The theme for LIT 2021 is “Persistence & Resilience.” LIT 2021 will be held virtually during the week of June 7-11.

Call for Proposals: Submit at https://bit.ly/2YAPcwT; due February 10; acceptance notifications by March 5.

Registration opens in late April, free of charge!

We are all looking forward to seeing the LIT community again in June! Please think about and prepare proposals engaging with the theme of “Persistence & Resilience.” How are persistence and resilience characteristics of your practice? What strategies do you employ to adjust and surmount unexpected or great challenges? What pedagogies, tools, or practices have you considered (or discarded) on your path?

What successes resulted from your persistence and/or resilience? How have you been resilient in the face of a perceived failure or setback?

We’d love to see proposals about:
• Engagement & Outreach
• Critical Information Literacy
• Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Instructional Services
• Assessment
• Pedagogy/Andragogy
• Hiring, Onboarding, and Management in Instructional Services
• Professional Tips for New Instruction Librarians
• Reflective Practice, Morale, & Self-Care
• Technology

We are considering hosting roundtables for the first time. Is there something you’d like to discuss informally with a group of peers? Direct questions to:
• Email: libraryinstructiontn@gmail.com
• Twitter: @libinstructtn
• Facebook: LIT Library Instruction Tennessee
• Or visit us on the web at https://libraryinstructiontn.org/

Thanks!

—LIT Steering Committee:
Jenny Harris, Austin Peay State University;
Ashley Roach-Freiman, University of Memphis;
Sarah Smith, St. Louis Community College;
Andrea Kincaid, Chattanooga State Community College; Lyndy Wibking, Roane State Community College; and Aaron Wimer, The Citadel Daniel Library
What an impactful start to a new year! Though we were witness to an insurrection at the Capitol in the first week of the year, we bear witness to a momentous occasion that will live on in our country’s history in the third week. Despite sitting still in the midst of a pandemic, I am excited to see how we forge ahead in 2021. I am confident our country will make many strides to overcome the challenges we faced in the last year. I am even more confident the librarians of Tennessee remain committed to providing access to information and resources to patrons across the state.

As we continue to serve our varied communities, it is possible that our libraries—and we librarians—may encounter moments where our ideals and how we lead in these spaces are challenged. Should this be the case for you, I encourage you to stand firm in the values of librarianship and the ethics of our profession. One of our most important principles is that all ideas are represented in libraries. Our institutions are bipartisan environments where, in some instances, librarians may not be very neutral. As polarizing as our society has been over the past few years, my hope is that the months and years ahead provide us room to be ourselves and stand firm in our roles in a manner that is respected by all. With that, I share my personal mantra: Tell your story.

I chose “Tell Your Story: Shifting Perceptions” as our 2021 Conference theme because after the recent fights for rights of libraries, patrons, and librarians in recent years, it is imperative we ensure our stories are told. April 6–8, our colleagues will be sharing these stories and the impact librarians have in our communities during our Annual Conference. Due to the ongoing pandemic, our Conference Committee has made the tough decision to host an all virtual learning experience this year. Registration will open soon and I encourage you to join us and invite a colleague or library student to as well.

I look forward to “seeing” you soon at TN Library Legislative Day and Annual Conference. Be sure to participate in the upcoming Executive Board elections soon to arrive in your email inbox (unless you request a paper ballot). In the meantime, I would love to hear from you. Grab your smartphone and scan the QR code and complete the three-item questionnaire to help provide a more informed idea of what members hope to see from the association.

—Be well,
Erika Long
TLA President

Member News

President-Elect Sharon Edwards was recently appointed Director of Libraries at Motlow State Community College. Congratulations on such a wonderful accomplishment, Sharon!

TLA Nominations & Membership Renewals

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following officer nominations:

- VP/President-Elect: Dwight Hunter
- Secretary: Eryn Duffee
- ALA Council Rep: Erika Long, Susan Jennings
- At-Large Rep for Special Libraries: Chuck Sherrill
- At-Large Rep for College & University Libraries: Sharon Holderman, Jennifer Harris

Be sure to look for your membership renewal emails! Or join online at https://www.tnla.org/general/register_member_type.asp?

