State Government Website Named ALA Notable Document

An Oklahoma website that improves citizen access to state government information has been named a 2012 Notable Document by the American Library Association’s Government Documents Round Table! The site, Documents.OK.Gov, was created in response to 2011 state legislation, the “Transparency, Accountability and Innovation in Oklahoma State Government 2.0 Act.” The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) collaborated with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) to launch the service in 2012.

“The state’s chief information officer was actually charged by the legislation to create the site,” according to Gary Phillips, administrator of the Oklahoma Publications Clearinghouse at ODL. “But since the Clearinghouse has been capturing online state publications for some time, it was logical that we approach OMES to cooperate.”

ODL Web Editor Michael O’Hasson and Library Resources Administrator Kitty Pittman worked with OMES staff to develop ways for agencies to upload documents and forms to the site. The service provides access to thousands of state publications and documents. “We use the same management software we use for ODL’s digital collections to help the public access these state documents,” Pittman said. Documents.OK.Gov is part of ODL’s larger digital collections that can be found at DigitalPrairie.OK.Gov.

Phillips notes that more and more ALA Notable Documents are in electronic format. “The recognition has always been about highlighting the diverse and important information available in federal, state and local government publications. Today, we’re also seeing more honorees that are cited for the ways they’re improving information access through electronic means.”

Almost 100 Oklahoma publications have received the ALA Notable Documents recognition since the program began in 1983. More recent honorees include the Oklahoma Water Atlas, the Oklahoma Aviation Story, Out of the Dust: The History of Conservation in Oklahoma in the 20th Century, and Another Hot Oklahoma Night: A Rock and Roll Story. Both ODL and OMES have received commendations from Governor Mary Fallin for implementing the website. Find out more at Documents.OK.Gov.

Bill Young — Public Information Officer, Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
From the President

I have been enjoying these past few months as OLA President. My first official duty was speaking at the Information Matrix Camp in July. I enjoyed speaking to potential future librarians about how I became a librarian and providing them with information about OLA. (I attached the information to a Hershey’s candy bar as a bribe to get them to read the information!) I have also been attending meetings of DROCs (Divisions, Roundtables and Committees) and am so impressed with the enthusiasm of each group and their plans for workshops, conference programs and general membership activities. Many groups have incorporated my theme “OLA Ring True” into program ideas and conference baskets.

Save the dates March 31-April 2, 2014 on your calendar for the OLA conference in Tulsa. Local Arrangements Committee co-chairs, Jessica Reed and Michelle Beckes, along with Program Chair, Jenny Stenis, Executive Director Kay Boies, and yours truly recently visited the conference site at the Southern Hills Marriott. We saw the conference rooms, vendor hall, guest rooms and were treated to a fabulous lunch at the hotel’s restaurant. This venue will be perfect for our conference.

Be sure to also mark your calendar for upcoming workshops in October. These include GODORT/Legislative Committee workshop “The Two Way: Creating Conversations that Strengthen and Grow Communities” on Oct. 15 at the Southwest Library in Oklahoma City and the Technical Services Round Table workshop “Bee Informed: Taking the Sting Out of RDA” (Resource Descriptive Data) on Oct. 25 at the Northwest Library in Oklahoma City. To register, go to the OLA website: [www.oklibs.org](http://www.oklibs.org)

OLA is one of the hosts for the first ever “Oklahoma Performer’s Showcase” on September 12 at the Stillwater Public Library. Performers from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Texas and Kansas will be presenting their talents. The event is free and registration is available on EventBrite at: [http://showcase13.eventbrite.com/](http://showcase13.eventbrite.com/). More information is available on OLA website: [www.oklibs.org](http://www.oklibs.org)
Pres. Con’t.

A reminder from our Membership Committee: Membership renewals are now determined by the anniversary from your last renewal. To determine your renewal date, log into your OLA account at www.oklibs.org, or contact Kay Boies at the OLA office (405) 525-5100. Since memberships used to run July through June, many memberships still have the July 1 anniversary date and are up for renewal. Be sure you are up to date and renew today!

It’s not too late to join a DROC. You can join a Division or Roundtable when you pay your membership dues and you can join a committee by completing a committee preference form online at: www.oklibs.org. Those requests come directly to me and I will get you in touch with the committee chair. Please feel free to contact me at president@oklibs.org

Lynda Reynolds

Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) News!

The Mountain Plains Library Association/South Dakota Library Association and North Dakota Library Association is gearing up for the 2013 Tri-Conference which will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota September 25-27. Join us for a terrific conference that will be packed with lots of interesting sessions. Are school libraries your thing? Tri-Conference 2013 has sessions on how to address the Common Core, how to re-educate your administration, what digital literacy means to you and your students, best books for teens . . . and more! Attend sessions on the benefits of a positive attitude, maintaining excellence in order to meet the needs of all our patrons, how to moderate focus groups, and the power of visualizing library data in order to tell a better story at Tri-Conference 2013.

The 2014 MPLA Leadership Institute is now seeking applicants! Scheduled for May 2014 in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado (YMCA of the Rockies), the Leadership Institute will again be facilitated by nationally known organizational consultant and past ALA President Maureen Sullivan. The application deadline is Friday, November 1. For more information on the 2014 Institute, and the application form, go to http://www.mpla.us/leadership/

Congratulations to the newly elected MPLA officers. Their terms will begin at the Tri-conference in September. The Vice-President/President-Elect is Annie Epperson, Head of Reference Services, University of Northern Colorado Michener Library, Greeley, CO and the Recording Secretary is Melissa Clark - Information Services Librarian, South Dakota State University Briggs Library, Brookings, SD.

Leslie Langley, Wister Public Library
Langley@oklibrary.net; 918-655-7654
C3, Common Core Standards and School Librarians!

