



2021 December Consent Agenda

Utah State Library

- Completed a successful Director's Summit hosted by USL in Park City at the Sheraton on October 13 - 15.
- After the success of the hydroponic garden in the Parowan Library, we are now putting 11 more gardens in libraries, all but one are rural. This is a partnership with the STEM Action Center and Green Our Planet. Also in partnership with the STEM Action Center, we are building 400 kits for public and school libraries to promote stress relief among 2nd-4th graders. Patrons can check them out and there are 6 activities that promote relaxation and wellness that are backed by STEM principles.
- Since the launch of the new Borrower Support program, which makes it possible for small rural libraries to offer interlibrary loan services to their patrons at no cost, the State Library is maintaining a 18% increase over pre-Covid numbers in filled interlibrary loans across the state.
- Secured a contract with TDNet for an authentication platform called Open Athens, which will give the State Library a greater ability to report on usage of individual resources, as well as better ensure patron privacy.
- Secured additional help to perform an inventory and catalog maintenance of the State Library's physical state documents collection, making them more findable in the catalog for public use.
- Completed a rehousing project for ongoing conservation work in the physical state publications collection.
- Launched new Digital Access & Education Program, with the mission of creating a robust, equitable network of digital access and education programs in libraries and community partners throughout Utah.
- USL recertified all 59 public libraries.
- USL has entered into a partnership with KUED - producer Laura Durham is creating creative kits for checkout at all five USL Bookmobiles.
- New key partnership! This quarter we entered a formal partnership with A Mother's Foundation, a nonprofit with a mission to combat the social & racial inequity that holds back kids and struggling families by bridging the tech divide with hardware, technology,

and study or flex spaces in local libraries. We're working together on an initial library capital improvement project, with plans to eventually reach every library in the state.

- Difficulty meeting demand for eBooks and audio books in the Beehive Library Consortium's collection.
- Cedar City and Iron County are having some heated debates at their school board and public library around materials that convey "human sexuality" content including at the Bookmobiles. USL has given an official response in letter format after conducting research and review.
- Bookmobile marketing plan landing page design underway
- The new platform for the Utah Government Digital Library went live.
- Completion of total update of library web pages.
- New Digital Inclusion page: <https://library.utah.gov/equity/digital-inclusion/>

Genealogy Roundtable

GENRT hosted one webinar presented by Annette Adams: "Leveraging Social Media Networking Resources for Genealogical Queries."

Outreach & Community Engagement Roundtable

Meetings

- 6/18/2021: ORT steering group meeting
- 8/27/2021: Annual ORT Business Meeting, 11 AM-Noon via Zoom.
- Introduced Round Table Leadership
- Shared #Outreach channel on ULA Slack
- Discussed need to redefine the Outreach Award
- Great discussion on current outreach projects at attendees' Utah libraries, everyone was given an opportunity to share.

Communications

- September 2021: Christopher Clark, member-at-large, has resigned. He has been promoted to a position that doesn't include outreach responsibilities.
- October 2021: Bulk email sent to ORT members encouraging proposals to present on an outreach program, partnership, or topic at the 2022 ULA Conference by the Nov. 9th deadline.

Actions

- July 2021: A short survey emailed to 400 ULA members asking what kind of outreach training needs they had. There were 7 responses, the top response (5 of 7) was training needs on promotion/social media. This is likely a result of COVID reducing in-person outreach and increasing needs to promote library programs digitally.
- October 2021: Current project in process by ORT leadership is updating the ORT webpages on ULA.org.

Reference & Adult Services Roundtable

RASRT is preparing two presentations for ULA 2022: "Reference Interview in 2022" and "First Responders: Reference Interview for Patron Material Challenges"

Technical Services Roundtable

TSRT welcomes its new co-vice-chair, Christopher Clark! Christopher has volunteered to fill the vacancy left by Rosie Liljenquist, who moved out of state.

At the end of September, TSRT administered a survey to garner interest in technical services topics for the 2022 ULA conference. The responses were then summarized and sent to TSRT members to encourage conference proposal submissions.

TSRT co-chairs sponsored/presented a session at the Fall Workshop on September 24th on the topic of inclusive subject headings. We're working on recruiting a presenter/topic for a possible professional development webinar to be scheduled sometime in January or February.

