Mid-Michigan Library League

News of Interest
December 2021

#IntellectualFreedom   #FReadom

Fight Censorship
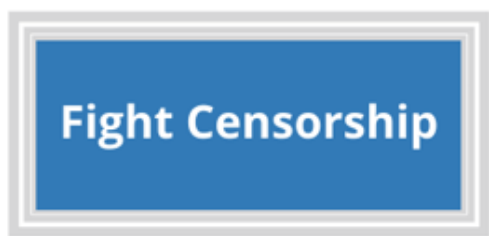
ALA American Library Association

ALA Statement on Book Censorship

Intellectual Freedom NEWS
OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM American Library Association

Challenge Support
Helping You Defend the Public's Freedoms
ALA American Library Association

Report Censorship
Defend the Public's Freedoms
Report
www.ala.org/challengereporting
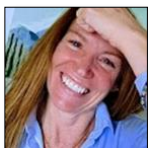
Member Libraries

- Cora Schaeff, Leelanau Township Library, was selected as one of MIT Media Lab's first-ever cohort of Public Library Innovation Exchange (PLIX) Creative Learning Ambassadors, in recognition of her achievements and promise within the library community. Schaeff will advocate for creative STEM learning in public libraries in Northern Michigan and nationally. The Ambassadors program, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, includes an honorarium, materials, and equipment to support her efforts.

- On Nov. 6 the Friends of the Leland Library hosted author Abra Berens with her new book "Grist," in conversation with Alex Beggs, senior writer for Bon Appétit Magazine, at the Old Art Building in Leland. An in-person event, limited to 70 people (all with proof of vaccination), sold out with many on a cancelation waiting list. Wine was donated by Bel Lago Vineyard & Winery, presenter lodging donated by the Leland Lodge, use of venue donated by the Leelanau Community Cultural Center (Old Art Building), and a recipe for black bean humus from Abra's new book, made by a Friends board member.

- Laura Jacobson-Pentces applied for a General Mills Hometown Grant and received funding for the LeRoy Community Library. "This will give us the ability to switch to Apollo, pay another year of Libby, allow us to provide Hoopla, and some other incidentals," said Laura.

- A collaborative program produced by the Mason County District Library and the Abondia Center, "Shifting Landscapes" will continue January focusing on education, including the 1619 Project (Jan10), Critical Race Theory (Jan 17), and Teaching Difficult Truths to Children and Youth (Jan 24). Additional topics include Race/Racism (Feb 7, 14, 21), Truth in Politics (Mar 7, 14, 21), and Economics (Apr 4, 11, 18). Presented live and on Zoom. Find out more and preregister.

Shifting Landscapes

Celebration of the Trees
November 30-December 4 2021

Advisory Council

UPCOMING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS:
- Tuesday, Dec. 14, 10:00 a.m. (formal)
- Tuesday, Jan. 11, 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 25, 10:00 a.m. (formal)

Join Zoom Meeting: https://bit.ly/2Hurn5h
Meeting ID: 810 2135 3871
Passcode: MMLL
By phone, dial: 312 626 6799
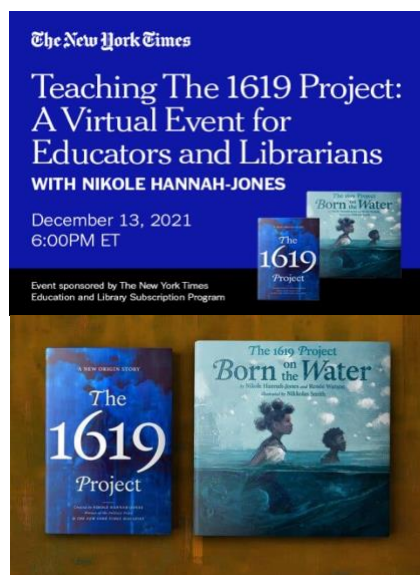Meeting ID: 810 2135 3871
Passcode: 498355

AC Committees for FY22:

- Mini-Grants Committee – Tracy Logan-Walker (CWPL), Laura Marion (Missaukee), Kathleen Rash (Hart)

- Continuing Education Committee – Tiffany Haight (Shelby), Debra Greenacre (Manistee)

- eResources Committee – Cindi Place (Bellaire), David Diller (Glen Lake)

- Youth Committee – Sarah Welch (Big Rapids), Theodora Rudolph (CWPL)

- Maker Team – Mark Morton (Leland), Cora Schaeff (Leelanau), Lauren Perkins (Big Rapids)

Scheduled & On-Demand WEBINARS and ONLINE CLASSES:

The New York Times
Teaching The 1619 Project: A Virtual Event for Educators and Librarians
WITH NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES
December 13, 2021 6:00PM ET
Event sponsored by The New York Times Education and Library Subscription Program

Library of Michigan Continuing Education
(www.michigan.gov/libraryce)
Find Library of Michigan webinars and register online in the Upcoming Training in Date Order or by visiting the Calendar View.

