



Utah Libraries News

NOVEMBER 2015

ULA President's Message

By Dustin Fife, ULA President

Librarians without Borders (or at least Librarians that work together)

Since joining the library field in 2009 I have often heard people talk about how public and academic libraries are SO different (and don't even get people started on school or special). It is supposedly hard to transition from one to the other, and if you do, you definitely will not know what you are doing when you get there. One is the ivory tower of academia that allows people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, and the other is the organization of the people, for the people, by the people. I'm not sure why this narrative is essential to so many librarians, but as someone who has now worked in both, I want to unequivocally say that it is a lie. These two types of libraries have far more commonalities than differences, and they would both benefit from working together. Both types of libraries are grounded in the same traditions of freedom, access to information, diversity, lifelong learning, and creating a better world through opportunities and education. We are stronger as libraries and librarians when we work together and collaboration is key for creating a better world.

Creating a better world requires teamwork, partnerships, and collaboration, as we need an entire army of companies [libraries] to work together to build a better world within the next few decades. This means corporations [libraries] must embrace the benefits of cooperating with one another. —Simon Mainwaring

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I recently had the opportunity to present at the Utah Academic Library Consortium Professional Development retreat. I urged my academic library friends to include their local public libraries in open educational resources and general programming. This was not a revelation, libraries often work together, but it can be hard to justify the time that it takes to make it happen consistently. Many libraries have strong relationships with other libraries, but we can always do more. Allow me to suggest a few ideas for greater collaboration:

1. Create a shared calendar with all local libraries. Educational opportunities and programming have crossover between library communities.
2. Appoint a liaison at your organization to communicate with other libraries. Be proactive with collaboration by making it part of someone's duties.
3. If you are an academic librarian, consider joining the library board for your local library. Do not do this if you are going to try and takeover. Do do this if you want to support and build your local library.
4. Figure out what services other libraries have that you don't. Can your patrons take advantage of these services? Can you partner to create access to these services?
5. Start simple by starting a conversation today. Call your neighbors and ask them how you can help them.

People always worry that resources and time will flow in only one direction, but this is rarely true in my experience. Academic libraries can be a gateway to so much community expertise for the public library and public libraries often have more flexibility than other organizations. Working together can create a better world. If we challenge our assumptions and find a way to work together, we will be stronger and make the world a better place. Plus, it is always good to get more voices in the room.

As you navigate through the rest of your life, be open to collaboration. Other people and other people's ideas are often better than your own. Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life. —Amy Poehler

Does a Library Need Books?

By Natalie Gregory, Logan Public Library

A library must serve the needs of the users, and in part, that includes serving their expectations. I recently started Grad School at UNT, where we had a class discussion about whether a library can be called a library without books. There were two examples given one of a public library (McGraw) and one of an academic library (Langraf). I think these innovative libraries are a good way to introduce to your users the full spectrum of services you offer and what can and potentially will happen as technologies and learning experiences expand. In his article entitled “Library as Place: Changes in Learning Patterns, Collections, Technology and Use,” Geoffrey T. Freeman emphasizes both the need for student (or user) input in academic library expansions and remodels as well as the need for flexibility to include technologies not yet dreamed of; specifically he said “If libraries are to remain dynamic, the spaces that define them and the services they offer must continually stimulate users to create new ways of searching and synthesizing materials” (2005). I think this advice is particularly insightful, because it emphasizes the fact that not only are libraries far from the end of their evolution, it also implies what should be obvious; libraries are the place where the creators of the new technologies and innovations should be going to be inspired to create and develop the new construct of the future. Libraries should be where the visionaries go to increase their education, their love of learning, and their skills. And if these “bookless” libraries become like the pub that C.S.

Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien spent time together in and challenged each other in, become like the great libraries of Greece and Rome, become the social hub of intellectual greatness, how can that be a bad thing?

