Conference Planning Q & A

ILA President and Conference Co-Chair, Alison Ames Galstad, shares the following insights into how the ILA Conference Planning Committee creates an imaginative and informative annual conference.

➢ What are the responsibilities of the Conference Planning Committee?
The Conference Planning Committee is divided into three subcommittees:

- Speakers & Sessions
- Exhibitors & Sponsors
- Local Arrangements

Dividing the work among three committees, and focusing on the distinct areas of conference planning, has proven to be a very efficient process for the Conference Planning Committee. The Speakers & Sessions Subcommittee looks through all of the suggested sessions and topics submitted by ILA Subdivisions and Committees. It also receives all of the session submissions, and works on vetting and lining up keynote speakers. The Exhibitors & Sponsors Subcommittee works with all of the vendors who exhibit at the Conference, as well as with the Conference facility, to insure a positive experience for exhibitors and conference attendees in the Exhibits Hall. The Local Arrangements Subcommittee works on the Grand Opening reception for exhibits, any special Wednesday evening event associated with the Conference, volunteers, and a host of details associated with the conference site.

➢ How far in advance of the Conference does the Committee start working?
The first meeting of the Conference Planning Committee is usually in January or early February. Of course, the initial planning for the Annual Conference begins well before that, with the Annual Planning Day generally taking place in early November of the previous year, shortly after the Annual Conference.

➢ What’s the best or most fun part of serving on this Committee?
Each subcommittee has interesting work. It is always fun to visit the Conference venue, entertain new ideas to implement in the coming conference, and sift through the variety of conference proposals and session suggestions. It’s a great way to get involved in ILA.
How can members help the Conference Planning Committee?
Attend the Conference! The first step in helping the Conference Planning Committee is attending the ILA Annual Conference, and then providing feedback for the next year’s planning process.

What types of feedback or ideas do you want or need from members?
The Conference Planning Committee always pays attention to the evaluations from the last conference. When speakers are suggested, reviews provided by members who have seen them at other conferences, or who have attended professional development sessions by those speakers, are valuable. It’s also helpful to hear from attendees about what was useful to them and what didn’t work so well! New ideas for session topics or other opportunities at the Conference are welcome.

What do you hope to accomplish as Co-Chair of the Committee this year?
Of course, Co-Chair Duncan Stewart and I hope to help the Committee plan an interesting and fun Conference that will draw hundreds of library professionals from a wide variety of libraries across Iowa. We hope the Conference has an array of useful and riveting sessions, engaging presenters, and plenty of opportunities for exchanging ideas with colleagues in the Association. Our goal is for everyone involved to have a positive and memorable conference experience!

Message From The ILA President

Thank you to everyone who participated in ILA’s Lobby from Home Day on February 17th. And we are so pleased with the turnout we had for the ILA Legislative Reception on March 16th at the State Law Library. Our legislators and our lobbyists consistently tell us that hearing directly from librarians and library constituents is the best way to get the message to our legislators about the importance of Iowa’s libraries, and to inform them of the crucial need to maintain funding and grow Iowa’s library resources for the citizens of Iowa.

Advocating at the national level is important for Iowa as well. In addition to keeping in touch with Iowa’s senators and representatives about important library funding initiatives, such as the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and Iowa’s State Library funding, it is important for us to continue telling Iowa’s library stories to our legislators in Washington. State Librarian Michael Scott and I will be part of a small group of representatives from Iowa going to Washington D.C. for the National Library Legislative Day in May. This is a great opportunity to talk with our congressional legislators face-to-face, and bring them those firsthand stories about the importance of Iowa’s libraries.

Planning for the ILA Annual Fall Conference is underway. You can read elsewhere in this issue of the Catalyst about the planning process, but let me say that the Committee is working hard to assemble a compelling lineup of speakers and activities for the fall conference in Dubuque. Details are being worked out as we speak, and will be outlined in forthcoming issues of the Catalyst. But be sure to mark your calendar now for October 12-14 in Dubuque!

