

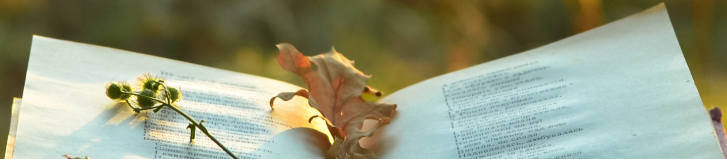
UTAH LIBRARIES

UTAH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION | SEPTEMBER 2022





Utah Library Association



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ABOUT

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.

Utah Library Association

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President's Message

Growth and change are often forced on us as we experience life. My father recently passed away and I wasn't ready for it. The growth that has resulted is painful and uncomfortable. However, the challenge and grief brought with it an outpouring of love and kindness from friends and family that has buoyed me up. It has inspired me to more reflection, gratitude, and humility.

Grow With Intention

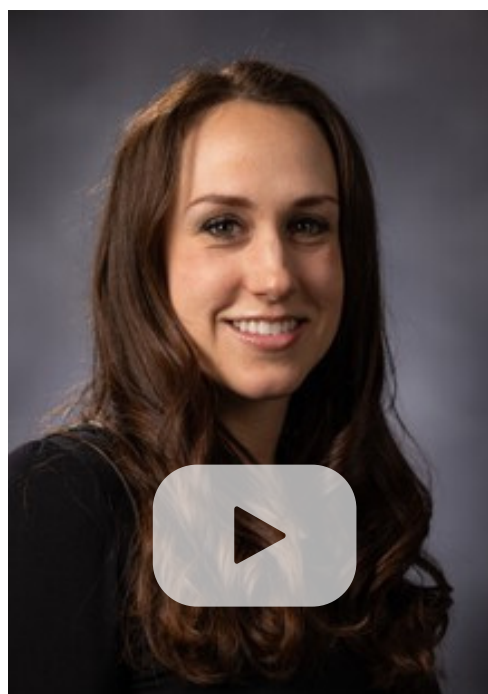


It has caused me to ponder on our theme, "Grow with Intention." There are opportunities to grow with challenges that come our way through the circumstances of life. These can be the most painful of all because we don't choose them. And yet, we can choose our attitude. We can be open to the learning opportunities; we can choose to grow in empathy, kindness, and patience. Therein lies the intention aspect. We can intentionally choose to use our trials for our own betterment.

There have recently been issues of censorship and challenges to intellectual freedom. Alpine School District pulled fifty-two books without following proper policies for reconsideration of materials. The ULA Advocacy and Intellectual Freedom Committees, especially Peter Bromberg and Katie Wegner, did fantastic work to respond to this situation and stand with school libraries. These kinds of challenges will probably continue to increase in our current political climate. Handling these challenges are difficult and not our preferred growth opportunities, but we can choose to do the best we can with the

circumstances that arise. We can intentionally prepare for upcoming challenges by educating ourselves and becoming more involved in local government. ULA released this excellent e-book last year, [Utah Libraries: Keystone of Healthy Democracy, Student Success, and Prosperous Communities](#). I encourage you to read it. The [Advocacy Committee](#) encourages you to sign and share the [I Love Utah Libraries Pledge](#) and get to know your [legislators](#) personally. These are small things you can do to move forward and prepare in this area.

Thank you for all you do for our libraries and communities and for embracing growth in its various forms, even when it's uncomfortable.



Marissa Bischoff

Marissa Bischoff
BYU Harold B. Lee Library
Digital Imaging Workflow Supervisor

ULA/UELMA Joint Statement on Alpine School District Book Removals

The Utah Library Association (ULA) and the Utah Educational Library Media Association (UELMA) are aware of the removal of 52 books from Alpine School District. We are alarmed because it is clear from the school board meeting that the sub-committee tasked with evaluating these books did not fully read them. It is necessary for every challenged library material to be evaluated as a whole. This requirement was established in the Supreme Court case, *Miller v. California* (1973). Federal law requires that the “Miller Test” be followed to determine the serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value of an entire book and state law mirrors this requirement. Thus, the “Miller Test” was not followed when books were removed without due process. The Supreme Court also ruled in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969) that students’ First Amendment rights must be protected while they are in school. Illegally removing these books infringes upon Utah students’ protected First Amendment rights. This dangerous move not only opens up Utah taxpayers to costly and time consuming litigation, it also harms students.

