

BOOK MARKS

South Dakota Library Association

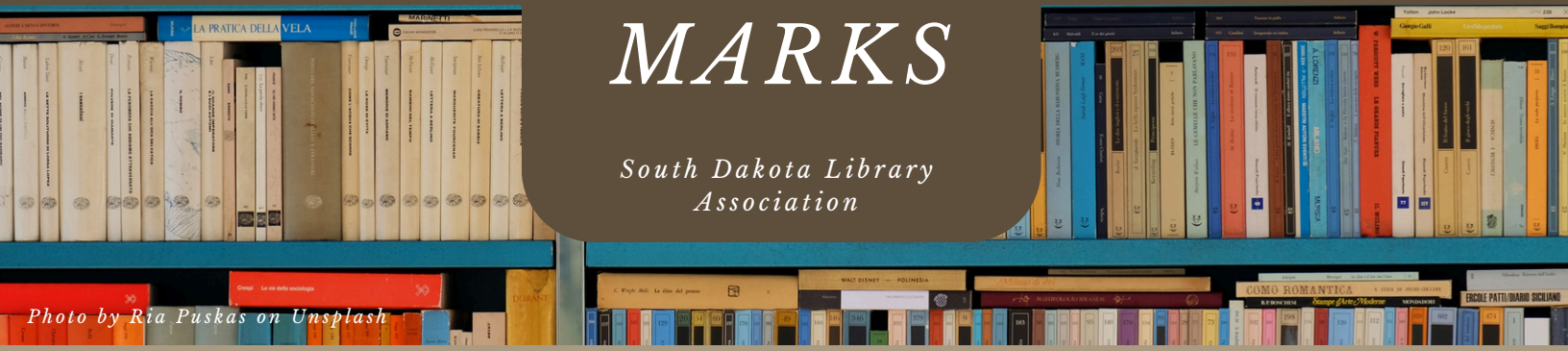


Photo by Ria Puskas on Unsplash



STRONGER TOGETHER: SDLA'S 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Submitted by the SDLA Public Relations Committee

The South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) gathered on September 26, 2024, for its annual Awards Banquet, a tradition celebrating the individuals and organizations that make libraries a vital cornerstone of South Dakota communities. Held in Aberdeen, SD, this year's event, themed "Stronger Together," was a testament to the transformative power of libraries and the dedication of those who champion them.

Dr. Anna Schwan, Dean of the Millicent Atkins School of Education at Northern State University opened the evening with a heartfelt reflection on her own journey with libraries, underscoring their role in fostering imagination, learning, and community. From childhood discoveries among library shelves to lifelong advocacy, her words set a celebratory tone for the evening's honorees, highlighting how libraries bring communities together under the theme "Stronger Together."





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Fox

I would like to thank everyone for a great conference in September. The planning committee worked well together and everything came together just like it is supposed to! Those who attended seemed to have a good time and to learn something new. And finally, if you didn't get to come, you helped everyone else by keeping our libraries operating and open to our various publics. So thank you to everyone!

Although, by the time you read this, our first board meeting of the current executive board will have already happened, I'd like to invite all members to attend the board meetings. We will send an email to the membership with the Zoom invitation and the agenda a week or so before the meeting. At any time, if you have a question or issue you would like the board to discuss, please bring it to my attention.

While I'm talking about communication, I'd like to remind our members that scammers are out there sending e-mails all the time. We know that the SDLA President is used by scammers to get you to respond. I will never ask you to get gift cards or spend any money for any reason, just through email. If you get such a request from "me," please let me know at Elizabeth.Fox@sdstate.edu and DO NOT BUY ANYTHING!

For the coming year, we are looking forward to 1) strategic planning and 2) going to Grand Forks, ND for the 2025 conference. Our biggest work is going to be planning for our next 5-10 years. We are finalizing a strategic planning plan and you can count on our contacting you during the year to help us with the various tasks. I know that we all answer way too many surveys but we are going to ask you to answer one for us. Please take a little time out of your busy day and fill out the survey. Our strategic plan will direct what the association does in the near future so help us help you!

