



Plain Speaking

Central Plains Library System

Educate Connect Inspire

Volume 1, Issue 11

November 2016

Special Conference Edition

Attending a library conference is a unique opportunity. It is always interesting to see different places and eat different food, but the real point of a trip to conference is the networking, the learning, and the experience. It is difficult to put into words the feeling of being surrounded by 500 librarians who really **get it** when you say you run a one-person library.

In this special newsletter you will see information from the three conferences Sharon and I attended in October. We went to a bunch of sessions. However, there are as many sessions we did not see. Whether it was because the room was too full, last-minute schedule changes, or the conference center was just too big or too confusing to make it from one session to the next easily, there was so much more that we wanted to see!

Here are some that I selected...and missed:

- ◆ Pop Up Libraries—Taking the library into the community at Farmers Markets and Senior Centers
- ◆ Lost Your Library Mojo?—Burnout, exhaustion, and loss of enthusiasm
- ◆ Staying Safe—De-escalation techniques from the pros (presented by a police officer)
- ◆ New Directions for Rural Libraries—Developing grant proposals
- ◆ Reaching the Teachers—Strengthening your library's relationship with local schools

I would like to bring one or more of these workshops to CPLS next year. Let me know what you think. Are any of these topics of interest to you? Click on this link to vote for the sessions you would choose: <https://goo.gl/forms/uqPkOmxu3da7Pe5f2>.

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Reader's Advisory for the Third Act (Seniors):

Some statistics: as of 2012, there are 43.1 million people in the US over the age of 65. By 2050, this number will almost double to 83.7 million. In other words, within the next 14 years, 20% of the population will be over 65. So how do we meet the needs of this group?



Book Groups:

- ◆ The UN Book Club – No strings attached. Just show up during daytime meeting and each person discusses what they have read recently.
- ◆ Book Clubs at Senior Centers
- ◆ Community Reads – encourage seniors to read the selected title

Discussion Groups:

Memory Café (librarymemoryproject.org)

- ⇒ A main component of the memory project is a monthly social gathering for those with early stage dementia or mild cognitive impairment and a care partner.

Death Café (deathcafe.com)

- ⇒ At a Death Cafe people drink tea, eat cake and discuss death.
- ⇒ Our aim is to increase awareness of death to help people make the most of their (finite) lives.

Formats:

Provide a variety of formats such as Large Print, CD Audio, Playaways, Downloadable Audio and Launchpads. Buy beyond the best sellers.

Delivery/Homebound:

Talking Book and Braille Service

DialABookclub services for the homebound - monthly, hour-long phone conversations about the books you love.

Storytimes for Adults – good for those with dementia. Use shorter books and stories.

Form-based Readers Advisory – “just for you” – for a sample of the RA form, click on “Tell Us” at this link: <http://www.dcl.org/staff-recommendations/>

MPLA Sharon Osenga

Gold Nuggets: Mining Your Community for Programs

By Jane Somerville

The presenter for this session was very interesting to visit with. She comes from Stanley, Idaho, with a population of 63. Her legal service population is 262. Jane included some pictures of her library and the area where she lives. It is beautiful. That is why the total number of tourists each year tops one million visitors!

Partnerships are integral to excellent programming. Schools, restaurants, service clubs, fire and police, local media, Chamber of Commerce, Fish and Game, State Parks, and health clinics are all great places to look for programs. Jane recommends keeping a file of interesting items from your local newspaper, magazines, newsletters, etc. Her final tip was to send a hand-written thank you note to every presenter. This proves you don't have to be big to have a full-slate of programs.

Books, Burgers, & Brews

Books and Bowls (soup supper w/homemade bread)

Arm Chair Traveler (vacation slides)

Bread, Candy, and Pie...Oh My! (Cooking)

Floral Arrangements

Car Maintenance for Women

Collectors

Christmas Reading (Adults read classics aloud)

Adult Coloring/Zentangles

Music

Therapy Dogs

Campfire Stories for Grown-Ups

Basket weaving (Knitting, Crochet)

Writing Classes

Photography

Make a Valentine

Wildflower/Bird Walks (Garden Tours and Tips)

Home Brewing

CPR Class

Eclipse 2017



ARSL Denise Harders

From Chicken Little to Fred Astaire: Conflict is a Dance

Sharon Morris and Jamie LaRue

Conflict should be handled with grace: honest, direct, and respectful connection rather than anger, fear, and drama. Don't fuss or fume, fight or flee, just have the necessary talk. Ease stress and tension to get to what matters.



