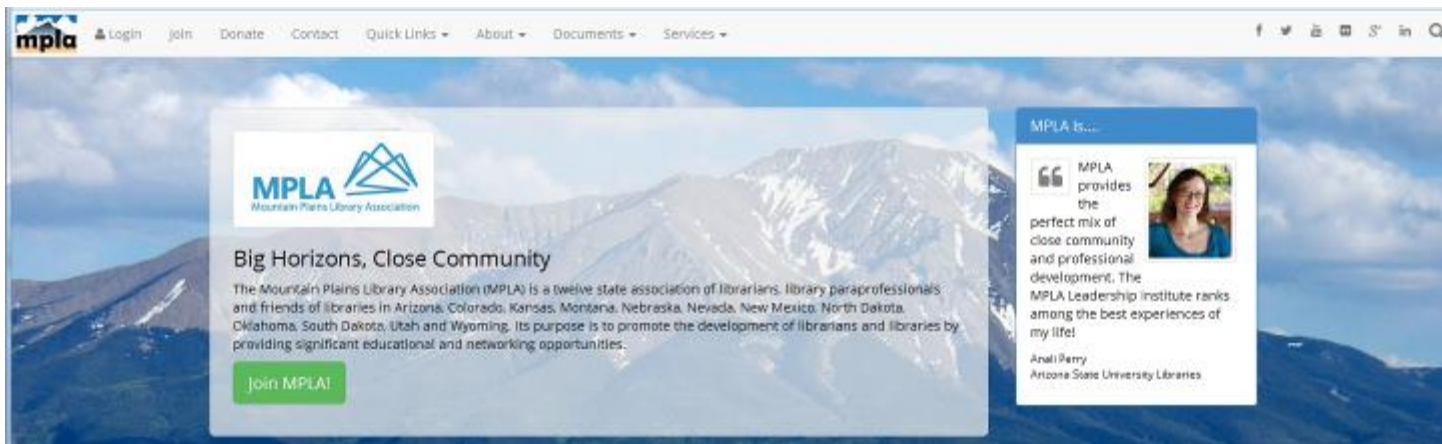
I'll be tapping chairs and members of committees to do some quick work on taskforces. If you're particularly interested, or know of someone who wants to be more involved in MPLA, please let me know.

I just want to say that I'm really excited to work with this wonderful group of people this year - in particular I know that Val and Eric and I, together with Wendy and the committee chairs, will be able to really make a difference to our membership this year, and for that opportunity, I am thrilled. We may have big horizons, but we certainly are a close community!



Past President Wendy Wendt passes the gavel to President Annie Epperson on November 12.

& improved New MPLA Website



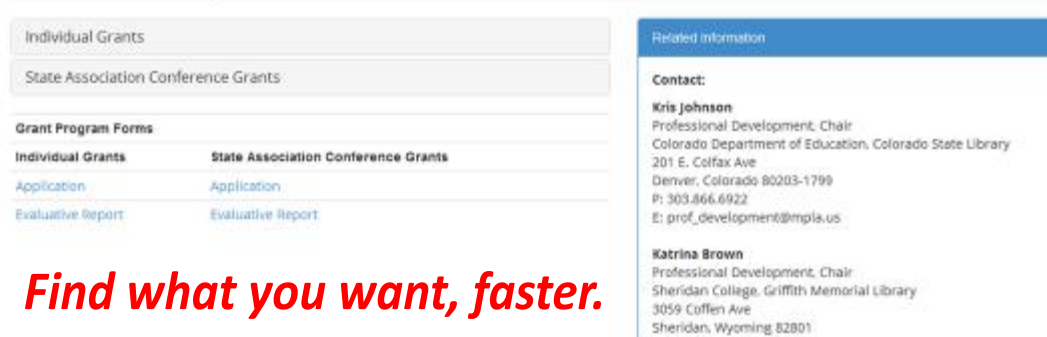
Over the last six months, MPLA Webmaster, Dan Chaney and Systems Administrator Roy Degler have been working on a complete redesign of the [MPLA website](#), using an open source content management system, [MODX](#). The address hasn't changed—it's still [mpla.us](#)—but the look and feel are updated, and key information is much easier to find.

A new navigation bar across the top of each page makes it easy to get around, with popular links, documents, and contact information front and center.

Content boxes on the front page highlight current information that used to require several clicks to view: announcements, calendar items, and the latest job listings from the [MPLA Jobline](#).



Professional Development Grants



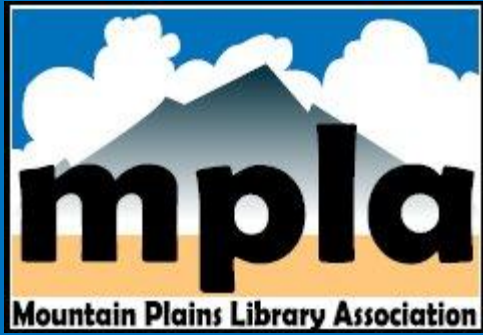
Secondary webpages feature "Related Information" boxes, and share the clean, sleek design of the home page. The [Grants](#) page includes expandable boxes for different grant types, to make it easy to zero in on the exact information you need.

Find what you want, faster.

A new footer includes links to state association partners, and a quick way to contact MPLA.

We hope you like the new site as much as we do! If you have bookmarks to specific pages within the old MPLA website, you will need to update them with new links. If you have questions about the redesign, contact webmaster Dan Chaney (webmaster@mpla.us).





CONGRATULATIONS to the newly elected MPLA OFFICERS



Eric Stroshane

Vice-President/President-Elect

Eric is Library Development Manager, North Dakota State Library, Bismarck, ND.



Valerie Nye

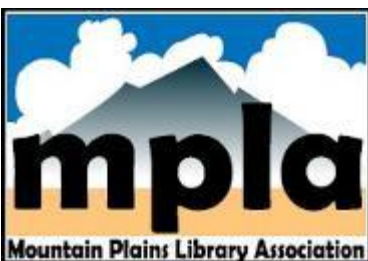
Recording Secretary

Val is Library Director, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM.

They began their new positions at the AzLA/MPLA joint conference in November, joining Annie Epperson who took over as President, and Wendy Wendt, who became Past-President and Chair of the Administration Committee.

thank you!

**MPLA extends thanks
to all of the candidates
who were willing to
serve MPLA.**



GROCERY CARD PROGRAM



Buying and reloading a grocery gift card purchased through MPLA raises funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs. A full 5% of your purchases made using the card at participating stores goes directly to MPLA.

Visit the [MPLA website](#) for details, and remember—MPLA/King Soopers/Kroger grocery cards make great gifts!