Alison Ames Galstad
ILA President
Spotlight On Iowa Libraries

Name of Library: Burlington Public Library

Age of Library: Library services in Burlington trace their origin to a subscription library formed by Senator James Wilson Grimes in 1868. After the subscription library went bankrupt, the city established the Burlington Public Library in 1885 in two rooms in the City Hall. In 1898, the library moved to its own building and remained there until 2006. The library’s new facility will celebrate its 10th birthday in November.

Library Director: Rhonda Frevert

Number on Staff: 16 FTE

Volunteers: BPL volunteers bring their time and talents to the library. An active Friends of the Library group operates a used book shop and holds three annual book sales to raise funds for ongoing support for library programming and projects. Our volunteers gave over 7,700 hours of service in FY15. They directly enhance day-to-day operations by providing assistance for special projects in our archives, programming support, and collection maintenance.

Programs: Burlington Public Library offers programs from the day you are born right through to your life as a senior citizen. Library staff offer Babies Need Books, a program that provides the family of each baby born at our local hospital with a book and information about early literacy development, and Babygarten, a baby lap sit program geared toward learning how to read, sing, and rhyme with caregivers. The library’s school readiness classes include Story Times, Wiggle Times, and Yoga Story Times. A new 1-2-3 Blast Off! Club focuses on first through third graders and is a celebration of chapter books. Tween and teen events are offered weekly with Minecraft events, Lego Robotics, book themed parties, and more. Adult and senior programming includes Pinterest nights, After Hours events, a Specifically for Seniors series, computer classes, and Sit & Stitch. Outreach takes library staff into the local schools for book talks and before and after school program presentations. Library staff also offers homebound delivery services.

Hours Open: Monday-Thursday 9am to 8pm, Friday and Saturday 9am to 5pm, closed Sunday.

Location: 210 Court Street in Burlington, population 25,663 (2010 census). Size Code: G.

Special Collections/Features: As the first capital of Iowa, Burlington has a long history that is reflected in its rich local history collection. It includes images, diaries, and personal and organizational papers that reflect the early life of Iowa. The library has a strong genealogy collection and holds an annual genealogy workshop. The library also has a large outdoor chess board, a coffee shop, and several meeting rooms that are well used by the community.

Calendar Of Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>April</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School Library Month</strong></td>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>May 2-3</td>
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<td>April 3-4</td>
<td>ALA National Library Legislative Day, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>May 9</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
<td>Catalyst deadline for May/June issue</td>
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<td>April 10-16</td>
<td>May 20</td>
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<td>ILA/ACRL Spring Conference, Ankeny Campus, Des Moines Area Community College</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>ILAF Board Meeting</td>
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<td>June 17</td>
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<td>ILA Executive Board Meeting</td>
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<td>June 23-28</td>
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<td>ALA Annual Conference &amp; Exhibition, Orlando, FL</td>
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Enjoying an adult craft class

Our smallest patrons love the library!

The Burlington Glass Artisan Club donated stained glass art to BPL, fall of 2015

Burlington City Planner Jim Fournier, mads at Story Time

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Get To Know Nancy Trask, ILA Treasurer

One of my high school jobs was in my hometown Winterset Public Library, an early indicator of my library destiny! Since I also wanted to save the world, my college work was focused on sociology and psychology. But my attention soon returned to libraries, and the rest of my life has had a dual focus of libraries, in which I have worked for 35 years, and social activism through a life-long involvement in the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA). I have found these two pathways to be very compatible. I am currently the secretary of the ICA:USA Board and the director of the Winterset Public Library.

Because I moved around frequently with the ICA, I had lots of opportunities to discover new library roles, and I have worked in many types of libraries: medical, academic, public, business, and a two-year stint working on a biomedical engineering library that was in the planning stages for the MIT campus.

In the ICA, I developed and taught methods of strategic planning, participative decision-making, and meeting facilitation. These methods have led me to fascinating experiences, including a year on the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation, four years in India, and five years as liaison from the ICA to UN Headquarters in NYC. They have also helped me to provide leadership in each of my library positions, and in various library associations.

In 2004, I became the director of the Winterset Public Library—talk about full circle! And yes, you CAN go home again! It is great fun to work in Winterset as an adult, and to see my hometown through the eyes of a community leader. I love to shake up the routine of my life, and I truly enjoy meeting new people and learning new things, so it is natural that I thrive on events such as the ILA Annual Conference and working with the ILA Executive Board and the Finance Committee.

