

Report to Council and Executive Board

January 16, 2017

Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director

Midwinter Meeting and the Symposium on the Future of Libraries

The Symposium on the Future of Libraries takes place Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Midwinter. Each day begins with a plenary session, continues with concurrent sessions throughout the day, and ends each day with a wrap-up session where participants can bring their thoughts together. Each day's opening plenary will focus on a different area of innovation - social innovation, civic innovation and education innovation - but the concurrent sessions during the day will cover all three areas. For more information on symposium programs, go to <http://2017.alamidwinter.org/symposium-on-future-libraries/schedule>

ALA OFFICES

Chapter Relations Office (CRO)

Student-to-Staff Program for ALA Annual Conference

[Forty student members](#) have been selected to participate in the ALA Student-to-Staff program at the 2017 Conference in Chicago. Established in 1973, the program allows 40 students, both ALA members and members of their school's ALA student chapter, to attend and participate in an annual conference in exchange for working 16 hours for ALA staff during the conference. Students are selected and nominated by their faculty advisors.

New Hampshire Becomes 41st Chapter in Joint Student Membership Program

At the end of December, the New Hampshire Library Association became the 41st ALA Chapter to partner with ALA to provide the [joint student membership program](#), which allows students to join both ALA and a state library association for one membership fee. Currently 3,300 LIS students are joint student members.

International Relations Office (IRO)

ALA Supports 150 for Guadalajara Fee Pass Program

ALA continued its collaboration with the Guadalajara Book Fair, which celebrated its 30th year in late November. 150 members from 26 states participated in the ALA-FIL Free Pass Program this year to review and purchase Spanish language materials for their communities. Since 2010, ALA has partnered with the General Direction of Libraries (DGB) within the Ministry of Culture, the Mexican Library Association (AMBAC), and the Benjamin Public Library of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico in a collaborative binational project to donate books to the Mexican Public Library System. This year, over 200 books were collected and will be donated to a Mexican center for Central American refugee children being held in Tapachula, Chiapas. REFORMA's Children in Crisis group will help deliver the books in Chiapas, Mexico.

ALA Nepal Library Relief Fund Donates \$2,500

Thanks to contributions from ALA members and other supporters of libraries, ALA [donated](#) \$2,500 to the READ Global (Rural Education and Development) Center in Tukche village in the Mustang district of Nepal. A community library and resource center, the READ Center, is being rebuilt after sustaining significant damage during the 2015 earthquake.

ALA Representatives to IFLA

During November and December numerous units put forward members as nominees to represent ALA on various sections of the International Federation of Library Associations for the term 2017-2021. The International Relations Committee is responsible for reviewing nominations and forwarding them to the ALA Executive Board for final approval.

Membership Development

Membership Statistics

At the end of November 2016, total ALA membership was 56,993 compared to 58,952 a year earlier. Student memberships are down 5.5%, most likely due to lower enrollments in MLIS programs – but the increase in the number of chapters participating in the joint student membership program is a good trend. Two years ago, 26 chapters participated in the program and now 41 chapters are participating. Our ongoing survey indicates that reasons for non-renewal include retirements, lack of support from employers, change in personal circumstances, and cost of membership, often choosing state library association membership vs. ALA membership. Two divisions: ALSC and PLA had membership growth. Seven round tables: EMIERT, GAMERT, GLBTRT, LearnRT, RMRT, SRRT, and SustainRT increased membership compared to last year.

Plans for FY17

Numerous ALA-division / ALA-round table initiatives are planned for FY17. These include joint marketing and promotional programs with ALA and NMRT, ERT, ALSC, ACRL, ASCLA, RUSA, and United for Libraries. Membership development programs are also planned for increasing Life memberships. ALA will launch the "I Am ALA" web feature to promote the value of the profession and ALA membership by profiling members and the work that they do as well as the "Manage my Membership" web page where members will be able to more easily manage and create their own membership experience.

Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS)

Intercultural Communications Workshop

Jody Gray, ODLOS Director, and Kristin Lahurd, ODLOS Literacy Officer were invited to give an intercultural communications workshop at the Vernon Area Public Library in Lincolnshire, Illinois. The workshop was the morning session for the staff in-service on December 2, 2016.

Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Summit

Jody Gray, ODLOS Director, attended the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Summit in Carlsbad, California, from December 5-9, 2016. This event was hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. It is part of a larger [initiative](#) with which the Public Programs Office has been collaborating on behalf of ALA to support. The week-long summit unveiled the work done over the past year by selected groups to address areas of focus to begin a national movement. The areas of focus are (1) racial healing (2) narrative (3) separation (4) law (5) economy. There were 500 participants from across the country who represent institutions that have equity, diversity, and inclusion as part of their priorities. The city of Chicago was listed as one of 10 enterprise cities to focus this work in the coming year. ALA is continuing its collaborations with Kellogg through the PPO and ODLOS.

Recruitment and Retention of a Diverse Profession Discussion at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Jody Gray, ODLOS Director, was invited to speak with staff from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee School of Information Studies, about the current trends with regard to recruitment and retention into the profession.

National Coalition for Literacy

Kristin Lahurd, ODLOS Literacy Officer, now serves as Treasurer on the Board of the National Coalition for Literacy. The [National Coalition of Literacy](#) is a coalition of national and regional organizations dedicated to advancing adult education, family literacy, and English language acquisition in the United States.

American Dream Grants

In December, ODLOS staff and a committee of four previous American Dream grantees began the selection process for round five of the American Dream Literacy Initiative.

ODLOS Brown Bag for ALA Staff

ODLOS staff hosted a brown bag lunch and discussion and watched the [TED Talk](#) “The Danger of a Single Story” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The objective of the brown bag was to give ALA staff an opportunity to build community around issues of equity, diversity and inclusion and to begin discussing how these issues impact ALA internally and externally.

Chicago Info/Library/Archives Workers Meetup: Social Justice

Inspired by groups in California and New York, ODLOS staff organized a meet-up for the Chicago area info/library/archives workers to discuss issues of social justice in the post-2016 election world.

Upcoming: National Day of Healing

ALA will hold a social media campaign on January 17, 2017 as part of the [National Day of Healing](#), an initiative that came out of the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Summit hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. We will be joining organizations across the country recognizing this date. ODLOS, PPO and PAO are taking the lead on this effort. The focus will be internal and the audience is the ALA members. It is an effort to participate in this event and to recognize the healing that we want to encourage for members after a year fraught with very intense tragedies.

