ANOTHER GREAT REGIONAL MEETING & TRAINING!

On Tuesday, August 28, OLA leaders and several other public, school, and academic librarians headed to Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford for a very successful regional meeting and training. The event attracted a total of 46 registrations and an actual turnout of 43.

This meeting was sponsored by the Membership Committee, the Public Library Division, and the Al Harris Library (SWOSU). The meeting time was divided into two time slots, 3:30-4:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. with the same content in each session. Attendees could choose which session they preferred or attend both. A “meet and greet” reception and OLA informational session was held at 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Sadie Mattox, Electronic Resources Librarian from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, began the event by providing an overview and update on the changes in state databases, focusing on Britannica and EBSCO. She also announced that she will be doing a more in-depth training in October on Britannica at the Weatherford Technology Center in Weatherford. Several attendees expressed interest in attending that training.

Theresa Trickey, Assistant Librarian from the Western Plains Library System in Clinton, gave a brief presentation of e-book readers, explaining how WPLS uses Overdrive to provide downloadable ebooks to their users. Since considerable interest in this topic was expressed by attendees, it could be worth-

pictures: Marty Thompson, above, and Weatherford attendees at training, courtesy of Joanne Huff). (Con’t.)
Be the change that you wish to see in the world. – Mahatma Gandhi

Those of you who live in Tulsa might remember the signs that used to (and maybe still are) posted at road construction sites throughout the city that declare “Progress as promised.” I always liked the reminder that we were enduring this temporary inconvenience to make progress and improve our situation. That’s not easy to remember when you’re stuck in traffic (or in the third 2-hour meeting of the week), but it does mean you have plenty of time to read the sign. In the August-September issue I talked about the value of the process and enjoying the journey. This issue, I’m pleased to celebrate some of the milestones we’ve already achieved. Progress as promised.

As a past treasurer and current President, the financial stability of the association stays at the forefront of my mind. At the October Endowment Committee meeting, Kay Boies announced that the check for the interest generated from our Endowment funds covered the expense of a full year’s rent for the OLA Office. This has been a goal of the Endowment since it was first created, and we have finally achieved this goal. Building the endowment remains central to ensuring the long-term vitality of the association, and I want to personally thank the Endowment Committee for their leadership and to thank our membership for generously contributing to the fund throughout the past decade. Progress as promised.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee created an excellent YouTube video to celebrate reading during Banned Books Week, our contribution to ALA’s 50 State Salute to Banned Books Week. They read an excerpt from *Grapes of Wrath*, a book that has endured challenges throughout the years but is now standard reading in Oklahoma high schools. Again, progress as promised.

Our program committee has been hard at work planning the annual conference. Ila Coffman, our fearless chair, has secured Stephen Abram as our keynote speaker and Joy Harjo as our banquet speaker/performer. ALA President, Maureen Sullivan, will be attending to present OLA Gold’s preconference and lead one of our master classes on strategic planning. The Local Arrangements and Endowment Committees are discussing the All Conference Event and DRoCs are busy securing speakers for their programs. Next year’s conference is going to be great; an event you should already be planning to attend (April 3-5, 2013 in Ardmore, OK). We are using the new venue and the theme for the year as a reason to try a few new things and see how it goes. We’re trying to “Be the Change” with how we plan conference. Yes, progress as promised.

Next week is a busy week for OLA. We have the Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books with over 100 people registered to attend. We also have TSRT’s annual workshop, this year being RDA Boot Camp, which has more than 50 people registered as of the last executive board meeting. Other DRoCs are busy planning workshops for the spring, and they also promise to be great. You guessed it—progress as promised.

And my monthly reminder to each of you: please ask yourself about what change you want to see in the association, and then talk to me about how we can work together to make it happen. I’m looking forward to a great year!

Sarah Robbins
OLA President
Regional meeting, con’t.

There were many questions for Theresa and it seemed that many librarians are currently needing reliable information to make good decisions regarding ebooks for their libraries.

