Within the Milky Way, between a shower of shooting stars, I could see the North Star. The point around which the dark sky turns. A kit fox popped its head up over the canyon wall to check on its stargazing visitor. Kangaroo rats darted in and out of rabbitbrush shrubs to forage for seeds and snack on the crumbs of my evening meal.

Utah has the most International Dark Sky Parks in the world. During the dog days of summer I went to Canyonlands National Park armed with a headlamp and a star chart to identify constellations—using the North Star as my guide.

The North Star is more accurate than a compass and can be used as a beacon to guide travelers home. It is always visible and in a fixed location. What is your North Star? A personal and professional inner compass keeps you on course. What is ULA’s North Star? Our guiding light is a combination of our mission and the core values we deliver to our membership. We must keep our mission statement in sight to make sure that we are going in the right direction.

The Utah Library Association advocates for libraries and cultivates leadership development to promote library excellence for the Utah library community.

A guiding light is essential in our journey as an organization. We also need a road map to get us to our destination without getting lost. Our Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Marissa Bischoff, received overwhelming member participation in our recent survey, interviews, and focus groups. Thank you for your support as we navigate the strategic planning process.

Our future is exciting! The 2022 ULA Annual Conference will be held at the Davis Conference Center in Layton, UT from May 18-20. Safety measures will be in place so attendees can enjoy educational programming, speakers, exhibit booths, and signature events. Thanks to all who submitted a conference proposal in anticipation of our first in-person conference since 2019. The “United in Diversity | Unida en la Diversidad” year-long curriculum has been implemented as part of our association’s journey that cultivates excellence for our Utah library community. The diversity theme is not meant to serve as a chimera of equity and inclusion. It was developed to move us individually and institutionally into new territory. To encourage the development of equitable spaces and services for those we serve daily. I challenge you to engage in our monthly EDI opportunities in preparation for our Annual Conference.

Every librarian in Utah is experiencing continued intersecting challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your transformational work and leadership. All of you are individual stars and building blocks of our brilliant galaxy core. We will acknowledge our ULA stars at the 2022 Annual Conference. The Utah Library Association presents awards annually to information professionals nominated by their colleagues. Award nominations start in January 2022—don’t forget to nominate an outstanding librarian. View our 2021 ULA Awards spotlights, video, photo album, and categories on the ULA Awards Page.

Thanks to the stars of our Intellectual Freedom Committee, co-Chairs Debbie Short and Katie Wegner, for their recent support of librarians and teachers facing book challenges in Washington County. And here’s to the many stars that made our Virtual Fall Workshop a success: Continuing Education Committee Chairs Valerie Buck and Erin Mendoza, Program Board Chair Allyson Mower; Keynote Speaker Adriane Herrick Juarez, and numerous session moderators and speakers. You can view the keynote address and program sessions on the ULA YouTube Channel.

As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, gaze into our dark skies. Take a moment to think about where you are now and where you are going. Find your North Star and decide how your light will best shine among ULA’s galactic core of stars.

Rita Baguio Christensen, ULA President, 2021-2022
United in Diversity Year of Learning Resources & Events

Upcoming Monthly Topics

November: Identifying Your Community
December: Suicide Prevention
January: Highlighting #OwnVoices Authors
February: Critical Cataloging

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

Upcoming ULA Book Club—February 2022

Ethical Questions
in Name Authority Control

Jane Sandberg

United in Diversity
BOOK CLUB

February 3, 2022 @ 9 am
Bonus: Virtual Author Visit!

Looking for an opportunity to learn and grow in your profession? Add this to your professional development calendar for the New Year!

Look for our special ULA Book Club event at the Annual Conference in May 2022.