Since we all know that it is going to happen, the best thing to do is to plan for conflict.

First, have a Library Code of Conduct. This will ensure a comfortable and safe environment for all library customers. Next, develop procedures for handling disgruntled patrons. Be sure to include a section in the policies and procedures for suspension of borrowing privileges and expulsion. Practice the Buddy System, if possible.

Even with all that planning, it is necessary to have a Plan B in place in case someone goes over the edge. Sentences like "Let me get my supervisor." and "Call 911." may help a staff member get out of a potentially hazardous situation.

It is important to listen actively. When you have an irate patron, listen to what they are saying. Make sure your posture is open; your arms are not crossed over your chest. Keep your voice low and say "I am so sorry." Repeat the complaint back in a calm voice with a neutral facial expression. Move to a successful transaction.

Remember, don't try to win the argument, win the patron.

ARSL Denise Harders

Intellectual Freedom

ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) educates librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom in libraries, as embodied in the Library Bill of Rights. Established in 1967, it offers library resources on a range of intellectual freedom subjects—from privacy and filtering, to collection development and selection policies. OIF provides confidential support to anyone undergoing a material or service challenge. Its annual celebration of Banned Books Week in the fall draws attention to the harms of censorship and the benefits of unrestricted reading.

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ARSL Denise Harders

ARSL Conference
St. George, Utah
September 7 – 9, 2017



How to Break Up Boredom

Angela Smith and Aimee Newberry

Have you ever wondered how to break up boredom for your patrons, whether they are adults, teens, tweens or families...cheap? This small town Kentucky library brings out the human-size board games, life-sized Hungry Hippos and Battleship plus more! Here are just some of the things they do to keep from getting bored:

- ◆ Trash-sketball—Played like regular basketball, except it is in the middle of the street and using trash cans for the baskets. (It is tricky to figure out how to shoot the basketball into the trash can without it bouncing out!)
- ◆ Hungry, Hungry Hippos—Each team consists of 2 or more players. The first player lays belly-down on a four-wheeled scooter or moving dolly. Use plastic balls from Walmart and hula hoops to keep the balls gathered into one spot. Player on the scooter pulls himself to the center (where the balls are) while carrying a laundry basket (generally upside-down on his head). Get as many balls into the laundry basket as possible before the teammates pull the player on the scooter back to home (pulling by the feet is encouraged).
- ◆ Sidewalk Chalk—Draw a "people-sized" board game on the street including loops and every color of squares.
- ◆ Golf—When it is too cold or rainy to play outside, this library uses pool noodles to make a "bumper golf" course.



- ◆ Jail—To raise money, the sheriff's department goes around and collects "suspects" to put in jail. They can have as many calls as necessary to raise the money they need to be released. They have raised nearly \$13,000 playing this game.
- ◆ Dinosaur Dig—Use a kiddie pool full of sand and plastic bones to create a "dig" for your younger patrons.
- ◆ Fancy Nancy Party—Throw a tea party with tiny sandwiches. They had 18 little girls registered and more than 70 showed up!
- ◆ Cooking Classes—Invite the Extension Office staff to provide cooking classes for kids.
- ◆ Popcorn (or pizza) and a Movie—Serve snacks and watch a movie in the library.
- ◆ Freaky Fridays—Anything goes on Friday afternoon.



ARSL Denise Harders

3D Printing Program

Chris Rippel and Maribeth Shafer
Consultants with Central Kansas Library System

Before You Buy a 3D Printer—It is important to plan ahead for the questions you will get. Know the purpose and goals for the use of the 3D printer. Determine if only staff or staff and patrons will be operating the printer. Assign members of the staff to train the patrons, maintain the printer, order supplies, and schedule the print jobs.

Prepare 3D Printer Policies—Establish what can and cannot be printed (size, time, and copyright limitations). What happens when a patron must leave during a print? What is the cost to the patrons and how is that determined. Here is a sample policy:

<http://tinyurl.com/hyn8g9h>.

