



Utah Libraries News

APRIL 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

- Utah Librarian Spotlight 2
- What is an educated person? 3
- Do You Love Your Proxy Server? 4

ULA President's Message

I will never stop marveling at the beauty and capriciousness of spring in Utah. One day we are shoveling snow, the next we are planting flowers, donning shorts, and planning summer reading. For the ULA Conference Committee, spring is abuzz with last-minute preparation for the 2019 ULA Conference "In Libraries We Trust" on May 15-17 at the Mountain America Expo Center in Sandy.

We have an amazing slate of [keynote speakers, presenters, and events](#) this year. On Thursday, local author and speaker Fatima Doman will speak on positive psychology and leveraging your authentic strengths. Lance Werner, Library Journal's 2018 Librarian of the Year and current ALA Presidential candidate, will speak at the Friday keynote session about building better libraries through kindness, empathy, and love. Don't miss the chance to connect with your colleagues at the networking social on Thursday or hear one of Utah's favorite authors, Shannon Hale, speak at the Friday lunch. Want to level up (#2018Throwback) your conference experience? Make sure to purchase your ["In Libraries We Trust" conference t-shirt](#) and tag yourself wearing it on social media!



I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for the new 2019-2020 ULA Leadership, including our new President Elect Daniel Mauchley! It's tough to put yourself out there and run for something, and I admire everyone who threw their hat in the ring. Thanks to everyone who voted, especially when some of the elections were won with razor thin margins, which goes to show that every vote counts. Congrats to our new ULA Leadership and looking forward to seeing everyone at conference next month!

Rebekah Cummings
ULA President, 2018-2019

Utah Librarian Spotlight

Every issue, ULA President Elect Vern Waters introduces readers to a Utah librarian.

In this issue, the spotlight falls on Liesl Jacobson.

Books have been a big part of my life for as long as I can remember. I still have one of the first board books that I got as a toddler when my family lived in Germany. (Although it isn't really a "book" anymore.) I will always remember the loving tone of my dad's voice as he read me my favorite *Baby Animals* by Garth Williams. (Over and over and over...) My dad was a perpetual graduate student, so due to our family's limited income, books and libraries were our connection to learning and entertainment. I adored visiting the library and learned some of the Dewey Decimal system very early in order to easily find the bound comic books and animal books that I read so voraciously.

When I was 16, I started working as a junior page at the Robbin's Children's library in Arlington, Massachusetts. This is the oldest continuous children's library in the country. I was excited to work in a library because I felt such a connection to books. I quickly discovered, however, that libraries are also about people. Interacting with the families and children who were participating in summer reading brought me such joy! This summer job began my 30 year love affair with library work.

I began working at Salt Lake City Public Library as an aide in 1989. My enthusiasm for books and people never waned, and in 2009 I was tasked with moving library work into the community. This new assignment led to a formal outreach storytime and book donation program that now reaches almost 90 low-income pre-k classes every month. In 2011 I became Early Literacy Outcome Lead and focused on the The City Library's strategic outcome of ensuring that Salt Lake City parents have the skills and the tools to ready their children for kindergarten. I developed a formal parent workshop program to guarantee that children and their parents are receiving early literacy skill-building trainings from librarian experts. This SLCPL program is an integral part of the school year for our partner teachers and administrators in the Salt Lake City School District.

I have led the Children's Services team for 8 years at The City Library. This group of community focused



Liesl Jacobson
Assistant Director of Community Engagement
Salt Lake City Library

librarians have become advocates for kids and families both in and out of our library walls. We collaborate with partners to create initiatives that help the kids and families in our community flourish. Just recently I became Salt Lake City Public Library's Assistant Director of Community Engagement. This job is new to our system, and I am so excited to move forward with even more intentional work in our community and with our library partners. Effective change is more likely when partners work together strategically to create collective impact. I love working in libraries and with library staff, who are so passionate about serving patrons and really have a desire to make the world a better place.

What is an educated person?: Information Literacy and Student Success

by Wendy Holliday

Dean of the Library, Weber State University

What is the purpose of higher education? What is an educated person? At the Utah Academic Library Consortium (UALC) Professional Development Retreat in October, I had the honor of pondering these questions publicly. Currently, there is a tension about the purpose of higher education. Legislators, administrators, and employers have privileged the importance of workforce preparation through funding priorities and the growth of pre-professional majors. Students have done the same by increasingly choosing pre-professional majors over ones that don't seem to translate directly into a job. In both cases, higher education is seen as a pipeline that moves students from a professionally-oriented major directly into a matching job in private enterprise. At the same time, stakeholders have argued that we should educate for civic engagement, critical thinking, and humanistic understanding as essential to the greater well-being of our communities.