Elizabeth

**VOLUME 75,
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OCT/NOV/DEC

The newsletter of the South Dakota Library Association is published quarterly by the association. Members receive it as part of membership dues. Other subscriptions: \$20 per year.

If you have any questions, comments, requests for back issues, or suggestions on the editorial content of *Book Marks*, please contact the editor:

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AWARDS CONTINUED

Jan Schock, recipient of the **Friend of the Library Award**, was recognized for her unwavering support of the Bowdle Public Library. A retired elementary teacher with over 50 years of service, Jan was instrumental in relocating the library to a new facility and co-founded the Library School program for 3- and 4-year-olds. Her creativity and dedication, from wearing whimsical hats to reading stories to children, have left an indelible impact on the youngest learners.

One nominator said, “She has such a big heart and loves the kids as her own grandchildren. You can tell that by the care and attention to detail in the way she prepares for the activities and always has a fantastic story picked out to read to the littles.”

Mike Donlin’s steadfast service as a library board member for the Hand County Library since 2009 earned him the **Trustee of the Year Award**. In 2024, Mike’s expertise and volunteerism made two major building projects possible, including insulation upgrades and recarpeting. Not only does he want to get projects finished, he wants to make sure they are done right. From assembling bike racks to advocating for library funding with county commissioners, Mike’s behind-the-scenes work ensures a welcoming and accessible space for all patrons.

Known for his positivity and leadership, Josh Easter, recipient of the **Support Staff of the Year Award**, was nominated by no less than ten colleagues for his dedication to advancing the role of library support staff. An active participant in statewide and national library organizations, Josh’s kindness and commitment to collaboration inspire those around him. His efforts have strengthened training and support initiatives across the state, making him an exemplary recipient of this award.

One nominator said of Josh, “He is a leader, he is always positive and makes others feel good about what we do as librarians. He uplifts everyone he meets and has been such a guiding light into how we should approach people with his understanding ear and helpful assistance. He promotes the library and all of its offerings in such an earnest and respectful way.”



Friend of the Library Award
Jan Schock, Bowdle Public Library
& Amber Wilde, PR Committee Chair



Trustee of the Year Award
Mike Donlin, Hand County Library
& Amber Wilde, PR Committee Chair



Support Staff of the Year Award
Josh Easter, SD State Library &
Kathleen Slocum, coworker and PR
Committee member

AWARDS CONTINUED

In her first year as a school librarian, Jalynn Feininger transformed the Watertown Middle School Library into a hub of activity and learning, earning her the **New Librarian of the Year Award**. From fostering English as a Second Language (ESL) resources to creating engaging activities and contests, Jalynn has redefined her library as “the place to be” in her school. Her innovative spirit and dedication have made an immediate and lasting impact on her students and colleagues.

According to her Middle School principal, “she embodies the spirit of excellence and innovation in school librarianship.”

Karen Schlekeway’s passion for literacy and innovation led to her recognition as SDLA’s **Librarian of the Year**. Overseeing three libraries in the Belle Fourche School District, Karen has spearheaded initiatives such as creating a maker space library and supporting dual credit coursework for high school students. Her leadership extends beyond the library to organizing community events, mentoring colleagues, and fostering student success through countless programs.

One of Schlekeway’s nominators praised her by saying: “She has worked hard to make our libraries a comfortable and safe environment so students can research and find the resources they need to be successful... and has mentored countless individuals throughout the years. She is a “jack of all trades” and everyone knows to ask her if they need support in nearly any area.”

Terri Davis, Director of the Rapid City Public Library, was honored with the **Distinguished Service Award** for her decades of exemplary leadership and advocacy for library services in South Dakota. From launching a new bookmobile to mentoring library professionals statewide, Terri has dedicated her career to expanding access and fostering community partnerships. Her role in advancing the Black Hills Library Consortium and other regional initiatives has solidified her legacy as a tireless champion for libraries.