Upcoming: ODLOS Town Hall

ODLOS has opted to give up its All Committee meeting time at Midwinter 2017 to instead host a town hall. The town hall will happen on Friday, January 20, from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC), Room B203. As librarians, we continue to advocate and fight for the communities we serve, but we need to recognize how our personal identities impact our work and our profession. This past year has been extraordinarily hard on communities of color and marginalized identities. Numerous shootings, sexual assaults, attacks in the legislation against the rights of GLBT communities, and an election that continues to challenge our identity as a country. In the wake of these challenging times, ODLOS will hold a town hall where we can come together and start some healing within our organization. We will review the progress of initiatives within the Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services and across the association, then we want to hear from you. The Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services invites everyone to join us in this space to reflect together.

Upcoming: Library Workers at the Atlanta March for Social Justice & Women

ALA invites Midwinter attendees and Atlanta-area library workers wishing to participate in the [Atlanta March for Social Justice & Women](#) to gather in Hall A3 of the Georgia World Congress Center for poster making from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 21.

Upcoming: MLK JR. Sunrise Celebration: Dr. Daina Ramey Berry and Patty Wong

Noted historian Dr. Daina Ramey Berry will deliver the keynote address during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance and Sunrise Celebration during the American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting and Exhibits in Atlanta. The 2017 Celebration will be held from 6:30-7:30 a.m. on Monday, January 23 in the Georgia World Congress Center. Joining Berry is Call-to-Action Speaker Patricia M.Y. (Patty) Wong, county librarian of the Yolo County (California) Library System. Wong's decades-long career, from her early days as a children's librarian in Oakland to her present position as county librarian and chief archivist for Yolo County, has borne witness to her tireless commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion and community-centered engagement.

Office for Government Relations (OGR)

ALA Honored for Second Year Running for "Top Lobbying Victory" of the Year

For the second year in a row, in December, ALA was named a "winner" by prominent Beltway newspaper *The Hill* in its [Top 10 Lobbying Victories of 2016](#). (*The Hill* awarded the same recognition for our role in Congress' passage of the USA FREEDOM Act to curtail mass surveillance in [Top Lobbying Victories of 2015](#).) The honor was accorded to ALA and a small number of our coalition partners for success in a decade-long effort to secure comprehensive reform of the Freedom of Information Act. As reported last quarter, the [FOIA Improvement Act](#) was signed into law on June 30 just days before its 50th anniversary.

Year-end Statistics Show ALA Grassroots Active and Effective as Mobilized by OGR

2016 marked expanded efforts to engage with ALA's grassroots activists. Key results of those efforts, spearheaded by OGR's Grassroots and Social Media Specialist Lisa Lindle, include:

- 11 issue-based campaigns mounted, including Dr. Hayden's confirmation fight;
- 30 individual calls to action posted on the Legislative Action Center;
- 9,554 individuals responded with at least one action;
- 36,952 total actions (e.g., emailing) taken, including 3,053 during Virtual Library Legislative Day; and
- 10,863 current District Dispatch subscribers, an all-time high.

Gun Violence Working Group Concludes Work on Draft Substitute Resolution for Midwinter

The Gun Violence Working Group was tasked by Council with recommending revisions to a resolution referred to them by Council at ALA's Annual Conference in Orlando. In mid-December, having broadly circulated its second draft proposed substitute resolution to the membership in multiple online forums, the Working Group reached consensus on a [discussion draft](#) appropriate to bring to the upcoming Midwinter Meeting for further open discussion and action at the discretion of Council. This discussion draft has been posted to the Council listserv and shared broadly through multiple committee and other channels, as well as circulated widely with the membership.

Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP)

ALA Joins New Coalition to Advocate for Freedom of Speech, Equality of Opportunity

ALA announced its participation in a new [coalition](#) calling for greater rights and opportunity for all in national technology and media policymaking. ALA joined 16 other organizations in signing onto [“Technology Rights and Opportunity” principles](#) advocating for policies that ensure freedom of speech and equality of opportunity for all, while expanding the ability of the internet to drive economic opportunity and education to the benefit of everyone.

ALA, Rosen Publishing Release Video on Coding and Libraries

ALA and Rosen Publishing [released](#) the video [“Libraries Ready to Code.”](#) Introduced during Computer Science (CS) Education Week, the video depicts coding activities in public and school libraries and underscores how libraries can increase exposure and access to CS learning opportunities for youth. The video will be used as an advocacy tool to increase awareness of library coding activities among decision makers, influencers and other stakeholders at all levels.

ALA Included in White House Fact Sheet

Marking the first day of Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek), on December 5 the White House issued a [Fact Sheet: A Year of Action Supporting Computer Science for All](#) celebrating the past year’s progress and announcing new actions in support of #CSForAll. OITP [was included in this fact sheet](#) along with federal agencies like the Department of Education and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as well as other national and local organizations that are creating new or expanding current CS programs for youth. These efforts make a significant statement about the importance of all youth – regardless of where they live, what school they attend or where and when they choose to learn – having access to CS, coding and programs that promote computational thinking skills.

OITP Senior Fellow Reappointed to USAC Board

OITP Senior Fellow and long-time library E-rate and telecom advocate Robert Bocher was [re-appointed](#) to serve on the board of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), which oversees the implementation of the E-rate program on behalf of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Bob was re-appointed to the USAC board by FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler based on ALA’s recommendation.

Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF)

Presentations by Director LaRue

OIF Director Jamie LaRue gave presentations on Intellectual Freedom issues for the Kenosha (Wisconsin) Public Library on November 30; the Oak Park (Illinois) Public Library staff development day on December 2; and for public library directors at a conference hosted by the Georgia State Library in Savannah, Georgia on December 9. He gave the commencement address for graduates of the Emporia School of Library and Information Management on January 8.

Meeting on Free Speech Issues

LaRue also met with a new foundation interested in free speech issues, the Charles Koch Foundation in Washington, DC on December 14. He reports that "I had frank discussions with members of the foundation about Koch support for anti-library ballot campaigns in Illinois. They took pains to say that this activity was sponsored by a separate and distinct group under David Koch. I underscored that if Charles Koch is serious about supporting free speech, that is inconsistent with opposition to library funding."