Linda Pye from the SWOSU Library introduced the speakers and welcomed attendees to Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Between presentations, attendees enjoyed a “meet and greet” session with area librarians and leaders of OLA. Joanne Huff, Chair of the Membership Committee, welcomed attendees and spoke about the importance of OLA membership and the activities of the Membership Committee. Sarah Robbins, current OLA President, and Kay Boies, OLA Executive Director, provided information on the organization and activities of OLA. Calypso Gilstrap from the OLA group of Oklahoma School Librarians gave an informative talk about the activities of that group. Marty Thompson gave a presentation about the Legislative Committee, stressing the impact that the Committee’s work has on all Oklahoma libraries. Marty also provided important information about the history of OLA’s Endowment Committee and how it has helped the organization. This was another successful OLA event! What a good way to start a new year of regional meetings! The regional meetings are providing a great avenue to disseminate information about OLA and instruct area librarians on various topics, such as databases. Stay tuned to see where the next regional meeting will be! There just may be one in your area!
OKSL: Using the Core to Our Advantage

What an exciting time to be a school librarian! Every day we have more chances to prove our relevance and worth. As educators, we are coming face to face with a set of standards in Common Core that more closely aligns with our AASL standards and reinforces what many of us have been teaching for years. This goes a long way in setting us up to be the standards experts in our buildings. As collaborators, we have the unique opportunity to serve as a bridge to the new standards by helping to make them more accessible as teachers are required to live with one foot in the past that is PASS. Teachers know changes are coming, but by this point many have become too bogged down in the day to day practice of educating to have the time or energy to look much farther forward. The words ‘Common Core’ can be the hook that gets teachers interested in collaboration. This is an essential time to build relationships as we help our peers cope with the adjustments to curriculum and lay the groundwork for future collaborations. We can work together to enhance lessons and make Common Core ties to what they are already doing. School Librarians have the advantage of having written our own curriculum for years. We don’t have a textbook, and I say that with pride. Many teachers this year faced standards that they didn’t have the classroom resources for. We had the chance to step up and show teachers the value of the library and share our knowledge in curriculum development. It is important to not let this opportunity pass us by. This is our time to step up and take the lead. This is our time to strengthen ties and show everyone how much we really matter.

Teresa Lansford M.L.I.S
NBCT 2009
Lincoln Elementary
Norman, OK

Thank you to Teresa for sharing your inspirational thoughts as we move into these new standards called Common Core. Here are some additional resources that I have found to be helpful.

Abbreviations for Common Core
- CCS Common Core Standards http://www.corestandards.org/
- ELA English Language Arts refers to the English Language Arts portion of the Common Core Standards http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards
- PARCC The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers is a 23-state consortium working together to develop next-generation K-12 assessments in English and math based around the Common Core Standards. Oklahoma belongs to the PARC Consortium. http://parconline.org/
- Oklahoma C3-The Priority Academic Student Skills and the Common Core State Standards come under the umbrella of all state standards entitled Oklahoma C3 Standards - C3 standing for college, career, and citizen ready. An example is the new Oklahoma Social Studies Standards are C 3. http://ok.gov/sde/oklahoma-c3-standards
· **ALA**- American Library Association [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)
· **AASL**-American Association of School Librarians [www.ala.org/aasl](http://www.ala.org/aasl)
· **OLA**- Oklahoma Library Association [www.oklibs.org](http://www.oklibs.org)

· **Standards for the 21st-Century Learner** – AASL standards for librarians-our national standards which are the same as our Oklahoma PASS standards [http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines](http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines)
· **ISTE International Society for Technology in Education** [https://www.iste.org/](https://www.iste.org/)
· **NETS•T**- NETS for Teachers from ISTE are the standards for evaluating the skills and knowledge educators need to teach, work, and learn in an increasingly connected global and digital society. [https://www.iste.org/](https://www.iste.org/)
· **NETS•S** - ISTE's NETS for Students are the standards for evaluating the skills and knowledge students need to learn effectively and live productively in an increasingly global and digital world. [https://www.iste.org/](https://www.iste.org/)

These articles are written by Chris Harris and all have to do with collection development for the Common Core.

How to Get Started

Tricks of the Trade

Hewing to a New Standard

The End of Nonfiction

And last- a fun article that has really stirred up some interesting conversations amongst my librarian friends.

Are Dewey’s Days Numbered?

Thanks to Kathryn Lewis for sharing these useful articles. Thanks again to our OKSL members for giving me such motivation! Continue the conversation by liking us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com).

