



SEPTEMBER 2021

ULA President's Message

Fisherman Dave loved to fish on his longboard off the Leeward Coast of Oahu. One day he hooked a prized and large sea turtle. He took a risk, held on tight, and was pulled two miles out to sea. Once the turtle wore out, Fisherman Dave brought it back to shore. His village celebrated his remarkable catch with a sea turtle feast. Fisherman Dave is my Grandpa Kaluhiokalani.

Fisherman Dave was determined to succeed despite a challenge in uncharted waters. Likewise, librarians have been resolute in their response to recent challenges and the unknown. And what a challenging time it has been. Library professionals across the state have been actively engaged in plans to reopen library facilities and programs to pre-pandemic levels of patron service, only to reassess services again due to the COVID-19 Delta variant. The ability of librarians to transition programs and services on a dime—to ensure safe access to information—has been remarkable. As we enter a new phase of the pandemic it is imperative that we stay focused and connected to one another to share professional and creative solutions to emerging challenges.

Pandemic library service is only one ongoing challenge. Hate crimes—based on race, ethnicity, ancestry, or sexual orientation—have risen nationally to a 12-year high and have doubled in Utah in 2020 (FBI). Defending equity, diversity, and inclusion in library services and spaces is critical to the success of all of Utah's residents. We must learn about and understand the issues our diverse communities encounter to protect and safeguard that which makes us a distinct, robust, and influential part of our country.

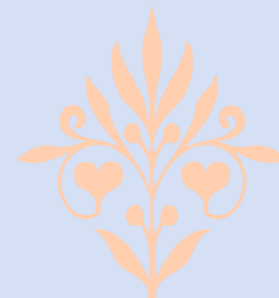
Librarians can interrupt the cycle of unexamined prejudices and ingrained racism. Let's learn what questions to ask to foster change and find the right tools to move forward. ULA is in problem solving mode this current year. President-Elect, Marissa Bischoff, Chair of the ULA Strategic Planning Committee will soon send out a member survey. Please respond to the questionnaire so our strategy accurately sets the direction, priorities, and goals of our organization.

Fisherman Dave set out to catch a fish, but caught a sea turtle that could feed a village. Librarians attend conferences and workshops to catch their own fish—learning new skills, technologies, and insights. But librarians also hope to catch a giant sea turtle to share with their communities—building networks, partnerships, resources, programs, and advocacy efforts. The 2022 ULA Annual Conference theme is "United in Diversity | Unida en la Diversidad". ULA is partnering with the Utah State Library to present a "Year of Learning" curriculum where association members will learn, discuss, and take action on issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. At the end of the year, participating members will have the skills to create unifying EDI experiences and solutions for their patrons, communities, and libraries. ULA members have already had three months of insightful EDI conversations through scheduled training, meetups, and challenges. If you haven't joined us yet, explore the [Year of Learning Hub](#) to find future events and discussions. And don't miss our upcoming [ULA Fall Workshop](#), which is now open for registration.

Fisherman Dave took a risk to catch his first sea turtle. 2021 is a "Year of Firsts" for librarianship. Patty Wong, Santa Monica Public Library Director, became ALA's first Asian American President. Chaundra Johnson, became Utah's first State Librarian of color. And thank you for taking a chance on me to lead as the first ULA President of color. A historic moment will occur when all three of us kick off the 2022 ULA Annual Conference together! I look forward to ULA's continued "Year of Learning" feast that celebrates our commitment to empowering our communities through unity and diversity.



Rita Baguio Christensen
ULA President, 2021-2022



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United in Diversity Year of Learning Resources & Events

UNITED IN DIVERSITY | UNIDA EN LA DIVERSIDAD YEAR OF LEARNING RESOURCES & EVENTS SECOND QUARTER

Monthly Topics

September: Serving Differently-Abled Community Members
October: Auditing Your Collection
November: Identifying Your Community

Utah Library Association
Year of Learning Hub

United in Diversity Book Club

Diversity Services Round Table

Conference Speakers

Communication Guidelines

ULA Store

Utah State Library
Equity Hub

Learn – Discuss – Take Action

EDI Resources for Libraries

Book Buzz: Collective Change

Discussions All Year
ULA Slack #edi Channel



REGISTER NOW!

ULA FALL WORKSHOP

Friday, September 24, 2021
10-3 | Free & Online

Registration fees are partially
covered by the ULA
Scholarship Fund.