Students can safely explore at their school library under the guidance at their school library under the guidance of professional school librarians. School libraries were designated “places of voluntary inquiry” in the Supreme Court ruling *Island Trees School District v. Pico* (1982). Thus, students must have access to books that not only reflect their own experiences but also help them learn about others. Having access to books that reflect the many aspects of human thought and experience is more important than ever as our students grow to become leaders in our global environment. It is extremely troubling that 21 of the books that were removed have LGBTQIA+ characters and themes. Our LGBTQIA+ youth have the highest youth suicide rate in the nation. However, the Trevor Project reports that LGBTQIA+ youth are less likely to attempt suicide when they have

access to LGBTQIA+ affirming spaces and information. Many of the books that were removed also deal with complex issues such as race, growing up, health, and addiction. These books might not be right for every reader but school librarians work with parents and caregivers every day to help them find appropriate materials for their children. We believe that parents and caregivers have the right to discuss reading and book selections with their own children. However, they do not have the right to make these crucial decisions for other families. We encourage all Utahns who are interested in learning more about the important role of libraries in supporting student success and a healthy democracy to read our jointly authored [ebook](#), “Utah Libraries: Keystone of Healthy Democracy, Student Success, and Prosperous Communities” available for download at ula.org/guide.

We believe that parents and caregivers have the right to discuss reading and book selections with their own children. However, they do not have the right to make these crucial decisions for other families.

We call on the Board of Alpine School District to immediately return all books to the shelf. If there are legitimate challenges to any books, the Board must follow their own policy and state and federal laws in evaluating each title as a whole to determine whether it has serious value for students and involving parents that are reflective of the school community in this process.

Librarian Spotlight

Hiroko Hashitani

Let's spend some time getting to know ULA Board Member at Large, Hiroko Hashitani.



Hiroko is the ILL (InterLibrary Loan) Supervisor/Lending & Technology Coordinator at the University of Utah's Marriott Library. She has worked at the Marriott since 2004 and in her current position since 2017. She has a Linguistics BA from University of Utah and a Library Science MS from University of North Texas.

I asked Hiroko a few questions about what led her to the library profession, and what she likes about her current job. Her answers follow.

How did you become a librarian?

"I discovered that I like working in a library as a student employee during my undergraduate study. To be honest, it took me a long time to realize that I could pursue a librarian position because there was no librarian who looked like me in sight, and I simply didn't consider it possible. This is why representation matters. I realized I could become a librarian only because my ILL colleagues, whom I met at ILL conferences, strongly encouraged me."

What project are you most proud of?

"Interlibrary Loan service is more about day-to-day operation and is not very project-oriented. Still, I am proud of the collaborative work with our Fulfillment team for riding the wave of rapid changes since the COVID-19 pandemic started. We became more flexible, creative, and collaborative, and expanded services to continue providing library resources to our and other library users while many libraries were closed.

Personally, I am proud of becoming an expert in ILL-related technologies and best practices and creating a library of step-by-step instructions and organizing in-department documents. There was no documentation on how things should be done, and things were mostly taught verbally before my time as a supervisor. Standardizing the workflow and procedures helped to cross-train and made it easier to train new staff and share the workload."

What do you enjoy most about your job?

"Making someone's day. Helping someone's research. Providing books and articles to small libraries in Utah and beyond. Being in an environment where lifelong learning is strongly encouraged."

Hiroko elaborated for me that one of her most fulfilling moments was when she was at an ILL conference and the librarian at the Met Museum in New York (cool job) recognized her name because she had recently sent her a rarely owned and circulating book in Arabic from the Marriott's Middle Eastern collection. They're still Facebook friends to this day.

She also gave me an interesting new perspective on the interconnectedness of libraries. She looks at every person she sends a book to as one of her patrons. Which she summed up nicely as "Their Patrons are my patrons." From her desk at the Marriott Library she is able to serve patrons all over the country (and the world).

