

Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

August 2020—September 2020

www.mpla.us Volume 65 Number 4

President's Message

I have two major themes to reflect on in this issue of our newsletter. First, I want to draw your attention to the recent MPLA statement on racism and xenophobia. Second, I offer a short reflection on the unusual summer where we find ourselves, including some final thoughts.

MPLA's recent statement on racism and xenophobia reads this way: *"The Mountain Plains Library Association supports and endorses the statement made by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, their "Statement Condemning Increased Violence and Racism Towards Black Americans and People of Color," which was later endorsed by the American Library Association and the Association of Research Libraries. MPLA also supports the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association in condemning violence, racism, and xenophobia towards Black people and all people of color. MPLA also supports the statements made by our member State Associations regarding antiracism, violence, and xenophobia."*

If you wish to follow up, you can click through to various resources:

ALA Chapters Condemn Systemic Racism (you can click through to MPLA member states and others' statements on racism): <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/ala-chapters-condemn-systemic-racism>

Black Caucus of the American Library Association's (BCALA) Statement: <https://www.bcala.org/statement-condemning-increased-violence-and-racism-towards-black-americans-and-people-of-color>

Asian/Pacific American Libraries Association (APALA) Statement: <https://www.apalaweb.org/apala-stands-with-bcala-and-blm/>

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This is a summer unlike any other. Academic and school libraries generally look forward to this time of planning and preparing for the coming academic year. It is also a time of special projects, where libraries and their staff can focus on something that takes a back burner during the academic year. Many special projects have been tabled by the need to prepare for the upcoming academic year. Public libraries have excellent summer programming, and plan most of the year to be ready for it. Summer programs are still happening, and in very innovative ways as they think about reopening plans.

A hallmark of MPLA is professional development. I would encourage you to read on into the newsletter to discover what professional development opportunities exist in your state and in an especial way this year to look at online offerings outside of your state. Even if your state association conference is happening online, another member state probably has their event at a sufficiently different time that you may be able to participate virtually.



Stay safe and healthy.

Stephen Sweeney

Mountain Plains Library Association President

St. John Vianney Seminary, Cardinal Stafford Library
Denver, Colorado

Check out Page 8 for MPLA Professional Development Grants Information.



Big Horizons, Close Community



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Mansfield Library Participates in Documenting COVID-19 in Missoula County

by Patti McKenzie

The Mansfield Library is proud to participate in Documenting COVID-19 in Missoula County: A Community Archive Project. The project is designed to collect and save stories from University of Montana (UM) and across Missoula County that describe our community's experiences during the pandemic.

Historians and archivists from Missoula County, the City of Missoula, the University of Montana, the Downtown Missoula Partnership's "Heritage Missoula" Program and private Missoula businesses have teamed up to create "Documenting COVID-19 in Missoula County: A Community Archive Project."



Photo by Mark Fritch

The project encourages agencies, organizations and community members, both urban and rural, in Missoula County to document their actions and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and provides a way for this documentation to be collected, maintained and shared as a community archive, according to project coordinator Matt Lautzenheiser, executive director of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

Items collected will include documents, emails, notes, videos, online content, oral histories, photos, journals, creative writings, interviews, and public documents from the City of Missoula and Missoula County. In addition, the "Documenting COVID-19 in Missoula County: A Community Archives Project" seeks to engage local community members, online communities, businesses and nonprofits to capture the overall impact of COVID-19 on Missoula County from both a public and a private perspective.

Archives and Special Collections at UM's Mansfield Library will archive the collected materials and make them available to public officials, scholars and the public after the project wraps up.

"We are living in a truly historic time," said Donna McCrea, head of Archives and Special Collections. "How we react and respond – as individuals and as a community – will be of interest 10 years from now and 100 years from now. We know that the best way to ensure this content is available to future generations is to gather it proactively right now."

Missoula county residents can submit written materials, photographs, audio and visual files, and other documents reflecting their experiences during this period using a [form on the Mansfield Library's website](#).

Awards Committee Seeks Nominees

Do you know an individual, group, or organization in your state or library who is deserving of recognition? Please nominate him/her for an MPLA award! You must be an MPLA member to nominate, although only some of the awards require membership of the honoree.

MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award: To be given to an MPLA member who has consistently worked behind the scenes to create, administer, or support a library-related organization or project and who has not previously been recognized to the degree their work merits.



At his death at age 52, Dan Chaney was Associate Professor and Social Sciences Librarian at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He had been an MPLA member for over 20 years. He served as MPLA Webmaster, unofficial photographer and social media contact, and received the Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award in 2009 for his service to MPLA. Witty, profane, probingly intelligent, creative, irascible, and deeply caring, Dan was beloved by his students and his colleagues.

In 2017, MPLA's Unsung Hero Award was renamed the MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award, and a \$100 stipend was added in Dan's honor.

MPLA Beginning Professional Award: To recognize an MPLA member who, as a librarian/media specialist within the first five years after being awarded a library/media degree, has made a positive impact on the quality and role of library service. Factors such as innovative programming and planning, use of resources, and special projects will be considered.

MPLA Innovator Award: To recognize an up-and-coming individual(s) or group(s) in the MPLA region for a creative, inventive, trail-blazing project that has significance to the library community.

NOMINATIONS DUE AUGUST 31

A link to the Award Nomination Form is available at
<http://www.mpla.us/services/awards/>



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Awards Committee Seeks Nominees

Do you know an individual, group, or organization in your state or library who is deserving of recognition? Please nominate him/her for an MPLA award! You must be an MPLA member to nominate, although only some of the awards require membership of the honoree.

MPLA Distinguished Service Award: To be given to an MPLA member who has made notable contributions to the library profession, furthered significant development of libraries in the Mountain Plains region, or performed exemplary service for an extended period of time. If the individual is retired, the nominee may be a past member of MPLA.

Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award: To be given to the individual, organization or company whose positive support of the Mountain Plains Library Association is demonstrated by repeated conscientious endeavors towards libraries, library staff, trustees and professional activities.

MPLA Literary Contribution Award: To be given to an author whose published writings have successfully furthered an understanding and appreciation of the Mountain Plains region. The author need not reside in the region. The nomination may be based on either a single work or a body of works. Published works will be evaluated on the basis of literary worth, readability, and evidence of responsible research.

NOMINATIONS DUE AUGUST 31

**A link to the Award Nomination Form
is available at:**

<http://www.mpla.us/services/awards/>



Grocery Rewards—King Soopers/Kroger

There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA. Instead, you can link your loyalty card to our MPLA Community Awards Program account.

To do so: Go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

Once logged into your King Soopers/Kroger account, search for Mountain Plains Library Association by name or our account: KK820. Then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card. If you previously purchased grocery cards they may still be used and reloaded but they will no longer provide rebates for MPLA. Instead, there is a quarterly designated funding amount which is shared by all Community Rewards organizations. Amounts are determined by the percentage of purchases by each organization.

If you are in an area with Kroger stores this is an easy way to support MPLA!

King Soopers/Krogers

COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

There is a change!

There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA.

Instead, you can link your loyalty card to MPLA to continue raising funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs!

SUPPORT MPLA!



Cards Are Accepted By

- Kroger
- Fred Meyer
- Ralphs
- Fry's and Fry's marketplace
- King Soopers
- Dillons
- Smith's Food & Drug City Market
- QFC
- Food 4 Less
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- Foodsco
- Hilander
- Pay-less Cala-Bell
- Bakers
- Jayc
- Fred Meyer jewelers
- Littman & Barclay Jewelers
- Loaf and Jug

Professional Development Grants

Grants are awarded to support the following:

- Formal course work leading to an advanced degree in library science or a related discipline.
- Formal course work not leading to an advanced degree but directly related to an individual's library position.
- Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference, including the MPLA annual conference.
- Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures.
- Library related research projects.

Value of Grants

Annual budget equals the funding for grants approved but not yet awarded from the previous year plus the funding awarded for grants in the coming year. Funding for grants that have been approved but are not awarded is returned to the MPLA general fund.

