

Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

October 2021—November 2021

www.mpla.us

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President's Message

It seems every week I see a new book challenge, a new program challenge, a new hurtful discussion happening on Facebook pages that were meant to build community and comradery. The pandemic is still real, still holding on, still having a huge impact not only on the day to day operation of our libraries but the lives of our staff and our patrons. Never before have the words "be kind" been needed so much in our lives. The pandemic has caused a social and economic shift that will be with us for (how many?) years to come.



At the same time, I see good news all around as libraries rise to the challenges that the pandemic has wrought. In-person programs are slowly coming back, circulation statistics are increasing, book orders are coming in a timelier manner allowing new materials to make their way quickly into the hands of our customers. All of this is made possible by library staff who are stepping up to lead the way with innovative ideas to continue to make the library a vibrant community hub.

Combine both of these – what could be perceived as negatives and positives – with a generational/pandemic slew of library staff retirements and we have opportunities galore in our profession. Now is the time to take stock in where you are and what your career goals are for the future. More than that, what are your life goals for the future? If these two goals are not in sync, take some time to reflect and rebuild using the continuing education and consulting resources that exist within the member states of the Mountain Plains Library Association. Reach out, don't be afraid to ask questions and make a change!



Robin Newell
Emporia Public Library
Emporia, KS
president@mpla.us
Phone: 620-340-6464

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A Fresh Perspective on Stale Issues

Jane S Martel, Senior Project Manager Arapahoe Libraries Colorado

Do you ever feel stuck on a sticky issue? Think of training that doesn't result in behavior changes, employee relations issues, the perennial struggle for ample library funding, or the pandemic's impact on operations. How do you plan for an uncertain future? A sticky issue has many levels, lots of causes, many stakeholders, massive interdependencies, various descriptions, and no known -- or agreed upon -- root cause. The issue keeps showing up though it may not be repeated exactly. It may challenge assumptions or have fuzzy boundaries. Perhaps most important, it can't be solved but can be influenced.

With particularly onerous challenges (such as why our project selection and funding process was not closely followed by all), I was uncertain of how to begin to tackle it with my known tools. Alternatively, if what was tried didn't work, I was unsure of how to move forward.

After years of studying change models, project management methodologies and process improvement practices, I finally came across something that reframed my thinking about sticky issues as opportunities, not problems. Through a six-week HSD Essentials course taught by Monica Leon and Wendy Morris, Certified Human Systems Dynamics practitioners, in association with the Human Systems Dynamics Institute, I was introduced to a different approach to looking at challenges in a way that accommodates both complexity and unpredictability.



What is HSD?

HSD is an inquiry-based, sense-making, action-oriented process. By learning some essentials, I acquired a new paradigm of how to make sense of the world, which gave me new options for taking action. One key framework is the use of adaptive action, an ongoing cycle of three questions: What? So what? Now what? These three questions help you more fully see what is happening, make meaning of it, take a small step of action, then look, understand and act again based on how the context of the sticky issue has changed.

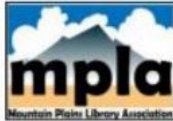
HSD is both profound and practical. Take, for example, the four rules of inquiry:

- Turn judgment into curiosity
- Turn disagreement into shared exploration
- Turn defensiveness into self-reflection
- Turn assumptions into questions.

Easy to say, hard to do...but possible! These rules have helped me to become less defensive and be able to look at situations less subjectively. Beyond that, my curiosity to understand others' perspectives has increased.

The course was nothing short of transformational for me personally and professionally. I welcome others to join me in this journey of discovery of what it means, especially in terms of project management in libraries: jmartel@arapahoelibraries.org.

Guiding Principles



LONG RANGE PLANS 2018



1. Pursue outreach opportunities

- Foster relationships
- Increase professional sharing
- Include diverse communities



2. Encourage caring, respectful relationships

- Mentoring
- Networking
- Collaborations
- Learning



3. Realize our potential

- Leadership development
- Professional growth opportunities
- Engagement with library community



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MPLA CHEW & CHAT



Led by lively hosts Jake Rundle and Mary Soucie, the informal discussions will occur every 4th Wednesday of the month. Advance registration is necessary with link below:

Mountain Plains Library Association “Chew & Chats”

When: 4th Wednesdays of each month.

1 PM Central time; Noon Mountain; 11 am Pacific.

Register in advance for this meeting at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuc-6sqT0iGtbqUkVclDcjtIzmJuvf87D1>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meetings.

Feel free to forward this information to others interested in MPLA.

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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

Link your loyalty card to MPLA to continue raising funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs!

SUPPORT
MPLA!



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Fred Meyer
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Dillons
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QFC
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Hilander
Pay-less Cala-Bell
Bakers
Jayc
Fred Meyer jewelers
Littman & Barclay Jewelers
Loaf and Jug

Around the Region



Building Support for America's Libraries Act

Like other library associations across the country, the Arizona Library Association worked to raise support for the Build America's Libraries Act over the summer. As part of that effort, The AzLA Legislative Committee arranged calls with legislative staff and library directors, highlighting infrastructure needs at Arizona libraries. One of the participating library managers was Jason Macoviak, from Bisbee's Copper Queen Library, who also partnered with AzLA President Jack Walsh to write an editorial for the *Arizona Daily Star*. Read the article [here](#), and read more about the Build America's Libraries Act [here](#).



