



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

Big Horizons, Close Community

August 2024—September 2024

mpla.us

Volume 69 Number 4

From the Desk of the President

These last couple of months since the conference have flown by! We have been kept busy with the beginning of the AMS (Association Management Software) project where we will transfer our association's data and functions from Memberclicks to Naylor, our new AMS. This new software should be in place by Jan 1, 2025, but it will require a good bit of work from our Webmaster, Server Administrator, Executive Secretary, and others in the organization to ensure our data is transferred seamlessly and that all the functions that the software will allow are put to good use!

If you are curious about what those functions might include, the demo site for our software is found at <https://naylor-nb.membershipsoftware.org/>. Let me know if you have questions or if the site gives you great ideas for increasing engagement in MPLA.



Speaking of increased engagement - it's committee assignment time! The membership voted to open up the committee assignments to the general membership at the Montana conference and I'm planning to do that as soon as I have the committee chairs sorted. By the time you read this, that call for participation has likely gone out. I encourage you to consider serving on an MPLA committee - it's a rewarding experience that not only will introduce you to new folks from around our region, but can also help you learn valuable skills that can help you in your professional life. Finally, I hope you all enjoy your summer, whether you are kept busy with summer reading events or have a slower summer semester to enjoy - or anything in between!

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Robin Hastings

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



A NOTE TO LET YOU KNOW

MPLA HAS NEW CONTACT INFO!

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Executive Secretary:
Sherrie Mortensen

Led by lively hosts Jake Rundle and Mary Soucie, the informal discussions will occur every 4th Wednesday of the month.

4th Wednesdays of each month



*Chew
& Chat*



**1 PM Central time
Noon Mountain
11 am Pacific**

**[Register in advance](#)
[via Zoom](#)**

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.



Big Horizons, Close Community





Professional Development

Big Horizons, Close Community

Grants

The Professional Development Committee supports avenues of continuing education and research experiences for individuals employed in the library or related professions in the Mountain Plains region.

Individual Grants

Grants are awarded to support the following: Formal course work in library science or a related discipline and/or directly related to an individual's library position. Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference. Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures. Library related research projects.

State Association Conference Grants

Grants are awarded to encourage opportunities for continuing education for the MPLA membership through pre or post conferences at the annual meetings of state associations in the region. If a state does not offer pre/post conference programs, that state can be awarded a grant for a presentation of comparable significance during the conference.

<https://mpla.us/community/professional-development-grants/>



Tips & Tricks for Writing Conference Proposals

This guide has been prepared by the Mountain Plains Library Association's Professional Development Committee to assist library workers with writing proposals for conferences they would like to be considered for presenting.

NOW IS THE TIME



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School of LIBRARY & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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A graduate degree in Library and Information Management complements previous education, offers prospects for increased earnings and provides flexible skills for the future. Learn more at emporia.edu/slim.





MPLA Leadership Institute

May 4-7, 2025

YMCA of the Rockies

Estes Park, CO



2023 Participants & Mentors

2025 Facilitators: Sharon Morris & Jamie LaRue

Application Process opening soon!

learn more: <https://mpla.us/leadership/>



NEED A CHANGE? STARTING OUT?

CHECK OUT MPLA'S
JOBLINE FOR OPENINGS



MPLA REGION

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

AND BEYOND...



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Jobline <https://mpla.us/jobs/>

The background image for the PNLA Quarterly header is a scenic landscape. It features a large, rugged mountain peak with patches of snow or light-colored rock, rising above a dense forest of evergreen trees. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The title 'PNLA QUARTERLY' is superimposed on the upper half of the image in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font, with a slight upward curve.

PNLA QUARTERLY

Pacific Northwest Library Association

This journal is all about regional content, open access, and discoverability.

PNLA Quarterly includes a combination of peer-reviewed and editor-reviewed articles focusing on issues of interest to libraries in the Pacific Northwest. Who better to provide this content than the practitioners, students, and educators who live in or are affiliated with the region? This regional focus and mix of content offer diverse but balanced information relevant to public, academic, and special libraries.

