

### **PLD Directors' meeting**

March 6, 2020, at Newport Public Library

PLD President Erin Wells called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. She thanked Laura Kimberly and the staff of Newport Public Library for hosting the meeting. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves, stating their names and libraries.

### **Libros for Oregon report via Skype**

Hannah Bostrom, librarian at Salem Public Library, incoming chair for Libros for Oregon: Libros is an organization that helps libraries find socially appropriate, Spanish-language books for your collection. Libros for Oregon reps go to the huge retail book fair (FIL) in Guadalajara to select and purchase books. Each participating library contributes \$200 for travel costs and earmarks \$500-\$2000 for purchase of books. Public libraries as well as school libraries may participate. If you know of school libraries that would benefit from this program, please let LIBROS know.

Mark Peterson, collection-development librarian at Mt. Hood Community College, and member of Libros: I have been to the fair, and the logistics are simple. Library gets one invoice from one vendor, and once you have a relationship with a publisher, then you can ask them, say, for books in Somali, and they will put out feelers for that. Current exchange rate is very favorable to U.S. libraries, so can help you stretch your collection-development budgets. Be aware of great opportunity, the ALA FIL Pass—have to be a current ALA member, and you have to be one of the first 100 libraries to sign up. Hotel, fair registration is paid for—basically everything except airfare. Most libraries work with Multicultural Books and Videos.

John Hunter from Woodburn Public Library endorsed the fair as a place to get books on more wide-ranging topics. Seconded by Laura Kimberly of Newport Public Library and Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney from Driftwood Public Library (Lincoln City). Kathy Street of Oregon Trail Library District said: "Circulation of Spanish-speaking books has doubled since we started going to FIL."

Buzzy Nielsen of Crook County Public Library cautioned that if you participate in this program, warn your catalogers, because there will be a lot of original cataloging.

### **REFORMA Update / Mary Kay Dahlgreen, Lincoln County Library District**

- Reforma is a division of ALA, focused on library services to Spanish speakers. REFORMA-Oregon, formed six years ago, applied for and won the right to host the national REFORMA conference, March 4-11, 2021, in Portland. At Marriott Downtown. Directors, please encourage your staff members to attend if they can.
- Buzzy Nielsen reported that there will be a vote at the OLA Conference in April to decide whether to make Reforma-Oregon a division (it is currently a roundtable).
- There are quarterly meetings of the Reforma roundtable, and several attendees reported that they are very valuable. Focusing on the national conference right now, but

the roundtable also does a mock Pura Belpre Award, trainings for teachers to do culturally sensitive teaching, outreach to communities. Also a national Reforma listserv.

- Next Reforma-Oregon meeting is Saturday, May 23, at Crook County Public Library in Prineville.
- Angelica Novoa from Corvallis Public Library encouraged you to support your Spanish-speaking staff and patrons by, among other things, participating in REFORMA.

### **Library Squad / Jerianne Thompson**

- Jerianne announced the launch of a new PLD initiative, the Library Squad: a team of people—including librarians, architects, and consultants—who can come to your library and offer a fresh set of eyes. The goal is to help libraries that have limited funding—public libraries, school libraries, volunteer organizations.
- Plan is to work with 2-4 libraries over the next 18 months. Challenges/projects could include weeding, workflow, troubleshooting access, planning, or new automation.
- Delegation from Library Squad will visit library and will also make referrals to outside people.
- Example: At Cannon Beach Library, small changes around entrance to help make access to the library more welcoming.
- Idea came from New Jersey: SWAT team of library transformers.
- Current committee is Jerianne Thompson (Tualatin Public Library), Esther Moberg (Seaside Public Library), Marianne Coalson (Cedar Mill and Bethany Community Libraries), Karen Muller (Hillsboro Public Library), Jimmy Pearson (Astoria Public Library), and Brenda Katz (architect, SERA)
- Criteria include: Can this project be dealt with in 1-3 days by the library squad
- Grant application being submitted to LSTA
- There will be a presentation/discussion at the OLA Conference.
- Accepting applications now. Link is:  
[olaweb.org/pld-library-squad-help-application](http://olaweb.org/pld-library-squad-help-application)

### **Oregon Library Association (OLA) Update / Esther Moberg**

- Updating strategic plan for OLA
- OLA annual conference April 29-May 2 in Bend.
- OLA Quarterly is moving to Oregon State University.
- Esther working on reviewing OLA core values, somewhat based on New Jersey model—goal is something more succinct and nimble.
- OLA is becoming fiscal overseer for the Oregon Digital Library Consortium
- Concern in Missouri about a new requirement that all children's books go through a committee of outside adults.
- Esther mentioned that OLA is looking for candidates for President-Elect (this year from an academic library) and Secretary.
- Standards Committee is looking for new members, too.
- Buzzy Nielsen, current OLA parliamentarian, said he is looking for someone who wants to be trained to take over that position.

- Buzzy Nielsen, chair of legislative oversight committee: In Oregon legislature, tracking rural telecommunications bill (HB4079a), which would provide broadband and fiber optics to public libraries; there is another bill (SB1538), that would allow local governing bodies to make an exception to laws allowing concealed handguns in public places. Would affect public libraries.
- More legislative update: White House has again zeroed out the budgets for LSTA and IMLS for the next fiscal year. Likely Congress will restore and maybe increase these line items, but directors are encouraged to contact their Congressional representatives to let them know how important LSTA money is to your library.