A new school season has begun, and as we prepare for another successful academic year, librarians are in a prime position. Oklahoma is currently transitioning from Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS) to Oklahoma Academic Standards, which is called C3 and includes Common Core Standards. C3 stands for Colleges, Careers, and Citizenship, with high expectations for students to complete before moving to the next grade level and graduation from high school. These standards now require more project based learning. This is an exciting time for us! School librarians are the ones who can be the true leaders in their schools and districts because this is what we do best. We are skilled at providing resources and helping students and teachers access and use them efficiently and effectively.

This past weekend I dropped off my daughter at college. During the convocation one of the professors spoke about how everyone must go through changes. The scary feelings mixed in with the excitement of something new are natural and what he likes to refer to as a “beautiful mess.” As I reflected about his message I realized we are in the middle of a “beautiful mess,” with modifications being made to our state curriculum. Our teachers are struggling with the high expectations, but if you look closely at our Standards for the 21st Learner, you will see how similar they are to ones we have already been doing. We know the school library should be the center of all academic learning, and this transition puts us right there. We are the ones with the tools and strategies to tackle this beautiful mess and make learning more meaningful.

While the rest of the education community comes to terms with the changes, we need to remain open-minded and continue to collaborate with others. Librarians can be true models for the transition process as we share ideas and strategies transforming our lessons into the inquiry approach necessary for students. OKSL is taking on the challenge, and we are currently working on ways to make it even easier to communicate with others. Please join us at Ency-loMedia on Oct. 1st & 2nd. There will be numerous sessions to energize your efforts, and we look forward to visiting with each of you as you stop by our booth. Remember this is our time to SHINE!

Kristi Merchant, LMS
Patrick Henry Elementary
Tulsa Public Schools
(918)746-9168
iCon 2013 a Grand Success!!

Thanks to the hard work of Jason Gonzales and the members of OLA’s Information Technology Roundtable (ITRT), iCON 2013 was very successful this year with 77 attendees. Keynote speaker George Needham, Vice President, Global and Regional Councils, OCLC, kicked off the conference, which was held at Rose State College in Midwest City, OKC. Needham gave a lively discussion on how librarians can connect with people in their communities. Using humor and a positive outlook, Needham discussed the changing nature of libraries and how to use methods that reach in interesting directions for drawing in library patrons and support. A wonderful storyteller, with an obvious wit, Needham went on to give a second presentation on implementing change later in the afternoon.

Other conference presentations covered technology best practices, software, and creative twists, such as, the innovative 3-D printer being used by the Muskogee Public Library. Michael Wooten, Manager of Google’s Data Center, in Pryor, Oklahoma, presented our conference wrap up by discussing some of the media myths about Google and how to be safe in today’s growing online environment.

This was a very successful conference, and we hope to see even more OLA’ers there in two years for iCon 2015!

Kate Blalack, Archivist—Woodie Guthrie Center

Photos: Above: Keynote speaker George Needham opens iCON 2013. Right: Conference room glows with interested attendees! (photos courtesy of Kate Blalack)

CORRECTION: Last month’s article on Icon was written by Jason Gonzales, not Kate Blalack. We have corrected the online version to reflect this. Sorry Jason!
As another school year begins we would like to take this opportunity to encourage the use of oral histories in the classroom, from integration within the curriculum to students serving as interviewers for oral history-related projects and activities. *Oral History Projects in Your Classroom* by Linda P. Wood is an 87-page guide written for teachers and is recommended by the Oral History Association. The guide, available through online booksellers and libraries, includes examples of forms, handouts, curriculum ideas and discussion questions.

Oral histories are also a great way for students to get acquainted with their teachers. Several of the oral history projects conducted by the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program include interviews with teachers, some retired, some not. Mary Easley, Daisy Lawler, Nancy Virtue Lewis, Barbara Staggs and Kathleen Wilcoxson, interviewed as part of the Women of the Oklahoma Legislature project, are all former educators. Teachers are often role models for future educators, as Barbara Staggs shared during her interview:

*My very favorite aunt...was a wonderful teacher. In the summertime when my mother needed a break from me...I would always go down and stay with them [aunt and uncle]...and learned a lot about teaching. She was a fantastic social studies teacher, and I decided I wanted to be a teacher.*

And then I had good teachers in college and good teachers in K through 12, only no K when I was growing up. All of them made good impressions on me. I wanted to be like many of them, an attribute or two from one and an attribute or two from the other, and so I made up my mind to do that.

Chloe Brown, another educator interviewed as part of the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame Oral History Project also shared her inspiration:

*I can remember a teacher who was so inspirational and inspiring in my life, because I didn’t have a very good self-concept. I felt like I was too tall and didn’t have the right look. She said to me one day, “You can be anything you want to be. Stand up tall. Stand up straight. Aim for the moon, and you’ll fall among the stars,” and that’s when I decided I wanted to be an educator because she made me feel so good inside.*

*When I would come to her classroom it was like everybody is accepted, everybody is important, everybody is somebody and I said, “You know, one day, I’m going to be a teacher and I’m going to be a drum major for those kids who feel low self-esteem and who feel like they don’t measure up or they’re not good enough or they’re from the wrong side of the track or they don’t have what it takes.” So, I remember her.*

If you need assistance incorporating oral history into the classroom, the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the OSU Library is available to answer questions. Feel free to give us a call at 405-744-7685 or e-mail liboh@okstate.edu.

—Tanya Finchum & Juliana Nykolaiszyn
Oklahoma Oral History Research Program
What’s New @ OU Libraries?

It was about this time last year that OU Libraries announced the arrival of Rick Luce, the new Associate Vice President for Research on the Norman campus and Dean of University Libraries. Since that announcement, OU Libraries has undergone numerous changes to its organizational structure, its facilities, and its online presence.

