Academic & Research Libraries Division (ARLD) Day 2023 Registration Now Open!

ARLD Day will be held via zoom on Friday, April 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. We have an excellent line-up of sessions this year that you won't want to miss!

We are also very excited to announce our keynote speaker:

Dr. Nicole Cooke
University of South Carolina

**Keynote Talk: Radically Re-Envisioning LIS**

Social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion are significant topics within the profession, but are they actually integrated into the fabric of library and information science (LIS)? Among the areas that require particular understanding and dedication are our critical and pedagogical practices. This talk will address "decolonizing" or re-envisioning LIS, and the skills and disposition our profession requires to look outside of our discipline and Western norms, to engage with diverse scholarship and perspectives necessary to build a foundation for a more equitable profession.

Dr. Nicole A. Cooke is the Augusta Baker Endowed Chair and Professor at the University of South Carolina. Her research and teaching interests include human information behavior, critical cultural information studies, and diversity and social justice in librarianship. She was the 2019 Association of Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Excellence in Teaching Award recipient, and she has edited and authored several books, including *Information Services to Diverse Populations* and *Fake News and Alternative Facts: Information Literacy in a Post-truth Era*. Her forthcoming titles include the 2nd edition of *Information Services to Diverse Populations* and *Foundations of Social Justice*, both of which will be published by ALA Editions | Neal-Schuman.

Register on the [ARLD Day 2023 website!](#)

Questions? Contact [Kat Nelsen](#)

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Special thanks to our sponsors for making this event possible!
Register here to attend a free webinar on building stronger libraries and to cheer on MLA member and panelist Ann Hokanson!

Event Details:
Date: April 13
Time: Noon
Where: Zoom
What does member engagement look like in a post-COVID world? What's meaningful to your members? How do you measure success? Come hear how library support organizations in different parts of the country are engaging members.

Each panelist will talk about their member engagement efforts - how they define engagement and what’s been meaningful to their members - and how they are continuing to evolve and respond to emerging member needs and challenges. Libraries look to their associations, systems, consortia, and cooperatives for leadership and support. This webinar will spark new ways you can deepen connections so your patrons thrive!

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**Call for 2023 MLA Conference Proposals**

The Minnesota Library Association’s 2023 Annual Conference will be held **October 4-5** at the St. Paul RiverCentre in St. Paul.

This year’s conference theme is: “Library Workers Make the Library Work!”

Presenting a content-rich session individually or as part of a team is a wonderful way to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas. The conference is an opportunity to present innovative directions, exchange new ideas, best practices, lessons learned, stories of successful collaborations, solutions to issues and more. We encourage staff from all levels, library types, and sizes to submit a proposal.

**Call for Proposals:**

Opens: **March 22**

Deadline: **April 28**

Session Length: 50 minutes (appropriate for 1-3 speakers)

Format: May include single or multiple speakers, panel discussions, case studies, interactive hands-on activities, demonstrations of projects, etc.

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**Children and Young People's Section (CYP) New Leadership**

CYP is excited to welcome Kirsten Vaughan as Chair Elect! Kirsten Vaughan has worked in public libraries for over ten years. She has spent most of that time serving the Greater Minnesota area. As a rural librarian, she has worn many "hats," but her favorite role has been
programming for children and youth, including storytimes, themed reading parties, escape rooms, and more.

Coming soon: MLA Strategic Planning

2023 is a Strategic Planning year for the Minnesota Library Association. The Request for Bid for a firm or individual to lead us through this process will be released soon. If your organization has worked with a great strategic planning consultant, please share the RFB with them when it's released!

We will also be looking for input from members of the Minnesota library community, so keep your eyes open for more information on that process as we continue to strengthen our organization and look to the future.

Enhancing Quality Staff Symposium
The Enhancing Quality Staff Symposium is returning on May 18 at Coffman Memorial Union on the University of Minnesota’s East Bank campus! This symposium provides a forum for library paraprofessional and support staff to learn about a range of timely professional topics, share ideas and experiences with peers, enhance skills with continuing education, and work toward personal wellbeing.

We welcome attendees from all types of libraries. EQS typically welcomes around 150-170 individuals. Attendees choose from among more than 20 sessions throughout the day. Sessions are usually one hour in length, but we also have a limited number of two-hour sessions.

Interested in presenting at the symposium? The EQS (Enhancing Quality Staff) committee is seeking presenters for 45 minute conference presentations. If you'd like to read about past sessions, visit our website here.

When submitting a presentation, please consider ideas geared towards paraprofessional and support staff. All presentations will be approximately 40-45 minutes with a brief Q & A at the end. This conference will be in-person, therefore sessions will not be recorded.

Session proposals are due by March 30. You will be notified as soon as your proposal is reviewed. This is a great opportunity to present your research or another topic you are engaging in, and add to your CV!

Please submit your proposal via our Google Form. Please send your questions to lib-eqs@umn.edu.

Hello from Minnesota’s Early Childhood Library!
Have you heard about Minnesota's [Debra S. Fish Early Childhood Resource Library](https://www.mnlibrary.org/digcit)? This hidden gem includes one of the strongest collections of early childhood resources in the state. It is a partner branch of the Saint Paul Public Library system and its resources are available to all Minnesotans through MNLink. The circulating collection includes early childhood curricula and assessments (specifically Parent Aware aligned), early childhood literacy and story kits, big books, books about the business of child care, equitable teaching practices, trauma-informed teaching, educator wellness, developing and supporting relationships between educators and families, child development, and so much more.