Calypso Gilstrap
OKSL Chair-elect
Two New Copyright Resources from ALA

**Complete Copyright for K–12 Librarians and Educators.** Carrie Russell. 978-0-8389-1083-2. ALA Editions: $50.00.

This belongs on the office shelf of every K-12 librarian and administrator. It is clear, reassuring, and, most importantly, up to date on the recent shift we're seeing away from guidelines and in favor of transformational use. Copyright is a confusing and sometimes scary topic, and there are misconceptions on all sides. Russell uses a mix of factual review of copyright code, summary of current thinking and case law, and examples of situations likely to be encountered in today's K-12 schools and libraries to give librarians the tools they need to make good decisions.

Russell places great emphasis on the desirability of doing a four-factors analysis on the material you want to use rather than relying on guidelines. The guidelines we have long been trained to use are outdated, haven’t kept up with technology, don’t have the force of law, and don’t reflect the current legal climate. While doing a four factors analysis for everything you want to use is more of a challenge, it is far more technology-neutral and, in current interpretation, more supportive of the aims and needs of education. She’s also very reassuring on the topic of litigation and potential damages.

There are plenty of examples of actual situations educators and librarians might face. The book goes well beyond simple questions about classroom handouts or showing movies and includes guidance on new media, student-created materials, services to the print-disabled, and extracurricular activities like performances and clubs. It includes texts of relevant laws and guidelines in a handy appendix.

**Copyright Law for Librarians and Educators: Creative Strategies and Practical Solutions, Third Edition.** Kenneth D. Crews. 978-0-8389-1092-4. ALA Editions: $57.00

This is a compact copyright course in a book. This newly revised edition, like Russell’s book, is up-to-date on recent trends and shifts in interpretation of copyright law. Crews is well-known as the creator of one of the most widely-used Four Factors worksheets for educators, easily found on the internet and included in this book. In addition to providing a very solid grounding in copyright history, code, and case law, Crews presents a variety of scenarios that might be encountered in libraries or educational institutions and walks through a fair use analysis for each situation.

Chapters on music, anticircumvention measures and DMCA, and archives and unpublished material go into greater detail on these troublesome topics. There’s also a very useful chapter on seeking permission from rights holders, and the appendix includes excerpts from the Copyright Act and a number of extremely useful checklists for Fair Use, the TEACH Act, copying for preservation, and copying for private study, as well as a model permissions request letter. An essential purchase for any librarian who deals with copyright questions, and especially useful at the college and university level.

Janet Brennan Croft
Head, Access Services
University of Oklahoma, Bizzell Library
jbcroft@ou.edu
Recently on Publib, a listserv for public libraries, a subscriber posed the question of what libraries are doing to educate the public regarding issues concerning ebooks. ( ::crickets::) The only response was from one person that pointed her to an online petition to publishers. What a missed opportunity. By not educating the public we are not only missing out on a huge opportunity for library advocacy, but we are damaging our own reputations.

This is not evident at first as libraries are trying to advocate with the publishers (though many say this is a case of too little too late), but if a library user searches on the library website for the latest Janet Evanovich book they are not going to say, “Oh, she is published by Simon and Schuster, and darn that publisher, they won’t sell to libraries!” Quite the opposite, in fact, they will blame libraries. “They can’t even order best sellers! Any monkey could do their job better!”

There are many ways in which we can approach the public regarding the issues, and it can be overwhelming. I have a rather simple method with which we can start. At my library, we frequently have customers come to the reference desk asking for help loading a library book onto their ereaders. We always give them a little cheat sheet to help them reminder what we showed them. What if that cheat sheet also contained something along the following?

Can’t find your favorite authors’ ebooks on the library website?
Did you know that three of the major six publishers, Simon & Schuster, Macmillan, and Hachette, will not sell their ebooks to libraries?
The other three major publishers will sell to libraries – but at a cost.
  Random House has charged the libraries as much as 300% of the list price for ebooks.
  HarperCollins makes the library purchase a new ebook after the original ebook has been checked out 26 times in an attempt to simulate physical wear.
  Penguin is experimenting with libraries on a limited basis, but the release of ebooks to libraries is delayed for six months after the publication date, and the ebooks are only good for a year before they must be renewed.