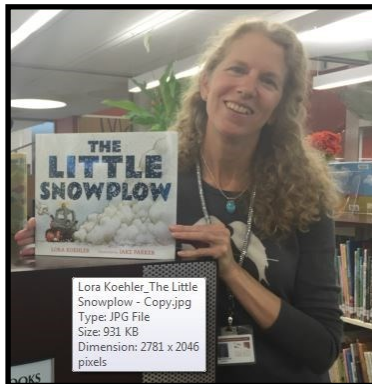
Freeman makes another good point when he says “To meet today’s academic needs as well as those in the future, the library must reflect the values, mission and goals of the [population] of which it is a part” (2005). This means that anywhere a library is expected to thrive, there must be a defined purpose and trajectory. Whomever this design comes from: the director, the staff, the board, the President of the University or the users themselves, these are the stockholders. These are the people who will build libraries wherever they are. These are the true assets to the library of the future. Regardless of the number of books in the collection, you, the staff, will ultimately determine the value of your library.

Resources:

- Freeman, G. T. (2005). The library as place: Changes in learning patterns, collections, technology, and use. In *Library as place: Rethinking roles, rethinking space*. Washington, D.C.: Council on Library and Information Resources. Retrieved from <http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub129/freeman.html>
- Langraf, G. (2011). Learning terrace to embed library throughout Drexel University. *American Libraries Magazine*. Retrieved from <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2011/03/15/learning-terrace-to-embed-library-throughout-drexel-campus/>
- McGraw, S. (2011). Out of print? Town considers bookless library. *TODAY Book News*. Retrieved from <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/42339223/ns/today-books/?GTI=43001>

Millcreek Library in the News

By Annie Eastmond, Salt Lake County Library, Millcreek Center Branch



Millcreek Library (Salt Lake City) has some exciting news to share! One of our very own Youth Services librarians, Lora Koehler, has just published a picture book with Candlewick

Press. *The Little Snowplow* is about a plucky little snowplow determined to keep up with the big guys. Lora's delightful picture book will take its place on your library shelves alongside classics such as *The Little Engine That Could* and *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*.

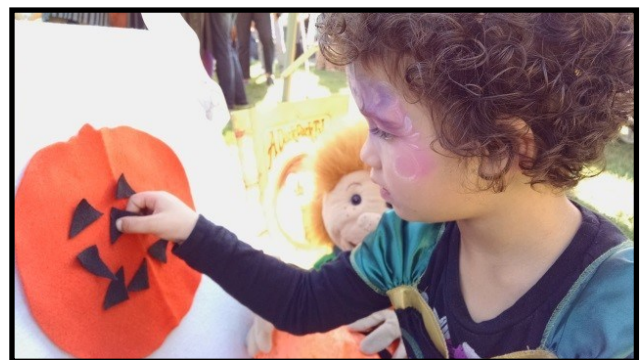


Millcreek Library has also had a couple great Community Outreach opportunities this month. Annie Eastmond, the other Youth Services librarian, presented at the UAN Jump Start Conference at Thanksgiving Point. Utah Afterschool Network brings program administrators and practitioners together annually, to share ideas about after-school

programs for kids. Annie presented a session called *Fractured Fairytale Fun—A Readers Theater for Kids*. Over 70 people attended her session. UAN would love to have more proposals next year from those who work directly with kids and have great program ideas to share. Think about sending in a proposal next year. <http://www.utahafterschool.org/>



The library also participated in a community Halloween event called MillFreaks at Canyon Rim Park. We had nearly 400 people stop by our table for stories, crafts, flannelboard fun, and drawing.



Western Roundup

By Kandice Newren, Weber State University Archives



The 2015 Western Roundup, a joint conference of four archivist associations that meet every five years, met in Denver May 27-30. As a member of the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (CIMA), I was given the opportunity to meet with other archivists from California, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, and Colorado. This was my first conference in my specific career field, and I was very excited to learn from other institutions. Part of the funding to attend this conference came from an UPLIFT Professional Excellence Grant through the Utah State Library.