REGISTER NOW!
Dan Broadbent was born in Los Angeles and lived there until he was in 10th grade and his family moved to Provo, Utah. He received a BS in Applied Physics and an MS in Computer Integrated Manufacturing from BYU. After this, he and his wife moved to Los Angeles so he could work in the aerospace industry on the stealth bomber! It was a rewarding five-year experience for him, but the government cut funding, so he took the opportunity to jump into another career interest, tech startups. He completed an MBA while doing his previous job, so he was able to transition well and combine interests of physics and technology with his business education.

He and his family moved back to Orem, Utah so he could become the sixth employee at a satellite company. Over thirteen years, he worked at three different tech startups. He enjoyed this work, particularly the cool technology that was emerging because of it, but disliked the cutthroat nature of the companies.

Because of this, he desired to move to a field where he could be true to his values and still successful (or better yet, successful because of his values.) He wanted to spend his days trying to help other people improve their world. Enter librarianship! But actually, not quite yet. We get him later. He got a teaching certificate and became a high school physics teacher. He enjoyed teaching his physics students and offering practical examples and real-world connections because of his previous employment. After doing that for 8 years he learned of an opportunity to work at the BYU library. He had not considered librarianship as a career but was very interested in it.

He was happy to get his current position of Physical and Computer Sciences Librarian at BYU. Dan didn’t take a traditional path to librarianship but feels that his work in other sectors has helped him in this career. He has a nice, broad view of the careers in the physics and technology fields and can help mentor students with that knowledge. And that is Dan’s favorite part of the job—working with students and helping them with their research. He is currently mentoring a student research group that is using artificial intelligence to analyze images of Mars and Saturn’s moon, Titan, to choose the best locations to send probes. He also really enjoys the writing and research component of his job. Dan says that he has a list of research papers he wants to do and is working through the list little by little. He is currently balancing finishing his MLS degree while working hard at his job and taking care of home and family needs. And when he finishes his MLS in May, he’ll have three master’s degrees!

He loves libraries because “our mission is to make information available so that life can be improved, and progress can be made by all.” Along with that, his mission with his work is to facilitate the development and availability of knowledge.

In ULA, Dan has been the Academic Section vice-chair, a member of the Conference Planning Committee and the Utah Library News Academic Section Editor. Through ULA, Dan has been able to learn more about library work and make connections with others who do similar work. He feels he can also more clearly see the big picture of what libraries can do for all.

Dan has five children, between the ages of 22 and 30. He loves spending time with his family and is also enjoying this new stage of parenting with its independence for all. He loves Italian food, particularly chicken parmigiana. He enjoys skiing and hiking, two big reasons to stay in Utah. He noted that he and his wife are happy to stay in Utah for keeps.

Dan has other exciting interests including flying! He was learning how to fly a single seat aircraft (just for fun) and needed to practice intentionally stalling the plane so he could learn how to anticipate and avoid an accidental stall. He said, “that meant pulling back on the controls and letting the plane slow down until it stalled and fell about 70 feet. It was so much fun that I did it over and over again, until I realized I had made myself terribly motion sick. My whole goal in life at that point was to get the plane on the ground before I threw up all over myself. Fortunately, I made it, but just barely!”

We’re so happy Dan made it through his meandering career path to us and can bless the library world with his talents and skills.
Protecting Collections in Academic Libraries

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. Academic Libraries invest heavily in their collections. These collections are critical components to the teaching and research that takes place on our campuses. For financial, academic, and practical reasons, these collections need to be protected from disasters.

While we all know it is important to prepare, busy schedules tend to get in the way. Here is a quick reminder and a few resources to draw on to make sure your library has the right plans and practices in place.

- ALA Library Disaster Preparedness & Response.
  - https://libguides.ala.org/disaster/home
  - A great set of resources including helpful planning guides and links to disaster recovery services and suppliers.


Making Your Library A Welcoming Space for LGBTQIA Patrons — Part 2

Nathan Robison, Public Libraries Section Editor

Last quarter I wrote an article about ways we as library staff can make our spaces more welcoming to LGBTQIA patrons. I’ll admit, as a cisgendered heterosexual library worker, I’m not the best person to be writing this article. I know there are a lot of you LGBTQIA librarians and library workers here in Utah, and please feel free to add to or correct this article.