Jason Macoviak

New Director at Labriola National American Indian Data Center



Alex Soto (pictured above) has been appointed as director of the Labriola National American Indian Data Center at Arizona State University Library. The Labriola Center is the library's dedicated gathering space and collection of materials by, for, and about indigenous people. Soto previously served as an assistant librarian at the center, and he will be the first new director in 20 years. Read more about the appointment [here](#), and about the Labriola Center [here](#).

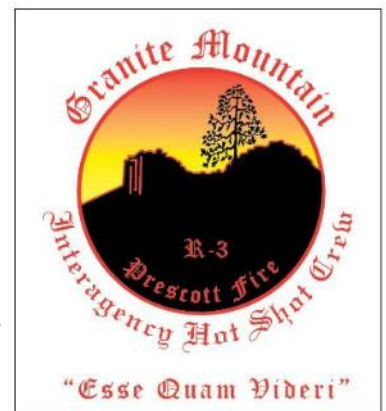
Completed Renovations



Mesa Public Library completed a Main Library renovation project in late July that expanded the children's area to roughly 10,000 square feet. The enhanced children's area features an Arizona animal theme, and offers adult- and child-sized entrances that mimic Arizona rock formations. According to library director Heather Wolf, this represents the biggest Main Library renovation in nearly 25 years. The bond that funded the project, which was approved by voters in 2018, is also slated to pay for improvements to Mesa's two branch libraries. Read more in the [East Valley Tribune](#).

Arizona Memory Project

June 30, 2021, marked the eighth anniversary of the terrible day when 19 members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots firefighting crew lost their lives fighting the Yarnell Hill Fire outside Yarnell, Arizona. The Granite Mountain Hotshots were based in nearby Prescott, and after the tragedy the Prescott Public Library worked with community partners to preserve images from the impromptu memorial that sprang up outside their fire station. Images and videos from this collection are now a part of the Arizona Memory Project, where they are available to citizens and researchers. You may view and search the collection [here](#).



AZ ARIZONA

Empathy Through Literacy Collection

At Arizona State University, library staff have worked with the university's Center for Child Well-Being to create a special collection of books highlighting the experiences of children with parents or caregivers who are incarcerated. The 64 books included in the "Empathy Through Literacy" collection include fiction and nonfiction titles written for young children through teens. The collection is intended to reduce the stigma families experience when loved ones are incarcerated, and help kids and teens talk about their feelings and experiences.



In addition to the collection housed at ASU's Noble Library, the Center for Child Well-Being is working to establish similar collections at public libraries across Arizona, as well as in the visitor areas of jails and prisons, where parents can read with their children. Read more about the project [here](#).

CO COLORADO



The Joys of Canning

Canning and food preservation are essential to securing access to healthy food year round. Mesa County Libraries hosted "The Joys of Canning and Preserving" with Ann Duncan (CSU Extension) on August 17 to discuss the basics of food preservation and to teach participants how to get started. Seating was limited, and registration was required.

Victorian Parlor Games

Patrons enjoyed a preposterously good time with a Victorian soiree that provided a historical look into leisure activities and games. Anythink Libraries (York Street) in Thornton, CO hosted Victorian Parlor Games. Patrons participated in engaging activities of a bygone era and enjoyed a spot of tea with an expert from the Molly Brown House Museum on August 14.

New Library Coming to Frontenac, KS

Thanks to help from a local family, the city of Frontenac will soon welcome a new resource. Frontenac is in the early stages of bringing a new library to town, and it's thanks to a \$4,000,000+ donation from the Tavella family. City officials hope to make this a community-led project, and are looking to establish a committee to head the effort.

Now showing in the Gathering Space Gallery:

"My Passion to Paint"

The Derby Public Library in Derby Kansas and Derby Arts Council invite the public to view and enjoy Derby artist Mark Ward's art in the Gathering Space Gallery. "My Passion to Paint," 58 pieces of art rendered in acrylics, watercolors, conte crayon and graphite, provides a unique and vivid experience. Beginning September 2, the display case will hold an exhibit of embellished gourds, carved and painted by his wife Mary Ward.

Mark Ward worked for over 35 years as a graphic designer, but describes himself as a traditional watercolorist who also creates in other mediums. He is inspired by historical events and photographs and brings them to life with new views to the present.

Many of his works are paired with poetry or personal notes explaining Mark's perspective. "Iron Horse" and "Derby Depot" are watercolors that meld the past with the present. "Busy Bee" will fascinate the viewer with the intricate rendering of the subject. "Equestrian Awards," an acrylic painting in the Trompe l'oeil style, stimulates the question "What am I looking at?"

Retirement has brought other painting opportunities to Mark, who currently teaches art classes at the Hubbard Arts Center and Plein Air paint outs. He takes classes and workshops from other artists, and belongs to the Kansas Art Guild, growing his "passion to paint."