The library also offers services such as educator consultations and research support, topical resource kit development, and personal book shopper services to support program goals to ensure they have diverse and equitable book collections in the classroom. [Check it out!](https://www.mnlibrary.org/digcit)

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**Looking for Partners**

Together with [Child Care Aware Wayfinders](https://www.childcaresmn.org/wayfinders), the Fish Library is looking for library partners throughout Greater Minnesota that want to be resource hubs to support early childhood educators in their community. Funding for the library and Wayfinders, including this joint project, is provided by Think Small and the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Watch for more information on what this entails and a survey to identify partners in upcoming newsletters! In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about this project or how the Debra S. Fish Library can support your library in its work with early childhood educators, Jennie, the Fish librarian, would be happy to meet one-on-one or attend a staff meeting to share more information. She can be reached at librarian@thinksmall.org or (651) 641-3544.

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**Join the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Digital Escape Room: DigCit Edition**

Put your Digital Citizenship skills to the test during a free Digital Escape Room led by ISTE Community Leaders and featuring special guest Richard Culatta, CEO of ISTE and author of *The Digital for Good: Raising Kids to Thrive in an Online World*. The challenges are designed to meet everyone where they are on their journey to help children and/or learners develop as balanced, informed, engaged, inclusive, and alert digital citizens.

Discover the Digital Citizenship concepts as you work in teams - ultimately trying to escape the digital room. The session will wrap up with the opportunity for participants to ask questions and share reflections with the group. Everyone will leave with ideas and resources they can share with others - including a copy of the digital escape room, and maybe even some prizes!

Join us via Zoom on **Tuesday, March 28** from **5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

Learn more [here](https://www.mnlibrary.org/digcit)!
Join the Metronet Board

The Metronet Board is seeking two library representatives for its Board. The first will represent K-12 school libraries and the second will represent metro area public libraries. The two-year terms begin July 1. The new representatives’ first meeting will be September 20.

Prospective Board members should be interested in all types of libraries and how they work independently and together to improve library services for all Minnesota residents. Board members must be available to attend the Board meeting, share Metronet activities with their constituents, and advocate for all types of libraries. The Metronet Board currently meets bimonthly (January, March, May, June, September and November) on the third Tuesday from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

A Board member job description is included as part of the application. Applicants should complete the application found here.

About the Metronet Board

Metronet, the multicounty multitype library system that serves the seven-county metro area, is governed by a nine-person Board of five citizen representatives & one representative from each of four library types: school, public, academic, and special. Metronet Board members serve a two-year term, with eligibility for up to three consecutive terms.

The Board provides fiscal oversight & planning for Metronet operations. Minutes of past meetings can be found here. Questions may be directed to Ann Walker Smalley, Metronet Director.

Metronet Open House & Book Exchange

Join us for this fun networking event at our new office. Bring a book or books to exchange & enjoy refreshments while mingling with colleagues. Win door prizes! Can't bear to part with a book? Join us anyway to discuss libraries & books with colleagues & friends.

Event Details
Date: March 30
Time: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Where: 1807 Field Ave, St Paul, MN 55116
RSVP here!

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**Minnesota Author Project Seeking Volunteer Judges**

Minnesota libraries are looking for volunteer judges for the 6th annual Minnesota Author Project. Judges are selected from across the state to include a diversity of professional experience, educational background, ethnicity, age, and gender.

Judges will help select indie-published eBooks in the following categories: Adult Fiction, Young Adult, and Communities Create.

Interested? [Sign up here](#)

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**MLA Conference Session Proposal Development Help**

Do you have an idea for an MLA conference session but you can't quite get it formulated into a proposal? Wondering about session format, audience, or creating a catchy title? Are you a newbie who just isn't sure how all this goes?

MLA Past President Steve Harsin and current MLA President Julia Carlis are here as session proposal consultants to help. Reach out to [Steve](#) or [Julia](#) to schedule a meeting or review your idea via email.

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**Nominate a Minnesota Academic Innovator Today!**

Know 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? Nominate them for an Academic Innovator award!

Nominations can be made online through [March 27](#).

**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 2023 (April 28 via Zoom). 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 already 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 Molly Bostrom.

Public Library Division (PLD) Updates

PLD Day 2023
Mark your calendars! PLD Day 2023 will be a virtual event, held on Friday, May 5 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. More information about registration and speakers will be available soon.

PLD Day- Call for Lightning Round Proposals
Prepare a five minute talk for PLD Day’s Lightning Round about anything related to public libraries- new initiatives or programs at your branch, professional trends, general concerns or even something that excites you! Anyone can contribute to the Lightning Round!

To express interest or submit a proposal, or if you have questions, please email PLD@mnlibraryassociation.org or jamie.hoehn@co.dakota.mn.us

A Revolution is coming…a Cardigan Revolution!

Registration is now open for the 2023 Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference! This educational and fun event will take place April 26 - 28 at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center in Oshkosh. What better way to spend National Library Week than with library colleagues?
Keynote speakers include Wisconsin authors Lori M. Lee, B.J. Hollars, and Maggie Ginsberg. Attendees will come together to share big ideas and learn from each other through special events and more than 30 interactive breakout sessions.

Visit the conference website to learn more and to register. Early bird registration for the conference closes March 27.

Welcome New Members!
The last Roundup went out on 3/1/23, so everyone since then

Thank You Renewing Members!
The last Roundup went out on 3/1/23 so everyone since then

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