Making your library a welcoming place to patrons of all identities can be a simple thing. Here are a few things I’ve been learning as I work to be a better ally in and out of the library:

- **Pronouns and Names**: My oldest child is trans, and changed their name and pronouns earlier this year. It was an adjustment, and I messed up a lot at first. But I noticed a huge difference in my child’s confidence and happiness when their chosen name and pronouns were used. It simply feels good to be called by your name, or to have your identity acknowledged by others. We’ve all had this experience as library workers, or as patrons. When we are greeted by name, it shows that we are accepted and valued.

- Pay attention to patron pronouns and names. Include your chosen pronouns in email signatures and on social media profiles. Consider wearing a button or pin with them. Get in the habit of asking patrons about their pronouns. Another thing to note is that we will all slip up, and it’s okay. If you get someone’s pronouns or name wrong, apologize and use the chosen ones.

- Another thing to consider is that patron names may change. The process for a trans person to change their name is lengthy and expensive, and requires meeting before a judge. Anything that can be done to simplify the process for your patrons, the better. Realize that it can be emotionally draining to update personal information with the many organizations and accounts we work with. It is also draining, discouraging, and can have a huge impact on mental health to receive notices from the library with a former name or deadname.

- **Programs by and for LGBTQIA people**: Programs are a great way to introduce your library patrons to new things, but they’re also a way of communicating what your library finds valuable. As such, consider adding programs that showcase LGBTQIA people and their stories and accomplishments. As I mentioned above, I’m not the best person to be writing this article. I’m grateful for the opportunity I have to share what I’ve learned as I’ve sought to be a better ally. However, it’s always better to have LGBTQIA patrons, artists, and performers presenting the program.

- **Staff and Volunteers**: The best way to make any library welcoming is to make sure your staff and volunteers reflect the community you serve. Ultimately the best way to connect with the LGBTQIA patrons in your community and learn their needs is to hire LGBTQIA librarians and library workers.

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!
Protecting Utahn’s Freedom to Read

Katie Wegner & Debbie Short, ULA Intellectual Freedom Committee Co-chairs

Challenges to intellectual freedom have been rising across the country. Unfortunately, this dangerous trend has made its way to Utah. Every librarian and library worker is essential in protecting patrons’ freedom to read. We encourage each and every one of you to use this time to be proactive and prepare for potential challenges to intellectual freedom. Be sure to visit our website for resources that can help you with all of these suggestions:

• Make sure that your library has a collection development policy.
• Review your policy with everyone on your staff and library board members.
• Share the ALA Library Bill of Rights and The Freedom to Read Statement with everyone on your staff and library board members.
• Report challenges to the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom.
• Stay up to date by subscribing to the weekly Intellectual Freedom News email from the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom.
• Remember that you are not alone when dealing with a challenge.
• Reach out to the ULA Intellectual Freedom Committee if you need support.

Unifying Library & Archival Catalogers at the Church History Library

Diane Matson, Special Libraries Section, Church History Library

After discovering that library and archival catalogers were using over 20 professional cataloging standards, we decided to unite! Catalogers in the Church History Library are pleased to announce the completion of the Unified Standards Manual: Cataloging Metadata (3rd edition.) We combined all our professional cataloging standards into one institutional standard. The purpose of this manual is to establish a consistent, professional, uniform look and style for bibliographic records. It helps us improve the quality of metadata in our catalog and increase the findability of our records.

The Church History Library is a distinctive institution and both the archive and the library share a combined catalog (see https://catalog.churchofjesuschrist.org/). It is important that we developed a cataloging standard to meet our unique needs. While combining industry standards to create an institutional standard is a growing trend in archival and library sciences, it is still rare to find. We’re ahead of the trend. We believe that this manual is imperative to fulfill the library’s mission to collect, preserve, and share sacred and important records.