The journal is available as one large PDF or individual article PDFs, which, along with keywords for each article, improves the discovery rate of PQ content and give our authors more exposure on the Web, while improving indexing by vendors such as EBSCO. The journal conforms to the Open Access model, where content is made available free of charge to readers upon publication. Thanks to the sponsorship of PNLA, no costs are charged to content creators.

PQ publishes on a quarterly schedule. While submissions on topics of interest to librarianship in the Pacific Northwest region of the US and Canada are welcome anytime, issues are often organized around themes like leadership or the annual PNLA conference. Please see the latest issue for the active call for proposals or contact the editor with inquiries or submissions.

Robert Perret and Jennifer Ward are the current co-editors of PQ. They can best be reached at PQEditors@gmail.com.

<https://pnla.org/pnla-quarterly/>

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!**



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
- Owen's
- Foodsco
- Hilander
- Pay-less Cala-Bell
- Bakers
- Jayc
- Fred Meyer jewelers
- Littman & Barclay Jewelers
- Loaf and Jug

Around the Region



Summer Heat in Arizona

As Arizona's summer heat reaches its peak, many libraries across the state become cooling centers for those looking to cool off. Over fifty libraries are listed on the Arizona Department of Health Services statewide list of cooling centers, and many other libraries not included in the list also act as cooling centers and/or hydration stations throughout the state.

The City of Phoenix's Burton Barr Library, the City's largest, has become the first in the state to open a 24/7 cooling center, providing continuous relief from the heat, and ensuring that residents have a reliable place to cool down. In addition to Burton Barr, three other public library branches have extended their hours to accommodate those seeking respite.

IMLS Grant to Pima County Public Library

Originally published by: KGUN 9 News > [Story](#)

The Pima County Public Library system has become a crucial support network for those affected [by homelessness]. Emerson DeMeester-Lane, the Library Services Manager for the Pima County Library, acknowledged the increasing number of homeless individuals seeking assistance at the library. "We do see an increase in homeless folks that come to the library," he said. "But I also think that we have worked to try to connect them to resources more actively in the past five years."

To better address these evolving needs, the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved a \$58,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences on June 18th. The grant is focused on studying psychosocial needs within the library system.

Digital Memory Lab

Originally published on Colorado Public Radio > [Story](#)

Some of southeastern Colorado's history can be told through photos and videos of everyday life. Those are among the things the Pueblo City-County Library District wants to capture in its Shared Memories project.

Currently, the program has a Digital Memory Lab with various digitizing technologies at the Rawlings Library in Pueblo. The goal is to expand this project to reach rural and marginalized communities around southeast Colorado and help people collect and digitize their images, recordings and more.

"Our priority is preservation and raising awareness of the importance of their family, of their personal collections here in southeastern Colorado," said Aaron Ramirez, who leads the district's local history and genealogy department.



A \$250,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation will fund six permanent and five mobile memory labs. They'll go to 16 counties in southern Colorado, stretching from San Luis Valley to the Eastern Plains, according to Ramirez.

The new regional memory labs will provide equipment and training at no cost to users for do-it-yourself digitization of all kinds of materials, including photographs, slides, documents, floppy disks, and outdated video and audio media like film movies, VHS tapes and cassettes. Recording equipment for oral histories will also be available.



Monarch Butterfly Houses

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library hosted a workshop to build houses for the monarch butterflies flying around the Capital City. The library says the workshop was a fun way to tie local interests into learning over the summer.

“We just love kids to be curious, our teens, everyone,” TSCPL Public Services Specialist Jackie Hurst explained. “Coming in and learning a little about the butterflies that are flying around, and the types of flowers they need, is something that they’re interested in.”

Butterfly houses look a lot like bird houses, except for the opening – narrow, vertical slits instead of a round hole. Butterflies are drawn to the slits because they mimic splits in tree bark, which is where they shelter from predators and bad weather.