Adriane Herrick Juarez

Park City Library Director
Host of Library Leadership Podcast



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Keynote Speaker | Adriane Herrick Juarez, Park City Library Director and host of Library Leadership Podcast, will speak on ever-evolving librarian leadership. In this keynote, Adriane will overview library leadership theory and practice that includes flaws and graceful recovery, personalized leadership paths, leading at every level, and listening and responsiveness. Join Adriane in this passionate conversation that will shape your unique leadership path and career.

Workshop Sessions | Updating Catalogs with More Inclusive Subject Headings – The Handling of Family History Record Donations to BYU's Harold B. Lee Library – Let's Talk Race Literacy Kits – Libraries as Community Innovation Hubs and Business Resource Centers – Storytime Podcasts 4 Little Learners – Serving Neurodiverse Patrons.

Lunch Meetup | Meet with local ULA members for lunch through SLACK.

REGISTER NOW!

Utah Librarian Spotlight

Every issue, ULA President-Elect Marissa Bischoff introduces readers to a Utah librarian.

In this issue, the spotlight falls on Chaundra Johnson.

In March, Chaundra Johnson became our new Utah State Librarian. She grew up in Hudson, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska. She attended graduate school in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and stayed for twenty years before coming to Utah. She is 20 years a Midwesterner, 20 years a Southerner, and hopefully for us, 20 years a Utahn!



Chaundra Johnson

of state to LSU.

She worked in the public library system in Baton Rouge in nearly every area: Circulation, Reference, Youth Services, Adult Services, Technical Services, Computer Services, Branch Manager, Bookmobile, Outreach, Community Partnerships, Board Liaison, City Council Liaison, and Building Maintenance. She also has worked closely with school, academic, and special libraries.

Chaundra has relentless curiosity and is always up for a challenge. She realized she was ready for a change in her career. She came to visit Salt Lake City with her family and of course, had to visit the local public libraries. There, she heard about the position of the Library Development Program Manager at the Utah State Library and decided to apply. She got the job and moved her family to Utah.

Through her work, she has done some exciting things such as starting the Baton Rouge library systems Bookmobile and Outreach services department from scratch. It began with just herself and two other employees using one vehicle. Now that department has a fleet of 9 vehicles and 20 employees visiting hundreds of daycares, schools, nursing homes, senior centers, community stops, and adult education sites around the city. She has collaborated with NBA and NFL players like Shaquille O'Neal and War-

rick Dunn, as well as entertainment stars and authors. She extended the influence of the library by bringing the library into unconventional places like beauty shops and tailgating events. Chaundra said, "We signed up A LOT of people for library cards at those tailgating events!"

Chaundra even impressed a film crew with her library storytelling. Clint Eastwood's daughter was filming a movie in Baton Rouge and wanted to do some scenes at the library at night. Chaundra volunteered with a colleague to stay overnight so someone was in the building with them. The production and writing crew were standing around most of the night, so Chaundra and her colleague started telling them about the public library and its offerings. Chaundra recounts, "By the end of the night we had a whole group of movie crew people surrounding us captivated by our library storytelling."



Chaundra loves books, visiting new places, baby animals, and sci-fi/fantasy movies, especially Star Wars and Lord of the Rings. She makes her family endure watching the Lord of the Rings every December. (She adds: "And yes, the extended version only! I mean, how can you watch any other version!?!")

She appreciates that ULA membership has allowed her to learn, laugh and brainstorm with amazing people. She says, "Participating in something you are really passionate about and serving on one of the roundtables or positions in ULA is a great learning experience as well as a wonderful way to meet new people and be exposed to new ideas." She has been Chair of the Diversity Services Roundtable and served on the Advocacy Committee. During her tenure at DSRT, she collaborated on a Statement on Racism and Violence. <https://ula.org/content/2020/06/dsrt-ula-board-statement-on-racism-and-violence/>.

Chaundra loves libraries and the power they have to transform lives. She says, "I love that they steadfastly and continuously strive to provide access to information to all, support literacy and lifelong learning, and are a vital resource for whatever community they are serving. None of that happens without library staff and library people are among the most dedicated, caring, creative, and just downright awesome people I have ever encountered."

She does amazing work at the Utah State Library and strives to provide great resources and support as she advocates for all types of Utah libraries and their communities. For one example, she is currently working on ensuring digital access in education and getting broadband to all areas of Utah, including tribal areas. She is excited and honored to be our Utah State Librarian. And we are excited and honored to have her!