As Treasurer of ILA, I have the privilege of working with Diversified Management Services (DMS) as they provide our ILA managerial headquarters. They do such a professional job on behalf of all of our members. Besides their excellent financial accounting, they help us to make our vision of service to Iowa librarians become a reality. DMS is always ready to develop a strategy and put a plan in motion.

In 2015, the ILA Board and the Finance Committee wanted to raise our income in order to build a more solid and stable future for the organization. One way we hoped to this was to improve our Association’s communication. It has been inspiring to see the ways that the Board members, and our entire membership, have been responsive to the intention to build a more solid and stable future.

At the 2015 ILA Conference, I had a wonder-filled experience presenting the session, Activate Your Library Team with Methods of Strategic Planning. There were about 75 attendees, and I was expecting 20 or 30! The attendees pulled together to help me deal with a bigger crowd, and (perhaps this is common for presenters?) I had a profound learning experience. This showed me one of the greatest things about Iowa librarians—they are helpers, and I believe it is ingrained in their souls.

Conference Hotel

Make your hotel reservations for the 2016 ILA Conference.

Grand Harbor Resort
350 Bell Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
866-690-4006

Rate: $99/night single and double occupancy. For each additional person there will be a $10.00 charge. The group rate will be available until September 20 or until the block sells out, whichever comes first.

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### 2016 ILA Subdivision Officers

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<th>Community College Librarians Roundtable</th>
<th>Library Leadership &amp; Management Association</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Sandra Greufe, Ellsworth Community College</td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Darryl Eschete, West Des Moines Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sec./Treasurer:</strong> Michelle Bailey, Scott Community College</td>
<td><strong>Vice Chair:</strong> Nicole Morgan, Oskaloosa Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<th>Government Documents Roundtable</th>
<th><strong>Secretary:</strong> Jennie Garner, North Liberty Community Library</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Leighton Christiansen, Iowa Department of Transportation, Chair</td>
<td><strong>Treasurer:</strong> Pat Lienemann, Williamsburg Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Sec./Treasurer:</strong> Timothy Skeers, State Library</td>
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<tr>
<th>Information Technology Forum</th>
<th>Local History and Genealogy</th>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Janet Lubben, North Liberty Community Library</td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Nathan Clark, Emmetsburg Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Secretary:</strong> Brian Thompson, University of Iowa Libraries</td>
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<th>Iowa Association of School Librarians</th>
<th>Public Library Forum</th>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Kathrine Rogers, Davenport Community School District</td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Samantha Helmick, Burlington Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Vice Chair:</strong> Sarah Staadt, Mason City Community School District</td>
<td><strong>Vice Chair:</strong> Debbie Stanton, Washington Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Sec./Treasurer:</strong> Jennifer Keltner, Muscatine High School</td>
<td><strong>Secretary:</strong> Bradley Wiles, Clinton Public Library</td>
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<th>ILA/ACRL</th>
<th>Readers Advisory Roundtable</th>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Sara Scheib, University of Iowa</td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Jillian Rutledge, Waverly Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Vice Chair:</strong> Beth McMahon, Central College</td>
<td><strong>Vice Chair:</strong> Seth Warburton, Ames Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Sec./Treasurer:</strong> Jennifer Sterling, William Penn University</td>
<td><strong>Secretary:</strong> Amy Muchmore, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque</td>
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<td><strong>Treasurer:</strong> Amy Stuenkel, Cedar Falls Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<th>Iowa Health Sciences Library Association</th>
<th>Resources &amp; Technical Services Forum</th>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Elizabeth Kiscaden, University of Iowa</td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Susan Moore, University of Northern Iowa</td>
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<td><strong>Vice Chair:</strong> Natalie Hutchinson, Des Moines University</td>
<td><strong>Secretary:</strong> Susan Green, Bettendorf Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Secretary:</strong> Jill Edgerton, Des Moines University</td>
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<th>Iowa Library Trustees Association</th>
<th>Storytellers’ Roundtable</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Michell Klinker-Feld, Bondurant Community Library</td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Duffy DeFrance, Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company</td>
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<tr>
<th>Iowa Small Libraries Association</th>
<th><strong>Secretary:</strong> Cathy Van Brocklin, Ames Public Library</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Paula Brown, Spencer Public Library</td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Andrew Petersen, University of Iowa</td>
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<td><strong>Vice Chair:</strong> Dorothy Knight, Van Meter Public Library</td>
<td><strong>Vice Chair:</strong> Dawn Cline, Marion Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Treasurer:</strong> Sandy Long, Whittemore Public Library</td>
<td><strong>Treasurer:</strong> Evelyn Redling, Maquoketa Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<th>Support Personnel</th>
<th>Youth Services Subdivision</th>
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<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Elaine Hayes, North Liberty Community Library</td>
<td><strong>Chair:</strong> Erin Silva, Kalona Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Vice Chair:</strong> Dawn Cline, Marion Public Library</td>
<td><strong>Secretary:</strong> Katie Dreyer, Pella Public Library</td>
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<td><strong>Treasurer:</strong> Evelyn Redling, Maquoketa Public Library</td>
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ILA/ACRL Mary Hammond Iber Spring Conference Scholarship