Workshops on Collection Development Policies to Protect Intellectual Freedom

OIF Deputy Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone led workshops on developing and using collection development policies as a means of protecting intellectual freedom in K-12 school libraries for three local Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in Central New York during the week of December 12. The three BOCES are the Greater Southern Tier BOCES; the Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES; and the Broome-Tioga BOCES.

Redesigned Reporting Form and Updated Challenge Support Pages on the Website

The Office for Intellectual Freedom unveiled its redesigned [reporting form](#) and updated [Challenge Support](#) pages on the ALA website on December 20. The new, simplified reporting form reduces the number of questions by more than 60 percent and includes an entry to allow for the reporting of hate crime in libraries. The Challenge Support pages on the website, which include policy guidelines, FAQs and Library Bill of Rights interpretations, have been migrated from the Banned Books Week microsite to a section in the Professional Tools area of the ALA website. OIF's goal in rolling out these new challenge reporting tools is to encourage educators to report censorship and offer a navigable resource where librarians can easily find support, and to provide an opportunity to document hate crimes.

OIF- and ALA-Branded Library Bill of Rights Poster Is Now Available

An OIF- and ALA-branded [Library Bill of Rights poster](#) is now available from the ALA Store. The poster is a vivid reminder that there is a place for all people and ideas at the library. The poster will be publicized at Midwinter meetings. OIF also offers a free, pocket-sized Library Bill of Rights [pamphlet](#) for librarians to print out and distribute.

Office for Research and Statistics (ORS)

Developing a Research Agenda for 21st Century Libraries at Midwinter 2017

The Committee on Research & Statistics (CORS) News You Can Use session, titled *Developing a Research Agenda for 21st Century Libraries*, is one of the sessions recommended for attendees by the *Library Journal* staff in the December 2016 issue. As part of ALA's strategic planning process, the ALA Office for Research and Statistics and Committee on Research and Statistics have been asked to create a research agenda for libraries. During this interactive session, participants will brainstorm about research issues that are of pressing concern for 21st

century libraries. The results of this discussion will be used to inform the development of the research agenda. Conference attendees representing all library types are encouraged to attend and share their perspectives about this topic. The session is Saturday, January 21 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Georgia World Congress Center, Room B406. A final report will be presented at the ALA 2017 Annual Conference.

The ALA FINRA Personal Finance Study

The ALA FINRA Personal Finance Study includes the development of a Personal Finance Resource Guide. Rachel Wedeward is working with the ALA Library to develop the resource guide as a LibGuide. The Personal Finance LibGuide will be available through the ALA Library, the Smart Investing @ Your Library website and the ORS website. The Guide will include suggested books, serials and databases recommended for inclusion in public library collections. The FINRA Educational Foundation funds this study.

Measures that Matter

Kathy Rosa is serving on the Measures that Matter Advisory Group. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) have begun Measures that Matter, a project to examine, evaluate, and map the landscape of public library data collection in the United States. The project will develop a Library Data and Outcomes Action Plan with key library stakeholder groups for a more coordinated approach to the collection of public library data nationally. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

Public Awareness Office (PAO)

Recent Activities

The following is a snapshot of Public Awareness Office (PAO) publicity activities that took place from November 14 – December 31, 2016.

Media Relations Coverage

During this reporting period, more than 2,451 articles mentioning the American Library Association (ALA) and its initiatives were captured by ALA's monitoring service Meltwater News resulting in a circulation rate of more than 2.9 billion. Most coverage (63.85 percent) was positive and focused on ALA's intellectual freedom advocacy efforts and award announcements including the I Love My Librarian Award and William C. Morris Award. Approximately 35.99 percent of coverage was neutral and consisted of brief ALA mentions, including event calendar notices, or mentions within author references. Less than one percent of coverage positioned ALA negatively and was fueled by the association's position on censorship and a Washington Office press release that highlighted efforts to work with the new administration.

I Love My Librarian Award

On November 30, the I Love My Librarian Award winners were announced and recognized at a ceremony at Carnegie Corporation of New York. The award, sponsored by Carnegie, New York Public Library and the New York Times, and administered by ALA, recognizes the accomplishments of ten exceptional public, school, college, community college, or university librarians. PAO pursued media placement opportunities to promote the 2016 I Love My Librarian Award and its winners. PAO created and distributed a wrap press release announcing all the award winners and ten press releases for each individual award recipient. Media outreach efforts have resulted in more than 545 articles captured by PAO's monitoring software. The media stories have produced a snapshot circulation rate of more than 230 million. PAO was able to secure stories with the [Associated Press](#) (AP) and [American Libraries](#) magazine. The [AP story](#) appeared in many high-level media outlets including [U.S. News & World Report](#). PAO also worked to coordinate media interviews with award recipients which appeared in local press outlets throughout the country including [The Recorder](#) in Massachusetts, [KQED](#) radio in California and [The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#).

William C. Morris YA Debut Award Finalists Announcement

Finalists for the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) [William C. Morris Awards](#) made headlines both nationally and internationally. The Award was first presented in 2009 and honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens. YALSA announces five award finalists every December and reveals the winner during the ALA Youth Media Awards on the Monday of Midwinter. This year the [Associated Press](#) picked up the award's finalist announcement with coverage in publications such as [US World News](#), [Vancouver Sun](#), and [Boston Herald](#).

Noteworthy Coverage

- PAO worked closely with ALA President Julie Todaro and ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom to respond to queries from the [New York Times](#) regarding the uptick in hate crimes in academic and public libraries. The story was fueled by a hate crime incident at the [Evanston \(Illinois\) Public Library](#). PAO was contacted by several other news groups working on similar stories. PAO worked with [The Guardian](#) and [Time Magazine](#).
- PAO also worked with OIF to respond to the removal of "To Kill a Mocking Bird," and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," from classrooms and libraries in Accomack County, Virginia. OIF Director Jamie LaRue was quoted within articles from such international and national publications as [The Australian](#), [The Guardian](#), and [News One](#).
- [McClatchy DC](#) quoted LaRue and embedded a video produced by PAO of the Top Ten List of Challenged Books of 2015. [Yahoo News](#) also highlighted OIF and ALA intellectual tools and resources.

Libraries Transform

As of December 31, 2016, more than 4,300 libraries and library supporters have signed on to the campaign.