Youth Services Roundtable

YSRT has been planning the Winter Workshop: the Northern Utah session for Friday, February 11 at the Park City Library and the Southern Utah session for Friday, February 25 at the Cedar City Library. The general theme is United in Diversity. We will welcome Yamile Saied Méndez as a guest author speaker to talk about her recent Pura Bel Pre novel *Furia*. We will have book recommendation sessions for both kids and YA as well as a relaxation through journaling class planned. Rita Christensen, ULA President will open our conference as the keynote speaker and share her thoughts about Unity in Diversity through children's and young adult services.

Paraprofessional Certificate Program

The Paraprofessional Certificate Program has had one participant complete all the requirements for the program. Sally Garritson from Duchesne County Library will be awarded her certificate at the ULA annual conference in May.

Dona Gay, Payson City Library Director has joined the Paraprofessional Certificate Review Board committee. As we have members completing their services in 2022, we would welcome more review board members.

ALA Chapter Councilor

[Statement Regarding Censorship](#)

The American Library Association opposes widespread efforts to censor books in U.S. schools and libraries

CHICAGO - Due to a dramatic uptick in book challenges and outright removal of books from libraries, ALA's Executive Board and the Boards of Directors for all of ALA's eight divisions have released the following joint statement regarding attempts to remove materials that focus on LBTQIA+ issues and books by Black authors or that document the Black experience or the experiences of other BIPOC individuals:

In recent months, a few organizations have advanced the proposition that the voices of the marginalized have no place on library shelves. To this end they have launched campaigns demanding the censorship of books and resources that mirror the lives of those who are gay, queer, or transgender, or that tell the stories of persons who are Black, Indigenous or persons of color. Falsely claiming that these works are subversive, immoral, or worse, these groups induce elected and non-elected officials to abandon constitutional principles, ignore the rule of law, and disregard individual rights to promote government censorship of library collections. Some of these groups even resort to intimidation and threats to achieve their ends, targeting the safety and livelihoods of library workers, educators, and board members who have dedicated themselves to public service, to informing our communities, and educating our youth.

ALA strongly condemns these acts of censorship and intimidation.

We are committed to defending the constitutional rights of all individuals, of all ages, to use the resources and services of libraries. We champion and defend the freedom to speak, the freedom to publish, and the freedom to read, as promised by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

We stand opposed to censorship and any effort to coerce belief, suppress opinion, or punish those whose expression does not conform to what is deemed to be orthodox in history, politics, or belief. The unfettered exchange of ideas is essential to the preservation of a free and democratic society.

Libraries manifest the promises of the First Amendment by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas, so that every person has the opportunity to freely read and consider information and ideas regardless of their content or the viewpoint of the author. This requires the professional expertise of librarians who work in partnership with their communities to curate collections that serve the information needs of all their users.

In 1953, when confronted with comparable threats to our democratic values, the American Library Association issued the Freedom to Read Statement, a declaration in support of freedom to think or believe as one chooses, the freedom to express one's thoughts and beliefs without fear or retaliation, and the right to access information without restriction. ALA's Executive Board, staff, and member leaders reaffirm not only the principles of the Freedom to Read statement but also the daily practices that ensure it continues to inform the profession and that library workers and library trustees have the training, information, tools, and support they need to celebrate and defend their communities' right to read and to learn.

With the freedom to read under threat, the ALA, including its Executive Board, Divisions, Roundtables, and other units stand firmly with our members, the entire library community, allied organizations, and all those across this country who choose to exercise their own right to read and access information freely, and we call on others to do the same.

American Library Association Executive Board
American Association of School Librarians Board of Directors
Association of College and Research Libraries Board of Directors
Association for Library Service to Children Board of Directors
Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures Board of Directors
Public Library Association Board of Directors
Reference and User Services Association Board of Directors
Young Adult Library Services Association Board of Directors
United for Libraries Board of Directors

Publications/Newsletter

Please consider submitting an article for the February 2022 issue of the ULA newsletter. Articles should be under 500 words long, pertain in some way to libraries or librarianship in Utah, and contain at least one image if possible. All news should be submitted by January 29. We look forward to your submissions! Michele Richings Editor, ULA Newsletter, michele.richings@gmail.com

Web Committee

Website

- Menu bar updated: login and links
- Sidebars removed from all pages
- Homepage widgets added: ULA Partners & Affiliates, Archives
- Menu items added: Archived ULA Websites, ULA Officer Nominations, ULA Store
- Many images created: Year of Learning events, Slider/Social Media images