To honor an exceptional librarian's commitment to continuous learning and growth, ILA/ACRL makes available the Mary Hammond Iber Spring Conference Scholarship. The scholarship will help fund attendance at the ILA/ACRL Spring Conference, May 20, 2016 at the Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny. The scholarship will cover the registration fee and up to $100 in travel, hotel, and meal expenses.

Applicants must fall into at least one of the following three categories:

1. Paid members of ILA/ACRL, working full-time in an Iowa academic or research library, and either: attending their first ILA/ACRL Conference, or have worked in an Iowa academic or research library for fewer than three years.

2. Library science students.

3. Support staff working in an Iowa academic or research library.

Student and support staff applicants do not have to be paid members of ILA/ACRL. Previous ILA/ACRL Spring Conference Scholarship recipients are not eligible.

Apply online. The deadline for applications is April 17, 2016. The winner will be notified in early May.

Anne Marie Gruber
ILA/ACRL Awards Committee Chair

2016 ILA Committees

**Awards Committee**
Duncan Stewart, University of Iowa, ILA Past President, Chair
Mary Heinzman, St. Ambrose University
Sarah Willeford, Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

**Bylaws & Organizational Manual Committee**
Chelsea Sims, Iowa City Community School District, Chair
Louise Alcorn, West Des Moines Public Library
Sandy Long, Whittemore Public Library
Ellen Neuhaus, University Of Northern Iowa

**Communications Committee**
Dan Chibnall, Grandview University, Chair
Barbara Corson, State Library
Samantha Helmick, Burlington Public Library
Ryan Gjerde, Luther College

**Conference Planning Committee**
Alison Ames Galstad, Coralville Public Library, ILA President, Co-Chair
Duncan Stewart, University of Iowa, ILA Past President, Co-Chair
Dawn Cline, Marion Public Library
Barbara Corson, State Library, ILAF Representative
Duffy DeFrance, Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company
Val Ehlers, Gladbrook-Reinbeck CSD, Grundy Center SD
Stacy Goodhue, Carlisle Public Library
Jan Grandgeorge, Eagle Grove Memorial Library
Susan Green, Bettendorf Public Library
Samantha Helmick, Burlington Public Library
Susan Henricks, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque
Elizabeth Kiscaden, University of Iowa
Dorothy Knight, Van Meter Public Library
Nancy Medema, State Library
Amy Paulus, University of Iowa
Gloria Petesch, Marquette Catholic Schools, Bellevue
Kathy Rieger, Council Bluffs Public Library
Don Ruby, Koch Brothers
Jillian Rutledge, Waverly Public Library
Erin Silva, Kalona Public Library
Bradley Wiles, Clinton Public Library
Michael Wright, Dubuque County Library District

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Finance Committee
Nancy Trask, Winterset Public Library, Chair
Paula Brown, Spencer Public Library
Thomas Kessler, University of Northern Iowa
Jeffrey Kushkowski, Iowa State University
Alison Ames Galstad, Coralville Public Library, ILA President
Duncan Stewart, University of Iowa, ILA Past-President