New and Advanced Director Workshops
The New Director's Workshop has been transformed into an online, self-paced, learning pathway. See Pathway For New Directors in Michigan Public Libraries. The Advanced Director's Workshop is in process and will also have a learning pathway.

Beginning Workshop is also moving to an online, self-paced format. This pathway will be included in the Niche Staff Skills Academy, but will **not** be ready until winter. Additional information will be provided on the release expected date. www.michigan.gov/libraryce

Library Staff Certification - If you need to complete one or more of these to meet Library Staff Certification requirements, your certification application will be held until you are able to complete the content. See https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/0,9264,7-381-88855_89736---,00.html

State Aid - If there are other reasons your library is not able to meet the State Aid requirements you should contact Kathy Webb to discuss options for your library. (webbk1@michigan.gov or 517-335-1514)

NICHE STAFF SKILLS

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Library Imagery
- Web Accessibility for Libraries 1: Identify Your Library's Strengths and Weaknesses
- Web Accessibility for Libraries 2: The Art and Science of Creating Alt Text
- Web Accessibility for Libraries 3: Linking Practices

Also of Note:
- Incident Reporting for Libraries
- CDC Zombie Preparedness and So Much More

Management Skills:
- Supervisors: Managing Conflict [From the Pioneer Library System]
- Motivational Skills for Supervisors

Mental Health and Customer Service:
- A Trauma-Informed Approach to Librarianship
- Whole Person Librarianship
- CDC Supporting Children and Adolescents through COVID-19
- Mental Health Awareness and COVID-19

New:
- Crucial Customer Service Skills
- Grant Writing
- Public Library Work Primer

CE STIPEND: For virtual conferences or workshops, Library of Michigan will reimburse the actual cost of registration for accepted applicants up to $500. Apply HERE

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN
Two-part training for Trustees:

Part1: **Trustee Training 101: The Basics** – December 6, 2021 6:00pm-7:30pm (ET) – This session will cover the basic information newly appointed or elected library trustees should know in order to begin their tenure governing a public library. What to know, who to ask and how to avoid pitfalls.
Participants in this session will:
- Learn the duties and responsibilities of Library Trustees.
- Understand the library's role as a public entity.
- Know where to find additional information and answers to questions that they may have as they adjust to their new positions.
For more information and to register for this webinar, visit the event page

Part2: **Trustee Training 102: Advanced Trustees** – December 13, 2021 6:00pm-7:30pm (ET) - As the governing body of a

public library, library trustees often have to handle situations involving personnel, public finance, politics, and other issues that could have significant consequences if dealt with incorrectly. Participants in this session will be able to:
- Identify board responsibilities and limits with respect to governing complex library situations.
- Define their relationship and responsibility as a trustee towards the Director, staff, the friends' group, their municipality and their fellow board members
For more information and to register for this webinar, visit the event page

Public Library Funding for Trustees
Online, free, self-paced tutorials on six different topics related to the administration of public libraries in Michigan. Individual modules cover the following: Libraries as Public Entities; Use of Public Funds; Penal Fines for Libraries; State Aid for Libraries; Personal Property Tax; and Library Service Contracts. Certificate of Completion is available upon finishing the Trustee Pathway.

Visit the Library of Michigan webinar archives HERE

MCLS MIDWEST COLLABORATIVE for LIBRARY SERVICES Building better libraries
MCLS News
MCLS Training Calendar

MeL Michigan eLibrary Supporting Michigan Libraries
MeL Training & Events
Check out the MeL blog HERE:
https://mel.org/blog

How to MeL MeL Maven Badge
***
techsoup FOR LIBRARIES
TechSoup available courses
Product Catalog
***
EveryLibrary
Webinars on Demand

PLA On-Demand Webinars

Public Library ASSOCIATION

WebJunction
The learning place for libraries.