Selecting a 3D Printer—Pay attention to the following characteristics when selecting:

Printer

Already built or ease of assembly	Sturdiness of Printer
Ease of learning	Manual vs. automated calibration
Ease of Use	Heated platform/print bed
Company Support	Build volume/size of printed objects
Quality of Printing	Single or dual print heads
Cost	Replacement part, tools

Filament:

Read about different characteristics of filaments

Where can you buy filament? Many vendors? Only the printer's company?

Cost

Ongoing costs

Tips

1. Check for online ratings and YouTube videos about the printer you are considering.
2. Find printing files at <http://www.thingiverse.com>.
3. 3D printing is a lot of fun and popular, but this program/services cannot work without at least one reliable staff member or volunteer eager and with time to play, use, maintain, repair, and teach others to use the 3D printer.
4. When buying a 3D printer, focus on hardware reliability, ease of use, good online support, and ongoing cost of filament. **Buy the extended warranty for at least one year.**
5. 3D printers are new technology. The hardware is not as reliable as computers and printers. **Expect** long print times, bad prints requiring starting over, tool head clogs requiring replacement with second tool head while the first tool head is unclogged.



MPLA - CALCON

October 20 - 22, 2016

Embassy Suites Loveland
4705 Clydesdale Drive
Loveland, CO 80538

Theme: Innovate Inspire Connect

I always enjoy these joint MPLA conferences. With four keynotes spread out over the three days, and a jam-packed set of breakout sessions, it was a busy conference! Included here are notes from some of the sessions I attended.

KEYNOTES

Donna Scheede, the president of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) talked about the five trends they are seeing around the world in libraries.

- New Technologies: global information will be transformed by new technologies.
- Online education will transform and disrupt the boundaries. It will be part of the open internet movement.
- Data Protection and privacy will be redefined.
- Global information economy will be transformed by new technologies
- New technologies will both expand and limit who has access to information.

The aim is for hyperconnected societies to listen to and empower newly emerging groups

Nina Simon addressed The Art of Relevancy

Definition: Relevancy is the key that unlocks meaning.

- Make your library a welcome gathering place for everyone in your community where they can share their experiences and find bridges across differences.
- Start with the individual, not the institution.
- To be relevant, make sure that people get some kind of meaning out of the experience.
- Make sure any programs are at a place and time that work for your community.
- Walk in your customers' shoes: what do they value and how can you empower them?

MPLA Sharon Osenga

Large Scale Author Programs for Not-So-Large Libraries and Budgets

This program focused on bringing in a fairly well known author for a program.

- ◆ Start by identifying who you can afford.
- ◆ Ask the community whom they would like to hear. Use social media to get the word out. If they vote on possible speakers, make sure to collect an email address so they can receive information about the program in the future.
- ◆ Identify partners. If possible, partner with nearby libraries or a bookstore.
- ◆ Publicity should start 7 months out.
- ◆ Make sure library staff know the details of what is happening.
- ◆ Prior to the author program, have other programs on the themes in the author's books or the themes the author will talk about.
- ◆ Check with existing book clubs to see if they will buy, read and discuss a book by the author; then donate the books to the library for checkout.
- ◆ Have swag bags for community leaders that include a paperback copy of the book.
- ◆ Fundraising: perhaps a raffle of some sort.
- ◆ Host a reception prior to the author program. The reception charges a certain amount (cover food/drink costs plus a bit towards the speaker's fee). Attendees receive a ticket that allows them to sit in cordoned seats at the front of the room. The portion of the evening when the author speaks is free and open to the public.
- ◆ Have a survey on each chair about the program and also about future authors the attendee might like to hear.
- ◆ Author signing: use post-it notes so the author knows what to sign and how to spell names correctly.

Local Author showcase:

- Sponsor once a year
- Six authors are each given 10 minutes to speak followed by an author signing.

Romance authors tea:

- * Author talk
- * Tea with the author/s
- * Have games and prizes

Have a sign-up sheet. It's free unless they DON'T attend.