MPLA sponsors the two categories of grants:

Mini-grant

Funding for projects requiring minimal financial support. (Maximum amount: \$150)

Regular grant

Funding for projects requiring substantial financial support, and for occasional funding of professional development opportunities requiring travel outside the United States. (Maximum amount: \$600)

Grant Funding

- Reimbursement of actual expenses incurred during a project.
- Transportation reimbursement for the lowest possible fare or for personal vehicles, mileage for the shortest route at the amount per mile allowed for deduction for federal income tax deductions.
- Grant funding for course work limited to tuition, fees and books.
- Funding approved but not needed to reimburse expenses is returned to the MPLA general fund.
- Expenses in excess of the grant funding approved are not reimbursed.

Find out more: <https://mpla.us/about/professional-development-grants.html>

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Around the Region



Virtual Conference

The Arizona Library Association will be holding its annual conference virtually, October 14-15. To make the conference available to as many library staff as possible, registration will be free for AzLA members and \$65 (the cost of an annual membership) for non-members. Look for details at www.azla.org.



Cares Act Funding helping local libraries

The Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records has awarded two rounds of CARES Act grants to Arizona libraries to help them serve their communities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Library received \$657,394 in CARES Act funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in April. In May the first round of awards was announced, with Chromebooks, sanitation kits, and virtual programming kits provided to more than 60 libraries in 13 of Arizona's 15 counties. The second round of funding was announced in June, and 51 libraries received grants of \$4,000 each to support technology access, virtual programming, and related projects.



Online Summer Reading in Arizona

Libraries across Arizona have reimagined their summer reading programs during the public health emergency, with many libraries combining virtual elements and grab-and-go activities. Read about several libraries' innovative approaches at <https://azlibrary.gov/libdev/arizona-center-book/reading-programs-your-library>.



Poetry Contest

Pima County Public Library, based in Tucson, partnered with Arizona Public Media and the University of Arizona Poetry Center to present a poetry contest for K-12 students in three southern Arizona counties (Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise). Submissions were accepted through July 16, and winning writers will have the opportunity to read their work on Arizona Public Media. Winning poems will also be featured on posters.





Englewood Public Library reaches centennial

Englewood Public Library is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and plans to host different events throughout the summer to honor the library. Residents also have the opportunity to purchase commemorative stickers for their library cards in exchange for the waiver of fines.

Read more about how a fatal automobile accident led to providing the seed money to start a new library on May 14, 1920 in the Englewood Herald: <https://englewoodherald.net/stories/englewood-public-library-reaches-centennial,304663>

Colorado State University Libraries Award Recipients

Robin Hennig was presented with the inaugural Outstanding Staff Award, while Professor Naomi Lederer received the Faculty Award for Excellence.

The Outstanding Staff Award recognizes a staff member for extraordinary accomplishments, new ideas, efforts, or other contributions over the past year or over a period of years. The Faculty Award for Excellence recognizes a member of the Libraries faculty for outstanding contributions to the Libraries, to the University, and to the library profession.

Outstanding Staff Award: Robin Hennig

Previously a business administrator at the Morgan Library, she has recently taken on a new role as an accounting specialist in the Libraries' Fiscal Services unit. Hennig is generally considered Morgan Library's go-to person for many kinds of administrative tasks, which she takes in stride cheerfully and thoroughly. Hennig is a linchpin of Morgan Library and the services the Libraries provide to the CSU community and beyond. One nominator wrote, "We need more 'Robin Hennigs' in higher education."



Robin Hennig

Faculty Award for Excellence: Naomi Lederer

A faculty member with the Libraries since 1996, Lederer is a college liaison Librarian. During her time at the Libraries, she has served as the subject liaison to many departments, including English, Design & Merchandising, Speech/Communication Studies, Journalism & Technical Communication, Ethnic Studies, and many others. She provides exemplary research assistance and collection development services for all of her departments, as well as instruction to introduce the library to each of the department's students.

Lederer's many achievements demonstrate her commitment to improving library resources and services at CSU, as well as providing a strong foundation for the future of the library profession at a national level.