New Librarian of the Year Award Jalynn Feininger, Watertown Middle School & Amber Wilde, PR Committee Chair



Librarian of the Year Award Karen Schlekeway, Belle Fourche School District & Amber Wilde, PR Committee Chair



Distinguished Service Award Terri Davis, Rapid City Public Library & Amber Wilde, PR Committee Chair

AWARDS CONTINUED

One nominator stated, “I have seen her draw people together toward greater mutual understanding and positive collective action – even amongst varying ideas, needs, and agendas. ... Her warm and welcoming personality is clear in the way she encourages the library to grow and look for new groups to serve. ... She is a huge asset to the community and is kind and deeply committed to ensuring all feel safe accepted at their library,” both patrons and staff.

As the evening concluded, attendees reflected on the vital role of libraries as gateways to knowledge, imagination, and community connection. The SDLA extends heartfelt congratulations to all award recipients and gratitude to every librarian, staff member, and volunteer who makes South Dakota’s libraries thrive. Here’s to another year of excellence and innovation in library service. [Click here to read the full Awards Script...](#)

ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE WITH SOUTH DAKOTA'S VOLUNTARY PUBLIC LIBRARY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Submitted by Shawn Behrends, SD State Library

The South Dakota State Library is proud to offer a voluntary accreditation program for public libraries across the state. This program is designed to support the ongoing development of quality library services. To participate, libraries utilize the South Dakota Public Library Standards to assess and enhance their services. The goal of this exercise is ensuring they meet the evolving needs of their communities.

Whether or not you plan to seek accreditation, we encourage all public libraries to review the Essential level standards which are tied to SD laws impacting libraries and the basic library services that should be available to your community. The accreditation process is a great way to engage your library’s board of trustees because it provides a clear set of goals and action items toward which the library and its board can work.

Want to go further? The Enhanced and Exemplary levels provide a framework for the expansion of library services, for example, improvements in technology services and public relations. At these levels, there is also increased commitment for trustees to grow their knowledge through continuing education in board-specific library topics such as budgeting, strategic planning, and policy development.

You’ll want to start now to complete your library’s application by the August 15, 2025, deadline. Visit the [State Library’s accreditation webpage](#) to learn more and download a copy of the Standards Manual.



Staff of Grant County Library

PHOTOS FROM CONFERENCE



Keynote speaker Kao Kalia Yang



Sarah Myers, Custer County Library, won the poster session!



Can you tell the librarians are in town?
(Katherine Eberline's ride!)



Sarah hands over the reins to Elizabeth



The Huron Public Library Crew



Enjoying the reception



K.O. Lee Library is too much fun



Dessert!



Goodnight, Library

VISIT THE CARNEGIE LIBRARIES: WESSINGTON SPRINGS

Submitted by Sarah Jones-Lutter

The Wessington Springs Carnegie Library opened its doors in 1918. It was the last Carnegie Library built in South Dakota. Last month, Librarian Rhonda Behrens invited me to visit her library for a tour. The building itself is Prairie style, which is defined by its horizontal lines. This type of Carnegie Library is very rare since most of the Carnegie Libraries are styled in Beaux Arts, generally defined by their prominent doorways with stairs and pillars.

Throughout its 106-year history, the Wessington Springs Carnegie Library has only employed six librarians, including the current librarian, Rhonda, who has worked since 2017. The first librarian, Clara Dunham, worked there from 1918 until 1942, nearly 24 years! In 2022, Rhonda became a Certified Library Director by participating in Library Training Institute through the South Dakota State Library. Today, the library also has an assistant librarian, Gretchen, who works 19 hours per week.

In 1999, the Wessington Springs Library was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, honoring its historical importance to the community. Like the rest of the Carnegie Libraries, the Wessington Springs Library has needed a plethora of repairs and remodels throughout the years. This includes remodeling the basement in the 1990s and upgrading the fire alarms. As of now, the library is not handicap-accessible and has experienced water damage. However, there is a generous memorial from the Bernice and Kenneth Lillehaug Estate that can be used for future needed repairs.

Rhonda has worked hard to update the Wessington Springs Carnegie Library. Since she started, she has purchased new mobile storage and children's book storage, changed the library's hours, rearranged the furniture, replaced old lights and fixtures, started genrefying the library, held book sales, and began processing and weeding the collection. The library also serves as an Accelerated Reading testing site for students during the summer. Her future goals for the library are to write library policies, complete a manual of tasks, and finish going through the boxes of uncataloged books in the basement.