AzLA / MPLA 2014

Joint Conference



A Proclamation of the MPLA Executive Board

We-Ko-Pa Resort, Arizona
14 November 2014

The Board of the Mountain Plains Library Association proclaims its gratitude and thanks to the Arizona Library Association for hosting the 2014 AZLA/MPLA joint conference.

WHEREAS, the programming of the joint conference was arranged in collaboration between the two Associations to ensure a well-rounded and diverse slate of informative and entertaining offerings to attendees;

WHEREAS, the facilities and staff of the We Ko Pa resort and the people of the Yavapai Nation provided a lovely location for conference, which will be long remembered for its luxurious setting in the desert;

WHEREAS, the Conference Committee Chairs Ginnie Pannabecker, Claudia Leon, and Casey VanHaren, and Chair of the Conference Program Committee, Jasper Halt, generously and thoughtfully included MPLA's interests and concerns at every juncture of the planning process;

WHEREAS, a special word of thanks must be said to Ann Boles, AzLA President, Dan Stanton, AzLA President-elect, Dale Savage, MPLA Representative, and Ann Leonard, AzLA Webmaster, for continually smoothing the path towards a successful joint conference;

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE PROCLAIMED that the Mountain Plains Library Association Executive Board thanks the Arizona Library Association for hosting the 2014 Joint Conference, which truly illustrates the theme that Libraries ARE the Best of the West!



Conference Highlights

The AzLA/MPLA 2014 joint conference was truly an event to remember. From the spectacular setting and warm hospitality to timely, inspiring keynote addresses, and interesting sessions, Arizona came through with flying colors.



The We-Ko-Pa Resort and Conference Center in Scottsdale/Fountain Hills was a lovely location for the conference.



AzLA President Ann Boles gave a warm welcome to MPLA attendees. She also came up with the excellent conference theme, Libraries: The Best of the West. At the end of the conference, she passed the gavel to new President and MPLA member Dan Stanton.



MPLA members were easy to spot with their bright red bandanas.



MPLA Vice President/President Elect Eric Stroshane, President Annie Epperson, and immediate Past President Wendy Wendt struck a pose at the board meeting on November 12.



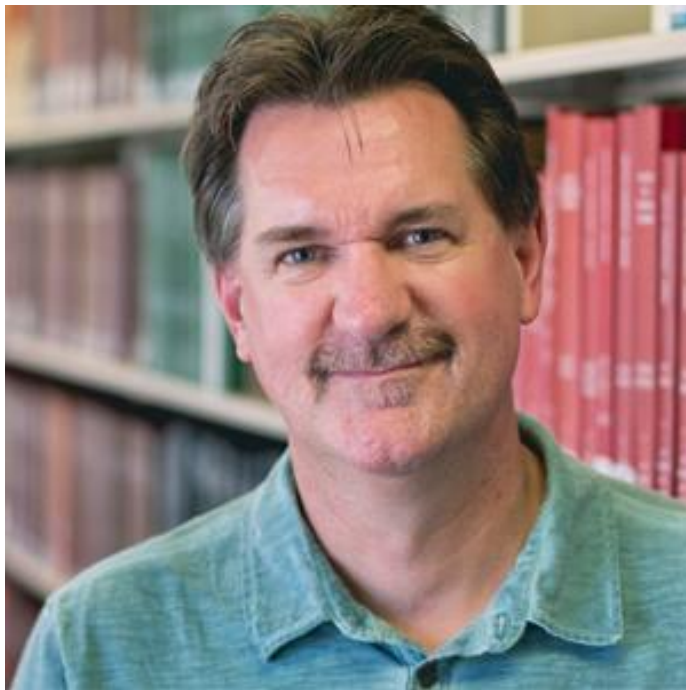
Executive Secretary Judy Zelenski at the MPLA booth, with the raffle basket full of goodies from member states.



Attendees from wintry climates enjoyed day-time highs in the upper 70s, and the flora and fauna that went with the weather.



Board members after the meeting that opened the conference on November 12.



New AzLA President Dan Stanton has been an MPLA member since 2003. He is a former Arizona State Representative to MPLA.



Can you name the MPLA member with this great tattoo of Harold drawing books with his purple crayon? If not, look for the answer in our next issue!

MPLA Award Winners



Distinguished Service Award Carol Hammond

For her many years of service to academic libraries, 25 years of service to the state of Arizona, and 24 years as a member of MPLA, Carol Hammond richly deserves the MPLA Distinguished Service Award.

Carol Hammond (left), pictured with Awards Committee Chair Mary Ann Thompson.

Unsung Hero Award Roy Degler

MPLA Systems Administrator Roy Degler keeps our online systems running through thick and thin.

Roy Degler with Mary Ann Thompson.



Carl Gaumer Literary Champion Award Friends of Kansas Libraries

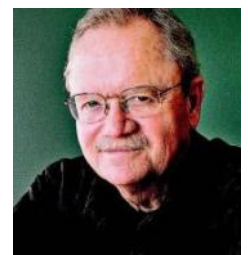
The Friends of Kansas Libraries (FOKL) provides Start-up Grants and Challenge Grants to help establish new Friends groups or to grow existing groups throughout Kansas.

Diana Weaver and Mickey Coalwell accepted on behalf of the Friends of Kansas Libraries.



Literary Contribution Award Kent Haruf

Colorado author Kent Haruf won this year's Literary Contribution Award, although he was unable to attend the ceremony.



Dreams You Hold in Your Hand:

The Enduring Power of Books

A Keynote Address by Connie Willis



It's all connected.
And it's magic.

And unlike the magic shoes and lamps and
keys in the fairy tales,
there's no limit to the magic books can work.

They can not only help us to escape
and transform our lives,
and take us to strange and wonderful places,

they can also
help us forget our troubles...

Connie Willis, November 2014
www.conniewillis.net

There are librarians who don't love books, though many of us do. Even among ourselves, and especially at conferences and in professional literature, conversations about books tend to focus on technology, programming, trends, and budgets. It is all too rare to talk about the magic of books themselves. That is what Connie Willis set out to do in her Friday keynote address at the AzLA/MPLA Joint Conference.

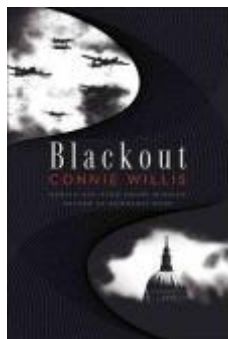
Willis, the Hugo and Nebula Award winning author of science fiction stories including the Oxford time travel novels, described going to the Englewood Public Library to get her first library card at age eight, and being swept away by the "pure, heart-stopping magic" of finding L. Frank Baum's Oz books waiting for her.