In fall 2013, OU Libraries hosted a series of focus groups with faculty, students, and OU administrators. This input was used to draft the OU Libraries' Strategic Plan, *The New Horizon for OU Libraries* (now available online at: [http://libraries.ou.edu/file.ashx?id=6](http://libraries.ou.edu/file.ashx?id=6)). This plan outlines the many initiatives planned for the future and is organized around five strategic directions: (1) creating excellence in the library experience by envisioning a master renovation plan, establishing a collaboratorium, and enhancing information discovery; (2) building on excellence in special collections through enhancing access, increasing awareness, building a living library, and integrating primary source materials into the curriculum; (3) supporting OU campus research by establishing a digital scholarship lab, facilitating data curation and preservation, and building collaborative partnerships; (4) charting a new role for scholarly communication at OU by providing easy access to OU research and supporting open educational resources; and, (5) strengthening skills and capabilities through investing in career development and attracting new talent.

Progress has already been made in some of these areas. At the start of the school year, OU Libraries launched a new information discovery system to streamline access to our myriad online resources. OU is also collaborating with Oklahoma State University on SHAREOK (shareok.org), a joint institutional repository. We have a new digitization laboratory nearing completion that provides state-of-the-art facilities and equipment for digitizing rare works from our special collections. The plans have been approved for the Collaborative Learning Center, also known as the Collaboratorium, to be located on lower level one of Bizzell Memorial Library, and construction begins soon. This space will provide a collaborative environment where students can work on group projects, utilize geo-spatial tools, edit video for a class, video conference with universities across the globe, analyze data in the humanities in ways never before possible, or simply sit down for coffee with friends.

OU Libraries has also made some strategic hires to build expertise in key areas of growth. Some of the key hires include: Carl Grant, Associate Dean for Knowledge Services and Chief Technology Officer; Pat Hawthorne, Associate Dean for Exploration and Engagement; Tim Rasnic, Director of Development; Jeff Widener, GIS Librarian; Brian Shults, Digitization Laboratory Coordinator; and, Stacy Zemke, Open Educational Resources Coordinator.

These hires, among others, assist in growing capacity to achieve many of the goals set forth in the strategic plan.

To follow the many changes underway at OU Libraries, visit libraries.ou.edu/updates.

*By Sarah Robbins, OU Libraries, Director of Public Relations & Strategic Initiatives*
How Will RDA Records Look in Your Catalog?

Well, here’s the classic 21st century answer to anything: it depends. And what does it depend on? Whatever ILS your library is using. In some, there will still be traditional display conventions and RDA record elements won’t change the record’s look very much. But in other ILS systems, your OPAC administrator may have a chance to make some choices about what record elements will be displayed, when, and how. But here are some of the things you might see with RDA catalog records.

Subject keywords and headings. There may be keywords that users can click on, which can link them to other titles. And, they may be labeled as keywords. LC subject headings may also be linked, so that users can click on them and do a subject search. And genre headings may be displayed separately from the rest of the subject headings, with the label “Genre”.

TOC and summary notes. A summary and/or table of contents may be much more noticeably displayed than in the past (not to mention a lot longer). This is because in RDA, the table of contents and summary notes are considered to be elements that will help users decide if a title has information that they need. As a result, table of contents notes are more common and they are much more detailed, as well as summary notes that are like abstracts in articles—they give the user an idea of what the title is about. Keywords can also be drawn from them.

Abbreviations
Some of the features that you’re used to seeing in catalog records, like various English-centric abbreviations, no longer appear in RDA records. Instead, they’re spelled out. Such as? Well, ill. for illustrations … p. for pages … Dept. for department … Pub. for Publishing … [et al.] for [and others] … O.T. for Old Testament and N.T. for New Testament … I could go on and on. There was a long list of abbreviations that are not used in RDA. The whole purpose of abbreviating was to fit a maximum amount of information on a printed catalog card. Now, however, space is not a problem. But if you liked the abbreviations, don’t fret—there are still millions of existing AACR2 records with many of the abbreviations intact, as yet. OCLC is changing them, but in phases.

Brief Record
Depending on your ILS, some of the record elements might be displayed on separate lines. Such as? The publisher’s name, the publication date, the ISBN/ISSN numbers, and the OCLC control number. And of the physical extent (300 field), only the paging may be displayed … or not. The brief record displayed as part
of the search results may be even briefer than in the past, and show no more than the author, title (possibly a
date) and maybe a cover image. (Some systems can link cover images to the records, if available). As a matter of
fact, many parts of an RDA catalog record can be broken up behind the scenes, reordered and separated,
or displayed with user-friendly labels in your OPAC. Some of those new codes used in the RDA fields for con-
tent, media type, and carrier type might display with different labels. For instance, if the content type code is
“text,” it may be displayed in the OPAC as a “book”. The RDA codes can be translated into more user-friendly
words...or not displayed at all...it just depends!

More Details

Title: The old Italian school of singing
Subtitle: a theoretical and practical guide
Alternate Title: The old Italian school of singing: a theoretical and practical guide
Library Location: Main Library
Source: Oklahoma State University-Stillwater Library Catalog
Publisher: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers
Date: 2012
Place: Jefferson, N.C., and London
Pages: v, 213 pages
LCCN: 2011052316
OCLC: ocn733232523
ISBN: 0786461535, 9780786461530
 Discipline: Music
Subjects: Singing -- Instruction and study -- History.
Language: English

Summary

This work describes in accessible language the technical foundations of the Old Italian Scho
reader to grasp the teachings of the old masters theoretically and practically. The research fr
old treatises from the 1700's onwards but also firsthand testimonies, biographies and recor
The author systematically takes us through the basic elements of historical singing with pra
RDA, con’t.

With RDA, the idea is to have information about a title in well-defined fields that can be translated more easily to the web. Even if your local ILS or OPAC displays haven’t changed, the lack of abbreviations, the tables of contents, and the summary notes are going to be noticeable and, hopefully, will make the records a little easier for our users to read and interpret.

Michele Seikel
Associate Professor and Cataloger
Oklahoma State University Libraries

Calling All Members!