A graphic with a background of concentric circles in shades of pink, purple, and blue. On the right, the text 'AUTHOR MEMBERSHIP' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, in smaller white text, it says: 'Published authors, including those who write for children and young adults are eligible. Author membership includes a credit which can be used toward an advertisement or combination of advertisements in the MPLA Newsletter.'



Pioneer Memorial reaches out to the community

During this time, the Pioneer Memorial Library has been vital to its community. Librarians have been handing out free hand sanitizer and participating in local community meetings to share news and services through their Facebook Page including Genesis Food Bank notices, meals available, USDA food distribution, mothers' & fathers' day gifts, flowers or gifts for parents, laminating cards for helping PAWS vouchers (food and litter for pets), and much more.

While closed to the public, the library has offered curbside service and connected with vulnerable patrons to deliver materials. This has gone well. Since reopening, Pioneer Memorial has continued curbside service so those not feeling comfortable returning to the public environment can still enjoy their materials in safety. To connect with the younger audience, a Youth Facebook Group was created and competitive activities were shared for participation.

Pioneer Memorial is now busy with Summer Reading Programs for children, youth and adults. The children/youth programming is currently in-person and online through BeanStack. With the BeanStack challenge, staff wanted to offer tables of materials so that children/youth could come in and prepare their challenges in the library. We decided this was a way to allow for social distancing while helping parents and children have the resources to complete their challenges. When kids are successful, they receive prizes for finishing certain "Quest" squares.

We also have had a great response from Razzle Dazzle, the library unicorn visiting the downtown and the park to remind families about the Summer Library Program.



Getting Active and Staying Healthy at the Bozeman Public Library!

by Carmen Clark| Department Head Adult Programming and Outreach

Like many of you, we had to rethink our programming in the last few months. From online book club meetings to Zoom Fantasy Short Story Chats, a Facebook Arts & Crafts Challenge and a Facebook Social Distancing Book Club, we are offering many things we have never done in this particular format. It's an adventure.

In the midst of all this, we started two new programs: Mindful Mondays and a Virtual Running Club. Information about our Virtual Running Club can be found here: <https://www.bozemanlibrary.org/events/seasonal-programs/virtual-events/virtual-running-club/>

I invite you to join us on this running adventure. I have joined our club as well, despite being a non-runner. We offer a Couch-to-5K and a training routine for a 10K.

The second program I wanted to highlight is our Mindful Mondays. Local expert Turi Hetherington shares the 10-step protocol of iRest Yoga Nidra Meditation. iRest is short for Integrative Restoration, a contemporary adaptation of the ancient teachings of yoga and meditation. It weaves together eastern philosophy with modern-day psychology and neuroscience to bring a sense of balance and ease to body, mind and spirit.

As an evidence-based meditation protocol, iRest is used at US Veterans Affairs hospitals and military bases across the country. Research shows iRest effectively reduces stress, insomnia, anxiety, depression, chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and enhances joy, equanimity and wellbeing in daily life.

The classes are recorded and available on our YouTube channel anytime.

More information about our Mindful Mondays can be found here: <https://www.bozemanlibrary.org/events/seasonal-programs/virtual-events/mindful-mondays/>

Serving the Community

At Omaha Public Library, five locations are offering curbside with limited hours. Patrons are very happy to be able to return and check out library items. Many people are thankful for providing some type of service and many want to come into the building because they just miss visiting the library. While there is no reopening date at this time, the library is going ahead with an Online only Summer Reading Program with some virtual programs with presenters and storytimes.



A Virtual Escape

Kilgore Memorial Library in York, NE added an intern, Lexi Lacina thanks to an internship grant awarded to Kilgore, aimed at giving students a taste of librarianship. Lacina's initial role was to develop a virtual escape room for the library.

Basic virtual escape rooms can be made via Google Docs, but Lacina – a student at York College – wanted to take her escape room to the next level. “I decided I wanted something a little more than that,” she said. “I thought I could make it into a story.” With little experience creating virtual escape rooms, Lacina said she learned a lot on the fly. “I just kind of figured it out as I went, and ran with it.”