As an archivist, my task is to preserve historical items and make them available to researchers. More and more, these items are created digitally. Most of the sessions I attended dealt with the best way to create, store, and preserve digital objects. When saving and preserving files, there are many things to consider. You want to save the file in the most stable format (e.g. PDF in-

stead of Word). Store the files in a way that is easily accessible and understandable (e.g. using Open Archival Information System (OAIS)). Have digital documentation to show where an item came from (provenance), and have as much information about it and what it represents to help researchers as possible. These are just a few of the topics discussed.

By the end of the conference I felt I had several ideas to share and try to implement in my department. Each session offered great ideas and solutions, and it was nice to be able to pick and choose what would work best for my institution. I would like to thank the Utah State Library for helping make this experience possible.

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LIBRARY?

The staff of *Utah Libraries News* are happy to publish announcements of library-related exhibits, lectures, open houses, tours, and other events.

Send announcements to paul@northloganlibrary.org or zachary.allred@snow.edu. We publish issues in September, November, February, and April (Annual Conference Issue).

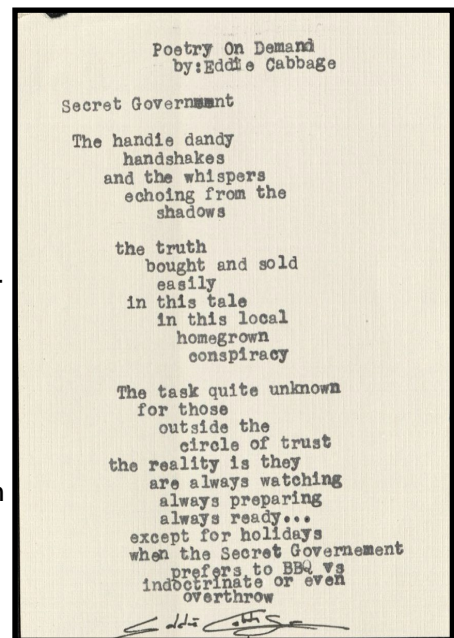
USU Library Patron Sparks Poetry

By Flora Shrode, Utah State University Libraries

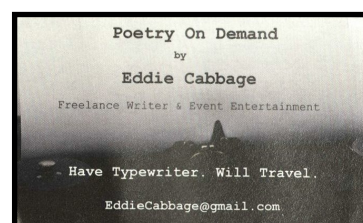
As you know, the Merrill-Cazier Library at Utah State University serves as our state's Regional Depository Library for U.S. Federal Documents. Since having been granted that status in 1962, we receive and retain a large volume of publications in print, on microfiche, in many other formats: maps, VHS, CD-ROM, DVD, educational kits, and more. We purchase catalog records for these as well as for thousands of online government sources. Our collection is used by a wide range of people, including one local citizen who has latched onto to us in an apparent quest to identify loopholes and cases of government officials' neglecting very specific legislation regarding several standard government titles. This person began communicating with us in May 2013 as the local federal depository library. A folder I set up in my e-mail to save notes sent from and about them contains nearly 900 messages. Fortunately, this person addresses the majority of the notes to U.S. government officials and only copies my colleagues and me here in Logan. We respond to the inquiries that this citizen sends directly to us. While I do not comprehend accurately the motivation behind this tax payer's activities, early on we saw mention of clandestine government activities and changes to rules and laws. My coworkers in Government Documents and I would be happy to have this person direct their energies elsewhere, such as protesting the demise of the print production of the Statistical Abstract of the United States by the U.S.

Census Bureau. I provide this as background for the following story of inspiration for a poem.

Last June I had the pleasure of traveling with my husband in the Southeast (I'm from Knoxville, Tennessee). We visited a friend in Asheville, North Carolina and stopped at a brew pub there.



A man named Eddie Cabbage was on hand, seated at a small table with a typewriter and a sign announcing, "Poetry on Demand." I was drawn to this idea and pondered only a moment before offering Mr. Cabbage the theme of secret government. While sitting at an outdoor table with our beers, about 8 minutes after having met Mr. Cabbage, he arrived to deliver the poem pictured here. Perhaps we can convince him to visit for the Utah Library Association meeting or to do a writing tour of libraries in our area.