Governmental Affairs Committee
Alison Ames Galstad, Coralville Public Library, ILA President, Chair
Cassandra Elton, Antelope Lending Library Bookmobile, Iowa City
Sonja Ferrell, Ottumwa Public Library
Andrew Fuerst–Henry, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque
Rebecca Funke, Des Moines Area Community College
Jan Grandgeorge, Eagle Grove Memorial Library
Andrew Hoppmann, Lied Public Library
Kim Keitzman, Altoona Public Library
Michael Scott, State Librarian, Advisor
Duncan Stewart, University of Iowa, ILA Past-President
Christine Sturgeon, Manson Northwest Webster School, Chair
Sarah Willeford, Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Intellectual Freedom Committee
Andrew Fuerst–Henry, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque, Chair
Paula Brown, Spencer Public Library
Nathan Clark, Emmetsburg Public Library
Darryl Eschete, West Des Moines Public Library
Pat Lienemann, Williamsburg Public Library
Nancy Luikart, Muscatine Community College
Lisa Martincik, University of Iowa
Molly Mauer, Kling Memorial Library, Grundy Center
Cara Stone, Grand View University
Michael Wright, Dubuque County Library District

Leadership Development Committee
Misty Gray, State Library, Chair
Ellen Hampe-Alexander, Coralville Public Library
Andrew Hoppmann, Lied Public Library, Clarinda
Nicole Lindstrom, Newton Public Library
Sandy Long, Whittemore Public Library
Nancy Medema, State Library
Mary Murphy, Perry Public Library
Devon Murphy-Petersen, Waukee Public Library
Kathrine Rogers, Davenport Community School District
Kay Runge, KK Runge Consultants, ILAF Representative
Holly Sealine, Norwalk Easter Public Library

Membership Committee
Brett Cloyd, University of Iowa, Chair
Gretchen Carolan, Decorah Public Library
Marie Harms, State Library
Dorothy Knight, Van Meter Public Library
Sarah Latcham, Van Allen Elementary, Iowa City Schools
Nicole Lindstrom, Newton Public Library

Nominating Committee
Sarah Willeford, Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Chair
Leo Clougherty, University of Iowa
Mary Heinzman, St. Ambrose University
Kimberly Mashek, State Library
Kris Moser, Sioux City Community School District
Rebecca Funke, Des Moines Area Community College, ILA President Elect, Liaison

ILA/ACRL Spring Conference Registration Is Open!

ILA/ACRL Spring Conference is May 20, 2016 at DMACC’s Ankeny campus. Here are some things you may want to know:

• Register and view a schedule outline at the ILA/ACRL website.

• Register, view schedule outline, hotel information, and maps via the interactive conference site. Feel free to log in (or create an account) and build your own schedule for the day! (Hotel blocks will be available through April 25th.)

• We have a national speaker coming to the conference this year, thanks to the very generous sponsorship from bepress! A representative from bepress will attend the conference to visit with those who might be interested in their products and services.

Megan Oakleaf is our keynote speaker! Join us for a lively presentation and discussion that will inspire "take home" ideas and strategies you can implement at your own library.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Rebecca Funke
ILA/ACRL Spring Conference Committee Chair
2016 ILA Foundation Board

Representing Small Public Libraries
Mary Bucy, Hudson Public Library, 2018
Tami Finley, Edna Zybell Memorial Library, Clarence, 2018
Cathy Noble, Gutenkunst Public Library, State Center, 2018

Representing Medium Public Libraries
Sarah Clendenin, President, Fort Madison Public Library, 2018
Susan Macken, Oelwein Public Library, 2018
Wendy Street, Pella Public Library, 2018
Vacant

Representing Large Public Libraries
Lois Blythe, Secretary, Burlington Public Library, 2018
Marlys Lien, Council Bluffs Public Library, 2018
Michael Wright, Dubuque County Library District, 2016

Representing Academic Libraries
Karen Davidson, Northeast Iowa Comm College, Calmar, 2016
Susan Moore, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, 2018

Representing School and Special Libraries
Vacant

At-Large
Barbara Corson, State Library, 2018
Ken Jones, Treasurer, Jones Library Sales, Carlisle, 2016
Tim Jones, Cedar Falls, 2018
Kay Runge, Library Consultant, Des Moines 2018

