January 2024 Roundup

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Academic & Research Libraries Division (ARLD) Day 2024 - Call for Session Proposals

ARLD is seeking session proposals for ARLD Day 2024, which will take place in person at the University of Minnesota’s Landscape Arboretum on Friday, May 3.

Anyone, including current students, can submit a session proposal! To submit, please complete this form by Friday, February 23.

Though we will consider proposals on any topic as it relates to academic libraries, this year we are especially interested in proposals on the topics of:

- Intellectual freedom (issues and challenges)
- Racial justice/anti-racism
- Interrogating or de-centering whiteness
- Decolonizing libraries & archives
- Accessibility
- Labor issues
- Change management
- Mentorship
- Artificial Intelligence

Need inspiration? Take a look at last year’s session descriptions. More details about ARLD Day can be found on the ARLD website.

Questions? Contact Preeti Gupton
Children & Young People’s Section (CYP) Updates

CYP Is Still Looking for a Chair-Elect!
Do you love youth services and connecting with other library workers who love youth services? Consider becoming the next CYP Chair-elect! The role only involves an average of less than two hours a month.

Have questions? Email Kirsten Vaughan.

Help Us Pick a Date for the CYP Unconference
CYP is trying to narrow down a date for the State Library Services and MLA Children and Young People’s joint conference. This year, the unconference will be VIRTUAL and FREE. There will be presentations on the science of reading and social emotional learning. We would love to have as many people attend as possible; please complete this two-question survey to help us select the date.

Information & Technology Educators of MN (ITEM) Virtual Town Hall
You are invited to a virtual town hall meeting of all ITEM members! We will share updates, ask questions, and discuss the organization’s priorities.

Event Details
When: Thursday, February 22
Time: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Where: Zoom (registration required)

Register here to receive a Zoom link to attend the virtual Town Hall. You must be a current MLA/ITEM member to attend.

REGISTER BUTTON
Nominations Open for the MN Academic Innovators Award!

Nominate a Minnesota Academic Innovator Today! Nominate academic librarians, academic library staff, or project teams that made a particularly outstanding contribution to advance the mission of an academic and/or research library through an innovative project, program, or service.

Nominations can be made online through February 28.

About the award: The Minnesota Academic Innovators Award is sponsored by the MLA Academic & Research Libraries Division (ARLD). The recipient of the award will be recognized and presented with $300 at ARLD Day 2024 (May 3). The event will be in-person at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. MLA membership is not required for nominators or nominees.
Award criteria: Projects, programs, or services should demonstrate creativity, quality, and innovation within the context of an academic institution. Innovation can be a new idea or refining something that’s always been done. Innovation will be considered broadly and is not limited to technology. Previous winners’ projects have included amplifying marginalized voices in the library, innovative collaborations, embedded librarianship, community outreach, cataloging, and library assessment.

If you have any questions, please contact Andy Herzog.

Public Libraries Division (PLD) Seeking Leadership Nominations

PLD is currently seeking a Member-at-Large and a Chair Elect. Get involved today to support the work of public libraries across the state! More information about PLD can be found on the MLA website here.

Have questions about the available leadership roles? Email PLD Chair Megan Krueger.

Register for MLA Legislative Day #MNLibLegDay!

Event Details
When: Monday, February 26
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Where: Minnesota State Capitol & your legislators’ offices
Special Event: READ posters in the Capitol’s Cass Gilbert Library room 317

Register here! (BUTTON)

Who Should Attend?
Library Legislative Day is a day for library staff and library supporters to visit with their Minnesota legislators at the Capitol to talk about how important libraries are to all Minnesotans. Staff from all types of libraries, along with Friends of the Library, library users, students, Board members, and other library supporters are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to thank our legislators for the great successes libraries had in the 2023 session and advocate for the work still to be done.

What to Know
This annual event is organized by the MLA Legislative Committee. Here is a preview of the day:
• **Gathering Spot: State Capitol Room 316.** We have reserved Room 316 in the Capitol for advocates to use to gather handouts and other information. You can leave your coats there (but not your valuables) until 3:00 p.m. You can use the space to eat lunch bought from the restaurants in the Capitol or brought from home, chat with other advocates, or just take a break.

• The [Advocacy page of the MLA website](#) has been updated! It is your one-stop shop for resources for advocates and handouts for legislators for the 2024 legislative session.

• Make your own appointments with legislators in advance of the day or coordinate with others, including your regional public library system or your multitype system.

• Register for the event to keep up-to-date on Legislative Day activities, hints for a successful day, info about library bills introduced, any hearings scheduled, and more.

Stay tuned for more information as the legislative session progresses and library bills are introduced!

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**Student Round Table Winter Social**

Are you a student studying library science? Get to know other students in Minnesota at the Student Round Table’s 2024 Winter Social!

This is an opportunity to informally learn about each others’ programs and career paths, and to decompress after the first week(s) of classes.

**Event Details**

When: **Sunday, January 28**

Time: **5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

Where: [Padraig's Brewing](#). Attendees are welcome to purchase beverages from Padraig's menu.

RSVP requested (but not required) [here](#).
Volunteers Needed for READ Poster Event!

Event Details

When: **Monday, February 26**

Time: **Noon. - 3:00 p.m.**

Where: [Minnesota State Capitol](http://www.mn.gov) **Cass Gilbert Library, Room 317 A**

Legislators, staff, Constitutional Officers, and others will be invited to have their picture taken with their favorite book or document on Library Legislative Day to celebrate our 2023 legislative successes. MLA volunteers will turn those photos into READ poster jpg files.
Many volunteers are needed to make this happen. We need camera operators, greeters, ushers, and people with tech skills for the poster production. Job descriptions are on the volunteer registration form below.

Volunteer Here! BUTTON

This is a very fun event and an opportunity to thank our legislators and others for the successes libraries had in the 2023 session. Remember to invite your local legislators to the READ poster photo shoot to celebrate with you!

Questions? Email Ann Walker Smalley

Welcome New Members!
December 2023 new members

Thank You Renewing Members!
December 2023 renewed members

MLA is strong because of you. Thank you for being a member.