From here, conversation turned to some of Hiroko's interests when she's not at work.

What are some of your favorite things?

"I love attending live music performances and sharing those experiences with other music-loving people. I am also a comedy nerd. I love comedy shows, live or on screen."

I like these things too, so I had to dig in a little deeper. I found out that when she attends a concert she's looking for heavy guitars. She's a huge Queens of the Stone Age fan, going so far as to road trip to multiple concerts in surrounding states.

Her favorite type of comedy show is in some ways an extension of her interests above... musical comedy! Garfunkel and Oates, Flight of the Conchords and Tenacious D are three groups she mentioned by name. She likes discovering new comedians on Instagram.

I couldn't wrap up the conversation without talking a little bit about ULA and what our organization means to her.

What positions have you held in ULA (if any)?

"I've just started a board member-at-large position with supporting roles for the Conference Committee and the strategic direction of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion."

How has your ULA membership and participation been valuable to you?

"Volunteering for ULA conferences opened up a new network of Utah's library professionals. And through meeting other BIPOC library professionals at this year's ULA conference, I feel like I've found a whole new world and finally found a space for myself."

Anything else you want to tell us:

"I am learning so much by getting involved in ULA activities. I'm grateful to be elected as a board member-at-large. ULA is where I get to know more varieties of viewpoints and opinions than at my home institution. I strongly believe in diversity, which makes our libraries stronger and more sustainable. Otherwise, we would be missing out on critical steps and good ideas."

I'm grateful Hiroko was elected to the ULA Board as well. I had a delightful time talking with her and I suspect you would too. Say hi to her next time you see her around, particularly if you've discovered you both have some common interests!



Patrick Hoecherl

President-Elect

Salt Lake City Library

Year of Learning

Looking Ahead



UTAH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION FALL WORKSHOP

September 30 | Provo City Library

[Register Now!](#)

Next Year of Learning Event

- Virtual via Zoom on Thursday, October 20 at 12 pm
- Brown Bag Discussion about your favorite books, TED talks, blogs, podcasts, etc. related to the topic of “growing with intention.”
- Based on what folks share, we’ll create a curated list of resources for reference.
- No extra prep needed to attend

ULA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 17-19, 2023
Layton, UT



Tracie Hall
ALA Executive Director



Carmen Agra Deedy
Author and Storyteller

Banned Books Week

Utah Librarians!

Banned Books Week is coming up and ULA and Utah Library Advocates want to get the word out about how Utah Libraries are celebrating the Freedom to Read. Does your library have events or displays planned for Banned Books Week (September 18-24)? If so, please email the details of your event to Mindy Hale (mhale@ula.org), and we'll share them with the press and promote them on our Social Media platforms.

Thank you, all, for your on-going efforts to prevent censorship and protect our Freedom to Read!

Mindy Hale

Utah Library Association

Utah Library Advocates



Utah Library
Association



UTAH
Library Advocates

MPLA Annual Conference

Missoula Public Library Partnerships

MPLA is part of a regional library association known as the Mountain Plains Library Association. Each year MPLA holds its annual conference in conjunction with one of the twelve participating states. This year the conference was held in partnership with Montana, and the North Pacific Library Association which reaches up into Canada.



Attending the conference is always enriching. It is great to step outside of my own circle here in Utah and see what is going on in states around our region. Many are facing the same experiences we are with book challenges, and ramping back up in a post Covid environment. They bring their own perspectives and ideas to address the issues. Others are trying new and innovative partnerships and programs to serve the multiple needs of their varying patrons.

One partnership that I had the opportunity to explore was the Missoula Public library which has joined with four other foundational partners, who share parts of the library's vision and mission. These organizations are; a media resource and information group, a family support nonprofit, a STEM nonprofit, and a research and science organization. Each has a physical presence in the library and provides programming and services to their patrons from the library. Each organization maintains its own income stream, has its own board, and participates with its own "outside the library partners", but becoming a part of the library has greatly increased capacity and effectiveness in their efforts to serve the community. Read more about this program [HERE](#).



