



NOVEMBER 2020

ULA President's Message

Dear friends and colleagues,

Besides a pandemic and election, much has happened and is on the horizon for ULA! First, a big thank you to our Program Board Chair Liz Gabbitas, Continuing Education Committee Chairs Erin Mendoza and Valerie Buck, Past-President Vern Waters, and a host of moderators, contributors, and presenters who made our virtual 2020 Fall Workshop in September a success! Thank you to you as well for attending. If you missed it, find the video recordings of those sessions and keynote speakers at <https://ula.org/workshops/>.

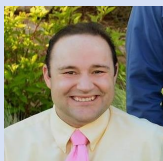
You may also notice an updated conference logo below, sadly missing MPLA. With our decision to go virtual for the 2021 conference, the Mountain Plains Library Association Board felt it was in their best interest to pull out of the joint conference. They regret the decision and don't want to wait a decade to make their way back to Utah. MPLA and the ULA board are in discussions to host a joint conference in 2024. Because of that change, we have adjusted our conference logo and subtheme a bit. It is now "We Are the Heart: Of Communities, Of Libraries, Of Utah." We know libraries are major institutional partners and contributors throughout our state and that as a statewide network of library staff, we build off of and support each other to be the best we can be in each of our spheres. We felt this was an accurate adjustment to make.

In October, the ULA presidency wanted to give our 2020 award winners some personal recognition since they could not be appropriately presented at our cancelled 2020 conference. Vice-President Rita Christensen, Past-President Vern Waters, Awards Chair Casandria Crane and I went on a socially-distanced tour throughout the Salt Lake and Utah valleys to visit each awardee and deliver them their awards. We are so proud of them. Their achievements should not go unnoticed. View the biographies of each awardee in September 2020's ULA newsletter at: <https://ula.org/newsletter/>.

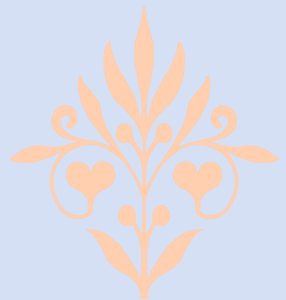
Speaking of ULA Awards, the time is coming to nominate the amazing people you work with for the 2021 awards. Please consider recognizing someone when the call comes in January 2021! There are many worthy of Librarian of the Year, Outreach, and Special Services to Libraries Awards. Learn more about the awards here: <https://ula.org/organization/committees/awards/>.

You may be election weary, but ULA elections are coming very soon! For me, serving in ULA is a wonderful experience and has connected me with many colleagues and friends who give of their time and talents to make things better for us all. We would love to have you join and bring your unique contribution! Watch for Past-President Vern Waters' call for nominations in the next month. We need various officers including: President-Elect/Vice-President, American Library Association Councilor, Mountain Plains Library Association Liaison, Academic Libraries Section Chair & Vice Chair, Special Libraries Section Chair & Vice-Chair, two Board Members-at-Large, and Chair-Elects/Vice-Chairs for each of our great roundtables. If you would like to know more, don't hesitate to contact Vern now: vwaters@slcolibrary.org.

Finally, I really wish I had the ultimate holiday gift of the magic COVID solution for you all! What I do offer is my and your fellow ULA officers' sympathy for those of you facing employment uncertainty, health challenges, long-term stress, and more. We also share our hope and optimism for brighter days ahead. Hopefully, some of what I shared today gives a little light on the positive things happening now and in the near future. I also encourage you to connect with other ULA members and draw on their strength and listening ears. We continue to wish you health, safety, and work. May your holidays be enjoyable, and if they are overshadowed by less-than-ideal circumstances, may they serve as a stepping stone of gratitude when we are able to have more ideal celebrations and memory-making again. All the best to each of you and those you care about!



Daniel Mauchley, ULA President 2020-2021



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Utah Librarian Spotlight

Every issue, ULA President-Elect Rita Christensen introduces readers to a Utah librarian.

