



Advocating for Minnesota's  
libraries, librarians and  
library staff

## Roundup

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### Strategic Plan Update

In March, MLA released a Request for Proposal to update the strategic plan from 2013. Five firms submitted bids, which were then reviewed and scored against a rubric by the subcommittee. Averages were calculated, and references contacted, and the proposal from Standerfer Consulting was approved at the May board meeting. Over the months ahead, there will be opportunities for membership to provide input during the planning process. We hope you will make your voice heard by participating in these conversations and help continue efforts to shape our organization's future.

### Call for Volunteers for New MLA Preservation Task Force

Most of the information that we create as an association is now digital: the MLA Roundup, reports from MLA committees and groups, photographs from MLA events, and more. Yet, we don't have a plan or a practice in place to make sure this content is preserved for the long term.

The MLA Preservation Task Force will work on creating a digital preservation plan for the Minnesota Library Association. The group will:

- Review existing documents like the draft MLA retention policy and other organizational digital preservation plans to form a basis of a plan for MLA.
- Investigate and revive a donor agreement with the Minnesota Historical Society for digital content if one does not already exist.

- Propose and define responsibilities for preserving content on an ongoing basis.
- Develop guidelines to share with MLA subunit leadership and the membership on archival file formats, and when to transfer content to MLA.
- Develop guidelines and/or a process for archiving the MLA newsletter and making them accessible and searchable with our other digital collection of newsletters.
- Recommend a process for gathering permissions to share and archive member-submitted photographs

The work of the task force will begin in June 2018 and extend for one year. This is a great opportunity to learn more about digital preservation and meet new colleagues! Contact Stewart Van Cleve, Task Force Chair ([vanclev1@augsborg.edu](mailto:vanclev1@augsborg.edu)) or Sara Ring, MLA Board liaison ([ring0089@umn.edu](mailto:ring0089@umn.edu)) for more information or to volunteer.

## **Save the Date for MLA/ITEM Legislative Forum and Strategy Development Day**

Please join us on August 8, 2018 to help us forge the platform for next year's legislative session.

The Legislative Forum is the traditional kick-off to the legislative year, and is open to all MLA and ITEM members. The day focuses on strategies that members can use to build support for our joint MLA/ITEM platform. The people in the room also review the platform draft, and vote to advance it to the membership meetings held during the annual fall conferences. A strong turnout at this event is the first step to a successful 2019-2020 legislative session.

For more information and to register, visit the event [page](#).

## **Applications Due July 9 for ALA's Great Stories Club Grants**

This opportunity is open to all library types who are interested in working with (or are located within) organizations that serve under-resourced youth, such as alternative high schools, juvenile justice organizations or foster care agencies.

ALA is now accepting applications for the Great Stories Club, a grant program in which library workers lead reading and discussion programs with underserved teens in their communities. Read the project guidelines and apply [online](#). Applications are due July 9. Up to 150 grants will be awarded.

## **Attend June 7 Guidance Webinar to Participate in 2018 LSTA Grant Opportunities**

State Library Services is pleased to announce two 2018 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) competitive grant opportunities.

### 2018 LSTA Competitive Grant

An estimated \$545,000 is available to fund grant proposals ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 that help to achieve Minnesota's LSTA Five-Year Plan (2018-2022). Grant awards will support projects that address LSTA Sub-goals A2, C3 and E2. The overarching goals are to reduce barriers to access, promote equity and advance digital literacy.

### 2018 LSTA Mini Grant

An estimated \$50,000 is available to fund grant proposals ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to help libraries offer programs and services that address Goal B2 in the Minnesota LSTA Five-Year Plan (2018-2022) and the World's Best Workforce legislation by preparing all children for school and ensuring all third-graders can read at grade level.

Both grants periods are estimated to start on September 15, 2018 and end September 30, 2019.

To learn more about our two current LSTA grant opportunities, please attend an upcoming grant guidance webinar -- Thursday, June 7, 2018, 2:00-3:00 p.m. There is no need to pre-register; just click on the link to attend (Call-in toll-free number: 1-888-742-5095, Conference Code: 289 945 0924). Grant applications and instructions are available on the Minnesota Department of Education's Grants Management [site](#). Visit the LSTA [webpage](#) or contact Leah Larson (651-582-8604) for more information.

We are looking for reviewers for both grant opportunities to read and score applications and participate in a half-day review discussion (the discussion may not be needed for the LSTA Mini Grants). Please contact Leah Larson (651-582-8604) for more information if you are interested.

## **The Minnesota Author Project Accepting Submissions Through June 30, 2018**

Minnesota libraries are hosting their first annual self-published author contest to recognize the great writers in our state. Winners receive \$1,000 and will be featured in *Library Journal*, a nationwide trade publication. Contest runs until June 30, 2018, and recognizes authors in the categories of young adult and adult fiction. For more details, [click here](#).

If your library needs flyers to promote the contest, contact Andrea McKennan ([andrea@melsa.org](mailto:andrea@melsa.org)). If a patron needs help getting their book ready, you can direct them to Pressbooks, an online platform you can use to organize and design your book, resulting in a professional, polished layout. [Pressbooks](#) is available for free thanks to Minnesota libraries.

## **ARLD Day 2018**

On April 27, 109 academic librarians gathered for our annual one-day ARLD Day Conference at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Our keynote speaker, Andrew Asher, an anthropologist and Assessment Librarian at Indiana University Libraries, spoke about how the anthropological practice of ethnography can be used to better understand library users, their needs, and how they actually use the library. He highlighted the [toolkit](#) he created for academic libraries to complete their own ethnographic studies, as well as several other ethnographic projects carried out in libraries. Asher followed with a breakout session on using mapping as an observational assessment tool. Slides and handouts from the keynote and breakout sessions can be found on the MLA website [here](#). A video recording of the keynote will be available for MLA members on the MLA Webinar [page](#) in the near future. Thanks to everyone who presented and attended! We hope to see you again next year.

## **MLA Board Update**

The MLA Board met on Friday, May 18th. 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!

- Ann Arnston
- Carmella Hatch
- Andrea Herman
- Lee Katzmarek
- Alyssa Matlon
- Karen Parker
- Cyndee Peterson

- Kathryn Sopa

## **Thank you renewing members!**

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

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