WebJunction Webinars
Archive, course catalog

December 8, 2021, 3:00–4:00 PM Eastern
Libraries and Eviction: Continuing the Conversation
Building on a recent webinar, this special interactive session will provide an opportunity for attendees and guest panelists to share questions and experiences about how libraries are assisting patrons facing eviction. Register to attend

December 9, 2021, 3:00–4:00 PM Eastern
The Myth of the Work/Life Balance for Small Library Directors
This webinar explores how to find balance between your personal and professional life, in service of yourself and your community. Register to attend

January 20, 2022, 3:00–4:00 PM Eastern
Promote Community Engagement and Challenge Prejudice with a Human Library
Learn from a public and an academic library using the innovative and impactful Human Library® model to create meaningful community dialogue. Register to attend

From the WebJunction Course Catalog:

- Social Work Students and Public Library Partnerships

- Public Libraries and Public Health: Partners for Community Health

- Lunch at the Library: Nourishing Bodies and Minds

MLA
MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MLA Newsletter Archives

CALL TO ACTION MLA

MLA Advocacy and Legislative Committee FY2022 Action Plan
MLA Advocacy Priority Areas
MLA Bill Tracker

MLA Statement of Principle - Intellectual Freedom

Thursday, December 16, 10:00 – 11:00 AM - join Lance Werner, Director of the Kent District Library as he talks about intellectual freedom rights, shares his personal experience, and opens a conversation about book challenges, censorship, upholding rights to privacy, library audits, and MLA's statement of principal. Register in advance here.

Library Juice Academy offers a range of online professional development workshops for librarians and other library staff, focusing on practical topics to build new skills. These workshops are intended as professional development activities. Workshops are taught asynchronously, so you can participate as your own schedule allows. Sample courses:
https://libraryjuiceacademy.com/sample-course/

Introduction to Digitization
January 25, 2022, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM ET
Digitization is a great way to increase access to your collections and help preserve them over time, but it can be overwhelming to know where to begin. Join Biz Gallo, Statewide Digitization Initiatives Coordinator at the Library of Michigan, for the first session in the Digitization Basics series. In this first session, Introduction to Digitization, you will learn what digitization is, the reasons for digitizing your collections, and basic terminology.
Cost: Free
Register HERE
Webinar link will be emailed to registrants the day before the webinar begins.

University of Michigan School of Information Library Webinars

MeL Michigan eLibrary
Supporting Michigan Libraries

MeLCat/RIDES workshops:
- Advanced MeLCat Cataloging, 3-day class, Dec 7,8,9 (online)
- MeLCat Reports, Dec 9 (online)
- MeLCat Basics, Dec 15 (online)
- Everything You Need to be Doing as a DCB MeLCat Library, Jan 12 (online)
- MeLCat Processing, Policies, and Procedures, Jan 19 (online)
- RIDES: When Things Go Wrong, Jan 26 (online)
- MeLCat Cataloging, 3-day class, Feb 1,2,3 (online)
- MeLCat: the Other Stuff, Feb 9 (online)
- RIDES Policies & Procedures, Feb 23 (online)
- MeLCat Reports, Feb 24 (online)

Questions, comments, or concerns? Contact melcathelp@mcls.org. For RIDES issues, use the RIDES Assistance Form at https://mcls.org/rideshelp See the wiki at https://mcls.org/makingmelcatmanageable

RIDES

PLA 2022 Portland Oregon
MARCH 23–25

SHLB
SCHOOLS, HEALTH & LIBRARIES BROADBAND COALITION

SHLB WEBINARS
NEWSLETTER – ANCHOR BYTES

SEN STATE EDUCATION NETWORK

Public libraries are encouraged to reach out to their REMC/ISD tech directors to be connected to the MiSEN Michigan's State Education Network.

Broadband Maps - Michigan

EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT PROGRAM
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

This program provides a temporary monthly discount on internet service for qualifying households.