That was the first of a number of magical moments that changed Willis's life, and she reminded the audience that that puts her in good company. From Thomas Edison to Frances Hodgson Burnett, Richard Wright, and Abraham Lincoln, authors and thinkers throughout history have been rescued, inspired, and utterly transformed by the magic of books. She described the people who shared those books with her, and the authors who inspired others, as unlikely fairy godmothers.

Librarians are uniquely qualified to share the magic of books, and Willis reminded us that you may never know when you have been a fairy godmother for someone. "Keep going that extra mile, because it does make a difference. You just don't always know how much."

Connie Willis live in Colorado. She was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2009.

Her most recent book is **The Best of Connie Willis: Award Winning Stories** (Del Rey, 2013). A listing of the books and authors mentioned in her speech is available [here](#).



Rootin' Tootin' Banned Books

Booktalking Rodeo with Valerie Nye and Kathy Barco

Valerie Nye and Kathy Barco really did write the book on banned books (*True Stories of Censorship in America's Libraries*, ALA Editions, 2012), so who better to present creative book sharing ideas about banned and challenged books?

Nye and Barco were inspired to write their book after meeting a school librarian who had been sent home for wearing a banned books t-shirt. The stories in the book come from all kinds of library settings, including academic and correctional libraries with their school and public counterparts. The booktalking ideas they presented were just as diverse.

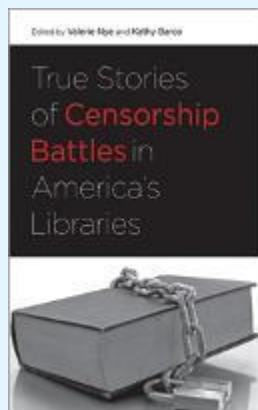
From skits and quizzes to original book art, and from classic novels like *The Grapes of Wrath* to picture books like *Where's Waldo?*, they zipped through well over a dozen book talks during their brief session. They didn't focus on rules for booktalking so much as the idea that there don't have to be many rules at all:

- Booktalks are for everyone, not just librarians.
- Booktalks can be adapted for any age group, though they can be especially fun for teens.
- Booktalks don't have to be talks! You might use charades, poetry, visual art, or primary sources.
- Spoiler alert! A booktalk is like a commercial for a book. You don't want to give away the ending, or the exact reason it was banned or challenged.
- Find your own style and have fun!

This session was a great inspiration to read or share a banned book today.



Two views of an original book art project by Val Nye, highlighting themes in William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*.



Valerie Nye is the Library Director for the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. She has been an MPLA member since 2003, and is the MPLA Recording Secretary for 2014-2015.

Kathy Barco is a library consultant and former Youth Services Consultant at the New Mexico State Library. She has been a member of MPLA since 2010.

Riding Bikes at Conference:

by Dan Chaney, MPLA Webmaster and Avid Cyclist

A New MPLA Activity?



The author cycling with colleagues near Fountain Hills, AZ.

I love cycling. My Facebook friends know this. My newsfeed is filled with bike ride maps, data, and photos. Riding has made an immense difference in my health, both physical and mental. I took it up in June 2013, after losing my brother, who was a year and a half younger than me, to a fatal heart attack.

I bought a Trek hybrid bike, unsure what type of bike I really wanted to ride – a hybrid would allow me to ride on the road or on trails/gravel. After 14 months, I came to know that I really loved riding on the open roads, and riding really fast (hitting 30 mph on a bike is quite the rush, if you can get past the terror of hurtling down the hill beside Oklahoma traffic).

In late August, I bought my “forever” bike, a 2015 Trek Domane 4.3 – carbon frame, hydraulic disc brakes. Out of the box, this thing weighed 23 lbs. My hybrid weighed close to 35 lbs. So, as you might imagine, this new, expensive bike almost pedaled itself. It was fast, and I didn’t have to pedal my rear off to hit 30 mph. In fact, the fastest I’ve ever ridden on it is 39 mph, and I was not even pedaling. Trust me, hitting 39 miles on a bike is plenty frightening, particularly when a flock of wild turkeys decides to land on the road in front of you. I’ve startled deer, too.

I wanted to bring my bike to Arizona, and stop along the way in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I thought others might be interested in the same. So, I put it out there, contacting the folks at AzLA, and they helped get the word out. A couple of my MPLA Facebook friends and professional colleagues were interested in joining in. I was hoping that someone in the Arizona association who was a cyclist might help me figure out a route and a good place for people to rent a bike – that didn’t happen. But, hey, I’m an information professional. I know how to find information.

As a cyclist, the big concerns I have are temperatures, winds and hills, particularly if I am riding with people whose cycling ability I am unsure of. I wasn’t too worried about cold temperatures. Winds are flat out unpredictable. I’ve ridden in the teeth of 20 mile winds, it’s not fun, but it can be done. Hills aren’t much of a concern for me as I know my cycling ability – just down shift and grind them out, and on the other side, you have a great ride. But I was going to be cycling in unfamiliar territory.



The Bosque Trail in Albuquerque.

Continued on page 28

Hot Tub Roundtable

When asked about the history of the Hot Tub Roundtable, Montana State Representative and MPLA Past President (and Roundtable founder) Eileen Wright wrote:

The MPLA Hot Tub Roundtable began in 2009, with the hopes of creating another avenue for MPLA folks to gather for an evening of laughter and fun. We had to have rubber duckies join us, of course. So each year we make sure to have a night set aside for our Hot Tub Roundtable and the naming of the ducks, which change each year.

Laughter, great conversation, and all around fun is had at the roundtable, and you don't have to get in the hot tub, either. There is always a group that gets in the hot tub, while others slide the chairs nearby to continue with the great laughter had by all. Make sure to join us next year in Cheyenne, Wyoming."

For photos of Hot Tub Roundtables all the way back to 2009, check out the [MPLA Facebook page](#).



Wyoming Library Association / Mountain Plains Library Association Joint Conference

September 23-25, 2015




Next year's WLA/MPLA joint conference promises great educational opportunities and fun in a lovely location: the [Little America Hotel and Resort](#) in Cheyenne.

The conference theme is *Changing Libraries in the New West*, and the conference chair is MPLA State Representative Steven Boss.

Look for much more about the conference in our next issue, and check the [WLA website](#) for updates.

New Mexico State University | Doña Ana Community College

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Highlighting MPLA Leadership Institute Alumni

Anali Perry, 2006

What are you doing now?

I am the Collections & Scholarly Communications Librarian at Arizona State University Libraries. This is the same position I was in when I attended the Leadership Institute, but I have been promoted to the rank of Associate Librarian. I'm also the Co-Chair of the 2016 Leadership Institute Committee!



What was the most valuable element that you took from the Leadership Institute?

