March 2024 Roundup

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ARLD Day 2024 Registration is Open!

Registration is now open for ARLD Day 2024, which will be in-person at the MN Landscape Arboretum on May 3!

ARLD Day is the Academic and Research Library Division's annual conference to celebrate the Minnesota academic library community. Our theme this year is Reconnecting with Community. We are excited to join with our colleagues to be present in the space and learn from each other.

Registration is open until April 26. You can preview the registration rates below:

- MLA/ACRL-MN Members - $70
- Non-Members - $110
- Presenters - $60
- Students - $20
- Indigenous registrants - $0

Full event details will continue to be added to the ARLD website and to the registration page above.

Questions? Contact Preeti Gupton.
FREE Children & Young People’s Section (CYP) and State Services Joint Virtual Unconference

It isn’t too late to sign up for the CYP and State Services Unconference! We will be meeting online on **Tuesday, April 9, 1-3:30 p.m.** This event is FREE and open to members and non-members. Our topics are the Science of Reading and Social Emotional Learning in libraries.

Sign up [here](#)

Want to know more? Check out the Bio and Blurb for our Keynote speaker, Jess Hesselber:

Jess Hesselberg has worked as a Teacher Librarian, a public librarian and as a library leader for over a decade. Her favorite storytime books are generally about underwear or similarly silly themes. She spends as much time as possible exploring the outdoors with her two kids and husband.

> Learning to read is one of the most important skills a person needs to be successful in school, work and life. Librarians and teachers have complimentary roles in the reading lives of kids. Teachers focus on teaching kids how to read, and I like to think that librarians focus on encouraging kids to LOVE reading and books. In this webinar, we will go over what science tells us about how kids learn to read, how public libraries can and do support this learning, and discuss ways to increase knowledge and collaboration between schools, libraries, and families.

Have questions? Email [Kirsten Vaughan](#).

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**Intellectual Freedom Committee Update - BookLooks: We’re Lookin’ at You!**
Last month, the Intellectual Freedom Committee shared information about Book Resumes from Unite Against Book Bans. Book resumes are one source you can look to when searching for information about challenged books, why they have value, and how you can respond directly to questions, title-by-title.

One method that is often used by those who challenge books is to read select passages aloud to school administrators and decision makers. These passages are designed to shock and make listeners uncomfortable with their focus on topics rarely discussed and plain language rarely used in these settings. BookLooks is an online resource for those who wish to engage in this practice, equipping concerned citizens with the methods and language that will incite cringe and discomfort. In this substack post, educator Frank Strong shares his arguments against the ‘shock and awe’ approach to book discussion with a new set of resources designed to answer the core questions that BookLooks attempts to formulate. These resources focus on the most commonly challenged titles and answer questions such as:

- What should I know about the book’s background and its use in US classrooms?
- Why is this book controversial?
- Is there context we should know about that scene? Is the text worth reading despite it?
- Do students read texts that are comparable (in themes, content, and quality) to this book?
- What would students lose if we were to take away their access to this book?

File this resource away as yet another tool in your toolbelt to equip you when you are in discussions with friends, family, colleagues, parents, students, and decision makers about the freedom to read. This source, alongside Unite Against Book Bans’ rich array of resources, will
give you language to use to expose the BookLooks approach of plucking a scene out of context as misguided showmanship used to platform political/ideological ambitions.

The MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee is here for you if you are seeking guidance or support related to any censorship, banning, or policy issues in your community. Reach out anytime at intellectualfreedomcommitteechair@mnlibraryassociation.org and/or consider joining the group. We meet once a month to share updates, discuss helpful resources, and provide a network of freedom to read advocates in Minnesota.

Information & Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) Seeking Nominations

ITEM is still seeking nominations for President-Elect and Secretary - we received no nominations before our deadline. Please consider this important opportunity for leadership within our division.

President-Elect: The office of President-Elect operates on a 3-year cycle, moving on to President and then Past-President.

Secretary: Elected in even-numbered years, the Secretary position serves for 2 years.

Please see the ITEM Job/Board Member Descriptions document for more details about each role.

Nominations will be accepted until April 10. We encourage all members to consider nominating individuals who would serve well in these roles. Self-nominations are also welcome.

To submit a nomination, please fill out this Google Form. Want to learn more about the nomination process? Contact Janeen Perrizo, ITEM Past-Present.

Library Media Specialist (LMS) Coding Collaborative: Leading the Way in Minnesota Computer Science Education

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 25, 4-5 p.m., when ITEM is hosting a “coding collaborative,” gathering for Minnesota Library Media Specialists to celebrate and share our experiences in teaching computer science (CS). We will have the opportunity to exchange favorite CS activities, to discuss the transforming power of CS in our students’ lives, and to navigate the challenges of our role as LMS and computer science educators.

Don’t miss out on this opportunity to inspire one another and to harness the power of our shared expertise in shaping the future of computer science in the state of MN. We can’t wait to see you there!
Click here to register! You must be a current MLA/ITEM Member to attend.

**Public Libraries Division (PLD) Day 2024**

Join PLD for a virtual event featuring engaging speakers and discussion with library staff from around the state!

When: **Friday, April 26**
Time: **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Where: Virtual
Registration: Registration will be available starting March 25.*

*Watch for email updates or check the MLA website for updated information.

Agenda:
– Welcome
– Keynote: Anthony and Erika Molaro: Trauma-Informed Library Services
– State Library Services Update with Tami Lee
– MLA Update with MLA President Jodi Grebinoski
– Guided Group Discussion: Getting more out of MLA and PLD
– Closing Remarks

PLD Day is an annual event for those who work in or are invested in public libraries. This event is hosted by the Minnesota Library Association's Public Libraries Division and is sponsored by the Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators (CRPLSA).

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**Start Thinking About Your 2024 MLA Conference Proposals!**

The Minnesota Library Association's 2024 Annual Conference will be **October 24-25** at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. This year's conference theme will be “Connect, Advocate, Relate, Engage.” 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 conference proposal. The call for proposals is now open!

**Proposal Details:**

**Deadline:** May 15

**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.

More session information to come on the MLA website. Submit your conference session proposals [here](#)!
Virtual Mock Interviews with Library Students

Calling all library students: practice your interview skills and get ready for the library job market with the Student Round Table’s virtual mock interviews event on April 4!

Sign up for a 30-minute Zoom session with an experienced librarian or archivist. Each session will include a 15-20 minute mock interview, followed by 10 minutes of feedback from the interviewer.

MLA members: please share this opportunity with library students in your personal network!

A MLA membership is not required to sign up. Sign up here for a mock interview!

Practice your interview skills with an experienced librarian or archivist!

**When:**
April 4th, 2024, via Zoom

**Who:**
- Any student studying library science and residing in MN
- Hosted by the Minnesota Library Association Student Round Table

Sign up now:
forms.gle/qW3oXfULGhZ1WQBR9

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Welcome New Members!
March 2024 new members
Thank You Renewing Members!
March 2024 renewed members

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