



YOUTH SERVICES NOTES

Week of May 4, 2015

No. 204

From Enid's Desk

Fall Youth Services Workshop

September 9-10, 2015

The Library of Virginia Fall Youth Services Workshop will be held September 9-10, 2015 at the Roslyn Center in Richmond.



Roslyn, A Retreat Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia since 1934, is located on 150 scenic acres in Henrico County, Virginia, two miles west of the City of Richmond on the James River. Every year, Roslyn welcomes more than 400 churches, non-profit organizations and government agencies for residential conferences, retreats, day-only meetings and picnics. For more information about the Roslyn Center, go to <http://www.roslyncenter.org/index.shtml>

We will provide lodging the night of September 9 and for those traveling quite a distance, we will also provide lodging the night September 8.

Lunch and dinner will be provided on September 9 and breakfast and lunch on September 10.

This will also serve as the fall Early Literacy Activity Center Exchange.

Attendance is limited to 100 people and the event fills up quickly. Registration is not yet open, but please mark these dates on your calendar for the workshop.

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“Keeping libraries open, giving access to all children to all books is vital to our nation’s sovereignty.”

~ Karin Slaughter ~
Author

Institute of Museum and Library Services

President Obama Announces Open eBooks and ConnectED Library Challenge

At the Anacostia Branch of the District of Columbia Public Library, President Obama announced two new efforts to strengthen student learning by improving access to digital content and to public libraries on April 30, 2015. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is supporting several library and non-profit partners to develop the [Open eBooks initiative](#) and the [ConnectED Library Challenge](#). These efforts leverage the extensive resources of the nation’s 16,500 public libraries to help kids develop a love of reading and discovery by making e-books and library services broadly available, particularly to students from low-income families.

In his email message yesterday [April 29], President Obama said, “America’s librarians, like our teachers, connect us to books and learning resources that help us dream big. . . I’ll announce new efforts to provide popular books to millions of underprivileged children and young adults around the country and connect more students to their local libraries – because we know that reading just 20 minutes a day can make a tremendous difference in a student’s success.”

The [Open eBooks initiative](#) will make over \$250 million in popular e-books from major publishers available, for free, to children from low-income families via an app. The Open eBooks app is being developed by the New York Public Library, which is partnering with the Digital Public Library of America and First Book to curate and deliver the e-books to students from low-income families.

IMLS is investing \$5 million to support the development of the e-reader app, as well as tools and services to help the public more easily access e-books and other digital content.

(Continued on page 3)

Youth Services Notes

is issued weekly by

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The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, IMLS helps communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning. This newsletter project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Thanks for the photos and information!

- ◇ **Cecil Holland**, Blue Ridge Regional Library
- ◇ **Bob Robbins**, Read Aloud for 15 Minutes
- ◇ **The usual resources** — ALA, ALSC, IMLS



Dates to Remember

Virginia Conferences

September 9-10, 2015..... Library of Virginia Fall Youth Services Workshop..... Richmond
 October 21-23, 2015..... Virginia Library Association Annual Conference..... Richmond

National Conferences

June 25-30, 2015..... American Library Association Annual Conference..... San Francisco
 November 6-8, 2015..... YALSA'S 2015 Young Adult Symposium..... Portland
 April 5-9, 2016..... Public Library Association 2016 Conference..... Denver
 June 23-28, 2016..... American Library Association Annual Conference..... Orlando
 September 15-17, 2016..... ALSC National Institute 2016..... Charlotte

Webinars

May 19, 2015 at 11:00 a.m..... Study on the Impact of Summer Reading Programs in Virginia..... online
 May 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m..... Study on the Impact of Summer Reading Programs in Virginia..... online

Workshops / Early Literacy Activity Center (ELAC) Exchanges

May 8, 2015..... Youth Services Regional Meeting / ELAC Exchange..... Boydton
 May 15, 2015..... Youth Services Regional Meeting / ELAC Exchange..... Staunton
 September 9-10, 2015..... Library of Virginia Fall Youth Services Workshop..... Richmond

President Obama Announces Open eBooks and ConnectED Library Challenge

Continued from page 1

Complementing that effort, the [ConnectED Library Challenge](#) is a commitment by more than 30 communities to work to put a library card into every student's hand as soon as they enter school. Data analyzed by IMLS show that children who visited the library during kindergarten had higher achievement scores in reading and science in third grade, particularly for children in households with low income and low parental education. IMLS, in partnership with the American Library Association and the Urban Libraries Council, will host a national convening this year to identify and share best practices in reaching universal library card use among public school students.