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year—to Support Students

Dan Broadbent, Academic Libraries Section Editor

The most wonderful time of the year? Well, it depends on what you're referring to and when. For those of us in the Academic Section of ULA, this time of year is full of preparations for the beginning of a new academic year. A whole new batch of students. A whole new batch of unique needs.

We recognize a big part of what we do is to support students, but how? Great reference services, writing and research instruction, and study spaces are certainly part of the mix. Another component is supporting student wellness. "The percentage of students reporting various forms of psychological distress has greatly increased, and more students than ever seek assistance at college counseling centers that struggle to meet the demand" (Bladek, 2021, p. 1). It is hard for students to succeed academically if they are in the middle of crises.

Can we as academic librarians make a difference? Yes! Benedetti et al., (2020) states that "libraries are well-positioned to help, due to their central locations, longer operating hours, and perception as a safe space" and offers some specific examples like providing "meditation and prayer rooms, free yoga sessions, food pantries, and nap spaces" (p. 275). Some libraries bring in therapy animals for students to interact with during the most stressful times of the semester and provide fun social events to help students (and library workers) decompress. Additionally, what we

include in our library collections might be just the right resource for students who are seeking information and support for their individual needs.

We are not merely an information "business" seeking to meet needs of our student "customers." We are partners in their educational process that, to many of them, is overwhelming and confusing. Regardless of the specific role we play in our libraries, we can be a stabilizing influence in the lives of the students we work with by meeting their needs in a professional way and by being a kind presence in the course of their busy day.

The best of success to you and your students this new school year!

References

- Benedetti, A., Boehme, G., Caswell, T.R., Denlinger, K., Li, Y., McAllister, A.D., Quigley, B.D., Soehner, C.B., Wang, M. and Wesolek, A.J. (2020). 2020 Top Trends in Academic Libraries.
- Bladek, M. (2021). Student well-being matters: Academic library support for the whole student. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 47(3), 102349.

Making Your Library A Welcoming Space for LGBTQIA Patrons

Nathan Robison, Public Libraries Section Editor

This June we had an interesting experience at the Orem Public Library. Like many other public libraries throughout the state, we set up displays of books and other media by LGBTQIA authors. While the library did receive some complaints, the community support for our Pride displays was overwhelming. We received messages of love, gratitude, and support from dozens of members of the LGBTQIA community throughout the state, as well as allies, librarians, and civic leaders in our community.

Coincidentally, this June was the first Pride month that I celebrated with my family. One of my children recently came out publicly as queer, and the month marked an important step toward self-acceptance, greater confidence, and happiness for them. Watching my child as they grow up, confronting the challenges that are common to LGBTQIA teenagers, such as depression and anxiety, made the Pride displays at my library much more meaningful to us. They signalled to my family that the place was a safe space for my child, where they were free to express who they are, pursue their interests, and find books written by and for people like them.

The impact of the Pride displays was reinforced in late June during a Teen Dungeons and Dragons night which my child and a friend attended. As the program began, it was apparent through rainbow buttons, ribbons, and pins that several of the volunteer Dungeon Masters, and a number of the participants, were LGBTQIA individuals. Soon the room was filled with stories and laughter. Surrounded by this warm environment, it was the happiest I'd seen my child in a long time. I'm grateful to be a part of a library community that values diversity, and seeks to serve all Utahns. As this year's ULA theme, United in Diversity, suggests, there is strength in embracing the diversity of the communities we serve.

Looking for some ways to make your library more welcoming to LGBTQIA patrons? Here are a few ideas from libraries across the state:

Build Your LGBTQIA Collections: It's important to give access to materials created by and for LGBTQIA individuals. Teens es-

pecially can benefit from having access to valuable information in a private, safe environment. Don't know where to start? Here's a great resource from [the Rainbow Round Table of the American Library Association](#). Also check out the [Rainbow Book Lists](#), also from the ALA.

Create LGBTQIA Displays: Displays of books, movies and other LGBTQIA materials in each area of the library go a long way to communicate that your library cares about LGBTQIA individuals. It's important for all community members to see these items, and not just in June. Celebrating the contributions of LGBTQIA authors and artists throughout the year helps build pride and understanding.

