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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## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>ULA ANNUAL CONFERENCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT: JOSH JOHNSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>SUPPORT ULA ADVOCACY EFFORTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>GETTING STUDENTS EXCITED ABOUT ARCHIVAL RESEARCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>HISTORY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES COLLECTION HONORS PAST WHILE ENRICHING PRESENT, FUTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>ARE YOU MEETING YOUR PATRONS' NEEDS? HOW TO FIND OUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>THE NEED FOR TRAINING ON INFORMATION LITERACY AND AVOIDING SCAMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>MEMBER NEWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>ULA FALL WORKSHOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>LUNCHTIME GATHERINGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>STRATEGIC PLANNING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>YOUR MEMBERSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>SUPPORT ULA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>LAST WORDS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An initial, crucial facet of improvement and growth is choosing our focus. There are many things that clamor for our attention and on which we could spend our time but we need to figure out the best and most important things for us specifically. We see this difficulty in both our personal and professional lives. We have to constantly prioritize and refocus to do things that will have the biggest impact.

I have been able to attend several professional development opportunities recently, including the ULA Fall Workshop and the ALA Core Forum. All of the events were fantastic and offered insights and ideas for professional and personal growth. I felt a bit of the conference fatigue and information overload that we all have probably felt. I have a lot of notes and ideas, but I need to hash out what is most important for me to focus on at this time. There are only so many hours in the day and so much bandwidth to accomplish the things I want. Fortunately, I got some timely advice at the ULA Fall Workshop. Rebekah Cummings delivered an excellent keynote address entitled “Saying Yes with Intention.” It is posted on the ULA website and I highly recommend you watch it. In her speech, she laid out specific criteria adapted from “Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less” by Greg McKeown, to help us as we decide whether we should say yes to invitations.

The three questions we should ask are:
- Are you deeply inspired by this work?
- Does it tap into your particular talents?
- Does it meet a significant need?

These criteria can be used more broadly than invitations from others; we can use them in relation to choosing worthwhile goals or narrowing in on what is most important to do with the massive amount of information received at various conferences. There might be some aspects of our life and work that will include projects that don’t meet these criteria but as we move towards doing more things that answer these questions affirmatively, we will be more fulfilled and accomplish more meaningful things. I encourage you to ask these intentional questions to help you find your priorities for growth.

Marissa Bischoff
BYU Harold B. Lee Library
Digital Imaging Workflow Supervisor
ULA Annual Conference
May 17–19, 2023
Layton, UT

Tracie Hall
ALA Executive Director

Carmen Agra Deedy
Author and Storyteller
Librarian Spotlight

Josh Johnson

This month I had a chance to talk to Davis County Library Director and ULA Recording Secretary Josh Johnson. We chatted about his career, ULA and what he does for fun.

Despite being a director one of the things that struck me about Josh is the way he likes to let other people stand in the limelight. He has a very collaborative style and while he might be the driving force behind a project he likes to let other people shine. “I don’t have all the good ideas.” In fact he really enjoys identifying good ideas other people have and supporting them. “This could be a cool thing. Let’s see where it could roll.”

What do you enjoy most about your job?
“I think the variety of what I see and do in a given day are the most interesting and enjoyable parts of my job.”

We dug a little deeper into the variety and he mentioned he loves that in his job he never knows what his day is going to be like when he wakes up (while most days that’s great, he admits occasionally it makes things difficult). Each day could be a mix of statistics, programming questions, writing, talking and a lot of staff support. Very little “librarian-ing” though, that seemed to be one of the only regrets about his current job.

Another aspect of the job Josh enjoys he related to a Wayne Gretsky quote. “I skate to where the puck is going, not where it has been.” Libraries are in an interesting spot. What are the trends? Where are things going in 5-10 years? Will those DVD shelves be meeting rooms? What’s happening with our digital collection? “It’s exciting to see where the puck will be.” It was fun seeing Josh perk up as he thought about the future and his role in anticipating the needs of his library patrons.

