



Advocating for Minnesota's  
libraries, librarians and  
library staff

## Roundup

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### Amy Mars Receives 2017 Minnesota Academic Innovators Award

Amy Mars, a Research & Instruction Librarian at St. Catherine University, is the recipient of the [2017 Minnesota Academic Innovators Award](#). This award recognizes academic librarians who have made outstanding contributions to advance the missions of academic libraries in Minnesota through innovative projects, programs, or services. Amy received and was recognized for the 2017 Minnesota Academic Innovators Award at ARLD Day on April 28, 2017.

After the murder of Philando Castile, Amy — feeling the library needed to do more to help enact change on racial justice issues — started a year-long initiative, One Read for Racial Justice, to open up conversations about race on her campus. Centering on the book *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, she partnered with many people and departments on her campus to create discussions around the book, encourage faculty to use it in their classes, design events, and bring in author speakers.

Programs included in this initiative have covered topics including diversity in the publishing industry, racism in the criminal justice system, Black Lives Matter, stand your ground culture, and healing justice. Several departments across campus sponsored One Read-related events; ultimately more than 40 events were held as part of this year-long initiative.

Most recently, Amy organized an on-campus panel discussion featuring six authors from *A Good Time for the Truth*. Speaking to a standing-room-only crowd, they received a standing ovation and accolades from the University's president. Because of Amy's efforts reaching out to faculty, staff, and students, this One Read permeated her campus community, showcasing the library as a strong advocate for racial justice and an active partner in educating students. Amy started an important dialogue on her campus about how faculty, staff, and students talk about race.

The award is sponsored by the Academic & Research Libraries Division (ARLD) of the Minnesota Library Association. ARLD is a division of the Minnesota Library Association and is also the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) chapter in Minnesota. ARLD's purpose is to identify and seek solutions to mutual problems on the academic and research library level of librarianship, to improve services, to encourage development of librarians, and to stimulate cooperation among libraries.

## **ARLD Day 2017**

On April 27, 100 academic librarians gathered for our annual one-day ARLD Day Conference at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Our keynote speaker, Lee Van Orsdel, recently retired director at Grand Valley State University, spoke about how libraries should be a space where students can create a culture of learning. To do this, we need to align the library with students' preferred environments, give them tools to manage their own learning, and inspire, energize, and engage them. MLA members can access a recording of this inspiring presentation on the MLA website at <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/general/custom.asp?page=ConferenceVideos>.

## **Tribal Libraries Update**

Out of Minnesota's four tribal colleges, the libraries at Red Lake Nation College and Leech Lake Tribal College serve jointly as academic and community libraries, providing academic services alongside public services. As with most tribal libraries, these libraries depend on grants, mostly from federal agencies. The Native American Library Services program, administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, supports tribal libraries through its Basic and Enhancement grant opportunities. In FY 2016, 226 tribal libraries across the country received non-competitive Basic grants of up to \$7,000; 14 of these libraries also received competitive Enhancement grants of up to \$150,000.

Medweganoonind Library at Red Lake Nation College is currently leveraging an IMLS Enhancement grant to expand its public services with a special focus on providing programs for Red Lake youth. In December, library director Cassy Keyport and library assistant Jen Hart hosted a "Grinchmas" Candy Cane Hunt with activities, snacks, and games. The library continued promoting early literacy in April, when they invited families to celebrate Earth Day with a Lorax-themed story time. This summer, the library will use IMLS funds to launch its first-ever summer reading program.

Submitted by Hannah Buckland, Director of Library Services, Leech Lake Tribal College

## **Register for June 7 Webinar Let's Move in Libraries: Movement-Based Programs in Public Libraries**

You are invited to participate in this free, one hour [webinar](#) open to all on June 7, 2017, at 1 p.m. Eastern Time Zone. This webinar will feature the results of the Let's Move In Libraries survey completed earlier this year.

Thank you to the 148 public librarians who have already registered for this webinar! Based on your feedback, the outline for the webinar has been slightly adjusted, so that there is adequate time to provide you with information, ideas, and inspiration on movement-based programs you can do in your libraries. Even if you are unable to attend, I encourage you to [register](#) in advance for the webinar. It will be recorded, and we will send registrants a link to the recording.

Event: Webinar on Let's Move in Libraries: Movement-Based Programs in Public Libraries  
Event Description: More and more libraries are offering programs and services that get people of all ages and abilities up and moving. This one-hour webinar reports the preliminary findings from the first survey of movement-based programming in U.S. and Canadian public libraries. Staff from 1622 public libraries completed this survey.

This webinar will include:

- Background on this project (5 minutes) - Physical literacy and health, movement and cognition, community engagement
- Ideas for programming (15 minutes) - Overview of the diverse movement-based programs public libraries are providing for all ages and abilities throughout North America
- Survey findings (15 minutes) - What types of movement-based programs are most common? What variations exist among different types of service areas (e.g. urban versus rural) and for different populations (e.g. youth versus adult)? What outcomes does this programming produce? What challenges do libraries face as they start and sustain this programming?
- Discussion, next steps, question and answer (25 minutes) - Where do we go from here, as a profession and in our libraries?

More information: Please visit [letsmovelibraries.org](http://letsmovelibraries.org).

Contact information: Dr. Noah Lenstra, Assistant Professor of Library and Information Studies at the University of North Carolina - Greensboro, will lead this webinar. Email address: [njlenstr@uncg.edu](mailto:njlenstr@uncg.edu).

The "resources" section of the project website has been substantially re-designed. Please take a [look](#). Feedback is welcome.

## **Final Report: MLA History Day Project Complete**

The MLA History Digital Project Committee began our work with a kick-off meeting in February 2015, and completed our last batch two years later in February, 2017. Our MLA Collection in Minnesota Reflections now has a total of 591 documents and newsletters (equal to 5,291 pages of content) from our archive.