In my view, we address this tension by centering students' learning needs, not those of private capital, by promoting education for whole people as a public good that benefits everyone. This includes education that leads to secure employment *and* greater social well-being. Instead of offering microcredentials that communicate mastery of discrete skills, we need to highlight the value of the connective tissue that makes a college degree more than the sum of these parts. We need credentials that demonstrate how students can code a new app *and* understand the ethics of privacy, who can teach and care for others and create a more just world because they understand history and global cultures. Information literacy is part of this connective tissue. Rather than teaching discrete skills, such as the mechanics of search, we need to include ethics, values, and systems of power in our teaching. We need to teach students about how sociocultural systems shape the words we use to describe knowledge in our catalogs and search engines, and how we can use established fact checking processes and networks to decide what to give our deeper attention to. An information literate, educated person will critically engage

with assumptions about how we know what we know, and how this very question has an impact on who is included in "we."

This is especially important for the most marginalized people in our communities. In order to contribute to the success of *all* of students, but especially those who are harmed by systemic racism and other forms of oppression, we must provide a better credential, one focused on the connective tissue of history, on the understanding of how our systems have been made, and how they might be un-made and re-made. And then we need to fight to make that higher education credential accessible to the least privileged among us.

[Link to the full keynote address](#)

Section Editor Opening

The Utah Library News has an opening for the Public Library Section Editor. The section editor is responsible for providing content about Utah's public libraries for each quarterly issue of the ULN. Interested parties should contact the editor, [Mindy Hale](#).

Do You Love Your Proxy Server?

By Karen Newmeyer

Medical Librarian, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions

We all have them. We love them and we hate them. Proxy Servers. They allow us to provide our patrons with remote access to paid subscriptions. It is the way we operate, at least for now.

Once upon a time when I worked at the BYU Law School Library, we had six or seven dedicated computer terminals for WestLaw Access. You had to be on campus to use them. We were on the cutting edge. OK, so we were in the dark ages by comparison to internet access today, and 20 years from now I will be laughing as I read this. We really are at the beginning of the information age. Don't you love it?

Disclaimer—I am not a trained IT person. I am smart though. When I first looked at the stanzas in EZProxy, I wasn't sure what I was looking at. But I noticed patterns and used that to navigate my way through the mysteries of EZProxy. I will admit it used to be the bane of my existence, but I made peace with it. However, I was happy when I received the go ahead to move to OpenAthens (OA). Without going into the gory details, OA had some limitations that did not work for our set up (although it works fine for many institutions—I'm not saying anything bad about it).

Hopefully, our final proxy server chapter was the move to LibLynx. I love proxy servers now. I'm not here to sell anyone on LibLynx, but I do love it. In fact, I'm presenting on it at the Medical Library Association (MLA) conference in May. OK, I'm not really "presenting." I'm going to be a contestant on the "Favorite Tools" event. It is more like a game show with judges, audience participation, and, best of all, prizes. I have three minutes to make my case. Wish me luck! I'm up against Fred King and the Avenging Chicken from MedStar Washington Hospital Center.

Why I love LibLynx:

- No stanzas
- I can create new users with a simple instantaneous form
- I can restrict access to specific resources
- I can easily add new resources
- I can run reports and see who is using specific resources
- I can impersonate patrons and see what they see
- If things go haywire I can fix it or see where the patron is going wrong
- I have the power!

Do you have a favorite proxy server or a different way to authenticate IP addresses? I would love to hear about it.

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.

ULA PRESIDENT

Rebekah Cummings
rebekah.cummings@utah.edu

ULA PRESIDENT ELECT

Vern Waters
vwaters@SLCoLibrary.org

GENERAL EDITOR

Mindy Hale
mindynhale@gmail.com

SECTION EDITORS

Academic Libraries:
Carol Kunzler
carol.kunzler@snow.edu

School Libraries:
Amy Jamison
jamisona@ogdensd.org

Special Libraries:
Karen Newmeyer
knewmeyer@rmuohp.edu

COLUMNISTS

Natalie Gregory
natalie.gregory@loganutah.org

Dory Rosenberg
dory.rosenberg@usu.edu



Need career advice?

Want help perfecting your application materials? This year's ULA Conference has you covered. Visit the Career Services Booth (#2) and chat with our expert mentors! [Sign up for a half-hour consultation.](#)



www.ula.org