But even that excitement paled in comparison to his feelings on policy. “I love to work with policy. Policy informs what we do. It’s a tool to make things fair and to not have to make the same decision again and again.” Josh told a story about when he was first hired as a library

How did you become a librarian?
“I began volunteering at my local public library to fill a requirement for a college class, got a job as a clerk a few months later, and worked my way through my education and the organization.”

Josh has worked at the Davis County Library since 2002, although he took a brief break from 2007-2009, while he worked at the Montana State University Library while picking up his Masters in English. Josh also has a BS in English from Weber State and a Masters of Library Science from Emporia State.

What are some highlights from your library experience?
“I worked my way up from a library clerk. I enjoyed being a Branch Manager and being the Library Director the most - there’s something both difficult and rewarding about those positions.”

Where are you from?
“I was born in Cedar City, UT and raised in Bountiful, UT. As an adult, I’ve lived in various Davis County locations, and for a couple of years each in Montana and Ontario, Canada.”
I also wanted to learn about what type of things he’s made working with raw materials. He told me about a six month stint as blacksmith’s apprentice at This Is The Place Monument. He learned blacksmithing techniques and made nails, a knife and a figure-eight hair clip he invented. The blacksmith liked his invention so much he asked if he could start selling them, which was a really proud moment for Josh.

What do you love about libraries?
“Libraries are a place where people can make more of themselves through their own efforts. We offer people the opportunity to understand something outside of themselves and come away changed from the way they were before they entered.”

What impact do you want to have on the world with your work?
“I’m not sure that I’m concerned about making a global impact. I’d prefer to see what I do impact individual people in the community and among our staff. Perhaps, if added up, the overall impact would be important, but I’m more concerned with how we serve each person and each other as we go about expanding our opportunities to serve and better understand what our impact is on the community.”

What are some of your favorite things?
“I enjoy the outdoors, particularly with my wife and our five kids. I like the feel and smell of working with textiles and raw materials – this has led me to dabbling with leather working, woodworking, bookbinding, jewelry making, and blacksmithing, though I’m not a master of any of them. I use spreadsheets recreationally and I’ve also picked up some web coding, statistics.”

I had to know more about using spreadsheets recreationally so he explained for me. When he goes on a trip he makes a spreadsheet. Each line represents an item on the itinerary and has a cell for the cost which gets added up automatically. With a family of five he has to stay cost conscious. What is going out to eat going to cost versus finding a way to make a meal? My description makes it sound somewhat clinical, but I could tell he derived real joy from planning and using his spreadsheet templates. It’s a joy that I find quite relatable myself!

I had been given the policy manual to read and he asked. “Where’s my copy that I can take home with me?” He didn’t fully realize it at the time, but in retrospect it’s always been something he was interested in.

Josh was a delight to talk to and I really enjoyed some of his philosophies on what makes working in a library so fulfilling. “There are never any wasted experiences. Everything works together to help you. It doesn’t matter what you’ve done in life, everything has its relevance in libraries.”

Thanks Josh! Make sure you say hi next time you see him at ULA event. (And ask him about his Mad Eye Moody costume).

Patrick Hoecherl
President-Elect
Salt Lake City Library
We have negotiated a substantial discount for libraries and we are asking all libraries to become an organizational member of the Utah Cultural Alliance (UCA).

The Cost? Only $25/FTE, with a cap of $2000 per library. For most libraries the cost will be the equivalent to a rounding error in your budget — but the combined impact of libraries across Utah joining as UCA members will be significant!

Join Now: https://www.utahculturalalliance.org/libraries

UCA SUPPORTS LIBRARIES IN UTAH

As you know, UCA has been providing lobbying and consulting on behalf of ULA. In 2022-2023 we expect to see anti-library and/or pro-censorship bills, which means we foresee a continuing need for a robust lobbying effort. Having individual libraries join UCA, in addition to ULA's membership, will help to strengthen our position and provide resources to UCA to help us succeed.