Membership renewals are now determined by the anniversary from your last renewal. To determine your renewal date, log into your OLA account at www.oklibs.org, or contact Kay Boies at the OLA office (405) 525-5100. Since memberships used to run July through June, many memberships still have the July 1 anniversary date and are up for renewal. Be sure you are up to date and renew today!

Joanne Huff
Library Technical Assistant
WOSC – LRC
Altus, OK
580-477-7948

Reminder!!!

The deadline for the next Oklahoma Librarian is October 15, 2013. Please send articles on what your library is doing, what your DROC is doing (a workshop?), and who’s who in your library. Do you have a topic of interest? Write an article! Do you want to review a book? Contact Janet Croft, jbcroft@ou.edu, our book editor! Get involved! This is YOUR newsletter and a way to let everyone in the state know what YOU are doing for libraries in Oklahoma!

Barbara Miller, editor
editor@oklibs.org
Live, From Your Town, on Saturday Afternoon, it’s LIBRARIANS!

In the summer of 2010, Cathie Sue Andersen sent me a copy of *The Wager*, a teen novel by Donna Jo Napoli. She wanted to know if I’d be interested in reviewing it. Not on paper, she explained, but as part of a “podcast”. I had heard of podcasts, but some readers may not have, so here’s a quick definition.

A podcast is something like an asynchronous radio program. A person or persons records themselves and publishes it on the web, and listeners can go online and listen to any episode they want, at any time. The term comes from the Apple iPod, which was the first platform, via the iTunes music service, where people could easily keep up with such things.

When I was invited, the podcasters had already recorded a couple of episodes, reviewing *White Cat* by Holly Black and *Incarceron* by Catherine Fisher. The team was stellar, consisting of Emily Williams from Metropolitan, Jenny Stenis from Pioneer, Cathie Sue from TCCL, and fearless leader Adrienne Butler from ODL. I was invited as a sub for Jenny, but became a permanent member of the crew in September, with our group discussion of *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins.

Each episode features the main discussion by the full group, followed by independent reviews and recommendations. Over time, the format has evolved to match the needs of listeners. We now have a shorter discussion time that stands alone, and the indie reviews have spun off into a separate recording. Our recommendations are archived on Pinterest, and we’re adding written reviews and other goodies to the podcast blog at [http://yalitlovers.oklibshare.org](http://yalitlovers.oklibshare.org).

It’s been a great experience. We travel back and forth between the OKC and Tulsa sides of the state, recording in places as far-flung as Stillwater and Sequoyah State Park. We will return to Stillwater for our August recording sessions, with host and special guest podcaster Scott Freeman joining us. In September, we will be at the beautiful library in downtown Perkins, recording our semi-annual review of picture books.

When you have a chance, visit the blog to see what we’re doing, and follow the iTunes link to listen and subscribe. I think you’ll be glad you did! And if you’d like to contribute written reviews or even join us on the podcast, contact Adrienne.

--Karl G. Siewert, MLIS --

Instructor/Librarian at NSU Broken Arrow
Encyclo-Media Conference

Oklahoma City Cox Convention Center Oct. 1-2

You’re invited!

Several events will benefit all librarians, including the the OKSL Luncheon featuring Ruta Sepetys!

Featured Speakers:

Doug Johnson has been the Director of Libraries and Technology for the Mankato (MN) Public Schools since 1991 and has served as an adjunct faculty member of Minnesota State University since 1990. His teaching experience has included work in grades K-12, both here and in Saudi Arabia. He is the author of nine books, including Teaching Right from Wrong in the Digital Age; Machines are the Easy Part, People are the Hard Part; and The Classroom Teachers Survival Guide to Technology. His columns appear in ASCD’s Educational Leadership and in Library Media Connection. Doug’s Blue Skunk Blog averages over 50,000 visits a month, and his articles have appeared in over forty books and periodicals. Doug has conducted workshops and given presentations for over 200 organizations throughout the United States and internationally and has held a variety of leadership positions in state and national organizations, including ISTE and AASL.

Kathy Schrock has been a school district Director of Technology, an instructional technology specialist, a middle school, academic, museum, and public library librarian, and is currently an online adjunct graduate-level professor at two universities. Kathy has been involved with technology to support teaching and learning since the early 1990’s, and is an Adobe Education Leader, a Google Certified Teacher, a Sony Education Ambassador, and a Discovery Education STAR and a DEN Guru. In 1995, she created her award-winning site, Kathy Schrock’s Guide for Educators, to help teachers easily wade through the many resources on the Web. In 1999, Kathy partnered with Discovery Education and she maintained the site until late 2012 when the site was retired.

In addition to teaching online, Kathy writes, speaks, blogs, tweets, and conducts professional development workshops, presentations, and keynotes throughout the world. She is known for her practical presentations dealing with pedagogically sound practices for the embedding of technology seamlessly into teaching and learning. Her passions are online tools to support classroom instruction, the role of emerging technologies in the classroom, infographics, tablets in the classroom, copyright and intellectual property, and gadgets of any type! You can find her on Twitter (@kathyschrock), Skype (kathyschrock), Google+, and on many other social networks!

Kathy has written hundreds of articles dealing with technology and education and has authored several books about edtech topics. In addition, she has received numerous awards for her work, including a People's Choice Webby, the ISTE and MassCUE Making IT Happen Award, the NCTIES Service Learning Award, has served on the ISTE Board of Directors twice, and has worked with the US Department of Education on several educational technology initiatives.
Encylo-Media, con.t

**Featured Authors**

**Gennifer Choldenko** is the New York Times bestselling and Newbery Honor Award–winning author of ten children’s books, including *Notes from a Liar and Her Dog, If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period, Al Capone Does My Shirts, Al Capone Shines My Shoes, and No Passengers Beyond This Point*. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, their two children, and a dog named Sasha.