Sherrie Mortensen
MPLA Representative
Wasatch County Library

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2022 Annual Wrap-Up

The Return of the In-Person Conference

This year, the Utah Library Association (ULA) held its 2022 Annual Conference on May 18-20. Employing COVID protocols for the safety and security of attendees, it was the first in-person ULA gathering since 2019. 386 attendees enjoyed a robust program of 85 sessions, an exhibit hall with two dozen vendors, and a varied collection of social and networking activities.



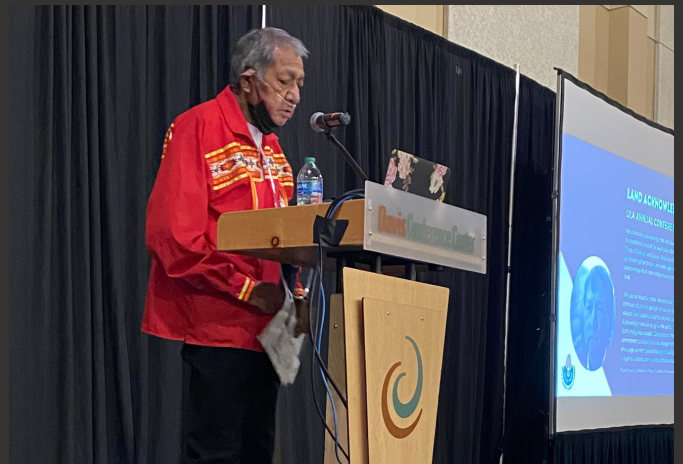
Left to Right: Vern Waters (Past-President 2019-2020), Rebekah Cummings (Past-President 2018-2019), Patty Wong (ALA President 2021-2022), Rita Baguio Christensen (Outgoing ULA President 2021-2022), and Dan Compton (Past-President 2017-2018).

Pre-Conference Sessions



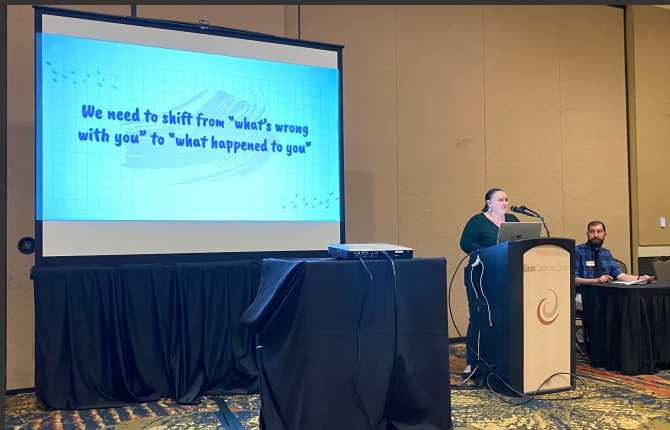
Pre-Conference Presenters: Nicanor Diaz, Madeline Peña, Nadia Rendón, Jane Sandberg, Holt Zaugg, Catherine Soehner, Nicole Lewis, and Patty Wong.

Conference Speakers



Conference Speakers: Twanna Hodge (DEI Librarian), Carole Lindstrom (Caldecott Author), Patty Wong (ALA President), and Rupert Steele (Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation).

Conference Sessions



85 Sessions: General, Academic, Public, Technical, Management, and Youth tracks.

Networking



Social & Happy Hour, Career Services, Diversity Book Club, and Excursions.

Awards



Each year, the Utah Library Association presents awards at the annual ULA Conference to information professionals nominated by their colleagues who deserve recognition.

Conference Committee



Gavel handoff, ULA Presidents, and the amazing Conference Committee.
2022 Annual Conference [Photo Album](#).

2022 ULA Annual Conference Report

Davis Conference Center, May 18-20, 2022

Ashley E. Shaw, Scholarship Recipient

The 2022 Annual ULA Conference was my first conference experience. I am nearing completion of my MLS at Emporia State University, and I have been seeking out ways to connect to the larger library community both nationwide and in my area. I was unsure what to expect and endeavored to experience a variety of sessions to get a broader idea of what our state conference could offer. I was overwhelmed, surprised, constantly engaged and inspired by the sessions presented by our community of diverse library professionals.



