



MINNESOTA LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

Advocating for Minnesota's  
libraries, librarians and  
library staff

Roundup

## In This January Issue

- [Statement from MLA President Amy Boese](#)
- [Report Censorship to ALA](#)
- [The Story of Our Lives](#)
- [ARLD Dialogue: Inclusive Documentation](#)
- [Lake Superior Libraries Symposium Call for Proposals](#)
- [Submit a proposal for ARLD Day 2017!](#)
- [Save the Date for MLA 2017](#)
- [Save the Date for PLD Day 2017](#)
- [Save the Date for the CYP Unconference](#)
- [MLA Board Update](#)
- [Welcome New Members!](#)
- [Thank You Renewing Members!](#)

## Statement from MLA President Amy Boese

Part of our work as librarians is making sure that accurate information is available in a timely manner, and access to that information is available to all- including those with no other options, our most marginalized, least heard and least affluent patrons.

In the past few week, the federal government has halted and altered the flow of information from sites we would normally trust. In concordance with the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (see link below) we strongly object to this and any other attempt to hamper resources funded by us, the people of the United States, and to allow only a certain version of research to be heard in any instance.

I have been talking to peers and colleagues and mentors this week. They have had so many smart and reflective thoughts. Panic, although understandable, is not a good strategy for us right now. We need to remember that the rules we follow as information literacy professionals remain. We tell patrons the same thing we always have: "Your brain is your best tool for evaluating resources. Who benefits from you believing this information? Are there other sources, and can you verify the infographic, tweet, article, or news release?" We know that library spaces matter, we are the champions of access to information, and we will continue to do our best work, right now.

Some ways in which we can serve our communities today include the things we always do. Hold storytime with books featuring kids of color. Build community partners to reach non-

library users, and teach digital literacy. Host events that give your communities tools for safety, employment, education, and social justice. Provide internet access to those without it. Use your skills to make yourself vital in your community.

[Or, post a sign, like these you can purchase or download from Micha Bazant.](#)

[Read this response from ALA decrying censorship, and post it widely.](#)

[Read this press release from ALA which opposes new administration policies that contradict core values, and post it widely.](#)

[Host a data refuge event.](#)

And I know there are more great ideas to come. Want to share? Have a discussion about what libraries mean in Minnesota, in the United States right now? Get together with your peers informally, check the MLA schedule for upcoming events, or feel free contact me or the MLA board anytime.

Sincerely,

[Amy Boese](#), President

Minnesota Library Association

## Report Censorship to ALA

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom has recently updated their form for reporting censorship to make the process simpler. The form, which can be found on the [ALA OIF Challenge Support page](#), can be used to report cases of materials challenges (e.g. book challenges or bans), internet-related challenges, library services challenges, patron privacy or confidentiality issues, and hate speech (e.g. defacement of library property to target a specific group). Filling out this form helps the ALA track censorship around the country and triggers support to librarians and information professionals in handling challenges. The addition of hate speech reporting is new and you can find more information about why it was added and what is being done with the data on the [ALA OIF blog](#).

## The Story of Our Lives

If you were fortunate enough to visit the Technical Services Section's table during the September MLA conference, you got a creative reminder of that event a few weeks ago. Christie Schultz, the TSS board secretary, had set up a pretend library catalog for the event, and participants were invited to create autobiographical books to add to the completely fictional library. To make it super-easy, all authors had to do was to invent a title and have a cover photo taken. Remuneration included "I Cataloged!" stickers and candy. Voila -- a book is born!

We garnered 44 fake books in all (recorded using an extremely nontechnical free program, [www.libib.com](#), which is meant for cataloging home libraries). Who couldn't help devouring great titles like "The Optimistic Nihilist," "Queen of My Own Mistakes," "The Tall and the Short of It," "Farm Girl to Superstar Librarian!," "That Was Fun," "The Supreme Underlord of the Manor," and "More Foosball"? Our personal favorite was a three-way tie between "I Wish I Had a Plan," "I Was Going To, But Then I Didn't," and, of course, "We Need a Title Generator."

Those who submitted their books for cataloging got a fun reminder in their e-mail this month, when Christie sent out completed catalog records, along with what we only wish were actual reviews ("This poetic meditation on life goal sheds light on her excellent career in libraries").