**Ruta Sepetys** is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller *Between Shades of Gray*. The award-winning novel was inspired by her family's history in Lithuania and is now published in over 40 countries. Her new bestselling novel, *Out of the Easy*, combines her love of research, scandal, and young women overcoming obstacles in a historical setting. Ruta lives with her family in Tennessee.

Books have always been a part of **Wendelin Van Draanen's** life. Her mother taught her to read at an early age, and she has fond memories of story time with her father, when she and her brothers would cuddle up around him and listen to him read stories. Growing up, Van Draanen was a tomboy who loved to be outside chasing down adventure. She did not decide that she wanted to be an author until she was an adult. When she tried her hand at writing a screenplay about a family tragedy, she found the process quite cathartic and from that experience, turned to writing novels for adults. She soon stumbled upon the joys of writing for children. Feedback from her readers is Van Draanen's greatest reward for writing. “One girl came up to me and told me I changed her life. It doesn't get any better than that,” she said. Van Draanen hopes to leave her readers with a sense that they have the ability to steer their own destiny, that individuality is a strength, and that where there's a will, there's most certainly a way. Her first book was published in 1997, and since then her titles have won many awards. Now in its sixteenth installment, the Sammy Keyes Mysteries have been nominated for the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Children's Mystery five times, with *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief* bringing home the statue. Additionally, she has won the Christopher medal for *Shredderman: Secret Identity*, the California Young Reader Medal for *Flipped*, and the Schneider Family Book Award for *The Running Dream*. Her books have been translated into many foreign languages, Shredderman became a Nickelodeon made-for-TV movie, and *Flipped* was released as a feature film, directed by Rob Reiner. She lives in California with her husband and two sons. Her hobbies include the “Three R's”: Reading, Running and Rock 'n' Roll.

**Ann Hood** is the author of the middle grade novel *How I Save My Father's Life (and Ruined Everything Else)*, and has written several adult novels, including *An Ornithologist's Guide to Life, The Knitting Circle, Comfort*, and *The Red Thread*. Her work has appeared in the *The Paris Review, O*, and elsewhere.

For more information, here is a link:  [http://www.ota.wildapricot.org](http://www.ota.wildapricot.org)

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_Calypso Gilstrap_

_NBCT Librarian_

_OKSL Chair 2013-2014_
Giving Oklahoma Communities the Edge

The state is playing a major role in a national initiative to improve public access technology services in America’s public libraries

Everyday, across the country, citizens go to their public libraries to fill out job applications, connect to government services, find health and wellness information, complete homework, and reach out to friends and family. For many of these people, the public library is their only access to the Internet and general business software. For others, the library has resources and services that can’t be found anywhere else in their community.

As public libraries struggle to fund both traditional and electronic services, and as advancements in information technology seem to be speeding up exponentially, how do libraries not only maintain, but improve their public access technology (PAT)? What is the path to local sustainability of these important connections and services?

To help answer these questions, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been funding a coalition of library and information agencies and partner organizations to create a way for libraries to assess and improve their PAT services.

After three years of development, the initiative, branded as “Edge,” will launch nationally in January 2014. Oklahoma’s library community has been playing a major role throughout the development process. Oklahoma Department of Libraries Director Susan McVey and Public Information Manager Bill Young both serve on the Edge Initiative Coalition, as well as on sub-committees dealing with Edge governance, training and assessment. ODL is one of three state libraries represented on the Coalition.

Both Miami Public Library and the Tulsa City-County Library System have served as two of the eight national pilot libraries. (Other pilot sites are in Texas, California and North Carolina.) And just this past summer, 16 Oklahoma public libraries participated in the Edge Soft Launch, the first testing of the online assessment tool, joining more than 140 other libraries in six other states.

The Edge Toolkit

Edge is a process for libraries to find out where their PAT services stand in relation to similar libraries, and to plot pathways to improvement. To accomplish this, a set of tools have been developed:

- **Benchmarks:** The Edge benchmarks ask libraries if they do or do not provide certain services or perform certain duties, and are divided into three broad categories: Community Value, Engaging the Community and Decision Makers, and Organizational Management. The benchmarks address foundational PAT services—those that all libraries of all sizes should provide—as well as more advanced services—those that libraries can aspire to reach depending on community needs. Scores within each category and an overall assessment score can be compared to the scores of peer libraries, data that can help with local advocacy and planning.

Con’t.
Edge, con’t.

• **Online Assessment Tool:** Public libraries will take the Edge assessment using an online tool that will present recommendations for service improvements based on the assessment scores. The library can use the online tool to set-up an action plan, and can track progress of that plan. This online data tool will also help generate information for each state library. If a state library finds, for example, that number public libraries don’t offer a service but would like to, it could influence state training and funding decisions.

• **Reporting and Presentation Tools:** In addition to the local action plan and state reports, libraries can use their assessment data to produce one-page overviews or larger reports to share with city government, community groups, and other partners.

• **Resource Guide and Case Studies:** These supporting materials will connect librarians with resources to help when taking the assessment and when planning for the future. The case studies will inspire local libraries as they read how others have used Edge to plan and dream.

• **Training:** Following assessment, libraries will be offered the opportunity to participate in four different two-hour training webinars. Topics are Community Assessment, Advocacy and Outreach, Library Leadership, and Technology Resource Management.

**It’s About Community**

ODL Director McVey notes that two of the three broad benchmark categories address community value and working with community leaders. That’s no accident. The focus on community was key for the Edge Coalition. The tag line for the Edge logo even reflects this: *Where people connect, communities achieve.*

“Libraries are intimately tied to their service area and customers,” McVey said. “Improving PAT services will not only give libraries the edge to thrive in the Information Age, it will give their communities and citizens an edge to succeed in terms of economic development, education, and access to health information and government services.”

Eleven benchmarks and related indicators help public libraries assess their public technology services across three main areas...