We also want to be proactive this year in advocating for the State Library's budget priorities, and any additional bills that we put forth such as a bill to require school librarians, and a bill to level the playing field for libraries buying ebooks. Last year UCA provided significant support in helping to get approval for 750K for libraries/broadband as well as a new library specialist position at USBE — a key position given the book challenges and lack of certified teacher librarians in schools.
MANY MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Your Library will also be the recipient of many benefits, including benefits and discounts — and will be well-positioned to network and partner with arts and culture organizational leaders from across the state.

ADVOCACY/LOBBYING BENEFITS
- UCA advocates on behalf of libraries to elected officials (a $5,000 value)
- Member-only policy updates and alerts (a $1,000 value)
- Access to economic data, including State of UT Culture report and CHMURA JobsEQ! (a $7,200 value)
- UCA staff present to your key stakeholders about the legislative session and/or economic impact data once per year (a $300 value)

TRAINING/EVENTS BENEFITS
- Free admission to convenings & networking opportunities (a $100 value per employee)
- Free admission to lobby days
- Discounted admission to the cultural industry annual conference: Culture Connect
- Individualized consulting for strategic plans, branding, fundraising, efficiency tools/audit, increased lobbying, technical assistance is available at a discounted rate

MARKETING BENEFITS
- Events included on the Utah Office of Tourism website (a $100 value)
- 20% discount on advertising rates for NowPlayingUtah.com (NPU); NPU receives 1.3 million unique visitors annually. This is a typical savings of over $200/year
- Member’s news, events, and more advertised to UCA/NPU followers through email and social media, 40,000 combined followers. (a $500 value)
- SEO listing on UCA website and NowPlayingUtah.com

DISCOUNTS/TOOLS BENEFITS
- 15% discount on Creative Businesses program for your Library
- 30% off discount off your first year to Artwork Archive, a cloud-based art inventory program ideal for museums, collectors, and artists
- 20% off discount on advertising rates for NowPlayingUtah.com (NPU) with over 1 million unique users
- GIVE BACK advertising program on NowPlayingUtah.com for 50% off select advertising
- Inclusion in industry-related campaigns such as the recent NowPlayingUtah.com campaign

Use this link to join: https://www.utahculturalalliance.org/libraries

Questions? Email Peter Bromberg at peter.bromberg@gmail.com
Getting Students Excited About Archival Research

Associate Professor of Library Science and Special Collections Librarian Paula Mitchell is an outstanding instructor and has developed several cooperative teaching projects and courses with colleagues in the SUU History Department. Matt Nickerson, the Sherratt Library’s Executive Director, is especially impressed with Mitchell’s egalitarian service ethic: “In her day-to-day work she may assist academic researchers and history scholars while being equally attentive to undergraduate history majors and amateur genealogical researchers looking for their southern Utah roots.” A recent example of Mitchell’s great work is the student exhibit currently on display in Special Collections.

Southern Utah University’s 125th anniversary became more than merely a celebration to one group of SUU students when it became the focus of a class during the Spring 2022 semester. Taught collaboratively by Special Collections Librarian Paula Mitchell and Assistant Professor of History Ryan Paul, students were able to learn about SUU’s rich heritage since the institution’s founding in 1897. And for many students, the sacrifice made by the founders of the university came as a shock.

In 1898 the people of Cedar City were given only eight months to build a three-story brick building to house what was then the Branch Normal School (now Southern Utah University), or lose the school to another Utah location. The Cedar City community was so committed to education that together they worked through a brutal winter procuring lumber and other materials to get the building completed within the required timeframe.

“I was blown away by the history of this University,” said Melissa Montiano, a British transplant who moved to Cedar City 18 years ago. “It helped me to feel an even stronger connection to the community. The founders of SUU valued an education and gave so much for the pursuit of that. I don’t think people today would be willing to sacrifice as much as the founders did to ensure this University was created.”

When an on-campus committee began planning ways to celebrate the anniversary, it became clear that an academic component should accompany the year-long event. Professors Mitchell and Paul developed the course so that students could learn what it actually took to make SUU a reality. One of the goals of the course was to introduce students to the history and challenges of creating and maintaining the places and programs that make up Southern Utah University.