The Libraries Transform campaign logo is now an officially registered trademark. In accordance with the trademark, the logo has been updated by replacing the “TM” with the ®. In November, PAO rolled out the updated Libraries Transform logo through its website, e-newsletter, press release, and social media.

Social Media Monthly Analytics Report: November 23-December 31, 2016

Twitter

#LibrariesTransform used 1,720 times on Twitter

Libraries Transform posts on Twitter (ALA and I Love Libraries): Impressions 248,227; Retweets: 373; Likes: 434

Facebook

Libraries Transform posts on Facebook (ALA and I Love Libraries): 430,196; Comments: 975; Likes: 12,469; Shares: 3,283

librariestransform.org

Pageviews: 13,984

Unique pageviews: 11,021

Average time on page is: 1 min 24 seconds

Tool downloads: 670

ilovelibraries.org

Pageviews: 44,226

Unique pageviews: 36,929

Average time on page is: 2 minutes 32 seconds

I Love Libraries Facebook

Post reach: 477,993; Comments: 482; Likes: 11,864; Shares: 2,082

I Love Libraries Twitter

156,000 Impressions; 364 Retweets; 494 Likes; 36.8K Followers

ALA Facebook

Post reach: 928,570; Comments: 1,609; Likes: 18,691; Shares: 4,927

ALA Twitter

692,800 Impressions; 1,300 Retweets; 1,500 Likes; 104,000 Followers

ALA Instagram: 20,500 Followers

Future Publicity Efforts

PAO is currently working on publicity efforts to support the following initiatives:

- WK Kellogg Foundation’s National Day of Healing, January 17
- ALA Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits, January 20 – 24
- Libraries Transform Training Session, January 22
- RUSA Book & Media Awards (BMA)/Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction & Nonfiction winner announcements, January 22

- ALA Youth Media Awards, January 23

Public Programs Office (PPO)

Sign-ups High for Libraries Transforming Communities: Models for Change

In mid-December, PPO announced a new professional development initiative that will train library professionals in community leadership techniques like coalition-building and dialogue facilitation. The program – [Libraries Transforming Communities: Models for Change](#) – is offered in collaboration with the National Coalition on Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD) and will provide free virtual and in-person training for libraries. The response so far has been very strong; nearly 600 people have signed up to learn more on a [February 9 introductory webinar](#). Over the course of the two-year project, ALA and NCDD will produce ten webinars and three in-person workshops. Change-making leaders, such as Everyday Democracy, National Issues Forum and World Café, will develop and lead the trainings, which will be customized to meet the needs of various library types and sizes: large public library systems; small, medium-sized and rural public libraries; and academic libraries.

80 Applications Received for Great Stories Club 2017

Applications closed on December 30 for the next round of [Great Stories Club](#) grants, and 80 libraries have applied. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Great Stories Club is a reading and discussion program for underserved teens; the theme for this round is “Structures of Suffering: Origins of Teen Violence and Suicide.” Featured titles include protagonists who are dealing with issues surrounding teen violence, bullying, and suicide. An orientation workshop for grantees will be held in Chicago in March 2017, and programming will take place between March and August 2017. First offered in 2006, the Great Stories Club has reached more than 700 libraries and more than 30,000 young adults (ages 12 to 21). PPO is currently working with NEH and advisors to plan upcoming rounds of the program.

Midwinter Meeting Attendees Asked to Take Part in Kitchen Table Conversations

As part of an ongoing effort to improve member experience, ALA will again host a series of conversations at the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta. The focus of these 90-minute Kitchen Table Conversations will be on a key aspect of inclusion: accessibility for people with physical, mobility, visual, auditory or cognitive disabilities. All conference attendees are encouraged to take part, whether or not they use accessible services. Multiple sessions are available on Sunday, January 22, and Monday, January 23. Facilitators and note-takers are also needed. [Learn more or sign up to participate.](#)

ALA DIVISIONS

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

Hilliker, Keeling and Lewis Seek 2018-19 AASL Presidency

AASL members Robert Hilliker, Mary Keeling and Kathryn Roots Lewis will seek the [2018-2019 AASL presidential term](#) during the 2017 American Library Association (ALA) election. Learn about candidates for [all AASL leadership positions](#).

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)

ACRL Framework for Information Literacy Sandbox Launches

ACRL's Framework Advisory Board (FAB) announced the launch of the [ACRL Framework for Information Literacy Sandbox](#) in early December. The Sandbox is an openly accessible platform and repository for librarians and their educational partners to discover, share, collect, and use ongoing work related to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education in practice and professional development. The Sandbox is a dynamic resource whose content is created by contributors engaged in the Framework.

ACRL Midwinter Presidential Forum: Leadership Development for New Library Roles

Join ACRL for its upcoming Presidential Forum at the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta. Titled "[Leadership Development for New Library Roles](#)," the dynamic session will feature academic library leaders who will share their experiences leading workforce and organizational change and offer strategies useful to all library staff wanting to build new roles and skills to support value-added services. The forum, hosted by ACRL President Irene M. H. Herold, University Librarian at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Library, will take place from 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Atlanta, Savannah A/B Ballroom.

ACRL Scholarly Communication Workshop Hosts Announced

The ACRL Research and Scholarly Environment Committee has selected five sites to host the workshop "Scholarly Communication: From Understanding to Engagement" as road show events in 2017. Recognizing that scholarly communication issues are central to the work of all academic librarians and all types of institutions, ACRL is underwriting the bulk of the costs of delivering this proven content by sending expert presenters on the road. The institutions selected to host the 2017 road shows are Council of Research and Academic Libraries, Portland State University Library, University of Delaware Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. More information about ACRL's licensed workshops is available on the [association website](#).

Nominations Sought for ACRL Board of Directors

The ACRL Leadership Recruitment and Nominations Committee (LRNC) encourages members to nominate themselves or others to run for the position of ACRL vice-president/president-elect and director-at-large in the 2018 elections. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2017. To nominate an individual or to self-nominate, please submit the [nomination form](#). The LRNC will request a curriculum vita and/or a statement of interest from selected individuals prior to developing a slate of candidates. If you have any questions about the nominating or election process, please feel free to contact LRNC Chair David Wright at wrightd@surry.edu. More information about the Board of Directors is available on the [ACRL website](#).