Knowledge River



It is a pleasure to announce that **Knowledge River** is now accepting applications for the 15th Cohort. The priority deadline for Cohort 15 is March 1, 2015.

Knowledge River is an educational experience within the University of Arizona School of Information that focuses on educating information professionals who have experience with and are committed to Latino and Native American populations. Knowledge River also fosters understanding of library and information issues from the perspectives of Latino and Native Americans and advocates for culturally sensitive library and information services to these communities. Since its inception, Knowledge River has become the foremost graduate program for training librarians and information specialists with a focus on Latino and Native American cultural issues. To date, over 170+ scholars have graduated from this program. The Knowledge River package may include:

- Financial Aid covering tuition and fees
- Work Experience in a graduate assistantship
- Cohort Support
- Mentorship
- Professional Development with support for professional development events

- Enhanced Curriculum from Latino and Native American perspectives.

To find out more about the program, a presentation was created using one of the online tools called VoiceThread. It talks about the iSchool and shares two videos about what KR scholars are doing while working on their Master of Arts degree. Please take a look, <https://voicethread.com/share/7017243/> or visit the website at <http://si.arizona.edu/knowledge-river-0> to find out more about how to apply.

WANTED: SCHOOL LIBRARY SECTION EDITOR

Do you have your pulse on all the happenings in Utah's school libraries? Then we have just the job for you!

The Utah Library News is looking for a School Library Section Editor to join our writing staff. Responsibilities include:

- Submitting bi-monthly stories to be published in the *ULN Newsletter*.
- Help collect stories from around the state regarding School Libraries.

Send an email to paul@northloganlibrary.org or zachary.allred@snow.edu if you are interested in applying. We publish issues in September, November, February, and April (Annual Conference Issue).

My Origin Story

By Stacy Vincent, Salt Lake County Library

Last month I attended the YSRT Fall Workshop titled “That Thing You Do,” and it got me thinking about what led to me becoming a library.

We’ve all got an origin story, and since I love hearing other people’s stories I thought I would share mine with you.

Naturally I was your typically type A bookish child, but I don’t feel like that is where my story began. I think it really began the summer between my junior and senior years of college when I was stressed out and fed up with work and classes. I desperately needed something in my life that wasn’t related to work or school, so I signed up as a summer volunteer at the Provo library. I spent one fabulous day per glorious week helping with summer crafts and activities. I splatter painted, pearl beaded, and hula hooped with the best of them, *they* being adorable little library patrons.

I loved it, but at the time I didn’t see it as anything more than a distraction from my “real” life. After graduation I was planning to leave the United States behind to work as an au pair in Germany for a year, and then pursue graduate studies in the UK. Sadly, those plans were put

on hold due to a serious illness. Instead of spending the next year in Germany, I spent it in my parents’ basement recuperating. My mom suggested I volunteer at the local library while I got back on my feet. She’s a wise lady, that one.

My parents live in Winnemucca, Nevada, which I lovingly call “the gas station between Salt Lake City and Reno.” It is famous for gold mining, biker gangs, and a legal brothel, but not for its libraries. The local branch was a two level affair with the ancient adult collection and three wheezy old computers upstairs, and a surprisingly expansive yet dated children’s area downstairs. It even came complete with Dewey the library cat, and Cruzer the library Chihuahua. Well, Cruzer was only a part time resident who spent most of his time “cruising” in the bookmobile. Hehe, get it? Once again I helped out with the kids, only this time I got to do a little of everything, from shelving, to circulation, to reference, to programming, to going through the card catalog one card at a time and entering the records into the shiny new ILS. The librarian was a one-woman show down in children’s services, and she welcomed the help. Even so, she sometimes had to kick me out because I spent so much time there she was afraid of getting in trouble for not paying me.