In this issue, the spotlight falls on Cheryl Lone Bear.

When multicolored beads are stitched together in variegated patterns they can tell a story, display a symbol, or reveal a custom. They can preserve cultural history and protect traditions. They can also save a life.

Two years ago, decorative Native American table lamps were shipped to a small library in Fort Duchesne, Utah. They were installed to aid readers but they had a dual purpose—to bring light and facilitate American Indian beadwork and cultural forms of art. Since then, the Venita K. Taveapont Memorial Library has been transformed into a flourishing community center of books, programs, and resources which serves the Ute Indian Tribe and Uintah River High School. The library has a long history of both success and neglect. There was no one better than Cheryl Lone Bear, of the Ute Indian Tribe, to take on the monumental task of resurrecting her beloved library into an innovative hub of learning.



Cheryl Lone Bear at Taveapont Memorial Library.

Cheryl was born in Texas and grew up in Southern California and Utah. During high school, Cheryl could always be found in the library due to her love of reading. She befriended the Ute Tribe's first librarian, Charlene, who put Cheryl's picture up on the wall behind her desk. At home, Cheryl was learning beadwork from her grandmother, which included 1830's patterns and techniques. After graduating, Cheryl developed a serious medical disorder that causes vision loss. With treatment and patience her condition improved, surprisingly with no vision impairment. Her doctor attributed her daily beadwork to saving her vision and even her life.

Wanting to pass down her beadwork knowledge, especially to youth who are vulnerable to suicide, Cheryl started teaching out of her own living room. Three years ago she asked the Tribal Education Center about using a room to teach beading as it was well supported by the community and Tribal Administration. Fate intervened and Cheryl was asked to help re-vamp the Tribal Library as a Librarian/Media Specialist. In addition to her college degree, Cheryl has obtained a Tribal Library Certificate from ATALM and a Cultural Preservationist Certificate. She was also a Ute Indian Tribal Library Aide in 2009. Her training and experience combined with traditional Native art skills made her the ideal candidate.

Cheryl's hard work and talent in building partnerships were key in the renovation that took place over the past two years.

First Book Marketplace awarded the library new books and continues their support through tribal library outreach programs. ULA organized a book drive and donated thousands of books. The Utah State Library, Uintah and Duchesne County Libraries, and Ute Tribe Food Distribution Program also helped the library stand on its own as the only Tribal Public Library in the State of Utah.

The services that Cheryl oversees engage Ute and non-Ute patrons alike. Ute Storytime, Ute Tribe Head Start Storytime, and the annual Santa Storytime are favorites. Cheryl is in her sixth year of hosting her popular Beginning Beader Class, which she considers to be cultural preservation work. Cheryl continues to forge community partnerships with the likes of Every Child A Reader, No Kid Hungry, and the Marriott Library, to create events for all patrons.

Cheryl says the highlight of working as a Tribal and High School Librarian is being able to have the connection between the students and community. She adds that "Our students serve as school ambassadors and role models for the younger generation. Having the two aspects connecting with literacy encouragement among the children is extremely rewarding." Working with the surrounding counties to provide a book share program for the children of the Ute Indian Tribe has also been gratifying.

Sharrea Haslam says she can't forget Cheryl Lone Bear, "Whenever I needed to chat, study, [get] hot chocolate or coffee and a quiet safe place to sit I could always come to your library and just chill." Sam Passey, Uintah County Library Director, says that two years ago his staff initially set out to help teach Cheryl cataloging methods but it soon became clear that Cheryl was mentoring them on what it meant to be a librarian. He points out that, "Cheryl is a passionate advocate for the collection and preservation of traditional Ute knowledge. She is a bridge builder for many in the Ute and not Ute community."



Venita K. Taveapont Memorial Library

Along with her library duties, Cheryl teaches beadwork classes on different reservations, is a member of the Utah State Historical Records Advisory Board, and has been the ULA Reference and Adult Services Round Table Chair for two years. With books and beads, Cheryl weaves connected patterns wherever she goes that tell stories, preserve history, and save lives. She works tirelessly to fix the past and walk into the future.