Mary Ward has been creating art for 22 years and is excited to share the gourds she has transformed into sculptural expressions of beauty. One can hardly discern that a humble vegetable is the base for such intricate artistic expression. Mary expresses her love for color by using gourds as a "canvas." The double exhibit will be on display through October 26, 2021.

<https://derbylibrary.com/events/exhibits>



River Camp by Mark Ward



New Business Center in Whitehall Community Library

The Whitehall Community Library in Whitehall, MT is filled to the brim with information for business owners. But how can business owners access them during their busy workday?

Thanks to a grant given by Montana Libraries SPARK, the library opened a business resource center to help new and established owners find the information they need as quickly as possible.

"It's a natural partnership because librarians love to research and the one thing business people don't have is a lot of time to go looking up individual pieces of information," said Jeannie Ferriss, Library Director.

The Montana State Library in partnership with Accelerate Montana Rural Innovation Initiative created Montana Libraries SPARK to "provide programming ideas and professional development opportunities for librarians in order to empower Montana's public libraries to support and assist business and economic development communities."

The new business resource center will help new and old businesses find information and host speakers to help business owners looking for advice.

"Our business is to help refer people to the experts. We're not business experts, we don't pretend to be, but we have contacts with people who are, whose whole goal is to really assist those people in being successful," said Ferriss.

Ferriss said that libraries play an important role in the first steps toward economic development from small towns to statewide development. "The Whitehall area is a kind of a small hub of smaller towns around us and so to be able to have people from all over come in and say, well, I had this great idea, where do I start?" said Ferriss.

Starting September 14, the Whitehall Community Library will host guest speakers as part of their project with the business resource center.

Introducing the New Montana Memory Project

by Pam Henley, Statewide Consulting Librarian, Montana State Library

The Montana Memory Project has moved from its old hosting platform to a new site hosted by Recollect, a New Zealand company. The new site has a cleaner look and offers improved searching and filtering capabilities. Searching can be done right from the home page, and navigation options and tools are in the left column when a specific item is selected. It's possible for users to create a free account and create their own collections of searches to revisit later. Once all content is moved and organized (it takes a long time to move 70,000+ items!) even more options will be available, such as contributing information about items including identifying people or locations

You can see the new site at <https://www.montanamemory.org>. Old links may not work, and it might be helpful to clear your browser cache if issues occur. Remember to follow the MMP on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see daily photos!



Belgrade Conversations: Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries

Belgrade Community Library was selected as one of the first 200 libraries to participate in *Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries*, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that helps library workers better serve their small and rural communities. The competitive award came with a \$3,000 grant that helped the library engage the community around Belgrade's continued growth.

As one of the fastest growing communities in Montana, Belgrade is now the 8th largest city in Montana with a 2020 Census population count of just over 10,000 people within 4.5 square miles. To create some perspective, Gallatin County includes 2,632 square miles. 48% of Belgrade Community Library cardholders live outside the city limits. This growth comes with the expected growing pains. For example, traffic is becoming more congested, partly because of the freight trains that helped literally put Belgrade on the map and partly because of all of the new homes being built and the new families moving in.

Centering the library's Belgrade Conversations series around Belgrade's growth was a good opportunity for the library staff to bring attention to some specific aspects of growth, learn from guest speakers, and hear from interested community members in regard to their needs, thoughts, and ideas. Five conversations were held on successive Wednesdays in June.

Starting with a history lesson, the city's resident historian and planning director gave an overview of Belgrade's history and a brief glimpse into the future. The second week focused on Belgrade's health with presenters from Bozeman Health and Community Health Partners and discussion around the 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment. In the middle of the series, presenters took a more in-depth look at the policies and plans that are in place to help Belgrade grow in a sustainable way. The following week we held a conversation with Belgrade School District's English Learning Coordinator about how the library can better support the growing Hispanic community and other English learners. Finally, we brought it back around to the library with a discussion and presentation on the library's new building project which will be brought to city voters in September.

Overall, the library learned that community conversations, while important and somewhat imperative for understanding community needs, are only a starting point. Librarians realized that more trust and goodwill can be built with interested community members when conversations continue beyond the first one. The staff at Belgrade Community Library will now try to keep the conversations going and to tie what they have learned into regular programming, collection development and maintenance, and outreach efforts. If this series of community conversations is something that piques your interest for your small or rural library, I encourage you to apply for the third round of funding. The application period is open until September 16, 2021 and the application materials and requirements can be found here: <http://ala.org/ltrcfocus>

"Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)."

Our resident historian and city planning director regularly references these books: "The Princess of the Prairie: a History of Belgrade Montana" by Ronald J Iverson and "Belgrade Centennial: the first one hundred years : Belgrade Centennial : 1886-1986" by Belgrade Centennial Committee.

Three plans that were discussed and presented at the third event in the Belgrade Conversations series: Belgrade Downtown Design Plan, Belgrade Growth Policy, and Belgrade Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

The Kearney Hub Collection

The Kearney Public Library has announced recent updates to its digital newspaper collection The Kearney Hub Collection with historical archives is available to all KPL patrons and is updated daily. It provides online access to current and archived issues of the Kearney Hub and now goes back as far as January 1958.