Her escape room is based on the adventures of a set of twins, who are relic hunters exploring Pompeii. Through solving puzzles and utilizing a “relic detector,” the twins make their way through Pompeii, collecting relics. Lacina described it as similar to a choose-your-own-adventure book, with the addition of games and puzzles.



Intern Lexi Lacina

Kilgore is sweetening the already-entertaining adventure by giving players an opportunity to enter a drawing for a gift certificate to local physical escape room The Lock Box – if you can solve Lacina's escape room. The certificates are funded by Kilgore's Friends of the Library. The virtual escape room is free and open to anyone – library card holder or not.

Test your problem-solving skills in Lacina and Kilgore Memorial Library's virtual escape room at <http://libraries.ne.gov/york/virtual-escape-rooms/>

Funding for the internship project was supported in part with state funds allocated through the Nebraska Legislature and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Library Systems.

Library Support for All

Esmeralda County, with the smallest county population in Nevada, is located halfway between Las Vegas and Reno. It supports a library in each of its three unincorporated towns: Goldfield (county seat), Silverpeak, and Fish Lake Valley (Dyer, NV).

Library as a Third Place

Nicole White, Director of Esmeralda County Libraries, says that Silverpeak Library is the only public place for people to go in that community except the local bar. The library is the one-stop shop for wifi, free public computers with internet, socialization, movies, books, audios, and "just an all around place to come to get out of the house." The libraries provide assistance with unemployment, welfare, taxes, and job searches as well as basic internet searches, including help with ordering needed items for patrons.

Serving through Closure

When the mandatory order came, the libraries closed as directed. Although they were paid to be off work, each librarian chose to work their twenty-one hours. They posted signs on their doors so if people needed assistance, or computer use, or wanted books and movies to help with the at home order, the librarians would unlock the doors. Precautions were taken and a strict rule of no more than two people entering at a time was followed. When not assisting patrons, staff worked on projects like inventory, rearranging, and labeling children's books with AR levels. These librarians have dedicated themselves to their small communities during this challenging time.



New Mexico Book Bingo

Bingo is back and seems to be everywhere right now. Inspired by the Washington State Center for the Book, New Mexico State Library created a New Mexico-inspired book bingo card. Print it off, share it with your patrons on social media, offer prizes, create reading lists, or use it to start conversations about books. We hope that everyone reads at least one book with a touch of New Mexico this summer!

Bingo Card: <http://hitchhiker.nmstatelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/New-Mexico-Book-Bingo.pdf>



New Mexico Reads

The New Mexico State Library is offering a new eBook resource — New Mexico Reads ---which includes some library and information science titles just for librarians. New Mexico Reads primarily includes Southwest history and culture and fiction written by New Mexico authors or set in the Southwest. It also includes some books on racism in America, and national topics such as the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic.



New Mexico Reads is a pilot project and is currently available to registered New Mexico State Library patrons as well as to all library staff in the state. Any New

Mexico resident is eligible to use New Mexico Reads, but we are not yet promoting it for the general public statewide. However, if you have a patron who is eager to read eBooks on New Mexico history, culture, and fiction, please refer them to us at reference@state.nm.us.

Documenting History

The Lidgerwood Library in Lidgerwood, ND is creating a quilt to document this time in history. Forty- eight quilt squares were handed out for different members of the community to decorate with markers, paint, and needlework as a part of this memory quilt; it will also feature the names of the high school seniors whose final year of high school was impacted by the pandemic. The quilt will hang on the wall of the library, once completed.

Podcast Brunch Club

by Renee Newton Assistant Director & Circulation Librarian

The Dickinson Area Public Library in Dickinson, ND has become a partner with Podcast Brunch Club and is launching a local chapter. Podcast Brunch Club works just like a book club, but for podcasts. I had the opportunity to participate in April's Zoom meeting when the podcasts supported the theme of Conversation. Participants were located in the United States, Canada, France and Kenya. It was interesting to hear different perspectives and share in the conversation. Many of the local chapters conduct their meet-ups virtually, and I thought we could try that at our library. Adela ,the PBC cofounder who assists in starting local chapters, created a webpage for our local club, including linking to the events page on our website.