Did You Check the Source on That?

Karen Newmeyer, Past Special Libraries Section Chair

A couple of times in the past month, I have posted items on Facebook (the source of all light and knowledge), and have been asked by fellow Utah librarians for my source(s) on those articles. Admittedly, at least one of the items I posted was a “confirmation bias” source. I had no other reason to treat that information as authoritative except my personal bias. As librarians, we should set the example and always double-check the source.

Everyone should be cautious about what we treat as fact. In this day of “fake news,” it is easy to dismiss anything we disagree with and disregard it as fake news. At the same time, just because a news story matches our world view doesn’t make it true.

Below are some sites that purport to debunk popular social media postings. As I have looked at these sites, almost everything is politicized—regarding the election. I am not here to take any political position, merely to critique these sources. Please keep that in mind.

We all know about **Snopes.com**. Sorry, someone has to question their sources. Statements of facts sometimes have references that can be verified but generally, there are no citations to original sources.

FactCheck.org--“a nonpartisan, nonprofit ‘consumer advocate’ for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics. We monitor the factual accuracy of

what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews, and news releases.” That is their claim. However, it cites vague sources for its information, such as a “voting machine experts told us. . .”

I also have issues with **Politifact.com**. Reasons? Everything they post is declared a fraud or is doubtful. Looking at their sources, they quote themselves relying on Twitter, YouTube, websites with general information, or news outlets that don’t post their sources.

I was excited to find **Allsides.com**. It purports to provide both sides of the story. However, the top article I read was on the ballot counting in Georgia (Nov. 17, 2020). It had three columns: From the Right, From the Left, and From The Center. All three columns featured stories that were virtually the same, that Republicans are pressuring the Georgia Secretary of State to exclude legal ballots. I was confused. How is that showing both sides?

There is always bias. Generally, we are unaware of our own biases, myself included. How can we overcome bias and find the real truth? “[W]e see through a glass, darkly” (1 Corinthians 13:12 KJV). It is hard to see what the truth is. But do not despair. There are some general rules of thumb: (1) check lots of sources from a variety of points of view (including the websites listed above), (2) look for original sources, and (3) don’t jump to conclusions.

Do you have a go-to fact-checking source? I would love to hear about it.

Lessons Learned: COVID-19’s Effect on School Library Appreciation

Beth Tanner, School Libraries Section Chair

I am relatively new to my profession as a teacher-librarian. I taught kindergarten for over a decade and was delighted to receive a nudge from my predecessor to study school librarianship and work toward taking her place when she retired. She had created a phenomenal community space and worked tirelessly in her many roles. The more I studied and understood the role of libraries in our communities, the more I knew I needed to fill this role.

My first year as a school librarian (2019) I worked hard to fill very large shoes. I struggled to find time for collection development and library instruction. I tried to find balance between being a resource and honoring my time as a classroom instructor. My goal remained the same: **to create a library that is the heart of the school.**

By early spring, my efforts were fruitful. Students were waiting outside the library each morning and stopped by at the end of the day to show me something they created or ask for a book recommendation. My lessons on research and digital citizenship were supportive and engaging. Colleagues sought my input on research projects and text selection.

By March 2020, anxiety surrounding this new virus was apparent even at the elementary school level. Students were asking for hand sanitizer. Every cough and snuffle caused great unease. My thoughts were on “moving forward” with the curriculum. I didn’t want to “waste” precious instructional time. However, I was reminded of my role as our school “Information Specialist” and began to have frank, open conversations with my students about their fears and misconceptions. Many had viewed disturbing YouTube videos or heard rumors about the virus that were wholly false. I now had the obligation and oppor-

tunity to help them process events and find reputable information. What began as frantic questioning evolved: “Where can I find more information on this?”, “What are some reputable resources I can use to help me process?”, “Who can I talk to if I am feeling unsure or nervous about this?”. I spent my time helping students find reputable, age-appropriate resources that they could access independently. They left feeling empowered.