Library Ethics for Everyone

by Pat Wagner

Four Library Ethical Principles

1. Transparency

- Written and distributed rules for library users and staff
- Open meeting laws followed in spirit and to the letter
- Timely communication to staff and library users
- Everyone has access to the same services; no secret services.

2. Equal Treatment

- Everyone has access to the same services; if not, why?
- No special class of library users; if so, why?
- No insiders regarding contracts; out to bid
- No special privileges for staff or board; fines and holds

3. Privacy

- No discussions of individual library users' reading
- No sharing of records without court orders
- Refrain from comments on usage of computers
- No discussions of personnel issues outside of need-to-know

4. Access of information for all

- Library is safe for people with disabilities and infirmities
- Well-lit and clean so everyone has access
- Outreach initiatives; hidden literacy issues
- Computer classes

The handout from Pat Wagner (Pattern Research) is 19 pages long.
If you would like a copy, please contact Sharon at the Kearney office.

MPLA Sharon Osenga

Happy
Thanksgiving!



A Balancing Act: Library and School Partnerships

The Central Read Program is a public/school library collaboration. It meets once per week over lunch. Book and lunch are free. Prepare 3-4 activities based upon the book being discussed.

Challenges:

- ◇ Time for both librarians to meet and organize the programs.
- ◇ Culture shock: school and public libraries have different organizational cultures.
- ◇ Setting priorities

Collaboration:

- ◇ School and public libraries have a shared literacy mission
- ◇ Idea sharing between public and school librarians can play to each other's strengths

What you can do:

- ◇ Start the conversation.
- ◇ Exit your comfort zone!



What they did:

- ◇ Chose books from differing genres.
- ◇ The meetings were in-person at the school over lunch.
- ◇ The group met 4 weeks per book.
- ◇ After a short discussion of the book, there were activities to do. The books dictate the activities.
- ◇ Limited to 50 students.
- ◇ Sign-up sheet was with the school libraries.

Funding:

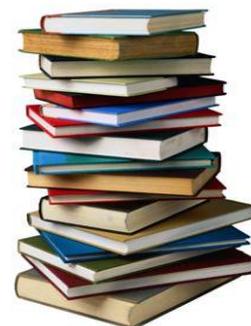
- ◇ Grants
- ◇ Donations: all food was donated by local restaurants
- ◇ Any donor is listed on all advertisements

Promotion:

- ◇ Social media
- ◇ Newsletter articles (school and public libraries)
- ◇ Word of mouth

Done with Dewey! Convert Your Library Now – I'll Show You How

Monarch High School in Colorado is done with using the Dewey Decimal System. The librarian found that the students don't really understand how it works. Also, Dewey is not particularly intuitive and it is not at all chronological. A new system called the Monarch Method was created by the school librarian.



Here's how it works:

About half of the books fit into an historical timeline. Fiction and non-fiction are

together. Orange labels indicate fiction. Clear labels indicate non-fiction.

Dark blue is a biography. Light blue is a memoir or autobiography. Books are given a letter/number combination. Within each section, books are on the shelf alphabetically by author.

Books that don't fit into the timeline are in a different section. If you are interested in viewing

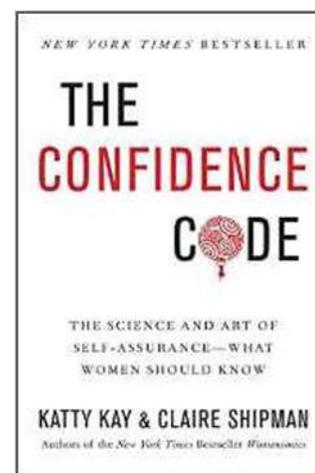
Confidence Counts: Increase Your Confidence Quotient.

The presenters based this session on the book, *The Confidence Code*, by Katty Kay and Claire Shipman.

The first half of the session dealt with how our culture and brain development impact how confident we are.