Book Marks Series!:

*Sarah Jones-Lutter, Director
of the Redfield Carnegie
Library, visits South Dakota's
Carnegie Library buildings*



Continued on page 9

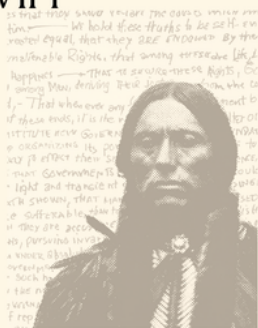
WESSINGTON SPRINGS CONTINUED

Being a solo-ish librarian in an old Carnegie Library is a demanding job, but Rhonda is working hard to make a positive impact in Wessington Springs and meet the needs of her community.



PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

INDIAN ED SUMMIT 2024



November 14, 2024

EARLY ELEMENTARY LITERACY

Marilyn Mendenhall is looking forward to presenting at the Indian Ed Summit in Pierre, SD on November 14. She will show a selection of early elementary books about Native Americans to attendees.

Marilyn is a Wookiye teacher and currently is the Information Media Specialist at Knollwood Heights Elementary School in Rapid City.

She enjoys showcasing significant literature about Native American culture to her K-5 students in order to promote a culture of reading.

SCHOOL LIBRARY PULSE PODCAST

The School Library Pulse is your monthly source of inspiration and motivation from South Dakota State Library School Library Services. Each month, we share heartwarming stories and uplifting moments submitted by school librarians across the state and designed to empower and energize. Thank you for tuning in for this brief boost that will set a positive tone for your month and remind you of the incredible impact you have on your students and community.

Episode 1 Stories up at: https://youtu.be/RrZmdD_Z-Ig

"An Unexpected Success"

"Sewing It Up"

"Calm Strips for Chrome Books"

"Creating Serial Readers"



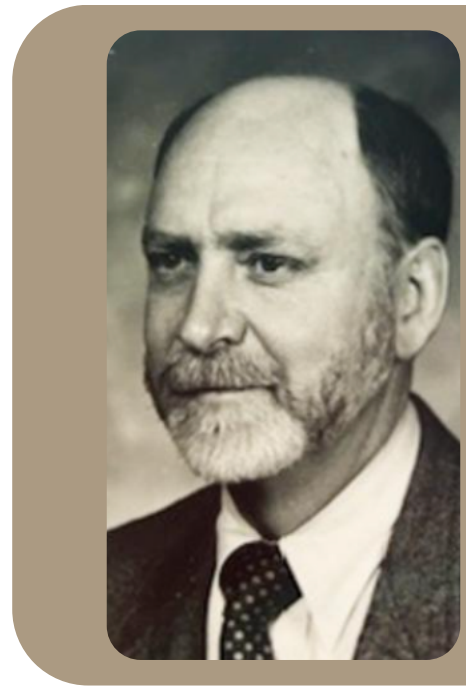
LEON RANEY, NAMESAKE OF SDLA'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND, PASSES AT AGE 85

In August 2010, the South Dakota Library Association Leon Raney Endowment Fund was established with the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF). Named to honor Dr. Leon Raney, distributions from the fund will be used to support professional development grants, scholarships, and SDLA conference grants for SDLA members.

SDLA wishes to acknowledge Raney's contribution to SDLA and South Dakota Libraries. Elizabeth Fox, current SDLA President noted, "He has remained a strong advocate for libraries in South Dakota and will be missed."

[Read Raney's Obituary](#)

[Read about the Leon Raney Fund](#)



THE CENTER FOR WESTERN STUDIES CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

The Center for Western Studies (CWS), located on the campus of Augustana University, is participating in commemorating America's 250th Anniversary. As part of this national observance, the Center supports efforts to deepen public understanding of the founding principles of the United States and how those ideals continue to shape our communities today, particularly in the Northern Plains.

CWS is undertaking two projects that may be of interest to South Dakota librarians. The Center has designed a bookmark to inspire citizens to explore American history, featuring a selective reading list about life in the Northern Plains during the American Revolution. These bookmarks are available for libraries to share with their patrons.

Contact cws@augie.edu to receive a bundle of bookmarks.