ACRL 2017 Schedule, What's New, Early Bird Registration Deadline

The ACRL 2017 [program schedule](#) is now available on the conference website. ACRL 2017 features more than 300 thought-provoking sessions hand-selected by your peers. You can sort the schedule by date, session format, primary tag, or search for particular speakers. While you're on the ACRL 2017 website checking out all the great programs waiting for you in Baltimore, make sure to visit the [What's New page](#) for details on all of the new additions to the conference, including the upcoming conference app, trivia night, and more. The ACRL 2017 early bird registration deadline is January 27.

Draft ACRL Action-Oriented Research Agenda

A team from OCLC Research, which ACRL selected last summer, has been hard at work since August to design, develop, and deliver a new action-oriented agenda on library contributions to student learning and success. Team members released an initial [draft of the agenda](#) (PDF) in December 2016. The team will release a revised draft in January and present at the ALA Midwinter Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2017, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., during ACRL's [Update on the Value of Academic Libraries Initiative](#). Find out more about the scope of the agenda and background on the project website or by watching the recording of a recent ACRL online forum.

2015 Academic Library Trends and Statistics

ACRL recently published *2015 Academic Library Trends and Statistics*, the latest in a series of annual publications that describe the collections, staffing, expenditures and service activities of academic libraries in all Carnegie classifications. The one-volume title includes data from Associate of Arts Colleges, Baccalaureate, Master's Colleges and Universities/ and Research/Doctoral-granting Institutions. Those who purchase the print edition will receive a complimentary one-year subscription to the 2015 survey data available through ACRL Metrics, an online subscription service that provides access to the ACRL survey data from 1999-2015. *2015 Academic Library Trends and Statistics* is available for purchase through the [ALA Online Store](#), by telephone order at (866) 746-7252 in the U.S. or (770) 442-8633 for international customers.

RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage - Fall 2016

The [Fall 2016 issue](#) of *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* is now freely available on the journal website. *RBM* became an open access journal in Spring

2016. Visit the [RBM website](#) for complete contents of *RBM* and its preceding title *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship* from 1986 to the present.

e-Learning Update

Upcoming topics for the ACRL e-Learning program include research guides, usability design, acquisitions, and assessment of student learning. Full details and registration information are available on the [ACRL website](#).

Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS)

Join Us for a Forum Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of ALCTS

Join current and past ALCTS leaders as they reflect on the value and achievements that ALCTS has brought to members and libraries in its 60 years. Learn about the new initiatives that are underway that will build and expand on ALCTS' rich tradition. After the formal remarks, be prepared to share your own experiences and memories in what many members consider their "home" division. The forum will be held on Monday, January 23 from 10:30–11:30 a.m. in the Georgia World Congress Center Room A302.

ALCTSfest: A MidConference Gathering

Help ALCTS kick off its 60th Anniversary year with good friends, good food, your favorite libation. The annual ALCTSfest (uh-lex fest) is that mid-conference break you need to catch up with your colleagues for lively conversation and a good time. Cash bar is provided. The ALCTSfest will be held at the Omni Hotel on Saturday, January 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

ALCTS Spring Online Education Schedule Available

The ALCTS [spring workshop schedule](#) is available on the ALCTS website under Online Learning. Web courses are being offered, all in the "Fundamentals" series: Acquisitions; Cataloging; Collection Assessment; Collection Development and Management; Electronic Resources Acquisitions; and Preservation. Spring webinar topics include Library of Congress Subject Headings; gender and RDA authorities; and leadership development.

Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)

ALSC Launches Student Gift Membership Program

ALSC and the Friends of ALSC are pleased to announce a new program to offer a [free two-year membership](#) for current and recent graduates of ALA-accredited Master of Library Science/Master of Library and Information Science (MLS/MLIS) programs. Applications are now closed for this pilot program.

ALSC Hosts Mentoring Forum

On Thursday, December 22, 2016, mentors, mentees, and members of the public participated in the [ALSC Mentoring Forum: Defining Success](#). Current mentor Karen Walker and current mentee Diana Learned helped lead the discussion on what it means to be a mentor and mentee. An archived version of this session is now available.

Great Websites for Kids

ALSC recently added ten more sites to Great Websites for Kids, the online resource containing hundreds of links to exceptional websites for children. Sites are reviewed and chosen for inclusion by ALSC's Great Websites for Kids Committee:

Babyradio (español) - <http://babyradio.es/>
Choose My Plate - <https://www.choosemyplate.gov/>
Engineering, Go for It! (eGFI) - www.egfi-k12.org/
Girls' Life - <http://girlslife.com/>
KinderArt - www.kinderart.com/
LEGO Star Wars (español) - <http://www.lego.com/es-es/starwars>
NRICH - <http://nrich.maths.org/frontpage>
The Radio Adventures of Eleanor Amplified - www.eleanoramplified.org
Scholastic Election News 2016 - <http://election.scholastic.com/>
Space Scoop - www.spacescoop.org

Media Mentorship

In the wake of revised guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) around digital media use with children, ALSC contributed a piece to *USA Today's* [Media Planet](#) about librarians as media mentors to parents. ALSC restated its commitment to supporting parents' choices and reaffirmed the value of joint attention when using any form of media.

Great Gifts to Give Booklist

Since librarians are often consulted about good books to give to children as gifts, ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee developed the [Great Gifts to Give](#) booklist that covers various book-gifting opportunities like baby showers, graduations and more.

Strengthening Communities Through Libraries Minigrants

ALSC announced the recipients of its [Strengthening Communities Through Libraries Minigrants](#). The grantees represent libraries from 11 states and have taken varied approaches to bolstering opportunities for STEAM learning during out-of-school times in their communities.

ALSC Emerging Leader Project Selected

ALSC announced that its 2017 project proposal, A Path to Youth Library Leadership, was selected by four Emerging Leader participants, Sarah Gowdy, Sara White, Christine Gaffney, and Tori Ann Ogawa. The team will meet at the 2017 ALA Midwinter Meeting to begin planning.

ALSC Moves Committee Volunteer Form Online

With process committee appointments beginning in January, ALSC [launched a new campaign](#) to encourage members to volunteer online. To help bring more awareness to the new form and the benefits of volunteering, ALSC Vice President/President-Elect Nina Lindsay invites members to connect in a one-on-one private chat called Office Hours.

ALSC's Bookapalooza Applications Are Open

ALSC is accepting applications for the [Bookapalooza program](#). Each year the ALSC office receives almost 3,000 newly published books, videos, audiobooks and recordings from children's trade publishers for award and notable consideration. At the end of the year, after the awards have been given out, ALSC selects three libraries to receive a Bookapalooza collection of these materials (estimated to be worth \$10,000 each) to be used in a way that creatively enhances their library service to children and families. Applications are due February 1, 2017.