PBC has a global presence with in-person chapters in more than 70 cities across 6 continents. The first local chapter launched in Chicago, in March of 2015. At the beginning of each month PBC announces a listening list of 2 – 5 hours of thematic podcasts, with questions to stimulate discussion. June's theme was Therapy and July's theme is Conspiracy. In our chapter, we will follow the schedule of themes as they are presented by Podcast Brunch Club. There is a back catalog of listening lists from the beginning if we an alternative list for any reason. We will meet via Zoom until we can begin to gather in person.

UND's 2020 Student Supervisor of the Year

Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota

Karlene Clark was awarded UND's 2020 Student Supervisor of the Year, as well as Midwest Regional Student Employee Supervisor of the Year by the Midwest Association of Student Employment Administrators (MASEA). Nominations are judged based on examples of mentoring abilities, as well as the supervisor's professionalism and leadership skills. The nomination letter noted some of her greatest attributes as a supervisor as her flexibility and her desire to empower her students to take leadership roles in their duties. She is a strong voice in support of diversity, ADA compliance, and special needs (such as sound barriers for library users distracted by environmental noises). Dean of Libraries, Stephanie Walker, said in the nomination letter, "Karlene has done amazing things at UND's Chester Fritz Library. She has developed an extensive training program for students in Access Services which previously won both UND and statewide awards, and which she has generously shared both across UND with other divisions and at library conferences. Now, she has taken that base and grown still further."



Karlene Clark

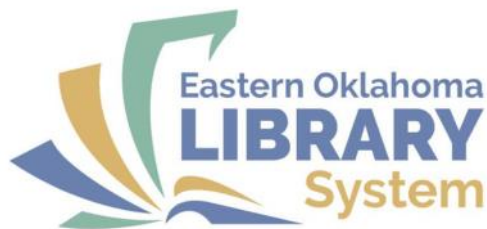
Her training program for Access Services students expanded last year to include development and implementation of a Peer Research Consultant (PRC) program, where undergraduate students provide research assistance to their peers. One of the PRCs added to the letter in saying she is "a caring, motivating, approachable, and lively supervisor. She is the kind of supervisor that sees the best in her student employees because she allows them to shine in their talents and provides them the opportunity to learn and make mistakes."



New App in Eastern Oklahoma

In May, Eastern Oklahoma Library System launched a new app. On the app, users can scan book barcodes to see if an EOLS library has a copy available for loan, find the nearest EOLS library, manage specific accounts, outstanding loans and more, download and read eBooks and listen to eAudiobooks, interact with the EOLS community and individual branch social media pages, find out about upcoming events and access online resources.

The Eastern Oklahoma Library System app is available for both iOS and Android platforms, and it is available now for free download through smart phone app stores. <https://eols.org/>



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Or pick your own charitable organization:

Search

Looking for another way to support MPLA? Just visit [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/smile), select the Mountain Plains Library Association, and automatically donate .5% of the purchase price of eligible goods to MPLA.



CARE Act Grants

The South Dakota State Library announced 19 recipients of the first round of Library Technology grants funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the federal CARES Act. Awardees received \$1,000 or \$2,000 grants to update, expand, or improve technology in their libraries.

"Libraries are essential to their communities, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only served to highlight that need," said Daria Bossman, state librarian. "Libraries are a vital source for trusted community information, education, and connection."

Congratulations to these grant recipients:

- Beresford Public Library
- Madison Public Library
- Britton Public Library
- Hand County Library (Miller)
- Brookings Public Library
- Sisseton Memorial Library
- Northwest Regional Library (Buffalo)
- Grace Balloch Memorial Library (Spearfish)
- Clear Lake City Library
- Sturgis Public Library
- Custer County Library
- Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library
- Freeman Public Library
- Watertown Regional Library
- Potter County Library (Gettysburg)
- White Lake Community Library
- Gregory Public Library
- Yankton Community Library
- Lake Andes Carnegie Library