Creating the manual was a collaborative process. Under the guidance of our internal Metadata Council (formed to complete the project), the purpose of the manual was defined, current practices were considered and discussed, decisions were made, and content was carefully created. Every archival and library cataloger had the opportunity to participate in the review process. Their opinions and thoughtful feedback were considered and incorporated. The process of writing and reviewing the manual took approximately 18 months.

We understand that the needs of the institution are changing, and we want to appropriately align with changing industry standards so the manual will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

We celebrated the release of the first edition and the hard work of the cataloging teams with a “novelty” book shaped cake. Thanks to everyone for their hard work!
Libraries as the Biggest Little Safe Space in Your Community

Natalie Gregory, Youth Services Librarian at Logan Library

I had the pleasure of attending the Young Adult Library Services Association’s 2021 Symposium in Reno, Nevada. This conference was interesting in that it was presented both live and virtually. The theme was “Biggest Little Safe Spaces: Serving Teens during times of Adversity.” From the first session of the pre-conference to the closing author panel, it was clear that YALSA and youth services librarians across the nation really do care about creating safe spaces, physically and virtually, mentally and emotionally.

From the mental strain of a pandemic to the social injustice still affecting millions of Americans, teens are active participants in the most unexpected 2 years (or more, depending on when you count the craziness starting) of global and American humanism. Libraries often pride themselves on carrying the reputation of safe spaces for learners (Let’s recall the 2019 ULA theme: “In Libraries We Trust”). Some of the panels focused on specific communities that may not count themselves among those invited to the library table. For example, English Language Learners often come from wildly different backgrounds than those born and raised in the area we serve; there are many barriers between these individuals and the resources we can offer them, not least of which is the actual language barrier. Logan Library, where I work, has a robust international refugee population. Time and time again, we have international patrons come into the library worried about what access they can get, and at what cost. Both adults and teens need the reassurance that we truly want them using the library freely.

Another population that needs reassurance that the library can be a safe space is individuals and families, living in or near poverty. Dr. Christina Dorr gave an insightful and respectful presentation on how poverty, especially generational poverty, is a barrier to “success.” She happened to grow up in a big family in a rural farming community. She was the first of her nine siblings (she’s second youngest) to graduate from high school. This alone gave her more opportunity than that of her older siblings.

This is just one aspect of her complex life. All people, whether they use the library or not, have these same complex existences; thread by thread building both their history and their future, in economic and emotional poverty and wealth. Some people have supportive families, some people have strict or absent ones. Some people have access to consistent transportation, others rely on their own two legs, or the kindness of friends and neighbors.

One of the specific challenges Dr. Dorr bought up was that in order to break away from generational poverty, there are several things that have to align; a fair bit of luck, a talent that makes the individual stand out in some way, and the courage to create a path that is different from what they know (or have observed). It can be intimidating to anyone, teenagers especially, to turn their back on what everyone else around them is comfortable with, or what they’re being told is their lot in life.

If what I’ve described above seems unfamiliar to you, you have what is commonly referred to as privilege. If you had adults in your life who were successful enough that you could follow their path, or something similar, to be considered successful (I’d say employed at a library is pretty successful) you have had a social advantage. Not everyone has access to these advantages, small as they may seem.

But the library is a place that has the ability to even out the field. But providing the resources isn’t enough; poverty, economic or emotional, limits the scope of hope and imagination, especially in an individual’s ability to affect change for the better.

I truly believe that libraries are and will continue to be safe spaces for our communities. But as the adversity of life keeps crashing down on our patrons, and ourselves, it will take dedicated effort and education on our part to create the best little safe spaces we can.

It’s that time of year again! Please Support ULA by shopping Amazon Smile for your holiday gift-giving.

Support ULA. Shop at smile.amazon.com!