The class included a student project culling through university archives and preparing an exhibit now on display in the Barbara A. Matheson Special Collections section for the Gerald R. Sherratt Library. For one student, the research revealed some long-lost family...
history. Aria Reich, a first-year history major from Pioche, Nevada, said “I discovered that members of my family had helped with the founding of the Branch Normal School and that one of my aunts attended SUU and then returned to Nevada to teach school. Discovering that family connection deepened my love for SUU.”

The exhibit created by students in the class provides glimpses into SUU’s history. Students researched and found artifacts now on display that tell, in part, the stories of SUU traditions, student government, logos and mascots, Greek life, and much more. The exhibit runs through March 2023, in the Gerald R. Sherratt Library. Special Collections is open daily from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

________________________

Anne Diekema
LIRT Member-at-Large
Gerald R. Sherratt Library at SUU
Associate Professor/Department Chair/Instruction and Outreach Librarian

This article is largely based on an article in SUU’s Alumni Magazine and is repurposed here with permission: https://issuu.com/suuwebservices/docs/sam_fall_2022_web/20. Photo permissions granted by Sally McDonald, SUU Archives/Special Collections Analyst.
One of my favorite collections at the Eccles Health Sciences Library is the History of the Health Sciences collection. Books, meeting minutes from the 1950s, oral histories dating back to the 1970s-80s, medical equipment, photographs, a time capsule from 1980, scrapbooks, clothing, an iron lung, and other artifacts paint a fascinating picture of health sciences development over the decades.

The collection has been accumulating for more than 50 years. We have received some incredible artifacts from former faculty members and student alumni. Recently, a visitor came to the library with her mother's wool nursing cloak from the 1950s—it's just amazing!

But, beyond the conversation pieces and antiquated medical equipment, the History of the Health Sciences collection shows the evolution of medicine. It reminds us how far we have come. It also provides important context for the future of University of Utah Health.

A Baume hydrometer, a delicate glass instrument used to measure the specific gravity of liquids, made between 1857 and 1900. Part of the Eccles Health Sciences Library History of Health Sciences Collection.
The Collection in Action
At the library, preserving history is among our biggest concerns.

Earlier this year, one of the oldest buildings on campus—the Medical Research & Education Building (MREB)—was demolished as part of an ongoing campus transformation project. Another important historical landmark, Building 521, home to the university's medical school, will soon be demolished to make way for the new Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine.

Before a historical building is demolished, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requires extensive documentation. This includes researching the building's history, cataloging any historical artifacts housed in the building, retrieving all artifacts before demolition, and submitting a report. It's a behemoth task made possible by the History of the Health Sciences collection.

Instead of hiring an external contractor to complete the documentation for both buildings, graduate student Keely Mruk tackled the projects. Mruk has since completed her Master of Arts degree in U.S. History at the University of Utah and is continuing her education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Most of Mruk's research for the documentation project came from the History of the Health Sciences collection, which allowed her to create a robust history that met the SHPO requirements. The project also became its own resource, ensuring that nothing of value was lost as we move forward.

The History of the Health Sciences collection also provides an opportunity to show how much things have stayed the same over the years—and how we still face some of the same issues as generations past. There's much more to gathering artifacts than just doing it for history's sake. It's more about how the past can impact what we are doing today.

Some medical tools, like scalpels, are pretty much the same as they were many years ago. Research conducted using materials from our collection can sometimes inform what's happening currently. A good example of that is our digital polio exhibit, which documents the polio vaccine and the reaction to it. Reflecting on this point in history can help us learn from what we did in the past to help people accept a life-changing vaccine.
A Resource for All
As important as our collection is, it's not as visible as it could be. That's something we are working on at the University of Utah campus: making sure all of our students, faculty, and staff are aware of the collection so they can benefit from it.

Reaching beyond campus, we are also increasing visibility and access by putting our collections online. Currently, many of our digital library collections are accessible by anyone, anywhere, via our website. As we increase our digital presence, we are also creating guides to our collections, making them easier to find and use.

The Future of the Collection
We have already learned so much from the countless books, photographs, and other artifacts in the History of the Health Sciences collection. However, we know there is even more we can learn as we continue to expand research into our amazing collection.