McVey said the community angle is strongly represented on the Edge coalition by the International City and County Management Association (ICMA). “I think having a partner like ICMA involved is essential to the success of Edge. It’s a very powerful message when it’s ICMA telling local governments that they already have this gem called a library that can help meet community needs and advance the quality of life.” “There has always been an opportunity for libraries to be leaders. We think Edge can give many more libraries the tools they need to reach new levels of community leadership.”
It’s About the Process

“We hope that taking the Edge assessment is just the beginning,” ODL’s Young said. “We envision peer libraries networking and talking about their successes and challenges, learning about best practices, and helping each other. We see more libraries recruiting more partners to help their communities succeed.”

Young said what is learned nationally could be eye-opening. “We’re going to have more information about the state of public access technology services in the nation’s public libraries than we’ve ever had before. We’ll have a big picture that could influence policy from local levels to the national level.”

What is learned and how public libraries rise to the challenge will also inform future versions of the benchmarks and the Edge Toolkit.

“This is not something that will be created once and then we’re done,” McVey said. “Our goal is for the Edge process to continue to evolve and inspire libraries and communities for years to come.”

Elsewhere in this issue of Oklahoma Librarian: Find out where to download the Edge benchmarks so you can prepare for the national launch in January, see what organizations serve on the Edge Coalition, find out which Oklahoma libraries participated in the soft launch, and read a great Q&A with Miami Public Library Director Marcia Johnson. (photo: Start at www.libraryedge.org to find out more and explore Edge resources online)

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More About the Edge Initiative

Edge launches nationwide in January of 2014 and all public libraries are welcome to participate in the process. Prep for the national kick-off by finding out more about this important initiative.

**The Goal of the Edge Initiative**
“All people should have opportunities to enrich and improve their lives through open access to exceptional information, communication and technology services available in public libraries.” Find out more at www.libraryedge.org

**The Edge Benchmarks and Resources**
Visit www.libraryedge.org/benchmarksv1 to view all benchmarks and indicators. The initiative’s website at www.libraryedge.org will also provide you with additional resources. TechSoup is another good place to visit. Go to www.techsouponselections.org/spotlight/spotlight-tags/edge to see examples of library services and programs that are related to particular Edge benchmarks.

**The Edge Coalition**
This steering committee oversees the Edge process and development of the benchmarks.

**The Funder:** The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

**The Lead Agency:** Urban Libraries Council
California State Library
ALAA Office for Information Technology Policy
International City/County Management Association
Lyrisis
OCLC WebJunction
Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Public Library Association
TechSoup Global
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
University of Maryland, Information Policy and Access Center
University of Washington Information School

**Participating Oklahoma Libraries**

**Pilot Libraries:**
Miami Public Library (Pilot Case Study completed)
Tulsa City-County Library System (Pilot Case Study in process)

**Soft Launch Libraries:**
Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library, Durant
Eastern Oklahoma District Library System
Elk City Carnegie Library
Guthrie Public Library
Hennessey Public Library
Locust Grove Public Library
Metropolitan Library System
Okeene Public Library
Piedmont Public Library
Pioneer Library System
Southeastern Public Library System of Oklahoma
Stillwater Public Library
Vinita Public Library
Q&A with an Edge Library

The City of Miami has always been a special place. Five Indian tribal headquarters call the city home, and two other tribes govern from nearby towns in the same county of Ottawa. No other American county has been home to more tribes. Located in the northeast corner of the state, Miami was the first “big town” Route 66 travelers encountered in the Sooner State while driving westward. Those travelers couldn’t have missed the beautiful Coleman Theater, known today as the Grande Dame of restored historic movie houses in the state. Miami was also the home of the late Charles Banks Wilson, a beloved Oklahoma artist whose paintings grace the state capitol building. And just up the road from Miami is the community of Commerce, a place baseball fans know as the hometown of an American icon named Mickey Mantle.

Miami Public Library is also a special place. Per capita visits to the library beat the state average, the library has almost as many registered borrowers (13,127) as the city’s population (13,577), and it hosted more than 25,000 public Internet sessions in FY2012. When the Oklahoma Department of Libraries was tasked with finding libraries to pilot test the Edge Benchmarks, Miami’s library was a good choice.

ODL’s Bill Young talked to the community’s library director, Marcia Johnson, to find out how the Edge experience went down in Miami.

Bill Young: Marcia, when did the library bug bite you? Tell us a bit about your journey to becoming director of the Miami Public Library.

Marcia Johnson: I had never used a public library until my family moved to Miami when I was starting seventh grade. I fell in love with it, but never thought of working here. I started my career as an elementary school teacher, and I had such a huge personal supply of children’s books in my classroom that my peers would comment that I should have been a librarian. I had just finished my master’s in education when the school library position opened up. I was so intrigued with the idea that I applied for the position and then continued my schooling to be certified as a school library media specialist. When the position for a public library director opened up at Miami, I applied mostly as a lark. I didn’t think they would even consider me because I didn’t have an MLS. I was greatly surprised when they offered me the position with the understanding that I would complete my education. I have loved (almost) every minute of it. It’s like coming to work at my favorite place!

BY: ODL Director Susan McVey invited you to be one of eight Edge pilot libraries in the nation. Did you have any qualms about Miami being one of the guinea pigs?

MJ: I was thrilled to participate! Benchmarking is a great measurement tool and a way to learn best practices. We are so fortunate that Oklahoma was chosen as one of the pilot states, which I think speaks very highly of Susan McVey and the ODL staff. One of the great things about serving as a pilot is that there is lots of room for error! Since it hadn’t been done before, we could help make adjustments to the whole process as it developed. And we’ve definitely seen the results of our input in the final Version 1.0 of Edge. What a great opportunity to add to the profession as a whole! I also hope our participation will show other smaller libraries what is possible.

Con’t.
Q & A con’t.

