July 2023 RoundUp

AI and Libraries Webinar

Learn about AI fundamentals, its relevance to libraries of all sizes and types, and how it can enhance services and engage communities at the free WebJunction webinar: *AI and Libraries: Enhancing Services and Engaging Communities.*

**Event Details**
Date: **August 9, 2023**
Time: **2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
Where: **Online**

To attend, register [here](#)!

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Apply to ALA’s Emerging Leaders Program

ALA is now accepting applications for its 2024 class of Emerging Leaders! The program gives newer library workers from across the US and Canada the opportunity to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peer library workers, gain an inside look into ALA’s structure, and gain experience serving in a leadership role in the library field.

The deadline to apply is **September 9**. Learn more about the program at the [ALA Emerging Leaders webpage](#).

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Academic & Research Libraries Division (ARLD) Board Nominations

Election season is upon us! It’s time to start thinking about who you would like to nominate for:

- Chair-elect
- Secretary
You can nominate yourself or encourage someone you know to nominate themselves. The nomination form will be posted to the ARLD website and emailed to ARLD and Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)-MN members.

**Autism-Ready Libraries Toolkit Available**

The University of Washington has released an Autism-Ready Libraries online toolkit to help libraries provide early literacy library programming to autistic children and their families. The toolkit includes librarian training modules, storytime lesson plans, and more!

WebJunction’s more detailed overview of the toolkit can be found here. Access the toolkit directly at this link.

**MLA Legislative Forum and Priorities Input**

Join us online **Tuesday, August 8 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** to hear about the success of the 2023 Legislative Session and to help shape priorities for 2024.

10:00 a.m. to Noon - We’ll kick off the morning with a message from library supporter, Senator Mary Kunesh. Hannah Buckland will share information regarding the federal digital inclusion funding and Sam Walseth will discuss the legislative process. More information to come!

Noon to 1:00 p.m. - Break

1:00 to 3:00 p.m. - Presentations from the MLA partners and an open discussion regarding priorities for 2024.

Visit the **MLA events calendar** to register for the online Legislative Forum and to receive a recording of the sessions.

We want to hear from you! Complete **this 2024 Legislative Priorities Form** by **July 28** to share your ideas for legislative priorities ahead of time.

**Nominate Colleagues and Library Supporters for MLA Awards**
MLA recognizes the contributions of MLA members and others who work to improve library services and intellectual freedom throughout the State through awards. Award nominees are reviewed annually by an Awards Committee chaired by MLA’s past president. The current president of MLA will present an additional award at the Annual Conference.

Other awards may be made by divisions or other subunits of MLA, which are responsible for the nomination and selection processes. These awards are typically made at the Annual Conference and coordinated with the Awards Committee and the MLA office.

Do you know anyone who’s gone above and beyond to impact libraries in the last year?

Nominate a person or group for one of the following awards:

- William G. Asp Distinguished Career Award
- MLA Above & Beyond Award
- Lars Steltzner Intellectual Freedom Award

It’s easy to nominate with the convenient online nomination form! Award descriptions and criteria can be found on the MLA Awards page.

2023 nominations are due July 28!

Register for the MLA Annual Conference

Join us October 4 and 5 in RiverCentre in St. Paul to celebrate all the ways Library Workers Make the Library Work including:

- Showcasing the value of all library workers and how we are making our libraries not only work, but thrive;
• Catching up with colleagues and networking with new colleagues from all library types, including ITEM members (now officially part of MLA!);
• Visiting with 30+ exhibitors and sponsors supporting our library work; and
• Choosing from over 95 breakout sessions presented by colleagues from throughout the state!

Attend the keynote and featured speaker sessions such as:
• Wednesday Breakfast Keynote: Nick Higgins, Chief Librarian, Brooklyn Public Library: “Expanding (Not Just Protecting) the Right to Read: Librarianship in the Age of Censorship”
• Wednesday Featured Speaker: Courtney Pentland, AASL President: “Sharing Presentation on AASL Priorities and Growing Relationships with Your School Library Stakeholders”
• Plus many more!

More information about the conference, including how to register can be found on the conference webpage.

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Save the Date: CYP September 8 Unconference

Save the date for the Children and Young People’s Unconference on September 8 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. through Zoom! This year’s theme is Environmental Literacy.

Stay tuned for the link! Further details and registration information are coming soon.

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Welcome New Members!
The last Roundup went out on 6/29/23, so everyone since then

Thank You Renewing Members! 
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MLA is strong because of you. Thank you for being a member.