2017 Midwinter Meeting

- ALSC Mini Institute: ---In addition to ALSC's [Virtual Institute](#) in September, ALSC's [Mini Institute](#) will take place on Friday, January 20, as part of ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta. The Mini Institute will feature author and illustrator [keynote programs](#) from Phil and Erin Stead, Laura Dronzek, Kevin Henkes, Carmen Agra Deedy, and Jacqueline Woodson. Additionally, ALSC is offering a variety of [breakout programs](#) on topics including diversity and inclusion, summer reading, and early literacy. Registration is now open and includes pricing for ALSC members, ALA members, and non-members.
- News You Can Use Session at Midwinter: ALSC, GLBTRT and the LGBT Institute will have a connected conversation focusing on how *June is GLBT Book Month* can be a conversation starter and an entry point for many different populations. ALSC leadership will talk to how *June is GLBT Book Month* can help support and strengthen library services to children. GLBTRT leadership will discuss how this nationally supported campaign can be leveraged to confront issues of Intellectual Freedom. The LGBT Institute is locally situated in Atlanta, but has global reach. This part of discussion will include how campaigns like GLBTRT's *June is GLBT Book Month* can support intersections of oppression and strengthen coalition & advocacy for unrepresented voices. This session will take place on Saturday, January 21 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Georgia World Congress Center, Room B406.

2017 Annual Conference ALSC President's Program

(Charlemae Rollins) President's Program: *Plugging into the Digital Age: Libraries Engaging and Supporting Families with Today's Literacy*. Digital technology impacts all areas of life: brain development, learning styles, and interpersonal relationships. Experts in the field will have gathered to present the latest research on digital-age technology and its relationship to childhood development and childhood literacy. This panel will feature Chip Donohue from the

Erikson Institute and Sarah R. Lytle from the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences, who will present the latest research in this area of study. Lisa Regalla from the Center for Childhood Creativity at the Bay Area Discovery Museum will discuss practical ways to implement this information in our libraries and services. This program will provide attendees with innovative ways for librarians to enhance their professional development and grow into their role as media mentors for children and caregivers.

Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA)

Awards—Call for Nominations

ASCLA has opened the nomination period for its annual series of [achievement and recognition awards](#). Members are encouraged to nominate their colleagues and peers to recognize exceptional library professionals who make a difference in improving the lives of the people they serve. The awards will be presented at the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 22-27. [Nominations and supporting materials](#) must be submitted by February 10, 2017.

ASCLA Leadership Session

[Jessamyn West has been confirmed for Midwinter in Atlanta](#). Jessamyn West, Librarian, Blogger, Author and former member of the American Library Association's Council, has been confirmed for ASCLA's Midwinter Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute is set for Saturday, January 21, 10-11:30 a.m.

ASCLA/COSLA Happy Hour

ASCLA invites all to mingle and have fun at its Happy Hour, Friday, January 20, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Omni Hotels and Resort's Latitudes Lounge at 100 CNN Center. Bring a friend – everyone is invited. Cash Bar.

Library and Information Technology Association (LITA)

LITA's 50th Anniversary

LITA kicked off its 50th anniversary celebration at the 2016 LITA National Forum with a campaign to fund scholarships to diversify our leadership. Executive Director Jenny Levine vowed to dye her hair LITA blue for Midwinter if the first stage of the campaign raised \$4,000 by the end of the year. Members raised more than that amount, so watch for Jenny and her blue hair in Atlanta. [Donate](#) to help LITA reach the ultimate goal of \$10,000. At Midwinter, LITA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary at the LITA Happy Hour at Gordon Biersch (848 Peachtree St NE) from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 22.

LITA Happenings at Midwinter

[View all LITA happenings at Midwinter](#) on the web page, including [the popular Top Tech Trends session](#) on Sunday, January 22, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. in Room B405 of the convention center. Panelists include Cynthia Hart, Bill Jones, Gena Marker, and Meredith Powers, with Ken Varnum moderating the session. [Learn more about how to get involved in LITA at our Open House](#) on Sunday, January 22, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in Room B203 of the convention center.

Conference Buddy Program at Midwinter

LITA is implementing a [Conference Buddy Program](#) starting at the 2017 Midwinter. Inspired by the GLBTRT Buddy Program, this service is designed to make conference attendance more approachable, foster inclusion, and build connections.

The LITA Forum

More than 260 attendees joined LITA in Fort Worth, Texas to participate in more than 55 sessions, 20 poster presentations, and a dozen lightning talks. Participants also heard three thoughtful keynote speakers discuss issues around diversity in library technology, open data, and privacy. You can [view the slides and listen to audio of the keynotes by Cecily Walker, Waldo Jaquith, and Tara Robertson](#). Sessions covered a wide range of topics including digital analytics, virtual reality, mobile hotspot lending programs, and geovisualizing collections. [Many of the presenters' materials are available on the Forum wiki](#). As part of the continued commitment to generating discussion about diversity in our field, [the documentary CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap](#) was also screened for attendees.

Recent LITA Publications

LITA is getting great feedback and reviews about its most recent publications:

- [The Librarian's Introduction to Programming Languages](#) edited by Beth Thomsett-Scott
- [Library Service Design: A LITA Guide to Holistic Assessment, Insight & Improvement](#) by Joe J. Marquez & Annie Downey
- [Data Visualization: A Guide to Visual Storytelling for Librarians](#) edited by Lauren Magnuson
- [Mobile Technologies in Libraries](#) by Ben Rawlins
- [Innovative LibGuide Applications: Real World Examples](#) edited by Ryan L. Sittler and Aaron Dobbs
- [Integrating LibGuides into Websites](#) edited by Aaron Dobbs & Ryan L. Sittler

LITA Titles in Spring 2017

In addition, three highly-anticipated titles will be published this spring:

- [Managing the Digital You: Where and How to Keep and Organize Your Digital Life](#) by Melody Condron
- [Protecting Patron Privacy: A LITA Guide](#) edited by Bobbi Newman and Bonnie Tijerina

- [The LITA Leadership Guide: The Librarian as Entrepreneur, Leader, and Technologist](#) edited by Carl Antonucci & Sharon Clapp