"With this initiative President Obama acknowledges the powerful role libraries play in leveling the digital divide and empowering kids to dream big," said Maura Marx, Acting Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. "We're thrilled to spotlight the work America's 16,500 public libraries do every day to inspire people of all ages to live better lives through learning and discovery."

This ground-breaking work came together through the dedicated efforts of our partners: the American Library Association, the Digital Public Library of America, First Book, the New York Public Library and the Urban Libraries Council. These organizations are passionate about providing learning opportunities for all kids, and IMLS is proud to help make these efforts a reality."

IMLS Press Release, April 30, 2015

ALA Welcomes White House's ConnectED: Library Challenge

American Library Association (ALA) President [Courtney Young](#) released the following statement regarding President Obama's announcement of the [ConnectED: Library Challenge](#) initiative to ensure that all school students receive public library cards through their schools:

"We are encouraged by President Barack Obama's announcement to ensure that all students have

access to the wealth of reading materials, educational assistance and digital resources made available through our nation's public libraries. We support the initiative's calls on public libraries, school administrators and government leaders to work collaboratively to create seamless learning opportunities for all of their students.

"Learning does not end in the classroom—in fact, the nation's libraries create dynamic learning environments by bringing together trained information professionals, collections of print and online resources and free access to high-speed Internet. Furthermore, studies show that children who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning. Unfortunately, too many vulnerable students do not have library cards. One study found that the most powerful demographic predictor of library card ownership is poverty—more than 60 percent of children living below the poverty level did not have a library card.

"We are appreciative that the Administration recognizes the role libraries play in meeting the daily educational and technological needs of many low-income American students. We know that more than 75 percent of K-12 teachers have assigned Internet-required homework, yet only 54 percent of those teachers say that all of their students have sufficient access to digital tools at school. We also know that many parents struggle to provide their children with the digital resources that they need to succeed—nearly 40 percent of all Americans do not have access to high-speed broadband Internet at home.

"ALA calls on school and public library leaders to work collaboratively with school administrators and civic leaders to ensure that each and every student has a public library card."

Moving forward, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will convene a meeting of the national library, government and school leaders to discuss best practices for developing and implementing school-public library card programs in their local districts.

ALA Press Release, April 30, 2015 

"I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture, and our concern for the future, can all be tested by how well we support our libraries."

Carl Sagan

~ American astronomer, Astrophysicist, Cosmologist, Author and Science Communicator ~

Library of Virginia

Study of the Impact of Summer Reading Programs in Virginia: Webinar

We have some good news to share about our study on the Impact of the Summer Reading Program. The second year report has now been completed. We invite you to hear the results of the study. **McREL International**, the company that conducted the study, will present their findings through a webinar on May 19 at 11:00 a.m. EST and again on May 20 at 2:00 p.m. EST.

You may register to attend one of the webinars. After you complete the registration, you will be given access information.

May 19 at 11:00 a.m. EST – register at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/impact-of-the-summer-reading-program-year-two-report-webinar-may-19-tickets-16751024766>

May 20 at 2:00 p.m. EST – register at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/impact-of-the-summer-reading-program-year-two-report-webinar-may-20-tickets-16752166180>

There is a limit of 100 participants at each of the sessions. We will be recording the webinar and posting it on the Library of Virginia's website.

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American Library Association News

ALA Advocates for Library Funding at Congressional Hearing

Emily Sheketoff, executive director of the American Library Association's (ALA) Washington Office, today called on the U.S. House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to support federal library funding at an appropriations hearing that took place in Washington, D.C.

Representing our nation's 16,400 public libraries, Sheketoff advocated for the House Subcommittee to include \$186.6 million for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) under the Institute of Museum and Library Services and \$25 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program under the Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

"Libraries serve a vital role for communities by annually providing millions of Americans from every walk of life with ready and free



access to all types of information, career and skills training, digital and print literacy instruction, and computing services," Sheketoff told Congress "The demand for such services has grown especially as Americans have been increasingly unable to afford broadband in their homes."

Her full testimony can be read at

<http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Public-Witness-Testimony-April-29-Sheketoff.pdf>

Sheketoff has served as the executive director of the ALA Washington Office since 1999. She currently oversees both the ALA Office of Government Relations (OGR) and the ALA Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP)

ALA Press Release, April 29, 2015. 

[From ALSC Blog](#)

10 Ways to Make Your Summer Reading Program Inclusive

By [Jordan Boaz](#)

Youth services library staff have summer reading on the brain this time of year. My library is always looking for ways to make our summer reading program as accessible and inclusive as possible. Renee Grassi's post ("Top 10 Ways to Tell if Your Library is Inclusive," April 3, 2012) inspired me to create this list, 10 Ways to Make Your Summer Reading Program Inclusive!