BY: The Edge Initiative is all about libraries meeting the information and public access technology needs of communities. That means working with community leaders, customers, and staff. Tell us how you involved, and plan to involve, your external and internal audiences?

MJ: Library staff members were all given copies of the benchmarks from the beginning and we discussed them at several staff meetings. I had some help in the actual assessment, although if I had to do it over I would have solicited more staff input in filling it out. I relied mostly on our in-house technology manager to answer technical questions and I completed the rest. However, when we received out results, I gave copies to the entire staff and asked them all to work in small groups to come up with ideas for how we could strengthen the areas we were weak in. We have used those ideas in our tech plan, our city departmental goals, and in our long range plan. I have also made many presentations about the results to the library board, the Friends group, the city council, and most recently to a community focus group that participated in our long range plan.

BY: While you were completing the Edge Assessment, were there any things that surprised you, or any eureka moments concerning your library’s services?

MJ: One thing that pleasantly surprised me and the rest of the library staff was how much we were already doing. It really boosted their morale. And we compared well overall with the peer group, which was very encouraging. I think one of the biggest things that jumped out at us was how much more technology training we need. And that has been one of our big changes since Edge—upping the number of technology-related classes, webinars, etc. that we participate in.

BY: Another tool of the Edge Initiative is the action plan. What’s the action plan for Miami Public Library?

MJ: Our main areas of focus include digital literacy and library staff technology expertise. We are offering approximately 25 classes annually to patrons, but something we’ve added since our Edge experience is one-on-one help in basic computing. We’ve
always done this on demand, briefly, as we can. Now a person can sign up for a 30-minute session with one of the staff. This has worked much better than I thought because it can be scheduled for a time when we have enough staff to cover other areas, and people are more likely to show up when they have scheduled the class themselves. It also eliminates the problem of having varying degrees of skill among class attendees.

Before Edge, library staff members were required to attend two technology-related training events (workshops, conferences, webinars, etc.) per year. Now they are required to attend at least six with a total of at least twelve hours. And they want to do this. They realize the value in being well informed because they’ve all been asked by customers to help with technology. We are also looking at how we can assess our technology skills to see which areas need strengthening. This is a work in progress.

A third area was using a community focus group in our strategic planning. We held that meeting in May and it was so informative that we plan to repeat it in the future. From that meeting we were able to create our long range plan. A major part of that plan relates to facilitating digital inclusion, which ties into our experience in evaluating our Edge assessment results.

**BY:** How do you view the public library’s place in Miami, and is that view changing due to your participation in Edge?

**MJ:** I believe the library has always had an important place in the community, and that the community has always been supportive of the library. Due to our participation in Edge, we are focusing even more on partnerships. The benchmarks speak to that, and that was something the community focus group emphasized as well. We have included some potential partnership ideas in our long range plan. I think this will give us an even stronger community presence.

**BY:** Since you were among the first libraries to pilot Edge, you’ve become a spokesperson for the initiative, speaking and joining panels at national conferences. How are other libraries and communities around the country reacting to your Edge experience?

**MJ:** I think overall people are very interested. Most of them are particularly interested in the process itself. How long does it take? What’s involved in doing the assessment? I expect a different focus in September when I attend the ICMA (International City and County Management Association) conference. I think city managers will be most interested in the information that can be gleaned from the assessment. Our city manager is very impressed with the idea of benchmarking, and I think that other city managers will feel the same way.

**BY:** Marcia, thank you so much for taking some time to talk to us!

**MJ:** You’re welcome, Bill.

*Note: Tulsa City-County Library System is also an Oklahoma pilot site for the Edge Initiative. Watch for a Q&A with TCCL in a future Oklahoma Librarian.*

*Bill Young, Public Information Officer, Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries*
Information Matrix Camp 2013

The annual Information Matrix Camp, held July 14—20, once again gave a group of potential librarians an exciting taste of what they can look forward to as librarians in our state. Here are a few highlights:

**Sunday** The group met in the Rose State College Learning Resource Center to hear from Lynda Reynolds, OLA President, who spoke to the group about her journey into librarianship and about the library association. A fun fact about her library career that she shared with the campers is that through a library conference, she was able to meet her favorite author Lois Duncan. She also treated the campers to chocolate bars. Students wore hats depicting several different types of library jobs, such as zoo librarian, military librarian, culinary librarian, engineering librarian.

**Monday** Braving the rain, we made our way to the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library in Oklahoma City, where we took a tour of the library including the behind-the-scenes storage areas. We had some time to browse the collection before book talks by the Metropolitan Teen Services Coordinator and a storytelling demonstration by the Children’s Services Coordinator. A delightful lunch from the café located in the library was provided by the Friends group. (photo: Lynda Reynolds talks to engaged students)
At the Metropolitan Service Center, we followed the journey of a book from delivery to being shelf ready. This involved a tour of the loading docks, sorting area, cataloging offices, and the Interlibrary Loan Department. The campers really enjoyed the automatic multiple bin sorter, which electrically sorts the books into the appropriate destination bin, which ranged from Pre-K to 5th/6th graders. The highlight of the campers’ day was picking out a book for themselves and for a child that they will be reading to on Thursday at the Full Circle Bookstore across from Penn Square Mall. The campers were tasked with finding an appropriate book for a specific grade level that they were given, which ranged from Pre-K to 5th/6th graders.

Tuesday We started bright and... well, just early, loading the bus at 7 a.m. en route to Perkins, OK to visit the Iowa tribe land. Campers enjoyed learning about the tribe’s eagle rehabilitation and conservatory, participating in pow-wow dances (the Round Dance and the War Dance), visiting the tribal library, and hearing about different preservation initiatives of the tribe. We then made our way to the CAMI (Civil Aerospace Medical Institute) special library for The Office of Aerospace Medicine. While at CAMI, we also learned about the safety tests being done to keep civilian air flights safe and protect passengers as well as hearing how the facility researches blood samples in their toxicology department. One of the employees had campers demonstrate how easily it is to be disoriented in flight and why pilots must learn to use the technology available on the aircraft. The Devon Records Management department was the next stop on this adventurous day. We saw how corporations utilize the skills in librarianship to keep track of and protect millions of records.
Before touring rows upon rows of boxes of information, campers enjoyed seeing the WAVE, a type of forklift, in use. One of the groups also saw a microfiche demonstration.