Latest ITAL Articles

LITA just published the most recent issue of Information Technology and Libraries (ITAL), its refereed, open access journal, with articles on:

- [“Accessibility of Vendor-Created Database Tutorials for People with Disabilities”](#) by Joanne Oud
- [“Analyzing Digital Collections Entrances: What Gets Used and Why It Matters”](#) by Paromita Biswas and Joel Marchesoni
- [“Technology Skills in the Workplace: Information Professionals’ Current Use and Future Aspirations”](#) by Monica Maceli and John J Burke

Public Library Association (PLA)

PLA Offers Post-Election Resources for Public Libraries

PLA knows its members and their libraries may be struggling to respond to the post-election challenges our communities face. Public libraries have an unparalleled ability to bring people and knowledge together, especially in times of uncertainty and division. As we invite our communities to have critical conversations, we must be committed to ensuring a safe place for all that reflects and serves the diversity of our nation. PLA is offering a variety of resources to help its members serve their communities. Included in these resources is an online discussion for members to share examples of how their library has responded to post-election challenges. To access the resources, join the discussion, or suggest additional resources, please visit the [PLA website](#).

PLA Hosts Leadership Ideas Exchange

In December, PLA hosted *Ideas Exchange: Leadership* to engage practitioners of leadership development programs and representatives of state and national public library organizations in a dialogue about the leadership development landscape in the United States. Twenty-four leaders participated, representing a balance of various types of organizations, geographies, and leader levels. The discussion covered all aspects of leadership and assessed the current state of library leadership development. PLA plans to release a findings report in 2017, and to continue to collaborate with attendees and other practitioners of leadership development programs to assist public library leaders’ development that is effective and sustainable across their entire career span.

Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)

RUSA News Website

As part of RUSA's commitment to keep things flexible, valuable and fun, RUSA rolled out a New(s) Website in December 2016 that's easier to use and responsive. The New(s) Website includes streamlined news, a member map, a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events as well as information on awards, publications and resources. Most features of the site are interactive so members can also post relevant information. [RUSA's new home](#) will be members' go-to location for news, calendars and more, while the pages at <http://ala.org/rusa> will remain to provide members with in-depth resources regarding RUSA Sections, Committees and Membership.

18th Annual Best Free Reference Websites

The 18th Annual Best Free Reference Websites list, previously published in the Fall 2016 issue of [Reference & User Services Quarterly](#), is now also available on [RUSA's website](#). This year's list features 22 websites with annotations composed by members of the Emerging Technologies Section (ETS), [\(ETS\)' Best Free Web Sites committee](#). The selection criteria and process are detailed in the list's preface.

RUSA Town Hall

The RUSA Organization & Planning Committee has developed a set of recommendations and draft plan of implementation for reorganization of RUSA that was presented to the RUSA Board in December. RUSA will be holding a [Town Hall meeting](#) on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 9 a.m. PT / 10 a.m. MT / 11:00 a.m. CT / 12 p.m. ET to gather member feedback on the recommendations.

RUSA Name Change Task Force

A Name Change Task Force was created in March 2016 by then-RUSA President Anne Houston to look deeply at the pros and cons of changing the RUSA name. [Read the final results.](#)

IAMRUSA Podcast Now Available

Another [podcast interview](#) in the original RUSA series is now available. Meet Christina Shutt, Chair of the History Section of RUSA.

#ShareTheStory

Ahead of the announcements of the winners of the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction, the American Library Association is launching its [#ShareTheStory](#) campaign highlighting the six 2017 shortlist titles and how they remind us of the power of stories. Now through June 1, 2017, readers are encouraged to tell us their own stories about their lives, communities and histories and how they relate to these titles.

RUSA and United for Libraries Collaborate

In partnership with United for Libraries, the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) is hosting "[Are you a Proactive or Reactive Advocate? Best Practices from Academic and Public Library Supporters](#)," an engaging discussion on best practices for library advocacy at ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta. The discussion will take place on Monday, January 23 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Room A301 of the Georgia World Congress Center. All ALA Midwinter attendees are encouraged to participate.

United for Libraries: the Association for Library Trustees & Advocates (UNITED)

Creation of Data Visualization Map and Training Series

United for Libraries will be working with the Foundation Center, which won the Knight Foundation News Challenge on Libraries prize this year, to create a freely accessible data visualization map and training series on foundation funding for libraries and to help the Foundation Center promote its development of a suite of professional development resources to accompany the map which will include a webinar series, in person events, and a self-paced e-learning course.

"Book Club Central"

United for Libraries is currently working with ALA President Julie Todaro along with Bill Ott, Jeff Julian, and Keith Michael Fiels to develop a new concept called "Book Club Central." This will be a member benefit and will be a curated website that will bring together a vast array of resources for book club members including a link to United's own "[Authors for Libraries](#)," a zip code match-making site for libraries and authors.

Additions Increase "Authors for Libraries" Database

United for Libraries recently welcomed "Sisters in Crime" to its sponsor list and has recently renewed "Horror Writers of America" for a second year. These authors increase the "[Authors for Libraries](#)" database by approximately 5,000.

Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)

STEAM Toolkit

The Teen Tech Week™ Committee expanded YALSA's existing STEM Toolkit into a free downloadable [STEAM Toolkit](#).

Teen Tech Week™ 2017

Access free posters and all of your planning and resource needs to help you implement great digital literacy and tech-focused programs and services for and with the teens in your community, especially during [Teen Tech Week™](#) (TTW), March 5—11, 2017. This year's theme, *Be the Source of Change*, encourages teens to leverage technology available through their library to make a positive change in their community.

2017 YA Services Symposium

The call for [YA Services Symposium](#) programs and papers related to the college and career readiness theme is open until February 1, and registration will open in April. Members can apply for travel stipends through June 1. The event will be held November 3 –5, 2017 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Teen Book Finder Database

All of YALSA's selected lists, and book and media award winners and honorees have been put into a fully searchable online database. Lists can be downloaded and customized for library use. Beginning January 15, visit booklists.yalsa.net , and be sure to add a link to this resource on your library's web site.

New Volunteer Opportunities

The 2016 member survey results indicated that members are looking for short-term, opt-in, and virtual volunteer opportunities. If there are specific parts of YALSA's organizational plan that you'd like to work on, fill out this [brief form](#) and YALSA will contact you when a relevant volunteer opportunity comes up.

