



APRIL 2021

ULA President's Message

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Happy spring! I'm pleased to see that COVID cases have dropped from the winter highs and that many of you are starting to have the chance to be vaccinated. It is my sincere hope that this is the turn towards better days ahead!

It has been a busy quarter! First, I regret to report that the Utah State Board of Education's priority, "[Expanded Access to Broadband for \\$5 million one-time and \\$350,000 ongoing](#)," our principal ULA legislative initiative, failed at the Utah legislature. ULA will learn from this setback and continue to nurture the budding relationships that our Advocacy Committee, in particular, is working so hard to establish. I express gratitude for and applaud all their efforts this year.

On the brighter side, I congratulate Chaundra Johnson, our Diversity Services Roundtable Chair, who has been selected as the new Utah State Librarian! I wish her the best in her service to us all in that new role.

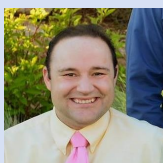
Thank you to all who voted in our annual ULA elections and a special thank-you to all the candidates who were willing to run for office! I'm pleased to congratulate and welcome Marissa Bischoff as ULA President-Elect, Emily Bullough and Emily Swensen Darowski as Board Members-at-Large, Trish Hull as our American Library Association Councilor, Sherrie Mortensen as our Mountain Plains Library Association Representative, and our other elected section and roundtable officers. They will serve well and bring a lot of experience to the governance of ULA.

I also welcome back Mindy Hale, ULA's new Executive Director, who was selected out of an extremely competitive pool of candidates. She has served in various positions in ULA and has already begun working with the Executive Committee and Barbara Winters to prepare for the transition in May.

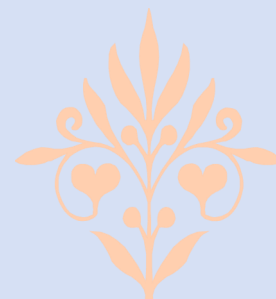
The ULA Virtual Conference is coming soon on May 19-21! Find registration links and other info at <https://ula.org/conference-registration-2021/>. ULA is pleased to welcome our keynote presenters who include: The American Library Association's Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services who will present Thursday morning on "Identifying Microaggressions", as well as a half-day pre-conference (presented twice to allow more to attend) titled "EDIcon"; Julius Jefferson Jr., ALA President and a Section Head at the Library of Congress, who will present Friday morning; and finally, Tara Westover, author of [Educated: A Memoir](#), who will answer Q&A at Friday's author lunch hour. Watch for a survey to submit your questions to her soon!

Finally, thank you to the many members who are renewing their ULA memberships. The ULA Board is aware that some of you are in tough situations financially right now, making this a real challenge. We still need you all and hope that you will each be safe, employed, and given some sunshine soon. If any of you need some financial help to attend the conference, please go to <https://ula.org/scholarship-application/>. The Scholarship Committee would like to offer help as they can! I look forward to seeing you at ULA conference in May.

WE ARE THE HEART,



Daniel Mauchley, ULA President 2020-2021



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Librarian Spotlight:</i> <i>Marissa Bischoff</i>	2
<i>Public Library Round-</i> <i>up: Escape Rooms in</i> <i>Public Libraries</i>	3
<i>Join ULA on Slack!</i>	3
<i>School Library Round-</i> <i>up: Reflections & Goals</i>	4
<i>Support ULA</i>	4
<i>Just for Fun—</i> <i>Crossword Puzzle</i>	5

Utah Librarian Spotlight

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

In this issue, the spotlight falls on Marissa Bischoff.

Do you remember the day you picked sessions for Career Day in junior high school? Your teachers wanted to help you prepare for college or trade school. But really, you just planned on taking fun classes like Modeling and Interior Design. Perhaps you worried about getting sick the day before signups and missing out on the best classes. You didn't want to end up in the Cheese Slicer or Bookmark String Threader sessions. Or heaven forbid, sit through a Librarianship presentation! This is



Marissa Bischoff

exactly what happened to little Marissa in the 7th grade at Baytown Junior High School. After suffering through an intolerable Librarian session, she stately vowed that she would "never, ever be a librarian."

The Texas tween has grown up and not only is she a librarian, she is our next ULA President-Elect. Marissa Bischoff grew up in Baytown, Texas and moved to Utah to attend Brigham Young University

(BYU). She received her bachelor's degree

in Classical Studies with an emphasis in Latin. As a student she worked in BYU Special Collections and loved it. She left for an internship at the Smithsonian in their folklife archives and was able to find a job in Interlibrary Loan at BYU when she returned to Utah. She held a variety of part-time library positions at BYU and the Orem Public Library.