Annual Conference to be held Virtually

The South Dakota Library Association has decided that this year's SDLA conference will be a virtual conference instead of gathering in Aberdeen because of the uncertainties surrounding Covid-19. It will be a one-day conference on October 1st with an opening keynote on the afternoon of September 30th. Pricing is \$75 for SDLA and non-SDLA members. We are inviting library staff from any state to join us. More information will be added to the SDLA website as we hammer out the details. Register at any time! <https://www.sdlibraryassociation.org/page/Conference2020>

Libraries



Lead

Serving Creatively

SD libraries have gotten creative with at-home crafts and projects. The Custer County Library has weekly Take and Make Kits. These kits have included shrinky-dink and s'mores kits for their teens. The Brookings Public Library has take home craft kits for both adults and kids. Adult crafts have included Canvas Button Trees and Jar Terrariums. The Madison Public Library is doing a Virtual Lego Club with a weekly theme and a challenge that kids can build at home and then provide the library with a picture of their creation.



Serving those in Need with Media

While the Grand County Public Library has been closed to the public, the librarians inside haven't stopped working to put media in the hands of local residents. Library Director Carrie Valdez said that while everyone was looking forward to the time when the library building could reopen, residents have stayed very engaged with online services, the curbside pickup program which allows readers to check out library material while respecting physical distancing recommendations, and other services like the Kids' Cafe.

"We're averaging about 2,000 items a week being checked out of the library through the curbside program," said Valdez, "and we're giving out over 300 lunches to local children a week through the Kids' Cafe."

The library has added new resources that can be accessed at home, including a treasury of romance novels and Creativebug, a resource for craft workshops. One resource that has proven popular with the curbside pickup crowd has been the new Binge Boxes, curated collections of film DVDs, grouped by genre and checked out all at once.

Another area of growth in resources helps to bridge the digital divide. Through a grant through the Utah State Library, the library's free wireless internet has also been extended. Community members can now access the internet and online resources from the parking area in front of the library building. Additionally, the library has purchased additional portable hotspots, which allow computers and cellphones to access the internet for those who don't have good, consistent access.



Big Horizons, Close Community



Wyoming State Library supports reading on the Wind River Indian Reservation

CARES Act funding is supporting summer reading on the Wind River Indian Reservation through book distributions to students and families. The Wyoming State Library used approximately \$5,000 for the project from the \$52,297 it received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services “to address digital inclusion” or “other efforts that prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.” Like the rest of Wyoming, the Reservation has been in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, closing school and library doors. While electronic library resources are available, internet and computer access are extremely limited in this remote part of rural Wyoming. Robin Levin, Head Librarian at the Fort Washakie School and Community Library led the efforts locally. She knows the community has difficulty accessing electronic resources. “Physical books work best with our families,” she said. “They don’t always have reliable transportation to a wifi hotspot or access to the internet.” The first book giveaways took place the week of May 18 at locations in Fort Washakie, Ethete, and Arapahoe. Through June, the book giveaways will be Wednesdays at the Hines General Store parking lot, Fort Washakie, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Library staff have been volunteering and driving to health screenings and food giveaway programs around the reservation. Measures are taken to ensure social distancing and minimize contact, so that children and families can pick up their books safely. “It’s like a bookmobile, but with free books for patrons,” Levin said. “Thanks to the Wyoming State Library, Kellogg Foundation, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes, and our volunteer extraordinaire Beverly Hill, we’ll continue through the summer with free books to the community and happy readers everywhere!”



The book giveaway display. Book distribution began the week of May 18 and will continue through the summer.

MPLA AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE AUGUST 31

A link to the Award Nomination Form
is available at:

<http://www.mpla.us/services/awards/>





Welcome, New Members!



Contact Name	Title	Institution	Library Name	City	State
Angela Beatie	Assistant Director		Salt Lake City Community College	South Jordan	UT
Samantha Griffis	Library Information Specialist	Northern Wyoming Community College District	Elizabeth Kerns Daily Library	Gillette	WY
Judiane Koch	Outreach Librarian Collection Services		High Plains Library District	Greeley	CO
Devin McGhee	Assistant manager Training and		Metropolitan Library System	Oklahoma City	OK
Annette Parde-Maass	Consulting Partner	ProQuest		Papillion	NE

King Soopers/Krogers

COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

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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.

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