That a big part of leadership is your attitude – a positive attitude attracts others and helps generate trust and better relationships throughout your organization. I try my best to stay positive and optimistic while I'm at work – and I definitely think it helps!

What one piece of advice did you learn from LI that you could share with other MPLA/MLA folks?

At the 2010 institute, we had a mantra, thanks to one of our mentors, Brian Greene – “I can't lose because I have faith, courage, and optimism!” I still think this is a great guidepost to use when you're navigating through life.

Highlighting Montana Leadership Institute Alumni



Samantha Hines, 2006
interviewed by Montana
State Representative Eileen Wright

What are you doing now?

I'm the head of the Missoula College Library (a community college affiliated with the University of Montana) and write and present frequently on issues of library leadership and middle management. Outside of work, my two children, Lorelei (7) and Edwin (2) keep me busy!

What was the most valuable element that you took from the Leadership Institute?

That I can be an effective leader even though I'm a librarian/introvert/not a manager.

What one piece of advice did you learn from LI that you could share with other MPLA/MLA folks?

That leadership is truly a group endeavor, not an individual one.

We will meet more Leadership Institute alumni in future issues. Do you know a state or MPLA Leadership Institute alum who should be featured here? Write to editor@mpla.us.

Around the Region

ARIZONA

With the launch of [Reading Arizona](#), Arizonans now have access to a statewide ebook platform featuring more than 500 books about the state. The collection is hosted by the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, with a framework created by Biblio-Labs. “While the collection is still growing, there’s something for everyone,” said State Librarian and Arizona State Library Director Joan Clark in a press release.



Prescott Public Library’s “Book Nook” project provides free books for a variety of ages and interests in the lobbies and hallways of Prescott organizations including the Yavapai County Courthouse. Unique, decorative shelves are regularly stocked with books by library staff, according to the [Prescott Daily Courier](#).

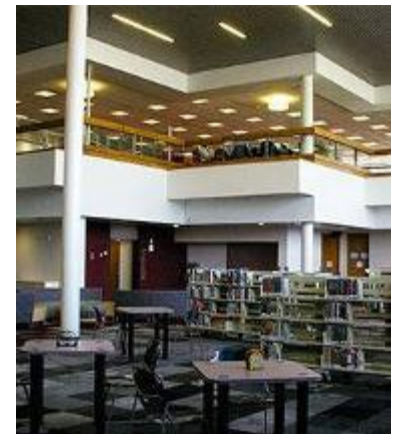


Arizona State University has named James J. O’Donnell, former Georgetown provost and pioneer in emerging digital technologies, to the post of university librarian. His appointment takes effect February 3, 2015.

The University of Arizona Libraries’ “The Documented Border” exhibit and [digital archive](#) shares original research material about the US-Mexico border, collected and curated by University of Arizona faculty border. The archive documents the personal stories of journalists who have been silenced, and government processes that cannot be officially recorded. The exhibit will be open in Special Collections through December 19.

COLORADO

Pikes Peak Library District, Library 21c, in Colorado Springs opened its Center for Public Media in October. Library 21c is touted as “ahead of the tech curve” by the Colorado Springs Gazette, with more technology than you can shake a stick at.



From automatic books sorters to RFID self-checkouts to PlayStation adult gaming lounges, Library 21c is just one of many PPLD branches designed to “have experience and materials relevant for everyone.”

The new Library 21c studio with video cameras and lights and editing software is designed to assist future filmmakers, producers and musicians, etc. in creating their own quality multi-media. The studio is open to anyone along with a “101” certification course available to interested users.



CALCON, the Colorado Association of Libraries annual conference, was held October 16-18 in Loveland.

CAL Awards were presented at a luncheon on October 17. Colorado Librarian of the Year awards were presented to Peter Derk, of High Plains Library District, and Claudine Perrault, of Estes Valley Library. Pikes Peak Library District is the Colorado Library of the Year. A full list of CAL Award winners is available [here](#).

KANSAS

The Kansas Library Association Conference was held in Wichita, October 29-31.



Highlights of the keynote address by Clarion Collaborative's Karen Archer Perry, "Kansas Libraries Play Little Ball—They Are a Winning Team," can be found [here](#).

Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Week was celebrated November 16-20, featuring the picture book *Is Everyone Ready for Fun?*, by Jan Thomas. Read about the special events around the state in the [Emporia Gazette](#).

KANSAS, continued...

Paul Hawkins, director of the South Central Kansas Library System, contributed an opinion piece to the *Wichita Eagle* in November, spotlighting the role of public libraries in a changing technological landscape. Read the article [here](#).



Rob Banks, Chief Operations Officer of the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library and Past President of MPLA, appeared in an Auburn Community Theater production of "Blame It on the Movies" in November.

The show highlighted more than 75 memorable songs from the movies. Read more about the show in the [Topeka Capital-Journal](#).



Rob Banks, right, in Auburn Community Theater's production of "Blame It on the Movies."

MONTANA

NEBRASKA

The Montana Historical Society celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in Montana in November. They celebrated with picketing suffragists and a suffrage sing-along at the Montana State Capitol Rotunda with guest speakers Governor Judy Martz, Secretary of State Linda McCulloch, and Lt. Governor Angela McLean.

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.
Montana
Historical Society



Missoula Public Library had a thrilling kick-off to their Big Read 2014. The program included selections for all age groups. For adults, *The Things They*

Carried by Tim O'Brien; the Middle Read, *Cracker, the Best Dog in Vietnam* by Cynthia Kadohata; and the Little Read, *Water Buffalo Days: Growing Up in Vietnam* by Quang Nhuong Huynh. Big Read events included a dramatic reading from a classic Vietnamese fairy tale "Why Ducks Sleep on One Leg," by Missoula Public Library's Teen Age Writers group, and a presentation on the history of Tim O'Brien's Americal Division by Jin Hamilton. MPL even created a [GoodReads account](#) to join in if you could not attend the events.

Lewis & Clark Library Foundation hosted a reception for internationally-acclaimed author Alexander McCall Smith in November.



Foundation board President Dennis Taylor said, "We are so pleased to be able to offer to Helenans the opportunity to spend some time with an author of Mr. McCall Smith's caliber. Hosting an internationally-acclaimed, bestselling author is a unique opportunity for our community."

Kris Johnson, currently Manager of AskColorado at the Colorado State Library, has accepted the position of Head of Learning and Research Services (LRS) at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman, Montana.

Ruth Carlock, Director of Levitt Library at York College, received the Nebraska Library Association College and University Section's 2014 Distinguished Service Award. Ruth has worked for the library at York College for a total of 25 years, serving as Assistant Director for 11 years and Director for the past two years.