THIS PROGRAM INCLUDES:
- Up to a $50 per month discount on internet service and associated equipment
- Up to a $75 per month discount for households on Tribal lands
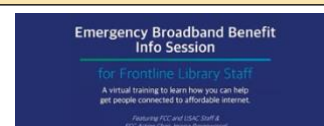- And a one time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer

You can apply online or by mail through USAC at getemergencybroadband.org/how-to-apply/

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:
- Those who experienced a substantial loss of income in 2020
- Those who qualify for SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefits
- Participants of Tribal assistance programs
- Those who received a Pell Grant
- Those receiving free or reduced lunch benefits
- Households with incomes at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines

Emergency Broadband Benefit Outreach Toolkit

Emergency Broadband Benefit Info Session
for Frontline Library Staff
A virtual training to learn how you can help get people connected to affordable internet.
Featuring FCC and USAC Staff & FCC Acting Chair Jessica Rosenworcel

MI PR Group roundtable meeting Nov 16, 2021

How To Build an Antiracist Library Culture
Online Workshop and Guest Speaker Program
February 15 | February 22 | March 1

Education SUPERHIGHWAY

NO HOME LEFT OFFLINE

BRIDGING THE BROADBAND AFFORDABILITY GAP
A historic opportunity to close two-thirds of the digital divide.

Youth Services:

MiYouth – December 8, 2021, 2:00 PM ET
MiYouth has moved to a new quarterly schedule and not meeting monthly, so be sure to also mark your calendars for 2pm ET on March 9, 2022.
ZOOM link Password: 454345

The **YALSA** Toolkit Task Force is gathering feedback on current editions of two YALSA toolkits: the Teen Literacies Toolkit and the Advocacy Toolkit. If you have used or perused either of these resources (or would like to), we would love to know what updates you might like to see in future editions. Please take our brief survey, and feel free to share it with anyone who has an interest in helping us refine these tools. If surveys aren't your thing, we also welcome your comments here in the chat.

STEM Activity Clearinghouse

New - brief video tutorials to support your access and use of the CSLP online manual:
https://www.cslpreads.org/tutorials/
The first two in an ongoing webinar series developed by CSLP's Inclusion Committee, one on Library Services for Customers With Accessibility Adaptations and one on Play, Diversity and Inclusion. Webinar recordings are freely available for anytime viewing here:
https://www.cslpreads.org/inclusion-resources
Also, there is a new "Why CSLP? FAQ" page:
https://www.cslpreads.org/why-cslp/

Spring Institute for Youth Services

Spring Institute for Youth Services 2022 is back in person! Save the date and join us **March 10-11, 2022** at the Comfort Inn & Suites Conference Center Mt. Pleasant at Central Michigan University.

READY TO READ MICHIGAN

Ready to Read Michigan Presents:
Reimaging School Readiness
January 20th and 27th, 2022
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET
Space is extremely **limited,** and we ask that you plan to join us live for this 2-part series, offered by the Bay Area Discovery Museum, created to introduce librarians to the research, practical implications, and resources offered in their Reimagining School Readiness toolkit.
If you can commit to attend live and participate both weeks, please register here

MiLibraryQuest: Winter 2022 will be held from February 1 through March 15. After world-famous thief Lupin steals a best-selling Michigan author's laptop, it's up to Michigan teens to find and decipher the clues the thief has left behind. If your library would like to participate, please sign up by December 10, 2021 at
http://bit.ly/MiWinterQuest2022SignUp
Find more information on the website:
https://milibraryquest.wixsite.com/quest1
And there is an FAQ doc:
https://bit.ly/WinterQuest22FAQs

Best Books 2021

From Diversity to Inclusion: How to Audit Your Collection and Why
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
11:00 AM – Noon ET
If you are unable to attend this session live, a recording will be shared via email and posted on our website.
Join Kymberlee Powe, Children and YA Consultant for the Connecticut State Library Division of Library Development, as she dives into the makeup of the publishing industry. Identify the difference between a diverse collection and an inclusive one and walk through the logistics of performing a diversity audit of your collection. Examples and resources provided in this session will focus on youth collections; however, the methodology of performing a diversity audit, and the reasons to do so, are universal to all collections. Brought to you by the Connecticut State Library in collaboration with the Indiana State Library, the Library of Michigan, and the State Library of Ohio.
Michigan library staff may register here

TALK

Sign Your Library Up for the Free TALK Program Today!