The theme of the conference, “United in Diversity,” was enthusiastically represented in many of the sessions I attended. Particularly memorable was the opening and keynote by Twanna Hodge. From Twanna’s keynote I took to heart the ideas of centering diversity through reflective practice and look forward to finding ways to continue to advocate for my library’s diverse community through some of the best practices she discussed.

I was particularly inspired by the attention to technical services as key departments in furthering diversity and inclusion. Tech services librarians and catalogers are often not the first library workers that people think of when they use our libraries, but our work is reflected in our catalogs which our patrons rely on every day. Jane Sandberg’s interactive pre-conference session “Your Inclusive Catalog” gave me the opportunity to discuss real experiences with other attendees and consider ways we can make our catalog more inclusive through subject headings, name authority control, and accessibility features. That session, along with the following day’s session on updating harmful subject headings, helped expand my thinking about how my daily work and our library catalog can greatly impact the inclusivity of our catalog’s language and helped me consider how I can further incorporate those efforts in my work.



My first conference experience was a whirlwind, an overwhelming three-day information binge, and a resounding success for me personally. I am so thankful for the opportunity presented by ULA to attend this conference and to meet and hear from so many inspiring library professionals in our state and national organizations.

Statement on Censorship of Pride Display at Orem Public Library

The Utah Library Association became aware of a censorship issue at Orem Public Library through social media posts on May 29 which stated that the Orem City Council is forbidding the library from doing any displays in the children's area related to Pride Month in Utah. The library director has indicated that in spite of the positive reception and thankful comments from parents last year, there will not be a Pride display in the Children's wing this year, and instead there will be a single display in another location in the Library away from the children's area.

In the interest of serving all members of the community, library staff have wide latitude to create or not create displays, and to decide where to locate them. However, it is unacceptable, and a possible infringement of citizen's first amendment rights, when politicians intervene and direct staff to eliminate planned displays or have them moved to a less frequented area of the library because those politicians do not like the topic or viewpoint being expressed. Moving a children's book display to the adult section where materials may not be age appropriate for children is problematic because it actually increases the likelihood of exposing children to material that is unsuitable for their age and makes the materials less accessible for families and harder to discover.

It is important to note that Pride Month is a nonpartisan observance and recognition of the fight by LGBTQ+ Americans to have their rights as American citizens fully recognized under the law. In 2022 Utah Governor Spencer Cox has again issued a proclamation naming June "LGBTQ+ Pride month in Utah." The Proclamation says, "we must encourage relevant and vital conversations about what it means to love each other, understand our differences, and support our LGBTQ+ friends and family members." We stand with Governor Cox, and agree with his recent statement in conjunction with the Utah Pride Month Proclamation that "there should be nothing controversial about supporting a group of people in our state who have historically been marginalized."

Sadly, we know that LGBTQIA+ youth have a higher incidence of mental health issues and the highest youth suicide rate in the nation and (according to a CDC report) are four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers. Additionally, research from the Trevor Project reports that LGBTQ+ youth are less likely to attempt suicide when they have access to LGBTQ+-affirming spaces and information, which means there are literally life and death implications at stake. In short, a display of curated, age-appropriate materials, in conjunction with Utah Pride Month, is an absolutely appropriate and important way for the library to serve Orem's parents and youth, families, neighbors and friends.

It must also be noted that in a state where hate crimes against LGBTQ+ residents nearly doubled last year there are real and measurable health and safety impacts to be considered when Council members forbid age-appropriate displays of LGBTQ+ materials. Indeed, a recent news article reported that "officials and community members worry divisive politics could embolden future attacks." [Hate crimes against Utah LGBTQ nearly doubled last year, with a big jump during Pride Month, Salt Lake Tribune, May 31, 2022]

We trust librarians to fulfill the library's mission, and to create collections and displays for all community members, without illegitimate, politicized pressure to restrict, impede, or limit community members' access to age-appropriate information based on viewpoint. We therefore request that Orem City Council members publicly and transparently address their actions in this matter, rescind any directives they have given to the library related to displays of materials, and commit to refraining from future directives that seek to restrict library staff from carrying out the mission of the library, or directives that seek to limit access to information for the residents of Orem.