Representing Exhibitors
Rick Brammer, Vice President, Book Farm, 2016

ILA Vice President, Ex Officio Member
Rebecca Funke, Des Moines Area Community College, 2016

ILA Office Manager, Ex Officio Member
Melissa Primus, Diversified Management Services

ILA/ACRL Research Award

The ILA/ACRL Awards Committee announces a $500 grant to be awarded to an ILA/ACRL member for a presented or published scholarly work. Please consider submitting your own work or nominating a colleague for this award! The following rules and qualifications apply:

- A qualifying presented paper must be text-based and have been delivered at a regional, national, or international conference.
- A qualifying published paper is to have appeared in a scholarly journal.
- A qualifying book is to be scholarly in nature.
- The subject matter of the material submitted may be on any scholarly topic.
- The papers should have been delivered or published since October of 2013.
- PowerPoint slides, video, or audio submissions will not be considered.
- Entries may be self-submitted or nominated.
- Entries will be considered by the Awards Committee on the basis of a blind ranking process. Criteria include but are not limited to:
  - Venue is scholarly as evidenced by, for example, peer-review of submissions and/or reputation for scholarly exchange.
  - Research represents substantive contribution to the body of knowledge.
  - Work shows evidence of rigorous and thoughtful inquiry into the topic.

If the committee finds that none of the entries are meritorious, it may decide not to make an award.

The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2016. The winner will be notified in early May. The winner will be announced at the ILA/ACRL Spring Conference on May 20, 2016. The recipient will be encouraged to share a brief (5-10 minute) verbal summary of his/her research at a conference general session.

Please email submissions to: Anne Marie Gruber, ILA/ACRL Awards Committee Chair, anne.gruber@uni.edu. Include a copy of your work/research, along with your name and contact information.

On behalf of the ILA/ACRL Awards Committee, thank you!

Anne Marie Gruber
ILA/ACRL Awards Committee Chair

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A Good Problem To Have
ALA Councilor Report

I like to come up with some sort of theme for these write-ups, and for this conference I’m going with “a good problem to have.” So, for starters, I packed a winter coat was really much heavier than I needed. When I heard that the 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting was going to be in Boston in early January, I got pretty nervous. We did the Midwinter Blizzard thing in Chicago last year, and it wasn’t much fun. But it turns out my fears were unfounded: the temperature climbed up into the 50’s one day, and I had ample opportunity to gloat to my friends and family back in Iowa.

In Council meetings, we had the not-so-bad problem of everything going too smoothly. If you’re at all familiar with ALA Council, you’ll know that it has some reputation for tackling broad political topics and getting lost in the weeds of floor debate. Libraries are such varied and far-reaching institutions; most any political issue can be phrased as a library issue. And so the governing body of the American Library Association has, at one point or another, debated resolutions on almost all of them. And whatever one’s opinions on, say, gun control or Israeli/Palestinian relations, it’s not hard to imagine those debates getting long and heated.

I don’t know that we took up simpler issues this meeting—we passed resolutions relating to Islamophobia, undocumented immigrants, and the balance of national security relative to civil liberties—but the Council as a whole made a strong effort to polish their resolutions before they came to the floor. Discussions and debates took place, wording was tweaked, and consensus was reached long before the resolutions came before Council for a vote. This meant we got very good resolutions passed by large margins. It also meant that all of our meetings wrapped up very early.

So, what do you do at your library when everything is going so well that you have a room full of highly motivated individuals with nothing to do? For ALA Council, it means more time spent discussing how best to advocate for all libraries across the country and how to make ALA a welcoming organization that all of America’s librarians feel they can be a part of. Learn about ALA’s new Libraries Transform campaign focusing on the positive changes libraries bring to both individuals and society as a whole. It’s an exciting message delivered well, and the website contains an extensive toolkit to help you spread the word to your community.

Andrew Fuerste-Henry
ALA Councilor

April Is Architecture Month

The profession of architecture is one that impacts our daily lives, and architects across Iowa are working to design a better future for our state.

Celebrate with architects across Iowa and the Nation this April by providing a display of books related to architecture and/or hosting a program related to architecture in your library.