http://TextToLearn.com
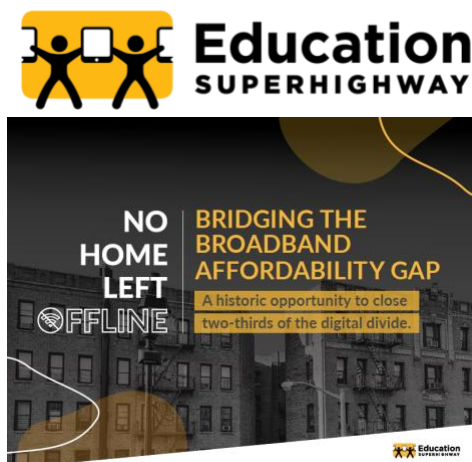This important and FREE service will support and enhance pre-literacy skills in your service area populations.
Informational webinar on Ypsilanti's free TALK service hosted by the Library of Michigan. The webinar provides an overview on "Bringing "TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten" to Your Library."
Sign up now *** FAQ For Libraries

LEADING BIG IN SMALL PLACES

LEADING BIG IN SMALL PLACES

The conference for 2021 is over, but you can find recordings and resources on the website!

Girls Who Code ~

International non-profit leading the movement to close the gender gap in tech - This free and flexible Girls Who Code Clubs program could be a great fit for your upcoming youth programming!

All you need to get started is space to host your Club, computers and internet (for 6-12th), and someone 18+ to lead the Club (**NO prior coding experience needed**). Here is our Clubs flyer and a 15 minute pre-recorded webinar for more info.

Grant Opportunities:

THE FY22 LIBRARY SERVICE EXPANSION & MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Application Due Date .... January 7, 2022
Award Announced .... January 28, 2022
Project Implementation ...1/28/22 – 6/3/22
Reimbursement
Request Due Date .... June 10, 2022

www.michigan.gov/lsta

ARPA Capacity Grants

- The Library Network - "MI-83 Technology, Libraries, and Communities (MI-83 TLC Kits)" **$1,158,766**
- Lakeland Library Cooperative – "MI-83 Digital Library Connection" **$1,082,078**

The MI-83 TLC and MI-83 DLC grants are collaborative projects of the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association (MCDA)

MI-83 TLC - Computing Technology Kits will be equitably distributed to libraries for public use, as well as Online Programming Kits, and Outdoor Programming Kits. Kits include items such as laptops, Chromebooks, digital cameras, microphones, portable speaker systems, and more. Any legally established Michigan public library may submit a request, even those that do not qualify for state aid.

For More Information and to Place a Request for Your Library

*** Requests are Due by December 13, 2021, at Noon. ***

MI-83 DLC – This grant will provide content credit to all Michigan public libraries for use with OverDrive for one copy, one use non-fiction titles via curated lists in the areas of education, health, job-seeking skills, and

workforce development. Stay tuned for the roll-out based on content groups.

Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) - Information for Libraries
The Mid-Michigan Library League has received notification of funding on behalf of 25 of its members who will receive computing devices, WiFi hotspots, and data service, all paid by the fund.
ECF resources are for circulation to patrons only, and records must be kept verifying that each circulation represents usage that fills a need that otherwise would go unfilled.
Total granted: **$115,995.13**
Stay tuned for further guidance.
Here is the FAQ

ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities Initiative for Small/Rural Libraries Funds 10 New Projects Nationwide

Grant Writing and Management Track

Additional Sources of Grant Funding

Penguin Random House Grants for Small & Rural Libraries
Apply for a Grant
Download a Sample Application
If selected, grants will be awarded for up to $2,500. This is a rolling grant application, with batches of applications under review every 8 weeks beginning December 17, 2021. The first four submission windows and their corresponding award notification deadlines are listed below. Applications submitted until all available grant funds are distributed.

Submission Window	Award Notification Deadline
October 25, 2021 - December 17, 2021	February 7, 2022
December 20, 2021 - February 11, 2022	April 4, 2022
February 14, 2022 - April 8, 2022	May 27, 2022
April 11, 2022 - June 3, 2022	July 29. 2022

Recordings at Risk Program - Closing December 15, 2021
This national regranting program, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by the Council on Library and Information Resources, is designed to support the preservation of rare and unique audio, audiovisual, and other time-based media of high scholarly value through digital reformatting. Awards range from $10,000 - $50,000 and cover costs of preservation reformatting by qualified external service providers. Information about how to apply