- [View the collection](#)

The content we chose to digitize, describe, and make accessible spans from 1891 to 1995. Here's a list of what we digitized:

- [Scripts](#) from a radio show called Fact Finders, created by the MLA Radio Committee and broadcast weekly from 1938-1939
- [Annual conference programs 1896-1987](#)
- [Minutes and written reports](#) from annual conferences from 1891-1987, including notes from the very first 1891 annual meeting
- The first traveling library list of books from 1898 ([6 lists](#))
- [MLA newsletters](#) from 1939 – 2005. Here are the various names of previous MLA newsletters: MLA Peddler (1939 - 1943), MLA Bulletin (1951 – 1959), Bulletin of the Minnesota Library Association (1959-1971), Journal of the Minnesota Library Association Lakeland Lib'arian and Libarian (1972), Journal of the Minnesota Library Association, North Country Librarian (1973-1974), MLA Newsletter (1974 – 2005)
- [Founding documents of the Association](#), such as the constitution

Though our initial project is complete, there is still room for more digitization projects in the future. I would like to thank the committee for their perseverance, time, and effort put into this project. The committee members and liaisons include Beth Goodrich, Marguerite Moran, Sara Ring, Maggie Snow, Elizabeth Wong, Jeanette Ward, and Jody Wurl.

Sara Ring  
Chair, MLA History Digital Project Committee

## Share Your Feedback with the Technical Services Section (TSS)

TSS wants to know how to best serve you. We are looking for input from staff in all library roles. You're invited to share your needs and preferences for communication, training, networking and more in this [survey](#).

Thank you!

## Register for Disaster Preparedness Pre-Conference Before June 12

The Greater Midwest Region office of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine will be sponsoring up to 15 public librarians to attend the Public Library Association's disaster preparedness preconference at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, IL. This preconference, 'The Librarian's Disaster Preparedness and Community Resiliency Toolkit: Librarians Fulfilling Their Role as Information 1st Responders,' will be held on Friday, June 23rd prior to the ALA conference. For full details, please go to <http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2017/05/time-running-out-enroll-pla-disaster-preparedness-preconference>.

Time is running out to register! Please email Bobbi Newman ([bobbi-newman@uiowa.edu](mailto:bobbi-newman@uiowa.edu)) before Monday, June 12th, if you are interested in attending. Our office will sponsor registration for this pre-conference, but cannot support other expenses, such as travel and lodging.

If you have a colleague in our region who is interested in this opportunity, please share on our behalf!

# Winners of the 2017 Comstock-Gág Read Aloud Books Awards Announced

For the thirteenth year, children have chosen the best read aloud picture books in the Minnesota State University Moorhead's (MSUM) Comstock-Gág Read Aloud Book Awards program.

The 2017 winner of the Wanda Gág Read Aloud Book Award for the preschool to eight-year-old category is *It Came in the Mail*, written and illustrated by Ben Clanton and published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. This humorous book reminds us that imagination is a powerful thing, especially when a child's desire for some mail encourages him to think outside the "mail" box.

The Wanda Gág Honor books are *The Darkest Dark*, written by Chris Hadfield and Kate Fillion and illustrated by Terry and Eric Fan; *The Night Gardener*, written and illustrated by Terry and Eric Fan; and *What To Do With a Box*, written by Jane Yolen and illustrated by Chris Sheban. This is the first time that an illustrator team (the Fan brothers) has won two Wanda Gág Read Aloud Honor awards in the same year.

The 2017 winner of the Comstock Read Aloud Book Award for the nine to twelve-year-old category is *Follow the Moon Home: A Tale of One Idea, Twenty Kids, and a Hundred Sea Turtles*, written by Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Meilo So and published by Chronicle Books. This book describes how a group of children in South Carolina work together on a project entitled, "Lights Out for Loggerheads." The children inspire their whole town to shut off the lights along the beach so that hatching baby turtles head for the sea lit by the moon and not towards the man-made lights on shore.

The Comstock Honor Books for 2017 are *Rules of the House*, written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Matt Myers, and *Seven and a Half Tons of Steel*, written by Janet Nolan and illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez. This is the second Comstock Read Aloud Book Award for Deborah Hopkinson, who won in 2009 for her book, *Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek*. Twenty-two regional teachers and librarians, along with 195 MSUM students read aloud over 200 picture books to almost 23,000 children during the year. The winners and honor books are determined after the Comstock-Gág Read Aloud Book Awards Committee examines feedback from readers, which includes responses from children to each of the books.

The purpose of the program is to increase literacy, promote reading aloud to children, and to recognize outstanding authors and illustrators each year. A total of 262,484 children have participated in the Comstock-Gág Read Aloud Book Awards program since its inception. Each year after the award winners are selected, the Livingston Lord Library's Curriculum Materials Center (CMC) donates a large portion of the picture books to area libraries, schools, and nonprofits. To date, over 8,600 picture books have been donated.

The awards program is administered by the staff of the MSUM Livingston Lord Library's CMC, which holds a large collection of children's books and resource materials for in-service teachers. The book awards project is partially funded by the Solomon G. Comstock Memorial Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation and the Wanda Gág Book Award Fund of the MSUM Alumni Foundation.

## MLA Board Update

The MLA Board met on Friday, May 19th. 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 May. Welcome to MLA!

- Jean Anderson
- Renee Grassi
- Karen Howell
- Rachel Howell
- Daniel Ostroot
- Jenny Rodger
- Krista Ross
- Jessie Stockwell

## **Thank you renewing members!**

MLA thanks all of those members who renewed during the month of May!

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