Signed

- **Utah Library Association:** Marissa Bischoff, President; Katie Wegner and Rikki Carter, Intellectual Freedom Co-Chairs; Peter Bromberg and Rebekah Cummings, Advocacy Co-Chairs
- **Equality Utah:** Troy Williams, Executive Director
- **PFLAG:** Provo/Utah County, Heather Kester, Vice-President



Member News



Gene Nelson is retiring after serving as the Library Director of the Provo City Library for 25 years, he received his MLS degree in Library Science from BYU. As he concludes a 44 year career in libraries, Gene enjoyed working in elementary school, middle school, college, and public libraries. He has built three libraries including the Provo City Library at Academy Square. He served as the Utah Library Association President and cherishes his opportunities to serve on the Randolph Caldecott Award Committee in 2000 and 2010 and the John Newbery Award Committee in 2017. Gene has received many awards for his work including ULA's Distinguished Service Award in 2015. He is the husband of one, father of six, and grandfather of 16.



Creative Communities *in* Libraries *a field guide*

by Ben Nielsen



As the final project for his MLS, ULA member **Ben Nielsen** created the *Creative Communities in Libraries Field Guide*. Through research, interviews, and his own experience, Ben worked out principles and practices that can help any library start to facilitate creative communities. Ben is currently the Software Training Manager at BYU's Lee Library.

The field guide is just over 20 pages long in order to make it easily accessible to any busy librarian. It contains several practical exercises that help in applying the principles. It is available for free at tiny.cc/ccil, and Ben will be presenting about it at the ULA Fall Workshop.