We invite all to come and visit the Eccles Health Sciences Library. To those at other institutions, consider visiting your own medical library. The more we learn about our rich history, the brighter our future can be.

Crowds wait outside the Board of Health office to receive the polio vaccine, July 20th, 1956. From the digital polio exhibit.

Catherine Soehner
Academic Section Member-at-Large, UALC Liaison
Gerald R. Sherratt Library at SUU
Associate Professor/Department Chair/Instruction and Outreach Librarian

Catherine Soehner is the director of the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library and associate dean for research at the Marriott Library. During her time at the Marriott Library, Soehner has led the delivery of a wide range of library services, including research and information services, library instruction and training for users, and support for faculty, graduate students, and other advanced users in digital scholarship efforts. Previously, Soehner served in academic libraries at the University of Michigan and the University of California, Santa Cruz, as well as the National Library of Medicine.

This article is largely based on an article in University of Utah's Good Notes and is repurposed here with permission: https://uofuhealth.utah.edu/notes/2022/08/history-of-health-sciences-collection-honors-past-while-enriching-present-future
“Those who have knowledge don’t predict. Those who predict don’t have knowledge.” – Lao Tzu

In other words, knowledge is better than guessing. But have you ever felt like you were left to guess which services, materials, processes, and environment your patrons need? Sometimes it works, but most often, guessing leads to wasted time, money, and energy. Worse, if patrons are disappointed by our offerings, they can withdraw funding and opt for other libraries or bookstores which do meet their needs.

So, how do those successful libraries and bookstores gain their knowledge? The answer is: assessment.

Library assessment means conducting research about our patrons like an anthropologist would. In addition to the standard numerical data like circulation statistics, an anthropologist would use one-on-one interviews, focus groups with community representatives, and observations of how patrons use the library to get the full picture.

As we employ these techniques, we learn who our patrons are (and who’s missing), what is important to them (and what isn’t), and how our resources are landing with them. This creates empathy because we understand our patrons. In turn, we can more confidently know which offerings to maintain and which to change or discard.

If you would like to learn how to conduct assessments to better serve your patrons, join the Assessment Roundtable (login to ula.wildapricot.org and update your account profile). We offer free webinars from experts, examples and templates for library assessments, and presentations at ULA.

What does library assessment look like? The following scenarios are inspired by real examples.

- You start tracking what questions your reference desk receives and the most common is, “Where is the restroom?” So, you install a map in the entryway and move the “restroom” sign (which is hidden by the stacks) to a more visible location. You know patrons can find the restroom easily now because it becomes a rare question.

- You observe that your library’s old-fashioned boxlike desks sit empty. You survey students asking what characteristics their ideal desk would have, then build 3 prototypes. Students vote for their favorite. Your facilities department builds a fleet of the winning style. You see students using them continually.

- You notice that your library serves many patrons who are refugees. You conduct a focus group to listen to the refugees’ experiences with the library and what “belonging” means to them. Based on what you learn, your library creates a section of materials in the refugees’ language and offers classes to meet their needs. Refugee library card signups and program attendance increase.

________________________________________

Molly Cozzens
ASMTRT Chair
Salt Lake County Libraries
The information landscape is anything but friendly. There are countless conspiring individuals and organizations whose primary goal is to manipulate us and our students by providing misleading information and outright lies. Others seek to trick us with scams to get our money.

The need for information literacy and tech savvy behaviors is greater now than ever. Fortunately, there are excellent resources that are freely available.
Information literacy:

- [https://literacy.ala.org/information-literacy/](https://literacy.ala.org/information-literacy/) Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.
- [https://libguides.ala.org/InformationEvaluation/Infolit](https://libguides.ala.org/InformationEvaluation/Infolit) Resources for librarians to use to equip students and the general public to identify reliable sources of news and other information.

Identifying and avoiding scams:

- [https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scam](https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scam) Four signs that it’s a scam:
  1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.
  2. Scammers say there’s a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.
  3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.
  4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.
- [https://www.usa.gov/common-scams-frauds](https://www.usa.gov/common-scams-frauds) Common scams and how to avoid them.