Fixit Bike Repair Station

Originally published by: The Billings Gazette > [Story](#)

The Billings Public Library unveiled its new Fixit Bike Repair Station at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 4. Located outside the library and accessible 24/7, the Fixit Bike Repair Station provides the tools and resources for cyclists to perform basic repairs and maintenance whenever they need it. The Billings library is the first in Montana to offer this type of resource. The library also will begin providing bike locks available for check-out for visitors.

Funded by the Friends of the Library, the initiative aims to encourage more community members to bike to the library and promote healthier and more sustainable modes of transportation, according to a news release. The ribbon-cutting event also marked the kickoff of the 2024 BPL Bike Library season, which serves as a mobile extension of the library, bringing books, resources and educational activities to various neighborhoods.





Spelling Bee

In June, Norfolk Public Library held a friendly Spelling Bee for Adults competition, hosted by local news anchor Eric McKay.

Teams of up to four competed in three rounds of 20 Adventure themed words. Prizes for the first and second place teams were awarded. Congratulations to the champions. Claiming top prize was the Bee-Liebers. Runner up was Jill and Bee.

Questions about the program can be directed to



Emily H. at ehilkemann@norfolkne.gov

Bridgerton Tea

Hays Public Library capitalized on the new season of Bridgerton by hosting a Bridgerton Tea. Where fans learned how to put on a proper English tea, do Bridgerton related activities, and discussed everything about Bridgerton while we enjoy snacks and tea. What the Dickens British Bakery provided treats and tea.



Library Directors' Summit

Lake Tahoe was the setting for the 2024 Nevada Library Directors' Summit. The event was billed as **Forward Together: Intentional Leadership for Strong Nevada Libraries**, and brought together 40 attendees including library directors and assistant directors, a representative from the State Council on Libraries and Literacy, one State Library Volunteer, the Nevada IMLS Program Officer, and Library Planning and Development Staff from the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records. The level of directors' experience ranged from brand new to the position to many years in the job.

Between May 29 and May 31, attendees participated in 20+ hours of learning, leadership development, and networking. Content was planned by a dedicated committee of library directors and state library staff. Topics included literacy, leadership, strategic management, succession planning, policy development, public budgeting, networking, and collaborative planning. Angela Hursh, 2023 Library Journal Mover & Shaker, provided the keynote workshop focusing on how libraries can champion their patrons' right to read. Brad Johnson from the Nevada Leadership Program and Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno provided a series of Leadership, Policy, and planning workshops. Local mystery writer Todd Borg hosted a casual campfire chat with s'mores.

The 2024 Nevada Library Director's Summit was funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (ILMS) through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered by the Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records (NSLAPR).





Pick-Up Lockers

Originally published in the [May/June NMLA Newsletter](#)

Rio Rancho Public Library launched four new Pick-Up Lockers in February! The City of Rio Rancho is over 100 square miles, so the four new Pick-Up Lockers expands access to the Library's collection to our less mobile community members and those who have a hard time coming in during open hours.

The Pick-Up Lockers offer 24/7 access to picking up holds. RRPL has incorporated fulfilling these holds into its existing courier route, and the Lockers seamlessly integrate with the current ILS and patron catalog. If you have any questions about how we use our Pick-Up Locker, contact Deputy Library Director Jenna Wells at jwells@rrnm.gov.



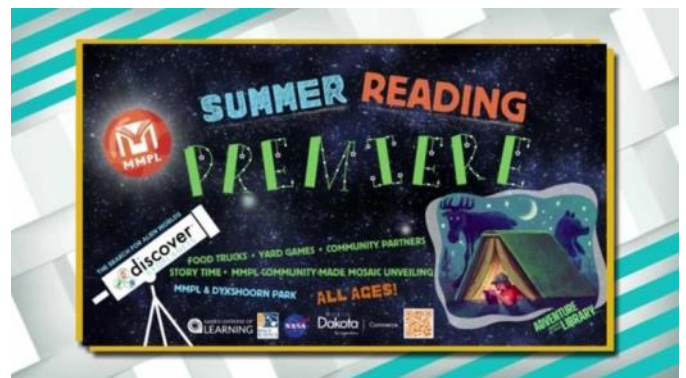
Morton Mandan Public Library offers a Gateway into Another World

Public libraries can be a gateway into multiple worlds. Morton Mandan Public Library is taking visitors to their library out of this world. The library is one of 10 in the country that was chosen by the Space Science Institute to provide space-themed programming this summer.