Additionally, CWS is preparing to publish *America's Longest River: A Cultural and Environmental History of the Missouri River*, a collection of essays by 35 historians and writers, edited by noted Midwestern historian Jon K. Lauck. This book explores the cultural and environmental significance of the Missouri River and its role in the region's history.

Through these projects, CWS advances its mission to support public outreach, research, and publications while joining the nation's 250th Anniversary observance. By encouraging remembrance and understanding of our founding principles, particularly as experienced in the Northern Plains, the Center for Western Studies seeks to connect contemporary audiences with the vision that has shaped America's enduring story.

FIND INFORMATION
ABOUT AMERICA250
EVENTS IN
SOUTH DAKOTA



America's 250th
South Dakota Commission
americas250th.sd.gov

What do **YOU** want
to keep, and not repeat,
in America's next 250 years?

**SHARE YOUR AMERICAN
EXPERIENCE AND VISION FOR
AMERICA'S NEXT 250 YEARS**

- Visit [america250.org/ share-your-story](http://america250.org/share-your-story) to learn how
- Stay up-to-date on national 250th programs, events, and opportunities at america250.org

A SD LIBRARY WORKER YOU SHOULD KNOW

Name: Cassandra Dulek

Job Title: Digital Access Librarian

Where are you currently employed?
Wegner Health Sciences Library

SDLA Roles:
Library Issues Committee Member

Describe your job:

I support students, staff, faculty, and medical professionals in accessing information resources and services. I help users with a range of inquiries such as study room checkout, technology assistance, and basic instruction in the use of locator tools and databases.

I'm also responsible for interlibrary loan services, managing remote access accounts, and collecting statistics for trend analysis. Other tasks I perform include updating and maintaining LibGuides, aiding in data-informed resource and collection decisions, and marketing library services.

What was your biggest challenge in your job and how did you overcome it?

At first, I was really intimidated by the idea of working in a medical/health sciences library since I don't have a health sciences background. I've learned to overcome this feeling by learning as I go. I've learned a lot from my colleagues, but I've also learned a great deal from professional development opportunities through NNLN, MLA, and other organizations. Next year, I'm planning to join a cohort to complete the Consumer Health Information Specialization (CHIS). I'm also eager to learn more about data visualization tools like Tableau.

What was the most fun you've had at work?

During my first week at Wegner, I was in a gingerbread making contest hosted by the USD Sanford School of Medicine. It was a great way to bond with my colleagues while doing something creative (plus we won the contest!).

Favorite book(s)/movie(s)/whatever:

I've been on a nonfiction kick lately and am currently interested in food science. Two nonfiction titles I enjoyed reading were *Ultra-Processed People* by Chris van Tulleken and *Food Rules* by Michael Pollan. I also recommend watching *You Are What You Eat: A Twin Experiment* on Netflix.

What advice would you offer to someone interested in pursuing librarianship?

I would say don't be intimidated and be open to opportunities in special libraries. You just never know where you may end up.

Is there anything you'd like to say to your fellow SDLA members?

As an SDLA scholarship recipient, I just want to thank SDLA for supporting me in my professional development endeavors.



SIouxLAND LIBRARIES HOSTS FIRST AUTHOR FAIR EVENT

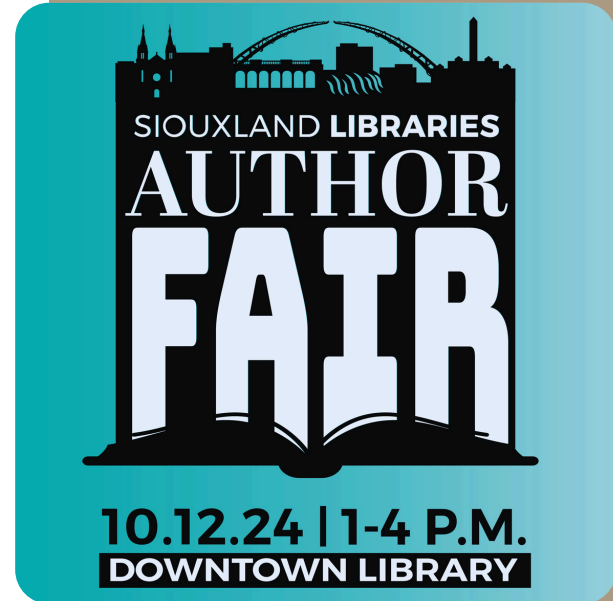
Submitted by Kara Vehar, Siouxland Libraries