The second half dealt with strategies:

- ◆ Have a growth mindset
- ◆ Defuse negative thoughts
- ◆ Practice self-compassion
- ◆ Practice power poses and breathing exercises
- ◆ Learn to let go of perfectionism and ask for help
- ◆ Be authentic
- ◆ Ask what is worth doing, even if you fail
- ◆ Focus on your strengths
- ◆ Encourage others to take on new challenges
- ◆ Celebrate peer accomplishments



Tops Tips for Patron Technology Training

Crystal Schimpf and Cindy Fisher

Do you help library patrons learn to use technology? Successful technology training uses hands-on practice and experimentation, and motivates patrons to continue learning. No technology expertise required! Here are eight practical tips that will boost your ability to help library patrons learn technology:

1. Self-identify as a technology trainer.

Do the best you can in the moment.

2. Measure your own progress.

It is difficult to keep up with accelerating changes in computers.

3. Take slow, deep breaths.

4. Narrate your process.

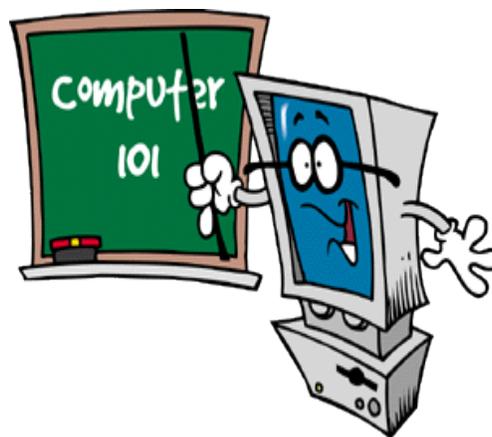
Don't be afraid to say, "I'm not sure."

5. Focus on quality, not quantity.

6. Find the teachable moment.

7. Be a guide, not a doormat.

8. Create a technology Resource Guide.



Free Technology Training Resources: <http://bit.ly/2eiE299>.

ARSL Denise Harders

StarNet: Science Technology Activities and Resources for Libraries

www.starnetlibraries.org



This link allows you access to a resource clearinghouse, blog, forum and more. Focus is currently on the total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. You can register your public library at:

www.starnetlibraries.org/2017-eclipse-registration/. If you register with StarNet to host an eclipse event on August 21st, they will provide 50 free solar viewing glasses on a first come, first serve basis plus other vetted eclipse resources.

MPLA Sharon Osenga



Grown-ups at the Library: Building a Successful Adult Library Program

First of all, you must decide if you need to do adult programming. You may wish to survey the community. Decide what information you want to know. Make the survey relevant. Study what has been done in the past. If it worked, why? If it didn't work, why? **Did the marketing, format or presenter fail?** Was there inadequate funding? Create local partnerships to help with arrangements and funding. Use social networking for marketing. Will the author do any marketing for you?

MPLA Sharon Osenga

Small Libraries but Not Small Minds: Intellectual Freedom in Small Communities

Kristin Pekoll

Small towns get a bad reputation for being small minded, but librarians work towards bashing those stereotypes. Intellectual freedom is a value we hold dear whether we are based in big cities, suburbs, farm towns, or our nearest neighbor is five miles away.

Even in the smallest communities, diversity can be highlighted in displays, programming, the collection, and signage. Simply put, ALA defines diverse content as “books by and about people of color, LGBT people and/or disabled people.” When purchasing material with diverse content, one resource is the Stonewall Book Awards which are announced at ALA’s Midwinter meeting. See the 2016 winners at <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2016/01/2016-stonewall-book-awards-announced>.

Another source for diverse content books is the Brown Bookshelf blog: (<https://thebrownbookshelf.com/>). It features a group of authors and illustrators who came together to push awareness of the myriad of African American voices writing for young readers.

One final resource mentioned is the [*Intellectual Freedom Manual*](#), 9th edition.

ARSL Denise Harders

Modifiable Music and Movement

Mary DeWalt

Have you heard about preschool “music and movement” programming but are not sure how it works? Are you interested in offering this type of program but fear it is too expensive, time intensive, or requires too much space? Is your main fear your (perceived) lack of ability to sing and/or make music? Get over it! Children just like to participate—singing, moving, using simple instruments.

Why Offer Preschool Music and Movement Programs?