As the months dragged on, the library became even more important. Colleagues asked for help with technology, copyright questions, research tools, etc. Families asked how to source books and video read-alouds and sought advice on balancing screen time. Students told me they missed me and they “missed the books” or how much they appreciated the stack of books I sent home on Friday, March 13th. **In a time of great uncertainty, there was a constant: the library.**

Lately, I have had the great pleasure of distributing packets, devices, and books to my students each Wednesday. As families visit and we safely chat, I hear about you. They miss perusing the stacks of the City Library and the excitement of finding all the resources you so thoughtfully curated and shared with the world. Parents note how grateful they are that our district has access to peer-reviewed journals through the University of Utah library to guide reopening decisions. In this time of uncertainty, you are there. **Our libraries provide continuity and assurance amid great change.**

At this moment, I have no fantastic resources to share (you have all been scouring, curating, and sharing resources for months) but just want to assure you that whatever your role in our libraries, it is apparent more than ever that it is vital. As one of my colleagues so thoughtfully paraphrased regarding librarians, “You are the literal ‘Wind Beneath Our Wings’”. When I have a problem I can’t solve, I now know...I need a librarian.”

Public Section Update: COVID-19 and Public Libraries Impact Survey

Patrick Hoecherl, Public Libraries Section Chair

For this issue of Utah Libraries News I surveyed directors in Utah about their experience with offering services during COVID-19 limitations.

This article will highlight some of the broad trends from the responses, but you can see the full responses here: <https://tinyurl.com/UTLibCovidImpact>

Here are the numbers at a glance:

- 19 libraries responded
- 13 mention completely closing for a period of time and some are currently closed
- 14 mention offering curbside pickup
- 2 mention instituting appointments for library service
- 7 mention continuing limited programming of some kind
- 6 mention virtual programs
- 3 reported reduced hours
- 2 reported reduced circulation limits
- 1 reported reduced staffing due to budget concerns

The impact of the pandemic has varied greatly across the state. Some libraries were able to re-open quickly and resume normal service hours

"We were only closed in April and then able to start back to some hours of services inside our library. In September we were able to open back up to normal service hours. . . . Our goal is to stay open as much as possible as long as our employees and patrons feel safe." - Nephi Public Library

While others have spent the majority of the last eight months with a significantly different service model.

"We were closed from March 16 to September 1 & again November 2 until the present. We offer curbside service during these times." - Helper City Library

Programming has continued, though often in a different form.

"We started Story Walks in the park with the help of USU Extension each week. We have tried some virtual book club events, Lego Challenges, and various virtual escape rooms." - Duchesne County Library

brary

"We are providing take away crafts and a link to storytime in place of our usual storytimes." - Payson City Library

"Even though we have been able to do live programs, we have to limit our participation to enable social distancing." - Highland City Library

The pandemic has created numerous challenges for libraries.

There were so many rules in place that we could only open 2 days/week because of staffing issues and the overwhelming demand - especially with remote workers/students. As the fall season got busier (even in the middle of a global pandemic!), we had to close to walk-in use. We have a large number of visitors to the area (Moab) and they all seemed to need the internet (no problem) and a comfortable place to be for hours on end (major problem.) We were allowing 30 min visits but my entire day was spent enforcing rules - time limit, mask mandate, unsupervised kids. So we moved to a library-by-appointment scenario. - Grand County Public Library

"Our staff have pulled thousands of hold(s). Staff stress and burnout is high." - Lehi City Library

That's not to say there haven't been silver linings.