Patrons can use this resource for general reference or to research local and national issues, events, people, government, education, arts, business, sports, real estate and much more. In addition to using this resource at workstations in KPL, patrons can access the collection from home by logging in with a valid KPL card number.

Descendants of DeWitty NE

H. Don and Connie J. Osborne Family Gallery, Criss Library – University of Nebraska Omaha Libraries is hosting the 25-piece photo exhibit, *Descendants of DeWitty NE*, which shares the history of the 1860s Black homesteaders through the voices of their descendants. DeWitty was located in the Sandhills of Nebraska and was a haven for formerly enslaved and freed Blacks. Photos and text explore the lives of individual homesteaders and their families, the community of DeWitty, and the legacy of the land, the last piece of which was sold in 1993.

The exhibit will be on display in the Osborne Gallery from September 1- November 7, 2021. The gallery is open during Criss Library's [regular hours of operation](#).

Learn more about the Descendants of DeWitty NE organization and history [through their website](#), and by visiting the gallery exhibit.

Descendants of DeWitty NE is on display as part of the year-long programming to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the UNO Black Studies department. Events and outreach for the Department of Black Studies anniversary is funded by the UNO Strategic Investment Grant, awarded to the UNO Libraries and the Department of Black Studies for the project “Charting our Path” Celebrating 50 Years of Black Studies, 1971-2021.” Additional funding is provided by UNO Libraries and the Department of Black Studies. For more information about the department and future events, please see the [Black Studies department website](#).



Ghost Town Talks

Henderson Libraries in Henderson, Nevada, located next to Las Vegas, is offering a monthly visit to Nevada ghost towns with their “Ghost Town Talks.” The first program was meant to be a single Sin City Paranormal event at Green Valley Library with an eager audience of 75 people. Sadly, they needed to cancel the event.

Then generous pro bono expert, Heather Leigh (pictured right), offered to give a series of shorter video talks on the various ghost towns in and around Southern Nevada. It was the perfect opportunity to explore, learn and social distance. She has covered popular ghost towns including Searchlight, Nelson, Goldfield, Calico and Gold Point, and plans to continue offering her brief, info-packed videos for many more curiously abandoned spaces in Nevada. Virginia City, located in northern Nevada, is September’s topic. New videos are posted on the last Friday of the month.



Heather started exploring Nevada ghost towns after she moved to Vegas 6 years ago. She loves history and paranormal activity, so she continued to research more. It became a family affair as her husband and son both love exploring ghost towns too. Last year, Motion Picture Video reached out to her and asked her family to appear in the documentary “Real Haunts: Ghost Towns and Real Haunts 3.”

Heather holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Metaphysical Humanistic Science, specializing in Paranormal Science. She is a Certified Paranormal Investigator (CPI) and Certified EVP Technician (CET). Her goal is to help others take a more scientific approach to paranormal investigations and research.

She is a member of the International Paranormal Bureau of Investigations and Research (IBPIR), The Warren Legacy Foundation (as an intake coordinator and researcher) and ParaNexus Anomalous Research Association. She is an author of articles and books, as well as a lecturer, about all things paranormal as it relates to historical events. She is a co-host for Ghost Education 101, a co-host and content contributor for Touch of Magick, and teaches classes through iMystic University.

When asked, Heather says her favorite ghost town is Nelson/EI Dorado. Her favorite haunted location is Gettysburg.

The videos are available through this link: <https://www.hendersonlibraries.com/ghost-town-talks>.



Membership Advantages

- Continuing education opportunities including conferences, workshops and special seminars.
- First year Personal membership dues are half price!
- Joint annual conferences with member states providing a marketplace of ideas where individuals can share their experience and talent with other librarians.
- MPLA Awards recognize outstanding contributions to local, state and regional library services.
- Opportunity for members to contribute to the profession.
- Professional Development Grants for course work, institutes and workshops.
- Information exchange and educational programs about technological developments and innovative library programming undertaken by MPLA libraries.
- AND MORE!

MPLA bases its success on an active, enthusiastic, sharing membership. Where our people are so few and distances are so great, each librarian, staff member and library is a vital resource.

Pivoting with Storytime Kits

By: Jessica Anderson Humboldt County Library Director

Humboldt County Library in Winnemucca, NV created a project for collection development by creating and circulating Story Time kits. We decided upon this need because the Covid-19 pandemic moved all of our programming to virtual platforms, but many patrons expressed difficulty in keeping younger children's attention on this type of programming. The Story Time kits brought the in-person programming that we were unable to provide into the home for families to recreate themselves. Each kit contained the stories and activities based around a theme, with puppets, jingle-bells, and lyrics for story-time songs to round it out the experience. Some of the activities were flannel storyboards, educational toys and activities, accessories to assist in dramatic play (like a tea set or doctor playset), and sensory activities. Each kit also included Wonderbooks from Findaway and Indestructibles Baby-Proof books. Each kit is housed in a clear backpack and includes an instruction sheet, a list of items included in each bag, song lyrics, and fingerplays. We looked for items that would be easy to clean, durable, educational, and be beneficial to the theme of the Story Time bag as something we would use ourselves during an in-person program.