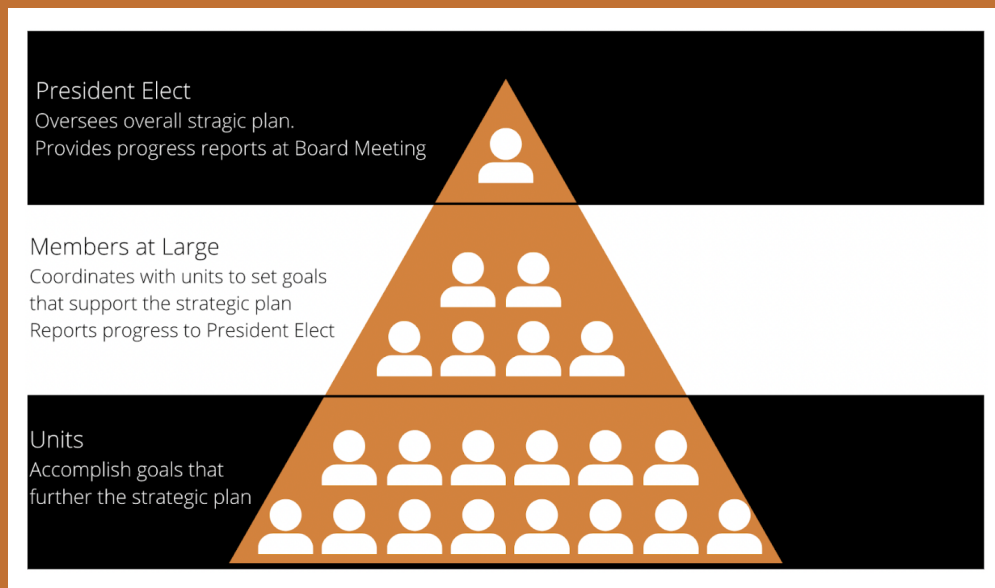


STRATEGIC PLANNING

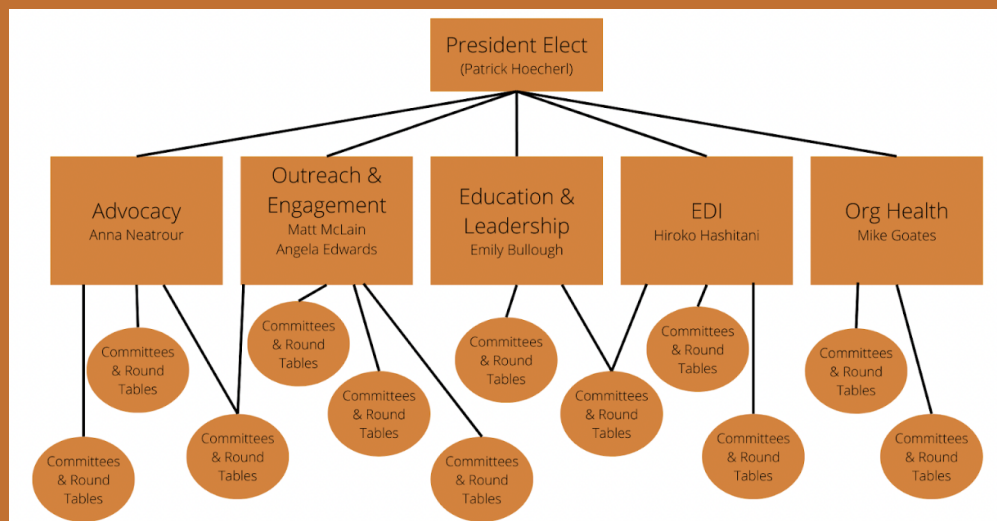
ULA, the Strategic Plan, and You

Hopefully, any of you who have been following ULA happenings recently know about the excellent work that our ULA President Marissa Bischoff did on the ULA Strategic Plan. If not, you can read an article about it from the previous issue of Utah Libraries Magazine.

Now that the planning and creation are done, it's time for implementation. To make the strategic plan more manageable, we have divided up responsibilities among members of our ULA board. As President Elect, it will be my job to oversee the strategic plan and report out to the board about progress. Each board member at large has been assigned an area of focus. They'll track progress related to their respective area and coordinate with round tables and units who have set goals in support of the strategic plan.



The goal is a workload distributed throughout the organization in a way that feels manageable for everyone. This is our first year working under this strategic plan, and I'm looking at it as an experiment. I want a plan that allows for units to pick goals that are meaningful to them, and I also want enough high-level oversight that we are able to make meaningful progress on our larger goals.



I'll be reporting out on the goals units have chosen and the progress they have made so far at the September Board Meeting. Check the meeting minutes if you are interested.

Patrick Hoecherl
President-Elect
Committee Chair



Utah Library Association

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2025

MISSION: ULA Cultivates professional development, connections, and inclusivity to promote strong Utah libraries.

VISION: We are the heart of our profession, circulating knowledge and creating connections.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



ADVOCACY

- People who care about libraries are equipped for advocacy work.
- Decision-makers, partners, and residents understand the value of libraries.



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

- ULA has extended reach throughout the state by engaging new members.
- Current members feel deeply connected to other members and increasingly engaged with ULA.



EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

- Utah library staff members have the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed for job success.
- Utah residents and students look to their libraries for innovation and leadership.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION

- ULA has diverse membership and leadership.
- Utah libraries are equitable and inclusive.



ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

- ULA has appropriate staffing, membership, and funding to achieve our mission.
- ULA enables their leadership with tools and support for effective governance.

GOALS



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



ADVOCACY

- Empowered library professionals and patrons, greater local and state funding for libraries, better public understanding of the value of libraries.
- Stakeholders seek more ways to support libraries, either through advocacy, funding, volunteering, or usage.



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

- A larger community of passionate members who are growing together as professionals.
- Idea-sharing, collaborations, friendships, and innovations.



EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

- Confident library professionals enjoying their work and making an impact in their communities.
- Libraries evolve to meet emerging needs in their communities and bring fresh ideas to their stakeholders.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION

- A ULA community that boasts many cultures and perspectives and strives for equitable opportunities.
- Libraries committed to breaking down barriers between community members and library services.



ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

- Success means ULA has robust operations through growth of staff, funding, members, and services.
- All facets of the organization are aligned and efficient, leading to easier staff on-boarding and decision-making.

SUCCESS MEANS

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.