The Nebraska Library Association has completed the election process for new officers and chairs to lead the organization's boards, sections, and round tables. A listing of the NLA representatives for 2015 is available [here](#).

NEVADA

The Nevada Library Association annual conference was held in Fallon, October 13-14.



Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno welcomes a new Director of Library Services, Shannon Van Kirk. Since 2006, Ms. Van Kirk has served as the Director of the Library at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, OR. A published writer on topics including literacy and faculty-librarian partnerships, Kirk has been involved with in the Achieving the Dream student success initiative and is a member of the Oregon Community College Distance Learning Association. Truckee Meadows Community College has an enrollment of over 12,000 students.

NEVADA, continued...

Twenty public libraries in Nevada are implementing [CommunityConnect](#) under a three-year agreement with the Nevada State Library and Archives. By combining market segmentation data with a library's patron and checkout data, CommunityConnect helps libraries find new customers, increase services, address low literacy rates, compare service areas, and perform market research, among other features. CommunityConnect is a service from CIVIC Technologies.



Extensive training workshops in Carson City and North Las Vegas were held with library directors to kick-off implementation.

"We were attracted to CommunityConnect because we recognize the need for Nevada libraries to better understand their communities, predict what people are interested in, and deliver more relevant services," said Daphne DeLeon, Division Administrator/State Librarian, Nevada State Library and Archives.

Read more about the rollout on the [CIVIC Technologies Blog](#).

NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Library Association annual conference, *Inspiring Libraries Build Communities*, was held in Ruidoso, October 22-24.



NMLA Awards were presented to Paulita Aguilar, NM State Senator William Soules, Peg Johnson, Julia Clarke, Sandra Lanning, and Tina Glatz. Award details and brief biographies of the winners are available [here](#).

NEW MEXICO, continued...

MPLA had a table at the exhibits and many people expressed interest. On Friday, Janice Kowemy drew 10 names from almost 30 entries to award free 1 year MPLA memberships.



Young patrons trick or treated in Albuquerque.

Libraries all over New Mexico had Halloween celebrations in October. Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Libraries had some "trick or treaters" come by. New Mexico State University Library was into pumpkins. Santa Fe Public Library got into the "spirit" with decorations. UNM Valencia Campus participated in a campus decorating contest using a theme of Stephen King's "It."



Halloween decorations at Santa Fe Public Library.

A team of "library walkers" participated in the American Cancer Society's annual walk to raise funds to fight breast cancer, at Cottonwood Mall in Albuquerque on October 26.

NEW MEXICO, continued...



During October and November, Parish Memorial Library celebrated 45 years of providing services to the University of New Mexico and the community with a lecture series and exhibit. An exhibit of photos and other materials illustrating the history of the library will be on display in Parish Memorial Library through December 19, 2014.



Placitas Community Library celebrated its 11th anniversary with a public event creating a labyrinth. The labyrinth is used for storytelling events. Adults find walking it a calming experience while children enjoy running through it.



On October 27, the *Las Cruces Sun-News* reported on spooky goings on at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. Read the full story [here](#).

Farmington Public Library's annual Four Corners Storytelling Festival was held in October and featured regional and national storytellers. Next year's Storytelling Festival will be held on October 9 and 10, 2015.



NORTH DAKOTA

The North Dakota Library Association held its annual conference September 17-19, in Bismarck. Keynote speakers were Betsy Dalrymple, first lady of North Dakota, and former United States Senator Byron Dorgan. Warren Graham, the Black Belt Librarian, presented a pre-conference workshop on library security. The conference was well attended.

Jerry Kaup, Director of the Minot Public Library, will retire effective December 19, 2014. Jerry served as president of MPLA, president of NDLA, and ALA councilor. Libraries throughout the region will miss Jerry's wisdom and vision. He plans to spend lots of time at the Phoenix Public Library.



On August 22nd, the West Fargo Public Library received a generous \$100 check from Gate City Bank. Gate City Bank stated that the Library was chosen for the Gate City Bank Acts of Kindness because, "We do wish to express our appreciation to your commitment of enhancing the lives of those who seek your facility and events." The Library will use the funds to help pay for adult watercolor lessons.



The North Dakota State Library has announced an exciting networking opportunity. The State Library was invited by the Illinois State Library to join with nine other states to participate in ILEAD USA in 2015. ILEAD stands for Innovative Librarians Explore Apply and Discover.

ILEAD participants work together to solve problems using participatory technology tools. Learn more about the program in the North Dakota State Library [Flickertale Newsletter](#).

NORTH DAKOTA, continued...



West Fargo Public Library Director Sandra Hannahs has been named Librarian of the Year by the North Dakota Library Association.

Greta Guck is the incoming President of the North Dakota Library Association, and is Director at Leach Public Library in Wahpeton, ND.



The Minot Public Library and Ward County Public Library in Minot, ND have been hard at work getting their "geek" on this fall. The two libraries have been

collaborating on the *Geek Your Library* campaign since August, and will keep the momentum going through May. So far this year the libraries have geeked apples, MSU homecoming, hunting and Veterans. The feedback from the community has been very positive as the libraries have worked hard to involve various community groups and individuals in the campaign.

Bismarck Public Library staff and volunteers with the Burleigh County Bookmobile at this year's Zoo Boo event, held at Dakota Zoo in Bismarck on October 25. Approximately 1200 children trick-or-treated on the bookmobile, which featured several Star Wars characters handing out candy and comic books to participants.



OKLAHOMA

The 2014 Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books was held on October 30, 2014, at the Northeastern



State University Broken Arrow Campus in Broken Arrow, OK. Librarians and students from across the state met bestselling author Megan McCafferty, New Voice author Mike Mullin, and illustrator Ard Hoyt.



The 15th First Amendment Congress for High School Students, sponsored by FOI Oklahoma and co-sponsored, in part, by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and the Oklahoma Library Association, was held on November 5 at the University of Central Okla-

homa's Constitution Hall in Edmond. This year's Oklahoma First Amendment Congress focused on the 1st Amendment on Campus. Panelists and students discussed the rights of high school students and the court cases that addressed these rights.

The Oklahoma Library Association celebrated the 10th Year Anniversary of the OLA Endowment in October. The OLA Endowment Committee launched an ambitious and thought provoking campaign that raised awareness of this [integral part of OLA](#).



Best-selling author Scott Turow headlined an annual speaker series at Oklahoma State University. The H. Louise and H.E. "Ed" Cobb Speaker Series is

a fundraising event for the Friends of the OSU Library, Turow is best known for his legal thrillers and is the author of nine best-selling works of fiction.

OKLAHOMA, continued...



Guest writer Debra Sansing Woods contributed what she considered “a long overdue public thank you” to Oklahoma’s libraries, entitled “Point of View: The Power of Oklahoma Public Libraries” to the *Oklahoman* newspaper. Read it [here](#).