Marissa has now worked for ten years at the Harold B. Lee Library (HBLL) and has been in her current position for over two years as the Religion and Family History Reference Supervisor. She received her master's degree in Library Science from San José State University in 2019 and is starting a second master's degree in Comparative Studies this fall at BYU. Marissa's dream job is to be a curator of special collections, managing a diverse collection of rare materials.

Marissa loves working in libraries because they provide patrons with equal access to information and because of their ability to transform individuals, communities, and societies. The kind mentorship of coworkers at both BYU and the Orem Library have helped Marissa along her path to librarianship. She exclaims that her "mentors have been just incredible. They are compassionate, smart, capable, and sacrifice to serve others." Not only does Marissa appreciate her colleagues, she appreciates the patrons she works with everyday. With

over 10,000 patrons entering the HBLL each day, she has plenty of opportunities to "make them smile, help them beyond what they expect, and help them feel more loved." One of Marissa's favorite library projects was designing a Family History exhibit in the HBLL with student employees and Joe Everett, the Family History Librarian. An outcome of the project is that she has developed an emphasis on mentoring student employees so they have additional impactful experiences in their work.

Marissa believes that the Religion and Family History area is a highlight of the Lee Library. It provides amazing resources, three fantastic subject librarians, and help desk students to assist patrons with research. Additionally, 150 family history missionaries and volunteers offer classes, webinars, instructional videos, consultations, and personalized genealogical research and instruction.

Marissa attended her first ULA Annual Conference back in 2009. Marissa says, "I am a better supervisor, teacher, reference worker, employee, librarian, and person because of ULA. Additionally, I have enjoyed the networking opportunities and working with great librarians from across the state." Marissa decided to get involved in ULA as the Genealogy Round Table (GENRT) Vice-Chair and Chair and has been successful in holding membership meetings and webinars. Now she is beyond excited to be the upcoming President-Elect and will focus on empathy in library services statewide in addition to project-managing a strategic plan for our association.

Marissa is married with four children and lives in Santaquin, Utah. She adores the Santaquin Public Library and enjoys attending their book club meetings. She loves reading, family adventures, sports, music, dance, and self-improvement.



Little Marissa once asserted to her best friend that she liked books more than people. Now, she doesn't know how she ever believed that. She loves books, but loves people infinitely more. And that's exactly why she loves working in libraries. Don't be surprised if you see Marissa Bischoff at your local school's Career Day this spring—showing students just what an exciting and interesting career librarianship can be.

Public Library Roundup: Escape Rooms and Public Libraries

Nathan Robison, Public Libraries Columnist

Summer is on its way and, throughout the nation, children's, teen, and programming librarians are hard at work to create fun, educational, and free programs to keep community members learning through the summer. The task can be daunting. How do you create quality programs on a tight budget? One programming idea that many Utah libraries have adopted is to create an Escape Room.

You're probably aware of the escape room phenomenon. A locked room or series of locked rooms is set up with clues that help the participants escape. These rooms often have a mystery, history, or sci-fi theme. The popularity of escape rooms has risen and fallen in the last ten years, but they remain a popular choice in Utah for date nights, or bonding with family or friends. The Orem Public Library has included an escape room in its summer programs for the last few years, and each year it is one of our most popular and requested programs.

The good news is that an escape room is a relatively inexpensive way to make a very engaging program for the whole family. The bad news is that escape rooms can take up a lot of time, resources, and space in your library. Here are a few ideas that my team used to make our summer reading escape rooms. These ideas were created and presented by the Orem Library Outreach Team at ULA in 2016.

1. **Do Your Research:** A good library escape room should highlight your collection and services, as well as be educational. Do you have any books or collections you're interested in, or want to draw patron attention to? Think of an escape room like a display. Create a booklist that goes along with the theme of your room.
2. **Pick a Theme or Story:** An escape room is more than a locked room. A good escape room tells a story. A few questions you might want to ask yourself as you create your escape room are Where am I? Why am I here? How do I get out? Create a narrative with your clues, props, and characters. Many escape rooms

borrow a plot from a popular story such as Sherlock Holmes tales or stories from Edgar Allan Poe.

3. **Gather Your Resources:** Your most important resource is space. At our library we most often use our small media auditorium. It doesn't need to be large, and it doesn't even need to be a room. Some escape rooms feature locked boxes or puzzles that require you to break in. You'll also need personnel. You'll need help setting up your escape room, testing it, and resetting it between patrons. Library volunteers, especially teen volunteers, have been a lifesaver for us. Another must-have are things that lock like padlocks, bike locks, lock boxes. Keys are easy to hide and leave clues for. Number combinations are easy to hide in other puzzles, like simple math equations.
4. **Add Creative Elements:** What other puzzles can you make? Chess boards, jigsaw puzzles with messages written on the back, or simply hiding messages for young children are fun and add a lot.
5. **Create a Map:** A map will help you visualize the layout of your escape room, but it will also be necessary to show volunteers how to reset your room.
6. **Test Your Room:** This is a critical step. Make sure you know how long it will take, as well as give you an idea of how hard it will be, if kids can do it, or if it will be primarily for teens or adults.