Train Your Staff: Our library recently held a panel discussion with LGBTQIA staff. Many staff members were surprised by the number of LGBTQIA staff members there were at the library. The panel was an excellent way to share training and ideas, challenges and successes, as well as providing a safe place for all staff to ask questions and learn from each other. If you need help organizing a panel or staff training, the ULA is a good place to start. In the leadup to the 2022 conference, ULA and the Utah State Library have created a year-long curriculum dealing with diversity topics. [Join the Zoom Meetup on April 28, 2022](#). Contact other libraries as well. I can put you in contact with some great LGBTQIA librarians who are always happy to help.

Create Buttons and Pins for Staff: Buttons and pins can be a great way to communicate with others that you are a safe person to ask for LGBTQIA books and information. A wonderful staff person at our library created buttons with preferred pronouns, as well as rainbow buttons that said "Read with Pride." These buttons have started many great discussions at our library, and helped patrons young and old feel comfortable asking about our LGBTQIA materials

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.

School Librarian Professional Development: Crosswalk Collaborations

Beth Tanner, School Libraries Section Editor, Salt Lake County

It has been a great start to the 2021-2022 school year and educators are still trying to balance pandemic teaching. We are all trying to determine how to best utilize the skills we built over the last year while also understanding that the pandemic is ongoing. I've taken to calling it the, "COVID Roller Coaster". In my library, some days are incredible, and we seem to be moving along beautifully whereas, other days we have many students and teachers quarantined. As educators, we are trying to provide some consistency in a time when consistency is difficult to find. Despite it all, I am perpetually in awe of my colleagues whose ingenuity and perseverance have shown our students just how much we care.

Professional Development Opportunity for 6-12 Librarians & Educators

I was recently contacted by Dr. Lauren Liang from the University of Utah. Among many of the incredible projects happening within the Ed. Psych. Department, Dr. Liang and her associates have created a collaborative program for Secondary School Librarians and Secondary Educators. This program seeks to connect educators and librarians

to support the research and information literacy skills of 6-12 students. This program sounds like an excellent opportunity to team up with your colleagues, build something useful, and highlight the critical work happening in our school libraries. *Who:* Secondary Librarians, secondary ELA teachers, and secondary educators

What: Collaborative groups working together to create units of study that support our 6-12 students and their research and information literacy skills.

When: Groups begin meeting October 5th. Contact Dr. Lauren Liang ASAP to sign up.

Earn: Micro credentials and 25 hours of re-licensure.

Click the link or contact Dr. Lauren Liang (lauren.liang@utah.edu) for more information:

[Crosswalk Collaborations: Empowering Librarians and Classroom Teachers Together](#)

Summit County Library – Henefer Book Locker Program Receives National Award

Bailey Edelstein, Special to Utah Libraries News

This past spring, Summit County submitted an application nominating their county library's **Henefer Book Locker program to the National Association of Counties (NACO) Achievement Awards**. Their program won national recognition alongside a number of other amazing projects in the "Libraries" category.

The idea for the program was sparked when Summit County's Library Director, Dan Compton, attended a conference that featured a unique book locker technology by the company "Bibliotheca." Compton immediately thought of Summit County's small rural town of Henefer and the access to county library services this innovative system would provide its residents.

Until the program's inception in 2018, the 1,025 residents of Henefer had to make a 20-mile round trip to the library in the neighboring city of Coalville to check out or return books from the Summit County Library system. Participation in the program has grown 73% since its first operational year of 2018-19. In 2020, the book locker had a record-breaking 1,268 checkouts despite being closed in April 2020 due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Book locker operation is conducted as follows: The Summit County Library system receives book hold orders from residents who opt for book delivery to the Henefer Book Locker in lieu of picking up at another county branch farther away. Librarians pull the books from the stacks and deliver them to the Henefer book locker. Deliveries take place within three days. An email notification system sends the borrower a code for the door to gain entrance to the room with the locker. Once inside, borrowers simply scan or type in their library card number and follow the prompts on a touch screen to retrieve their materials. Borrowers can conveniently return their library books to a secure slot in the locker when they are finished as well. This system also allowed books to be cleaned between uses during the height of the pandemic.

Summit County Library Director Dan Compton dreams of adding more lockers throughout the county to provide after-hours access to book orders and to help make returning and retrieving books as convenient as possible. This is a vital service for rural residents of a county that is nearly the size of the state of Delaware.