In September, *Library Journal* published an article, “One Book, Well Done,” about libraries around the country successfully planning and implementing NEA Big Read programs. Wayne Hanway, Executive Director of the Southeastern Public Library System and MPLA past president, was quoted about the importance of the geographic location of the book *True Grit*, and how the 15 branch SEPLSO libraries used location and local histories to tie the book in with the region. Read the article [here](#).

LIBRARY JOURNAL



Metropolitan
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Tim Rogers, director of a North Carolina library consortium, was named the new

Executive Director of the Metropolitan Library System. Rogers, who will begin January 15, will replace retiring Executive Director Donna Morris, who worked with the MLS for more than 40 years.

Encyclo-Media, an annual educational conference sponsored by the Oklahoma Technology Association, was held in October. Key-note speakers were George Couros and Allison Zmuda. Conference details and award winners can be found on the Oklahoma Technology Association [website](#).



SOUTH DAKOTA

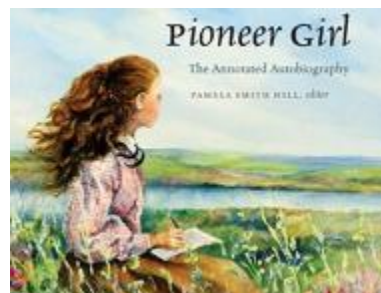


The Grant County Public Library celebrated its 35th anniversary in September.

Yankton Community Library has launched a new program to encourage reading, “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.”

As the result of support by the Great Plains Education Foundation, the University of South Dakota Libraries will be among the few institutions in the U.S. to provide online public access to an extensive body of 20th century gubernatorial records. The gift, made through the University of South Dakota Foundation, will result in an online, searchable collection of documents from the late Governor William Janklow's four terms in office.

The Leland D. Case Library at Black Hills State University will hosted a presentation on South Dakota’s first governor in celebration of the 125th anniversary of South Dakota’s statehood in October. The presentation was titled, “Gov. Arthur Calvin Mellette: Before and After Statehood.”



The South Dakota State Historical Society Press in Pierre, which has produced award-winning books for years, plans to publish "Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Auto-

biography" by Laura Ingalls Wilder in November, more than 80 years after she penned the beloved "Little House" series. The tales in the book include stark scenes of domestic abuse, love triangles gone awry, and a man who lit himself on fire while drunk off whiskey. Unlike the “Little House” series, the annotated autobiography is definitely geared toward adult readers.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

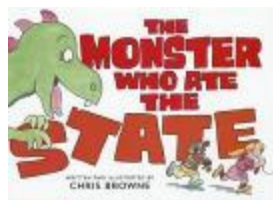
Madison Public Library, partnering with the Madison Parks Department, operated a seed exchange program this fall where gardeners could share their flower and vegetable seeds.



On Sept. 26, the Faith Public/School Library hosted an Open House to thank the families who generously memorialized their loved ones with a gift to the library. In the past year, many individuals have given to the Faith Library for projects including an exterior sign and book drop, books, and furniture. The total memorials donated to the library exceeded \$7,000.

Darcy Lipp-Acord, 2014 MPLA Library Institute attendee and author of *Circling Back Home, a Plains-woman's Journey*, presented a session at the SD Library Association conference held in Pierre. The book is a finalist in the 2014 WILLA Literary Award and a nominee in the 2014 Will Rogers Medallion Awards.

Chris Browne, the cartoonist of *Hagar the Horrible*, has written and illustrated his first children's book, *The Monster Who Ate the State*, for the South Dakota State Historical Society.



Rachel Davila has joined the staff at Hot Springs Public Library as cataloger and other duties that come along with being in a rural library. She is a graduate of Chadron State College (NE) with degrees in literature and history.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

Hilton M. Briggs Library celebrated 125 years of participation in the Federal Depository Library Program. Andrew Sherman, Government Printing Office Chief of Staff, presented a plaque recognizing this milestone for South Dakota State University's library.



Left to right: SDSU Provost Laurie Nichols, Chief University Librarian Kristi Tornquist, Government Documents Librarian Vickie Mix, GPO Chief of Staff Andrew Sherman

Banned Books Week at Hilton M. Briggs Library featured a Virtual Read-Out. Sixteen participants celebrated their freedom to read by making a three-minute video reading from a banned or challenged book. Videos and more information can be found [here](#).

An October 15 event featured SDSU Economics professor George Langelett, author of the book *How Do I Keep My Employees Motivated? The Practice of Empathy-Based Management*. Dr. Langelett spoke about the importance of empathy in the workplace, how to be more empathetic, and his experience with publishing and promoting a book.



South Dakota State University librarians welcomed new faculty and department library representatives at an Oktoberfest reception October 17. Librarians were able to get acquainted with and share information with other faculty members in an informal setting.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) has designated Sitting Bull College Library as the first digital-only member of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The library is opting to meet their community's needs by developing an online Government Information collection. In choosing this format, the library will not receive print materials from GPO. Sitting Bull College is a Native American tribally-managed college that was granted land-grant status under an Act of Congress with the mission to serve their community through higher education programs. Sitting Bull College Library serves the information needs of its students, faculty, and staff, the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation community, and the American public in North Dakota and South Dakota.

With fans flocking to events in both Sioux Falls and Brookings, the 2014 South Dakota Festival of Books saw more than 7,000 total session attendees September 25-28. With workshops, panel discussions and more for young readers and adults alike, the 2014 event featured something for everyone.



Park City Library's YouCreate Lab now features a 3D printer. After taking a class to receive proper training, you are able to use the 3D printer to create your own masterpieces.



UTAH, continued...



Do you know where the largest collection of braille material in the world is stored? If you said Utah, you'd be correct! Utah State Library houses the Library for

the Blind and Disabled and has over 100,000 items. With elections coming up on November 4, it was fitting that Utah State Librarian, Donna Jones Morris, presented Lt. Governor Spencer Cox with a Braille Voter's Registration Handbook. The State Library has braille and audio versions for voters.



Educating all children around the world is a cause dear to Canyons School District library specialist Barbara Hopkins. And she's willing to hike 17,000 feet up the world's tallest peak for it.

In her current position as the library specialist for the Canyons School District, Hopkins manages the 43 K-12 libraries in the district. Hopkins is also the executive director of the Utah Library Association.

The Canyons District employee decided to turn her Everest hike into a fundraising effort through [Room to Read](#), to help improve literacy in developing nations. She hopes to raise at least \$1,000.

UTAH, continued...