Rebecca Adams	Jenny Garcia	Valerie Mendoza	Olivia Robson
Claudette Allegranza	Dona Gay	Rachel Miner	Linda Roholt
Anna-Maria Arnljots	Kimberli Gibson	Shelly Monroe	Kelly Rovegno
Holly Bowden	Matt Goff	Anthony Morris	Allison Smith
Jennifer Bowen	Sarah Goodrich	Jessie Muhler	Lisa Smith
Melanie Bradley	Michael Harris	Carolyn Myers	Heidi Taylor
Megan Brewer	Melissa Haslam	Jackson Myrick	Daniel Thurston
James Britsch	Suzanne Hodson	Gene Nelson	Kathie Valentine
Suzanne Bromberg	Leslee Hurd	Michael Newell	Lori Voshall
Betsy Brown	Mary Jensen	Kathryn Newman	Misty Walker
Kim Bryant	Justin Kani	Holly Okuhara	Christina Walsh
Crystal Burton	Elizabeth King	Leonides Ortiz	Blaire Watanabe
Kellie Busath	Nora Laudie	Jeffrey Ouellette	Stephanie Western
Morgan Capitan	Jennifer Lawrence	Misti Parker	Mackenzie Woolf
Jason Cornelius	Dustin Lyons	Steve Peay	Gretchen Zaitzeff
Erin Davis	Laura Marone	Judi Poorte	
Tiana Faavale	Amber Mason	Danielle Rausch	

It's That Time Again! ***Renew Your ULA Membership***

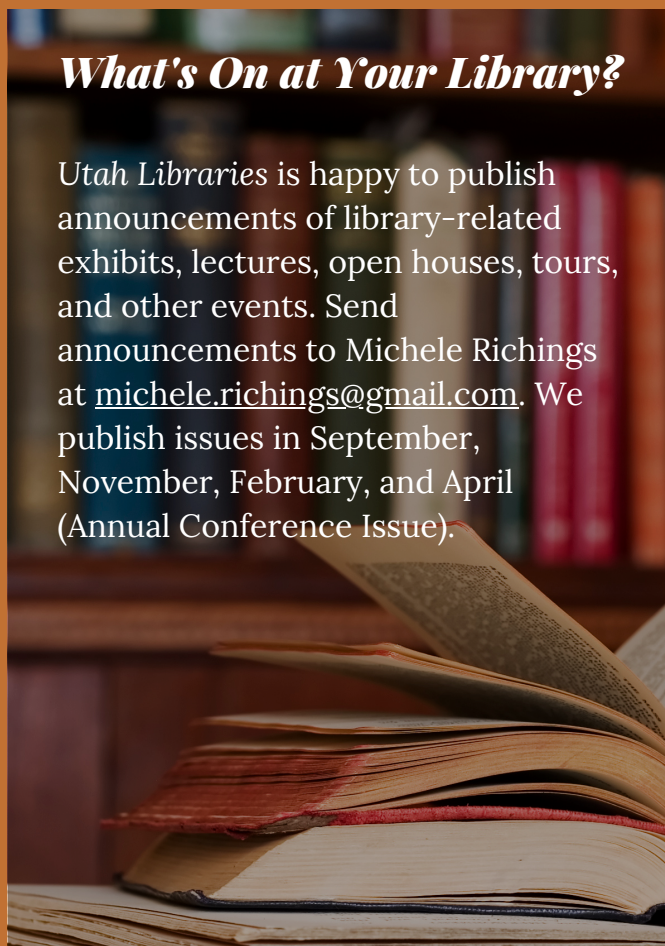
After the year we just had (2021), it's understandable you may have forgotten about your ULA Membership renewal.

Remember you can renew and pay online (we at ULA were well ahead of this game) by logging in to ula.wildapricot.org. Click on "Join Us", then select your Membership Category. Your receipt will be sent to the email you list in your membership.



What's On at Your Library?

Utah Libraries 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).



Support ULA



Support ULA. Purchase items that include our 2022 United in Diversity logo. [Shop now!](#)



AmazonSmile is an easy way for you to support ULA. Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)!



Join other Utahns in expressing your support for our First Amendment Rights and our Freedom to Read. Share your support by using **#FReadomUT** on social media.

Banning Books

WORDS BY STEPHEN CHBOSKY

"Banning books give us silence when we need speech.
It closes our ears when we need to listen.
It makes us blind when we need sight."