Most academic libraries already offer training on information literacy. Adding training on identifying and avoiding scams will keep our instruction current and relevant.

______________________________

Dan Broadbent
Academic Libraries Section Editor
Physical and Computer Sciences Librarian
Brigham Young University
NOW IS THE TIME

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY
School of LIBRARY & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Earn your Master of Library Science
A graduate degree in Library and Information Management complements previous education, offers prospects for increased earnings and provides flexible skills for the future. Learn more at emporia.edu/slim.
Rita Baguio Christensen has been appointed to the 2024 (Randolph) Caldecott Award Selection Committee! The medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children. Rita has been a Children’s Department Manager for three public libraries, and is currently a Children’s Librarian at the Orem Library. Rita says “it has been a three-decades long goal to be on the Caldecott Committee one day.” Finally, her dream has come true!

Rebekah Cummings is the new Utah State Library Board Chair! Read the USL latest blog post HERE. Rebekah is the Interim Director of Digital Matters at the J. Willard Marriott Library where she coordinates digital humanities research, teaching, and support. Prior to her current position, Rebekah was the Assistant Director of the Mountain West Digital Library and the Data Management Librarian at the Marriott Library. In 2018 – 2019, Rebekah served as the Utah Library Association President and has since co-chaired the ULA Advocacy Committee. The Utah State Library is thrilled to have her as their board chair!
Lunchtime Gatherings
New Perspectives Roundtable

November 11, 2022 in Logan, Murray, and Provo.
Slow and Steady: November Strategic Plan Update

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Likewise a Strategic Plan is accomplished piece, by piece by piece. I’d like to share with you all a few highlights from the progress made on Strategic Plan Goals last quarter. I’ll also share a document with you that includes all of the updates on Strategic Plan Goals from last quarter.

Without further ado, read on to find out about the unit updates I’m excited about.
Outreach and Engagement Goal 1
ULA Has Extended Reach Throughout the State by Engaging New Members

**RSLRT:** Connect and engage rural and small library staff by determining and adding membership, and providing one training/meetup.

**Update:** A survey has been drafted and will be sent the first part of September to the roundtable to discover when they would like to have a meetup/training.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Goal 1
ULA has Diverse Membership and Leadership

**DSRT:** Host annual Fall and Spring in-person activities for DSRT members.

**Update:** Early planning states; budget requested.

Education & Leadership Goal 1
Utah Library Staff Members Have the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Needed for Job Success

**CERT:** Offer at least two training sessions covering principles of copyright targeting different subject matter/interests—one for fall workshop and one for annual meeting.

**Update:** Proposal for training session on Creative Commons was submitted to Fall Workshop committee and was accepted. Currently preparing to teach this workshop.

It’s exciting to see some first steps taken as we all learn together what we can do to achieve our strategic plan goals. You can find the entire list of updates [HERE](#).

Thank you to everyone for your contributions!

Patrick Hoecherl
President-Elect
Committee Chair
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.

Chloe Batt
Rob Beishline
Rebecca Christensen
Jade Davis
Rachel Farnsworth
Stacey Keahon
Katie Larsen
Amber Lowe
Katie Luder
Ann-Marie Marchant
Kurt Meyer

Michelle Parry
Heather Peavler
Sabrina Petty
Nate Salazar
Connor Schwartz
Jessica Shank
Ashley Shaw
Gloria Suarez
Katie Weeks
Paul Wilcox
Kate Windsor

Renew Your Membership
Remember you can renew and pay for your ULA Membership renewal online 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 Mindy Hale at mhale@ula.org. We publish issues in September, November, February, and April (Annual Conference Issue).
Support ULA

Support ULA. Purchase items that include our 2023 Grow with Intention logo. Shop now!

AmazonSmile is an easy way for you to support ULA. Shop at smile.amazon.com!

#FReadomUT

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.
Intellectual Freedom

WORDS BY LUDWIG BÖRNE

“Only the suppressed word is dangerous.”