(Photo: Civil Aerospace Medical Institute)

**Wednesday** Today we made our way to the town of the Sooners: Norman! Our first stop was the University of Oklahoma (OU) Bizzell Memorial Library. Some Library Science students quizzed our campers on fun library facts! Did you know that the Library of Congress has 724 miles of book shelves?! An OU Reference Librarian gave us a tour of the library. We visited the Great Reading Room and the Decks where the Dewey books are shelved. When we took a snack break, a librarian gave us a fun demonstration involving the different machines that allow for digitization of older materials. The campers especially liked this because they saw a machine create a 3 dimensional object: a bear and a shark.

After lunch, the campers enjoyed a presentation by the Librarian at the Law Library. The kids got to sit in the courtroom where they debated over true and false law statements. They enjoyed debating so much that they decided that they want to make their own “trial” later on with some of them acting as a judge, jury, and lawyers!
Our final stop for the day was the Southwest Oklahoma City Library, where our own Camp Counselor Aaron led a tour of the library. She also treated the kids to spaghetti, salad, and fruit! The kids got to see how the books are organized with the bin sorter. They also participated in a program to learn about Scratch, a website created by Massachusetts Institute of Technology to introduce youth to web programming by having them create videos and games. While one group participated in the program, the other had arts and crafts, where the campers made buttons! (Above: students on OU campus)

Thursday The week is almost over, but we are still going strong! Today we started off at the Northwest Oklahoma City Public Library. The campers had the chance to read to pre-registered kids, aging from Pre-K to 5th/6th graders, and a handful of the Deer Creek daycare kids. During this hour program, the campers took their group on a scavenger hunt throughout the library, where they had to answer specific questions to find 6 puzzle pieces.

(Right: students at Northwest Oklahoma City Public Library)
**Friday** We started at the Oklahoma School of Science and Math, where we learned about the school and the life of an OSSM student. We also toured the library, which differed from the average high school library: It was really more of an academic library. The librarian was already starting to make stacks of textbooks for the students for fall. Can you believe that each student has about 15-17 textbooks per semester?

( Photo below: Students in the archives at the Western Heritage Library)

Our next destination was the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. We enjoyed a speedy tour through the museum studying art work, playing in Prosperity Junction (a village modeled after the old west), and learning about the rodeo and early cowboys. In the basement of the museum, staff showed us how they preserve the history of the cowboy way of life through safe document storage and digital collections of video, voice interviews, photos, and other documents. Another special library visited today was the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. A librarian there, who was blind herself, explained to the group how this state library provides services to the legally blind or to those who cannot enjoy the printed word, for whatever reason. She showcased the digital audio device that is mailed to all library customers so they can enjoy audiobooks. The campus also is the site for Accessible Instructional Materials or AIM, which provides appropriate educational materials for students all over the state, depending on their need.

This article was culled from the report on the OLA website (www.oklibs.org) Article and pictures by Aaron Gray. For a more complete report see the OLA website!
SNAKES In McKee Library

Update!

We have added a footnote to the story about snakes in the library published in the July 2013 Oklahoma Librarian.

O.P.S.U. Campus Communications, August, 2013
Follow up to “Snakes in the Library” article published in the Oklahoma Librarian, July, 2013 Update: September 15, 2013 is the new projected finish date for this project. “Miles” of books have been reloaded to the shelves and many student workers have earned “gold” library stars for their hard work. “Thanks” go to Kolbi Graves, Jeremy Collins, Virginia Leiter, Vanessa Fehr, Daniel Olowofela, Xazier Murray, Cheyenne Rice, and Mark Amali. The library staff is relieved and excited to have the project near completion. Everyone is invited to see the new arrangement of the main and curriculum collections. Don’t be afraid to visit…there are no more “snakes” in the library!

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Bee Informed: 
Taking the Sting Out of RDA

The time for sticking your head in the sand and pretending that RDA (Resource Description and Access) won’t come to pass was yesterday. The national RDA committee took a long and winding road and ended up with a new set of cataloging rules we in library technical-services land must follow. Are you crying HELP! yet? With a little help from your friends in the OLA Technical Services Roundtable (TSRT), you can learn about these new rules and how to apply them to a variety of formats. We can work it out and help you carry that load of learning the new ropes. Though $60 for OLA members and $120 for non-members can’t buy you love, it can buy you a day of practical, hands-on experience learning how to use the RDA rules.

We will all come together on October 25, 2013 at the Northwest Library (5600 NW 122nd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73142) for this event. Pauline Rodriguez-Atkins, our lively, informative instructor and group work coordinator for the day and her small-group assistants, won’t leave you feeling like you’ve been through a hard day’s night. From the time we say hello at 9:00 am for registration until we say goodbye at 3:30 pm, we will be covering this goal and its objectives:

Goal:
Participants will be able to identify, verify, and create catalog records for materials in various carrier types, using RDA standards and MARC formatting

Objective 1: Participants will be able to identify MARC records created under RDA standards

Objective 2: Participants will be able to utilize MARC fields to describe materials by RDA content type, media type, and carrier type

Objective 3: Participants will be able to utilize RDA standards to transcribe information about materials, including title, publication, extent, and dimensions

Please, please me by registering for the workshop by October 19th. Here are links to the official flyer and the online registration form:

Online registration: https://m360.oklibs.org/admin/forms/ViewForm.aspx?id=49490

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and…

*All credit due to the song writing team of Lennon-McCartney for the inspiration and song titles used in the making of this announcement.
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