More Information about the Storytime Kits that are available is located on our website <https://www.humboldtcounzynv.gov/507/Story-Time-STEM-to-Go>

We will soon be offering Health & Wellness Kits as well. Wellness kits will be contained in varying sized tote bags with labeled tags to provide patron privacy for items being checked out, sized to easily contain the kits. Each kit will contain books or literature to go along with the items for each theme. For example, a Yoga kit will have a yoga mat & blocks as well as a book & DVD on yoga. Other kit themes may include Health Assessment, Strength Training, Meditation, Pilates, Sleep tracking, Stress & Anxiety. Multiples of popular themes will be created to ensure availability and some themes will be available in both an adult and juvenile-friendly version. Any device that tracks and keeps vitals or information will be cleared upon check-in before the kit is made available for check-out again.



Read. Be Inspired. Write Back.

by Carmelita Aragon, State Data Coordinator for the New Mexico State Library

We are very pleased to inform you that the New Mexico State Library will continue the New Mexico Letters About Literature competition this school year. We have created a site for the state competition which should tell you everything you want to know about the contest :

- <https://lettersaboutliterature.nmculture.org/>

We cordially invite your students to participate in this reading and writing contest, designed to promote reading and thoughtful writing by encouraging young readers to read a book and then write a letter to the author explaining how his or her work shaped their perspective on the world or themselves. This is the ninth year the [New Mexico State Library](#) has sponsored the competition.

Please read the official rules and terms of participation, including **how to submit entries**, carefully before your students begin reading and writing. Please visit New Mexico [Letters About Literature](#) to learn more about the contest. If you have any questions, please call 505-476-9739 or 505-476-9717.



Dedication of Miller Library Mural and WNMU Permanent Collection Additions

By [Jennifer Olson](#)

On Friday, August 27, a few community members gathered to celebrate art on campus, dedicating the “A Community Reads” mural gracing Miller Library’s north entrance and unveiling new works in the WNMU Permanent Collection.

The Silver City Youth Mural Program’s Diana Ingalls Leyba discussed the ideas behind the book-based mural design, and one of her iconic paintings was also introduced as part of the WNMU Permanent Collection.

Community members heard the story behind the 9- by 6-foot painting recently donated to WNMU by her relatives Bob and Nancy Phillips, heirs of Aunt Bonnie’s portrait, painted by a one-armed artist of some regional renown Diana Ingalls Leyba. The Phillips said Bonnie Bledsoe Ramos had run away to Mexico to marry her handsome picador and lived with him on his substantial ranch in Mexico, where Ximénez painted her. When Mexican authorities deported Bonnie after her husband died, she moved to Roswell, New Mexico, where she lived until her death, killed by a driver who ran into the back of a hayride wagon in which she was riding. Linda Brewer of Bear Mountain Lodge facilitated the donation of this piece to the WNMU Permanent Collection.



Diana Ingalls Leyba's "Wolf Spirit IV" was unveiled as one addition to the WNMU Permanent Collection in August 2021.

© Western New Mexico University

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library: Art Empowered: A Camp For Kids

The North Dakota Women's Network and Youth Action Council, through a partnership with the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, offered a partial-day art camp at the Library, August 2-August 5. At Art Empowered, the focus was on the wonderful women who helped shape the art world despite all the challenges before them. Each day, campers aged 8-12 learned about two female artists and their art styles, and there were art projects in those styles to choose from. The camp was free, and art materials were supplied free of charge courtesy of Dakota West Arts Council.



Wishing a Happy Retirement

Phyllis Bratton retired as the library director for the University of Jamestown (Raugust Library in Jamestown and Zaruba Library in Fargo) at the end of June 2021. Phyllis has been at UJ for 37 years and has overseen the growth of the libraries' collections and services, ensured that the libraries kept up with new technologies and formats, served as NDLA President in 2008-09, mentored countless students and colleagues, and advocated tirelessly for libraries at UJ and across the state. We thank you for your dedication to the University of Jamestown, to North Dakota libraries, to NDLA, and to the profession of librarianship, Phyllis. Congratulations & best wishes for your retirement!



Big Horizons, Close Community



Tulsa Community College Honored with 2021 Excellence in Academic Libraries Awards



The Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) announces Tulsa Community College Library, Tulsa, Oklahoma and one of the recipients of the 2021 Excellence in Academic Libraries Awards. Sponsored by ACRL and GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO, the award recognizes the staff of a college, community college, or university library for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources to further the educational mission of the institution. Each library will receive \$3,000 and a plaque.

Tulsa Community College Library (TCC), recipient of this year's award in the community college category, was chosen for its assessment-based approach to decision making and for building relationships with other campus departments.

"The TCC Library demonstrated a strategic approach of developing strong partnerships with other offices across the institution to further TCC's educational mission and student support," Pressley said. "The library is notable for their use of different types of assessment to enable data-driven decision making. The staff were quick to adapt in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, moving services online and partnering with other units to expand technology lending for their community."