Now all you have to do is write the actual book. (Your fans are waiting!) And if you want to know what else the Technical Services Section can do for you, please contact the TSS chair, [Rebecca Ganzel](#).

Catalog on!

## **ARLD Dialogue: Inclusive Documentation**

Monday, February 20, 2017 from 12pm-2pm  
Centennial Student Union, Room 204  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
620 S Rd.  
Mankato, MN 56001  
[Maps and parking information](#)

The Academic and Research Libraries Division (ARLD) of MLA is pleased to invite you to our next ARLD Dialogue. Dialogues are an opportunity for academic librarians from various institutions to gather over lunch (provided by ARLD) and discuss a particular aspect of librarianship. Our topic for discussion is practical and effective document writing, focusing on user needs and inclusivity. Participants will have the opportunity to collaboratively redesign existing library documentation. Registrants are encouraged to bring sample documents to revise. The discussion will be led by Jenny Turner and Jessica Schomberg, librarians at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

This Dialogue will be held in room 204 in the Minnesota State Mankato Centennial Student Union. Dialogue participants will receive lunch, compliments of ARLD. To register and make a lunch selection, please submit the [online registration form](#). Participation is open to all MLA members and ACRL members residing in Minnesota, but participation is limited to 20, so register early to guarantee your spot.

## **Lake Superior Libraries Symposium Call for Proposals**

The 6th Annual Lake Superior Libraries Symposium (LSLS) will be held Friday, June 9, 2017 at the University of Minnesota Duluth Kathryn A. Martin Library. LSLS is a low-cost regional conference and networking event for staff from all types of libraries. This year's theme, Beyond Neutral, invites attendees to challenge the traditional stance of libraries as neutral spaces. Presenters will receive a discounted registration rate of \$25. [See the full Call for Proposals and submit your proposal by Friday, March 17.](#)

## **Submit a proposal for ARLD Day 2017!**

The Academic and Research Library Division is now accepting proposals for ARLD Day, to be held April 28, 2017 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Proposals may be for 50 minute breakout sessions or 5 minute lightning presentations. Anyone, including MLIS students, may submit a proposal. For more information visit the [event page](#).

[Submit your proposal today!](#)

## Save the Date for MLA 2017

Libraries have always been radical, but what does Radical Librarianship mean for us today? Join us at the 2017 MLA Annual Conference to help shape that conversation!

### 2017 MLA Annual Conference October 5 & 6, Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN

Not only will the 2017 conference feature fabulous keynote speakers like [Safiya Noble](#), it'll also be chock full of great sessions featuring wide-ranging ideas from librarians all across Minnesota.

Whether you're new to MLA or a first-time conference attendee, this annual event gives you a chance to:

- Network with your peers
- Share your ideas and learn from each other
- Explore new technologies
- Visit exhibits from a wide variety of vendors
- And...have more than a little fun!

Visit our [Facebook page](#) and the [MLA website](#) to keep up on the latest conference news. Calls for proposals will go out in March and registration will begin in the summer.

### THIS IS WHAT RADICAL LOOKS LIKE

## Save the Date for PLD Day 2017

Save the Date! PLD Day 2017 will be held on Wednesday, April 12th at The Grand Event Center in Northfield, MN. More details coming soon!

## Save the Date for the CYP Unconference

Join the members of the Children's and Young People's Section (CYPS) for the fourth annual CYP Unconference! This year's event will be held on Friday, March 24 at the Heritage Library in Lakeville (Dakota County Library System). Stay tuned for details on discussion themes of the day. Contact [Monica Stratton](#) for more information or for questions.

## MLA Board Update

The MLA Board met on Friday, January 6th. The approved minutes from the previous month's meeting may be found [here](#). The agenda from each meeting is posted on the [Board of Directors](#) page several days prior to the meeting. Board meetings are open to the public and members are encouraged to attend.

## Welcome New Members!

The following members joined MLA in December and January. Welcome to MLA!

- Bill Adams
- Becky Arenivar
- Kristi Bergland
- Julie Eskritt
- Alexander Hedin
- Jennie Walker Knoot
- Michelle Mahowald
- Tonya Potter
- Peter Rudrud
- Rebecca Ryan

## Thank You Renewing Members!

MLA thanks all of those members who renewed during the months of December and January!

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