"We have a beautiful green screen set up in one of our community rooms where kids can kind of set up their backdrop so it looks like they're in outer space and then add stickers, take photos, it's pretty interactive," said Shawna Marion from the Morton Mandan Public Library. "There's a place that kids can create solar systems, in our kid's area there's a Connect 4, there's lots of informational panels. It's pretty dynamic."

"The green screen is pretty cool," said Kayla Schmidt from the Morton Mandan Public Library. "There's little aliens and planets you can put on it and you can pick different exoplanets to be your backgrounds."

Learn more about ["Discover Exoplanets: The Search for Alien Worlds" Interactive Exhibit](#)





Little Free Libraries in Muskogee, OK

Originally published in [OLA's News & Press: Library Stories](#)

Building on the success of our Community Book Giveaways, our library group wanted to ensure students would have access to books 24/7. Little Free Libraries have given our community just that. The first box was purchased through a grant, sponsored by the Education Foundation of Muskogee, and installed at our magnet school. One of our librarians painted the exterior that depicts each librarian as their favorite book character.

Our goal is that these libraries become self-sustaining and continue to allow students to take and trade books any time of day or night. Since the first box was



installed in April 2024, we have placed two more boxes in our district. Our long-term goal is to have Little Free Library boxes at every school site in our district within the next two years, thus growing the love for reading by making books accessible to everyone.

Open Research Oklahoma Launches

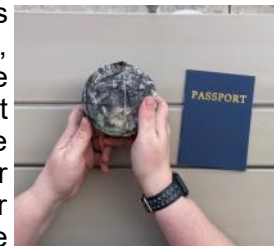
Oklahoma State University has migrated its institutional repository to a new platform that will better serve the university and the state. The new site, Open Research Oklahoma, was developed with OSU's land grant mission in mind.

Open Research Oklahoma supports OSU's research, teaching and outreach by enhancing the visibility and impact of the university's scholarly output. It is freely available worldwide at openresearch.okstate.edu. "As a land grant university, OSU recognizes and promotes the importance of open access to scholarly information," said Associate Dean of Library Operations, Juliana Nykolaiszyn. "Platforms like Open Research Oklahoma serve the public good by facilitating the broad dissemination of research findings and removing barriers to access."

To read more about Open Research Oklahoma, check out <https://www.oklibs.org/news/672101/Open-Research-Oklahoma-Launches.htm>

Letterboxing along the Trail

The Custer County Library in Custer, SD, is getting summer participants out and about with the theme "Adventure Begins at Your Library." They've set up six letterbox caches along the Michelson Trail in town, accessible for all ages and abilities. Each cache contains a homemade stamp for participants to use in their passport books. Clues lead to the cache locations. Letterboxing is similar to geocaching but requires less technology—just clues, stamps, paper, and a stamp pad. The program has received great feedback so far and will be available all summer for self-paced exploration. For more information, contact the Custer County Library at info@custercountylibrary.org



Public Library Training Institute

Six South Dakota librarians have graduated from the Public Library Training Institute, sponsored by the South Dakota State Library, is a program of continuing education for librarian practitioners, support staff, and trustees of South Dakota public libraries who do not have library degrees.

Twenty-two students from 19 libraries across the state, including library directors, trustees, and staff, attended this year's institute. The following individuals graduated this year with a Certificate of Public Library Management:



- Misti Burns, Tripp County Public Library Grossenburg Memorial, Winner;
- Thersia Cox, Emma Burnham Public Library, Frederick;
- Paige German, Alcester Community Library, Alcester;
- Sarah Myers, Custer County Library, Custer;
- Natasha Noethlich, Doland Community Library, Doland;
- Cassandra Rodgers, Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library, Dell Rapids



Wimpy Kid Librarian Hero

Kim Christensen was one of 8 librarians in the nation who were selected for an all expense paid trip to Boston to meet the beloved children's writer and cartoonist Jeff Kinney. In fall 2023, Kinney launched a nationwide contest to find librarian heroes, "unique individuals who create an inclusive environment, support independent learning and advocate for the freedom to read and the right for kids to be able to identify themselves within the pages of a book," according to an ABRAMS publishing press release. The Springville Library is delighted to have Kim as part of their team. Congrats Kim!