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My Origin Story Continued

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With improved health, I decided to leave behind the dust of Winnemucca for the knee-length shorts of Salt Lake City. The apartment I shared with my brother just happened to be within walking distance of the Whitmore library in Cottonwood Heights. I spent hours there most days, using the computers to look for work, and then reading for entertainment when I just couldn't bear the job search anymore. Then one day I walked into the library and noticed a sign recruiting shelveers. I thought, what the heck? I'm always here anyway. I may as well get paid for it! I took the shelveer test, which caused intense anxiety and made me question the efficacy of my 16 years of education. Nevertheless, I passed, and a few months later I was hired at the Tyler library in Midvale.

Oh my goodness, I loved my job! I loved seeing every book that came in. I loved listening to audiobooks as I worked. I loved it when customers stopped me in the stacks asking for recommendations. I even loved that one night the whole staff stayed until midnight to shift the entire non-fiction collection. And I especially loved having health insurance for the first time since high school.

But oh my was I dense. How dense, you ask? I was so dense that even after volunteering and working

in libraries for a several years and loving every minute of it, I still had not thought of making it a career. While working at Tyler I was still trying to figure out what my "real" career was going to be. I even enrolled in a paralegal course for awhile, until I realized that living my life by the billable hour was a fate worse than death.

Eventually the idea of becoming a librarian wormed its way into the very dense wood of my mind. I pestered Kami and Lorraine, our resident librarians at the time, with questions about library school and being a librarian. I wrestled with whether or not library school was the right choice for me. Then, one day after I had just gotten off work at the Tyler library, I immediately hopped on Trax heading to the downtown library. As I stared out the window lost in thought, it dawned on me that I had just gotten off work *at a library*, and what was the first thing I chose to do with my free time? *Go to another library*. Um yeah, Stace, I think this is the right career move for you. And so it was.

What's your story? Send it to me at svincent@slcolibrary.org. I'd love to feature it here!

ARSL Annual Conference 2015: Bringing Rural Librarians Together in the Land of Bill & Hillary

By Paul Daybell, North Logan City Library

On July 16th an email from ULA graced my inbox reading "Hurry! Grant deadline is tomorrow!" Because this sounded so urgent I quickly opened the message out of mild curiosity for which grant deadline was approaching. Turns out it was the UPLIFT Professional Excellence Grant: ARSL Grant.

This grant sponsored by the USL and LSTA would pay for attendance to the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference in Little Rock, AR. After some quick deductive reasoning I soon realized three important truths: 1) I currently work in a small rural library, 2) I tend to really enjoy conferences, and 3) I wouldn't have to use our library budget to pay for it!

I quickly filled out the online application form, sent a quick text to my library director (bugging him while he was on vacation) to ask for a quick letter of support (which he graciously did...Thanks Adam!), and the next thing I knew I was flying off to Little Rock.

I knew very little about ARSL before the conference, but can I just say that it was love at first speaker session!

While the ULA Annual Conference is always great to see librarians from across the state from all different types of libraries and ALA is fun for just the sheer magnitude of the event, the ARSL Conference was unique in that nearly every single session was applicable to my library.

It was so nice to be able to listen, talk, share ideas, and network with librarians from across the country who

could relate so closely with life in the rural hinterlands. This was by far the most productive conference I have ever attended and came away with an entire notebook full of ideas to implement at my own library.

I even had the pleasure of meeting the former director of the North Logan Library, Susie Randleman, who upon hearing where I worked gave me the biggest hug I've ever had (Aren't Rural Librarians the BEST?!).

For those who work in small and rural libraries it is no secret at the lack of funds available for professional development, which is why it is so important to take advantage of these USL/LSTA grants when they are made available. ARSL was a great way for me to bring back a plethora of concrete library ideas at very little cost to our library budget. I highly recommend you apply next year. Plus, ARSL 2016 is being hosted in Fargo, ND dontchaknow!



Fellow Utah librarians with the incomparable Ms. Susie Q at the ARSL 2015 Annual Conference. Little Rock, AR.

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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