Why?
The bottom line is... well, the bottom line. Publishers are afraid that if libraries lend ebooks for free that it will undercut their sales. In fact, the opposite has been shown to be true. A Pew report states that 50% of library users will later purchase a book by an author they discovered in the library. Librarians are publishers’ best advertising, and it is free advertising!

What can you do?
Write your favorite authors and make them aware of the dilemmas that libraries face. Let them know that you support your local library, and that you are concerned about current publishing practices. After all, this is author’s bottom line, too. Together, we can make a difference.

Tracey Thompson, MLIS
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November 3, 1962 was an important date in Oklahoma history. It has now been fifty years since Henry Bellmon became the first Republican to be elected Governor of Oklahoma. Bellmon is credited with giving new life to the Republican Party in the state. At the time of his election Democrats outnumbered Republicans five to one. Bellmon was known to cross party lines, engaging the best person for the job regardless of party affiliation. At the end of his first term as governor, state law prohibited him from seeking a second term. His continued desire to be a public servant led him to successfully seek election (1968) and re-election (1974) to the U.S. Senate. Bellmon chose not to run for a third term and returned to the family farm in Billings, Oklahoma. In 1986 he once again entered the political arena, running for and becoming governor of the state a second time. This was the first time a person had been elected governor for two non-consecutive terms.

When the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program was in its early stages, it was housed in the Bellmon Room in the Oklahoma State University Library. A 1942 graduate of Oklahoma A&M College, it seemed appropriate to use oral history methodology to preserve more of his story. In 2008 and again early in 2009, President Burns Hargis conducted oral history interviews with Henry Bellmon. Prior to Bellmon’s passing in September 2009, he donated his papers to OSU. Adding voices to the written documentation of his life, again, seemed appropriate. The Remembering Henry Bellmon oral history project was developed with the first interviews being conducted with former ‘staffers’ in June 2010. Robert Haught, a former staffer, said Bellmon was:

...honest, hard-working, straight-talking, faithful to his principles and ideals, hard-nosed, and...he would allow his staff to say what they wanted to say about anything, but once he made up his mind about something, he was very stubborn. And some people call him “The Stubborn Dutchman.” But you have to admire somebody for not caving in to something that might be more politically desirable. He did stick to his guns on things.

Several of the narrators remarked that the world needed more Henry Bellmons. He had the ability to communicate, collaborate, and find common ground. He remained true to his roots and often returned to the farm which had been in the Bellmon family for over a century which grounded him. Researchers can follow the paper trail regarding his work as Senator and Governor and can get some of ‘the rest of the story’ through this oral history collection. The Remembering Henry Bellmon project now has twenty interviews with various people connected to Bellmon and as these oral histories are processed they will be made accessible at www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/bellmon.

—Tanya Finchum & Juliana Nykolaiszyn

Oklahoma Oral History Research Program
OSU Library
Joy Harjo to Speak at Conference Banquet

The Program Committee has been busy planning the 2013 OLA Conference to be held April 3-4, 2013 at the Ardmore Convention Center. Programs planned include the ever-popular Oklahoma author panels, cloud-based library systems, ethics, programming for boys, and Master Class Discussions lead by Oklahoma library leaders.

The conference banquet is scheduled for Wednesday April 3. We are pleased to announce Joy Harjo, an internationally known poet, performer, writer, and saxophone player of the Mvskoke/Creek Nation, will present. Following the banquet she will also be available to sign books. Her recent memoir, Crazy Brave, details her journey to becoming a poet. Born in Oklahoma, the end place of the Trail of Tears, Ms. Harjo grew up learning to dodge an abusive stepfather by finding shelter in her imagination, a deep spiritual life, and connection with the natural world. She attended an Indian arts boarding school, where she nourished an appreciation for painting, music, and poetry; gave birth while still a teenager; and struggled on her own as a single mother, eventually finding her poetic voice. Narrating the complexities of betrayal and love, Crazy Brave is a memoir about family and the breaking apart necessary in finding a voice. Harjo's tale of a hardscrabble youth, young adulthood, and transformation into an award-winning poet and musician is haunting, unique, and visionary.