Congratulations to Diane Brown of Summit County Library—Kimball Junction, Jill Gardner of Saratoga Springs City Public Library, and Michelle DeKorver of Highland City Library, for graduating from Uplift! Uplift Collection Development was taught by Ruby Cheesman, of Salt Lake County Library Services.



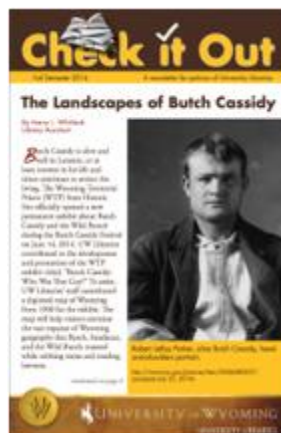
Salt Lake County Library is presented its annual *One County, One Book* program from September through November. The 2014 selection was the award-winning book *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger.



One County, One Book author William Kent Krueger made a special visit to Salt Lake County's Viridian Event Center on October 16, where over 75 book lovers enjoyed his musings about life, writing, and faith.

WYOMING

The University of Wyoming Libraries *Check It Out* newsletter is now available online. The fall issue (available [here](#)) features "The Landscapes of Butch Cassidy," an article highlighting a new exhibit about Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch at Wyoming Territorial State Prison Historical Site. UW Libraries contributed a digitized map of Wyoming in 1900 for the exhibit.



WYOMING, continued...

On October 20, Jamie Markus, the Library Development Manager at the Wyoming State Library, was honored at the White House as a Champion of Change for his success in facilitating opportunities and creating partnerships within Wyoming libraries to have healthcare outreach and enrollment events statewide.



In July of 2013, national library organizations launched an e-health initiative and asked all types of libraries to support education and outreach efforts surrounding the Health Insurance Marketplace. Markus took the lead on coordinating with potential statewide library partners in Wyoming. Learn more about the White House Champions of Change [here](#).



MPLA's Wyoming State Representative, Steven Boss, was awarded a Distinguished Service Award at the Wyoming Library Association Conference in September. Mr. Boss has volunteered to chair next year's joint MPLA/WLA conference, which will be held in Cheyenne, September 23-25.



We figured out where all your lost materials went... Photo by WY State Librarian Lesley Boughton, near Riverton, WY, "some years ago."

Welcome, New Members!

Jamie Alascia

Librarian
Buckeye Union High School District
Estrella Foothills High School Library
Goodyear, AZ

Anna Baird

Lead Library Assistant
West Fargo Public Library
West Fargo, ND

Nicole Beatty

Arts & Humanities Librarian
Weber State University Stewart Library
Ogden, UT

Aaron Boggs

Computer Support Supervisor
Farmington Public Library
Farmington, NM

Kathleen Browning

Adult Services Coordinator
Farmington Public Library
Farmington, NM

Bradley Dean Carrington

Chief, Technical Services Bureau
New Mexico State Library
Santa Fe, NM

Matthew Michael Derpinghaus

Technology Coordinator
Minot Public Library
Minot, ND

Enkhtuya Dutton

Electronic Resources Librarian
Valley City State University
Allen Memorial Library
Valley City, ND

Denise Kay Gullikson

Reference Librarian
Grand Canyon University Library
Phoenix, AZ

Rachel Renee

Helbing Medical Librarian
Kalispell Regional Medical Center Library
Kalispell, MT

Melissa Hubbell

Middle School Librarian
Douglas Middle School
Box Elder, SD

Mike Jan

Alfred Dickey Public Library
Jamestown, ND

Amanda Kennedy

Rapid City Public Libraries
Rapid City, SD

Alicia Kubas

North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND

Sarah LeMire

Assistant Head of Research
and Information Services
University of Utah
J. Willard Marriott Library
Salt Lake City, UT

Jennifer Littlefield

Digital Technician
South Dakota State Historical Society
Pierre, SD

Syrena Maranell

Youth Services Librarian
Alexander Mitchell Public Library
Aberdeen, SD

Rebecca Matt

Library Associate
Rapid City Public Libraries
Rapid City, SD

Marilyn Mendenhall

Elementary Librarian
Meade School District
Sturgis, SD

Janelle Michels

Director
Garrison Public Library
Garrison, ND

Sherrie Mortensen

Technical Assistant
Logan Library
Logan, UT

Megan Richardson

North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND

Virginia Sannes

Adult Outreach Librarian
Rawlins Municipal Library
Pierre, SD

Mavis Schipman

Director of Library Services
Douglas School District
Box Elder, SD

Dawn Seopa

TGU Granville School
Granville, ND

Aaron Severson

North Dakota State Library
Bismarck, ND

Susan Snyder

Librarian
Williston High School Library
Williston, ND

Justine Sprenger

Grand Forks Public Library
Grand Forks, ND

Marta Stirling

School Library Coordinator
South Dakota State Library
Pierre, SD

Iris Swedlund

Retired Librarian
Velva, SD

Maggie Townsend

Bismarck Public Schools
Bismarck, ND

Continued on page 27

HANDS-ON LIBRARY PROGRAMMING – STEM



STRETCH-A-STRAW™

from

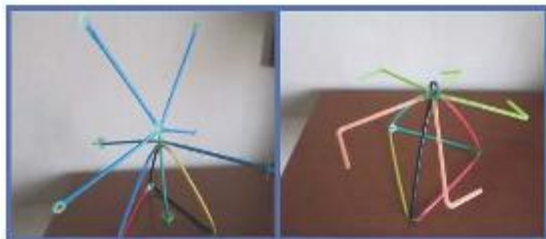


Stretch your imagination with

STRETCH-A-STRAW™

Waste plastic connectors

and drinking straws



Connect ordinary drinking straws into imaginative projects using die-cut waste plastic from household waste such as milk cartons, ice cream cartons, cat litter jugs and other soft plastic containers.

One hour Program Demo includes using a die cutter to demonstrate cutting reusable connectors from milk cartons and the like, discussing briefly the difference between recycling and repurposing, and hands on activity with each artist getting a supply of reusable connectors and straws to assemble and additional supplies to take home.

\$250 for each session, plus mileage when appropriate
Donations of clean plastic milk jugs or ice cream cartons, cat litter jugs or other clean, dry plastic containers welcomed.

Additional supplies for take home may be available for purchase.

We are now accepting bookings for this program.

Currently booked with Arapahoe Libraries and also in Estes Park.

Please call or email to reserve your dates.

Bill "Stretch" Coleman – Bill Coleman Entertainment

303-922-4655 303-907-3855

<https://www.stiltwalker.com/stretch-a-straw/>

Welcome, New Members!