TCC Library's partnerships across campus have been key to its success in supporting student learning and the institution's mission of "building success through education." To expand access to technology, the library created the Hotspot @ Home and Student Laptop Loan programs. Hotspot @ Home, funded through a partnership with the TCC Foundation, piloted in 2016 with just ten devices available for three-day checkout periods, but the library has grown the service to support more than 200 devices available for entire semesters. The Student Laptop Loan Program, created in partnership with TCC's Student Affairs department, provided 165 laptops for semester-long checkout in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic. And in further response to the pandemic, the library supported several other departments across campus with the library's chat service platform.

"We are both excited and humbled to be recognized for our work," said Paula Settoon, dean of libraries and knowledge management at Tulsa Community College. "At TCC our vision is an educated, employed, and thriving community. The Library plays a big part in making that vision a reality by partnering with faculty to provide targeted support to students, increasing students' access to technology, and partnering with other departments to create community both on campus and virtually for the students we serve."

Additional information on the award, along with a list of past recipients, is available in the [awards section](#) of the ACRL website. ACRL presentation of the award to TCC and the TCC Library June 10, 2021 online (recorded): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hx1KK9VB6p0>

Linscheid Library Impacts the Community

by: Marla Lobley, Public Services Librarian at ECU

Linscheid Library at East Central University in Ada recently released their annual Library Highlights which shows usage and outcome data for the 2020-2021 academic year. This year, it was especially apparent that the library has had a positive impact on the ECU and Ada communities.

The data shows the library had a strong impact on students' mental health. 100% of the students surveyed said they felt more confident about their ability to research after having a reference interaction with a librarian. One student said, "It felt like I was talking to a friend" while others said "It was all very comforting" and "This cuts down on a lot of worry I had." The library's impact on students' mental health was further emphasized by faculty, as one instructor said about a librarian-led instruction session, "According to student feedback, this was very helpful and also reduced student anxiety about their assignments."

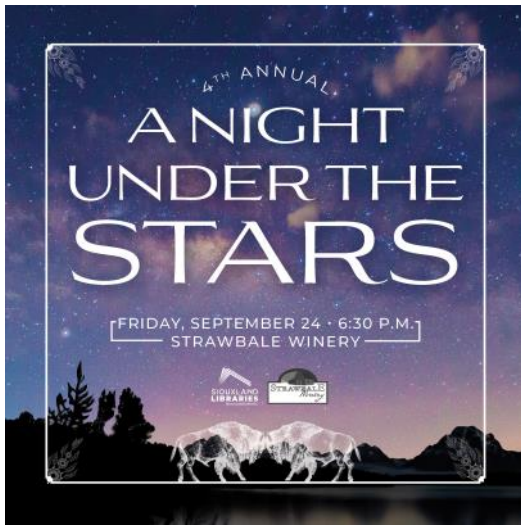
Librarians impacted teaching and learning even outside of librarian-led sessions. 80% of faculty surveyed said they used what they learned from their interaction with a librarian to enhance their courses. 80% of library student employees said they did better in their classes as a result of working in the library. One student commented, "The library is the most systematic, organized, and loving organization I have ever seen." This year the library staff went outside of traditional library roles and completed two community service projects. They conducted a competitive food drive among full-time employees and donated 233 meals for the ECU food pantry. They also conducted a campus-wide book drive to donate 216 books to the Davis Correctional Facility in Holdenville.

Both within and outside the library walls, the library staff continue to carry out the library's vision to be a place where everyone feels equally empowered to reach their dreams.



Night Under the Stars

The Siouxland Libraries has an outdoor evening event planned for September 24th at the Strawbale Winery in Renner, SD . Lakota guest speaker Victor Douville will talk about the stars and Lakota culture. Telescopes will be available to view the night sky. The woodwind quintet, Prairie Winds, will also entertain with their music. And the library's bookmobile will be available there too!



The Trails and Tales

The Watertown Regional Library teamed up with Xcel Energy, Watertown Area Community Foundation and its Giving Back 365 program to start bike lending this past summer. The library has 13 bicycles with a helmet for adults and children to check out for two days. One of the bike options is a side by side adult tandem tricycle.



Bound and Unbound VI

The University Libraries at the University of South Dakota hosted their sixth altered book exhibition and fifth international juried exhibition. They will exhibit these pieces until January 3rd, 2022. These are all original works created within the last three years, and Entries were open to all worldwide. This sixth exhibit includes 43 works by 31 artists. You can see these altered book pieces in person at the library or in the Digital Library of South Dakota.