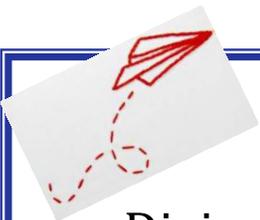
- ◆ Health
 - Bodies need activity
 - Playing a kazoo activates inner ear bone structure
- ◆ Literacy Skills
 - Language is developed in the frontal lobe (ages 2 – 6)
- ◆ Cognition
 - Music enhances cognitive function
- ◆ Motor Skills (fine and large)
 - Clapping hands
 - Marching
- ◆ School Preparation
 - Listening
 - Following instructions
- ◆ Pure Joy
 - Bubbles



Program Design

- ◆ Use the same opening and closing each time
- ◆ Select a theme for each month
- ◆ Include classic components each session
 - Experience Music
 - Play Instruments
 - Sing and/or chant
 - Move

Supplies: parachutes, dowels for rhythm sticks, plastic egg shaker, scarves, bean bags, balance beam, wax paper skating (on rug).



Diving into Makerspaces in an Elementary Library

Kristin Bunde



Kristin incorporated a makerspace into her elementary library in Lincoln Public Schools last year. She shared her experiences with NLA/NSLA Conference attendees. The most important thing to establish with students is expectations. Routines must be taught. Sportsmanship and cooperation are non-negotiable. The school librarian should model troubleshooting behavior. An Expectation Chart is helpful in keeping students focused.

Plan specific activities or challenges for your students to solve in the makerspace. Here are some examples. Give each child five [Zoob](#) pieces and challenge the class to put them together in twenty different ways. You can do makerspace challenges with book tie-ins. Read ***Papa's Mechanical Fish*** and have students design plans on paper and then build what they have drawn. Once students have read ***Awesome Dawson***, have them build a body using Zoobs. They can help the Three Little Pigs outsmart the Wolf. You can check Pinterest for STEM projects for more ideas.

It is important to find a balance for the time spent in the Makerspace. Students want to be there all the time! Start small with just one activity. Remember, the Makerspace does not have to stay in the Library. Use a cart to take activities to the classrooms.

Some Makerspace ideas:

Bridge Building
K'Nex
Paper Airplanes
Tangrams

Calligraphy
LEGOs
Puppet Theaters
Duct Tape Creations

Dominoes
Origami
Strawbees
Blocks

NLA/NSLA Denise Harders

NLA/NSLA Conference
Kearney, NE
October 11-13, 2017



Maria Rodaway: Prairie Pioneer

Karen Drevo

Are you looking for a true Nebraska pioneer program to celebrate Nebraska's 150th birthday? Maria (portrayed by her great-great granddaughter in period attire) looks back at her life as a prairie pioneer in Otoe County, Nebraska, where she homesteaded in 1867 (150 years ago!). Maria crossed the Atlantic Ocean with seven children to reunite her family after a 7 ½ year separation. She endured grasshoppers, hail, drought, tornadoes, blizzards, and the loss of her husband and six of her 13 children as she worked to become a citizen and land owner in a new country. Resilient and resourceful, she lived a life of usefulness to her family and large circle of friends with her loving deeds and kind acts, delivering babies and nursing the sick.

Arrange for this wonderful program to be presented at your school or library by contacting the Nebraska Humanities Council at <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/speakers/>

What Is a "Rare" Book, Anyway?

Robert Nash,
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Even as libraries transition from their traditional print-based collections to online resources, many are also devoting more resources to their special collections of unique print materials. Librarians who work with such collections are often asked what make a book "rare."

Here is a list of the criteria:

Age

Condition (New, Fine, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor)

Monetary Value

Scarcity (*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, only 500 copies, different cover)

Physical Characteristics (Size, Art Work, Special Bindings, Fragile)

Provenance & Associations (Where it came from?)

Content (Subject Matter)

Local Interest

Library processing with property stamps and affixed pockets greatly diminish the value.

Reader's Advisory Top Ten Civil War Novels

Christian Science Monitor, April 13, 2011

Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

North and South by John Jakes

Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier

Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All by

Alan Gurganus

The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane

Shiloh by Shelby Foote

March by Geraldine Brooks

The Widow of the South by Robert Hicks

The March by E.L. Doctorow

Also: ***Coal Black Horse*** by Robert Olmstead

Alice's Tulips by Sandra Dallas

The Friendly Persuasion by Jessamyn