—Dwight Hunter, Membership Chair

Join the Tennessee Library Association!
2019: 671 members
2020: 477 members
2021: We Need You!
More libraries across the state of Tennessee are united and committed to promoting a more diverse library environment, geared toward promoting more inclusive programs and providing a more robust collection to highlight diversity in our communities. Many of us find ourselves in a place of reflection when it comes to this undertaking and may feel inadequate to properly conduct an audit of library services. If you are looking for a place to begin, the new LibGuide, Resources for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: General Resources, has been brought to us by the passionate members of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee for Kolwyck Library & Information Commons at Chattanooga State Community College.

“ChattState Library’s EDI Committee was fortunate to collaborate with Pat Bashir and the Tennessee Library Association’s EDI Committee to create a reference resource for library professionals in Tennessee and beyond,” says Carla Fulgham, EDI Committee Chair at Kolwyck Library & Information Commons. “We hope the guide will connect librarians and other educators to meaningful tools for assessing, nurturing, and advocating for inclusive values in our libraries and the communities they serve.”

These two committees worked to provide a small consortium of digital resources for librarians to utilize in order to promote more equal programming, which is the key to not only serving or including all library patrons but attracting them to your library. This is a great tool to use for professional development at a personal or staff level and has the potential to be a secret weapon for Collection Development departments throughout the state. Aside from the General Resources visible on the homepage, librarians can browse topics targeted at Children & Youth Libraries, Adult Services in Libraries, and Academic Libraries to discover just how your library can diversify outreach efforts. Take a look for yourselves at: https://library.chattanooga.state.edu/edi/generalresources.

Check out the snapshot below for a look at the best projects & organizations to help grow your library.

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<th>Children and Youth Libraries</th>
<th>Adult Services in Libraries</th>
<th>Academic Libraries</th>
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<td>- CHFC</td>
<td>- Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF)</td>
<td>- The Antiracist Pedagogy Collective (ARPC)</td>
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<td>- EmbraceRace</td>
<td>- Martha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI)</td>
<td>- Center for Antiracist Research</td>
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<td>- GLSEN</td>
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ALA Condemns Violence on Capitol Hill, Calls for Advocacy

The Executive Board of the American Library Association (ALA) gives thanks for the safety of the staff in our Public Policy and Advocacy Office in Washington and ALA members who work on Capitol Hill, as well as for elected legislators, congressional staff and other government workers who put themselves in jeopardy to defend the seat of our federal government on January 6, 2021.

ALA forcefully condemns the violent attempts to undermine the integrity of our electoral process and our democracy. The threats, destruction of government buildings and looting witnessed on January 6 do not constitute peaceful protest, but domestic terrorism.

In the span of 24 hours, we witnessed the best and the worst of our nation. The day before Capitol Hill was stormed by a mob, Georgia voters elected the first Black Senator and first Jewish Senator to ever represent their state in Congress.

On January 4, newly elected members of the 117th Congress took the oath of office, solemnly affirming that they will “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” Despite the horrific interruption of their work, Congress resolutely returned to carry out its mission, and so must we.

Libraries in America defend the constitutional rights of all individuals and are cornerstones of the communities they serve. We celebrate and preserve our democratic society so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners and engaged residents—aged, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

A growing number of elected officials are awake to the value of their libraries; but many have yet to understand the role libraries play in education and employment of their constituents and the economic empowerment of their communities. There is much more work to do.

To preserve our democratic society and ensure that the health of America’s libraries is a national priority, library advocates must engage decision makers at every level of government. ALA reaffirms our commitment to advocating for libraries, library workers and the profession. To advance library policy priorities and resources to do our work, ALA calls on every library worker and library supporter to join ALAs advocacy network, follow the work of our Public Policy and Advocacy Office and sign up to advocate with state chapters.