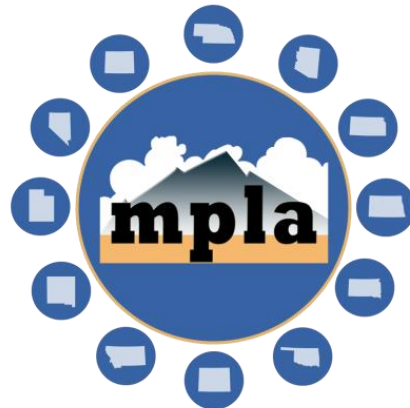
<https://explore.digitalsd.org/digital/collection/exhibitions>

Incentive Program to Promote Reading

Librarian Bev Dunn, woonsocket.library@k12.sd.us

The Woonsocket Community Library in Woonsocket, SD started using scratch cards as incentives for AR tests. Jr. High and High School students also have the option of taking a traditional AR computer test or writing a book report with set questions and expectations. They can hand write it on the book report form, type it up, or schedule a time to give an oral book report. All elementary through high school students need to receive an 80% or higher to earn a scratch card. They in turn redeem their scratch card for whatever prize(s) are revealed.

When a student takes their first AR test, we take their picture and post it on our Facebook page. They love being recognized this way.



Welcome New South Dakota State Library Staff Member



The SD State Library is pleased to introduce our new School Library Technology Coordinator, Scottie Bruch. Scottie joined the SD State Library in mid-July.

Scottie was raised on a ranch in the Black Hills and still lives there today with her husband and their two teenage boys. She always knew that she would work in education, and she always has - in a variety of capacities. She began coaching high school and middle school sports as a freshman in college and accepted her first teaching job as a 7th grade reading and geography teacher in Sturgis. After several years of teaching and coaching, Scottie took a position as the Assistant Director and Teen Services Coordinator at the Sturgis Public Library. During that time, she also became a certified yoga teacher, offering classes to children, teens, and adults. In 2013, she went back into the schools teaching one year of 6th grade social studies before becoming the middle school and high school librarian (2 middle schools & 1 high school) and middle school track and cross country coach in Sturgis - a job that she loved for 7 years.

Scottie is now excited to take on the role of School Library Technology Coordinator! She and her family love to travel the world and be together in nature. She also loves reading, cats (& some dogs), puzzles, visiting libraries when she travels, running, organizing and planning, camping, and stand-up paddle boarding.

King Soopers/Krogers

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- Littman & Barclay Jewelers
- Loaf and Jug

A Cavalcade of Critters: Animals of Moab

To engage with their community the Moab Branch of Grand County Public Library in Utah asked patrons to share photos of their animal friends to be included in a presentation. Take a look at the finished project: <https://tinyurl.com/moabanimals>

Utah Library Association Focusing on Serving and Including Community Members with Disabilities

During the month of September, the Utah Library Association and Utah State Library have been focusing on Serving & Including Community Members with Disabilities. If you too are interested in more training to help you provide effective, inclusive library and information services and programs to participants of all abilities, check out the Project ENABLE training website. This site presents five learning modules containing information about serving library patrons with special needs. It covers several topics and uses multiple formats, such as video, text, graphics, quizzes and assessments, and links to outside sources. You may choose which content you wish to access and in what order. Check it out! (<https://projectenable.syr.edu/training/modules>)

ARPA Funds bring books to Wind River Indian Reservation

Boxes of books have arrived on the Wind River Indian Reservation! They've been purchased through the Wyoming State Library's Central Acquisitions program as part of the state's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds received through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Books are have been sent to the Fort Washakie School and Community Library. Head Librarian Robin Levin distributes them through a mobile book trailer. This project helps support literacy efforts during the pandemic in an area that has little access to electronic resources.



Robin Levin

*Author
Membership*

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.

Hands-on Cooking Classes at the Natrona County Library

Who doesn't love delicious food? And if you can prepare those delicious foods yourself, even better! Cooking skills benefit us our entire lives and can lead to healthier lifestyles. This is why the Natrona County Library's new Kitchen a la Cart by Edible Education is so exciting.

The Kitchen a la Cart is a portable cooking school that empowers students to learn essential culinary skills through hands on, teacher-led experiences. Children can learn so much beyond just cooking skills when they are in the kitchen. The benefits include math skills, science skills, cultural literacy, financial literacy, art and creativity, improved reading and vocabulary skills, and development of greater self-confidence. Cooking together as a group can strengthen communication and interpersonal skills, as well. Plus, experience has proven that kids who help prepare meals are more willing to try a variety of foods and generally eat a healthier diet.



Natrona County Library debuted their Kitchen a la Cart at the May 17 Tween Cooking Club, where students in grades 4-6 were taught all about the different qualities, health benefits, and taste profiles of eggs. (Science!) They were then guided through basic cooking techniques and knife skills before they chopped vegetables, whisked eggs, and made their own omelets with the ingredients they chose.

The Kitchen a la Cart comes equipped with a working sink, convection oven, cooktop burner, professional grill, pasta maker, blender, hand mixer, and enough kitchen utensils to teach a small class. In the past, the library hosted Tween Cooking Club programs in which kids would make recipes that generally did not include actual cooking, as they did not have a stove or oven. This new portable kitchen has made real cooking not only possible, but fun and safe, as well.