Happy Hanukkah!!

and

Happy Kwanzaa!!
Strategic Planning Survey Results

*Marissa Bischoff, President-elect, Co-Chair*

We received over 300 responses to our strategic planning survey. Members of the strategic planning committee have been conducting interviews and our consultant, Amanda Standerfer, has been holding focus groups. We are so grateful for your feedback and input! It has been illuminating to get your perspective and it will inform the entire process.

All the data from the survey, interviews and focus groups is being aggregated and analyzed by Amanda’s team. We had a board meeting where we conducted an environmental scan and SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results) analysis. Amanda’s team will compile these components and deliver an in-depth learning report that board members will peruse prior to planning sessions. We will begin the series of Board retreat sessions in late November to outline and design the plan. In the first session, we will begin with reviewing our current vision and mission and move from there.

The committee and board are excited to create a strategic direction and aims for ULA so that we can be a better organization for you!

50 Questions with Past-President Vern Waters

**50 Qs with Vern Waters**: Watch as ULA Past-President Vern Waters tours his library and answers 50 questions!

Vern Waters

Davis County Reopens Clearfield Location

*Josh Johnson, Lynnette Mills, Matt Goff, and Ellen Peterson, Davis County Library Senior Administrative Staff*

After many years of planning and effort, Davis County Library opened the new Clearfield Branch Library on October 23, 2021. It is the newest in the Davis County System, replacing the old North Branch Library which was built in 1975. We appreciate the positive reception from members of the public, including interest recently paid to the new building by KSL news. In many ways, the new building is a game-changer. It embraces both the past and the future of library services and is an experiment in terms of the mix of services and spaces it offers the public. It was designed and built with the intent that it serve the public for the next 50 years.

**Blending Traditional & Modern Services**

The new branch offers a well-rounded collection of materials that includes books, audio books, films, music, magazines, a well-defined children’s area with a courtyard, more and more flexible meeting spaces, and - a first for Davis County - specialized technology that is not available at other locations. Additionally, this location was recently awarded the ALA NASA @ My Library Grant. We look forward to offering additional STEAM programming at this branch. Available technology includes 3-D printing, Adobe Creative Suite, and One Button Studio. Laptops, tablets, conversion equipment, and cameras are available for use in the building as well as to check out. In addition to the new technology, the branch provides Wi-Fi throughout the building and internet computers both up and downstairs for public use.

Conference rooms include two that seat 8-10, three small “flex spaces” that convert to larger program/study space, a large multi-purpose room with a piano that seats 125, and areas to just sit, relax, and reflect. Due to the location, this branch also makes the most of a long-standing reciprocal borrowing agreement between Davis and Weber Counties, benefiting patrons from both systems.

This building was designed to allow the public equitable access to technology and opportunities to create, pursue individual research and interests, and become proficient using current technology which they might otherwise be unable to access. We intentionally created spaces and policies for equipment use and circulation that will allow technology offerings to grow and change with the times.

**Intentional Art, Architecture & Accoutrements**

At just under 14,000 square feet the branch offers service on two floors and features artwork by not only notable Utah artist Tony Rasmussen, but also original artwork by several up-and-coming local artists including Mac Stevenson, David J. Crowther, B.J. Jensen, and John Huerta Jr. With high ceilings, a curtain wall & stunning staircase as the focal point, this branch serves as an anchor to the community and celebrates the closeness of Hill Air Force Base with design cues meant to celebrate flight.

We look forward to a bright future with other technology-rich sister libraries throughout Utah.
Members who would like to submit items for the meeting agenda must send them in 14 days prior to each meeting so the board can be informed ahead of time. Thank you.

- Friday, December 3, 2021, noon
- Friday, March 11, 2022, noon

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.

Monica Benavides  Mary Raun
Lu Benke  Rachel Richardson
Steph Crowell  Melissa Southern
Tia Haycock  Benjamin Station
Bobbie Leavitt  Morgan Taylor
Mariah Lucas  McKenzie Wood

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 Utah Library Association advocates for libraries and cultivates leadership development to promote library excellence for the Utah library community.

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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