1. **Start by becoming familiar with materials in alternative formats.** Examples include large print books or braille and audio materials.
2. **For patrons seeking sensory experiences while reading, look into having volunteers create tactile books.** This can even be a craft program during the summer so that kids can create their own original books to interact with.
3. **Allow flexibility within the program when measuring success.** For some readers, it may be more encouraging to define each "level" not by number of books read but amount of time spent reading or being read to.
4. **Determine if you can provide your summer reading program through the mail.** My library mails braille and audio materials via the USPS to all our patrons. For our summer reading program, we send prizes, event calendars and more to the youth who have registered. This way, patrons who can't visit the library can still take part in the program.
5. **Communicate with special education staff at your local schools to see about outreach opportunities.** These contacts will benefit you long after the conclusion of your summer reading program.
6. **Think of ways the summer reading program's theme can be inclusive.** This year, we're focusing on heroes of all kinds. For the children at my library, we took this idea beyond Hollywood superheroes. For our patrons, a hero may be a teacher of the visually impaired, a service animal or the postal carrier who delivers their books to them.
7. **Review the way that participants report their progress.** Are they using a log? Is there a website online they can make updates to? Make sure you provide options so that all kids feel comfortable registering and updating you on their progress!
8. **If your summer reading program involves storytimes, select books for an inclusive audience.** There are many posts on the blog with great suggestions (such as *Selecting Books for Special Needs Storytimes*, August 31, 2011 and *Too Many Choices! Books to Read During Sensory Storytimes*, September 26, 2013 for starters) and also lists on Goodreads, like this: *Popular Sensory Storytime Books*.
9. **When selecting the prizes your library uses for summer reading, make sure they are as inclusive as possible.** In the past, my library has taken into consideration how tactile a prize is, if the object is high contrast and if it suits a wide age range.
10. **Communication is key.** Use flyers and word of mouth to spread the word. Make sure your community knows that your library is a place where children of all abilities can take in the fun of summer reading.
11. **Bonus tip: Make sure you have fun while making your programs inclusive!**

Jordan Boaz is the Children's Librarian for the Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library, a branch of the New York Public Library. She currently serves on the Library Service to Special Population Children and their Caregivers committee. She can be reached at jordanboaz@nypl.org.

Posted on ALSC Blog, May 1, 2015 



**Read to the Rhythm!
Summer 2015**



California Library Association

Include Your Public Library Summer Meal Site on the Lunch at the Library Map

Dear colleagues:

We would love to include your summer meal site on our public library summer meal map!

Map site: <http://lunchatthelibrary.org/sites/>

Please could you take a quick look at the map and, if your library is not represented, let us know about it by using the link on the map page?

Please feel free to forward this email to colleagues so that they can add their libraries to the map, too.

If you know about, or are coordinating, multiple library meal sites, please feel free to email us an Excel spreadsheet of library names and addresses rather than uploading your sites individually. Please include library name, street address, city, state, and zip code, and send your spreadsheet to: ncole@cla-net.org

Thank you! Your information will help us capture an accurate picture of public library summer meal sites for 2015!

All the best,
Natalie and Patrice

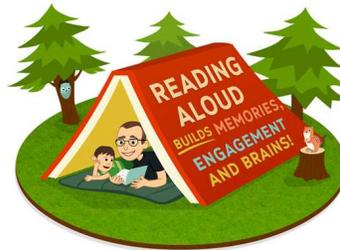
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Don't Forget the Books This Summer!

Dear Enid:

Next week we will be making available, to all of our partners, the new materials for our summer campaign pulse in English and Spanish. Many of you have asked to receive the materials before the end of the school year and in time to include in your summer activities.



We will add four new posters, a new parent handout and a new bookmark all reinforcing the key *Seize the Summer* messages.

- Reading aloud builds memories, engagement and brains!
- Add reading aloud to your summer bucket list. Don't forget the books!

We are also announcing today our partnership with **Unite for Literacy**.

Unite for Literacy is a for-profit social enterprise partnering with businesses to change the literacy landscape

of their communities by introducing families to their free digital library. Their vision is of a world where all children have access to an abundance of books that celebrate their languages and cultures and cultivate a lifelong love of reading.

From May through to August, Read Aloud is sponsoring free online picture books in multiple languages at:

<http://www.uniteforliteracy.com/?event=43>.

Please share this link with families in your community.

Best regards,
Bob Robbins, Executive Director
Read Aloud 15 MINUTES National Campaign
Email: robbins.bob@readaloud.org

Email to Enid, May 4, 2015



Read to the



This Summer

Blue Ridge Regional Library

STEM Bag Activities at Meadows of Dan Elementary School

Jason Wood, Principal