On October 12th, Siouxland Libraries hosted twenty-two (22) authors for an afternoon of discussion and meet and greet at the Downtown Library's first annual Author Fair. 117 guests mingled, discussed and met with authors and fellow readers/writers. Katie, a regular Downtown library customer was in attendance and said "I love the energy of the event. It was great to get some behind the scenes information from the authors about their work. I would come again and am looking forward to the next one."

The Author Fair has been in the works for over a year and has been the dream of many previous adult librarians. Due to the overwhelming requests for author visits, it was decided to host a fair and welcome everyone to the library to share their stories. A small team of librarians gathered a list of authors, contacted them, and began planning.

Through the planning process, two panels of four (4) authors were selected. One panel on self-publishing, so resident authors can learn a little bit more about the publishing process. The second panel on investigative writing; given the recent popularity of true crime books, it seemed to be a topic that would engage audiences and spark conversations. Between panels, authors were available to answer questions and sign books, allowing visitors to mingle and enjoy an afternoon at the library.

The 2024 Author Fair is just the beginning of a program that will continue for years to come and provide the perfect opportunity for guests to find their new favorite author right here in their own community.



DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Kim Bonen, SD State Library

The South Dakota State Library provides free online access to multiple scholarly journals that help support librarians' professional development.

Go to <https://library.sd.gov>

Click on "Electronic Resources"

Click on "Academic Search Premier"

Click on "Publications" at the top

Use the search bar or A-Z tab to find your title.
Select the year, and issue you wish to read.



south dakota
STATE LIBRARY

Leadership. Innovation. Excellence.

Check out these publications for full text articles:

Journal Title	Available Full Text Dates
Booklist	01/01/2002 to present
Computers in Libraries	07/01/1993 to present
Information Technology & Libraries	03/01/2004 to present
Information Today	08/01/1993 to present
Library & Information History	07/01/2003 to present with a 12-month delay
Library Leadership & Management	01/01/2009 to present
Library Journal	01/01/1975 to present
Library Resources & Technical Services	01/01/2004 to present
School Library Journal	09/01/1974 to present

These titles do not have full text - but you can view the bibliographic records and request any articles of interest through interlibrary loan.

Journal Title	Available Bibliographic Dates
Journal of Academic Librarianship	01/01/1985 to present
Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship	04/01/2004 to present
Library Quarterly	07/01/1993 to present

Questions?

Contact Kim Bonen, SDSL Electronic Resources Coordinator
kim.bonen@state.sd.us
605-295-3174

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Open Education Network

Contact Greg Argo at Minitex for information on joining the [Open Education Network](#) at a consortial discount.

Open Education and Affordable
Content Librarian
Greg Argo

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Quick News:

- The National Music Museum in Vermillion is hosting a [Music Storytime](#) on the first Saturday of every month. This is a free event for children 3-6.
- [Ten SD public libraries](#) are awarded accreditation at the SDLA conference
- [38 librarians from 27 libraries](#) earn certification from the SD State Library.
- Reported by Dakota News Now -- [Someone You Should Know: Library Leader Jodi Fick](#)
- Reported by Dakota News Now-- [Siouxland Libraries Sees Pre-pandemic Growth in Visitors](#)

Remember: Report Book and Material Challenges



EST Report

November 2024

Wells Fargo Checking.....\$18,134.26
Wells Fargo Savings.....\$3,029.93
Ameriprise Savings Cert.....\$14,077.80*
Ameriprise Savings Cert.....\$17,538.51*
Raney Endowment.....\$106,656.30**

*as of September 30, 2024
**\$10,623.34 avail to spend

Membership Stats
Total: 409
Institutional: 28
Personal: 379

**Please report Book and
Material Challenges to
SDLA via the form under
"Members" on our
website.**

**Challenges will be kept
strictly confidential and
no identifying
information will be
released without your
express permission.**