One of NCL's youth services librarians, Angel Capone Evans, applied for and received a grant that allowed her to travel to Lawrenceville, Georgia, in early May to attend a hands-on Edible Education training for the Kitchen a la Cart along with other educators. By learning about the cart in a group setting, she was given an amazing example of how to lead future classes to groups of all sizes, while also getting a thorough rundown of everything the library's new cooking cart can safely do.





Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/Library Name	City & State
Alison Hiatt	Bookmobile Assistant	Burleigh County Bookmobile	Bismarck, ND
Bailee Hutchinson	Branch Manager	Southern Prairie Library System	Altus, OK
Brent Greyson	Electronic Services, Systems, and Reference Librarian	OKCU School of Law	Oklahoma City, OK
Brittany Love	Library Media Specialist	Norman Public Schools	Mustang, OK
Casey Lowry	Digital Services Librarian	East Central University, Linscheid Library	Ada, OK
Gail Oehler	Director	Southern OK Library System	Ardmore, OK
Janis Kindred	Director	Anadarko Community Library	Anadarko, OK
Jessica Weatherby	Senior Library Associate	Lawton Public Library	Lawton, OK





Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/Library Name	City & State
Kip Roberson	Director of Library Services	Teton County Library	Jackson, WY
Laura Kelly	Children & Youth Services Coordinator	South Dakota State Library	Pierre, SD
Lee Bell	Programming & Development Coordinator	Enid Public Library	Enid, OK
Sandra Tharp-Thee	Director	Tryon Public Library	Tryon OK
Theresa Carroll	Student	University of Oklahoma	Tulsa, OK
Theresa Ray	Deputy Director of Library Services	Enid Public Library	Enid, OK

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MPLA State Representatives



Arizona

Amadee Ricketts
Cochise County Library
Bisbee, AZ
arizona@mpla.us

Colorado

Elena Rosenfeld
High Plains Library District
Greeley, CO
colorado@mpla.us

Kansas

Maribeth Shafer
Central Kansas Library System
Great Bend, KS
kansas@mpla.us

Montana

Rachel M. Rawn
Havre-Hill County Library
Havre, MT
montana@mpla.us

Nebraska

Evonne Edgington
Omaha Public Library -Millard Branch
Omaha, NE
nebraska@mpla.us

Nevada

Luise Davis
Douglas County Public Library
Minden, NV
nevada@mpla.us

New Mexico

Dale Savage
New Mexico State Library
new_mexico@mpla.us

North Dakota

Randi Monley
Minot Public Library
Minot, ND
north_dakota@mpla.us

Oklahoma

Gloria Farmer
Eastern Oklahoma Library System
oklahoma@mpla.us

South Dakota

Nita Gill
Brookings Public Library
Brookings, SD
south_dakota@mpla.us

Utah

Sherrie Mortensen
Wasatch County Library
Heber, UT
utah@mpla.us

Wyoming

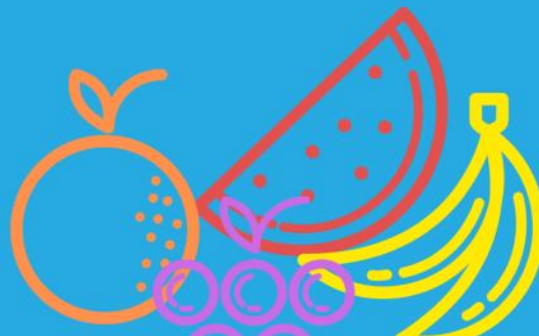
Katrina Brown
Goodstein Foundation Library
Casper, WY
wyoing@mpla.us

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Emporia Public Library
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president@mpla.us

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Edmon Low Library
Stillwater, Oklahoma
secretary@mpla.us

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Judy Kulp
Lakewood, Colorado
execsecretary@mpla.us

Newsletter Editor

Melanie Argo
Madison Public Library
Madison, SD
editor@mpla.us

Leadership Institute Coordinator

coordinator@mpla.us

Webmaster

Roy Degler
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK
webmaster@mpla.us

MPLA Archives

Abby Hoverstock
Denver Public Library,
Western History and Genealogy
Denver, SD
archives@mpla.us

Awards

Mary Ann Thompson
Hays, KS
awards@mpla.us

Nominating

Stephen Sweeney
St. John Vianney Seminary
Cardinal Stafford Library
Denver, CO
nominating@mpla.us

Bylaws and Procedures

Frances Brummett
Salt Lake City Public Library
Salt Lake, UT
bylaws@mpla.us

Communications

Co-chairs:
Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse
Mulvane Public Library
Mulvane, KS

Jennifer Williams-Curl
Western Dakota Tech Institute
Rapid City, SD
communications@mpla.us

Leadership Institute

Michael McDonald
Northeast KS Library System
Lawrence, KS
leadership@mpla.us

Membership

Mary J. Soucie
North Dakota State Library
Bismarck, ND
membership@mpla.us

Professional Development

Robin Hastings
Northeast Kansas Library System
Lawrence, KS
prof_development@mpla.us

Program Council

Brenda Hemmelman
South Dakota State Library
Pierre, SD
program@mpla.us



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Judy Kulp
Executive Secretary
14293 West Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 985-7795
execsecretary@mpla.us