"Assembling bags of picture books for our youngest patrons was a delight for all staff. The smiles and comments were the only reward we needed. 'Getting a bag of books from the library is getting the best present! It is always a surprise to see what the send me' - Sadie age 4

We offered a search and find matching challenge in the windows to be completed outside and had so many families enjoy the search that it is a program we will recreate!" - Beaver Public Library

"COVID has proved to be a great (but not so great) opportunity for us to learn how to be adaptable to change and to think outside of the box." - Spanish Fork Library

It's really impressive to see how libraries have persevered during these difficult times. I hope you are all able to stay safe and healthy out there while you provide service to your community.

If you enjoyed reading this article, send me ideas for a future topic to explore by emailing me at: phoecherl@slcpl.org.

Support ULA with Amazon Smile!

If you are shopping with Amazon this year, we wanted to let you know that the Utah Library Association can be selected as your charity to receive Amazon's donations of 0.5% of your purchases. (We know it has been listed in the past, but now it is officially running and connected with our association.) To do so, shop on smile.amazon.com and to choose ULA as the charity, please use this DIRECT link:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ie=UTF8&ein=87-6119455&ref=smi_ext_ch_87-6119455_cl

Thank you for the consideration and regardless, we continue to wish you health and safety in the upcoming holiday season!

Daniel Mauchley, ULA President & Rita Christensen, ULA President-elect

Promoting Health & Wellness Together

Dory Rosenberg, Utah State University

In late summer, my library unit met virtually for our annual retreat. During that meeting, most of us voiced interest in exploring how we could make wellness a priority. At the same time my unit was having this conversation, our Library Dean announced that each staff member library-wide should and could use 2 ½ hours each week for their own personal health and wellness. Some have used this time for activities like yoga or neighborhood walks; others might take a well-deserved nap. At our unit level, a small working group was created and they have been sharing wellness tips and facilitating low-stakes activities for unit members. Health and wellness can be very personal topics, so most of our unit's efforts have focus on fostering a sense of togetherness and community.

One of the things that has helped me throughout this pandemic is to hear about what my co-workers have found helpful in feeling connected to our work and each other. For those of you that feel similarly, here is a compilation of activities or strategies that have been shared by co-workers or explored in my unit:

- Take two 15 minute walks outside (no matter the weather) each work day.
- Check-in with co-workers via a platform like SLACK.
- Pay attention to your breathing throughout the day. Pause every now and then for a slow deep breath.
- Try yoga – Yoga with Adriene on YouTube has free videos for varying lengths of time and abilities.
- At the beginning of a meeting, spend a few minutes learning how people are doing, integrate a short ice breaker activity, or try a collective 1-3 minute meditation.
- Have a Song of the Day. Take turns posting a song on the unit SLACK channel. (Our student workers joined us on this one and it was fun!)
- If focusing for long periods is difficult, try the Pomodoro technique by setting a timer for 25 minutes, take a break, then set another 25 minute timer.
- When scheduling meetings, take into account co-workers schedules before and after, so they can take a screen break if needed. Many of my meetings now start at 10 after the hour and we meet for 50 minutes instead of 60.
- Organize social "half-hours" for the unit. For our first meeting, the activity was a show-and-tell where each attendee grabbed something in reaching distance on their desk and shared it with the group.
- Use a tool like Padlet to share articles on wellness and remote work tips.

Here's a shout out to those in my unit (Learning & Engagement Services) who shared their ideas and were willing to let me share them with you.

What's On at Your Library?

Utah Library News is happy to publish announcements of library-related exhibits, lectures, open houses, tours, and other events.

Send announcements to Michele at michele.richings@gmail.com. We publish issues in September, November, February, and April (Annual Conference Issue).

ABOUT THE UTAH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The mission of the Utah Library Association is to serve the professional development and educational needs of its members and to provide leadership and direction in developing and improving library and information services in the state. In order to accomplish these goals, ULA supports and provides continuing education programs for Utah librarians and library employees, especially at its annual spring conference. ULA also offers members a number of opportunities for library leadership, professional growth, networking, and community service. We hope you find the Utah Library Association to be an organization that makes a difference for you, for Utah librarians, for Utah Libraries, and for the citizens of Utah.



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