Ila Coffman, Program Committee Chair
Serials Cataloger
University of Oklahoma Libraries
Oklahoma’s Tribal Government Websites: Focus on History and Culture, Part 3, Miami Nation to Peoria Tribe of Indians

Miami Nation
http://www.miamination.com

Open Culture for their cultural resources office, and historic preservation program.
Open History for “History” and “About Us”.

Open Myaamia Project at Miami University at the University of Miami I, Oxford, Ohio, and click on the “Research” link to get to research programs about the Miami conducted by the University, including traditional ethno-botany, a map of their homeland, and foods. Open “Links” to view an online dictionary and history blog, and “How the Miami People Live. One Museum Exhibition” which features an online exhibit of 188 historical objects of or about the Miami people; the link for this is http://www.myamiaexhibit.com/exhibit

Open Myaamia Heritage Museum and Archive, which is in Miami, Oklahoma.

Open Myaamia Foundation. This foundation works to revitalize the Miami culture and language and has its own website at http://www.myamiafoundation.com/

Modoc Tribe
http://www.modoctribe.net/history.html

The homepage has a lengthy history of the Modoc.
Open History/Photos for the history of their removal from their homelands.

News/newsletters: http://www.modoctribe.net/news.html

Muscogee (Creek)
http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Open Creek History for their museum, “Cultural Preservation” which includes links for their Library and the files “Mvskoke Customs and Traditions” and “Historic Sites in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation,” and “Language” for an online “Mvskoke Dictionary”.
TV: “Native News Today” can be watched from the homepage
Oklahoma webpages, con’t

Osage
http://www.osagetribe.com
Open Culture for “Cultural Center” which includes their Library and Museum, links to “Cultural Classes” on such topics as “Fingerweaving” and “Peyote Stitch,” and “Language Department” which features online language videos and history of the language.

Open Media for their audios and videos archive.

Otoe-Missouria Tribe
http://www.omtribe.org

Open Culture for “History,” “Language,” “Otoe War Mothers” which includes a video, and their Library and Museum.

http://www.omtribe.org/index.php?online-newsletter

Ottawa Tribe
http://www.ottawatribe.org/

Open Cozy Quilters and History Archives Library which includes a history of the Ottawa

News/newsletters: http://www.ottawatribe.org/newsletter/

Pawnee Nation
http://www.pawneenation.org

Open Pawnee History for a history of the Pawnee.

News/newsletters: http://www.pawneenation.org/news

Peoria Tribe of Indians
http://www.peoriatribe.com/history.php

Open History for a history of the Peoria.


Steve Beleu
Federal Documents Coordinator
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Kristy Merchant wins 2012 OKSL Polly Clarke Award

The 25th Annual Polly Clarke award was given to Kristi Merchant at the 2012 Oklahoma Technology Association/Encyclomedia Conference in Oklahoma City. The Polly Clarke Award is awarded to a librarian who has been instrumental in the establishment of an exemplary library media program which serves the instructional needs of teachers, students, and administrators. The award is named in honor of Dr. Polly Clarke, who was a champion of school library programs during her twenty six year tenure at Northeastern State University.

Kristi Merchant is the school librarian at Patrick Henry Elementary in Tulsa. Her school library program serves students in Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. As part of her personal mission Kristi wants, “everyone to fall in love with the library and know that it is vital to their lives.” When asked about the role of a school librarian, Kristi stated that, “My job is to make sure all users have the knowledge skills to access and effectively use information resources and technology to enhance their learning and understanding.” Kristi is a vital leader at her school and took a school library program that was on a fixed schedule to one that is flexible, which allows her time to work collaboratively with teachers and meet the needs of all students.

After reviewing her application for the Polly Clarke Award judges reactions were; “She’s incredible,” “Wow! Very deserving of this award.” The Oklahoma School Librarians are proud to acknowledge Kristi Merchant as the latest recipient of their highest honor. OKSL would also like to thank Wendell Fields and Follett Library Services for sponsoring the award.