Hopefully, these ideas have sparked your imagination and will help you create a great program for your community. If you have any questions, suggestions, or success stories, please let me know! There are lots of other great resources available on the ALA website, as well as Programming Librarian.

The purpose of this article is to share the ways Utah libraries serve their community, and to spread these ideas throughout the state. Is your library doing something cool? Please let me know! Email Nathan Robison at nrobison@orem.org to share ideas, and give feedback.

Join ULA on Slack!

We are excited to debut a new, informal way to stay in touch with your colleagues around the state between meetings and events. Join the conversation in Slack!

[Utah Library Association SLACK](#)

The link will invite you to join the workspace or to create an account if you haven't used Slack before. Slack is a free platform; you will not be asked for payment at any time. Once you have joined, try posting an introduction in the main channel, #community. And if you're feeling adventurous, explore the other channels on the left side menu. You can use this platform to share library news, ask for ideas, and discuss issues and trends.

Please note that this will not replace emails through Wild Apricot or any other official communications. Slack is for casual conversations within your roundtables, sections, and among friends. Questions? Direct them to the ULA Program Board, the group responsible for maintaining the Slack workspace.

ULA Program Board
Chair - Liz Gabbitas
Vice Chair - Allyson Mower



School Libraries Roundup: End-of-Year Reflections & Goals

Beth Tanner, School Libraries Section Editor, Salt Lake County

This spring has been a time of tremendous reflection. The challenges we faced this past year stretched most of us well beyond what we ever could have imagined, professionally or personally. As an educator, when I look back at the past year, I am absolutely floored at what I have accomplished. I have learned and utilized skills I never could have fathomed.

However, as my school prepares for end-of-year testing and we look to round out this unique school year, I find myself slipping back into the non-stop “go mode” that was my pre-pandemic existence. While I am tremendously grateful to have the safety of being fully vaccinated and am absolutely thrilled to have students back in the library, I don’t want to lose the contemplative headspace I acquired in the height of things. I want my presence as a teacher librarian and parent to be more than scheduling, checking boxes, and moving from place to place. I need to make reflection a greater part of my teaching.

At the end of each week, I spend a few minutes thinking about what I want to change or carry forward into future years. I want to utilize the skills I have learned and harness my new willingness to take risks to benefit my students. These include simple changes such as: “plan more time for student book selection” and, “highlight more audiobooks.” I also want to challenge myself to commit to my work in diversifying my collection and truly supporting my students with specific actions such as, “source more picture books that highlight my students’ Pacific Islander heritage.” As I reflect and take notes, I make concrete plans to implement the most powerful changes into next year’s teaching.

At the heart of it all, this past year has acted as a “reset” button for many of us. While I have worked harder than ever, this time has served as an opportunity to look critically at my teaching, my collection, and my interactions with my students and colleagues. These few minutes of reflecting each week have helped me find joy and purpose in a difficult year.

Let us all take some time use the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 to contemplate, “what stays and what goes.”

Take time to ask yourself:

-What skills have I acquired this last year that make me proud?

-What technological skills or practices have I learned that can transform my work?

-What can I eliminate from my work to make room for what really matters?

-What brings me joy in my profession? How can I sustain those practices?

-What have I learned in the last year that benefits my students/patrons most?

-How can I plan to implement these changes (big and small) permanently into my work?

-What other questions do I need to ask myself to improve my work and continue to grow?.

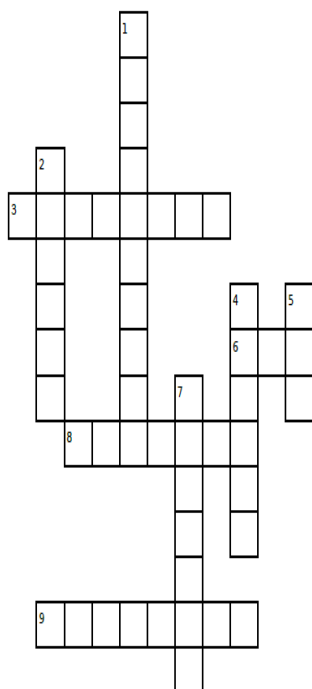
Support ULA on AmazonSmile

If you are shopping with Amazon, we want to remind you 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

Just for Fun – Should We Do This Often?

ULA Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. meeting
2. K-12
4. in the town
5. the merry month
7. not in person

Across:

3. higher education
6. our association
8. libraries of an unusual type
9. special activities

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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