Flo Trujillo

Youth Services Coordinator
Farmington Public Library
Farmington, NM

Pamela S. Tuller

Assistant Director
Library Systems and Services Inc, LLC
Finney County Public Library
Garden City, KS

Beth A. Twomey

Senior Reference and instruction Librarian
North Dakota State University Main Library
Fargo, ND

Kerriane Tyler

Ward County Public Library
Minot, ND

Rick Walter

Retired
Albuquerque, NM

Lucy Wang

Librarian
Aberdeen Central High School
Aberdeen, SD

Teresa Welsh

Hattiesburg, MS

Riding, continued from page 12

So, I used my friend Google to see what other cyclists had to say about cycling in Fountain Hills or Scottsdale. I came across some bike shops in the area – excellent places to ask questions on the ground in Arizona. There are websites that allow you to plot out a bike route and it will tell you about the hills using GPS and other sources. So, I spent some time exploring routes.

One of my concerns about biking in new places is getting lost. Some cyclists invest in GPS devices they clamp onto their handlebars and use to navigate. I didn't see a need, as I have a smartphone with GPS built in. I downloaded a neat little app called Bike Maps, which allows you to download city maps, trail maps, etc., so that you can pull them up when needed.

Finally, it was time to head to Arizona. I left the weekend before the conference and drove to Albuquerque, NM, where I have cousins who let me hang out with them. I also was eager to bike around Albuquerque. The day after arriving, I loaded the bike onto the back of the car and drove over to the south end of Tramway. It is a scenic road, popular with cyclists because it features wide shoulders for riding and offers spectacular views of the Sandia mountains. That was 22 miles in about an hour and 15 minutes. The next day, I hit the Bosque Trail, a 16 mile trail along the Rio Grande River – no cars allowed. That was a 31 mile ride that lasted an hour and 45 minutes. Quite a remarkable ride.

Then, it was off to Fountain Hills for conference. After checking into the resort, the first thing I did was bring my bicycle into my hotel room.

See, I told you. I bring my bike into my hotel room before I bring in my suitcase.

Within an hour of arriving at the resort, I was headed into Fountain Hills to see what the roads were like, and to stop by the local bicycle shop - Fountain Hills Bikes. There, I met the owner, a great guy named Doug and peppered him with questions about what to expect riding in Fountain Hills as well as the general bike culture. He suggested I stop by on my ride the next day and he'd point me in the right direction for a great experience. That's exactly what I did.



North of Fountain Hills, toward Rio Verde.

I was about 12 miles in on my ride before I stopped by the bike shop. Doug suggested I head north out of Fountain Hills – the highway had 5 foot wide bike lanes on the shoulder. Four miles north was Mount McDowell Regional Park, with a 6-7 mile paved road offering a great ride with outstanding scenery. Or I could remain on the highway another 4 miles to Rio Verde, where I could turn around. Decisions, decisions. I chose to stay on the highway to Rio Verde. And I'm so glad I did. It wasn't too far north of the entrance for the state park that I saw a coyote trying to cross the road. (He was alive, too, not smushed.) He was on the side of the road opposite me, and as I flew by him at 24 miles an hour, I advised him to be careful crossing. I never would have seen the coyote behind the wheel of a car, or my view would have been too fleeting.

As I was riding, I was struck by the number of cyclists making the same ride – I must have seen 25 of them in the two hours I was on the road. I never see that many when I ride in Stillwater. That was a 28 mile ride, lasting an hour and 43 minutes, with a top speed of 28 miles per hour and an average speed of 16.5 mph.

Continued on page 29

Riding, continued from page 28



From Fountain Hills – look at that wide bike lane and that big hill I was headed down!

By the time we got back to the bike shop, we had ridden 19 miles in a leisurely hour and 24 minutes. I hit a top speed of 26, with an average of 13. And we saw some of the most spectacular scenery one can see, made all the better with the wind blowing into our faces and no metal frame surrounding us.

If you're ever in Fountain Hills and want to take a bicycle ride, I would strongly encourage you to stop by [Fountain Hills Bikes](#), 15225 N. Fountain Hills Blvd.

I am convinced that cycling is one of the best ways to see this country. I have biked now, in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. Next summer, I'm planning to bike in Illinois, and next fall, I plan to bike in Greeley, Colorado (thanks, Annie and Jerry!), and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

I hope you will consider joining me next September in Cheyenne. I'm already starting to explore bike routes and look for the local bike shop where I can find local experts.

Dan Chaney is a Social Science Librarian at Oklahoma State University. He is the MPLA Webmaster, and has been a member of MPLA since 1996.



L-R: Danielle, me, Abby. Notice Fountain Hills Bike Shop in the background.

2015 Calendar

American Library Association midwinter conference; January 30-Feb 3; Chicago, IL

Montana Library Association conference; April 8-11; Bozeman, MT

Oklahoma Library Association conference; April 29-May 1; Midwest City, OK

Utah Library Association conference; May 13-15; St. George, UT

American Library Association annual conference; June 24-30; Chicago, IL

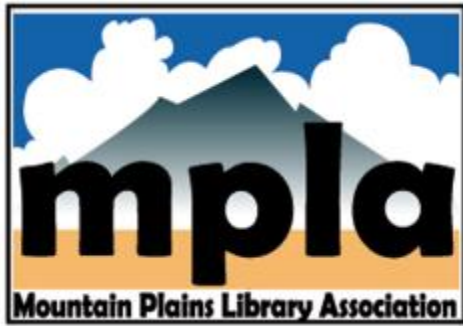
Wyoming Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference; September 23-24; Cheyenne, WY

South Dakota Library Association conference; September 23-25; Rapid City, SD

Kansas Library Association conference; September 30-October 2; Kansas City, MO

Nebraska Library Association conference; October 14-16; Lincoln, NE





The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

Quick Links:

Website: www.mpla.us

Executive Board – Officers, State Representatives and Staff:
www.mpla.us/personnel/executiveboard.html

Join MPLA or Renew Membership:
www.mpla.us/membership/index.html

Professional Development Grants:
www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grantslinks.html

Calendar: www.mpla.us/calendar.html

Awards Nomination Form:
www.mpla.us/forms/awardsnom.html

Grocery Card Program: www.mpla.us/projects/grocerycard.html

Send Newsletter Information:
www.mpla.us/forms/newssubmission.html

Donate to MPLA: <http://www.mpla.us/forms/lidonation.html>

Professional Forum information:
www.mpla.us/events/mplaprof2014.pdf

MPLA on Facebook: [www.facebook.com MPLALibraries](http://www.facebook.com/MPLALibraries)

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- **May 1**
- **July 1**
- **September 1**
- **November 1**

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Non-members are charged \$1.25/line. Display advertisement copy rates are available from editor@mpla.us.

MPLA Membership:

For matters pertaining to individual or institutional memberships and address changes, contact:

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