A round of applause to Dan Compton and his team for this amazing accomplishment!

ULA Store Now Carrying 2020-2022 Conference-themed Products



Support ULA and spread the word! 2020-2022 ULA conference themed products are available now for purchase at the [ULA Store](#)!



Youth Services Roundtable Committee

- **Diverse Book Finder** has cataloged and analyzed more than 3K trade picture books to create a one-of-a-kind Search Tool, Source of Critical Data, and Collection Analysis Tool (CAT). This free tool allows librarians to analyze their current library collections to reveal the strengths and gaps in racial/cultural representation. The tool also enables librarians to better understand the types of diversity represented within their collections. Check it out at diversebookfinder.org.

- Watch for “YSRT In the Know” in our next ULA newsletter. If you have a favorite library tip or a program you’d like to share, please email knills-son@summitcounty.org.



- Friday, March 11, 2022, noon

Strategic Planning Committee Formed

Marissa Bischoff, President-elect, Co-Chair

This fall, we are beginning strategic planning for our organization.



Amanda Standerfer

We have not had a formal strategic plan in the recent past. The leadership felt that it was important to intentionally map out our goals and objectives so we can better serve the information professionals of our state. Because this is a new endeavor and there are few documents to draw from, we have hired a consultant, Amanda Standerfer, who has worked with many libraries and library organizations on strategic planning.

We have formed a strategic planning committee that has been approved by the board.

Marissa Bischoff
Peter Bromberg
Emily Bullough
Rita Christensen
Mindy Hale
Patrick Hoecherl

President-Elect, Chair
Advocacy Co-Chair
Member-at-Large
President
Executive Director
Public Section Chair

Javaid Lal
Daniel Mauchley
Milan Pohontsch
Cristina Reyes

Treasurer
Past-President
GENRT Chair
DSRT Chair

The strategic planning process has several phases and will extend until May 2022. We are currently in Phase 1, the learning portion.

The first portion is information gathering and research. This will involve all of you. We are finalizing a survey at this time to send out to all the membership so we can understand your values and needs as well as your perspective on the future of ULA. We will conduct interviews and focus groups as well and hope that some of you will participate in this. Additionally, we will look at other state library organizations, conduct an environmental scan and a SOAR analysis. Amanda and her team will gather all this information into a report for us to use as the foundation for the plan.

Strategic planning establishes a direction and focus for organizations. As we intentionally set our priorities and ensure our actions are in alignment with our goals, we can be much more effective and more fully meet the needs of Utah libraries and librarians. I will continue to post updates about this process in each newsletter, so stay tuned!

Welcome to Our New ULA Members!!

Mindy Hale, ULA Executive Director

Welcome, New ULA Members!

The ULA community, Executive Board, and staff are pleased to welcome our newest ULA members. We are looking forward to seeing what new ideas and contributions you bring to ULA and hope you thrive here.

Krista Anderson
Joella Bagshaw
Jaime Bartlett
Robert Berets
Dana Brosnahan
Kayla Cameron
Annabel Carroll
Angela Christensen
Christopher Clark
Emily Coltrin
Molly Cozzens
Mary Davies

Katelyn Ekker
Thomas Ferrill
Phyllis Goodman
Brooke Jones
Matthew Kammerer
Teirza Kupka
Sarah Langsdon
Darleen Loch
Mieke Nielson
Michelle Olsen
Alyson Reid
Ann Richins

Nathan Robison
Jacob Rosenzweig
Anthony Sams
Suzanne Sawyer
Elizabeth Schow
Ashley Thompson
Brittanie Turner
Heather Walker
Melissa Wayman
Lee Whiting
Yingying Zhang

Banned Books Week 2021

Katie Wegner, Intellectual Freedom Committee Co-Chair

Librarians fight censorship all year round, but Banned Books Week is a special opportunity to showcase these efforts.

From September 26th through October 2nd, libraries across the country will unite around the 2021 Banned Books Week theme, "Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us." The [ULA Intellectual Freedom Committee](#) encourages you to use this week to share everything you do to protect your community's freedom to read.

Visit bannedbooksweek.org to find free graphics and ideas for displays and activities. Be sure to send pictures of your displays and activities to Katie Wegner at kwegner@summitcounty.org to have them featured on our site.

Check out our [page](#) to learn more about intellectual freedom, report challenges, and reach out to us with any questions or concerns about censorship. We are here for 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 Richings 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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