### Discussion of COVID-19

- Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney, Lincoln City, said she is a member of her city's emergency management committee. She said: We have plans, we have milestones. We are going to continue business as usual until we get a directive from the state or the federal government. Basic directive is to treat this like it is cold- and flu season: clean doorknobs and surfaces, for example.
- Esther Moberg, Seaside, said they are also waiting until there is a confirmed case in their county before taking any extra measures. Encourage people to wash hands longer and sanitize surfaces.
- Chetco Community Library has contingency plans in place.
- Meg Spencer of Siuslaw Public Library District (Florence area): We are serving a population that skews elderly and more vulnerable, so trying to be extra vigilant and careful. Printing out the Oregon Health Authority's messages and the CDC's sign about precautions.
- Buzzy Nielsen, Crook County: Your local county health department will have the most pertinent information. In regard to sick days and compensation for quarantined employees, attorneys in Deschutes County are investigating whether being quarantined falls under workers' compensation.
- Pat Lynch of Sutherlin: Gave example of a panicked response to a citizen with a 10-year-old instance of a Coronavirus. Make a disaster-preparedness plan if you don't already have one.
- Various concerns about alarmed or panicked employees.
- Glenn Ferdman, Beaverton City Library: Decision to allow staff to wear gloves or mask if it makes them feel more comfortable. Erring on side of more information rather than less. Question of how to deal with patrons who are coughing regularly or otherwise presenting with symptoms—Can the library exclude them or approach them and ask them to wear a mask?
- Washington County also considering waiving overdue fines for patrons who may be homebound due to the pandemic.
- Jerianne Thompson, Tualatin Public Library, raised concerns about stigmatizing already marginalized populations like people experiencing homelessness.
- Buzzy Nielsen mentioned that there has been an uptick in discrimination against Asian-Americans because of the Coronavirus. Libraries should be aware of this.

### Jackie Mills / Intellectual Freedom

- Jackie, the director at Mt. Angel Public Library, talked about the book challenges she faced at Mt. Angel last year. She made the point that other public libraries can learn from her experience.
- Eight of reported 51 challenges to intellectual freedom in Oregon in FY2018-2019 were at Mt. Angel Public Library
- Library has 30,000 items and is part of the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service.
- First concerns were raised about *Lighter Than My Shadow*, YA graphic memoir by Katie Green, about the author's struggles with eating disorders, and an episode in which she was sexually abused by her therapist.
- Group of patrons challenged a group of other books including *Sex Plus* and *It Gets Better*.
- Be sure you have an up-to-date Reconsideration of Materials policy/procedure in place (should be part of your collection-development policy).
- Had a program at the library called "From Idea to Shelf: How Materials Are Chosen for Our Library." Attended by six people.
- Jackie passed out a list of Things You Can Do today, attached here.
- Kirsten Brodbeck-Kenney, co-chair of OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, said any directors or librarians who are facing these challenges should contact her.  
ifc.chair@olaweb.org

### U.S. Census

- Jim Graham, partnership specialist for U.S. Census Bureau, gave an overview/review of the Census
- Census goes live on March 12, 2020.
- Libraries are critical part of the census
- Jim reviewed the various facets of the Census, especially the methods for counting hard-to-count populations or people whose first language is not English.

### Library updates

- John Hunter, Woodburn Public Library: City council has voted to go fine-free.
- Haley Lagasse, North Bend Public Library: In this district, going fine-free was very controversial and we worked on it for a long time. At last library board meeting, a board member went into cardiac arrest while speaking on this topic. He survived, and is still on the board.
- Newport Library is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a talk by Nancy Pearl in April.
- Seaside going fine-free for children's and young-adult books.
- Coos Bay is going to put a construction bond on the ballot, and polling shows 62% approval at this point.

- Jackson County Library District's contract with Library Systems & Services (LS&S) has expired, and the district is working to bring library services in-house and have library staff employed directly by the District.
- Crook County Public Library received a \$100,000 grant from Facebook for technology education.
- Siuslaw Public Library in Florence is doing visioning.
- Driftwood Library in Lincoln City is circulating wi-fi hot spots (with Mobile-Beacon as provider), as is Oregon Trail Library District (funded by Lamb-Weston). Several people mentioned that Verizon's hotspots are very expensive.
- Question: Do any libraries collect preferred language when patrons sign up for a library card? The answer is No.

**Next directors' meeting:**

Thursday-Friday, Sept. 10-11, at Beaverton City Library

## **Things You Can Do This Week to Prepare for a Challenge:**

1. Create and practice an "Elevator Speech."
2. Know your Collection Development Policy. Make sure it is up-to-date and that it includes a process for Reconsideration of Materials. Create a folder so these documents are readily available if needed.
3. Know where your stakeholders stand on this issue. If you don't know, now is a good time to have that conversation.
4. Decide right now, while you are quiet and deliberate, what your response would be if you are ever in this situation. How far are you willing to go to defend Intellectual Freedom?
5. Re-read the ALA Code of Ethics, the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read statement, and the NINE other position documents that govern Intellectual Freedom in libraries.

## **Resources If You Do Have a Challenge:**

1. Oregon Intellectual Freedom Clearinghouse (OIFC)  
<https://libguides.osl.state.or.us/oifc/home>
2. American Library Association  
<http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport>
3. Intellectual Freedom Blog  
<https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=19478>
4. The Merritt Fund  
<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/affiliates/relatedgroups/merrittfund>

My contact information:  
Jackie Mills, Library Director  
Mt. Angel Public Library  
503.845.6401  
[jmills@ci.mt-angel.or.us](mailto:jmills@ci.mt-angel.or.us)