Fostering Global Citizenship

As part of YALSA's effort to provide more short-term, opt-in opportunities for members, a group of volunteers has been tapped to create a new [wiki page](#) featuring resources to help library staff work with teens to foster inclusion and understanding, and build global citizenship skills.

Upcoming YALSA Activities & Events

- January 20 – 23, ALA [Midwinter Meeting](#) in Atlanta
- January 23, all YALSA's [book and media award winners](#) announced
- January 26, [equity and social justice webinar](#)

- February 1, deadline to submit a paper or program proposal for the 2017 [YA Services Symposium](#)
- February 16, [Using Media Literacy to Stop the Fake News Cycle](#) webinar
- March 5 - 11, [Teen Tech Week](#)[™]
- March 16, [STEM Impact through Youth Voice](#)
- March 20, [Building Reflective Collections](#) e-course begins
- April 1, registration opens for the [2017 YA Services Symposium](#)
- April 9 - 15, [Teen Read Week](#)[™] site launches and Teens' Top Ten nominees announced
- May 1, deadline to apply for a set of [Teens' Top Ten nominees](#)
- June 1, deadline to apply for [Teen Read Week](#)[™] Resource grants
- June 1, deadline to apply for travel grants to the 2017 [YA Services Symposium](#)
- June 1, deadline to submit a [paper proposal](#) and request for travel stipend for the 2018 Midwinter Meeting

For more events and information, visit the YALSA [wiki](#) or [Google calendar](#)

ALA PUBLISHING

ALA Editions

New Books from ALA Editions and ALA Neal-Schuman

Some of the new professional development books published include [Renew Yourself: A Six-Step Plan for More Meaningful Work](#), by Catherine Hakala-Ausperk, [Effective Difficult Conversations: A Step-by-Step Guide](#), by Catherine Soehner and Ann Darling, [The Good, the Great, and the Unfriendly: A Librarian's Guide to Working with Friends Groups](#), by Sally Gardner Reed, United for Libraries (ALA Editions); and [Capturing Our Stories: An Oral History of Librarianship in Transition](#), by A. Arro Smith, PhD, foreword by Dr. Loriene Roy, [and Managing the Successful School Library: Strategic Planning and Reflective Practice](#), by Lesley S. J. Farmer (ALA Neal-Schuman). For a full listing of titles including books, online workshops, and eCourses, visit the ALA Store.

New Center for ALA Store

To improve customer service and support, the ALA Store moved to [a new physical warehouse and fulfillment center](#) in December. www.alastore.ala.org

ALA Graphics

ALA Graphics Spring 2017 Catalog

The ALA Graphics Spring 2017 catalog began arriving in mailboxes the first week of January. Geared toward young readers, the new catalog includes new products tied to popular book characters such as The [Rainbow Fish](#), [Secret Coders](#), and [Finding Winnie](#), recipient of the 2016

Caldecott Medal. [Reading Without Walls](#), a new poster and bookmark by Gene Luen Yang, the 2016-2017 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, encourages diversity in reading.

LEGO® Batman

The catalog cover features [LEGO® Batman](#) in anticipation of *The LEGO® Batman Movie* in theaters this winter. Along with a [LEGO® Batgirl poster](#) and [bookmarks](#), these materials are perfect for encouraging young patrons to read, play, and invent at the library.

New Celebrities Debut

Two celebrities debut on materials celebrating reading and books. Emma Watson appears as *Beauty and the Beast's* Belle on a [poster](#) that invites readers to “find beauty in a book. Charlie Hunnam, soon to appear on the big screen as King Arthur, declares “Reading is King!” in his [poster](#). www.alastore.ala.org/alagraphics/

American Libraries

January/February Issue

American Libraries magazine's January/February issue features a [Year in Review](#) that looks back at the biggest news that affected libraries, and a [Referenda Roundup](#) by ORS Director Kathy Rosa, which notes how states performed on local library measures.

Top Stories Online

The top stories online included:

- [2016 Holiday Gift Guide for Librarians and Book Lovers](#)
- [Fighting Fake News](#)

AL Social Media Highlights

American Libraries social media now has 57,600 Twitter followers (an increase of 11,000 from the same point in time last year) and 12,300 Facebook followers (an increase of 3,500).

AL Direct

In December, the top three story clicks were:

- [2016 holiday gift guide for librarians](#) (2,319 clicks)
- [How to spot fake reviews on Amazon and other sites](#) (1,231)
- [Librarians are the second most trusted profession](#) (1,225)

Dewey Decibel Podcast

The [Dewey Decibel podcast](#) continues to grow and gain listeners with each monthly episode. Recent shows have included interviews with author Margaret Atwood, filmmaker Ken Burns, and author and *Booklist* editor Daniel Kraus.

Booklist Publications

50 Years of YA

Booklist will be even more indispensable in 2017 as it offers [a year-long print, online, and in-person celebration of the 50th anniversary of YA novels](#). (The novel commonly considered the first proper young-adult novel, *The Outsiders*, was the debut novel of 19-year-old S.E. Hinton, published in 1967 by Viking. It is still widely read.) Celebrations in the magazine itself will include special features and spotlights such as *Booklist*'s Top 50 YA Novels Ever, monthly guest appearances by top YA authors to share their insights and favorite titles, a decade-by-decade retrospective with Michael Cart in his popular "Cart Blanche" column, love letters to YA from librarians and publishers, a Librarians' Top 50, a fresh look at past YA reviews and features from *Booklist* ("YA Flashbacks"), and best YA audiobook coverage.

<http://www.booklistreader.com/2016/11/02/young-adult-literature/booklist-celebrates-50-years-of-ya/>

#ShareTheStory Carnegie Medal campaign

Booklist, in conjunction with RUSA and ALA, will be running the "[Share the Story](#)" campaign. The 2017 shortlist for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction remind us of the power of stories. From violence to joy, from poverty to friendship, these six books (three fiction, three nonfiction) hold a mirror to our lives and drive home how we are shaped by both the forces inside us and outside of our control. Members and readers will #ShareTheStory and use these titles to tell us about their own stories. They will pick a character, a passage, or open the book at random and choose a quote; then tell us what it means to them—in a sentence, in a picture, in a video, in a song. Post to Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook using #ala_carnegie and #ShareTheStory to share and discover how these books demonstrate the power of stories.