For resources visit the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects or call 515-244-7502. For examples of award winning architecture across Iowa go to IowaArchitecture.org. And for outreach program ideas try the Iowa Architectural Foundation’s website.

Where Can I Find...

Financial Statements, Executive Board Minutes, And More Are Available On The ILA Website

To see the Executive Board’s meeting minutes go to ILA’s website at www.iowalibraryassociation.org, search Board Minutes and they’ll pop right up! Same for the search term Financial Statements – what could be easier?

Or go to the website and click on the Membership tab and choose Member Central. There you will find these documents and much more information about ILA, including a link to past issues of the Catalyst.
The More Things Change,
The More They Stay The Same

I came across the following poem while perusing old Iowa Library Quarterly. It gave me a chuckle, and made me think how little things have changed.

Now, does anyone want to buy an extra copy of NYPD Red 4 by James Patterson that I accidentally ordered?!

A Ballad of Mis-Bought Books
By Martha Hart

My life is full of gallant books,
   Fair books of every kind;—
They smile from all my gayest nooks
   To cheer me, heart and mind.
But lest my careless brain forgets
   The lessons Time has taught,
I’ll sing about THE AWFUL SETS
   I WISH I HADN’T BOUGHT!

A curse upon the fatal days
   I let those agents in!
(‘Tis true the Woman always Pays
   For every stupid sin!)
Now when I view that shiny row,
   I marvel, “Who’d ‘a’ thought
That fresh young guys could fool me so?
   JUST SEE WHAT JUNK I BOUGHT!”

They give me “Facts for Every Day,”
   And “How to Hypnotize!”
They tell me what to do and say
   If I’d be truly wise.
They teach me How to Train my Child,
   And How to Guard his Thought!
(Oh dear, they almost set me wild,—
   Those awful books I’ve bought!)

Ah, well,—I’ll keep them on the shelf
   Til I have grown so old
That I shall really KNOW MYSELF,
   And agents leave me cold!
And meanwhile let me not forget,
   Nor evermore be caught
With any further shiny set
   I’LL WISH I HADN’T BOUGHT!

Book Page, Sunday Des Moines Register, December 3, 1922

Barb Corson
Communications Committee
Current Status Of Iowa’s State Historical Society

In addition to focusing on the five talking points summarized for Legislative Day, several librarians and legislators discussed the importance of preserving Iowa’s history, and the current challenges in providing adequate access to resources at the State Historical Libraries. ILA President Alison Ames Galstad recently wrote to Governor Branstad, expressing ILA’s concerns as outlined in the Resolution passed at the Annual Conference. Dr. Tyler Priest, Associate Professor of History at the University of Iowa, has gathered additional information and resources regarding the current status of Iowa’s State Historical Society. You can see this information here.

Please share ILA’s resolution with your senators and representatives, and let them know the importance of preserving Iowa’s history and maintaining meaningful and accessible collections of Iowa history for our citizens.

Alison Ames Galstad
ILA President

Librarians And Legislators Gather For ILA Legislative Day At The Capitol

On Wednesday, March 16th, librarians, trustees, and legislators gathered in the Law Library of the Iowa State Capitol for the Annual ILA Legislative Day. Over 60 senators and representatives turned out for the reception, and were met by librarians and trustees from all regions of the state.

Prior to the reception, librarians met in the State Library for a briefing. After remarks from ILA President Alison Ames Galstad and State Librarian Michael Scott, the group was updated on the legislative session and legislative issues pertinent to libraries by ILA’s lobbyist Craig Patterson. Everyone headed over to the Law Library at 3:30, and although both the senate and house had adjourned unusually early in the afternoon, we were very pleased with a turnout of legislators exceeding 60 members. ILA Legislative Day is a unique opportunity for the library community to talk one-on-one with our elected officials, and underscore the importance of funding for, and support of, the State Library and our library services that reach every citizen in Iowa.

If you weren’t able to join us on ILA Legislative Day, be sure to reach out to your elected officials by phone or email.

Thanks to all of the Iowa librarians, trustees, and library advocates who participated in this important event, and to those who have contacted their legislators on these crucial issues.

Please continue to share your library’s story with your legislators.