Written by:
Stacy Ford, Librarian at Will Rogers College Jr. High and High School, Tulsa, and
Stephanie Brucks, Librarian at Kennedy School in Norman.
Save the Date
Oklahoma Library Association
Annual Conference
April 3-5, 2013
Ardmore Convention Center
This beautiful exhibit catalog celebrates a new era in the University of Oklahoma’s endeavors to preserve, exhibit, and encourage teaching and scholarship in the arts. It highlights the opening of the new Stuart Wing of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art on the Norman campus. The Jones Museum and the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa are joint stewards of the extensive collection made by the Eugene Brady Adkins, a Tulsa native and successful businessman. Born in 1920, Adkins often spent summers in New Mexico as a child. He served during World War II and attended college out of state, but returned to Tulsa in the 1960s, a period which saw a new growth of interest in Western and Southwestern art. Adkins became a knowledgeable and discerning collector, carrying on the legacy of Frank Phillips and Thomas Gilcrease.

The Adkins collection includes over 3,000 objects, including more than 400 paintings by noted and less-known painters of the American West and Southwest such as, Ernest L. Blumenschein, Oscar Beringhaus, Eanger Irving Couse, Nicolai Fechin, Leon Gaspard William R. Leigh, Gustave Baumann, Joseph Henry Sharp, Walter Ufer, and many others. Many of these artists were members of the Taos Society of Artists, or attended the Institute of American Indian Arts. Among the American Indian painters, Adkins collected traditional paintings such as works by Tonita Peña (Quah Ah), Otis Polelonea, Harrison Begay, Andrew Tsiahjahnnie, Quency Tahoma, and J.D. Roybal. The styles and contributions of younger artists such as Valjean Hessing, Helen Hardin (Ts-Sah-Wee-Eh) Mary Morez, Tony Da, Dan Namingha, and Tony Abeyta are also represented.

While painting seems to predominate in this catalog, Adkins’ collections also feature American Indian pottery, some baskets and other textiles, and an impressive array of jewelry. The items shown include both Euro-American and Native art, reflecting a growing dialog between Native and non-Native cultures. Indian pottery, jewelry, and basketry in the collection are fairly well represented in the illustrations. Pueblo pottery examples include not only several families of San Ildefonso, but also works by potters from Zia, Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Santa Clara, Nambe, and Cochiti. Overall, there are fewer illustrations of sculpture and photography, which may not be so well represented in the Adkins Collection. One would also hope to see further publications on the collection’s textiles and basketry.

The Adkins catalog is plentifully illustrated: in a book of approximately 250 pages there are 178 plates showing the color and visual qualities of the art, as well as other illustrations featuring details of selected works. Introductory essays for the collection, and for each of the sections on art genres, help the reader to understand the history and importance of the art as an expression of its unique region. The essays were written by faculty members of the OU School of Art or curators at the Rockwell Museum of Western Art, the Philbrook Museum, or the Jones Museum. All the authors are experts in their fields. Both museums house and exhibit works from the Adkins collection, which makes a significant addition to each museum’s holdings in American Indian art.

The Jones Museum opened a new wing in 2010 to exhibit its part of the Adkins Collection. The Philbrook Museum has plans to locate its Indian art in a facility in the downtown area within the next few years. In addition to reading the book, readers will want to visit both the museums from time to time, to see which works from the collection are currently on exhibit. (Web addresses below.)

**Summing up:** *The Eugene B. Adkins Collection: Selected Works* helps to educate Oklahomans (and others around the world) about the rich art resources found within our borders. This catalog belongs in all Oklahoma libraries.

Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, OU: Homepage: [http://www.ou.edu/content/fjjma.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/fjjma.html)
Eugene B. Adkins Collection page, (largely photographs of selected items from the collection) [http://www.ou.edu/content/fjjma/experience/collections/featuredCollections/adkins/](http://www.ou.edu/content/fjjma/experience/collections/featuredCollections/adkins/)

—Helen Clements, Oklahoma State University
Associate Professor and Social Sciences Reference Librarian
A Pony for the Library

By Patti Lehman

Project Patron started as a dream plan in 2005: an expansion for the Antlers Public Library highlighting Antlers as the Deer Capital of the World and Pushmataha County’s Choctaw heritage. The plan conjured pictures of a Barnes and Noble bookstore decorated like a Bass Pro Shop. Seven years, 3 major grants, and many fundraisers later, the construction of the 1,620 square feet expansion was complete. Time for the renovation and redesign phase to begin.

The children’s area was to mimic a corral like the one featured on the grounds of the Choctaw Nation Capitol Museum in Tuskahoma. (see left).

