



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

400 South 4th Street, Suite 754E, Minneapolis, MN 55415
612-294-6549 · mnllibraryassociation.org

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For more information, please contact the MLA office at 612-294-6549 or mla@management-hq.com.

**Sara Ring honored by the Minnesota Library Association
in recognition of service Above & Beyond**

August 22, 2019 – Sara Ring was awarded the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) Above & Beyond Award at the Association's annual conference, held this year at Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake, Minn. This award is given in recognition of a recent contribution significant to the Minnesota library community.

Sara is most deserving of this award based on her many (many) contributions to the Association and to the library community as a whole because of her commitment that library staff need to know their history and what their association is doing. As ALA Chapter Councilor, Sara set the bar high with her thorough reports about ALA Council and ALA's actions make a difference to MLA & its members. She gave an excellent summary every time there was an ALA controversy and offered alternatives to how MLA should respond.

Her work as the unofficial MLA archivist is filling a need that has received some attention over the years, but Sara's leadership in cataloging what exists & where it lives, creating a plan for what needs to be preserved and how it will have a lasting impact on the Association and its history. She is an excellent and organized leader that makes it possible for members of her committee to move forward with this important work. Her recent presentation at the MLA Board meeting demonstrated the in-depth approach she is taking as the leader in this matter. I think this is well beyond what other members demonstrate.

Speaking of MLA history, Sara has gone well beyond average when preparing for presentations at MLA or other events in helping identify resources that exist in Hathi Trust, in the UMN Libraries, and elsewhere about Minnesota library history. Her knowledge of the resources is invaluable. These presentations both enlighten & entertain their audiences and inform them of Minnesota's important place in library development. Her work on the MLA LegWork Committee has been invaluable as the Association seeks to involve more library staff in advocacy work. Without Sara's leadership, there would have been no Because Statement Contest. It was her idea and she carried it out and gave it the air of fun that made it such a success. She made the software to create individual Because Statements accessible to all Minnesota libraries, too. The idea for the READ posters event with our legislators was another great idea of Sara's. She worked with other committee members to create an event that was both fun and a great advocacy tool. She was tireless on the day, taking photos, engaging the legislators, and others in attendance. She made creating the posters for the legislators a priority, working with Minitex staff, so that they had a high-quality product to remind them libraries. Sara also contributed to the MLA Advocacy swag project. She had the original idea of creating the swag and it would not have happened without her graphics skill and willingness to answer by Saturday and evening calls for help.

Sara has made many more above & beyond contributions to MLA. What really makes her outstanding in her contributions is her willingness to put forth ideas, but more important, her willingness to create the atmosphere and structure that makes those ideas come to fruition. I think we have seen over the many years of MLA that people agree to head a committee, be on a committee, or do something for MLA, but that those things don't always bear results.



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Often with good reason, of course, but Sara has made her association commitments a priority, to the everlasting benefit of MLA and its members.

Sara was honored at the 2019 Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference on September 19-20, 2019.

About MLA: The Minnesota Library Association is an association of library supporters, representing all types of libraries by helping them accomplish together what none can do alone. MLA provides opportunities to meet library peers and associates, and meets the interests of its more than 730 members by facilitating educational opportunities, supporting strong ethical standards, and fostering connections between the library community and various constituencies. In addition to the annual conference, programs are planned and sponsored year-round by MLA divisions, sections, roundtables, and committees. Find out more at www.mnllibraryassociation.org.