National Digital Newspaper Program - Closing January 13, 2022
The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access is accepting applications for the National Digital Newspaper Program. The purpose of this program is to create a national digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1690 and 1963 from all 56 states and U.S. jurisdictions. This searchable database will be permanently maintained at the Library of Congress (LC) and will be freely accessible online. Awards for the two-year grant range from $1 - $325,000. Information about how to apply

NEH Fellowship and Grant Program

**IEEE Grant Opportunity for Science Kits for Public Libraries**
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Science Kits for Public Libraries Grant project is offering up to $2,000 per library in funding for public libraries across the Midwest for 2022. The grant is focused on the creation of a circulating science kit collection for primary and secondary education students (K-12). Applications will be accepted from public libraries in the IEEE Region 4 (includes Michigan) from **November 1, 2021–January 17, 2022**. Those libraries which have previously applied for the grant but have not received funding are invited to submit again. See grant program details.

It's now possible to visit the Smithsonian's African American history museum virtually
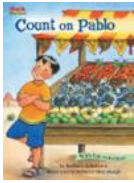
Michigan Public Libraries: Would you like FREE CHILDREN'S BOOKS to give away at your April storytimes? **Michigan's $mart Money Kids Read** program will once again take place during National Financial Literacy Month, April, 2022. With generous monetary support from Michigan Credit Unions, free books for interested public libraries to incorporate into story times, **April 1-30, 2022**, are being offered. 2022 Title: *Count on Pablo! A Math Matters book,* by Barbara deRubertis, illustrated by Rebecca Thornburgh. What to do?

- Plan your money-themed storytime(s) NOW, to take place between **April 1-30, 2022**!
- Subscribe to receive monthly enews from the Michigan Financial Wellness Network; go HERE & click "Subscribe". You'll receive periodic updates and notices.
- Complete the MICHIGAN questionnaire for FREE BOOKS and, via RIDES/TLN, we'll send you books attending families to keep a copy. (quantities are limited) You may also plan money-themed programs for TEENS & ADULTS during Smart Money Michigan Month.
- As soon as you have your money-themed storytime event(s) finalized, share the information via our Michigan Event Sheet
- *After* your event takes place, enter your participant number! Return to your book request to enter the number of participants at the bottom of the form
- Stay in touch with the Michigan Financial Wellness Network and Smart Money Michigan initiative year-round! Go to and LIKE – our facebook page

Great Michigan Read

Apply for a grant of up to $750 to support your GMR programming today. The virtual fall author tour has begun, and a recording of the kick-off event is available *here*. To participate in the virtual events check-out the *tour schedule*.

Arts Midwest is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program. Organizations can access up to $20,000 in support for community-wide reading programs. Applications are due on January 26, 2022. Learn more.

The Michigan Seed Library Network was created in 2018 with only about 30 seed-swapping locations, Cohen said. Now Michigan has more than 100 of the 400 seed libraries in the country.

https://greatlakesecho.org/2021/11/30/michigan-seed-libraries-grow-food-resilience/

GetSetUp is on a mission to help the third of the world's population who are over 55 to learn new skills, connect with others and unlock new life experiences.

Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries

https://youtu.be/UUWNs48y3xw

Lance Werner of Kent District Library uses the simple constitutional test of first amendment rights/freedom of speech in response to a book challenge, and whether something contains child pornography or obscenity, otherwise protected. Interesting – guarding those freedoms everyone is so concerned about these days.
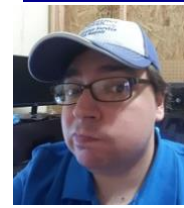
Emergency Geek says "I am doing appts on Mondays and Thursday. During the summer, I am generally booking a week to two weeks out." Find Cory on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/emergencygeek
Cory Walker
720 N Mitchell St
Cadillac, Michigan
cory@emergencygeek.net
http://www.emergencygeek.net
Call (231) 218-2241

2021 Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference
Cora Schaeff, 10/31/2021

"Be brave. Be curious. Be kind. Be mindful. Show up. Have the tough conversations and be open to change" - Kathy Zappitello, Board President, The Association for Rural & Small Libraries and Executive Director, Conneaut Public Library, OH

I was recently able to attend my first ARSL Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada, where I spent four days renewing my professional confidence and motivation and immersing myself in learning. Attendance at this conference was made possible by the support of a Continuing Education Stipend from the Library of Michigan.