IMLS Grants at Fillmore Utah Public Library

In the small rural town of Fillmore the Library of Things is a lifesaver. Patrons can check out things like an air fryer, a shaved ice machine, a popcorn maker, tools, canopies, pickleball sets, and more that help the community in many ways. The local seamstress uses the library's sewing machine to make costumes for the local dance group and dresses for the county pageant.

Through a second grant, the library built a STEAM Room to help kids (and some adults) learn through doing. The room is filled with fun stuff like art supplies and 3D printers. Since adding the STEAM Room the library has seen an increase in the number of teens and pre-teens using the library. The room is also in high demand for grandparents with visiting grandchildren. The library receives comments and gratitude almost daily for the opportunities.

The President Millard Fillmore Library's Library of Things and STEAM Room, made possible by IMLS grants administered by the Utah State Library.



WSL Welcomes New Resource Sharing Librarian

The Wyoming State Library has welcomed Shaylee Krueger as the new Resource Sharing Librarian. Shaylee brings twelve years of library experience to this position, having worked in various libraries since the age of fifteen. She graduated from Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska, with a degree in Sociology, specializing in library science, which led to an internship working in the college library. Her experience includes work in both small and large public libraries, a reference library for a start-up business, and an academic library. She most recently served as the director of the Saint Francis Public Library in St. Francis, Kansas, and is excited to join the WYLD Office at the WSL.



Growing up in rural northeastern Colorado, Cheyenne, Wyoming, was Shaylee's family's destination for shopping, as well as other activities. Shaylee's love of Cheyenne was one reason she applied for this position. She also enjoys learning new library software, connecting with people, and being able to answer questions to help people get what they need, making her a perfect fit for the WSL team. When she's not doing library work, Shaylee enjoys spending time with her family and two cats, playing the flute, reading, cooking, and playing video games. Her first day at the WSL was June 3.

"I'm excited to welcome Shaylee to the WYLD Office and to introduce her to our amazing library community in Wyoming," said Desiree Saunders, WYLD Program Manager for the WSL. "Her experience working in a variety of libraries will bring a fresh perspective to her role as our new Resource Sharing Librarian. Shaylee will be assisting library staff with interlibrary loan, holds management, and related processes as well as providing supplemental support for the WYLD Office."



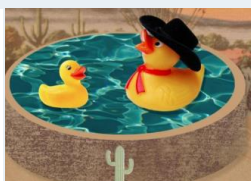
Welcome, New Members.

First Year MPLA Membership Dues Are Half Price For New Members!

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.

MPLA invites you to make an investment in your future by joining us and laying the foundation for your career development. Participate in this process with MPLA's membership -- active leaders in our region's outstanding libraries.

Ever wondered about
the conference
Rubber Duckies?



This was the scoop from Hot Tub Roundtable cofounder Eileen Wright:

"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..."



Big Horizons, Close Community





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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.

Quick Links:

Website: www.mpla.us

Join MPLA or Renew Membership:

<https://mpla.us/community/membership/>

Professional Development Grants:

<https://mpla.us/community/professional-development-grants/>

Calendar: <https://mpla.us/news-and-events/calendar/>

Awards: <https://mpla.us/community/mpla-awards/>

Job line: <https://mpla.us/jobs/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/MountainPlainsLibraryAssociation/>

MPLA on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>

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<https://mpla.us/archives/mpla-archives/publications/newsletter/>

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Madison Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

- January 1
- March 1
- May 1
- July 1
- September 1
- November 1

Advertising:

There is no charge to MPLA personal or institutional members for classified advertising.

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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execsecretary@mpla.us