It was to include a small fence to close in the area created by the bookshelves, a custom green carpet to simulate grass, a hollowed out log as a horse trough to hold board books, a Hasbro Fur Real Smores toy pony, a storyboard featuring the Choctaw story of the corn, and a storyboard about Choctaw life.

After an article in the Biskinik (July 2010) on the story of the Choctaw pony, plans changed. Instead of a storyboard about Choctaw life, a storyboard on Choctaw ponies seemed to fit in better with the “corral” design.

After meeting with Francine Bray, author of the article, about live Choctaw horses and the similarities with the Smores horse with its long mane and painted coat, the search to secure the toy pony became a priority.

The search began at the original source identified in 2005, HasbroToyShop.com, but soon spread to the Internet at large. After several emails to retail stores, it seemed the Smores pony was no longer available at retail outlets. A listing on EBay brought hope, but all of the listings were “pick up” only, until communications with a New York seller in August 2012. The seller thought that the item could be shipped at a local UPS outlet for around fifty dollars. The library won the auction on an excellent condition Furreal S’mores Pony for $119. Unfortunately, when the seller took the pony to the local UPS store in Bellmore, NY to ship it, her estimate was a bit off. Not only did the UPS store not have a box big enough in stock, but they estimated the cost to be approximately $200 to pack and ship the pony. (con’t).
Now the library was the proud owner of a toy pony, but it had not budgeted $200 for shipping costs. The library had a grant for renovations, but all the money was allocated to other projects. In a panic to get the horse out of the hands of the EBay seller, the nearest local public library, Bellmore Public Library, was contacted to see if they would be open to “babysitting” the pony until the Antlers Library could figure out how to ship the pony to Antlers within the $50 budget.

Bellmore Library Director, Maureen Garvey, graciously accepted delivery of the pony, noting that it was definitely the strangest request she had received as a librarian. The call went out to Antlers Library friends requesting transit ideas. One patron suggested placing the pony on USHIP.com to garner shipping quotes, which the library did to no avail. Another patron offered to ride her to Antlers from New York. He was informed of the pony’s eighty pound weight limit and “stuffed” status. Others offered to start a collection to fund the freight costs.

In the meantime, Bellmore librarians enjoyed their babysitting stint. Maureen, Bellmore Library Director emailed, “What about putting something on Craig’s list to try to get people to bring Daphne (that’s what we’re calling her) across county, dropping her off in libraries along the way, until she gets there? OK - maybe not - she could wind up the worse for wear, or even get lost! Or worse, pony-napped, because she's pretty irresistible! Let me know how you are doing. Meanwhile, rest assured that she is doing just fine here in Bellmore.”

After sending out the word of the donation collection for Daphne’s trip home, library patron Jennifer Davis thought she might have a solution. Her daughter, Jessica, is a flight attendant for jetBlue and regularly travels to New York from her home in Boston. Jessica just happened to a have a trip planned home to Antlers the first week in September.

Jessica spoke with the librarians in Bellmore to facilitate a trade. Maryann, a clerk in Bellmore’s Children’s Room, was heading to JFK to pick up her son who was flying in to see an injured friend. Not only did Jessica fly to New York in time to meet with Maryann, but also arranged a “buddy” pass for her son to fly on. The exchange went without incident until the JFK airport security denied entry to Daphne in an unwrapped state. Thankfully, Jessica had brought a friend along to help. They were able to get Daphne shrink wrapped and on the flight back to Jessica’s home in Boston.
Jessica and Daphne made the flight into Dallas and the drive to Antlers on September 7, 2012. The library wished it could have had a homecoming parade and a finished corral for her to live in; instead, many well wishes and smiling faces welcomed her to Antlers. Daphne arrived with Jessica, her mother Jennifer, and her two sisters Jessalyn and Skylar.

Daphne has been renamed Anya (aw-ya), which is Choctaw for traveler. Daphne was a cute name, but not quite Choctaw enough for the Choctaw pony. She is the first piece to arrive of the new Children’s Corral (Vlla Aiapitta in Choctaw). She has been oohed and aahed over by children and adults alike. In reality, a toy pony may seem frivolous in the big scheme of things, but this pony has become a symbol: a symbol of a dream come true, of libraries working together, and of a community’s active interest in their public library.

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