The option to attend a pre-conference workshop, *Library Space: A Planning Resource for Librarians*, was an obvious yes for me. Even though our doors were closed due to the pandemic, patrons began inquiring about a renovation to our library space from the first day I arrived as director. Renovate the existing library or build new? That is the question, and I have acquired more knowledge and resources to assist in the answer - **CONFIDENCE**.

I did become emotional when I arrived at the banquet hall the following morning for the kickoff keynote and meal. Although the organizers had decided that proof of vaccination was required for attendance and the State of Nevada is still requiring masks indoors, I was nervous. This was the largest gathering that I have attended since the pandemic. Nervous, but also excited! Networking is one of the main reasons that I attend these events, so I was very excited to meet new people, catch up with colleagues, and learn about the amazing opportunities that rural and small libraries are creating for their communities.

The keynote began by talking about marginalized and oppressed humans, which is not really a recipe for an uplifting tone. But what is a more important topic for library professionals right now? The entire conference was framed in justice, equity, and inclusion, and each breakout session and the other keynotes

that followed embraced this path. Authors Michael Branch and Qian Julie Wang brought us closer as humans instead of dividing us by the fears we perceive. Both of these authors shared the importance of libraries, and more importantly library staff, in their lives - **MOTIVATION**.

We were fortunate to view the world premiere of the Latinx Photography Project, a documentary film directed and produced by Alejandro Palacios. While watching the film, I decided that working collaboratively with the other libraries in our county to stream the film, interview the director, and open conversation about our migrant population in Leelanau County, may serve our library patrons well. Opportunities such as these are so important to the overall quality of life for our citizens, and I am hopeful that we will be able to offer this program.

During the four days that I was in attendance, I was busy unpacking racial and class biases, learning how to pitch the library, turning storytime into skills-building time, learning how to affect positive change in the library and community, making data-informed decisions, learning how to teach leadership through young adult literature and that graphic novels are "real" books (this one I knew :0), gaining expert knowledge, along with building support for the library - **LEARNING**.

The conference was rounded out with the State of ARSL presentation that highlighted the work going on behind the scenes in the ARSL office and the announcement that ARSL will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee next September. If you are a library professional in a rural and small library, I encourage you to become a member of ARSL and make it a priority to continue to educate and connect with other libraries to benefit your community.

From the LM Trustee Times:

Challenges to library materials based on subject matter or content are increasing throughout the country. According to the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom, requests for assistance by libraries experiencing a challenge have increased 60% in the last year.

The best way a library can prepare for a materials challenge is to implement a clear, straightforward policy and procedure for handling materials challenges and censorship.

The resources below provide information on Intellectual Freedom, materials challenges, and tools for assistance on drafting policies and procedures as well as preparing for a possible challenge.

What is "Intellectual Freedom?"

Intellectual Freedom, Issues and Resources Website with links to information on intellectual freedom issues from the American Library Association (ALA).
Intellectual Freedom and Censorship Q &A Concise explanation of intellectual freedom and censorship issues in a Q & A format. Also from the ALA.
Intellectual Freedom and Public Library Policy Explanation of intellectual freedom in the context of public libraries in the form of a blog post from the Colorado Virtual Library (Colorado State Library).
What is Censorship? A general, non-library centered discussion from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).
A Deeper Look: Censorship Beyond Books An online article from the ALA publication, American Libraries.

Intellectual Freedom Basic Training for New Staff and Refresher for the Rest Webjunction online course. Webjunction is an online training platform containing courses of interest to library staff, directors and boards. Free access provided to Michigan libraries by LM, in part with IMLS funds.

Information on policies for handling materials challenges:

Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries | Tools, Publications & Resources (ala.org)
Challenge Support ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom's resources and contact information for assistance with challenges.
Dealing with Challenges to Materials and Policies Intellectual freedom and challenges chapter from the Wisconsin State Library's trustee handbook

Tips on addressing a challenge:

How to Respond to Challenges and Concerns About Library Resources ALA tips on handling materials challenges.
Censorship: Be Prepared for Challenges A Webjunction online course. LM sponsors free access to Webjunction to Michigan library staff and boards, in part thanks to IMLS funds.
Book Censorship Toolkit, From the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC). Largely aimed at school libraries, this kit contains much information that is also useful to public libraries.
Resources Page From the National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC). Links to materials that help librarians and other professionals handle challenges to specific types of materials (such as LGBTQ+). Skewed somewhat towards schools, but useful to public libraries.

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